

shores of Lake Tahoe 30 or 40 miles away and had remarked on the fact that we saw no gulls. Yet gulls these night fliers seemed surely to be. The gull-like screeching of the flock chorus ruled out anything else. It seems probable that they were California Gulls (*Larus californicus*). Could it have been flock after flock instead of just one group circling about? Almost certainly not. The gulls were heard off and on thereafter until 2230, when they had finally left or settled.

The next morning Mr. Petersen of our party saw "two white gulls with blackish wing tips" along the Truckee River immediately behind the Lodge. We noticed two or three gulls in the distance as we drove to the Reno Airport.—D. AMADON, *American Museum of Natural History, New York, New York, 12 November 1965.*

A Specimen of the Vermilion Flycatcher from Oklahoma.—On 1 July 1965, about 30 minutes before dusk, I saw a Vermilion Flycatcher (*Pyrocephalus rubinus*) four miles southeast of Kenton, Cimarron County, Oklahoma. In this area the Texakeet Creek has cut a valley about a quarter-mile wide between rocky mesas that rise perhaps 200 feet above the valley floor. The valley is sparsely covered with mesquite, cholla, yucca, and grasses, and a grove of 50-foot walnut trees borders the creek. I first saw the flycatcher hawking insects from yucca stalks and from the lower branches of the walnuts, and it stayed within 50 yards of these trees.

The bird was collected, and proved to be a male (testes, 7×5 mm; skull completely ossified) in mixed first-year plumage. The plumage is quite faded and bleached, unfortunately rendering the specimen subspecifically unidentifiable (K. C. Parkes, personal communication). Measurements of the specimen are as follows: wing, 79.0 mm; tail, 60.0 mm. It has been deposited in the University of Oklahoma Museum of Zoology (UOMZ 5738).

Although this is the first specimen of this species for Oklahoma, it has previously been seen several times in the state, and breeding pairs have been observed in Major, Lincoln, and Cimarron counties (G. M. Sutton, ms).—JOHN A. WIENS, *Department of Zoology, University of Wisconsin, Madison, Wisconsin, 8 November 1965.*

Additional Records of Whistling Swans Feeding in Dry Fields.—In two recent reports, one by Innis (*Audubon Mag.*, 66:304, 1964) and the other by Nagel (*Condor*, 67:446, 1965), Whistling Swans (*Olor columbianus*) were described as feeding in dry corn stubble. Both authors regarded this as an unusual occurrence, and Nagel indicated that it was an atypical response to the prolonged winter freeze in the spring of 1964 in Utah. These reports prompt us to record several other such instances. During the winters of 1962–1963 and 1963–1964 several observations of swans feeding in partially dry fields were made in the vicinity of Stockton, California. Four of these instances were specifically recorded in our notes and are reported here.

A group of seven swans was watched walking on muddy ground in a partially flooded corn stubble field on 25 February 1964. Although the birds were more than one-quarter mile away, it could be seen with binoculars that they were feeding, apparently picking up kernels of corn left by the harvesting operation. Near them, in the flooded part of the field, were 45 more swans feeding in the muddy water. This was a group of birds that had been present for several days on this particular field.

Soon after daylight on 14 November 1963, we observed a group of 27 birds standing on bare ground in a newly plowed field. There was no standing water nearby, suggesting that the birds had landed on the dry field sometime during the night. The birds, probably newly arrived migrants, were mostly sleeping and stretching their wings. Some of the birds were searching the ground, but as far as we could determine there was no suitable food present.

On the morning of 11 February 1964, a flock of 150 birds was observed in flooded corn stubble. Five birds were feeding on scattered corn grains near the flooded portion of the field. Just after noon, we watched a group of 30 birds in a flooded potato field. Most of the birds