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FURTHER NOTES ON THE WESTERN GREBE IN MÉXICO

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Since the publication of my note suggesting the use of the name *Aechmophorus occidentalis clarkii* (Lawrence) for the populations of the Western Grebe nesting in México (except for those of northern Baja California) (Condor 65:66-67, 1963), a number of additional specimens of the Mexican populations have been collected. These extend the nesting range of the species within México to the States of Nayarit, Guerrero, Puebla, and San Luis Potosi. They help define the frequency of color phases in this population, and thus nullify the color characters believed originally to be diagnostic of *clarkii*.

Measurements of the additional 17 adult males and 13 adult females (table 1) confirm the diagnosis of *clarkii* as being smaller than adult *A. o. occidentalis* taken on the breeding ground, with little or no overlap in respective measurements of wing chord or culmen from anterior edge of nostril.

During the preparation of the earlier paper on the Western Grebe in México, I had available three specimens from Laguna San Pedro Lagunillas (18 km E of Compostela) Nayarit. Because these three individuals differed markedly in color (but not in

size) from the 11 other specimens then available and because of the locality in extreme western México, I did not include them in that paper, believing *clarkii* to be a pale form. Subsequently, Palmer (Handbook of North American Birds, Vol. I, 1963) and Storer (Living Bird, 4:59-63, 1965) have described the two color phases: one is dark dorsally, with the black of the crown extending below the eye and with dark lores; and the other is paler dorsally, with the black often not touching even the top of the eye and with white lores. Storer indicated there apparently is a cline in the percentage of pale birds in a population extending from Manitoba, where only about 1% of the birds had white lores, to México from whence at that time only pale birds were known. The 48 adult or subadult Western Grebes now available from México are clearly separable into the two phases, with 20 dark and 28 pale. The sexes are essentially equally divided between the two phases. Although the series from any one lake is small, it indicates there may be some geographic segregation of the phases. All 19 specimens from central and northern México are pale. In western México (Nayarit and western Jalisco) 17 of 22 are dark. At the southern edge of the species range, the only specimen from the State of Puebla and two of six from Laguna Tuxpan, Guerrero, are dark. Because of the small size of each of these disjunct populations, it will be of interest to see if there is a noticeable shift in color-phase ratios in future years.

Two large, downy young Western Grebes from México (Laguna San Pedro Lagunillas, 25 May and

TABLE 1. Measurements (in mm) of Western Grebes.

	<i>A. o. clarkii</i>				<i>A. o. occidentalis</i>			
	No. Specimens	Range	\bar{x}	SD	No. Specimens	Range	\bar{x}	SD
Adult males								
Wing ^a	16	172-188	180.8	4.5	27	188-208	197.2	5.6
Culmen ^b	17	49-60	55.1	2.6	25	50-67	59.4	3.8
Bill ^c	14	9.7-11.9	11.1	0.5	22	11.0-13.8	12.5	0.7
Tarsus	14	69-77	73.1	2.2	23	74-81	77.4	2.2
Adult females								
Wing	12	164-172	168.2	3.5	17	173-196	183.4	5.7
Culmen	11	45-50	46.7	1.4	12	49-58	53.1	2.4
Bill	13	7.4-9.4	8.6	0.6	12	8.3-10.7	9.5	0.8
Tarsus	13	63-69	65.5	2.1	16	67-75	71.9	2.1

^a Chord.

^b From anterior edge of nostril.

^c Depth at nostril.

Laguna Magdalena, 7 October) are beginning the prebasic molt and little may be discerned regarding the color phase they represent. In both, the region below the eye is white. Among three small downy Western Grebes at hand from Delta, Manitoba, one (Cornell 23156) is pale pearly gray above, resembling the apparently pale young in the photo published by Dawson (Birds of California, 1923, p. 2046), but with a less well demarcated ear patch than illustrated in that early photo. Two Delta young are of the dark phase, as are two small young (Manitoba and Saskatchewan). One of the dark phase Manitoba specimens, AMNH 75357 collected in 1901, is foxed and demonstrates the more sharply bicolored head illustrated in the Dawson photo. Three additional downy young are larger and considerably faded (as well as foxed) and do not appear to be useful for color-phase studies. Ventrally, three of the four small dark-phased young have the pale gray throat sharply demarcated from the white breast and belly. In the fourth dark-phased and in the pale-phased young, there is blending of the gray and white areas without a sharp line.

Apparently the nesting season of the Western Grebe in México is quite extended. The two large, downy young in prebasic molt, mentioned above, were collected 25 May and 7 October on Laguna San Pedro Lagunillas, Nayarit, and Laguna Magdalena, Jalisco. Five nests with eggs were also found at the former locality on 7 October and a single egg, apparently

"dumped," was found on the shore of Laguna, San Felipe, Puebla, 7 May.

In Nayarit the local name for the Western Grebe is "cabildo." *Additional Specimens Examined:* Total 35. Nayarit: Laguna Santa Maria del Oro, 4 ♂, 6 ♀; Laguna San Pedro Lagunillas 6 ♂, 3 ♀, 1 Natl.; Jalisco: Laguna Magdalena 1 ♂, 3 ♀, 1 Nat.; 2 miles NNE Lago de Moreno 1 ♂. Guanajuato: Lago Yuriria 1 ♀. Guerrero: Laguna de Tuxpan 4 ♂, 2 ♀. Pueblo: Laguna San Felipe 1 ♀. San Luis Potosi: Laguna Rusias 2 ♂; Laguna Media Luna [♂]. An additional locality is the Presa Pena de Aguila, 18 miles by road north of Ciudad Durango where Western Grebes were seen on 7 June 1958 by Bruce Hayward and me.

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RE-EVALUATION OF SOME MONTANA BIRD RECORDS

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Concepts of the status of four species in Montana are subject to revision after a re-examination of specimens and records in the National Museum of Natural History (USNM).

Numenius borealis. Eskimo Curlew. Baird et al. (1858:745) list three specimens collected on the "upper Missouri" by Dr. Hayden and obtained from Lt. Warren. One specimen is not numbered and is dated 1841 (sic). The other two are numbered 4881 and 6572 and are not dated. Saunders (1921:53) accepts these as Montana records, although Baird et al. give the range as "eastern and northern North America" and note that "we have never seen it from the western countries of the United States." None of these specimens is currently in the collection of the National Museum of Natural History, but the catalog refers to three specimens (USNM 4881, 4882, and 6572) taken by the Warren Expedition. No collection data are given for the first two, but the last is listed as taken on the "upper Missouri and Yellowstone." That specimen was sent to Wells College in 1872, but is no longer there (Charles Burch, pers. comm.). In 1856, the Warren Expedition collected along the

Missouri River from Nebraska to 80 miles above Fort Union (near the present Montana border) and along the Yellowstone River to the Powder River. Those specimens specifically designated as taken above Fort Union are dated July and August 1856, and bear catalog numbers in the 5000's. Specimens of other birds cataloged with the 4880 series were taken at localities in Iowa, Nebraska, and Missouri between 22 April and 17 May. Although the birds were not invariably cataloged in chronological order, it seems likely that USNM 4881 and 4882 were taken during spring migration while the expedition was en route to Montana, and that USNM 6572 was taken in the fall on the return trip, in both cases perhaps far to the east of the present borders of the state. The only other record of the Eskimo Curlew in Montana, properly questioned by Saunders (1921), is the report (Cooper 1869) that the species bred in 1860 near Fort Benton "where young were caught in July, still downy." This record was repeated by Baird et al. (1884). We thank Chandler S. Robbins for pointing out that Cooper (1886) later noted that the young birds caught in 1860 were probably *Limosa fedoa*, adding "It is my recollection, however, that old Curlews were about also, possibly barren birds." Unless further information on the Warren Expedition specimens is uncovered, the occurrence of this species in Montana can only be considered hypothetical.

Erolia fuscicollis. White-rumped Sandpiper. Baird et al. (1858:723) list one specimen taken on the Yellowstone River by the Warren Expedition (USNM 5442). The catalog at the National Museum shows that this bird was collected 40 miles up the Yellowstone River, on 26 July 1856. However, the catalog entry indicates that the bird was subsequently re-identified as *E. bairdii*. It was later sent to the Museum of Comparative Zoology. The only other