

but, as most of the evidence submitted has concerned nesting pairs of birds, it may be of interest to record the following winter observations on one species.

Throughout the greater part of the San Joaquin Valley the California Shrike (*Lanius ludovicianus gambeli*) is a very abundant resident and, because of its habit of perching on telephone and telegraph wires while watching for prey, it is a rather conspicuous species at all times. Some idea of the abundance of this bird may be obtained from the statement that, in driving a distance of fifteen miles along the county roads, or even along the state highway, the count usually totaled from twenty to thirty birds.

Eighteen years of observation had convinced me that certain pairs of shrikes remained mated through the fall and winter months; but I had never given the matter any serious thought until the appearance of Mr. Willard's article, which greatly stimulated my interest. And, as I had occasion all through the last three months of the past year to make almost daily trips by automobile between many of the towns in Stanislaus and Merced counties, it soon became my regular practice to take a mental census of the Shrikes seen along the way. After making the count innumerable times I found that, with remarkably little variation, the average was one pair of birds seen for every five single individuals noted. In enumerating pairs I counted as such only birds seen perched close together or flying in company; the few doubtful cases were down as two single birds. To assume that each pair of Shrikes bring to maturity an average of five young each season would probably be getting very close to the actual figures. Is it not probable, then, that the larger figure in the ratio of five to one represents birds of the year which have never been mated, with, possibly, just an occasional adult which, through one agency or another, has been deprived of its mate?

The observations as outlined above have firmly convinced me that, once mated, the California Shrike spends the remainder of its life in company with the individual of its choice.—JOHN G. TYLER, *Turlock, California, February 5, 1919.*

**Another California Record of the Bendire Thrasher.**—On May 7, 1916, I collected an adult male of the Bendire Thrasher (*Toxostoma bendirei*) near Victorville, Mohave Desert, California. The bird is now no. 1366, collection W. M. P. To quote Mr. Swarth: "The Bendire Thrasher is a most extraordinary take. From the date it would seem likely that it was a breeding bird, and it would be of great interest if you could actually find a nest of this species out there. As far as I can see, this specimen is precisely like others from Tucson, Arizona." I will say further that I have made many excursions to this locality, but after most careful search I have failed to discover any thrasher nesting there except the Leconte, and this species only rather locally.—WRIGHT M. PIERCE, *Claremont, California, February 8, 1919.*

**Gray Gyrfalcon Taken in Oregon.**—On November 17, 1916, while shooting ducks over a small seepage pond on the Hermiston, Oregon, irrigation project, Albert Humphrey of Pendleton, Oregon, shot a large hawk as it swooped down over the water to snatch up a dead Mallard that had just been shot. Knowing my interest in birds, Humphrey brought the bird to Pendleton; but as I was out of town at the time a friend skinned and salted the specimen for me. It proved to be a Gray Gyrfalcon (*Falco rusticolus rusticolus*). Some time later I made it up as a study skin. So far as I can learn this is the first record of the occurrence of the species in Oregon.—STANLEY G. JEWETT, *Pendleton, Oregon, February 11, 1919.*

**Random Notes.**—In January, 1919, Mr. Sefton brought me two females of *Mergus serrator*. I mounted one and made the other into a skin. On skinning the first one I could detect no "fishy" odor, so I sliced off the breast meat and had it cooked. It proved so savory that we cooked the other. They were equal in flavor to the average duck. The stomachs contained a mass of what appeared to be shredded grass.

The big flood of January, 1916, covered most of the salt marshes near San Diego and drowned most of the Little Black Rails (*Crectiscus coturniculus*). I have not been able to find one since the flood.

January 30, 1919, a Marbled Godwit was brought to me for the Museum collection. On skinning it I found it was lame, with one hip considerably atrophied, so it may have been unable to go on further south.

In June, 1891, I heard the song of a Wilson Snipe at dusk over a marsh in Owens Valley. I have no doubt but that this species bred there.

The Long-billed Dowitchers have been common around the bays all winter. I saw several about the first of February.—FRANK STEPHENS, *San Diego, California, February 12, 1919.*

**A Supposed California-taken Trumpeter Swan.**—Reference is made in the "Game Birds of California" (page 254) to a juvenile Trumpeter Swan from California in the British Museum, recorded by Count Salvadori in the "Catalogue of Birds" (vol. xxvii, p. 35). I examined this bird in November, 1908, at a time when the variations of size and points of difference between the Whistling and Trumpeter swans were fresh in my mind. Some four years before this date Mr. P. A. Taverner and I had begun a study of the swans. We had accumulated a large series of measurements, and Mr. Taverner had made many drawings to scale of the heads. This material was before me when I studied the series of swans in the British Museum. The bird itself is given in the "Catalogue of Birds" as "c. Juv. sk. California. J. Richards, Esq. [P.]"; and the number on the label is "57.10.9.2", indicating that the skin was registered on October 9, 1857. Who the donor, "J. Richards", was I have been unable to find out; no reference is made to him by Dr. Sharpe in his published account of the bird collection. The neck of the swan contains a newspaper dated San Francisco, December 8, 1856, so there is little doubt the bird is correctly assigned to California. The feathers of the head are gray, as are those of the back and flanks, the primaries and tail feathers; the axillars are whitish gray, the beak black with a faintly indicated spot that is reddish in the dried skin, but would be flesh color in life. The culmen is V-shaped, and the age of the bird is under a year; fixing the age is comparatively easy, but deciding as to the identity of the species is another matter.

A juvenile male swan taken on Lake St. Clair, on the Michigan side, March 27, 1908, and known as no. 61 in the series of measurements prepared by Mr. Taverner and myself, was found to match very closely the California bird in color, outline of beak, and age; the flesh-colored spot in front of the eye of no. 61 is surrounded by feathers, while in the California bird the feather line has receded sufficiently to leave the spot exposed. Fortunately the sternum with the trachea and bronchial tubes of no. 61 have been preserved and would alone identify it as a Whistling Swan; so there is little doubt that the California bird too, is of this species. Both birds belong to the straight-beaked type that approaches closely in the shape of the beak to the Trumpeter Swan and is often difficult to place without the sternum. Swans of the two species overlap in measurements in their first year. To illustrate this I give the measurements of three swans all under a year old, two the birds already discussed, the other a Trumpeter Swan taken at Leg Lake, Lincoln County, Washington, November 24, 1906.

Collection	Locality and Date	Age and Sex	Corner of eye to tip of bill	Corner of eye to rear of nostril	Rear of nostril to tip of bill	Culmen	Culmen line to loop of gape	Depth of bill	Length	Wing	Tail	Number of feathers in tail	Species
British Museum 57.10.9.2	California	juv.	4.8	2.78	2.02	3.1	1.37	1.75	(56.?)	21.5	5.1	20	<i>Cygnus sp.</i>
Series 61	St. Clair Flats, Michigan, March 27, 1908	♂ juv.	4.62	2.5	2.12	3.2	1.1	1.75	50.75	20.4	6.5	20	<i>Cygnus columbianus</i>
Coll. J. H. F. No. 12407	Leg Lake, Lincoln County, Washington, November 24, 1906	juv.	4.9	2.8	2.1	3.5	1.3	1.85	—	20.2	5.3	20	<i>Cygnus buccinator</i>

—J. H. FLEMING, *Toronto, Ontario, Canada, March 15, 1919.*