

Aechmophorus occidentalis in Lower California in Summer.—There is apparently no certain breeding record for *Aechmophorus occidentalis* south of the United States, and in fact its nesting in the extreme southwestern corner of this country is largely inferential. It is known to spend the summer at Tulare Lake, and also in suitable places near San Diego, California, but there is no instance of the actual finding of the nest in either of these localities. In this connection it may be of interest to record two specimens of this species collected by Mr. L. J. Goldman of the Biological Survey in June, 1915, at Volcano Lake, northeastern Lower California. These are now, respectively, no. 259881, U. S. Nat. Mus., taken June 9, 1915, and no. 259882, U. S. Nat. Mus., taken June 10, 1915. Mr. Goldman reports that this species was common from May 1 to June 11 (when he left the region) in the delta of the Colorado River. He says that they moved principally in pairs, but he was unsuccessful in finding a nest.—HARRY C. OBERHOLSER, *Washington, D. C., February 3, 1919.*

Sea Parrots Washed up on Beach at Eureka.—One male *Fratercula corniculata*, and six *Lunda cirrhata* were taken February 16, 1919; also another lot on February 23, 1919, one male and one female *Fratercula corniculata* and twelve *Lunda cirrhata*. All were found dead on the beach and all were in winter plumage. Evidently a violent storm at sea had caused this fatality among the Puffins.—FRANKLIN J. SMITH, *Eureka, California, February 26, 1919.*

Notes on the Weights and Plumages of Ducks in New Mexico.—During the shooting seasons of 1917 and 1918 the writer kept a record of weights and peculiarities of plumage of ducks killed in the Rio Grande Valley near Albuquerque. The weight records, plotted as seasonal curves for each species, show tentatively some interesting facts.

The curves for all species are flat for the period from October 16 to November 1. The curves for all species show an increase in weight from November 1 to November 15. After November 15 the curves are subject to sudden drops, and during the winter period to very gradual drops. The sudden drops appear to be coincident with severe general storms. The gradual winter drop seems obviously due to cold weather and scarcer feed.

Weight curves for Mallards were drawn separately for hens and drakes. The curves for the two sexes are parallel, and show an apparently constant difference of a little more than one-half of a pound.

The sudden drops in the Mallard curves (assumed to be due to general storms) coincide interestingly with certain variations in plumage. When the season opens, on October 16, Mallard drakes, while easily recognizable, have the rusty heads, brown breast-spots, blackish wash on the under parts, and undeveloped curly feathers above the tail, all of which indicate immaturity. By November 15 practically full adult plumage is attained. But when the first cold storm has passed, *drakes of immature plumage and much lesser weight again appear.* Apparently the storm drives out most of the southern-raised, early-hatched, full-plumaged birds and replaces them with northern-raised late hatched birds of decidedly immature plumage. These late-flight birds are of lesser weight, not only because of immaturity, but probably also by reason of their long trip from the north. It is noticeable that these cold-wave Mallards are not so wary as the early November birds. Drakes with some indications of immature plumage are occasionally found even among the winter-resident ducks in January.

One often hears sportsmen boasting about four-pound ducks. I have yet to see one. The fall ducks here are all very fat, but the heaviest duck I have killed was a 3¼ lb. Mallard drake taken November 15, 1918. Individual drakes at any one time will vary ¼ lb. in weight. The lightest drake taken was one weighing 2 lbs., December 1, 1918. The average weight in November, when they are fat, is 2½ lbs.

Mallard hens weigh from 1¾ lbs. to 2¾ lbs. The average is 2½ lbs.

Pintails vary from early hens at 1¼ lbs. to late drakes at 2½ lbs. The average is 1½ lbs.

Black Mallards (Mottled Duck?) vary from 2½ lbs. to 3 lbs.

Baldpates vary from 1¼ lbs. to 1¾ lbs.

Redheads vary from 1½ lbs. to 1¾ lbs.; Canvasbacks from 1½ lbs. to 2½ lbs. Very few of these are killed here.

Gadwalls (scarce) weigh around 1¾ lbs.

Spoonbills vary from 1 lb. to 1½ lbs.

Green-winged Teal early in the season weigh ¾ lbs. The few stragglers that winter here drop to ½ lbs.

None of these figures include cripples, since these are often abnormally emaciated.—ALDO LEOPOLD, *Secretary New Mexico Game Protective Association, Albuquerque, New Mexico, February 1, 1919.*

The Summer Tanager in California.—On March 10 of this year I took a specimen of the Summer Tanager (*Piranga rubra*) in the Arroyo Seco between Los Angeles and Pasadena, California. The specimen was submitted to the members of the Southern Division of the Cooper Club and was also critically examined by Messrs. Grinnell and Swarth of the California Museum of Vertebrate Zoology. All agree upon the specific identity of the bird, although Grinnell and Swarth find slight divergences from the typical subspecies, *P. r. rubra*, and suggest that an extralimital race may be represented. It is not *P. r. cooperi*. The specimen, an immature male, has been deposited in the California Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, where the writer considers that all state records should be preserved.

The bird was quite shy and could not be approached within range. Only through repetition of the call note was it secured. Evidence of its having been in captivity is lacking and the wariness would point to its being an untamed bird, though the possibility must be conceded.

It may interest those collectors who think lightly of the collecting pistol as not sufficiently business-like, to know that this specimen and one other state record (Louisiana Water-thrush) would not have been secured except for such an arm.—LOYE MILLER, *State Normal School, Los Angeles, California, April 10, 1919.*

EDITORIAL NOTES AND NEWS

The Cooper Club membership roster appearing in this issue of THE CONDOR shows that the Club is now made up of 6 Honorary members and 585 Active members. We are indebted to Mr. J. Eugene Law for compiling this annual roster, as has been the case now for several years passed. Corrections or changes should continue to be reported to Mr. Law, whose address is now the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, University of California, Berkeley, he having recently joined the staff of that institution as Curator in Osteology.

The many friends of Major Allan Brooks will rejoice in his recent safe return home after nearly five years service, with the Canadian army in France, almost from the very start of the war. One can imagine his delight to be once again among the forests and mountains of his own land, British Columbia. Accomplished as artist, accurate as observer, and skillful as collector, Brooks does highest credit to the science of ornithology and to the organizations to which he belongs, which promote this science.

Believing that a better knowledge of wild life will bring about better conservation of it, and that when people are on their summer vacations they are most responsive to appeal on this score, the California Fish and Game Commission backed by the Nature Study League will institute this coming summer a series of lectures and nature study field trips designed to stimulate interest in the proper conservation of natural resources. The Tahoe region has been selected for the work this year and lectures and field trips which will be open to the public without charge will be offered at six different resorts during the month of July. Illustrated lectures by Dr. H. C. Bryant on the game birds, song birds, mammals, and fishes will furnish evening entertainment, and early morning trips afield will give vacationists an introduction to mountain wild life. The motto of these classes will be: "Learn to read a roadside as one reads a book." Special excursions for children will be conducted.