

at about 1800 feet altitude between Bear River and Eel River in Humboldt County about seven miles from Capetown. The birds there numbered about fifty pairs in the early summer of 1929. One of the birds, a male, no. 53976, was taken on May 9 with a nest and four fresh eggs which Mr. Atwell collected. Another of the four birds is a juvenile (no. 53983) not quite fully grown, taken June 2. In so far as known to Mr. Atwell in May and June, 1929, this colony, occupying a territory about one by one-half mile in extent, was the only one in Humboldt County.

While perhaps not extreme for *strigata*, the three adult males collected by Mr. Atwell are, together, as regards both measurements and color tones, much nearer that race than any other; indeed I cannot distinguish one of them from a breeding male from Salem, Oregon. The juvenile is darker colored than any juvenile, of whatever race, I have seen from elsewhere in California.—J. GRINNELL, *Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, University of California, Berkeley, December 7, 1930.*

**Occurrence of the White-throated Sparrow in the San Joaquin Valley, California.**—During a day's field work in the Porterville district of Tulare County, California, in the fall of 1930, a sparrow with conspicuous whitish color on the chin was seen in company with migrating fox sparrows. It was watched with much interest for several minutes while feeding on the ground with the fox sparrows, which birds apparently "had a grudge" against the odd one and continually made advances when it approached too closely to any one of them. I was not certain as to my identification of this bird at sight and collected it for positive proof.

This specimen, number 748 in my collection, was an immature female White-throated Sparrow (*Zonotrichia albicollis*) and was taken on October 12, 1930. The exact locality of the occurrence was about ten miles east of the town of Porterville, in the willow association adjacent to the Tule River. It was interesting to note that the bird was in the company of fox sparrows and not with other zonotrichias, as seems to be the general rule when White-throated Sparrows have been recorded previously in California.—J. STUART ROWLEY, *Alhambra, California, November 23, 1930.*

**Western Mockingbird, Oregon Vesper Sparrow, and Merrill Song Sparrow in Sonoma County, California.**—On August 17, 1930, two Western Mockingbirds (*Mimus polyglottos leucopterus*) were seen in chaparral (composed mostly of *Ceanothus jepsonii*, *Quercus durata*, *Rhamnus californica*, and *Umbellularia californica*) on a ridge northwest of Fitch Mountain, near Healdsburg. The appearance of a Mockingbird in this county is interesting, and the early date of occurrence, August 17, makes it even more so. One of these birds was collected (now no. 56243, Mus. Vert. Zool., Berkeley).

A Merrill Song Sparrow (*Melospiza melodia merrilli*) male, was collected near Healdsburg, California, October, 1922. This is a very westerly record, as the race *merrilli* occurs east of the humid coast belt. This specimen is now no. 56260, Mus. Vert. Zool.

An Oregon Vesper Sparrow (*Poocetes gramineus affinis*), male, was seen on October 13, 1930, about two miles north of Healdsburg. It was with a flock of about twenty Western Savannah Sparrows (*Passerculus sandwichensis alaudinus*) most of which were perched on a fence separating two fields of dead grass. Only one Vesper Sparrow could be recognized in the flock. It was collected (now no. 56258, Mus. Vert. Zool.). Healdsburg is in the north-central part of Sonoma County.—C. W. EDGE, *Healdsburg, California, December 9, 1930.*

**The Barrow Golden-eye on Lake Merritt, Oakland, California.**—On the afternoon of October 28, 1930, while studying the ducks on Lake Merritt, with Gordon Bolander, I noticed what appeared to be a Barrow Golden-eye (*Glaucionetta islandica*). Positive identification was at this time difficult because of the duck's distance from shore. On November 28, when we again visited the lake, the Golden-eye was still present. With the aid of binoculars we were able to study the duck and note the actions and the characteristic markings. The black back with a row of white spots on each side, the black line in front of the bend of the wing, extending down to the waterline, and the slender white crescents on the sides of the head in front of the eyes, were plainly seen. The head was high and crested and at close range the purplish iridescence could be discerned.

American Golden-eyes were present in fair numbers, thus affording striking contrasts and comparisons. The Barrow Golden-eye shows more black than white on the body and it sits lower in the water; and when resting, or swimming, its tail is held at an upward angle. Between dives the tail is held below the water and the bird rests still lower.

On December 13, I noticed that a female Golden-eye was following the male Barrow closely. Every time the lake has been visited since, the female has been found following the male. On December 16, I noticed that every time the duck came up from a dive he had something in his bill. He would stay half submerged and proceed to shake his bill and its contents violently until free from mud, before swallowing the contents.—LESLIE HAWKINS, *Oakland, California, December 19, 1930.*

**The Least Tern in the Upper Missouri Valley.**—The Least Tern (*Sterna antillarum*) is a regular summer resident and breeder in the region along the Missouri River where the states of Nebraska, Iowa, and South Dakota meet. North of this area the Least Tern does not seem to have been reported, except for the single record of a stray bird taken on the Yellowstone River, by Lieutenant Warren's Expedition in 1857.

On May 30, 1929, the writer saw five or six Least Terns at Lake Andes, South Dakota, about 150 miles northwest of Sioux City, Iowa. May 30, 1930, was also spent at Lake Andes, and the Least Tern was again listed. The birds probably nest on some sand-bar in the Missouri River and fly the five miles from the river to the lake to feed.—WM. YOUNGWORTH, *Sioux City, Iowa, January 20, 1931.*

**The California Condor in New Mexico.**—Among fragmentary bird bones from New Mexico submitted for identification recently by Mr. Edgar B. Howard of the University Museum, University of Pennsylvania, there is found a broken humerus and part of the shaft of a femur of the California Condor (*Gymnogyps californianus*). These specimens were obtained during archeological investigations of a cave located, according to information supplied by Mr. Howard, on the south fork of the Three Forks in the upper part of Rocky Arroyo, about fifty miles by road west and somewhat north of Carlsbad, New Mexico. Mr. Howard states that the bird bones were scattered with bones of a horse, *Equus fraternus*, an antelope, *Tetrameryx shulleri*, and a bison, together with baskets, sandals and other material of human manufacture in the loose earth of the cave floor eighteen inches to nearly three feet below the surface. Many of the bones were obtained at levels above which baskets were found.

The humerus includes about half of the lower part of the shaft, with the greater portion of the distal end missing. Sufficient is present to indicate the identity of the specimen without question and to show that it is similar in its details to the modern bird. The femur includes only the middle portion of the shaft, a fragmentary bit that in size and form, and particularly in the conformation of its *linea aspera*, is identical with skeletons at hand for comparison.

The humerus is stained light brown, while the femur is paler, nearly white in color. Neither shows any indication of fossilization from infiltration of mineral matter; in fact in texture and color both specimens resemble modern bones with which they were compared during identification.

The age of these specimens from the data at hand is uncertain, but it may be remarked that in general appearance they are closely similar to bird bones that I have studied in recent years from cave deposits in Porto Rico and Haiti whose age has been placed tentatively at from five hundred to two thousand years. The condor bones from New Mexico coming from a more arid region possibly are older, but they can have no great antiquity. Their occurrence must be considered as natural in that it is believed that they come from a bird inhabitant of the region where they were found, since it can hardly be supposed that these bones would be transported by Indians for any reason from the present range of the California Condor. They represent a considerable extension of range for that species which, from this evidence, seems to have been distributed throughout the southwest since men came to America.