

about this many birds have nested on Lake Bowdoin for the past ten or twelve years. The first authentic record that I can find comes from Mr. George E. Mushbach, Superintendent of the Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge, and dates back to June, 1927. In a recent letter Mr. Mushbach states that in 1927, when at Lake Bowdoin, Mr. L. Minugh, who had been Game Warden on the lake for many years, told him that Cormorants had nested on the lake for a number of years. No specimen has been taken and preserved from Lake Bowdoin, though I have seen several that have been shot during the hunting season. The accompanying picture (fig. 38) should serve as well as a specimen.—V. L. MARSH, *Great Falls, Montana, May 26, 1934.*

**The Status of *Phalaropus fulicarius jourdaini* Iredale.**—Mr. Tom Iredale's race of *Phalaropus fulicarius* has indeed been unfortunate in its critics! I have just read with interest Mr. J. L. Peters' note in the Condor (36, 1934, p. 85) in which he gives the results of his inquiry into the validity of this form. As far as can be ascertained from this paper the material consisted of birds from Southampton Island, the coast of Labrador, and the west coast of Greenland (all breeding birds). There were also specimens from the Massachusetts coast on spring migration, and others from northeastern Asia and northern Alaska. To which place the East Siberian and Alaska birds belong I am unable to say, as I have never examined series from these localities; but leaving these out of the question, all the material examined belongs to the typical race, and apparently there is not a single specimen of *P. fulicarius jourdaini* among them! The only known breeding places of this race are Spitsbergen, Iceland and the northeast coast of Greenland. Surely before passing judgment on the validity of a form, it is desirable to have specimens available for comparison. The late Mr. E. Lehn Schioler had beautiful series from both the northeast and northwest coasts of Greenland, collected during the breeding season, and every ornithologist who has examined these series has noticed the differences pointed out by Iredale. It is a well known fact that the avifauna of northeastern Greenland is Palearctic, and birds arrive there from the east Atlantic; while the northwestern coast is predominantly Nearctic and breeding birds arrive from the west side of the Atlantic.

That gradual bleaching takes place as summer advances in both forms is admitted, but Colonel Meinertzhagen, who disputed the validity of the new race on the same grounds as Mr. Peters, was forced to propound a theory that the warm current off the east coast induced earlier breeding and bleaching than the cold climate of the west coast of Greenland, to account for the paler color of the east Greenland birds. As this is exactly the reverse of the facts, the northeast coast being icebound with a cold Arctic current, and the west coast ice-free owing to the warm stream from the south, the argument recoils against its author.

Dr. E. Hartert, too, made an unfortunate slip in his *Vögel d. pal. Fauna* (III, 1922, p. 2212) when he stated that pale summer birds had been compared with fresh dark autumn specimens. In autumn this species has of course already assumed its winter plumage. It is only fair to add that at Copenhagen in 1926 he examined Mr. Schioler's series and admitted his mistake, but unfortunately did not live to correct it in his *Ergänzungsband*.

Comparisons based on series of one form only are certainly "misleading and only create erroneous impressions", to quote Mr. Peters' words.

It is perhaps not without interest that while the typical race migrates south at least to the Falklands, the east Atlantic form does not occur south of the equator, while the supposed records for the Indian Ocean are due to confusion with *Phalaropus lobatus*. It has also been recorded from the British Isles in every month of the year except July.—F. C. R. JOURDAIN, *Whitekirk, Southbourne, Bournemouth, England, May 5, 1934.*

**Further Comment on *Phalaropus fulicarius jourdaini*.**—To Mr. Jourdain's criticism of my disposal of the name *Phalaropus fulicarius jourdaini* Iredale I would reply as follows:

Mr. Jourdain bases his defence of this subspecies chiefly on the fact that I did not have a topotypical specimen at hand. He overlooked my statement, however, (6th line from bottom of third paragraph, p. 85 of this volume of the Condor) that I had

examined specimens from the east coast of Greenland, a locality which from his own admission he considers to be inhabited by the same race as that occurring in Spitsbergen. The two east Greenland birds, both females, that I examined were taken on Shannon and Sabine islands, off the northeastern coast of Greenland, June 8 and 20, respectively. Both of these have the edges of the feathers of the dorsal surface colored exactly like breeding females from west Greenland, Southampton Island, northern Alaska and northeastern Siberia, taken near the same dates; that is, not as bright as fresh plumaged migrants nor as abraded and dulled as birds collected about the first of July. There is some variation in the depth of color and the amount of wear among birds taken at the same place and date, but in any long series it will be noted that there is also some variation in the dates on which the full nuptial plumage is attained.

I still maintain that the character on which the race *jourdaini* was based is entirely a matter of wear and abrasion of plumage.

Mr. Jourdain does not give the dates on which Schioler's series from west and east Greenland were taken, so it is not possible to judge how nearly seasonally comparable they are; nor does he say whether the ornithologists who maintain *jourdaini* as distinct do so on the original character on which it was based or on some other character not mentioned either in the original description or in Jourdain's article.

In closing, I would add that should any European ornithologist care to measure a long series of breeding birds from east Greenland, Iceland and Spitsbergen (measuring the chord of the wing with calipers to avoid the error of personal equation present if ruler is used) I shall be only too pleased to do the same with a North American series and forward my measurements for his use. If any constant and appreciable difference in size between the birds from the two sides of the Atlantic can be discovered, I shall certainly lend my support to a race based on this character.—JAMES L. PETERS, *Museum of Comparative Zoology, Cambridge, Massachusetts, June 25, 1934.*

**New Bird Records from the Pleistocene of Rancho La Brea.**—While working with the bird remains in the Rancho La Brea collection at the University of California, three species hitherto unrecorded from this deposit have come to my attention. They are the Goshawk (*Astur atricapillus*), the Long-billed Curlew (*Numenius americanus*), and the Hudsonian Curlew (*Phaeopus hudsonicus*). The fossils upon which these records are based are from locality 1059.

*Astur atricapillus*. Right femur, Univ. Calif. Mus. Paleo. no. 30936. Length, 84.6 mm. The external condyle and the greater portion of the popliteal area are broken away. This fossil is identical with specimens of the modern Goshawk. The femurs of the Red-tailed Hawk (*Buteo borealis*) and the Goshawk are approximately the same size but that of the Goshawk is readily identified by the raised circular muscle scar above the popliteal area. In the Red-tail this scar is a thin transverse line above the external condyle. The fossil shows a moderate amount of wear on the margins of the external condyle and the trochanteric ridge.

*Numenius americanus*. Right tarsometatarsus, U. C. Mus. Paleo. no. 30938. Length, 86.2 mm.; transverse width proximal end, 10.9 mm.; transverse width distal end, 9.9 mm.; smallest transverse diameter of shaft, 3.7 mm. The specimen is in good condition, although the margins of the middle trochlea are worn and the shaft has a few rubbed and scratched areas. This bone cannot be distinguished from specimens of the present-day Long-billed Curlew and measures 1.7 mm. shorter than an adult of this species (Mus. Vert. Zool. no. 54886).

Left coracoid, U. C. Mus. Paleo. no. 30939. Length, 37.8 mm. This specimen is also identical with the Long-billed Curlew and agrees closely in size with the Recent specimen mentioned in the preceding paragraph, the coracoid of which measures 38.6 mm. in length. In the fossil specimen, the margin of the shank posterior to the scapular facet is flattened and enlarged into an area almost the size of the glenoid facet. I found this peculiar condition to exist also in both coracoids of a specimen of the Hudsonian Curlew (*Phaeopus hudsonicus*, Mus. Vert. Zool. no. 46033, ♀). In this individual the internal tuberosity of the bicipital crest of the humerus articulated with this pseudo-facet. An examination of the rest of the skeleton showed the bird to have recovered from wounds in the right tarsometatarsus and in the deltoid crest of the left humerus.