

He appeared to step out with wider and more "get there" strides than other shore birds use. He did not forage systematically, but moved rapidly along, making flashing jabs in the mud on both sides and in front. Foraging in this manner he was constantly jerking his head from side to side. During occasional pauses he would up-bob his head in the manner of a Willet, only more so. Most of the time he was feeding in shallow water, but often he got in belly-deep.

The Willets and Godwits that were feeding with the Yellow-legs appeared to probe more intelligently; in other words, they probed only where a prospect was indicated. The Yellow-legs jabbed indiscriminately. His system, if any, was to work fast, jab everywhere miss or hit, and by covering more ground than the systematic probers he would fare as well in the end. And besides, all his actions seemed to indicate a nervous disposition that would not permit of the slow but sure methods.

Standing beside the Yellow-legs, the Black-bellied Plover looked plumper and more hunchy than ever; actually his body appeared to bulk larger and heavier than the body of the Yellow-legs.

For two hours we sat on the bank of the slough with one Lesser Yellow-legs on our right and one on our left, all of the time hoping that one or the other would move within photographic range, but no luck. During this time several other Willets arrived to feed on the same flat with the Yellow-legs. Much of the time the birds were a hundred yards from where we sat, but even at this distance it was no trick at all to separate Yellow-legs from his companions. As he moved about, his quick, jerky mannerisms, his ceaseless jabblings and his hurried stridings set him apart. And also at this distance his gleaming breast was a conspicuous mark compared with the dull breasts of the Willets.

Later in the day we saw other Lesser Yellow-legs and finally we got within "shooting" range. This was a matter of luck; we had the camera set up and were taking a picture of a Long-billed Curlew when our friend the Yellow-legs walked into the scene.

During the day we saw nine Lesser Yellow-legs; always they were feeding with other shore birds, but not once did we see two Yellow-legs feeding together.—CHAS. W. MICHAEL, *Yosemite, California, June 4, 1934.*

Water Ouzel Nests on Black River, Arizona.—Black River, in the White Mountains of Eastern Arizona, still an area remote from heavy traffic, is a naturalist's paradise. Here, on May 17, 1934, I located and photographed a Water Ouzel (*Cinclus mexicanus unicolor*) nest with two hungry young in it. I watched the parent birds tilting anxiously up and down on the wet, slippery stones in mid-river, while I stood, tip-toe, on a convenient rock to look into the nest for the young.

The nest, secure in the niche of a rock bluff overhanging the water, was a mossy, mound-like structure padded inside with straw. The entrance was from below at an angle of forty-five degrees.

I am indebted to Mr. Grover Pfluger, foreman of the Fish Stream Improvement in that region, for knowledge of these ouzels. He had previously seen two nests, one with two young in it, other than the one I found, in a section locally called "The Narrows," at an altitude of 9000 feet. Later, he and Mrs. Pfluger saw six nests on Black River, a thousand feet lower in altitude. One of these contained two eggs. May 19, I observed Water Ouzels in the "Box" of Black River at 7000 feet, but I did not locate a nest.

Both Mr. Pfluger and I noticed ouzels on Eagle Creek, Greenlee County, at 5200 feet. Since the stream offers favorable locations for Water Ouzel nests, it is possible that nesting may occur here, too.—CHARLES W. QUAINANCE, *Rocky Mountain National Park, Estes Park, Colorado, August 12, 1934.*

An Anserine Fossil from the Pliocene of Western Nebraska.—In August, 1931, a field party from the University of Kansas Museum of Paleontology made a small collection of Middle Pliocene vertebrates from the type locality of Darton's Ogalalla formation in southwestern Nebraska. In this collection was a fragment of a bird sternum, which, through the kindness of Mr. C. J. Hesse, of the University of California, was turned over to me for examination. This specimen, Kansas University Museum of Paleontology, no. 3795, is from the Ogalalla Pliocene at its type locality (Feldt Ranch Beds), SE¼ of Sec. 33, T14N., R38W., Keith County, Nebraska, and was collected by C. W. Hibbard and W. C. McNown.

This sternum consists of all of the right and half of the left coracoidal arches and a small section of the sternal plate on the right side. The flatness of the sternal plate, the general contours of the lips of the coracoidal sulci, and the nature of the manubrial spines determine the specimen as anserine, more specifically as related to members of the sub-family Anserinae, the geese. The upper surface of the dorsal lip of the coracoidal sulcus is flat, relatively light in structure, and is as long as in a skeleton of a Canada Goose (*Branta c. canadensis*, Mus. Vert. Zool., no. 22457, ♂). The anterolateral surface of this lip is flattened vertically and does not protrude to the extent that it does in modern genera. The sterno-coracoidal process and part of the ventral labial prominence are broken from the specimen. The surface posterior to the coracoidal sulcus is flat and meets the sternal plate at a sharp obtuse angle. The sternal plate is thin and flat. A pneumatic foramen is present. The dorsal manubrial spine is a slight, V-shaped prominence. The ventral lip of the coracoidal sulcus is wide, extends farther forward than it does in Recent genera, and curves upward instead of downward at its anterior margin.

Although the specimen is only a small portion of the sternum, it is well preserved and represents, possibly, the most diagnostic region of that skeletal element. The sterna of North American geese of the genera *Anser*, *Branta*, *Chen* and *Philacte*, and the South American *Chloephaga*, do not exhibit many characters sufficiently reliable to separate them one from another. However, the shape and proportions of the coracoidal lips are somewhat characteristic, and in this regard the fossil specimen resembles *Anser* and *Chen* more than the others. In present-day geese the dorsal manubrial spine exhibits wide variation in height and width, but I found none so poorly developed as in this fossil. The surface for articulation with the coracoid indicates that the sternal facet of this latter bone was considerably wider dorsoventrally than it is in *B. c. canadensis*.

Considering that the sternum is not an element that lends itself readily to specific identification, and that the specimen under consideration is fragmentary, no attempt is made here to assign it other than to the subfamily Anserinae. It is probable that it is a member of an unknown genus and is a new species. The record is of interest since it demonstrates the existence in the Pliocene of an anserine unlike any heretofore known from that epoch.

I am indebted to Dr. Alexander Wetmore for valuable suggestions relative to the treatment of this fossil.—LAWRENCE V. COMPTON, *Museum of Paleontology, University of California, Berkeley, August 15, 1934.*

Winter Wren and Pileated Woodpecker on the Greenhorn Mountains, California.—The Greenhorn Mountains constitute a southern section or extension of the Great Western Divide, a north-south subdivision of the southern Sierra Nevada of California lying directly west of the main Kern River. They are crossed by a through road from Glennville to Kernville, in Kern County. At the "Summit" on this road, a branch road now "under improvement" extends north some miles along the ridge and, as the latter increases in altitude, gives access to Canadian-zone conditions of flora and fauna at their southernmost extensions along the Greenhorn Mountains.

On October 13 and 14, 1934, I was privileged, all too briefly, to visit this locality, until now not referred to, to my knowledge, in vertebrate faunal records. My companion, Dr. J. Eric Hill, and I camped over night where the ridge road referred to, reaches an altitude (by my aneroid) of 7000 feet, and right where a road-sign indicates that it crosses the east-west Kern-Tulare county line. This is about six miles north of the "Summit" above mentioned. The drainage is to the east steeply down Cow Creek, a tributary of Bull Run Creek, which leads into the canyon of the Kern River. A heavy forest chiefly of red fir covers the gentler slopes and benches at this level. Indications are that there is normally a deep snowfall, and potentially much moisture-loving vegetation; but heavy grazing in an extra dry season had produced conditions by autumn of this year, distressingly barren on and about the little "meadows."

Of the birds we noted, two are worthy of remark. In the late afternoon of October 13 we saw, and watched till its disappearance in the tangle, a Western Winter Wren (*Nannus hiemalis pacificus*). It was bobbing about among the debris of a long-fallen red fir at the upper margin of the meadow, making its presence clearly apparent to us by voice and movements. Of course this bird might have been an autumn vagrant