

While identification as to species was somewhat difficult because of the condition of the specimen and its position high in the gabled roof of the building, Dr. Wetmore considered it a Whistling Swan (*Cygnus columbianus*).

Mr. J. D. Walkup reported to me that on May 13, 1934, he saw a flock of seven swans on Babbitt Tank, about thirty miles east of Flagstaff, on U. S. Highway 66. These birds were observed from a car and were seen to approach and settle on the pond. The swans were not present the next day.—LYNDON L. HARGRAVE, *Museum of Northern Arizona, Flagstaff, February 4, 1935.*

Cowbirds Appear in Yosemite.—On the morning of May 16, 1934, I discovered a rather unusual nest of the Cassin Vireo (*Vireo solitarius cassinii*). So much tissue paper was incorporated in the construction of this nest that I wanted to photograph it when the parent birds began to feed their young, but on the morning of May 21 when I again visited the nest it was apparently deserted. Two days later I collected the nest and turned it in to the Yosemite Museum. When I first looked into this nest there were three typical Cassin Vireo eggs, but when I collected the nest there were only two eggs, one vireo egg and one slightly larger egg—a gray-green egg heavily speckled with brown from one end to the other.

Then on the morning of June 23, while out on a bird walk with Mr. H. G. Hill, a pair of Cowbirds was seen. Cowbirds having not been previously recorded from Yosemite Valley I would have hesitated to report them had it not been for the identification by Mr. Hill, who is familiar with these birds.

Since the above date, Cowbirds have been seen on several occasions and I began to wonder about the odd egg that was found in the vireo's nest. As a result, the nest and eggs were sent to Dr. J. Grinnell at the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology at Berkeley where the odd egg was identified as that of the Cowbird (*Molothrus ater*).—CHAS. W. MICHAEL, *Yosemite, California, August 20, 1934.*

Recent Records from British Columbia.—*Aechmophorus occidentalis*. Western Grebe. On July 17, 1933, while I was paddling through a dense growth of sago pondweed which filled one of the shallow bays of Swan Lake, a Western Grebe swam slowly toward open water uttering a low plaintive call, quite different from the familiar whistled notes of this species. Shortly afterward a single downy young, approximately one week old, was captured among the potamogeton fronds which matted the surface of the bay. Five other adults swam about in the open water close to the bay mentioned above, where at least one pair of these had nested. Swan Lake is a shallow, marsh-encircled lake in the Okanagan Valley close to the city of Vernon. Western Grebes winter abundantly on the coast of British Columbia, and they pass through the southern part of this Province in large numbers on migration to and from their nesting grounds in Alberta and Saskatchewan. The species has been noted in summer on Okanagan Lake and on Swan Lake in years previous to 1933, but hitherto has not been recorded as breeding in British Columbia.

Glaucionetta clangula americana. American Golden-eye. At least two pairs of American Golden-eye nested at Swan Lake, Okanagan Valley, in the summer of 1930. A female with breeding patch was taken there by Mr. Walter Weber; and subsequently on June 11 at the same place a female with brood of seven was under observation by Major Allan Brooks and myself for some time. Specimens of these downy young were collected. There are two other records for the southern interior of British Columbia based on the presence of mated birds during the nesting season.

Limosa lapponica baueri. Pacific Godwit. On October 30, 1931, a Pacific Godwit was shot at Colebrook, in the Fraser Valley, some twenty-five miles south of Vancouver. The specimen, which was preserved through the interest of Mr. H. C. Pyke, Cloverdale, British Columbia, is a bird of the year and is not sexed. This would appear to be the first record of the species for North America south of Alaska.

Zonotrichia albicollis. White-throated Sparrow. A male of the year was collected at Okanagan Landing on September 9, 1931. This is the sixth published record for the Province.

Spizella breweri taverneri. Timberline Sparrow. Two specimens of this sparrow, both females, were collected at White Lake in the Okanagan Valley on May 30, 1926, and May 27, 1931. Both specimens were taken in patches of deciduous growth, in

one case poplar, in the other *Philadelphus*, at the foot of an open sage-covered hillside at approximately 2000 feet altitude. It is of interest also to record the capture, by Mr. John B. Hurley, of three males in the state of Washington, some two hundred miles south of the locality noted above. The particulars are: Kittitas County, April 10, 1932 (2), Yakima County, April 17, 1932. Dr. Joseph Grinnell has kindly checked the identification of these specimens.—J. A. MUNRO, *Okanagan Landing, B. C., August 22, 1934.*

Surf Scoters on Salton Sea.—Reports of the presence of Surf Scoters (*Melanitta perspicillata*) on Salton Sea were verified on December 25, 1934, when the writers found the carcass of an adult male bird floating in the water off the north shore of Salton Sea below Mecca, Riverside County, California. Mr. Tom Smith, owner of the Pintail Duck Club, who made the original report, shot down three birds from a flock of eight or ten Surf Scoters that were in flight over his ponds on October 27, 1934. This is about two miles from the place where the above-named specimen was found. As the plumage and bones were in a good state of preservation this specimen was turned over to Mr. George Willett who has now added it to the collection of the Los Angeles Museum.—BEN CLARY and MARJORIE CLARY, *Coachella, California, March 19, 1935.*

NOTES AND NEWS

The present issue of the Condor bulks large by reason of a very special circumstance. The valuable article on Mocking-birds as studied by the Micheners, which is the leading one in this issue, was too long and hence too expensive for the Editors to accept save under outside subsidy. Appeal was made to certain Cooper Club members known to be sympathetic toward studies of this nature with the outcome that nine individuals contributed the required \$200. This means that regular Condor subscribers for the current year will be receiving an annual volume of considerably more pages than would otherwise have been possible. The names of the donors are withheld, by special request on the part of some of them.—J. G.

It has often been suggested to the Editors of the Condor that more space be devoted to "Notes and News"—that these are sure to furnish more of general interest to the reader, line for line, than anything else in an issue. Granted, perhaps; but someone has to seek out worthy items of the sort and write them up; not only space but someone's time is required in order to supply them. Our enthusiasm, after proof-reading the galley for the entire issue otherwise, is confessedly at

low ebb, and just enough copy is usually ground out to fill the space that shows up when the issue has been put into pages. This explanation is weak, we know; but a mitigating circumstance we can urge is that really the Division and Chapter minutes, which occupy several pages in each number, include very much of current personal, institutional and ornithological news.—J. G.

A truly beautiful as well as useful book is P. A. Taverner's new "Birds of Canada" (National Museum of Canada, Ottawa, 1934 [our copy received March 25, 1935], 445 pp., 87 colored pls., 488 text figs.; price \$2.00). While in a general way a combination of the author's previously published two volumes, "Birds of Eastern Canada" and "Birds of Western Canada," the text has been entirely rearranged and there is much new information. The abundant colored illustrations are chiefly from the brush of Allan Brooks, while most of the line drawings are the work of the author. The subjects of these latter are well chosen to show important structural or field characters of species; indeed, some points are thereby brought out that we do not recall having seen portrayed or even mentioned in any other work. Cooper Club members