

The Sage Thrasher in Saskatchewan.—On June 24, 1933, Mr. Chas. F. Holmes, of Dollard, Saskatchewan, took a male Sage Thrasher (*Oreoscoptes montanus*) in the valley of the Frenchman River, near Eastend, at a point about thirty miles north of the International Boundary. On June 12, 1934, Mr. Holmes took a male and a female, and soon after found a nest containing one egg, presumably of this species. Mr. Fred Bard, of the Provincial Museum, Regina, visited the writer's ranch in the spring of 1934, and took a male Sage Thrasher on June 11. Next day we went to the same spot, a little sage-brush covered flat close by the river. We were driving in a single-horse buggy, expecting to traverse some rough country. On alighting from the buggy, Mr. Bard almost stepped on a female thrasher as she flushed from her nest in a sage-bush, containing five eggs. In the course of the next few days, Mr. Bard saw two or three more pairs of thrashers and found another nest. On June 20 the writer came upon yet another nest with five newly-hatched young. Whereas all the other nests were located in the sage-brush close to the river, this one was placed in a clump of wild rose some distance up from the river in a small ravine. On August 22 two thrashers, apparently young birds, visited the ranch house.

In 1935, no thrashers were seen here in June, but on July 12 a bird was noted singing, and again on July 17. No nests were found. In 1936, hot and dry though the entire summer proved to be, we saw no Sage Thrashers at any time. This summer (1937) two pairs were seen by Mr. Holmes on May 24, and one bird was heard singing by myself on June 26.

In Montana the Sage Thrasher is listed as "a rare summer resident" by Saunders (Pac. Coast Avif. no. 14, 1921, p. 154). The recent increase and northward extension of range is perhaps due to the succession of dry summers that have been experienced on the plains. When the hoped-for wet years come again, it may be expected that the Sage Thrasher, welcome indeed for its glorious song, will cease to appear.—LAURENCE B. POTTER, *Gower Ranch, Eastend, Saskatchewan, August 6, 1937.*

The Tibiotarsus of the Fossil Bird *Bathornis veredus*.—The type specimen of *Bathornis veredus* (Wetmore, Proc. Colorado Mus. Nat. Hist., vol. 7, 1927, p. 11, figs. 19-24) is the distal portion of a metatarsus collected by Philip Reinheimer from the Chadron beds of the Oligocene while working for the Colorado Museum of Natural History in the Trigonias Quarry of Weld County, Colorado. Later, M. V. Walker, collecting with C. W. Gilmore for the U. S. National Museum, secured the distal end of a metatarsus in Titanotheres beds eleven miles northwest of Crawford, Nebraska, that I also have identified as of this species. This has been the known record of the species to date.

Recently, Dr. Glenn L. Jepsen of Princeton University has sent to me for examination a left tibiotarsus (fig. 70), lacking the head, that after careful comparison I have identified as representing *Bathornis veredus*. This bone, Princeton University Museum no. 14400, was collected in the Middle Titanotheres (Chadron) deposits of the Oligocene on Indian Creek, South Dakota, in June, 1929, by Glenn L. Jepsen.

It will be recalled that in Oligocene deposits near Torrington, Wyoming, under exploration by the Museum of Comparative Zoology, there has been found a considerable number of fossil bird bones, the majority of which represent a species that I have named *Bathornis celeripes* (Wetmore, Bull. Mus. Comp. Zool., vol. 75, 1933, p. 302, figs. 6-14). The metatarsus of this form is similar to that of *B. veredus* but is decidedly smaller. Of *celeripes* I have examined sixty-five specimens of the lower end of the tibiotarsus. The tibiotarsus collected by Dr. Jepsen is similar in form to that of *celeripes*, but is much larger.

In sixteen specimens of the metatarsus of *Bathornis celeripes* the transverse breadth across the trochleae ranges from 14.7 to 16.5 mm. In the type of *B. veredus* this same measurement is 19.7 mm. Nineteen examples of *Bathornis celeripes* have the transverse breadth across the condyles of the tibiotarsus from 12.5 to 14.8 mm. This dimension in the tibiotarsus in the Princeton collection is 18 mm. The proportionate difference in size of the metatarsi in the two species is similar to that existing between the tibiotarsus of *celeripes* and the tibiotarsus here under study. In view of this agreement, the bone from Princeton is identified as from *Bathornis veredus*.

Following is a brief description of pertinent characters evident in this bone: Outline of external condyle, viewed from the side, rounded anteriorly and flattened distally (the posterior flange broken away); internal condyle, viewed from the side, with anterior portion narrowed and projected forward considerably beyond the level of the shaft, the lower margin flattened (posterior flange broken); intercondylar fossa broad and deep, with the internal condyle rising abruptly from it, the margin of this condyle being thickened to produce a slight notch; boundary margin of the external condyle sloping in a rounded curve; articular surface shallowly concave; tendinal bridge broken away, but evidently strong, with a prominent angular projection on the external margin; shaft relatively slender, flattened in front and rounded behind.

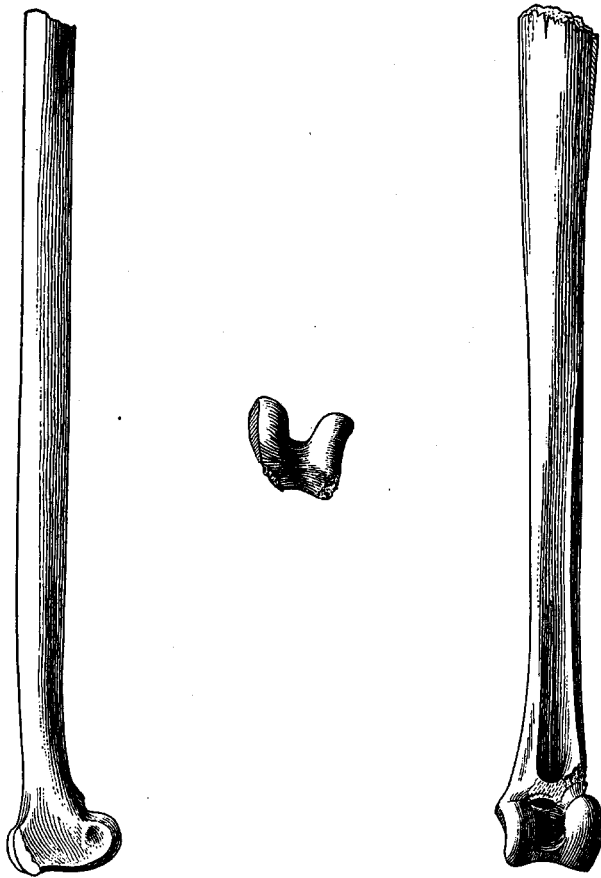


Fig. 70. Left tibiotarsus of *Bathornis veredus*, $\times\frac{3}{4}$.

Transverse diameter across trochlea 18.0; smallest transverse diameter of shaft 8.6 mm. Bone completely fossilized, ivory white in color.

The drawings illustrating this specimen have been made for me by Sydney Prentice.—ALEXANDER WETMORE, *U. S. National Museum, Washington, D. C., July 14, 1937.*

Two Sea-bird Records for Southern California.—On January 28, 1937, while walking on the beach north of La Jolla, California, in search of birds which might have perished and been washed ashore in the recent off-shore storms, I found three Paroquet Auklets (*Cyclorhynchus psittacula*). Two of the birds were badly mutilated and were recognizable only by the unusual and distinctive shape of the mandibles. The third specimen was not in as bad condition as were the first two, although it had evidently been in the water several days and on the beach at least one day; decomposition made the determination of sex impossible. However, it was not beyond preservation and is now specimen number 326 in my collection. Mr. L. M. Huey of the San Diego Society of Natural History identified the bird by comparing the skin with specimens in the museum collection.

Upon investigation I find that the southernmost record of *Cyclorhynchus psittacula*, to date, is that of fourteen specimens taken by Beck off Point Pinos, Monterey County, California (Grinnell, *Pac. Coast Avif.* no. 11, 1915, p. 18). The three specimens found on January 28, 1937, extend the winter range of this species some four hundred miles southward, and to a point within twenty miles of the Mexican border.