

Red Phalarope on the Berkeley Campus, Alameda County, California.—On the stormy afternoon of October 30, 1937, a Red Phalarope (*Phalaropus fulicarius*) was noted at the southeast corner of the Botanical Gardens in Strawberry Canyon, on the upper campus, University of California, Berkeley. The bird circled above me on stiffly outstretched wings and alighted in a grassy field fifty yards distant. Bush-tits and White-crowned Sparrows near-by had voiced alarm, thinking it a hawk. The phalarope hobbled about at my feet, continually fluffing its feathers and occasionally squatting on its belly in the wet grass. Its weak and emaciated condition permitted an easy capture and it is now a skin (male, number 189) in my collection. This is the first record for the Berkeley campus.—JOE T. MARSHALL, JR., *Berkeley, California, December 7, 1937.*

The Groove-billed Ani of Lower California and Northwestern Mexico.—In the course of a recent collecting trip to southern Sonora, Robert Hannum and the writer took six Groove-billed Anis which, added to the two previously known specimens from the region, provide sufficient material for determination of systematic status. Previously I had stated (Trans. San Diego Soc. Nat. Hist., vol. 6, 1931, pp. 249-250) that a single specimen from Sonora was not distinguishable from a series from Central America and also that there was a possibility that the Lower California race, *Crotophaga sulcirostris pallidula*, might be based on characters due, in part at least, to post-mortem color changes.

The new Sonora material has been compared carefully with a series of eight *pallidula*, borrowed from the Museum of Comparative Zoölogy which were collected by Frazar fifty years ago and also with a series of twenty-seven specimens from localities ranging from Costa Rica to southeastern Texas. These last I take to represent typical *sulcirostris*.

At first glance it is obvious that as a series the eight Lower California birds are browner than the eight from Sonora, but on the other hand three of the eight Lower California individuals are not distinguishable from seven from Sonora. Significantly enough, the five brownest Lower California specimens show a strong brownish tinge on the labels, whereas on the three blackest the labels retain their original whiteness. Thus it seems safe to suspect that a post-mortem brown tinge has been acquired in the half century since they were collected. Incidentally, I have several times in the past called attention to the fact that Frazar skins are not to be relied upon for true color values unless checked by other material. Whether this is due simply to age or to the preservative used by him I do not know but I suspect borax is the guilty agent.

On comparison of the combined series of sixteen northwestern skins with the twenty-seven which presumably represent *sulcirostris*, it is immediately apparent that the former are more slaty below and tend to have wider and more brassy edgings to the contour feathers. But here again there are difficulties with individual specimens. Seven of the twenty-seven *sulcirostris* fit in perfectly with the northwestern series and one of the Sonora specimens is indistinguishable from *sulcirostris*.

To summarize the systematics, it would seem that *pallidula* is a rather weakly characterized race which averages slightly more slaty ventrally and also, on an average, has more brassy (less bluish) and wider feather margins. It is almost certainly not a Cape differentiate, that is to say, it probably did not develop its decidedly tenuous characters as a result of isolation in the Cape San Lucas region.

As a sidelight on the probable manner of occurrence in Lower California, it may be permissible to quote a resident with whom I talked at Cape San Lucas several years ago: "They come with the rains [that is, about July 1] and sometimes a few stay through the year but in most years none come at all." This accords with our own limited experience in Sonora. In 1937, not one ani was seen until June 16, but immediately thereafter they became common. They were in pairs and preparing to breed when we left the country in the latter part of the month.—A. J. VAN ROSSEM, *Dickey Collections, California Institute of Technology, Pasadena, California, December 1, 1937.*

Some Notes on Waterfowl in San Bernardino and Riverside Counties, California.—The following notes were taken in the fall, winter, and spring months, from 1934 through 1937, at various ponds in the San Bernardino Valley, and at Elsinore and San Jacinto lakes. The majority of the observations were made at Lake El Casco and Fisherman's Retreat, which are situated in San Timoteo Canyon southeast of Redlands. In 1936 and 1937 trips were made to these ponds quite frequently, but not with regularity. Only those species thought to be of particular interest are included in these notes.

Gavia immer elasson. Lesser Loon. An immature with the tips of the primaries quite worn was found shot May 31, 1935, in San Timoteo Canyon; the skin was preserved. In Pratt's Sporting Goods Store in Redlands there is a fine mounted skin of an adult loon of this species. I was told that it was picked up in the spring of 1935 in a field between Beaumont and Banning in a very weak condition and died shortly afterwards.

Spatula clypeata. Shoveller. The following notes seem to indicate that this species is a migrant and perhaps winter visitant. One was seen in February, 1936, in San Timoteo Canyon, and one