

It was surprising to discover that even those natives who had had but little contact with whites knew the birds as "megapodes." The Simbo native name for the bird is "lápi."

The opportunity to visit Simbo was afforded by the kindness of the officers of the British Solomon Islands Protectorate at Hombu Hombu, New Georgia.—CHARLES G. SIBLEY, *Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, January 2, 1946.*

Snow Bunting on the Oregon Coast.—On November 10, 1945, at about 4 p.m., two Snow Buntings (*Plectrophenax nivalis nivalis*) were observed at Yaquina Head, Lincoln County, Oregon. The birds were flushed within 100 yards of one another from the gravel road leading to the lighthouse but were lost to view when they flew up the windswept, grassy ridge. An hour later at dusk one of the buntings was again encountered on the road where it had been seen previously. When approached, the bird flew about 30 feet ahead only to return and alight at the same spot from which it had risen. This individual, a male in good condition, was shot and preserved as a skin (no. 774) in the writer's collection.

This specimen appears to be the third skin obtained from western Oregon and the first from Lincoln County. In their account of the Snow Bunting, Gabrielson and Jewett (*Birds of Oregon, 1940:599*) list two skins collected on the coast at Netarts in Tillamook County 60 miles north of Yaquina Head on December 31, 1912, and October 27, 1934, and refer to an old winter sight record made about 1900 at Yaquina Bay. The species is regarded as an irregular winter visitor to eastern Oregon.—HAROLD E. BROADBOOKS, *Newport, Oregon, January 16, 1946.*

A Record of the Snow Bunting in California.—On the morning of November 25, 1945, while checking duck hunters along the south spit of Humboldt Bay, California, my attention was drawn by a single passerine bird which I at once recognized as foreign to the locality. To all appearances, it was identical with Snow Buntings I had seen in the eastern Aleutian Islands while on duty there with the Navy. Upon stopping the car, the bird flew off with a strong undulating flight and lit on the sand a short distance away. Fortunately, I was able to collect it after a short stalk. Subsequent identification by Dr. Alden H. Miller confirmed my belief that the bird is a Snow Bunting (*Plectrophenax nivalis nivalis*), the first certain record for the species in California.

Upon dissection, the bird proved to be a female, and it was quite fat. The crop was full of seeds of an unidentified species of legume.

It is interesting to note that the portion of the spit where the bird was taken is ecologically very similar to the tundra and near-tundra that Snow Buntings inhabit a good part of the year. In the main it is a low sand dune area, of but slight elevation above the sea, strewn irregularly with large drift logs and dotted here and there with small freshwater ponds. Around these pools and in some of the low depressions between dunes a low compact association of grass and sedge occurs, bare sand occupying the rest of the area. When first seen, the bird was resting on the grassy border of one of these little lakelets, where it was afforded some protection from the strong southerly wind blowing at the time.

Humboldt County has numerous such areas along its coast. Besides the south spit, the north spit of Humboldt Bay has such tracts, and they are not infrequent along the large stretches of sand dunes north of the mouth of Mad River. Then there are the Arcata bottoms, a flat agricultural area of several square miles extent, which in the winter, has short grass pasture land with numerous ponds. A sight record of the Snow Bunting was made here one winter by Fred Telonicher, of Humboldt State College.—WILLIAM H. SHOLES, JR., *Arcata, California, January 28, 1946.*

Notes on the Distribution of *Spizella breweri taverneri*.—Field studies conducted by the author in the Rocky Mountains of western Alberta and eastern British Columbia in the interests of the National Museum of Canada and of the National Parks branch have led to accumulation of certain data supplementary to existing information on the breeding range of the timberline race of the Brewer Sparrow, *Spizella breweri taverneri*.

In June and July, 1930, the author was collecting mammals in Jasper National Park, Alberta. At that time *taverneri* was known as a breeding bird only from the region adjacent to Atlin, in the northwestern corner of British Columbia. On July 18 of that year among the clumps of dwarfed spruce and balsam at timberline in the Tonquin Valley singing males, apparently on their territories, were heard and one was later collected. This specimen is in the National Museum of Canada.

On August 21 and 23 of the same summer while camped in the amphitheatre at timberline on Cascade Mountain, Banff, Alberta, a juvenile and an adult female were obtained. At the time these were believed to be migrant individuals.

Not until 1943 was the author again in the Rocky Mountains, this time engaged in big game studies for the National Parks Bureau. Extensive travels through virtually all parts of Jasper, Banff