

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

and Waterton Lakes parks, Alberta, and into much of Kootenay and Yoho parks, British Columbia, from 1943 to 1945, permitted fairly extensive observation of the breeding range of *taverneri*.

This race is now known to be an abundant breeding bird in the timberline habitat on both slopes of the Rocky Mountains from the northernmost areas visited on the northern boundary of Jasper National Park south at least to the southern boundary of Banff National Park.

Specimens of breeding birds have been taken at Tonquin Valley, Cairn Pass, and Sunwapta Pass in Jasper Park, at Peyto Lake, Watchman Lake and Baker Lake in Banff Park, and on Thompson Pass, British Columbia. Timberline sparrows have been seen or heard virtually everywhere our travels took us to timberline in both these parks as well as in interprovincial boundary regions of Yoho and Kootenay parks.

On Sunwapta Pass on July 5, 1945, adults were feeding nestlings recently out of the nests, as they were also at Watchman Lake on July 28, 1945. On July 13, 1944, on the eastern slopes of Mount Southesk a nest containing three fresh eggs was found in a stunted balsam. The nest was placed two feet from the ground and was composed of fine weed stems and grasses with a lining of moose hair. The three eggs were in ground color the same clear blue seen in the eggs of the Clay-colored Sparrow (*Spizella pallida*). They were finely speckled around the larger end with pale lavender-brown and showed a prominent ring of pale brownish blotches just above the largest circumference.

In the course of field work in Waterton Lakes Park in extreme southeastern Alberta in July, 1945, two spizellas were heard singing, and one was seen at about 100 feet through 8-power glasses. It was not possible to identify them certainly, but they were not Chipping Sparrows or Clay-colored Sparrows, although of the same size. Their song differed from that of *taverneri* in being much shorter, with an average duration of about 2 seconds instead of 10 seconds, and of less complicated phraseology. Both birds were noted on the west slope of the high ridge between Summit Lake and Carthew Lakes. At this point they were within about 2 miles airline of the International Boundary Line and Glacier Park, Montana. Mrs. Bailey (*Birds in Wild Animals of Glacier National Park*, Washington, D.C., 1918) does not list any similar form of *Spizella* from the high altitudes of Glacier Park, but *taverneri* should be looked for there and any ornithologist visiting Waterton Lakes Park in the future should endeavor to establish the identity of the high-altitude *Spizella* population of that park.

A western extension in the south of the known breeding range of *S. b. taverneri* is provided by an adult female taken on August 27, 1945, at Paradise mine, 19 miles west of Invermere in the Selkirk Range, British Columbia. This individual was feeding a fully plumaged juvenile when collected. Other members of presumably the same brood were in the vicinity. The habitat was the same as that occupied by the species in its Rocky Mountains range. Extensive studies in the northern Selkirks adjacent to Mount Revelstoke failed to disclose the species in that region.

The extension of breeding range recorded in this note still leaves *Spizella b. taverneri* separated from *Spizella b. breweri* during the breeding period. At no point are the known breeding ranges contiguous.—I. McT. COWAN, *University of British Columbia, Vancouver, British Columbia, February 5, 1946.*

**Scissor-tailed Flycatcher and Red-tailed Hawk Nest in the Same Tree.**—It has sometimes been thought that the Scissor-tailed Flycatcher (*Muscivora forficata*), since it is so often seen in pursuit of large hawks, is a real enemy of the Red-tailed Hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis*), and this may well be the case. According to J. D. Bankston of Mason, Texas, many farmers in that section are pleased to have the scissor-tail nest near the house to keep the hawks away. On an experimental section in the Divide country west of Kerrville, Texas, however, we found a Scissor-tailed Flycatcher and a Red-tailed Hawk nesting in the same tree, a large live oak. The hawk's nest was on the west side, while the scissor-tail's nest was on the east side. The two seemed to ignore each other, and so got along nicely. The scissor-tail was incubating on May 17, 1945. On that date two young hawks were nearly ready to leave the red-tail's nest. It is of interest that these had been fed, at least in part, on young armadillos, which were fairly abundant that year and should have been easy prey for an alert Red-tailed Hawk.—WALTER P. TAYLOR, *Texas Cooperative Wildlife Research Unit, College Station, Texas, September 22, 1945.*

**Late Nesting of Caspian Tern in Utah.**—Bent (U. S. Nat. Mus., Bull. 113, 1921:211) lists July 1 as the latest nesting record of the Caspian Tern (*Hydroprogne caspia*) on Lake Michigan, and May 25 as the latest in California. Writing of this bird as a nester in Oregon, Gabrielson and Jewett (*Birds of Oregon*, 1940:305) state: "Egg dates vary from May 12 to June 16 in the various colonies in different seasons."

In view of these records it may be interesting to note that on September 18, 1945, two broods of late-nesting Caspian Terns were seen on a bare artificial island on Unit 3 of Bear River Migratory Waterfowl Refuge, at the north end of Great Salt Lake, Utah. In the first brood, probably about