

on the rim of the canyon mentioned before. A report of a Harris Sparrow by Mr. Dudley Beeson in San Leandro on February 9 was undoubtedly of another individual.—RUSSELL H. PRAY, *Berkeley, California, August 4, 1949.*

Second Record of the Ross Goose from Arizona.—On December 10, 1948, Dave Mitchell and Bill Baxter of the Arizona Game Department confiscated a white goose, taken by a hunter near the northern boundary of the Havasu Lake National Wildlife Refuge. This was at a boat dock, known locally as Five-Mile Landing, which is situated on the Arizona side of the Colorado River near Topock, Mohave County. The dead bird was given to me, and a skin was prepared from it. The specimen was sent to Alden H. Miller for comparison and positive identification and proved to be a typical first-year male of the Ross Goose (*Chen rossii*). It lacked the warty protuberances at the base of the upper mandible that are characteristic of adults of this species.

The presence of the Ross Goose along the Colorado River had been indicated to the writer by hunters who had told of its occasional occurrence with its larger relative, the Snow Goose. The writer knows of another probable kill on the Bill Williams River near its confluence with Lake Havasu, at Parker Dam, Arizona. This occurred in the 1947 waterfowl hunting season, but since no examination of the bird was made the occurrence may be questioned. However, I have every confidence that the hunter who took this bird is able to recognize a Ross Goose from a Snow Goose. Before the specimen taken in 1948 was obtained, there were no authentic records of occurrence along the Colorado River. Thus this record represents the first of the Ross Goose for the Colorado River valley and the second for the state of Arizona. The only previous record for Arizona to the writer's knowledge is that of Cooke (Auk, 31, 1914:403) who recorded a specimen taken by Dr. Mearns at Fort Verde on October 24, 1887.—WARREN M. PULICH, *Boulder City, Nevada, August 31, 1949.*

A Record of the Short-tailed Albatross.—The publication of Yamashina's report (Tori, 40, 1942:191-270, as summarized in "Japanese Ornithology and Mammalogy during World War II," Wildlife Leaflet 305, Fish and Wildlife Service, 1948, p. 20) of the destruction of the Torishima breeding colony of the Short-tailed Albatross (*Diomedea albatrus*) prompts me to publish a recent observation. A single example of *albatrus* was seen on February 17, 1946, at latitude 37° 08' N, longitude 124° 29' W, about seventy miles off San Francisco, while en route to Pearl Harbor aboard the U.S.S. Bowditch. The bird approached the stern twice, the second time coming within fifty yards and making identification through 8× glasses certain. Although there were no Laysan Albatrosses (*D. immutabilis*) present for direct comparison, two were seen the next day, and the difference between the two forms was striking. The white back of the Short-tailed is a most conspicuous field mark and can be seen almost as far as the bird. This individual had the white of the back extending a few inches up the wing. In the air *albatrus* appears larger than the Black-footed Albatross (*D. nigripes*) and the body is much stouter. Its flight is more deliberate, with less swinging and wheeling. The bill appeared to be yellow, although Mayr (Birds Southwest Pacific, 1945:4) gives "pinkish" as the color of the bill in the adult.

Although the summary of Yamashina's article does not specifically state that no Short-tailed Albatrosses have been seen on Torishima since 1933, that is the inference that I draw and that the last definite record was a specimen collected in 1936. The occurrence of a single bird ten years later, while it may raise hopes that birds are still breeding in small numbers, cannot be considered proof of this, since a few non-breeding survivors might still exist.—MELVIN A. TRAYLOR, *Chicago Natural History Museum, Chicago, Illinois, August 4, 1949.*

Record of the European Nightjar in a State of Stupor.—The following quotations are from two letters I recently received from Aldous Huxley concerning the finding of a European Nightjar (*Caprimulgus europaeus*) in an apparent state of coma in England. They recite an incident which has an interesting bearing on my recently published account of the hibernation of the Poor-will (Condor, 51, 1949:105-109).

Mr. Huxley says in a letter dated February 25, 1949, and written from Palm Desert, California: "I was about ten at the time and we were staying at a house in Hertfordshire at the foot of the Chilterns, which is chalk country. My brothers and I were wandering in the park when we noticed a nightjar lying inanimate in a recess between the roots of a tree—I think a beech. We picked up the

bird and found that it was not dead but in a state of coma. I think that we presumed that it was sick and put it back where we had found it. I do not remember that we returned to see if it was still there."

In a letter dated July 11, 1949, he continues: "This incident must have taken place either during the Christmas or Easter holidays: for it occurred at a place where we went only during those holidays. This means that it happened either during the three weeks between December 20th and January 10th or in early April. If the bird was hibernating and not sick we must attribute the incident to the January date, since there would be plenty of insect life available in April."—EDMUND C. JAEGER, *Riverside College, Riverside, California, August 30, 1949.*

A Hummingbird Thief.—A trip into the foothills south of Denver, Colorado, on July 13, 1949, gave me an unexpected opportunity to witness a most unusual example of avian thievery. Robert J. Niedrach had invited me to accompany him on an expedition to take motion pictures of a Broad-tailed Hummingbird (*Selasphorus platycercus*) which he had discovered the preceding day in the process of building her nest. We had hardly arrived on location when we saw a hummingbird alight on the half-built nest, but instead of bringing plant down to add to the structure she helped herself to a generous amount of the material and made off with it. A little later the thief returned for more loot, but now the owner of the nest was present to resist the brigandage. However, the owner's efforts were of little avail, for the thief continued to return for more nest material with which she always departed in the same direction. The next day Niedrach found the nest of the thief about a quarter of a mile away.—FRANK C. CROSS, *Silver Spring, Maryland, September 26, 1949.*

Further Notes on the Birds of Camp Barkeley, Texas.—Vincent P. McLaughlin, Jr., has recently (*Auk*, 65, 1948:180-188) published his observations of the avifauna of Camp Barkeley, near Abilene, Taylor County, Texas. His excellent description of the "Broad Irrigation Project," which created a temporary marshy oasis in the midst of a desert of mesquite, needs no elaboration here. I was stationed at Camp Barkeley from July 23 to October 30, 1943. Despite the comparative brevity of my stay, I was fortunate enough to note a number of species not mentioned by McLaughlin. For much of this period my quarters were immediately adjacent to the Project, allowing me to make brief observations almost daily. Unfortunately, a substantial portion of my notes from this period were lost somewhere in the confusion of transferring from one army post to another. This is reflected in the list below by the lack of exact dates. However, I have retained enough material to be able to add substantially to McLaughlin's list.

In the following briefly annotated list, I have omitted those species for which my observations add nothing to those of McLaughlin. Species marked with an asterisk are those not reported in McLaughlin's paper.

**Dichromanassa rufescens*. Reddish Egret. One immature seen on August 1. Since publishing this record (*Auk*, 65, 1948:308), an additional inland record of this species has come to my attention. There is a specimen in the American Museum of Natural History collected by E. A. Mearns at Camp Verde on the Verde River, Arizona, August 27, 1886. Thus mine is the fifth rather than the fourth inland record for the species.

Plegadis mexicana. White-faced Glossy Ibis. Two seen flying overhead, late in August.

**Brantha canadensis*. Canada Goose. **Anser albifrons*. White-fronted Goose. A flock of ten geese was observed flying over the camp and landing in one of the ponds of the Project just at sunset in mid-September. Nine of these individuals proved upon closer observation to be White-fronted Geese and one a Canada Goose.

Anas discors. Blue-winged Teal. At least during the fall migration of 1943, the proportion of this species among the waterfowl observed would warrant a higher rating than McLaughlin's "Uncommon migrant."

Ictinia mississippiensis. Mississippi Kite. One or two immature individuals of this species were seen in the summer months, favoring McLaughlin's conjecture that these birds breed in the mesquite near the ponds.

Accipiter striatus. Sharp-shinned Hawk. One September record.

**Callipepla squamata*. Scaled Quail. According to the distribution map in "Principal Game Birds and Mammals of Texas" (Texas Game, Fish and Oyster Commission, 1945:60), Taylor County lies