

I take great pleasure in naming this race in honor of Dr. Alfred O. Gross, a distinguished student of North American birds and a stimulating teacher and friend. I am indebted to Messrs. James L. Peters of the Museum of Comparative Zoology and Emmet R. Blake of the Chicago Natural History Museum, who have kindly compared my specimens with the types of *belizensis* and *pallidus* in their respective collections.—RAYMOND A. PAYNTER, JR., *Osborn Zoological Laboratory, Yale University, New Haven, Connecticut, January 15, 1950.*

A New North American Record for the Tufted Duck.—On May 24, 1949, Mr. Harold P. Deutschman of Livermore, California, presented the California Academy of Sciences with a mounted specimen of a duck which he described as a "freak scaup with a crest on its head." He had shot the bird some time between December 23, 1948, and January 8, 1949, at a pond on the property of the Henry J. Kaiser Gravel Plant in the Livermore Valley, Alameda County, California.

On examination the specimen in question (now Calif. Acad. Sci. no. 61012) proved to be a male Tufted Duck (*Aythya fuligula*), a fairly common Palearctic species which, heretofore, has been recorded only from Greenland and the Pribilof Islands in the New World. Although there is always the possibility that this individual might have escaped from a local aviary, the species is reported to be rare in captivity in North America. Mr. Jean Delacour of the American Museum of Natural History, who is very familiar with captive waterfowl in this country, informed the writer in October, 1949, that he was unaware of any captive Tufted Ducks in the western United States. It is probable, therefore, that this individual was an aberrant migrant from northeastern Asia where the species is known to breed.—ROBERT T. ORR, *California Academy of Sciences, San Francisco, California, January 3, 1950.*

Notes on the Ecological Distribution of Plain and Bridled Titmice in Arizona.—The Bridled Titmouse (*Parus wollweberi*) ranges northward from the Mexican highlands into southeastern Arizona where it is a permanent resident in the oaks, whereas the Plain Titmouse (*Parus inornatus*) is a "permanent obligate resident of the pigmy conifers" in northern Arizona (Woodbury and Russell, Bull. Univ. Utah, 35, 1945:93). Ranges of the two species overlap where their respective habitats meet or intergrade south of the Mogollon Plateau in the east-central part of the state. Specimens in the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology show that during the nesting season this zone of overlap extends at least from Stanley, Graham County, north to the Sierra Ancha. The two species were observed together in two localities in the spring of 1949 and, since their nesting requirements are similar, an effort was made to see if they competed and if not, by what means competition was avoided or reduced.

At Sawmill, 27 miles northeast of Globe, Gila County, observations were made from April 22 through 25, 1949. Here, at an elevation of 5600 feet, occasional pairs of the Bridled Titmouse were found in a woodland of junipers and gray oak (*Quercus grisea*) 10 to 12 feet in height, with taller yellow pines scattered throughout. On an opposite sunny slope, the oaks and junipers appeared to be more widely spaced with yellow pine absent. Here W. C. Russell took one Plain Titmouse and saw another within 75 yards of a pair of Bridled Titmice. I did not note the Plain Titmouse on that slope in the course of three hours of hunting there the following morning. Twice in this vicinity I noted other isolated pairs of Bridled Titmice in small areas of presumably more favorable habitat.

At a camp (April 27-29) 8 miles south of Whiteriver, Navajo County, at an elevation of 6100 feet, the Plain Titmouse was met frequently in a woodland of juniper, piñon, and gray oak. Occasionally pairs of the Bridled Titmouse were encountered locally in this woodland where the scrubby oaks were more numerous and denser. Presence of the Spotted Towhee (*Pipilo maculatus*) was an indication of the vegetation density of those areas to which the Bridled Titmouse appeared restricted, whereas the towhee did not occur in the more open parts of the association where the Plain Titmouse was found exclusively. This condition obtained at both localities visited, but at the latter, the more abundant Plain Titmouse penetrated the denser oak growth to some extent. While both species appeared to have territories established there, I found none overlapping; on one shallow, east-facing slope, a linear sequence of Bridled, Plain, and Bridled territories occurred in what appeared to be uniform habitat of the Bridled Titmouse. In one instance song of a Bridled Titmouse was answered by that of the Plain.

Although no female Bridled Titmice were taken, observations were made which suggest that the nesting cycle of the Plain Titmouse may have been in advance of that of its relative. Plain Titmouse

females were incubating, while a female examining a cavity in an oak limb was the only evidence of nesting activity which I saw in the Bridled Titmouse.

The average weight of seven males of *inornatus* from southern Arizona is 15.5 grams, that of four males of *wollweberi* from the same localities is 10.4. These data were all gathered within the period from April 22 to 29, 1949. The difference suggests that the latter species may be able to use smaller cavities for nesting. The size factor may be reflected in foraging preferences as well (Lack, Ibis, 1944:280), a further mechanism by which competition can be reduced, if not avoided.

Relationships between these two species in areas where they occur together during the breeding season need further study, which I hope may be stimulated by these remarks.—KEITH L. DIXON, *Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, Berkeley, California, February 1, 1950.*

An Albino Murre.—In the last week of August, 1949, an oil-soaked, but living albino Murre (*Uria aalge californica*) was found on the shore at Dillon Beach, Marin County, California. The bird was found by Mr. Jack Copsey of the Pacific Marine Station and sent to me in Stockton. It died en route, but when examined the bill was noted to be much lighter than that of typical murre and the feet and eyes were pink. No dark feathers were found after the bird had been washed in carbon tetrachloride to remove the oil. The bird, a female, is now number 794 in the collection of the author.

Dr. Robert W. Storer of the Museum of Zoology of the University of Michigan has studied this murre and is of the opinion that the measurements and the form of the bill indicate that it was a bird of the year. Dr. Storer also commented that it is the only albino specimen of the species that he has seen.—JOHN R. ARNOLD, *College of the Pacific, Stockton, California, February 27, 1950.*

The Starling in Glenn County, California.—On January 18, 1950, I observed a flock of approximately twenty Starlings (*Sturnus vulgaris*) one mile southwest of Willows, Glenn County, California. Several were feeding in a pasture with Western Meadowlarks while the rest were perched on a telephone wire. I was accompanied by Jack Hiehle of the California Division of Fish and Game. On January 25, 1950, Hiehle observed four Starlings one mile north of Hamilton City, Glenn County, feeding in a field with meadowlarks.

These records supplement the others from California that have been published in *The Condor*: Tule Lake, Siskiyou County (1942); Death Valley, Inyo County (1947); Chino, San Bernardino County (1947); Colorado River Valley (1948); Leevining, Mono County (1948); Grey Lodge Refuge, Butte County (1949); and Point Reyes, Marin County (1949).—FRED L. JONES, *California Division of Fish and Game, Chico, California, January 29, 1950.*