

use of Japanese mist nets. We can find no basis to indicate a difference in sampling between shooting and netting. All of the data were obtained in the period from 1947 to 1953. These investigations have been supported in part by funds provided for biological and medical research by the State College of Washington Initiative Measure No. 171.

The data may be summarized as follows:

	Males	Females	Adults	First-year birds
Winter population from Snake River Canyon	273	47	160	160
Migrants (Whitman Co., Wash., Latah Co., Idaho)	188	161	37*	250*

* Does not include spring migrants which are all in adult plumage.

If one assumes a 1:1 sex ratio for this race, a chi-square test reveals the winter population (about 85 ♂♂ : 15 ♀♀) to deviate very significantly ($P < 0.01$) from this ratio. In the same manner, however, the sex ratio of the migrants cannot be shown ($P > 0.05$) to be significantly different from the ratio of 1:1. If one were to assume the sex ratio of the migratory birds (about 54 ♂♂ : 46 ♀♀) to be approximately the true ratio for the race, the chi-square test again reveals very significantly ($P < 0.01$) an excess of males in the winter population. These analyses can lead only to the conclusion that there is a marked excess of males in this northern wintering population.

The data also suggest a greater tendency for adult rather than first-year birds to winter in this area since the migratory sample has such a large proportion of first-year birds. This interpretation must be considered with caution since there is no way available to estimate the normal age ratio in the fall. Consequently the data could be biased because of differences in migratory routes and differences in the temporal patterns of migration between adult and first-year birds.—L. R. MEWALDT and DONALD S. FARNER, *Department of Zoology, State College of Washington, Pullman, June 4, 1953.*

Status of the Lesser Common Loon.—In connection with our studies on the birds of Alaska, it has been necessary to give consideration to the races of the Common Loon, *Gavia immer*. *Gavia immer elasson*, the Lesser Common Loon, has been accorded recognition by the A.O.U. Committee on Classification and Nomenclature, and in the manuscript for the Fifth Edition of the Check-List of North American Birds the winter range is given as "from southern Alaska south to California, etc."

The type specimen used by Bishop (Auk, 38, 1921:364-370) in describing *elasson* was an adult female, from his own collection, taken at Carpenter Lake, Rolette County, North Dakota, on July 13, 1905. Subspecific characters are: "Smaller than *Gavia immer immer*." As supporting evidence, the describer gives the measurements (wing, tail, exposed culmen, depth of bill at base, tarsus, and outer toe with nail) of 59 specimens, 36 of which he assigns to *G. i. immer* and 23 to *elasson*. For both groups, the points of collection extend from the Atlantic to the Pacific.

It must be kept in mind that the only character ascribed to *elasson* is its somewhat smaller size. On this basis it is interesting to analyze the measurements given by Bishop. Thrown together in a composite table, they present a series of perfect gradations and there is scarcely a case where measurements for the largest *elasson* are not larger than the smallest *immer*. Measurements of the two Alaskan winter-taken specimens in the United States National Museum, which are the basis for including this region within the winter range of *elasson*, are well within the minimum measurements for *immer*. The National Museum also has four Alaskan specimens that are in summer plumage. They are equally confusing. A juvenal male from Lake Aleknagik is, if correctly sexed, below the minimum wing and bill measurement for *immer* and should therefore be *elasson*. A July male from St. Michael falls above the minimum for *immer* in both wing and bill measurements, but within the maximum of *elasson*. A third specimen without date or sex data and no locality other than "Alaska" could be either if judged by the bill, but is *immer* by a wing measurement which approaches maximum size. A fourth specimen, a male taken at Tolugak Lake, on June 4, 1948, is above the maximum for *elasson* in wing measurement, but it could be called either if judged by the length of bill. In connection with the wings, we should point out that our measurements are of the chord whereas Bishop followed the curve with a tape. This latter method would yield somewhat greater length but, in the case of the specimens measured by us, would not do anything to simplify the problem.

The Lesser Common Loon also is alleged to winter on the coast of California so it is interesting to note the comment of Grinnell and Miller (Pac. Coast Avif. No. 27, 1944:35): "Small individuals occur in California, but until the range in measurements displayed by various breeding populations in

North America is more accurately determined, it does not seem practical to employ subspecific names."

This subject also has been reviewed by Rand (Canadian Field-Nat., 61, 1947:193-195) using "summer-taken specimens, presumably breeding" in the National Museum of Canada and supplemented by measurements taken by the late H. B. Conover of the Chicago Natural History Museum and by J. A. Munro of Okanagan Landing, British Columbia. A study of the material available convinced him "that there are two factors that vary somewhat independently; that of wing length and bill length." This is clearly shown in his data and strangely enough, two of his smallest birds were collected in Greenland. On the basis of size they would be necessarily classified as *elasson*. The smallest in the series came from Fort Good Hope in the Mackenzie District of northwestern Canada and this also would have to be recorded as *elasson*. If these specimens are so identified we are confronted with a patently impossible distributional pattern which is pointed out by Rand. In effect, the breeding range of *elasson* would be Greenland, western Mackenzie, and a belt in the central interior, extending from western Ontario and Manitoba south to North Dakota, northern Iowa, and northern Wisconsin. The nominate race would have a breeding range including Baffin Island, Quebec, and most of Ontario south to New England, northern Ohio and northern Illinois, and also Yukon, Alaska, and British Columbia.

Loons are large birds and variations in size may be conspicuous even if proportionally slight. Particularly are these noticeable if, as is sometimes the case, they seem to be a characteristic of specimens from a single geographic region. When, however, these variations appear in widely separated regions, it seems best to recognize them as nothing more than individual. We accordingly recommend that *Gavia immer elasson* be placed in synonymy and that *Gavia immer* be restored to its monotypic status.—IRA N. GABRIELSON and FREDERICK C. LINCOLN, *Wildlife Management Institute, and Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington, D.C., April 20, 1953.*

Range Extensions in Northern California.—The Lower Trinity Area in the interior of northern California includes the extreme northern part of Trinity County and the northeastern quarter of Humboldt County. The Trinity River flows northward through this district, creating a canyon that in several spots widens out into small valleys. The largest of these open valleys is on the Hoopa Valley Reservation; small open valleys also occur at Willow Creek in Humboldt County and at Salyer in Trinity County. The river is marked by numerous high benches, the remains of old river channels, that the early miners referred to as "bars." The area is cut off from the coast by two mountain ridges, the higher being about five thousand feet in elevation. The Klamath Mountains are on the eastern boundary.

The writer moved into this district in mid-summer of 1949. Since that date it has been possible to be in the field almost every day. Observations have been made on many species, and records kept of the rare or unusual occurrences. Specimens have been taken for identification in many cases. The following data seem useful for students working on the distribution of the various species. The writer wishes to thank Dr. Robert T. Orr of the California Academy of Sciences for his identification of subspecies. Thanks are also due to the people along the river who opened their property for observations and collections. All locality names are based on the United States Forest Service map of Six Rivers National Forest, Lower Trinity District.

Phalacrocorax penicillatus. Brandt Cormorant. Although this bird has not been recorded from the interior of the state, single individuals of this species have been noted on the bar at the mouth of the Trinity River. Here, at the junction of the Trinity and Klamath rivers, is a long narrow projection of rounded boulders. The spawned-out salmon catch in these boulders as they drift back to the ocean. Scavenger fish and crustaceans feed on the dead salmon. This spot is about fifty miles upstream from the ocean. The majority of the cormorants observed have been the yellow-pouched Double-crested Cormorants. However, mixed in with the more common species one often notes the dark-pouched Brandt Cormorant. Only single birds have been noted. The annual dates vary with the yearly runs of the salmon. The general period is from late August through October and into November. Specifically the species was noted on August 15, 1950.

Phalacrocorax auritus. Double-crested Cormorant. No subspecific identification has been made of this species on the Trinity River. This is the common cormorant of the area, and it is almost always found present during the salmon runs. Generally the birds number from four to eight in any one spot,