

Ross Goose in Texas.—I have recently had the privilege of examining at the taxidermy studios of W. A. Mayer, Dallas, Texas, a Ross Goose (*Chen rossii*) which had been mounted for the collection of Mr. T. T. Waddell, State Game Warden at Eagle Lake, Colorado County, Texas. By letter of March 27, 1954, Mr. Waddell has informed me that this bird was killed on January 4, 1954, 11 miles southeast of Eagle Lake in Wharton County, Texas, by Mr. Frederick Pearson of San Antonio who was on this occasion hunting in the company of Mr. Waddell. Mr. Waddell, an acute observer of water fowl as well as other birds, further informs me that during the past season he saw at least two more of these geese in the same general area. So far as I am aware, this constitutes the first recorded occurrence of the Ross Goose in Texas. The specimen, apparently a male, measures as follows: wing, 390 mm.; culmen from base, 42 mm. The characteristic "wartiness" at the base of the bill is very much in evidence.—F. W. MILLER, *Dallas Museum of Natural History, Dallas, Texas, April 16, 1954.*

Molothrus ater ater in Arizona.—While driving through Willcox, Arizona, just before sunset, December 10, 1951, Dickerman and Harold E. Broadbooks saw a mixed flock of blackbirds and Starlings (*Sturnus vulgaris*). Desiring to obtain Starling specimens, Dickerman fired once into the top of a leafy tree where a flock had alighted, securing one Starling and seven Brown-headed Cowbirds. The latter were found to vary considerably in size, and on comparison with specimens in the collection of the junior author, four of them proved to be *M. a. ater*, a form new to the Arizona fauna.

Five of the Cowbirds were males. Two *ater* measured, respectively, wing 110 and 109, tail 74 and 73. Two immature *obscurus* measured, respectively, wing 101 and 100, tail 68.3 and 70.5. The last male, an immature one, proved to be *obscurus*, somewhat intermediate toward *ater*, measuring wing 103.5 and tail 70.7. Its bill proportions were not distinctive of either race. Comparison with specimens in the collection of Louisiana State University indicates that it is not thick-billed enough to be called "*buphilus*." It is rather similar to males from the Guadalupe Mountains, Texas.

Both of the females taken were *ater*. They measured, respectively, wing 99.2 and 98.3, tail 66.4 and 69.5. Collections in the vicinity of Tucson in the fall of 1952 and periodic trips to the Willcox region that winter produced no additional specimens of *M. a. ater*.

A series of nine female *obscurus* was taken during the fall of 1952 to determine the true color characters of fresh-plumaged female *obscurus*. These proved to be rather different from those ascribed to *obscurus* in current literature, which is based mainly on Grinnell's description of *M. a. artemisiae*. The northwestern race was described almost simultaneously by Bishop (Auk, 27, 1910:61) and Grinnell (Univ. Calif. Publ. Zool., 5, 1909:276). Both correctly stressed its larger size and more slender (that is, less deep) bill. Grinnell also illustrated a more compressed bill which does not hold constant in our material. But Grinnell likewise advanced color characteristics in the female which he stressed as more important and as linking *artemisiae* to the much smaller *obscurus*.

Of *artemisiae* we can say little, having seen few females and those not in fresh plumage. It appears to be at least as dark and as heavily streaked as *ater*. The differences noted by Grinnell are quite evident in comparing certain late April *ater* with April *obscurus*; but the New York birds are badly soot-stained and two fresh specimens of *ater* have characters about the reverse of those stated by Grinnell! That is, their throats are purer white and in stronger contrast with their chests than in *obscurus*. This whiteness of throat is also evident in a juvenal male from near Whiteriver, Arizona, with the proportions of *artemisiae*; but juvenal feathers tend to fade badly and we are loath to stress this comparison. At any rate, good unfaded *obscurus* is by no means "of a drab color throughout, very much paler and more clay color on the throat, whereas the eastern birds are slaty hair brown, with less abruptly contrasted grayish throat." The crown of *M. a. ater* appears to be darker and grayer, and the back slightly grayer, but not darker than in *M. a. obscurus*.

We wish to acknowledge the assistance of Kenneth C. Parkes, who made comparisons of the Willcox birds with the series of *ater* in the collections at Cornell University.—ROBERT W. DICKERMAN, *Arizona Co-operative Wildlife Research Unit, University of Arizona, Tucson, Arizona*, and ALLAN R. PHILLIPS, *Museum of Northern Arizona, Flagstaff, Arizona, April 21, 1954.*

Second Records of the Swamp Sparrow and Brown Thrasher in Utah.—Two rare birds in Utah's avifauna heretofore known only on the basis of single records from southern Utah are the Swamp Sparrow (*Melospiza georgiana*) and the Brown Thrasher (*Toxostoma rufum*). Recently Boyd Shaffer of the Tracy Aviary in Salt Lake City has obtained a specimen of each of these, the data for which are herewith reported.

A single specimen of the Swamp Sparrow was taken by Yarrow and Henshaw of the Wheeler Survey from a large flock of *Zonotrichia* sparrows near Washington on the Virgin River, October 23, 1872 (Henshaw, Rept. Geog. and Geol. Expl. and Surv. West 100th Mer., 5, 1875:385). The second specimen was taken on February 20, 1952, at 30th South and West Temple, Salt Lake City. It was a lone bird occurring in a streamside thicket and behaving much like a Song Sparrow. The specimen was mounted and added to the collection of Fringillidae at the Tracy Aviary in Salt Lake City. The circumstance that both examples of this sparrow are winter records suggests that the status of this species in the state is that of a rare winter visitant.

A Brown Thrasher was repeatedly trapped in Zion Canyon, Washington County, from December 6 to 9, 1935, and when its identity was established it was collected on December 9, according to Grantham (Condor, 38, 1936:85). It was a female in worn plumage. The specimen is in the Zion National Park Museum. On June 25, 1953, Shaffer found a Brown Thrasher at the Tracy Aviary in Liberty Park, Salt Lake City. Realizing the rarity of the bird in Utah the specimen was taken and presented to the University of Utah. It proved to be a male with testes in breeding condition, measuring 10×6 millimeters. Its plumage was generally worn and frayed but a few new feathers suggest the inception of the annual molt.—WILLIAM H. BEHLE, *University of Utah, Salt Lake City, Utah, May 1, 1954.*

Franklin Gulls Riding Whirlwind and Feeding.—At about 2 p.m., August 27, 1953, while working five miles west of Pierce, Colorado, I observed a flock of approximately thirty Franklin Gulls (*Larus pipixcan*) riding the outskirts of a whirlwind. These birds were noted to be capturing something in the air and closer observation with a 7×35 binocular revealed that they were taking grasshoppers or similar-sized insects caught in the wind currents. The birds were sailing around on the wind stream at what appeared to be a fast rate of speed, in a close circle and were flapping their wings very little. They were seen to ride this whirlwind for about one-quarter mile where they apparently tired of the fast ride and left it. They then resumed normal cruising flight and feeding activities over the nearby wheatland.—CLARENCE A. SOOTER, *Greeley, Colorado, March 4, 1954.*

Additions to the Avifaunal Record of Point Lobos, California.—Grinnell and Linsdale (Carnegie Inst. Publ. 481, 1936:33-132) observed and recorded 147 species of birds at Point Lobos, Monterey County, California. In addition they mention seven others noted by other observers, or by them but outside the 1934-35 field period. Four additional species have been recorded by Williams (Condor, 39, 1937:229) and Legg (Condor, 55, 1953:162, 219). During my residence of two years and nine months at Point Lobos Reserve, 1951-1953, I have had opportunity to record the following 25 species not previously recorded there.

Diomedea nigripes. Black-footed Albatross. On June 3, 1951, a dead one was picked up at Pebbly Beach. It was identified by Charles G. Sibley.

Fregata magnificens. Man-o'-War Bird. On January 12, 1953, at 3 p.m., one was soaring over Carmel Cove. Laidlaw Williams and I observed the bird for approximately half an hour before it flew off to the west and was not seen again. A white head and white underparts identified it as a young individual.

Elanus leucurus. White-tailed Kite. One reported by Francis Williamson on September 2, 1952, over the Cypress Grove parking lot entered the Reserve from the east and in about five minutes departed by the same route.

Fulica americana. Coot. This species, common on the Carmel River, was unrecorded at Point Lobos until October 16, 1952. At that time my attention was called to one walking down the Reserve road by Ranger Grady. The bird did not appear to be wounded but was apparently confused by its surroundings.

Catoptrophorus semipalmatus. Willet. Willets were seen twice during my stay at Point Lobos. On December 25, 1952, two were watched on the sandy beach at Carmel Cove and on March 4, 1953, five spent all day resting on the flat rocks at Pebbly Beach.

Limnodromus griseus. Dowitcher. On September 10, 1952, Williams and I saw one of this species at the water's edge at Pebbly Beach. On March 30, 1952, two spent the day in company of a Brant (*Branta nigricans*) at the same area.

Limosa fedoa. Marbled Godwit. On September 17, 1952, Williams and I saw one in flight near the Cypress Grove.