

obtained of another Rose-breasted Grosbeak at Fish Springs. A third specimen turned up at Zion National Park in central southern Utah and is being reported on by Roland Wauer.—WILLIAM H. BEHLE, *Department of Zoology, University of Utah, Salt Lake City, Utah, 20 December 1965.*

An Addition to the Bird Fauna of the Barstow Miocene.—In Condor of September 1952 I published a paper on the birds of the Barstow Syncline, listing the orders and the species so far as determinable. This list recorded the following: Ciconiiformes—1 specimen; Anseriformes—7 specimens, probably 5 species; Falconiformes—3 specimens (one species?); Galliformes—1 specimen; Charadriiformes—1 specimen.

On the basis of this fauna, with aid of the copious field notes of Richard Tedford, now Assistant Professor of Geology at the University of California at Riverside, a reconstruction of the local ecology was ventured. The picture included broad and shallow ponds of perhaps ephemeral nature, the waters of which might become highly mineralized in certain seasons. Since that publication in 1952 there has come to my attention only one bird specimen from the Barstow beds. Many amateurs and some professionals have visited the locality, but I have seen no record of bird remains collected until this summer (1965).

Dennis Bramble spent some weeks collecting mammals from the Barstow beds in the early summer (1965) and while there contacted an amateur, Chas. Rader, who had picked up from the surface two fragments of bird bone, one of which, a scapula, I ascribe to a grebe approximately the size of our living Western Grebe, *Aechmophorus occidentalis* (Lawrence), although it cannot be assigned to that species. Mr. Rader generously presented the specimen to me and it has been deposited in the Museum of Paleontology, University of California at Berkeley (specimen no. 71478).

The value of the specimen lies in that it adds a significant chip to the mosaic picture of the Miocene landscape (Merriam, Univ. Calif. Publ., Bull. Dept. Geol. Sci., 11:437, 1919 and Miller, Condor, 54:296, 1952). The grebe bone is from an adult bird so we are uncertain as to its resident status. The larger grebes prefer rather deeper and more permanent waters than do the smaller species, although a migrant might drop down anywhere to rest.

The "Cup of Tantalus" is so often presented to the paleontologist's lip.—LOVE MILLER, *Department of Zoology, University of California, Davis, California, 28 October 1965.*

Confused Nocturnal Behavior of (? California) Gulls.—Following the San Diego meeting of the Cooper Ornithological Society, I spent several days at the Holiday Lodge, four miles west of Reno, Nevada, with E. Eisenmann and G. E. Petersen. Tuesday, 21 April 1964, was fine and warm. The early part of the following day was sunny, but a strong wind soon sprang up and reached almost gale proportions. Gray clouds appeared, and by midafternoon there were snow squalls often mixed with driving dust. The wind began to decrease at sundown, and shortly before dark it was quiet but with a heavy wet snowfall.

As I was about to leave the motel dining room well after dark at 2000, one of the employees summoned two other men outside to hear "the strangest thing he had ever heard . . . thousands of 'mountain' gulls." I stepped out, and indeed a screeching flock of gulls was milling about overhead so close that one strained to see them amidst the densely falling snow. But they remained invisible. The flock would be in full cry, then recede until barely audible, then return in full cry. Near the Lodge and adjoining buildings and also at the turnoff from the main highway, there are bright lights, including a big neon sign. Presumably the gulls were confused by the glare; but with the lights of Reno a few miles away, why they should have remained milling about for what eventually amounted to two and a half hours after I first heard them is beyond comprehension. Also why should these birds start migrating on a miserable night following an even more inclement day? That very morning we had driven for 30 miles along the northern