

## CHESTNUT-SIDED WARBLER IN WASHINGTON

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On the morning of 18 June 1960 I observed a Chestnut-sided Warbler (*Dendroica pensylvanica*) with adult plumage in a grove of willows adjoining North Teal Lake on the Columbia National Wildlife

Refuge near Othello, Grant County, Washington. Later in the day, Paul Steel, who was then Refuge Manager, and I were able to collect this bird which is now Specimen No. 467246 in the U. S. National Museum. Dr. Richard C. Banks of the Bird and Mammal Laboratories, National Museum, checked pertinent ornithological publications for data on this species and found that there are no previously published records of this warbler in the state of Washington. The bird was not sexed.

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## A NOTE ON THE STOMACH CONTENTS OF TWO WHOOPING CRANES

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On 4 January 1968 an adult female Whooping Crane (*Grus americana*) was illegally shot by a hunter near the Aransas National Wildlife Refuge, Texas. The carcass was immediately frozen and subsequently shipped to the Patuxent Wildlife Research Center for autopsy.

The crane was in good flesh, with large deposits of fat and food in the stomach. It had multiple fractures and 26 embedded lead shotgun pellets. Analysis of the stomach contents was conducted by Uhler, with the following results. Total contents equaled 33 cc, including 30 cc food and 3 + cc grit. Of the food volume, 57 per cent was animal and 43 per cent vegetable. The food consisted of the following items. More than 100 (most fragmentary) "brown-banded winkle trap" snails (*Epitonium rupicola* Kurtz, formerly known as *E. lineatum* Say and *E. reynoldsi* Sby) represented 43 per cent of the food volume. These snails are narrowly conical, rather thick-shelled and on the average about 1.5 cm in length; the largest was about 2.5 cm long. Remnants of more than 10 small blue crabs (*Callinectes* sp.) contributed 14 per cent of the food volume. A few fragments, possibly from mud crab (*Xanthidae*?), represented a trace. Many fragmentary, and a few nearly whole, tubers of "chufa" (*Cyperus esculentus*) constituted 43 per cent of the food volume.

Mineral grit totaled 3 + cc and composed about 9 per cent of the ventriculus contents. It consisted chiefly of small, irregular, worn stones averaging 6 mm in diameter, but also included several fragments of heavy shelled bivalve mollusks. The largest of these thick mollusk fragments was 12 mm long. The stones included dark minerals, dusky quartz, granitic fragments, and one piece of cherty flint.

The food habits data given by Allen (National Audubon Society, Research Report no. 3, p. 105, 1952) were based on analyses of droppings, observations made of feeding birds, and inspection of feeding sites after the cranes had left. Allen does not mention that the cranes feed on the very small "brown-banded winkle trap" snails which are common from the low water mark to depths of about 20 fathoms.

The stomach contents of another Whooping Crane, a migrating subadult found dead on 13 April 1968 under a powerline near Dorrance, Russell County, Kansas, were also examined at the Patuxent Wildlife Research Center. This stomach was practically empty of food but contained 5.5 cc of pink and white quartz grit, mostly 3-5 mm in diameter, and about 0.7 cc of worn fragments of thick-shelled gastropod and bivalve mollusks. The largest was 1 cm long. These mollusk fragments could represent remains of food or grit. Remnants of several fibrous galls from the bases of plant stems were found among the grit. Upon sectioning these galls they were found to contain cecidomyiid midge larvae. There are many species of these gall gnats, including the hessian-fly, a serious pest infesting young wheat, and the clover-leaf midge that is destructive to white clover. The presence of these galls could indicate that this Whooping Crane had fed on such plants.

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## NOTES ON THE ROYAL TERN IN SURINAM

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In Escalante's paper on the Royal Tern (*Sterna maxima*) in Uruguay (Condor 70:242, 1968) the author states twice that this tern breeds "near the coasts of Venezuela and Surinam" and on "offshore islands of Venezuela and Surinam." This is incorrect. The Royal Tern has never been found nesting in or near Surinam and the records quoted from the literature

pertain to the island of Curaçao (one of the Netherlands Antilles) in the Caribbean and not to Surinam on the mainland of northeastern South America with its coast on the open Atlantic Ocean.

In Surinam the Royal Tern, as well as several other non-breeding terns and numerous shorebirds, is present throughout the year (Haverschmidt, Birds of Surinam. Oliver and Boyd, London. 1968. p. 126) Although I have records for every month of the year, I have never seen a bird in breeding plumage. Such northern birds summering in Surinam are immatures, and possibly over-age individuals.

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