



<https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/>

**Proceedings of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia**

Philadelphia, Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia,  
<https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/bibliography/6885>

**v.17 (1865):** <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/item/17711>

Page(s): Page 94

Holding Institution: MBLWHOI Library

Sponsored by: MBLWHOI Library

Generated 28 August 2024 2:08 PM

<https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/pdf4/1729526i00017711.pdf>

This page intentionally left blank.

The three last species, here given as *C. psaltria*, *C. mexicana*, and *C. columbiana*, and so given also generally by modern authors, I regard as very probably not belonging to this genus. In my opinion these little birds are more nearly related to the group given by Dr. Sclater as *Cyanospizinae*, and possibly are entitled to generic distinction.

---

June 6th.

MR. CASSIN, Vice-President, in the Chair.

Twenty-one members present.

The following papers were presented for publication :

“Descriptions of new species of Fossils from the Marshall Group of Michigan, &c.” By Alexander Winchell.

“Descriptions of new species of Eocene Tertiary Fossils.” By R. P. Whitfield.

Dr. Leidy exhibited some bones and teeth of Horses from California and Oregon, recently submitted to his examination by Prof. J. D. Whitney. He stated that fossil remains of Horses had been found throughout the length and breadth of the North American continent. They had been obtained from the frozen cliffs of Eschscholtz Bay, in Arctic America, and from Honduras in Central America; from New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Virginia, North and South Carolina, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, Louisiana, Missouri, Nebraska and Texas. Many of the remains are undistinguishable in anatomical character from corresponding bones and teeth of the domestic horse; others are comparatively large, though not larger than in the largest variety of the latter, but their molar teeth exhibit a more complex folding of the enamel than is seen in the domestic horse. Dr. L. considers it probable that the fossils represent several extinct species, all differing from the living horse, though this was not a matter of demonstration.

Most of the remains from California, among them an entire skull, are unchanged in appearance, and are undistinguishable from corresponding parts of the Mustang, or recent Indian Horse of the West, though taken from auriferous gravel a considerable depth from the surface.

Among the California specimens are several molar teeth having more the general appearance of true fossils than the others, though they are also but slightly changed. Two of them are second upper molars from different individuals, of more robust proportions than any of the recent looking specimens, and equal in this respect to the corresponding teeth found anywhere. One of the teeth was taken from auriferous clay at a depth of thirty feet below the surface, in Tuolumne County, and is slightly infiltrated with oxide of iron. The other was obtained from a bed of asphaltum, in company with a last lower molar, near Beuna Vista Lake, and is impregnated with bitumen. These two upper molars, strongly resembling each other, differ from the more recent looking specimens, and from the corresponding teeth of the domestic horse, in the remarkable degree of simplicity of the enamel folding, as seen on the triturating surfaces. They differ in another circumstance, which is perhaps accidental, or at least was dependent on the peculiar character of the food, that is to say, the triturating surface, in both specimens, is remarkably flat, whereas, in the horse ordinarily it is worn into two transverse hills. Dr. L. was disposed to view these teeth as representing a species different from any heretofore indicated, and proposed for it the name of *Equus occidentalis*. The measurement of the specimens are as follows: Antero-posterior diameter of triturating surface  $14\frac{3}{4}$  lines,  $15\frac{1}{4}$  lines; transverse diameter of do.  $12\frac{1}{2}$  lines,  $13\frac{1}{2}$  lines.

[June,