

This gull also seems to be unfortunate in the records of its occurrence, distribution, and nesting. The latest A. O. U. *Check-list* gives the correct distribution with the exception of the Colorado record, now known to be an error; but Ridgway has since then perpetuated the impossible record, first made by Fannin (*Check List of British Columbia Birds*, 1891, p. 4) of the breeding of *Larus occidentalis* in the Similkameen Valley, British Columbia—a locality which no gull would nest in, a narrow rocky gash in the mountains.

All Fannin's "*occidentalis*", so labeled by him on the bases of the stands of his mounted birds, were simply *Larus argentatus*. This, in all the harbors of British Columbia, being the next commonest gull to *Larus glaucescens*, he assumed it was the Western Gull—the common gull of the west. Many other observers seem to have made a similar mistake. They took the presence of the Western Gull for granted, a sort of ground pattern on which to work in the records of the other species. These last they identified; the "Western Gull" was assumed. In all my coastal voyages on various craft extending back for about thirty-five years I have never seen the Western Gull north of Cape Flattery, not even among the flocks following the steamers on Puget Sound—and I have always been keenly on the lookout for it. Once you round Cape Flattery, it at once becomes the most conspicuous gull.

There are only three records for British Columbia, a molting adult taken by Spreadborough on the south end of Vancouver Island, and two taken at Comox on the eastern shore of that island. The latter are both adults, one being of the light mantled type and the other the dark type so common in California, "*Larus occidentalis livens*" of Dwight. The first of these gave me an idea as to how the "yellow" feet of the Western Gull may have originated. When I shot it I noted that the feet were rosy flesh color. As it lay on the thwart of the boat in front of me, one foot was elevated, the other hung down. As the blood drained from the tissues the color of the elevated foot turned from rosy flesh to yellowish white, not "yellow" by any means, but what might possibly have passed for cream color of a very pale shade, the other foot remaining as in life.

The correct record of the colors of all soft parts is of the prime importance in the Laridae, where so many closely allied species have feet of very different colors. The two black-backed gulls of western Europe, *Larus marinus* and *L. fuscus*, can readily be told apart in life by the feet alone, the former having them flesh colored and the latter yellow. The many false records for the Kittiwake on the Pacific Coast would never have been made if the color of the feet had been looked up.—ALLAN BROOKS, *Okanagan Landing, B. C., March 3, 1922.*

Waterfowl Caught in Fish Nets.—On February 28, 1922, while driving along the shores of Tillamook Bay, Oregon, with Deputy Game Warden Geo. Russell, an adult male White-winged Scoter (*Oidemia deglandi*) was seen struggling in a salmon net in which it had become entangled. The net was set in about five feet of water. On being questioned the fisherman told me that during the past fall he had caught several each of loons, scoters and wild ducks in his salmon nets.—STANLEY G. JEWETT, *Portland, Oregon, March 10, 1922.*

Further Record of Savannah Sparrow in California*.—Mr. C. I. Clay, in *THE CONDOR*, vol. 19, 1917, p. 68, published a record of the occurrence in Humboldt County, of the Savannah Sparrow (*Passerculus sandwichensis savanna*). This bird was identified by Dr. Joseph Grinnell of the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, Berkeley, California, and constituted the first published record for the state.

During the field work of 1921 two sparrows were taken at Kneeland Prairie, Humboldt County, California, by Mr. Chester C. Lamb and myself, the identity of which I did not like to be too positive about without further professional opinion. These were submitted to the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, and pronounced by Mr. H. S. Swarth as being typical *Passerculus sandwichensis savanna* of southeastern Alaska. These two specimens were taken on September 29, 1921, in company with some of the Dwarf Marsh Sparrow (*Passerculus sandwichensis brooksi* Bishop).

Two specimens of this genus were taken by Mr. C. Littlejohn and myself at Re-

*Contribution No. 135 from the California Academy of Sciences.

qua, May 4 and 5, 1921, which I have also placed with *savanna*. These two birds conform to this race in measurements, and in practically every way, except that the dark markings on the throat and breast are rather lighter than in the specimens I have had for comparison. These Requa birds were taken on the open hillside back of the town and were the only individuals of this genus we noted in that particular spot. The finding of these four examples of the race seems to indicate that the Savannah Sparrow is a more common winter migrant to the northwest coast of California than was heretofore supposed.—JOSEPH MAILLIARD, *San Francisco, California, February 8, 1922.*

Crossbills Eating Aphis.—Mr. Storer's note in the last May CONDOR (vol. 23, 1921, p. 98) regarding Crossbills eating aphis, recalls the fact that American Crossbills taken in Jasper Park, Alberta, the summer of 1917, had their faces and throats covered with bluish white bloom from woolly aphis apparently gleaned in the spruces. Last summer I had opportunity to watch a captive Crossbill in Manitoba. It was fed largely at the time on leaf galls from the poplars surrounding the house. The bird would open its bill and drive both points deeply into the soft mass of the gall until the mandibles were practically closed and crossed. Then, with a slight twist of the head, the gall would be split wide open. The hollow interior was seen to be filled with what appeared to be a sort of woolly aphis, which was rapidly cleaned out with the bird's tongue. The certainty, ease and rapidity with which the operation was performed indicated that the apparently awkwardly crossed bill was a most efficient implement for the work.—P. A. TAVERNER, *Victoria Memorial Museum, Ottawa, Canada, March 2, 1922.*

Bird Records from California, Arizona, and Guadalupe Island.—

Phalacrocorax auritus albociliatus. Farallon Cormorant. One specimen taken on a pond near Fort Lowell, Arizona, April 26, 1905.

Rallus obsoletus. California Clapper Rail. Several seen along the rocky shore at Pacific Grove, California, in October, 1916.

Pisobia maculata. Pectoral Sandpiper. A number observed near National City, California, the latter part of October, 1917.

Lophodytes cucullatus. Hooded Merganser. A male and two females observed on Smith River, near Adams, California, October 10, 1915.

Oreortyx picta picta. Mountain Quail. A small flock flushed near Adams, California, in October, 1915.

Melopelia asiatica. White-winged Dove. Three flushed from a camp site on the Pima Indian reservation, twelve miles south of Tucson, Arizona, March 20, 1918.

Micropallas whitneyi. Elf Owl. Two of these birds frequented an isolated cottonwood tree at Bard, Imperial County, California, in April, 1915, but on account of the density of the foliage I was unable to shoot them.

Asyndesmus lewisi. Lewis Woodpecker. Several noticed in large cottonwood trees at Bard, California, on April 30, 1915.

Colaptes auratus luteus. Northern Flicker. I have a male specimen taken at Eldridge, California, January 4, 1913.

Aphelocoma californica californica. California Jay. Not uncommon near Adams (seventeen miles east of Crescent City), California, during October and November, 1915.

Molothrus ater obscurus. Dwarf Cowbird. A female taken near Long Beach, California, June 6, 1913.

Loxia curvirostra stricklandi. Mexican Crossbill. A female that was taken in the Chiricahua Mountains, Arizona, would have commenced to incubate a set of eggs about August 28.

Astragalinus tristis pallidus. Pale Goldfinch. A few seen near Fort Lowell, Arizona, November 20, 1905, and one secured in Sabina Canyon, Catalina Mountains, December 10, 1920.

Astragalinus lawrencei. Lawrence Goldfinch. Specimens taken or seen at Fort Lowell, Arizona, in March, 1905; at Paradise, Arizona, in November, 1918; at Willcox, Arizona, March 17, 1919; at Santa Cruz, California, two pairs, on May 17, 1917.

Zonotrichia albicollis. White-throated Sparrow. I have a specimen I secured near the corral on the shore of Guadalupe Island, Mexico, on October 10, 1913; and also a male taken at Adams, California, November 4, 1915.