In talking with Mr. Wilson, in charge of the irrigation project at Barr, we were informed that the gulls had been common about the lake for the past two weeks and that "thousands of the gulls have been feeding on grasshoppers, working between Platteville and the Milton reservoir."

On August 31 another trip was made to Barr (A. M. Bailey and A. C. Rogers) and Mr. Wilson then stated that the lake had been "white with gulls the past two evenings." No gulls were seen from ten in the morning until three in the afternoon, at which time an enormous flock was noticed on the water, it having apparently alighted on the upper end of the lake and drifted with the wind. It is safe to say this flock of Franklin Gulls numbered several thousand, for from the distance the birds looked like a sand bar. Occasionally they would rise in the air and swirl in wave-like flight, with one end of the flock sweeping the water while the other was high in the air, moving along with that swirling motion so characteristic of many kinds of birds which fly in compact flocks. From their restlessness it looked as though they were feeding, but examination of specimens later proved this was not the case. They remained in the middle of the lake until Mr. Rogers raised them by firing a gun at the west end; the big flock then split into three parts and moved about, often rising high in the air, where their numbers reminded one of swarming bees. A small series was collected, both adults and birds of the year being represented. The gulls did not leave after being disturbed, but re-assembled on the lake, where they presumably spent the night.

The presence of such unusual numbers of gulls this season, in view of their rarity in times past, seems strange, and it is just possible they have been overlooked by the ornithologists who have worked Barr Lake more or less intensively. As stated above, it seemed that the birds were feeding upon the lake; but that they forage the fields by day, and were merely spending the night at Barr, is proven by an examination of the specimens collected. All the birds taken had been feeding almost exclusively upon grasshoppers, and that the birds are of great value to the farmer is attested by the numbers of hoppers with which they were crammed. One bird had 15 grasshoppers in the gullet, and 62 in the stomach, not to mention the ground-up mass of material in the lower stomach. The two birds collected August 28 seem to be the first Colorado specimens to be saved, and are so catalogued.—ALFRED M. BAILEY and ROBERT J. NIEDRACH, *Colorado Museum of Natural History, Denver, September 21, 1925.*

Unusual Behavior of an Ouzel.—On September 5, 1925, while exploring the cirque which lies at the head of the North Fork of the San Joaquin River we were strangely entertained by the antics of a pair of Water Ouzels (*Cinclus mexicanus unicolor*). In the course of the morning climb we happened on a little lake lying at an elevation of approximately 12,000 feet. The lake was partially frozen, there being only a stretch of open water in the center and a dash of swift water that raced into an ice cavern at the lake's outlet. As we approached the lake our ears caught the call-note of the ouzel. Great granite boulders, free from snow, reached out of the lake on the north side, and here we stopped in the sunshine to learn how an ouzel might behave amid such bleak surroundings.

Soon we located not one ouzel, but two. They were splashing in and out of the swift water near the outlet. Occasionally a bird would paddle about on the surface, but usually they would dive completely out of sight. While we watched, one of the birds would sing a few notes as though he might be practicing his winter song. Finally the birds separated, one following the swift water into the ice cavern, while the other flew to a boulder where a snow bank reached out of the lake, and not twenty feet from where we sat. After bowing a few times he left the boulder and flew to the snow bank. And now we learned something new about an ouzel. This bird ran to and fro on the steep snow slope, pausing here and there to pick up frozen insects. At times his ramblings took him twelve feet from the water. Never before had we seen an ouzel feeding so far from water and we wondered if he had not learned some feeding tricks from the Rosy Finches who also foraged over the snow banks about the lake.—ENID MICHAEL, *Yosemite, California, September 30, 1925.*

Northern Say Phoebe in California.—The Northern Say Phoebe (*Sayornis sayus yukonensis*) was described by Bishop (Auk, vol. 17, April, 1900, p. 115), with type locality at Glacier, White Pass, Alaska. It was refused recognition by the A. O. U.

Committee (Auk, vol. 18, July, 1901, p. 312), and has since been generally ignored. The only published use of the name, I believe, has been once by Grinnell (Condor, vol. 11, 1909, p. 206), by myself (Univ. Calif. Publ. Zool., vol. 24, 1924, p. 345), and by Brooks and Swarth (Pacific Coast Avifauna, no. 17, 1925, p. 73). As may be inferred, I regard *yukonensis* as a recognizable subspecies. There are now available to me six adults and five in juvenal plumage from localities in northern British Columbia, southern Yukon, and southeastern Alaska, and all these birds, both old and young, exhibit the peculiarities of color and markings pointed out by Bishop (*loc. cit.*) as distinguishing the northern race. The differences in measurements of bill and tail claimed by Bishop are not apparent in these specimens.

A bird of this sort can remain in its northern breeding range only during the summer months, and, once the color differences between the races were recognized, a search was instituted through the Museum series for winter-taken specimens at southern points. The rather surprising result was that in a series of about 130 skins (mostly from California, a few from Nevada and Arizona), at least half of which were non-breeding birds, only two examples of *yukonensis* were discovered. Particulars of these specimens are as follows: Mus. Vert. Zool. no. 29717, adult male; Morro, San Luis Obispo County, California; September 21, 1918; collected by J. Grinnell. Mus. Vert. Zool. no. 45945, female; one mile west of Stanford University, Santa Clara County, California; December 2, 1923; collected by Richard Hunt.

Bishop (*loc. cit.*, p. 116) mentions a winter specimen from Hayward, California, as "intermediate", and I find two or three in our series to which the same term might be applied; but the two above described specimens are the only ones that are unequivocally of the subspecies *yukonensis*.

The apparent scarcity of this bird in California implies a southeastward migration from its northern breeding ground. In this it would be following the route traversed by most of the summer visitants of the northwestern interior. There are many species of birds in northern British Columbia and Yukon which in their southward flight cross to the eastward of the Rocky Mountains before even the southern half of British Columbia is reached.—H. S. SWARTH, *Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, Berkeley, California, September 30, 1925.*

The Name for the Goshawk of New Caledonia.—The Goshawk inhabiting New Caledonia has been named *Astur approximans insularis*, by F. Sarasin (Novae Caledonia, Zool., Aves, 1913, p. 8) on basis of size and certain color characters. Before the publication of part 4 of Kirke Swann's Monograph of the Birds of Prey (where on page 262 this form is given as *Astur fasciatus insularis*), I called Mr. Swann's attention to a prior *Astur insularis* of Madarász (Ornith. Monatsb., vol. 18, April, 1910, p. 65), but unfortunately my note did not reach England until the proofs for this part had been released for printing, so that the necessary change could not be made. As the bird from New Caledonia will require a new name it may be known as *Astur fasciatus vigilax*.—ALEXANDER WETMORE, *U. S. National Museum, Washington, D. C., October 2, 1925.*

Notes on Colorado Shore Birds.—Many species of shore birds begin to assemble along the shallow ponds of the prairie country east of Denver late in the summer, and some species are very common. On August 28, 30 and 31, 1925, I had occasion to work Barr Lake and some of the small ponds to the eastward with R. J. Niedrach and A. C. Rogers, and we noted quite a list, as follows:

Wilson Phalarope. *Steganopus tricolor.* Very common; all in the light colored, post breeding plumage.

Avocet. *Recurvirostra americana.* Noted commonly at Barr, both young and adults being represented. One flock contained seventeen birds.

Stilt Sandpiper. *Micropalama himantopus.* Numerous in mixed flocks. Seemed to prefer wading belly deep while feeding; and, with neck outstretched and beak pointed straight down, they greatly resemble the Red-backed Sandpiper.

Baird Sandpiper. *Pisobia bairdi.* Most abundant of the shore birds, being very common at Barr Lake and along many of the prairie ponds. They like to feed along the edge of the water, on the mud flats, or even in the grass where they seem to be