

From the decision of Dr. Dwight, with his unrivalled knowledge of the Laridae, one hesitates to differ; but the facts, as I see them, are that a very small edition of the Glaucous Gull breeds on the Bering Sea coast of Alaska (those breeding on the Asiatic coast being the extreme of the larger form) and wanders irregularly south to southern California. Of this small bird I have specimens of both breeding birds and young from Alaska, and young which I have collected near Los Angeles; and I have examined other immature birds in different collections north to Victoria. These young California birds differ only in the fading of the plumage from young from St. Michael, Alaska, and disagree with young *Larus leucopterus* of the same age, which they have been called (Dwight, *loc. cit.*, p. 255), by averaging larger in every way, especially as to the bill, by having the base of the bill light, like *hyperboreus*, and by the basal portion of the tail being less mottled with white. Possibly the fact that young *hyperboreus* does occasionally wander to the Alaskan coast, as shown by the Craig bird measured below, and one collected by Laing at Unalaska (Cruise of the Thiepsval, Victoria Memorial Museum, Bull. no. 40, 1925, p. 11), may have influenced Dr. Dwight's conclusions, and some such birds crept into his measurements; but to my mind, *L. h. barrovianus* seems a very distinct race.

My thanks are due to the Los Angeles Museum and to Mr. George Willett for use of their specimens.—LOUIS B. BISHOP, Pasadena, California, May 30, 1927.

Eversmann Shrike not a North American Bird.—The shrike recorded as *Lanius mollis* by Mailliard and Hanna (Condor, xxiii, 1921, p. 93), taken at sea 260 miles west of Sitka, Alaska, September 23, 1920, is really an example of *Lanius borealis*, a young bird wrongly identified, partly through a misconception of the plumage changes in this species. Having myself collected immature examples of *borealis* exactly similar in appearance, I was able, when I saw this bird, to point out to Mr. Mailliard the mistake that had been made, and he has requested me to publish a correction.

Young *borealis* in juvenal plumage is extremely gray colored, but in the first winter plumage, probably acquired in August and early in September, there is a decidedly brown tinge both above and below. This is an evanescent color that is lost a month or so later when the birds go south, and they are then grayish, or (due to their proclivity for visiting the cities) rather dingy from smoke. Such birds make up the greater part of the series in most collections.

The supposed specimen of *Lanius mollis* is in freshly acquired winter plumage, conspicuously brown colored, and notably different from the gray winter-taken birds from southern points; there are others like it in the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology from mainland points in Alaska and British Columbia. Just what are the true characters of *Lanius mollis* I do not know. The presence of barred upper tail-coverts in *borealis*, a feature supposed to distinguish the young of that species from *mollis* (see Seebohm, Ibis, 1882, p. 374), and the absence of which contributed to the misidentification of the specimen here under discussion, is not a feature to be depended upon.—H. S. SWARTH, California Academy of Sciences, San Francisco, March 26, 1927.

Northernmost Breeding Station of the Heermann Gull on the Pacific Ocean, and other Notes from San Roque Island, Lower California.—During a short collecting trip along the west coast of Lower California, Mexico, in the interests of the San Diego Society of Natural History, the writer had opportunity, on April 20, 1927, to spend a couple of hours on San Roque Island, which is situated a mile or so off the rocky coast of the peninsula in longitude 114° 24' west, latitude 27° 09' north. This island is low and barren, with an extremely irregular, rocky shore line, and lies in an east-to-west direction. It is approximately one mile long and about one-third of a mile wide at its widest point, with a maximum elevation of not over sixty feet.

A few salt-tolerant plants grow in the more protected situations, the most abundant being a species of ice-plant. Amid this vegetation, on the extreme southeastern part of the island, a breeding colony of about 35 pairs of Heermann Gulls (*Larus heermanni*) was found. The birds were all assembled in a compact group, guarding their nests, which at this date were ready for eggs. In fact, two nests were seen to contain single eggs, proving that within the week full sets would have been completed. The birds in the colony were very tame and permitted the writer to approach within a few rods before they took flight.

The presence of hundreds of Southern Western Gulls (*Larus occidentalis wymani*) in the air, close by, no doubt had some bearing on the behavior of the Heermann Gulls, as the latter seemed loath to give their larger relatives a chance to rob their nests. On taking wing they protested vociferously at the intrusion. Their high-pitched calls did not resemble the hoarse, heavy voices of the Western Gulls and, in comparison, seemed plaintive and weak. They did not leave their nesting site, and, after hovering close overhead while the nests were being inspected, they returned to them as soon as the intruder had retired a short distance.

The largest avian population of the island consisted of the Western Gulls. They, too, were about to lay, as their completed nests were found all about the more level places, with the owners standing nearby. Next in numbers were Farallon Double-crested Cormorants (*Phalacrocorax auritus albociliatus*), of which there was a nesting colony of some 300 pairs on the western end of the island.

Other birds observed during this very short stay included a small flock of some 20 Horned Larks (*Otocoris alpestris enertera*), several pairs of Western Ravens (*Corvus corax sinuatus*), which foraged the beach and were ever on the watch for an unguarded gull's or cormorant's nest, a small flock of Black Turnstones (*Arenaria melanocephala*), and about a dozen Least Sandpipers (*Pisobia minutilla*). Several pairs of Frazar Oyster-catchers (*Haematopus palliatus frazari*) were seen along the western shore, where the surf was breaking, and an American Osprey's (*Pandion haliaetus carolinensis*) nest, perched on the top of an outlying rock, was occupied by two well feathered young. A pair of American Duck Hawks (*Falco peregrinus anatum*) had its nest containing two heavily incubated eggs in a recess of a small cliff, and Cassin Auklets (*Ptychoramphus aleuticus*)—probably the Duck Hawks' mainstay for food—were abundant. Their burrows were everywhere in the soft soil on the top of the island and contained young. A sharp watch was kept for small land birds of the sparrow family, but none was observed.—LAURENCE M. HUEY, *San Diego Society of Natural History, Balboa Park, San Diego, California, May 27, 1927.*

Bird Banding Near Barkerville, British Columbia.¹—It is too early for a serious report on the little group of banding stations near Barkerville in the Cariboo district of British Columbia; for our work, so far, has amounted to little. We hope to establish a geographical unit of three separate stations, ideally related in respect to the local topography, in the central interior of the Province, hitherto a blank on the banding map. Even the output of three busy stations would be a mere drop in the tides of avian migration which sweep and eddy over so large and so varied an area. But, in addition to the gambler's chance (and it is to the delight of such gambling that the success of banding will be due) of producing evidence on the great migrations, the proposed stations, if they succeed as they should in catching one another's birds, might produce much of interest and importance for their own remote and untouched locality.

These localities occupy the points of a narrow isosceles triangle, the base of which stretches six miles from Bear Lake to Indianpoint Lake and the sides northward about 18 miles down Bear River and Indianpoint Creek to near their junction. The intervening areas are the chief waterways and feeding grounds of the locality, the remainder of which is largely mountain-top, or cold, late, northern forest, representing different zones and small specialized faunas. It will be interesting to see to what extent birds are thus led from one station to another; and local population, its distribution, minor movements and directions of arrival and departure may perhaps be observed to advantage. Furthermore, the owners of two of the stations spend frequent periods above timberline, where they hope to work with an eye to data on vertical migration. At least two and frequently three stations will be in operation at all seasons.

Last summer one station banded nearly 500 birds, while that of Mrs. Joseph Wendle, at Bear Lake, made a good start. Mrs. Wendle has worked hard on the Bear Lake birds for some years, and her records are becoming valuable. Mr. Deane Cochran is now equipping his most interesting location on Indianpoint Creek and is ready to open with the advent of spring.

Among the special problems which the north woods present, that of the cone-eaters is perhaps the hardest. They are apt to remain, literally as well as figuratively, above human blandishments. Free of an empire of cone-studded spires bounded only by the oceans and the northern limit of trees, and adapted through evolutionary ages to manip-

¹ Presented at Annual Meeting of Western Bird Banding Association, Los Angeles, April 16, 1927.