

breeding, but the fact that it was in song and with enlarged testes combined with the knowledge that purple finches breed their first year in this plumage caused me to dismiss it with no more thought.

More than a year later while looking over these specimens I was suddenly startled to discover that in the meantime the bird had transformed into a linnet! It could not have been a bird of the year for several reasons. The bill and feet appear to be those of an old bird. The enlarged testes and song would indicate that the bird was breeding. In short, it is a perfectly good adult male California Linnet (*Carpodacus mexicanus frontalis*) with plumage indistinguishable from that of a female.—FRANK N. BASSETT, *San Francisco, California, March 27, 1929.*

**California Murre in Orange County, California.**—On January 19, 1929, I discovered a live California Murre (*Uria troille californica*) on the ocean shore at Sunset Beach, Orange County. The bird was in a weakened condition, with considerable oil on its underparts. The southernmost record for the species is only a few miles south at Newport Beach, in the same county (Van Rossem, *Condor*, xvi, 1914, p. 144).—J. STEVENSON, *Los Angeles, California, February 15, 1929.*

**Ross Gulls for Dinner.**—In past years, skins of the Ross Gull (*Rhodostethia rosea*), which confines its habitat to the Arctic, were exceedingly rare in collections. Dr. Louis B. Bishop informs me that not more than fifteen years ago \$200 was considered a fair price to ask for a specimen. Nowadays, when many more Ross Gull skins have come out of the far north, their value has naturally been very much reduced. Nevertheless they are still keenly sought by museums and collectors, and would command a price of \$10 or so.

Charles D. Brower, an American citizen who is in charge of the trading post at Barrow, Alaska, most northerly inhabited spot on the American continent, has a son living in San Diego, and on his periodical visits to the United States he always visits this city. Incidentally, he has become much interested in the San Diego Society of Natural History, and has donated to it many valuable consignments of Arctic birds and mammals, including what may be the largest series of Ross Gulls in the country.

In connection with his latest gift, which included twenty-five Ross Gull skins, Mr. Brower wrote: "I did get a good crack at the Ross Gulls again this fall [1928]. One day, the 26th of September, they were around in thousands. If I could have had the time, I could have had several hundred birds to skin. The eskimo shoot them for food, and they are mighty good at that. I have eaten them many times, and this fall I had them fried and roasted until I almost turned into a Ross Gull myself. They taste just as do the Golden Plover, and are just as fat in the fall."

Mr. Brower also stated that, following this notable visitation on September 26 and 27, the gulls left "for off-shore where the boats out whaling saw them until they [the boats] came in for good."—CLINTON G. ABBOTT, *San Diego Society of Natural History, San Diego, California, February 15, 1929.*