

**Wren-tit Banded in 1925 Again Trapped.**—In previous issues of the Condor (33, 1931, p. 128; 35, 1933, p. 39) I reported the capture of a Gambel Wren-tit (*Chamaea fasciata fasciata*) bearing band number 91519. This bird was banded in Strawberry Cañon, near Berkeley, on March 22, 1925, by E. D. Clabaugh.

Since I began banding in this location in September, 1930, I have trapped this bird thirteen times, the first time on February 3, 1931, and the last time on February 21 of this year, 1934. This Wren-tit could not have been hatched later than June, 1924, so that at the present time it must be nearly ten years old, and may be much older. I can find no other record of a passerine bird in a wild state living to this age. The nearest to it that I can find recorded is a Mockingbird banded May 8, 1925, by Mr. Harold Michener, in Pasadena. This bird was then at least one year old. It was recaptured a number of times, the last time being on May 11, 1933, when it must have been not less than nine years old.—E. L. SUMNER, SR., *Berkeley, California, February 22, 1934.*

**Some Unusual Winter Records for Birds in Goshen County, Wyoming.**—The records given here were obtained on two trips with a total of eleven days work in Goshen County. Judgment as to what records were unusual was also influenced by a large amount of work in adjacent counties. Birds that were rare in this county and not in some other counties are not mentioned.

Only one record was obtained for the following: Gadwall (*Chauelasmus streperus*), December 26, 1928; Baldpate (*Mareca americana*), January 1, 1930; Sharpshinned Hawk (*Accipiter velox*), December 27, 1928; Sparrow Hawk (*Falco sparverius*), January 6, 1930; and Brown Thrasher (*Toxostoma rufum*), January 4, 1930. Forty Gadwalls were counted, five Baldpates, and one each of the others. All have been seen in winter in Wyoming in other places except the Brown Thrasher.

Pintails (*Dafila acuta*), Green-winged Teal (*Nettion carolinense*), Marsh Hawks (*Circus hudsonius*) and Prairie Falcons (*Falco mexicanus*), were seen on several days. In January, 1930, the Teal were common near Torrington and the record is unusual only in the fact that this is the only place in southeastern Wyoming that I have found them in mid-winter.

The Brown Thrasher was a big surprise as I have spent much time looking for birds in winter in Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Maryland, where the weather is milder than in Wyoming and never saw it in those states at this season; hence I consider its occurrence in January in Wyoming as entirely accidental, one of those things that will probably not happen more than once in a lifetime.

The number of ducks present was due to the open water of the North Platte River during the mild Decembers of 1928 and 1929. Although most of the ducks leave in November every year, there are a few that linger until the lakes and streams are almost covered with ice. In severe Decembers only the most hardy ducks, the Mallards, Golden-eyes, and American Mergansers will remain. The species remaining during the mild winters will vary somewhat, making the study of the winter birds more interesting. For example, the Baldpate was seen in one winter only, while in the previous year the outstanding records were the Gadwall and two Ring-necked Ducks (*Marila collaris*) that were seen on the river just over the line in Platte County on December 30 and 31, 1928.

The number of hawks on the list indicates that there have been several mild winters in succession, as land birds are relatively scarce for a year or more after a severe winter no difference how mild the succeeding winters may be. Weather records show that there had been several relatively mild winters in succession previous to 1928.—OTTO MCCREARY, *Laramie, Wyoming, February 14, 1934.*

**Bird Notes from the Farallon Islands.**—Largely because of present stringent regulations for the protection of the breeding birds of the Farallon Islands, very few recent observations have been made regarding the interesting sea-bird rookeries located there. A rigidly enforced regulation, administered by the chief of the Lighthouse Service at San Francisco, prohibits even the persons stationed on the island from going to the West End (where the breeding population is concentrated) during the period from April 15 to August 15 each year. No boat of any kind may land on the islands at any time without special permission from San Francisco Lighthouse

Service headquarters, and during the period mentioned above, this permission is granted only to the supply tender which makes weekly trips. Any infraction of these regulations is handled promptly and decisively by federal agencies.

During the period from August 16 to August 18, 1933, the writer, accompanied by Lawrence V. Compton and Gordon Bolander, had opportunity to make a few observations incidental to bird-banding operations carried on there. Of these notes, the following seem worthy of record. All observations are concerned with conditions upon the main island, where the lighthouse is located.

*Oceanodroma homochroa*. Ashy Petrel. This bird evidently has an extremely long breeding season. Bent (U. S. Nat. Mus. Bull., 121, 1922, p. 162) gives a late date for eggs as July 13. This can now be extended over a month, as we found several fresh eggs of this species on the nights of August 16 and 17. We also found many downy young, one of which was still damp from hatching, and none of which had yet developed any contour feathers except for budding primaries. The adults seemed dazed when taken from their burrows, although it was long after dark, and contrary to some observations of earlier students, fell to the ground when tossed into the air. Here they flopped about for a time, but finally managed to fly off. This bird was found abundantly on the eastern half of the island, and may be equally plentiful on the western half, where we made no observations concerning them.

*Ptychoramphus aleuticus*. Cassin Auklet. As estimated from the numbers banded, this auklet was outnumbered two to one by the Ashy Petrel. The auklets seemed spotty in distribution, in contrast to the general presence of the petrel. Auklets seem much more prone to vomit than do petrels, and were practically unanimous in this regard. The late egg date can be extended from July 20 (Bent, U. S. Nat. Mus. Bull., 107, 1919, p. 116) to August 17, when fresh eggs of this species were found. These birds are much clumsier than the petrels and have much more difficulty in leaving the ground.

*Lunda cirrhata*. Tufted Puffin. Only a small portion, about 300 individuals, of the breeding population remained. The lighthouse keeper told us that puffins usually stay later, but that the entire migration had been advanced two or three weeks this year, both in the spring and in the fall. No nesting birds were found by us, although several were seen carrying fish into burrows. Some early accounts record this species as being abundant on West End. We found no puffins at all except on the rocks immediately surrounding the lighthouse; and from information supplied by the keepers, it seems that the birds have shifted their entire colony to this eastern section of the island.

*Uria aalge californica*. California Murre. Murres have been woefully depleted. Only three young were found on the island, and not more than 25 or 30 adults were seen on the entire trip. It is likely that the main colony of this species had emigrated early, as did the puffins, but at any rate the present numbers are but a ghost of the thousands reported by early observers. Residents of the island, who were there some twenty years ago, say that at that time oil-soaked plumage was responsible for a vast number of deaths and that they had to kill as many as twenty birds daily because of their hopelessly damaged plumage. We found no evidence of any damage to birds by oil, and island residents say that during the past few years there has been a very marked decrease in the amount of oil present on the water. Almost the entire area said once to have been occupied by murres was heavily populated with gulls and cormorants at the time of our visit. Murres seem quite devoted to their young; possibly a lesson learned from previous sad experience with gulls. One parent allowed a cautious approach to within three feet before showing nervousness, and we withdrew and left it to remain with the chick. Another adult, unseen until it flew, remained in a crevice until accidentally touched while searching for a chick. The chicks we found were all protected from attacks of gulls by the surrounding rocks and crevices. Although we saw no gull actually attack a young bird, the unanimous reports of others strongly support our inferences derived from young gulls, that the gulls may be responsible for a considerable decrease in the murre population.

*Larus occidentalis*. Western Gull. No subspecific determination was made of this species. It is hoped that returns from birds banded will afford this information. There were several hundred young, only a few of which were less than half grown. We found only a single specimen which still lacked contour feathers, although several showed much of their downy coat. Most of these young birds had been more or

less severely injured around the head, apparently by adult gulls, and a heavy mortality was evident. Early reports are practically unanimous in saying that gulls took frequent opportunity to kill and eat young birds of both murrens and cormorants, and I see no reason why they would not do likewise with the young of their own kind. At any rate, we frequently saw adults peck viciously at the half-grown young, and there can be no doubt that the injuries we witnessed were so inflicted. Although the normal clutch of eggs is three, we saw only a single case of a parent caring for this number of young. Many of the adults were afflicted with a sort of paralysis, which seems fatal. The light-house keeper said he believed the disease was contracted from poultry formerly kept on the islands, which suffered from an apparently identical disease.

*Phalacrocorax auritus albociliatus*. Farallon Cormorant. Cormorants occupy the west end of the island, and this species occupies the less precipitous area. Several hundred young birds were found, of all sizes, and one nest of eggs, which, however, was probably deserted. Mention of this nest is included here, because it was surrounded by others of the same species, and because no nests of other forms were in the immediate vicinity. A number of entirely naked young were found, and the youngest was probably hatched not earlier than August 15.

*Phalacrocorax penicillatus*. Brandt Cormorant. The Brandt Cormorant occupies the steeper slopes of the west end of the island, and seems the most numerous of the three forms of cormorant. Although the number of young of this and of the preceding species was about equal, there were many more adults of this species than of the other. The breeding season is somewhat earlier, as the young seemed all to be more than half grown.

*Phalacrocorax pelagicus resplendens*. Baird Cormorant. Only about a hundred of these birds were seen, nearly all on the extremely steep slope at the southwest end of the island. A few were found on the equally precipitous slope at Tower Hill, northwest of the lighthouse. No young were identified as belonging to this species, but I believe that our presence, the first human intrusion since April 15, caused many of them to enter the water for the first time. There was a large "raft" of cormorants, both adults and juveniles, in the water near the nests and it seemed probable that many of them were of this form.

*Cephus columba*. Pigeon Guillemot. Guillemots were numerous on the east and northeast parts of the island. A few young were found, all nearly ready to fly. The lighthouse keeper told us that these, in common with all others except the murrens, had increased noticeably within the last two or three years.

*Falco peregrinus anatum*. Duck Hawk. A dead Duck Hawk was found and queries led to the information that this bird had been electrocuted while on the radio antenna, from which it was wont to attack and kill the petrels and auklets as they passed to and from their burrows. Two other hawks, presumably of the same species, left the island at the time of their companion's death, and have not been seen since. We were told by the lighthouse keeper that a pair of these birds successfully bred on the rocks below the lighthouse in 1932. I have found no previous record of this species nesting upon the Farallon Islands.

*Salpinctes obsoletus*. Rock Wren. Two broods of three each were found, one of which had just left the nest, and the other of which was just ready to leave. Wrens are common over the entire eastern half of the island, but seem not to inhabit West End, where plants are much less abundant.

Other birds seen while on the island include the English Sparrow (*Passer domesticus*), California Linnet (*Carpodacus mexicanus frontalis*), Wandering Tattler (*Heteroscelus incanus*), and Northern Phalarope (*Lobipes lobatus*). A careful look-out was kept for the Beal Petrel and the Rhinoceros Auklet, but it failed to reveal any indication of the presence of these forms. We searched the localities, as nearly as they could be determined, from which they have previously been taken, but in vain.

Reports of a high mortality from migrating birds striking lighthouses elsewhere, caused me to inquire from the lighthouse keeper whether he had noticed such an occurrence on the Farallon Islands. He told me that he was unaware of any deaths, except of petrels and auklets, from this source.—CLARENCE F. SMITH, *Berkeley, California, January 31, 1934.*

Unusual Nesting Records from Northern Arizona.—During the past few years it has been the writer's privilege to make certain observations of the birds of northern Arizona under the direction of the Museum of Northern Arizona as part of a project