

March, 1938

FROM FIELD AND STUDY

part of the bird collection at the Braly and Currier Natural History Museum at DePoe Bay, Oregon. The identity of the specimens was verified by Stanley G. Jewett of Portland, Oregon.—J. C. BRALY, *DePoe Bay, Oregon, December 20, 1937.*

**Two Gull Records for California.**—On March 4, 1936, when in the company of James Moffitt, I shot an adult Glaucous Gull (*Larus hyperboreus*) at Suisun, California, some five miles west of Grizzly Island. The capture was notable in the fact that the bird was an adult, a small female. The plumage was fully adult with no trace of immature markings but, as is often the case, the bill showed a smudge of dusky toward the tip and the orange marking at the angle of the lower mandible was very dull in color. The iris was the normal pale straw color of the adult. A notable feature was the presence of faint gray cross bars near the tips of the two longest primaries that suggest the supposed hybrid *Larus nelsoni*. The bird was picked out from a company of Herring and California gulls which rose from the bank and circled overhead as we passed down stream in a boat.

On February 29, 1936, T. T. McCabe and the writer hired a launch to take us out to sea from Santa Cruz, California, in search of pelagic birds. On the return to port, when some seven miles out, I shot a Yellow-footed Gull (*Larus occidentalis livens*), an adult female, from the "tail" of gulls that McCabe had attracted by throwing out cut-up bait. The bird had light saffron-yellow feet, and the color of mantle and the measurements agreed with specimens in the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology and in my own collection from Baja California. The ovary was slightly enlarged. This establishes a record considerably to the north of any previous one. A few minutes later a specimen (nearly adult) of the northern race, *Larus occidentalis occidentalis*, was collected.—ALLAN BROOKS, *Comox, B. C., December 25, 1937.*

**A New Race of Horned Lark from the Region of Great Salt Lake.**—In the course of a study of the variation and distribution of the horned larks of western North America it has become apparent that those horned larks breeding in the eastern part of the Great Basin, particularly in the region of Great Salt Lake, are, as a population, distinct from all other races. It is therefore proposed that they be separated as a new race with the name

*Otocoris alpestris utahensis*, new subspecies. Great Salt Lake Horned Lark.

**Type.**—Adult male, no. 66312, Mus. Vert. Zool.; 10 mi. W Salt Lake City Airport, Salt Lake County, Utah; September 11, 1934; collected by D. M. Behle.

**Diagnosis.**—In fresh plumage, *utahensis* somewhat resembles *O. a. leucolaema* but the feathers of the dorsum have blacker centers and ashy rather than brownish edgings, thus producing a decided ashy-gray aspect on the entire back which contrasts markedly with the prevailing brown color-tone of *leucolaema*. The color of the bend of the wing and of the nape varies in individual males of *utahensis* from Pale Vinaceous to Drab Gray (names of colors capitalized are those of Ridgway, 1912). In breeding plumage, when wear has removed the highly diagnostic ashy-gray color, *utahensis* differs from *leucolaema* in its deeper tone of the nape which varies individually from Fawn Color to Vinaceous Tawny, and in its darker back which is grayer than the sandy brown of *leucolaema*. The new race is close to *enthymia* in general pallor, but it differs from that race in being smaller, more ashy, and with much more yellow on forehead, eye-stripe and throat. *Utahensis* shows close resemblance to *O. a. lamprochroma*, which occupies contiguous territory to the westward. In fresh plumage the feather edgings in this latter subspecies are more brownish-buff in color, and thus it has a slightly darker gray-brown tone than the chalky-gray of *utahensis*. In worn plumage, the situation as seen in fresh fall plumage is reversed, for *utahensis* is darker than *lamprochroma*. Also *utahensis* has no streaking on the nape region, such as one frequently encounters in examples of *lamprochroma*. The Great Salt Lake race differs from *occidentalis*, the race next to the southward, in much the same way as it does from *leucolaema*. It lacks the deep brown of *occidentalis* and is much less rufescent on the back.

**Measurements.**—Average and extremes for breeding males (38 specimens): wing, 103.9 mm. (107.5-100.4); tail, 70.4 (74.1-66.0); bill from nostril, 9.5 (10.5-8.1); tarsus, 21.2 (23.0-20.0); middle toe without claw, 10.8 (12.2-9.5). Breeding females (12 specimens): wing, 96.8 mm. (99.5-95.5); tail, 62.4 (66.0-60.0); bill from nostril, 9.1 (9.8-8.5); tarsus, 20.5 (21.2-20.2); middle toe without claw, 10.6 (11.8-9.2).

**Geographic Distribution.**—Breeds in the eastern part of the Great Basin, that is, in eastern Nevada in Elko and White Pine counties; in Utah west of the Wasatch Mountains, and in southern Idaho.

**Remarks.**—It is planned to present details of the distribution and variation of this race at a future time in connection with similar data on the other races of horned larks in western North America. It is felt advisable at this time merely to present a diagnosis of the new race.—WILLIAM H. BEHLE, *Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, Berkeley, California, December 15, 1937.*