

tively large numbers throughout the Monument and surrounding region. Equally interesting was the fact that many of these birds were singing as enthusiastically as though spring were at hand instead of many weeks of severe winter.

Spinus pinus. Pine Siskin. These tiny birds were everywhere to be seen and were the commonest species recorded.

Carpodacus cassinii. Cassin Purple Finch. A total of eleven of these birds was noted. For the most part they were rather quiet, only occasionally breaking the silence with call notes.

Nucifraga columbiana. Clark Nutcracker. Commonly observed throughout the forested area.

Dryobates villosus. Hairy Woodpecker. Only two of these were noted and they were ranging together. They were located in a rather dense forested growth in an area well protected from the strong winds.

Dryobates pubescens. Downy Woodpecker. A total of four of these birds were observed and all were noted in a protected grove of alpine fir.

Dendragapus obscurus. Dusky Grouse. Seven of these birds were flushed from the depths of a dense grove of Engelmann spruce. They refused to fly far, taking shelter as soon as possible.

Sialia currucoides. Mountain Bluebird. There were large numbers of these birds on the snow in the open meadows. They were observed working back and forth on the snow picking up something as they went. Investigation showed that the snow was literally alive with tiny insects. These proved to be some variety of horntail (*Sirex* sp.).

On February 1, two Winter Wrens (*Nannus hiemalis*) were observed in Birch Creek Canyon in Zion National Park. This constituted the first recorded occurrence of this species in the park since January, 1936, and the fourth record for the area.

Several migratory species were observed on the Sevier River near Hatch on February 14. Large numbers of American Mergansers (*Mergus merganser*) were seen scattered for several miles along the stream, while 7 Barrow Golden-eye (*Glaucionetta islandica*), 5 Lesser Scaup Ducks (*Nyroca affinis*), 1 Pied-billed Grebe (*Podilymbus podiceps*), and 1 Blue-winged Teal (*Querquedula discors*) were also noted in the same locality.

A California Gull (*Larus californicus*) was noted on a sandbar along the Virgin River near Springdale on April 23. This may have been a straggler from the Lake Mead region to the southwest. This is apparently the first record of this bird from Washington County.

On April 29, what is believed to be a Yellow-shafted Flicker (*Colaptes auratus*) was studied at close range in the town of Rockville near Zion National Park. This bird was definitely not a member of the *cafer* group as the shafts of its feathers were distinctly yellow instead of reddish, and the red band on the back of the head was prominent. This is believed to be the first record of this bird for southern Utah.

On July 17, a Great Blue Heron (*Ardea herodias*) was observed on Strawberry Creek on the Markagunt Plateau. This is at an elevation of approximately 8000 feet. Previous records from southwestern Utah are for winter or early spring months, and there are none from such an elevation.

Near Hurricane, an Eastern Kingbird (*Tyrannus tyrannus*) was recorded on August 29. This is believed to be the first record of this bird for southern Utah.

On September 27 a Goshawk (*Astur atricapillus*) was seen at Cedar Breaks National Monument at an elevation of approximately 10,500 feet. This constitutes the first record of this species from the area.

On September 30 a forest fire took me to the rim of Great West Canyon in Zion National Park. Several species of birds were flying around, obviously alarmed by the pall of smoke. Among these was a total of 18 Band-tailed Pigeons (*Columba fasciata*). While there have been a few records of this species from the Zion region in past years, never have such large numbers been noted before.—RUSSELL K. GRATER, *Zion National Park, Springdale, Utah, January 18, 1943.*

Birds Found Dead on the Beach in San Diego County, California.—The following is a list of birds found dead on certain beaches of San Diego County between October 20, 1941, and January 15, 1942 (a total of eighty-eight days). For the most part the records were kept for the sandy stretch of beach immediately south of the Scripps Institution of Oceanography at La Jolla. This was covered for a distance of half to three-quarters of a mile often enough that practically every bird washed up was counted. Also, several observations were made on the beach near the entrance to Mission Bay and on the Silver Strand near Coronado. Great care was taken not to count individuals more than once.

Common Loon (<i>Gavia immer</i>), January 22.....	1
Pacific Loon (<i>Gavia arctica pacifica</i>), October 24 (2), December 10, 28, January 10, 15....	6
Eared Grebe (<i>Colymbus nigricollis californicus</i>), November 10, December 28.....	2

Western Grebe (<i>Aechmophorus occidentalis</i>), October 24, December 25.....	2
Slender-billed Shearwater (<i>Puffinus tenuirostris</i>), October 28, 30, November 4, December 4, 10, 25 (5), 27 (3), January 10, 15 (2).....	16
Sooty Shearwater (<i>Puffinus griseus</i>), November 4 (9), 21 (3), 29.....	13
Pacific Fulmar (<i>Fulmarus glacialis rodgersi</i>), October 13, 20, 24, 30 (2), November 3 (3), 4 (2), 18, December 25 (5), 27, 28 (2).....	19
Brandt Cormorant (<i>Phalacrocorax penicillatus</i>), October 24, 30, November 4 (2), 10, 27, December 10.....	7
Surf Scoter (<i>Melanitta perspicillata</i>), November 4.....	1
Western Willet (<i>Catoptrophorus semipalmatus inornatus</i>), December 25.....	1
Least Sandpiper (<i>Pisobia minutilla</i>), October 24.....	1
Northern Phalarope (<i>Lobipes lobatus</i>), October 30.....	1
Parasitic Jaeger (<i>Stercorarius parasiticus</i>), November 4.....	1
Western Gull (<i>Larus occidentalis</i>), December 25, 27, January 15.....	3
Royal Tern (<i>Thalasseus maximus maximus</i>), October 27.....	1
Ancient Murrelet (<i>Synthliboramphus antiquus</i>), January 15.....	1
Cassin Auklet (<i>Ptychoramphus aleuticus</i>), December 25 (5), 27 (3), 28 (3).....	11
Rhinoceros Auklet (<i>Cerorhinca monocerata</i>), January 13.....	1
Total	88

This list is not to be interpreted as indicating the relative abundance of off-shore birds. The Black-vented Shearwater, for example, was present during this whole period, often in quite large numbers (Kenyon, Condor, 44, 1942:232). However, not a single dead bird was washed ashore in the areas I covered. The list is more an indication of those species least able to withstand adverse weather conditions. Most of these birds apparently died as a result of heavy seas, either starving when unable to get fish or being unable to withstand the action of wind and waves, or a combination of both. However, several exceptions were as follows: one Sooty Shearwater's neck was nearly severed (probably by a fisherman), a Pacific Loon was saturated with oil, and the Willet and one of the Western Gulls were apparently shot. A number of the birds were in such bad condition that the exact cause of death could not be determined.—KARL W. KENYON, *La Jolla, California, August 31, 1942.*

Birds Eat Snow.—In the dry Southwest certain areas are useful for grazing only when some snow is on the ground, thus affording horses, cattle or sheep a chance to slack their thirst by eating snow. In winter deer may be seen eating snow.

That birds also depend upon snow when it is available was vividly called to my attention here in Grand Canyon National Park, Arizona. On November 28, 1942, I noted Red-backed Juncos (*Junco phaeonotus dorsalis*) coming to a ledge outside my office window. When I stopped to observe closely at a distance of six feet, I found them eating snow, a small patch of which remained on the shaded stone ledge. Shortly thereafter, a Mountain Chickadee (*Penthestes gambeli*) came for several mouthfuls of snow. No water was available for a considerable distance and the weather was fairly warm and sunshiny.

Again on the morning of November 30 a half dozen Oregon Juncos (*Junco oreganus*) ate snow at the same place, working hard to break loose the snow crystals now hardened into ice. They were soon joined by a couple of Red-backed Juncos and a Mountain Chickadee. On December 6 when a new snow had fallen, a flock of English Sparrows (*Passer domesticus*) were seen greedily eating snow at the mule barns.—HAROLD C. BRYANT, *Grand Canyon, Arizona, December 11, 1942.*

Relations between Birds, Highways, and Snows in Nevada.—On January 3, 1942, while traveling from Hawthorne through Fallon to Reno, Nevada, concentrations of birds, especially Horned Larks (*Otocoris alpestris*), were noted on the highway pavements and edges. Recent snows covered all the ground, and apparently the scraped highways afforded the only exposed surface for birds. Groups of Horned Larks, Western Meadowlarks (*Sturnella neglecta*), White-crowned Sparrows (*Zonotrichia leucophrys*) and English Sparrows (*Passer domesticus*) were seen feeding, chiefly at the edges of the highways. Flocks of Horned Larks, however, were frequently just standing on the pavement and thus approaching their usual ground-resting habits. The result was a high mortality, caused by automobiles. On U. S. Highway 50 just west of Fallon, for example, 30 dead larks were seen in 3 miles. This probably represented birds killed during 2 or 3 days and in a region where the larks were particularly common. In any case, the total mortality among Horned Larks must have been considerable, especially since the snow did not melt appreciably for over a week.—FRANK RICHARDSON, *University of Nevada, Reno, Nevada, January 15, 1942.*