

Sockeye salmon spawn in considerable numbers along the shores of Flathead Lake during October, November, and December. When I noticed that flocks of golden-eyes were feeding over the spawning beds in the fall of 1941, I took several specimens in order to investigate their food habits. Of six birds taken between December 19 and 21 at Yellow Bay and Boulder Creek on the east shore of the lake, the stomachs of two contained large numbers (78 and 93) of undigested eggs and the other four had eggs which were partly digested and recognizable from the ruptured egg membranes. No other food was found in any of the stomachs. To what extent the golden-eyes are destroying eggs that would hatch if undisturbed is impossible to state. Since the water level in the lake is reduced continuously during the winter months by control of a dam at the foot of the lake, many of the spawning beds are exposed before the eggs hatch in the spring. This manipulation of the water level is undoubtedly much more destructive to the salmon than several hundred golden-eyes which winter on the lake. The sockeye salmon in Flathead Lake is land-locked and reaches a size of about one and one-half pounds before spawning. It is not used commercially but is taken in large numbers by fishermen throughout the year and especially during the spawning season.—PHILIP L. WRIGHT, *Montana State University, Missoula, Montana, January 11, 1944.*

Avocet on Humboldt Bay, California.—What may well be the northernmost coastal record for the Avocet (*Recurvirostra americana*) was the sight of a beautiful example of this species standing full leg-depth at the very edge of an almost submerged, pickle weed-covered knoll on Humboldt Bay, California, on January 26, 1944. William Anderson of Samoa, California, and the writer, with binoculars in hand, observed this bird; it was separated by ten feet of glassy water from an immense flock of Marbled Godwits, in which there was a sprinkling of Western Willets.

A Sharp-shinned Hawk approached the long line of Godwits, sailing at a two-foot level, and caused the entire flock to rise. The Avocet took a place in the middle of the flock. The entire line flew ahead of the hawk, gradually rising to a height of sixty feet above the water. At this point the hawk, which had maintained a steady pace, passed in under, seemingly oblivious to the undulating movement of the brown horde above. The godwits circled and returned to the jutting knolls which they formerly occupied. The Avocet, separating from the godwits, alighted in the water at exactly the same spot from which it left when the hawk approached.—C. I. CLAY, *Eureka, California, February 12, 1944.*

Gulls as Vegetarians.—Gulls of most species are well known for their scavenging proclivities, so that it should not be surprising to discover that some of the refuse they consume is of vegetable origin. Birds of this family are commonly seen feeding at garbage dumps or outfall sewers. Organic refuse, small fish, large insects, and other animal life constitute their normal food. This adaptability and omnivorousness may be encountered from the arctic regions to the tropics, apparently occurring in most, if not all, species of gulls.

Obviously, an occasional seed or leaf blade might be accidentally or incidentally consumed in the course of feeding, be it in a marsh or water area, for fish or other animal life, or in the upland for insects. Though such traces of plant items have been taken with regularity, it was somewhat contrary to expectation to find certain individuals (at times many) feeding almost exclusively upon plant foods.

Overcrowding and competition for a limited food supply encourage marked deviation from the typical diet and perhaps cause some individuals to acquire the habit of feeding extensively upon plant foods not present in an orthodox gull diet. Such an example comes from the Sacramento Valley of California, where careful investigation showed that a flock of California Gulls (*Larus californicus*) was causing considerable damage to a patch of sprouting barley late in the winter of 1942 and early in the spring of 1943. Two birds from the flock were collected and found to have gorged themselves with the sprouting kernels. This type of feeding has been observed on a number of occasions; it occurs when sufficient rain has fallen to uncover the newly sown barley kernels, temporary puddles making such fields attractive feeding areas.

Presumably because of overabundance, the California Gull in the Salt Lake Valley of Utah is becoming a problem of some concern to cherry growers, as the bird eats and destroys no insignificant amount of the tempting ripe fruit (see Cottam, Condor, 37, 1935:170).

Franklin Gulls (*Larus pipixcan*) in the Prairie States sometimes feed extensively upon wheat, oats, and other grains.

The Herring Gull (*Larus argentatus*) of the Maine coast causes appreciable damage each year to the blueberry crop. Though many exaggerated complaints are received, field investigations have disclosed that depredations of this nature are of annual occurrence and at times the damage is severe. A farmer from Millbridge, Maine, writes that these birds destroyed more than 500 bushels of blue-