

one food supply fails (notably acorns). This may explain these first noted occurrences of the species in the Panamint Range. The ecological isolation of the range and paucity of previous records may indicate the ingress in November of one large flock of Band-tailed Pigeons which, after finding suitable habitat and a plentiful food supply, wintered in the area. No specimens were collected to determine the race involved.—BRUCE B. PAIGE, *Death Valley National Monument, Death Valley, California, December 3, 1963.*

California Gull Nesting in Colorado.—Until 1961, the California Gull (*Larus californicus*) was considered only a casual visitor in Colorado (Bailey and Niedrach, *Birds of Colorado*, in press). Only two authentic specimens were known as of 1961, although I have since collected four California Gulls in the Fort Collins area. Since 1952, numerous sight observations have been made in north-central Colorado, both on the plains and in North Park. Most sightings have been in the late spring and early fall but there are a few in July and August and others in March and November.

California Gulls are common nesters on Bamforth, Twelve Mile, and Twin Buttes lakes near Laramie, Wyoming, as close as 25 miles to Colorado. Therefore, it is not surprising to find this species increasing in Colorado. In the course of capturing Ring-billed Gulls (*Larus delawarensis*) and Herring Gulls (*Larus argentatus*) with a cannon-net trap near Fort Collins, I banded five California Gulls on Timnath Reservoir in September, 1962; 27 were banded from a flock of about 200 on April 23, 1962, and one was banded on October 2, 1963. All gulls banded in 1963 were dyed yellow with picric acid. In May and June of 1963, at least nine of these color-marked California Gulls were seen in or around the nesting colonies near Laramie and one on Pathfinder Reservoir near Casper, Wyoming. Three of the dyed gulls near Laramie were either incubating or brooding young according to Dr. Kenneth L. Diem of the University of Wyoming. One banded adult California Gull was recaptured at Timnath Reservoir on October 30, 1962; this bird had been banded as a fledgling at Bamforth Lake on July 4, 1958, by Dr. Diem.

On April 28, 1963, Donald G. Davis found five gull nests associated with 55 White Pelican (*Pelecanus erythrorhynchos*) nests and three Double-crested Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax auritus*) nests at Riverside Reservoir, Weld County, Colorado. The gull clutches were incomplete at that time, and there seemed to be many pairs of gulls that had not yet begun to lay. The species of gull involved was not then determined, although eggs measurements fell within the proper range for California Gulls rather than for the Ring-billed Gulls. Nesting of the pelicans has been described by Ryder and Grieb (*Wilson Bull.*, 75, 1963:92).

Observations of the nesting colony by the author on April 29 and May 18 verified that the gulls were California Gulls. Alfred M. Bailey, Arthur Gresh, James Hitch, and the author visited the colony on June 28 to band and photograph at which time an estimated 50 pelicans, 10 cormorants, and 100 gull young were practically fledged. Ten nests of Snowy Egrets (*Egretta thula*) were found in low willows on the island. At least one pair of yellow-dyed California Gulls defended several downy young that swam away. These dyed gulls had initially been captured and released near Fort Collins approximately 45 miles to the northwest some three months earlier. On July 1, Charles R. Hayes and Charles E. Graham saw "ten or twelve yellow gulls" in the Riverside Colony. Six nests of Forster Terns (*Sterna forsteri*) containing one to three eggs each were found on subsequent visits to the colony on July 11 and 22. In all, 22 California Gulls, 44 White Pelicans, 8 Double-crested Cormorants, 46 Snowy Egrets, and two Forster Terns were banded on the island in 1963. The fledgling California Gulls were dyed red. At least two of these marked gulls have been observed near Greeley and Loveland to the west.

This is apparently the first record of the California Gull nesting in Colorado and represents a southeastward extension of the breeding range. In 1962, the island was not visited until late July at which time any young gulls that might have hatched that season had probably departed. In 1961, Richard M. Hopper reported flightless gulls (species unknown) on the island. In June and July of 1962 and 1963, Ring-billed Gulls, both immatures and adults, were noted flying and feeding in fields near Riverside Reservoir. None was seen in the Riverside nesting colony although a few nest near Laramie. Carl Maag, local caretaker for the Riverside Gun Club, relates that pelicans, gulls, and other waterbirds have nested intermittently on the island for the past 15 years, perhaps longer. Thus, California Gulls have probably nested in Colorado prior to 1963 although no authenticated records are known.

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Invasion of Clark Nutcrackers and Piñon Jays into Southeastern Arizona.—During the autumn of 1961, Clark Nutcrackers (*Nucifraga columbiana*) and Piñon Jays (*Gymnorhinus cyanocephala*) invaded southeastern Arizona in large numbers. Piñon Jays were first observed on September 20 and were subsequently found on most of the oak or oak-grassland hillsides of southeastern Arizona in flocks of 10 to 200 birds; also four flocks totalling 200 were seen in the Sierra de Cananea, Sonora, México, in October. The Piñon Jays for the most part were found feeding in the oak and oak-grassland areas but occasionally they were found in the lower agave-desert grassland habitats. These latter birds were very likely in the process of moving into southeastern Arizona, for they were not subsequently seen at such low altitudes. After mid-December the Piñon Jays appeared to have completely evacuated southeastern Arizona as I had no report of them after December 20. It is not clear why they should remain for less than half the winter and then leave. I feel sure that the birds I observed after late October represented a semi-permanent winter population at least through December and not a much larger mass that was continually moving through the area, for during these months the flocks appeared to be localized for varying lengths of time in specific areas.

On October 10, 1961, a flock of 30 Clark Nutcrackers was observed flying up Gardner Canyon through an area of oak-grassland in the Santa Rita Mountains, Pima County, Arizona. Undoubtedly these birds were in the process of invading the area, because on all other occasions the nutcrackers were associated with higher coniferous habitats. Subsequent to observation in Gardner Canyon many flocks of Nutcrackers were noted at higher altitudes through the winter of 1961–1962 in the following mountains of southeastern Arizona: Santa Catalinas, Santa Ritas, Pinaleños, and Chiricahuas. These mountains are all south of the nutcracker's breeding and winter ranges. In the Santa Ritas one flock of approximately 35 birds spent the entire winter in one large bowl of a canyon at 6800 feet elevation in a pine environment. Similarly, in the Santa Catalinas, a flock of 40 was present all winter at 7800 feet in Bear Wallow, a ponderosa pine-Douglas fir area.

Each flock appeared to hold a particular section as a winter flock-feeding territory. On every occasion that I observed (at least once a week in the Santa Catalinas and twice a month in the Santa Ritas) I found the respective flocks some place in their canyon within an area of approximately 200 acres. The birds kept to a rather tight flock structure even though they were observed traversing the feeding area many times each day. Feeding was at first restricted to the upper parts of the trees, and as many as ten nutcrackers would alight in one tall pine or fir and all commence to search for cones. After a bird located a cone it would pick out the seeds; often the bird would have to hang upside down at the end of a branch to do so, or else it would break the cone off and pry out the seeds while sitting on a larger branch. Although there appeared to be a good cone crop, concentrated harvest of the cones by these large birds must have depleted the supply appreciably, for in late December much more feeding on the ground below the trees was observed. Only occasionally before this did the nutcrackers search for food on the ground. However, after late December they were actively searching through the forest litter for fallen pine and fir cones, and they fed in the trees much less frequently. From November to January ten nutcrackers were collected, five while feeding in the trees and five feeding on the ground. All stomachs analyzed demonstrated that only pine and fir nuts constituted the food supply whether the birds were feeding in trees or on the ground. After February the winter flock structure began to break up and smaller groups wandered over more of the mountain. I last saw nutcrackers in the Santa Catalinas on June 5, 1962.

On the basis of plumage characteristics the ten specimens collected were four adults (two male and two female) and six first-year birds (two male and four female). First-year birds were identified by weaker pigmentation of remiges and rectrices (tending toward brownish at the tips), dull or brownish coverts, and the more worn condition of the remiges and rectrices. A predominance of first-year birds is consistent with findings for other invading groups of corvids, especially jays.—PETER W. WESTCOTT, *Department of Zoology, University of Arizona, Tucson, Arizona, January 2, 1964.*