

Two, the rectrices, which are the same color as the primaries, are uniformly colored and lack any trace of mottling on the outer rectrix; in *thayeri* the rectrices are darker brown and the outer rectrix is mottled. Three, the wing coverts are finely dotted with white; in *thayeri* the edges of the wing coverts are deeply scalloped with white. Four, the specimen is too large for *thayeri*; its dimensions far exceed those given by Smith (Ornithol. Monogr., 4, tables 5 and 8, 1966) for a large series of female *thayeri* from the breeding grounds. On the other hand, it falls in the upper end or exceeds the dimensions of a small series of female *glaucescens* measured by Dwight (Bull. Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist., 52, 1925). Particularly evident is the specimen's heavy bill, which differs markedly from the shorter and slenderer bill of female *thayeri*.

In these and in other characters of plumage and soft part coloration, the Fort Churchill specimen is indistinguishable from *L. glaucescens*. There is no evidence of hybrid ancestry. At my request, Eugene Eisenmann and John Bull compared the specimen with the outstanding collection of larids in the American Museum of Natural History and independently reached the same conclusions.

The Glaucous-winged Gull is common along much of the west coast of Canada and the United States, but very rare away from the immediate vicinity of the Pacific. I know of only one seemingly unquestionable report from inland Canada, a bird banded as a chick in British Columbia and recovered in Alberta (Salt, Auk, 87:428, 1961; Merilees, Canad. Field-Nat., 75:170, 1961). Other Alberta records, the only other reports for interior Canada, (Salt, Canad. Field-Nat., 80:114, 1966; Stirling, Blue Jay, 25:131, 1967) lack details or measurements and are unconvincing.

Published specimen records for inland localities in the United States include Oklahoma (Sutton, Auk, 55:277-278, 1938), Arizona (Phillips, Marshall, and Monson, Birds of Arizona, Univ. of Arizona Press, Tucson, 1964), and California (McCaskie and Cardiff, Condor, 67:542-544, 1965). I have not examined these specimens. There are also sight records of *glaucescens* inland in several western states, e.g., Idaho (Burleigh, Birds of Idaho, Caxton Printers Ltd., Caldwell, Idaho, 1972), but most of these lack any substantiation and the probability of confusion with *thayeri* is high. I have examined a recent specimen from Nevada that was thought to be *glaucescens* (Monson, American Birds 26:639, 1972), but it is clearly referable to *thayeri*.

Thayer's Gull winters commonly on the west coast and probably reaches its central arctic breeding grounds after an overland flight across western Canada and parts of the United States. Studies are beginning to indicate that this species occurs regularly in the interior. I suggest that the vast majority of records attributed to Glaucous-winged and Iceland (*L. glaucoides*) Gulls in the inland western United States and Canada are actually of Thayer's Gull. A full review of this subject, including examination of all alleged specimens, is needed.

I am indebted to Eugene Eisenmann and John Bull for their assistance and to W. Earl Godfrey for information on Canadian records of *glaucescens*.—JOSEPH R. JEHL, JR., *Natural History Museum, P. O. Box 1390, San Diego, California 92112. Accepted 11 February 1974.*

**First record of Sabine's Gull in Nevada.**—On 21 September 1972, a Sabine's Gull (*Xema sabini*) was observed on Virginia Lake, a 40 acre impoundment in southwest Reno, Washoe County, Nevada. This constitutes the first verified sighting of a Sabine's Gull in Nevada. The bird, an apparent adult in nuptial (gray-headed) plumage, was first observed in the lake about 40 m offshore, where it fed in a dabbling manner for approxi-

mately one hour. Although California Gulls (*Larus californicus*) and Ring-billed Gulls (*L. delawarensis*) were present on the lake, the Sabine's Gull did not associate with them. During the next hour the bird was observed to fly around the lake several times after which it was not seen again. The characteristic triangular patches of black and white on the wings and the forked tail were easily seen as the bird flew; the light bill tip was also noted. Color photographs of the bird in flight and on the water were obtained and have been verified by Dr. Fred A. Ryser, Curator of Birds and Mammals, University of Nevada Museum of Biology. Copies are on file in the University of Nevada Museum of Biology, Reno, Nev. and in the U.S. National Photoduplicate File (accession number 62-1Ca,b) at Laurel, Md.—WILLIAM H. CLARK, 705 Smith St., Vale, Oregon 97918; KEITH I. GIEZENTANNER, Department of Game and Fish, Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501; and JAMES L. HAINLINE, Center for Water Resources Research, Desert Research Institute, Reno, Nevada 89507. Accepted 6 December 1973.

**Unusual prey of Common Terns: swim-bladders of large fish.**—While studying Common Terns (*Sterna hirundo*) in a large colony at Monomoy, Massachusetts, I saw on several occasions adult terns fly in with peculiar inflated objects and offer them to their chicks. During six days of observation between 14 and 31 July 1973, I saw at least 14 of these objects brought to a small plot containing 30 broods. A few others were seen being carried to other parts of the colony, and the total number brought into the colony of some 2000 pairs of terns must have run into scores, probably hundreds. Several were collected and were subsequently identified by Dr. R. H. Backus of Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution as swim-bladders of the common sea-robin (*Prionotus carolinus*).

The swim-bladder of this fish is a lung-shaped object consisting of a pair of inflated lobes, each about 40 mm long and 15–20 mm in diameter, joined together near one end and with muscles attached to the outer margins. In the live fish it occupies more than half of the visceral cavity. Illustrations of swim-bladders of this and related species are published in Demski et al. (Amer. Zool., 13:1147–1148, 1973), Tavolga (Nat. Hist., 69: 48–49, cover photograph, March, 1960), and Evans (Copeia, 1973:315–321, 1973).

The observation of terns carrying these swim-bladders poses two puzzles: how they obtained them and why they brought them to their young. The common sea-robin is abundant in the area, but is largely a bottom-dwelling fish and is larger than a tern, ranging to 400 mm in length and to 800 g in weight. It is inconceivable that a tern could catch one or extract the swim-bladder from a dead one. However, sea-robins are regarded as a nuisance by local fishermen and are often killed and discarded or cut up for bait. It is conceivable that as the body disintegrates or is eaten by scavengers, the swim-bladders would be released and float freely to the surface.

Even floating on the surface, this would be exceptional food for Common Terns, which feed almost exclusively on live prey. I have occasionally seen Arctic Terns (*S. paradisaea*) feeding on fish offal, but I have not previously identified such among several thousand items of food that I have seen fed to young Common Terns. Although Common Terns feed on a wide variety of invertebrates as well as on fish, these swim-bladders do not resemble any normal prey species, except perhaps inflated fry of the northern puffer (*Sphoeroides maculatus*). I have never seen that species fed to the young, and indeed it would be dangerous to them (Porter, Audubon Mag., 1962:300–301). Furthermore, the bladders did not prove to be suitable prey, for the young could not swallow