

were counted in the collection from Site 1, with only 27 proximal ends and 24 complete tibiotarsi! No other skeletal element is represented by more than half this number of bones. Why the Indians should have broken the tibiotarsi just distal to the inner cnemial crest is not clear to me, and I have found in the literature no mention of a similar condition in the collections of bones from other kitchen middens along the California coast. If the legs were broken off when the birds were being prepared for cooking, it seems likely that the tibiotarsi would be broken near the distal rather than the proximal end. It is interesting to note that the smaller collection from Site 2 does not show a comparable disproportion in numbers of tibiotarsi, although some of the bones from this locality were broken in the same way. Except for the fact that there is a gradual decrease in numbers of bones from the surface to a depth of 6 feet in the shell heaps, there does not seem to be any significant difference in the species or the relative proportion of skeletal elements occurring at the various levels at either site.

Two of the species of birds in the collection (*Gavia arctica* and *Pelecanus occidentalis*) are nearly always found along the coasts rather than inland. Perhaps most surprising is the presence of the Brown Pelican, which is practically never found on fresh water. It is represented in the assemblage by a single scapula. The California Woodpecker may seem a little out of place in this association, but oaks probably occurred around the margin of the San Joaquin Valley as they do today. The bird may have been killed some distance from the lake and brought in for its plumage.

The species of birds previously identified by Dr. Wetmore (see Wedel, *loc. cit.*) are: *Plegadis guarauna* (White-faced Glossy Ibis), *Pelecanus erythrorhynchos* (White Pelican), *Grus canadensis canadensis* (Little Brown Crane), and a goose (Anserinae). The ibis was represented by a single specimen from Site 1, at a depth of 1 to 2 feet. Evidently it was not included in the collection sent to the University of California, for no bones assignable to this species were found.

A few forms, such as the Short-eared Owl represented by a fairly complete skeleton, may have left their remains in the deposit quite fortuitously, but it is probable that most of the bones are those of birds used for food by the Indians. Most of the long bones are broken, some have been cut, and some are blackened by fire. Obviously the relative abundance of the various skeletal elements is not normal, but it seems likely that the species found in the deposit are fairly representative of the larger birds occurring in the Buena Vista Lake region.—IDA S. DEMAY, *Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, Berkeley, California, April 20, 1942.*

The Yellow Rail and the Caspian Tern in New Mexico.—Presence of the Yellow Rail (*Coturnicops noveboracensis*) at Bitter Lake Wildlife Refuge, 10 miles northeast of Roswell, New Mexico, on the Pecos River, appears to be a new record for the state. The specimen, which was in good flesh, was collected on February 24, 1942, in a dense growth of salt grass.

The occurrence of the Caspian Tern (*Hydroprogne caspia*) also appears to be a new record for New Mexico. Two individuals were seen at Elephant Butte Lake, New Mexico, on February 20, 1942. Neither individual was collected, although the birds were observed through field glasses at a distance of not more than fifty yards.—CLARENCE COTTAM, CLARENCE A. SOOTER, and RICHARD E. GRIFFITH, *Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington, D.C., May 12, 1942.*

Records of the Herring Gull, Sanderling, and Lark Bunting in Utah.—First intimation that the Herring Gull might occur in the state of Utah was given by E. W. Nelson (Proc. Boston Soc. Nat. Hist., 17, 1875:358) when he listed with a question the species *Larus argentatus*, accompanied by the following comment: "I saw a large gull at the mouth of the Jordan [River] which I am quite sure was this species." An actual specimen did not come to hand, however, until April 27, 1937, when a decomposing bird was picked up on the Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge. This was recorded by Marshall (Condor, 39, 1937:258) who also mentioned that another specimen was later found on the refuge. Stanford (Proc. Utah Acad. Sci., Arts and Letters, 15, 1938:138) recorded a specimen in the collection of the Utah State Agricultural College taken at the Bear River Refuge, November 25, 1937. Since this was contributed by Marshall, it possibly is the second specimen referred to by Marshall (*op. cit.*).

On March 13, 1940, Dr. E. R. Quortrop brought a third specimen of the Herring Gull from the Bear River Refuge to the University of Utah. It had been picked up sick on the refuge in late September or early October, 1939, and was kept alive for some time until it died, presumably of botulism. Then it was placed in cold storage. Upon receipt at the University it was prepared by the writer as a study skin.

On May 8, 1942, the writer visited Egg Island, Great Salt Lake, where thousands of California Gulls were nesting. There a decomposing adult Herring Gull (*Larus argentatus smithsonianus*) was

found. The head and a wing were saved for record purposes and are now in the collection at the University of Utah. On the following day, May 9, 1942, at the Bear River Refuge yet another Herring Gull was seen by the writer in flight and later at rest on a dike with several California Gulls. Both the Herring Gull and its companions were in an immature plumage stage, being darkly mottled rather than immaculate.

These records indicate that the American Herring Gull is more common than generally supposed in Utah, probably being a regular transient in small numbers through the state in both spring and fall. Dr. Nelson's record of so many years ago seems to have been substantiated.

For several years in the spring while enroute to the colonial bird-nesting sites of Great Salt Lake, I have encountered small flocks of Sanderlings (*Crocethia alba*) on the lake. They have usually contained from 30 to 50 individuals. Flying in unison and exhibiting the "flock mind," their wheeling flight maneuvers with flashing white underparts have made impressive sights. On May 18, 1932, at Egg Island, I shot two birds from a flock but retrieved only one because a California Gull (*Larus californicus*) flew off with one Sanderling as soon as it fell in the water. The specimen which I did secure was in the tawny breeding plumage. On May 26, 1932, while visiting Rock Island, Utah Lake, a small flock of Sanderlings was encountered and four specimens were secured. Two were males and two were females, all in breeding plumage. Although Sanderlings were seen near Egg Island on May 7, 1938, no specimens were taken, but on April 21, 1940, one male and two females were secured there. These last specimens were taken about a month earlier than those of 1932 and show the whitish winter plumage rather than the tawny summer plumage. Previous records for Utah are those of Cottam (Proc. Utah Acad. Sci., Arts and Letters, 6, 1929:11) and Hayward (*ibid.*, 13, 1936:192), both of which are for Utah Lake, and Twomey (Ann. Carnegie Mus., 28, 1942:394) for the Uinta Basin.

The only certain records for Utah of the Lark Bunting (*Calamospiza melanocorys*) reported to date in the literature are those of Ridgway (U. S. Geol. Expl. 40th Par., 4, pt. 3, 1877:487) who found a juvenal male at Parley's Park (head of Parley's Canyon, Summit County, not far from Park City) on July 30, 1869, and of Hardy and Higgins (Proc. Utah Acad. Sci., Arts and Letters, 17, 1940:109) who record the species as taken at Washington, Washington County, May 10, 1940. On May 6, 1941, I shot the male of a pair from a cholla cactus on the west slope of the Beaver Dam Mountains, 3300 feet elevation, 5 miles north of the Utah-Arizona border, Washington County. It weighed 37.7 grams. The testes appeared similar in size, the left one measuring 12 x 7 mm.

On May 19, 1941, a Lark Bunting was shot in the barnyard of the Jeremy Ranch, 4300 feet, on the Jordan River, west of the Cudahy Packing Plant, Salt Lake County, Utah. It was a lone bird, as near as could be ascertained. The left testis measured 14 x 8 mm., the right testis 12½ x 10 mm. While considered a transient in Utah, the juvenile of Ridgway and the enormous size of the gonads of the two males of 1941 suggest that the species may nest in the state.—WILLIAM H. BEHLE, *Department of Biology, University of Utah, Salt Lake City, Utah, May 13, 1942.*

White-tailed Kites Feeding on House Mice.—Mr. Merle R. Gross of the United States Soil Conservation Service recently found a "family" of White-tailed Kites (*Elanus leucurus*) in the Granada Hills District, about 5 miles west of San Fernando, Los Angeles County, California. There were two adults and one immature bird. No nest was found, but the kites resorted for perching to a eucalyptus tree in a windbreak in the middle of an orange grove. The tree was about one-fourth mile from a house. Under this tree, on May 10, 1942, Mr. Gross picked up 46 whole pellets and about a dozen fragments. These I analyzed with the following results:

Prey species	No. of individuals in pellets	No. in fragments	Total	Per cent of total
House mouse (<i>Mus musculus</i>)	50	12	62	83.78
Meadow mouse (<i>Microtus californicus</i>)	8	8	10.81
Harvest mouse (<i>Reithrodontomys megalotis</i>)	3	1	4	5.41
Totals	61	13	74	100.00

Though there are previous records of other rodents eaten by White-tailed Kites, this is the first instance that has come to my attention in which *Microtus* was exceeded in numbers by any other prey species. Mr. Gross reports that house mice were extremely abundant at about this time, and became especially available when the cover crops were turned under in the orchards. It appears that they were common enough and sufficiently active by day to make up for the local scarcity of meadow mice in the San Fernando Valley.

In picking up pellets from under a roost, there is always a danger that they may be misassigned and erroneous conclusions drawn. In this case, the absence of insects would seem to rule out small