

Clarke Nutcracker on the Colorado Desert.—On October 17 and 18, 1919, I was hunting at Marchal's Ranch, which is ten miles west of Indio and about fifteen miles east of Palm Springs, Riverside County, California. It seemed strange to find Clarke Crows (*Nucifraga columbiana*) there. The birds were very tame and walked about almost in the camp. They seemed to be feeding on dates. I saw the crows flapping about the fruit clusters, and saw them flying overhead with what I took to be dates in their bills. There were probably a dozen birds about the ranch. A former student of mine, who is now teaching in the Coachella Union High School, told me of seeing the birds around the school buildings. The High School is probably twelve miles east of Marchal's. Indio is 22 feet below sea level, according to the figures on the sign at the Southern Pacific depot there.—C. O. ESTERLY, *Occidental College, Los Angeles, California, October 28, 1919.*

Saw-whet Owl from the San Bernardino Mountains, California.—On May 10, 1919, I was fortunate enough to collect a juvenile female Saw-whet Owl (*Cryptoglaux acadica acadica*) at an altitude of 6950 feet, Big Bear Valley, San Bernardino Mountains, California. This is the first recorded instance for this locality, I believe. To quote Mr. Swarth, to whom I sent the specimen for verification of identification: "The little owl you sent is the Acadian Owl, *Cryptoglaux a. acadica*. It is in the juvenile plumage and I should infer was hatched somewhere in the neighborhood of where it was killed. The species has not been recorded as breeding south of the central Sierra Nevada, so far as I know and your bird is well worth recording; it is an interesting take." This bird is now no. 1830, collection W. M. P.—WRIGHT M. PIERCE, *Claremont, California, October 18, 1919.*

Bubo virginianus lagophonus in North Dakota.—That the Northwestern Horned Owl (*Bubo virginianus lagophonus*) is more or less inclined to wander during the autumn and winter is evidenced by the capture of specimens of this race in Colorado and Nebraska. Both of these states are well without the breeding range of this subspecies, as is also North Dakota. There is, so far as we are aware, no published record for the last-mentioned state, and we are, therefore, through the courtesy of Mr. J. D. Allen of Mandan, North Dakota, pleased to be able to add it to the list of North Dakota birds. A specimen of *Bubo virginianus lagophonus* was captured at Fort Clark, near Stanton, North Dakota, on March 14, 1918, by Mr. J. Danielson, and sent Mr. J. D. Allen to be mounted. It is an adult in perfect plumage and is practically typical of this subspecies.—HARRY C. OBERHOLSER, *Washington, D. C., October 1, 1919.*

Effects of a Storm on the Bird-life of the Sea.—Off the Golden Gate a southerly gale commenced on the night of December 3, 1919, raging through the early morning hours and throughout the day of December 4, subsiding somewhat in fury toward sunset, but increasing again during the following night. It broke finally on the morning of December 5, and about 9 A. M. of that day my assistant curator, Mr. Luther Little, was despatched, in spite of squalls and occasional drenchings, upon a tour of investigation along the ocean beach from the sea end of Golden Gate Park (San Francisco, California) southward, to learn what he could of the effects of the storm upon the seabirds of this locality. The velocity of the wind had been variously reported from ships as high as 84 miles per hour, but the most reliable report was probably from the Pt. Reyes light station, which gave it as 75 miles, and the surf had been running very high.

Little returned toward noon laden with a heavy burden of bedraggled and water-soaked bodies of seabirds. His load consisted of the following: 1 Horned Grebe (*Colymbus auritus*), 1 Rhinoceros Auklet (*Cerorhinca monocerata*), 2 California Murres (*Uria troille californica*), 2 California Gulls (*Larus californicus*), 1 Western Gull (*Larus occidentalis*), 1 Ring-billed Gull (*Larus delawarensis*), 1 Short-billed Gull (*Larus brachyrhynchus*), and 3 Pacific Fulmars (*Fulmarus glacialis glupischa*). All were more or less battered by wind and waves; seven were in a sufficiently good state of preservation to make fair specimens. The stomachs of all were empty, and the birds were in a more or less emaciated condition.

The next morning (December 5), fortunately clear and calm, Little and I sallied forth to again search the beach, which we did for about two miles, covering a little more ground than he had gone over the previous day, with the idea in view of identifying all the birds we could find that had been washed ashore after the storm. Little said that the surface of the beach had been considerably changed since he had been there, and that some of the bodies he had noted had disappeared, while others had either been uncovered again by the waves at high tide or had been blown ashore since his visit.

Some of the birds were lying out in plain sight on the beach, while in other cases perhaps only a feather or two showed above the sand. Many gave evidence of having been sadly buffeted by wind and waves and none were in a condition to allow of preservation except three Sanderlings, which seemed quite fresh and probably were killed only the night before. Only the birds that were fresh enough to be without doubt the victims of this storm were given consideration, but there were a few older carcasses here and there, of other species than those enumerated herein.

The numbers and species of these recent victims were as follows: 1 Tufted Puffin (*Lunda cirrhata*), 4 California Murres (*Uria troille californica*), 1 Pacific Kittiwake (*Rissa tridactyla pollicaris*), 1 (immature) Glaucous-winged Gull (*Larus glaucescens*), 1 Western Gull (*Larus occidentalis*), 1 Herring Gull (*Larus argentatus*), 1 Ring-billed Gull (*Larus delawarensis*), 1 Short-billed Gull (*Larus brachyrhynchus*), one gull so soaked with oil as to be unidentifiable, 1 Pacific Fulmar (*Fulmarus glacialis glupischa*), 1 Sooty Shearwater (*Puffinus griseus*), 1 California Brown Pelican (*Pelecanus californicus*), 1 Brandt Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax penicillatus*), 1 White-winged Scoter (*Oidemia deglandi*), and 3 Sanderlings (*Calidris leucophaea*). About two miles of shore were covered on these two mornings, the total number of birds found dead being 32. Doubtless there were some others buried in the sand, and as it is hardly reasonable to suppose that all those killed off-shore in these two miles of latitude had been washed up on the beach, the actual toll of this storm must have been greater therein than the count of the victims on the beach would show.

The species above enumerated were almost all, if not entirely, of those that inhabit the waters adjacent to the coast or near-by islands, and on this coast their winter habitat is a narrow belt of comparatively few miles in width for a long distance north and south of San Francisco Bay. If the storm raged as furiously over a large part of this habitat, the mortality must have been great, judging by the results of our two miles search.

It was most discouraging to find the beach strewn with cakes of solidified crude oil, the sizes of these cakes varying from only a few drops stuck together to as large as a big frying pan, showing that ships are still dumping the oil refuse from their tanks in our waters. Some of the birds found were either partly or entirely incapacitated by coming in contact with it, a couple being absolutely saturated with the oil.—JOSEPH MAILLIARD, *San Francisco, December 9, 1919.*

Clarke Nutcracker at Carmel.—I am indebted to Mrs. Edward A. Kluegel for the following notes on the Clarke Nutcracker (*Nucifraga columbiana*) as occurring in Carmel, Monterey County, California. The first one observed was on November 7, 1919, in a tall pine. On November 9 one was watched hopping about on the ground, appearing quite tame and unafraid. Since then, varying numbers have been observed, until on November 30, twenty-seven were counted in one company.—JANE L. SCHLESINGER, *Oakland, California, December 6, 1919.*

Habits of *Oceanodroma leucorhoa beali* versus *O. socorroensis*.—Following directions kindly furnished me by Mr. C. I. Clay, I visited on July 16, 1919, an island of about six acres extent which lies one mile southwest of Crescent City, Del Norte County, California, and spent the day investigating its bird life. I estimated that there were close to ten thousand pairs of petrels nesting there, and one may well imagine that the day proved to be one of the most enjoyable of my life. Every foot of soft ground was not only occupied, but the tunnels were two and three layers deep, and freely intercommunicated. Indeed, it was impossible to dig more than an inch or two