

colored. Some of the sets have one or two eggs with these small specks, and yet have one or two others that are very distinctly marked, for this species. One set has distinct spots of a delicate rosy pink tinge, another set has some of the eggs splotched rather than finely spotted or speckled, and these splotches are reddish in color.

Of forty-four sets of five eggs each, together with one of six eggs, fifteen of the sets were unmarked, nine contained one spotted egg, none had two eggs spotted, eight had three eggs, seven had four eggs, eight all five, while the six-egg set had all but one spotted. Some of these markings look like an incidental stain, as from wet grass or a fly speck, but the magnifying glass shows them to be natural coloration. The greatest number of spots or specks is usually at the larger end of the egg, and in some cases these are arranged somewhat as a ring. In other cases a spot or two on any part of an egg may be the only marking.

Both size and shape of the eggs of this species are very variable. The longest egg measured, in millimeters, 28.3 and the shortest 22.3, with an average of 24.6 for 115 eggs measured; while the width showed extremes of 18.8 and 15.9, with an average of 17.5. There is no particular correlation between the two diameters, however. For example, the longest egg measures 28.3×17.0 , while the third shortest in the lot is 22.8×18.2 , the one long and slim and the other short and fat.

The measurements of the sets used in figure 33, from left to right are as follows:

- (C. A. S. No. 1743) 28.3×17.0 , 27.2×17.2 , 26.4×17.3 , 24.8×17.6 , 24.1×17.2 .
 (C. A. S. No. 1677) 23.5×17.5 , 23.0×18.4 , 22.8×17.7 , 22.9×17.7 , 23.4×17.8 .
 (C. A. S. No. 3660) 26.1×17.4 , 25.4×18.8 , 25.0×17.9 , 24.6×18.3 , 25.1×17.3 .
 (C. A. S. No. 3539) 26.3×17.0 , 24.9×18.5 , 24.5×18.2 , 23.2×18.5 , 25.4×18.0 .
 Average length of the 115 eggs measured is 24.6, and average width is 17.7.
 Set nearest to average of the 23 that were measured:
 (C. A. S. No. 3543) 24.8×18.2 , 24.3×17.7 , 24.5×17.9 , 24.8×17.7 , 23.8×17.5 .

The tint of the white of these blown eggs varies somewhat, as before remarked, but not through any great range. Newly laid eggs seem to vary from bluish white, through pure white to slight cream color, while those that have been more or less incubated are apt to become yet a little darker cream color. Possibly some sets have been exposed to an occasional wetting, when not well protected, or the parent may have come on the nest with some of its feathers dampened by rain, but on the whole there is great freedom from stain.

San Francisco, March 23, 1922.

FROM FIELD AND STUDY

Yellow-headed Blackbird in Company with Brewer Blackbirds.—In volume xxii of THE CONDOR, page 205, Mr. Frank N. Bassett records the unusual occurrence of a Yellow-headed Blackbird (*Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus*) flocking with Brewer Blackbirds. Another instance of this was noted at Penticton, British Columbia, on October 19, 1921, when a single male was seen in the midst of a flock of about fifty Brewer Blackbirds. This was of interest to me not only for the unusual association of the two species, but on account of the scarcity of the Yellow-headed Blackbird in that locality and the late date on which it was seen. Another point of interest lay in the uncon-

ventional surroundings. One associates this species with tule marshes, or grain fields, and this bird seemed oddly out of place picking up refuse grain on a suburban street.—J. A. MUNRO, *Okanagan Landing, British Columbia, November 26, 1921.*

The Occurrence of the Desert Horned Lark in Southern California.—A careful analysis of the mixed flocks of horned larks that range the deserts and lowlands of California in such abundance during the winter has brought to light certain interesting facts and record stations for *Otocoris alpestris leucolaema*. The winter range of this form is given in both the third edition of the A. O. U. *Check-list*, and also by Oberholser in his review of the genus (Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus., vol. 24, 1902, p. 821) as "south to . . . southeastern California". But the most southern record station actually given by the latter authority is Keeler, Inyo County, California, in a section perhaps better referred to as east-central California, because of the transverse ranges that divide the state south of that point.

The specimens listed below from the A. B. Howell and D. R. Dickey collections indicate a far more general distribution of the species throughout the southern portion of the state, in fall, winter, and spring, than had heretofore been suspected. Only the sea-coast proper seems to escape their invasion. The Fort Yuma birds have been previously referred to (Condor, xvii, 1915, p. 233), but we trust we may be pardoned for repeating the record here with a view to incorporating all available pertinent data. A list of record stations follows.

Inyo County: Deep Spring Valley, 2 specimens, Sept. 20, and Sept. 26, 1921; Keeler, 1 specimen, Oct. 21, 1921.

Kern County: Buena Vista Lake, 1 specimen, Sept. 16, 1921.

San Bernardino County: Victorville, 4 specimens, Sept. 25, 1921; Newberry Spring, 1 specimen*, Dec. 8, 1917.

Los Angeles County: Palmdale, several specimens, Jan. 5, 1921.

Riverside County: 10 miles south of Ontario, several specimens, Dec. 3, 1919, and Dec. 11, 1920; Thermal, 1 specimen*, Jan. 27, 1918.

Imperial County: 10 miles west of Kane Spring, 1 specimen, Oct. 15, 1921; vicinity of Fort Yuma, 3 specimens*, Jan. 28, 1913, and Jan. 29, 1921; sand dunes east of Holtville, 1 specimen, March 21, 1916.

We are indebted to Mr. A. B. Howell for kindly allowing us to put on record the birds in his collection, which are starred in the above list, and to Dr. H. C. Oberholser for verifying the determinations of several of the more doubtful birds.—D. R. DICKEY AND A. J. VAN ROSSEM, *Pasadena, California, January 13, 1922.*

What Color are the Feet of the Western Gull?—In the last volume (part 8) of Ridgway's *Birds of North and Middle America*, the color of the feet of the Western Gull is given as yellow in life. In Dr. Dwight's recent description (Proc. Biol. Soc. Wash., vol. 32, 1919, pp. 11-13) of the southern form of the Western Gull (*Larus occidentalis vivens*) the color of the feet is given as "lemon yellow". This Dr. Dwight now regards as an error on the part of the collector of the type specimen. In the fourth edition of Ridgway's *Manual of North American Birds* the color of the feet is given as "flesh colored" (under description of *Larus fuscus*). This, I believe, is the invariable color in the adult.

What I want to know is: 1. Has any one seen a Western Gull with yellow feet? 2. If not, where did the mistake (if it is a mistake) originate? When I first travelled south along the Pacific Coast in 1911 I was under the impression that this gull had yellow feet, and was considerably surprised to find that among the hundreds of adults that I examined at close quarters in life nothing but flesh colored feet were in evidence. The full description of the soft parts as given by Ridgway in the *Birds of North and Middle America* (part 8, p. 610) is as follows: "Bill deep yellow, the mandible with a subterminal lateral spot of red; iris brown; bare orbital ring vermilion red; legs and feet yellow (in life)." Three spring adults collected by myself vary from this in every item except the color of the bill. They all agree in having the iris pale yellow or straw color, freckled with grayish; eyelid deep yellow, no trace of red; feet flesh colored; and claws dark brown. Can California observers supply data to settle this question?