

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?

This gull also seems to be unfortunate in the records of its occurrence, distribution, and nesting. The latest A. O. U. *Check-list* gives the correct distribution with the exception of the Colorado record, now known to be an error; but Ridgway has since then perpetuated the impossible record, first made by Fannin (*Check List of British Columbia Birds*, 1891, p. 4) of the breeding of *Larus occidentalis* in the Similkameen Valley, British Columbia—a locality which no gull would nest in, a narrow rocky gash in the mountains.

All Fannin's "*occidentalis*", so labeled by him on the bases of the stands of his mounted birds, were simply *Larus argentatus*. This, in all the harbors of British Columbia, being the next commonest gull to *Larus glaucescens*, he assumed it was the Western Gull—the common gull of the west. Many other observers seem to have made a similar mistake. They took the presence of the Western Gull for granted, a sort of ground pattern on which to work in the records of the other species. These last they identified; the "Western Gull" was assumed. In all my coastal voyages on various craft extending back for about thirty-five years I have never seen the Western Gull north of Cape Flattery, not even among the flocks following the steamers on Puget Sound—and I have always been keenly on the lookout for it. Once you round Cape Flattery, it at once becomes the most conspicuous gull.

There are only three records for British Columbia, a molting adult taken by Spreadborough on the south end of Vancouver Island, and two taken at Comox on the eastern shore of that island. The latter are both adults, one being of the light mantled type and the other the dark type so common in California, "*Larus occidentalis livens*" of Dwight. The first of these gave me an idea as to how the "yellow" feet of the Western Gull may have originated. When I shot it I noted that the feet were rosy flesh color. As it lay on the thwart of the boat in front of me, one foot was elevated, the other hung down. As the blood drained from the tissues the color of the elevated foot turned from rosy flesh to yellowish white, not "yellow" by any means, but what might possibly have passed for cream color of a very pale shade, the other foot remaining as in life.

The correct record of the colors of all soft parts is of the prime importance in the Laridae, where so many closely allied species have feet of very different colors. The two black-backed gulls of western Europe, *Larus marinus* and *L. fuscus*, can readily be told apart in life by the feet alone, the former having them flesh colored and the latter yellow. The many false records for the Kittiwake on the Pacific Coast would never have been made if the color of the feet had been looked up.—ALLAN BROOKS, *Okanagan Landing, B. C., March 3, 1922.*

**Waterfowl Caught in Fish Nets.**—On February 28, 1922, while driving along the shores of Tillamook Bay, Oregon, with Deputy Game Warden Geo. Russell, an adult male White-winged Scoter (*Oidemia deglandi*) was seen struggling in a salmon net in which it had become entangled. The net was set in about five feet of water. On being questioned the fisherman told me that during the past fall he had caught several each of loons, scoters and wild ducks in his salmon nets.—STANLEY G. JEWETT, *Portland, Oregon, March 10, 1922.*

**Further Record of Savannah Sparrow in California\*.**—Mr. C. I. Clay, in *THE CONDOR*, vol. 19, 1917, p. 68, published a record of the occurrence in Humboldt County, of the Savannah Sparrow (*Passerculus sandwichensis savanna*). This bird was identified by Dr. Joseph Grinnell of the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, Berkeley, California, and constituted the first published record for the state.

During the field work of 1921 two sparrows were taken at Kneeland Prairie, Humboldt County, California, by Mr. Chester C. Lamb and myself, the identity of which I did not like to be too positive about without further professional opinion. These were submitted to the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, and pronounced by Mr. H. S. Swarth as being typical *Passerculus sandwichensis savanna* of southeastern Alaska. These two specimens were taken on September 29, 1921, in company with some of the Dwarf Marsh Sparrow (*Passerculus sandwichensis brooksi* Bishop).

Two specimens of this genus were taken by Mr. C. Littlejohn and myself at Re-

\*Contribution No. 135 from the California Academy of Sciences.