

It is interesting to note that practically all the birds found in the first nest had their heads eaten off when I found them. Another item of interest was the fact that all the birds or other animals found were of an injurious bearing from the economic standpoint, showing that the Screech Owl, in this locality, does its part in maintaining the balance of nature favorable to the interests of man.—ERNEST D. CLABAUGH, *Berkeley, California, August 10, 1925.*

Two Species New to the Avifauna of California.—The writer owns a ranch two miles north of Bard, Imperial County, California, and considerable collections have from time to time been made in that neighborhood, either during vacations or on special trips in the interest of the Natural History Museum, San Diego. The two species listed below appear to be new to the recorded avifauna of California.

Junco mearnsi. Pink-sided Junco. On October 24, 1924, while collecting in the woods on the California side of the Colorado River, one mile north of Potholes, Mrs. May Canfield shot a male of this species from a flock of twenty or twenty-five juncos feeding among fallen willow leaves. The taking of a *Junco caniceps* and many *Junco oregonus shufeldti* in the past had prompted close scrutiny of all juncos in the region. The specimen is now no. 2858, collection of L. M. Huey. Another *Junco mearnsi* was taken by the writer at his ranch (within four miles air-line of Potholes) on January 15, 1925. This specimen was taken from a mixed flock of forty or more juncos that had been feeding at the doorstep since October, 1924. These individuals had been scrutinized many times and this peculiar, dark, pinkish bird noted; but not until the above date in January did an opportunity to collect it occur. It proved to be a female and is now no. 9708, collection of the Natural History Museum. Study of the summer and winter ranges of this species leaves little doubt but that this bird occurs often within the boundary of California, along the lower Colorado River. The astonishing fact is that it has not been taken before. Storms occurring along its migration routes in the mountains of Utah and eastern Arizona would have a tendency to drive this species, and perhaps many others, down the Colorado River—in spite of the fact that certain portions of the river are most inhospitable.

Dendroica tigrina. Cape May Warbler. It was with no little surprise that, when crossing the head gates of Laguna Dam at Potholes on September 23, 1924, I saw this strange warbler fly from a bunch of dates in a palm growing within thirty feet of the waters of the Colorado River. The bird was feeding with several Lutescent Warblers (*Vermivora celata lutescens*) on the luscious fruit and flushed with them at my approach. It returned after a short flight and was reluctant to leave, allowing me to get within a few feet and thus secure a very close view. In conversation later with other collectors who have had experience with this species, I was informed that this habit of gentleness is characteristic. The bird proved to be an immature male and is no. 2814, collection of L. M. Huey. The normal breeding and winter ranges of this species place it on the "accidental" list in California; for it was hundreds, if not a thousand, miles off of its regular migration course.—LAURENCE M. HUEY, *Natural History Museum, San Diego, California, September 16, 1925.*

The Franklin Gull in Colorado.—The Franklin Gull (*Larus franklinii*) has always been considered a rare bird in Colorado. The first record (by Cooke in the "Birds of Colorado", 1897, p. 51) states that W. G. Smith took one at Loveland. No trace of this specimen has been found, so far as the writers are aware. Mr. W. L. Sclater, in "A History of the Birds of Colorado", p. 19, states: "Though quite a common bird on migration, both in Kansas and Utah, Franklin's Gull is hardly known from Colorado. In fact the only record is that of W. G. Smith who took it at Loveland, on May 6th, while Anthony examined one in Denver, stated to have been killed near by. Felger reports that Miss Patten noticed this gull, May 8th, 1905, near Yuma, and Hersey (09) saw one at Barr, October 17th, 1907." The above data is all that we have been able to find on the occurrence of the Franklin Gull in Colorado.

On August 28, 1925, the present writers were collecting at Barr Lake, and in the middle of the afternoon we saw a few small gulls drifting in from the seepage ponds to the eastward. At least two hundred birds worked by from two to four o'clock. Two specimens collected proved to be adult Franklin Gulls in post breeding plumage.

In talking with Mr. Wilson, in charge of the irrigation project at Barr, we were informed that the gulls had been common about the lake for the past two weeks and that "thousands of the gulls have been feeding on grasshoppers, working between Platteville and the Milton reservoir."

On August 31 another trip was made to Barr (A. M. Bailey and A. C. Rogers) and Mr. Wilson then stated that the lake had been "white with gulls the past two evenings." No gulls were seen from ten in the morning until three in the afternoon, at which time an enormous flock was noticed on the water, it having apparently alighted on the upper end of the lake and drifted with the wind. It is safe to say this flock of Franklin Gulls numbered several thousand, for from the distance the birds looked like a sand bar. Occasionally they would rise in the air and swirl in wave-like flight, with one end of the flock sweeping the water while the other was high in the air, moving along with that swirling motion so characteristic of many kinds of birds which fly in compact flocks. From their restlessness it looked as though they were feeding, but examination of specimens later proved this was not the case. They remained in the middle of the lake until Mr. Rogers raised them by firing a gun at the west end; the big flock then split into three parts and moved about, often rising high in the air, where their numbers reminded one of swarming bees. A small series was collected, both adults and birds of the year being represented. The gulls did not leave after being disturbed, but re-assembled on the lake, where they presumably spent the night.

The presence of such unusual numbers of gulls this season, in view of their rarity in times past, seems strange, and it is just possible they have been overlooked by the ornithologists who have worked Barr Lake more or less intensively. As stated above, it seemed that the birds were feeding upon the lake; but that they forage the fields by day, and were merely spending the night at Barr, is proven by an examination of the specimens collected. All the birds taken had been feeding almost exclusively upon grasshoppers, and that the birds are of great value to the farmer is attested by the numbers of hoppers with which they were crammed. One bird had 15 grasshoppers in the gullet, and 62 in the stomach, not to mention the ground-up mass of material in the lower stomach. The two birds collected August 28 seem to be the first Colorado specimens to be saved, and are so catalogued.—ALFRED M. BAILEY and ROBERT J. NIEDRACH, *Colorado Museum of Natural History, Denver, September 21, 1925.*

Unusual Behavior of an Ouzel.—On September 5, 1925, while exploring the cirque which lies at the head of the North Fork of the San Joaquin River we were strangely entertained by the antics of a pair of Water Ouzels (*Cinclus mexicanus unicolor*). In the course of the morning climb we happened on a little lake lying at an elevation of approximately 12,000 feet. The lake was partially frozen, there being only a stretch of open water in the center and a dash of swift water that raced into an ice cavern at the lake's outlet. As we approached the lake our ears caught the call-note of the ouzel. Great granite boulders, free from snow, reached out of the lake on the north side, and here we stopped in the sunshine to learn how an ouzel might behave amid such bleak surroundings.

Soon we located not one ouzel, but two. They were splashing in and out of the swift water near the outlet. Occasionally a bird would paddle about on the surface, but usually they would dive completely out of sight. While we watched, one of the birds would sing a few notes as though he might be practicing his winter song. Finally the birds separated, one following the swift water into the ice cavern, while the other flew to a boulder where a snow bank reached out of the lake, and not twenty feet from where we sat. After bowing a few times he left the boulder and flew to the snow bank. And now we learned something new about an ouzel. This bird ran to and fro on the steep snow slope, pausing here and there to pick up frozen insects. At times his ramblings took him twelve feet from the water. Never before had we seen an ouzel feeding so far from water and we wondered if he had not learned some feeding tricks from the Rosy Finches who also foraged over the snow banks about the lake.—ENID MICHAEL, *Yosemite, California, September 30, 1925.*

Northern Say Phoebe in California.—The Northern Say Phoebe (*Sayornis sayus yukonensis*) was described by Bishop (Auk, vol. 17, April, 1900, p. 115), with type locality at Glacier, White Pass, Alaska. It was refused recognition by the A. O. U.