

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.