

the width of the white band. It occurred to us that counting the white feathers in a median line would prove the point; but this proved difficult and inconclusive in the dry and distorted skin.

In character of the markings on the feathers of the breast there is no departure from the condition in *bairdi*. The upper breast is broadly and solidly black, the black band not penetrated posteriorly with white streaks to such an extent as in *aculeata* and *angustifrons*.

The group of woodpeckers here dealt with, in so far as the province of the old A. O. U. Check-list is concerned, would now seem to stand as follows:

1. *Balanosphyra formicivora bairdi* (Ridgway). California Acorn-storing Woodpecker.
2. *Balanosphyra formicivora martirensis* Grinnell and Swarth. San Pedro Martin Acorn-storing Woodpecker.
3. *Balanosphyra formicivora angustifrons* (Baird). Narrow-fronted Acorn-storing Woodpecker.
4. *Balanosphyra formicivora aculeata* (Mearns). Mearns Acorn-storing Woodpecker.

—J. GRINNELL and H. S. SWARTH, *Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, University of California, Berkeley, March 13, 1926.*

Occurrence of Sabine Gull at Playa del Rey.—On April 22, 1926, arriving about noon at Playa del Rey with Mrs. Bates and Miss Craig, I found the tide low and extensive mud flats exposed. Few birds were then about the lagoon, but in a very short time we saw a small gull, its black feet extended in the act of descending to alight on the margin of a flat directly opposite us. Its head was apparently black, and its outspread wings were extensively black. It was recognized at sight as a Sabine Gull (*Xema sabini*). Five and six power binoculars were instantly turned upon it, and practically all field identification marks observed, though the plumbeous tone of the head and the black collar could not be distinguished at the distance the bird was from us. The yellow tip of the black bill was seen, and the slaty tone of the gray mantle was noted. The bird walked along the margin of the water, giving us a view of the folded wing, showing the white tips of the black primaries. Presently it flew across the channel, revealing the white tail, shallowly forked, and again alighted at the water margin facing us.

We then noticed a slight yellowish stain on the white breast. It walked into the shallow water, then swam about, and presently began to bathe. This process was carried on most vigorously for several minutes, particular attention being paid to the lower parts, to which the bill was applied repeatedly. Rising from the water it alighted nearer us on a flat directly in front of our place on the dunes, where it proceeded to shake and preen its plumage, again and again endeavoring to clear off with its bill a small spot of heavy oil that we now saw on its underparts. Thus the yellow stain was conveyed to the white breast. It then flew down to the lower end of the lagoon where it alighted near a large flock of resting gulls. It had held our undivided attention for nearly half an hour, and we now left it for a time.

Somewhat later a careful search of the lower area, including the beach and the pier, failed to reveal its presence, and we concluded that it had probably resumed its migratory journey, and that to that hampering spot of oil, and its need to free itself of it, we owed our fortunate chance to see this beautiful and rare visitor to our shore. Glad we are that we were at the right place at the right time. Our thoughts follow him on his long journey with the hope that the menace of that clinging burden may yet be overcome.

Subsequently, on May 20, a Sabine Gull was seen standing on Hermosa Beach, in the vicinity of the pier. In this favorable situation we approached quite near it, where the slaty hood and the black collar, not distinguished in the individual previously seen, were definitely observed. This bird, like its predecessor, was suffering from oil, but it plainly was not the one seen April 22.—FRANCES B. SCHNEIDER, *Los Angeles, California, May 24, 1926.*

Juvenal House Wren Reveals Ancestral Trait not Apparent in Adults.—On June 3, 1923, five nestlings of the Western House Wren (*Troglodytes aedon parkmani*) were banded at Altadena, California. On June 19, these juvenals, just out of the nest and