

Pisobia ruficollis is at present in the "Hypothetical List" of North American birds, one record, from Nome, Alaska (Thayer, Condor, XI, 1909, p. 178), being regarded as too questionable, and another (Buturlin, Condor, XII, 1910, p. 44) as too indefinite to be satisfactory. The capture here recorded establishes the species as of at least occasional occurrence within the territory included by the A. O. U. Check-List. Dr. Hanna tells me that the bird was alone when he shot it.—H. S. SWARTH, *California Academy of Sciences, San Francisco, March 26, 1927.*

The Plumages of Certain Gulls.—*Larus hutchinsii* was the name given by Richardson (Fauna Bor.-Amer., II, 1831, p. 419) to a large, pure white gull said to breed on the Albany River in the far north. After passing through various vicissitudes, this name was held by Dr. Dwight (The Gulls of the World, Bull. Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist., LII, 1925, p. 246) to apply merely to an unusual plumage of the second winter of *Larus hyperboreus*. That it is more than this, in fact the regular late winter plumage in both the first and second year, acquired chiefly by fading of the fresh fall plumage, all the specimens of the young of *L. hyperboreus* I have seen lead me to believe; and the same fading and wear produce much the same effect in the only other of the white-winged gulls that I have been able to study extensively, *Larus glaucescens*.

Starting with the juvenal plumage of buffy, mottled with pale grayish clove-brown above, with the wings, tail and under-parts chiefly pale drab (as described by Dr. Dwight), fading goes on with great rapidity, as would be expected with such a plumage of pale grays and browns exposed to a brilliant sun and salt water, as Dr. Dwight showed years ago. As a result, by January there is little of the original color left, and by March and April these birds become almost completely white. These changes are shown in the following specimens in my collection, all of which have the slender, pointed primaries of the first year.

Four young, which I collected at St. Michael, Alaska, in September, 1899, show the juvenal plumage as described by Dwight. One collected by Mr. Wyman at Hyperion, November 24, 1915 (Los Angeles Museum, no. 14142), has faded to a dirty brown; another taken January 28, 1921 (L. A. Mus., no. 4397), is still whiter; and a third, of March 26, 1917 (L. A. Mus., no. 1800), closely resembles the birds I will now describe.

The "*hutchinsii*" plumage is well shown in a yearling male (?) *Larus hyperboreus barrovianus*, which I collected at Hyperion, Los Angeles County, California, March 13, 1922 (no. 32968, coll. L. B. Bishop). It is pure white, except that there are faint indications of the dark markings on rectrices and rump, a few dark shaft stripes on lesser wing-coverts, faint streaks on head and face, and a dull brownish wash on breast and abdomen, most pronounced on the last. A few fresh feathers appearing on back and scapulars are pale ochraceous, barred with dusky. The shafts of the primaries are very pale yellow, white at tip.

Another yearling male, collected at Anaheim Landing, Orange County, May 13, 1922 (no. 32969), is like the last, but still whiter; the abdomen is pale grayish, and the dark markings are perceptible only on the nape and tail feathers, the bird otherwise being pure white.

A young *L. h. hyperboreus* (no. 8535) from Labrador, said to have been taken in November, but probably later in the year, obtained in 1899 from Mr. Sornborger, is an almost exact duplicate of no. 32968, even to the faint traces of the first winter plumage on rump, wings and abdomen, though the abdomen is a little paler and the rump darker.

Clinching the fact that these are normal young birds in the first winter, changed by wear and fading, a yearling female *L. h. barrovianus* collected by Mr. Hersey at St. Michael, Alaska, July 15, 1915 (no. 27255), has assumed the normal second-year plumage, except as follows: The three outer primaries of each wing, the secondaries, and some of the short wing-coverts are snow white, the primaries with yellowish shafts, and, though greatly worn, the pointed, juvenal feathers. The new feathers, including the inner primaries, are of the normal, second-year plumage.

A series of first-year *Larus glaucescens* which I collected in every month from October to August on the coast of California, the summer birds near Moss Landing, Monterey County, show the same white plumage through wear and fading, though not to so great a degree. The latter would be expected, because the fall plumage of the young of this species is darker than that of *L. hyperboreus*. Females taken in June and August and a male in July (nos. 32975, 32976, 32988) have the primaries, rectrices and tertiaries worn to quills, and they, and most of the rest of the plumage, are yellowish white, the rump and the bases of the rectrices and the abdomen being pale drab

gray. Both the July and the August birds are assuming the normal second-year primaries, and scattered second-year feathers on the back and greater wing-coverts. The shafts of the primaries are pale cream color. The breast and most of the head and neck of the June bird are pure white; in the others a few normal, second-year feathers are on these parts. Two yearling females taken in southern California in April, 1917 (nos. 29449-50), show an earlier stage of this wear and fading, the pattern of the plumage, though much faded, being still easily discernible; the primaries are dirty yellowish, but greatly worn. March birds show less wear and fading, and the same is retrogressively true, back to October, when this species reaches the coast of Monterey County.

Birds in the second year, of this gull, can usually be distinguished even on the wing from the first-year birds by their much whiter appearance at least as early as December; and it is hard to believe that in September their general plumage was light mouse gray mottled with white, with the wings and tail close to Quaker drab, as is a female (which had just completed the first annual moult) which I collected near Victoria, British Columbia, September 2, 1925 (no. 38100). But there is no reason to think this bird was abnormal, as I saw many in similar dress, and all the plumage of the almost white December birds shows both wear and fading.

Added to the above specimens of both these species is the fact that I have never seen a spring specimen of either still showing the gray or drab dress of the fall; and I have looked for such birds both in the field and in collections.

The dark-winged gulls show this plumage too, but to a less degree and probably less frequently, the wings and tail fading only slightly as a rule. In a yearling male of *Larus argentatus* collected at Anaheim Landing, Orange County, California, May 15, 1922 (no. 33003), the lower parts and most of the head, hind-neck and wing-coverts are a grayish white, scattered normal second-year feathers appearing in all parts. Another yearling collected by Mr. Chester C. Lamb at San José del Cabo, Lower California, April 20, 1923 (no. 36442), closely resembles this bird but is somewhat darker.

This bleaching and wearing have gone so far in a yearling female *Larus californicus* which I collected at Sunset Beach, Orange County, June 1, 1917 (no. 29469), that only by its size, and the distribution of what is left of the dark markings on the abdomen, wings and tail, could I be sure of the species. Most of this bird is pure white, the shafts of the primaries yellowish to drab-white with narrow longitudinal spaces light brownish drab on the inner shafts of the primaries, and the normally dark portions of the tail are benzo brown. Probably albinism was a partial explanation of this plumage, as the new feathers appearing on the mantle are pale cinereous, and the tarsi, toes and palmations were creamy white. The bill, with a black tip and a chrome yellow spot on mandible at angle, was otherwise creamy white; but the irides were broccoli brown.—LOUIS B. BISHOP, *Pasadena, California, May 30, 1927.*

Northward Migration of Pacific Loons.—On April 10, 1927, while sailing south along the coast of Lower California, the writer observed a scattered, northbound flock of Pacific Loons (*Gavia pacifica*) flying across San Roque Bay, at about longitude 114° 24' west, latitude 27° 09' north. A careful watch had been kept throughout the 450-mile trip from San Diego, and this was the first observation of these loons on their annual northern flight, not only during this voyage, but for the season.

Additional records of the movements of this species along the west coast of Lower California may throw light on interesting routes followed by these loons, as the writer observed them during April, 1926, flying overland toward the Pacific Ocean from the headwaters of the Gulf of California, while he was camped at San Felipe.

During years prior to 1927, the first northern flight of Pacific Loons has been noted at a much earlier date off San Diego, and it is possible that some of these earlier birds had arrived over the Gulf-overland route, driven north by the warmer climate on the Gulf. However, many more data are necessary before definite conclusions can be drawn.—LAURENCE M. HUEY, *San Diego Society of Natural History, Balboa Park, San Diego, California, June 1, 1927.*

Records of Two Rare Migrants in California.—In a small consignment of bird skins recently purchased by the San Diego Society of Natural History from Franklin J. Smith of Eureka, California, two specimens, rare in California, were included which would seem worthy of record. The specimens and data are:

Baird Sandpiper (*Pisobia bairdii*); Eureka, California; August 20, 1926; female; "Samoa ocean beach near Manila, Calif.;" coll. Franklin J. Smith.