

Varied Thrush (*Ixoreus naevius*): A single bird in immature plumage was seen drinking at the water trough near the barns back of Old Faithful Inn on September 5, 1926. Knight does not record this species in his "The Birds of Wyoming"; Saunders speaks of it as a resident in northwestern Montana west of the Continental Divide and has only one record of it east of the Divide on the Little Horn and Big Horn valleys. Friends of mine have informed me that it has been seen occasionally during the last three or four years in Bozeman, Montana. The place where I saw it is ten miles east of the Idaho-Wyoming state line and about four miles east of the Continental Divide; somewhat east of Bozeman but much farther west than the Big Horn Valley. Its recent arrival at Bozeman and now in the Park suggests that this species is working east with the settling up and irrigation of the mountain valleys.

White-tailed Ptarmigan (*Lagopus leucurus*): A single individual was seen on the open top of Quadrant Mountain, above timberline and about half a mile from the nearest tree. Knight speaks of this bird (that is, the southern form "*alpipetens*") as "resident and quite common in alpine districts"; Saunders speaks of the northern form as common in northwestern Montana and south along the Continental Divide. The nearest previous record has been from the Idaho side of the Tetons about fifty miles south of the present location and ten miles south of the southern boundary of the Park.—M. P. SKINNER, *Jamestown, N. Y., April 19, 1927.*

The Status of the Point Barrow Gull.—Described as a full species, *Larus barrovi-  
anus*, by Ridgway (Auk, III, 1886, p. 330) and accepted as such in the second edition of the A. O. U. Check-List, but dropped in the third as inseparable from *Larus hyperboreus*, which it exactly resembles in plumage (Dwight, Auk, XXIII, 1906, pp. 26-30), the smaller bird, whose range was carefully worked out by Oberholser (Auk, XXXV, 1918, p. 472), stands unrecognised by Dwight (The Gulls of the World, Bull. Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist., LII, 1925, p. 248), who still considers the differences too slight for recognition in nomenclature.

## MEASUREMENTS OF GULLS

Museum number	Locality	Date	Collector	Sex	Wing (all fig- ures are mm.)	Exposed culmen	Depth of bill at base	Depth of bill at angle	Middle toe with nail	
<i>Larus hyperboreus hyperboreus</i>										
No. 3551, coll. G. Willett	Etah, Greenland	Aug. 11, 1925	McMillan Expedition	♂ ad.	458	61.9	27.3	23.4	64.4	
No. 3552, the same	Etah, Greenland	Aug. 16, 1925	McMillan Expedition	♀ ad.	455	58	22.8	21.1	69.2	
No. 40563, coll. L. B. Bishop	Craig, Prince of Wales, Alaska	Apr. 10, 1922	G. Willett	♀ 1 yr.	488.5	65	24	22.7	64.4	
					Average	467.2	61.6	24.7	22.4	66.9
					Greater than next by	7%	26%	34%	29%	8%
<i>Larus hyperboreus barrovi- anus</i>										
No. 4397, Los Angeles Mus.	Hyperion, L. A. Co., Calif.	Jan. 28, 1921	L. E. Wyman	♀ 1 yr.	442	42	18.4	17	60	
No. 14142, the same	Hyperion, Calif.	Nov. 24, 1915	L. E. Wyman	♀ juv.	442	50	18.5	16	61.9	
No. 1800, the same	Hyperion, Calif.	Mar. 26, 1917	L. E. Wyman	♀ 1 yr.	425	54.6	20	18.3	66.8	
No. 40564, coll. L. B. Bishop	Wainwright, Alaska	June 19, 1922	R. W. Hendee	♂ ad.	434	49.2	17.3	18.1	59	
					Average	435.7	48.9	18.5	17.3	61.9
<i>Larus leucopterus</i>										
No. 38623, L. B. Bishop	Miscou Is., N. Brunswick	Dec. 1, 1925	Wil. Bodin	— juv.	391	39.8	14.9	14.3	54.3	
No. 38624, the same	The same	Dec. 30, 1925	Wil. Bodin	— juv.	427	46	18.3	16	57.8	
No. 38625, the same	The same	Jan. 2, 1926	Wil. Bodin	— 1 yr.	400	44.7	17.4	15.6	52	
No. 38626, the same	The same	Jan. 4, 1926	Wil. Bodin	— 1 yr.	389	44	16	14.5	55	
No. 39175, the same	Grand Manan, N. Brunswick	Feb. 28, 1926	Allan L. Moses	♀ 1 yr.	392	43.9	15	14.1	52	
					Average	399.8	44.6	16.3	15	54.4

From the decision of Dr. Dwight, with his unrivalled knowledge of the Laridae, one hesitates to differ; but the facts, as I see them, are that a very small edition of the Glaucous Gull breeds on the Bering Sea coast of Alaska (those breeding on the Asiatic coast being the extreme of the larger form) and wanders irregularly south to southern California. Of this small bird I have specimens of both breeding birds and young from Alaska, and young which I have collected near Los Angeles; and I have examined other immature birds in different collections north to Victoria. These young California birds differ only in the fading of the plumage from young from St. Michael, Alaska, and disagree with young *Larus leucopterus* of the same age, which they have been called (Dwight, *loc. cit.*, p. 255), by averaging larger in every way, especially as to the bill, by having the base of the bill light, like *hyperboreus*, and by the basal portion of the tail being less mottled with white. Possibly the fact that young *hyperboreus* does occasionally wander to the Alaskan coast, as shown by the Craig bird measured below, and one collected by Laing at Unalaska (Cruise of the Thiepval, Victoria Memorial Museum, Bull. no. 40, 1925, p. 11), may have influenced Dr. Dwight's conclusions, and some such birds crept into his measurements; but to my mind, *L. h. barrovianus* seems a very distinct race.

My thanks are due to the Los Angeles Museum and to Mr. George Willett for use of their specimens.—LOUIS B. BISHOP, Pasadena, California, May 30, 1927.

**Eversmann Shrike not a North American Bird.**—The shrike recorded as *Lanius mollis* by Mailliard and Hanna (Condor, xxiii, 1921, p. 93), taken at sea 260 miles west of Sitka, Alaska, September 23, 1920, is really an example of *Lanius borealis*, a young bird wrongly identified, partly through a misconception of the plumage changes in this species. Having myself collected immature examples of *borealis* exactly similar in appearance, I was able, when I saw this bird, to point out to Mr. Mailliard the mistake that had been made, and he has requested me to publish a correction.

Young *borealis* in juvenal plumage is extremely gray colored, but in the first winter plumage, probably acquired in August and early in September, there is a decidedly brown tinge both above and below. This is an evanescent color that is lost a month or so later when the birds go south, and they are then grayish, or (due to their proclivity for visiting the cities) rather dingy from smoke. Such birds make up the greater part of the series in most collections.

The supposed specimen of *Lanius mollis* is in freshly acquired winter plumage, conspicuously brown colored, and notably different from the gray winter-taken birds from southern points; there are others like it in the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology from mainland points in Alaska and British Columbia. Just what are the true characters of *Lanius mollis* I do not know. The presence of barred upper tail-coverts in *borealis*, a feature supposed to distinguish the young of that species from *mollis* (see Seebohm, Ibis, 1882, p. 374), and the absence of which contributed to the misidentification of the specimen here under discussion, is not a feature to be depended upon.—H. S. SWARTH, California Academy of Sciences, San Francisco, March 26, 1927.

**Northernmost Breeding Station of the Heermann Gull on the Pacific Ocean, and other Notes from San Roque Island, Lower California.**—During a short collecting trip along the west coast of Lower California, Mexico, in the interests of the San Diego Society of Natural History, the writer had opportunity, on April 20, 1927, to spend a couple of hours on San Roque Island, which is situated a mile or so off the rocky coast of the peninsula in longitude 114° 24' west, latitude 27° 09' north. This island is low and barren, with an extremely irregular, rocky shore line, and lies in an east-to-west direction. It is approximately one mile long and about one-third of a mile wide at its widest point, with a maximum elevation of not over sixty feet.

A few salt-tolerant plants grow in the more protected situations, the most abundant being a species of ice-plant. Amid this vegetation, on the extreme southeastern part of the island, a breeding colony of about 35 pairs of Heermann Gulls (*Larus heermanni*) was found. The birds were all assembled in a compact group, guarding their nests, which at this date were ready for eggs. In fact, two nests were seen to contain single eggs, proving that within the week full sets would have been completed. The birds in the colony were very tame and permitted the writer to approach within a few rods before they took flight.