

Sabine Gull (*Xema sabini*). My note in the CONDOR (xxix, 1927, p. 73) listed the only records of the Sabine Gull off San Diego County, which were for the years 1905, 1925 and 1926. The year 1927 can now be added, for on September 18, 1927, J. W. Sefton, Jr., shot an immature female off Point Loma, which is now in the collection of the San Diego Society of Natural History. He said there were about twenty-five of the birds all together, but as he believed they were Bonaparte Gulls he collected only one. A week later he was again on the ocean, but no Sabine Gulls could be seen.

Northern Phalarope (*Lobipes lobatus*). On the same day (September 18, 1927), Mr. Sefton observed a habit of phalaropes that seems of interest. He said that a slight breeze caused ripples on the ocean, but that there were "dead spots" where the water was smooth and oily-looking. These areas, caused perhaps by passing fish boats or by some peculiarity of the wind, were in ribbons from ten to a hundred feet wide and from a hundred to a thousand yards long. In these dead spots, and only there, phalaropes were congregated in countless thousands. He said that the effect was that of "rivers of phalaropes" on the surface of the ocean. As usual, the birds were fearless and allowed him to run his motor-boat within a few feet of them. When they took wing, they would fly from one dead spot to another. Mr. Sefton stated that both Northern and Red phalaropes were intermixed, but the one specimen that he collected was one of the former species.

Desert Quail (*Lophortyx gambelii gambelii*). One would expect this quail to occur in suitable areas of eastern San Diego County, but it is a fact that there appear to be no definite records of its capture within the County limits, and the bird is not included in Frank Stephens' "An Annotated List of the Birds of San Diego County, California" (Transactions, San Diego Society of Natural History, vol. 3, no. 2, 1919). I recently was in Borego Valley during the open season for quail and learned from residents that the Desert Quail is common there. At my request, Fritz H. Meyers shot a pair, which are now in the collection of the San Diego Society of Natural History. They were taken on December 5, 1927, near his home in Borego Valley, which is inside San Diego County by a margin of 12 to 14 miles from both the north and east boundaries.

Lewis Woodpecker (*Asyndesmus lewisi*). This woodpecker, usually associated with timbered sections, is known to wander after the breeding season, but one would hardly expect to find it directly on the ocean front. My surprise was therefore great when, on September 24, 1927, I saw one of these birds in the built-up section of La Jolla, City of San Diego. It was flying from yard to yard in front of some houses facing the ocean, and seemed rather disconsolate as I watched it for some time.

California Black-chinned Sparrow (*Spizella atrogularis cana*). Alaska Pileolated Warbler (*Wilsonia pusilla pileolata*). On December 21, 1927, while making a San Diego "Christmas Bird Census" for the magazine Bird-Lore, Laurence M. Huey and I encountered two unexpected winter visitants. The Alaska Pileolated Warbler was in a bougainvillea vine close to the Natural History Museum, Balboa Park, and was uttering a single, rather loud call note. The bird, an adult female, was obtained and is now in the collection of the San Diego Society of Natural History. The California Black-chinned Sparrow was on a shrubby hillside near Lincoln Acres on the outskirts of San Diego. It was an adult male in bright plumage and was observed through binoculars by both Mr. Huey and myself for some time.—CLINTON G. ABBOTT, *San Diego Society of Natural History, San Diego, California, December 24, 1927.*

Fourth Known Occurrence of the Harris Sparrow in California.—For some time I have been banding birds in my yard, which is located in the Kensington Park district of Berkeley. On November 21, 1927, at 10:30 a. m., my wife took a bird out of the trap, that I was unable to identify. It was associated with a flock of Golden-crowned Sparrows.

Upon taking the bird to the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, it was identified by Dr. Joseph Grinnell and others there as an immature specimen of a Harris Sparrow (*Zonotrichia querula*). I then put band number 611057 on it and liberated it near where it was captured. It has not been seen since.

This species is a rare straggler in California, having been recorded only twice by specimens, and once by a sight record. The first specimen, an adult male, was

seen by W. O. Emerson, at Haywards, California, with a flock of Golden-crowned Sparrows on October 27, 1900, and was taken by him the next day (CONDOR, II, November, 1900, p. 145). This specimen is now in the Museum of the California Academy of Sciences in San Francisco.

The second specimen was taken by C. B. Linton at Smuggler's Cove on San Clemente Island, October 15, 1907 (CONDOR, x, March, 1908, p. 84). This specimen was no. 16656 in the Thayer Collection, but is now no. 21272 in the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, Berkeley.

The third record is a sight record made near the home of Mrs. A. S. Allen in Berkeley (CONDOR, xvii, March, 1915, p. 80). This bird was seen repeatedly by a number of reliable observers between December 25, 1912, and February 11, 1913.—ERNEST D. CLABAUGH, Berkeley, California, January 8, 1928.

Fifth Record of Harris Sparrow in California.—During December of each year I operate a bird banding station at Encinitas, San Diego County, California. My traps are located in a small dry canyon about a quarter of a mile from the ocean and thirty miles north of San Diego.

On December 21, 1927, about 2 p. m., I caught a bird which was unknown to me and could not be identified from the books then available. It was associated with the members of a large flock of Golden-crowned and Gambel sparrows. I kept it in a cage until my return to Berkeley, and on January 14, 1928, I took it to the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, where it was definitely identified by Dr. Joseph Grinnell as a first-year individual of a Harris Sparrow (*Zonotrichia querula*).

This is the fifth record of this species in California. Its band number is 569150, and it is at present a contented inmate of my aviary here in Berkeley.—HAROLD H. COZENS, 1631 Posen Avenue, Berkeley, California, January 18, 1928.

The Flammulated Screech Owl in Oregon.—On May 25, 1927, an adult female of this little owl, *Asio flammeolus*, was collected by the writer at an altitude of about 7,000 feet on Hart Mountain in eastern Lake County, Oregon. When first seen, in mid-day, it was perched on a lower limb of a small quaking aspen, not over five feet from the ground, in a thicket of these trees growing on a steep slope of the mountain.

On careful examination, the condition of the ovaries would indicate that this was not a breeding bird. The entire stomach and its contents were preserved and examined by Remington Kellogg, of the U. S. Biological Survey, who reports the food found in it as follows:

Ground beetles, 34 per cent, including *Carabus taeniatus oregonensis*, 2, *Harpalus* sp., 1, *Pterostichus vicinus*, 1, *Pterostichus* sp., 1, *Amara* sp., 1; darkling beetles (small undetermined Tenebrionidae, 1), a trace; carpenter ant, *Camponotus herculeanus whimperi*, 1, a trace; camel crickets, *Ceuthophilus* sp., 2, 2 per cent; caterpillars, 3, 2 per cent; jumping spiders, Attidae, 3, 2 per cent; remains of at least 26 moths, 60 per cent.

This is the first known occurrence of this owl in Oregon.—STANLEY G. JEWETT, Portland, Oregon, November 3, 1927.

Notes on Variations in the White-fronted Goose.—At the time Messrs. Swarth and Bryant wrote their article, "A Study of the Races of the White-fronted Goose (*Anser albifrons*) Occurring in California" (Univ. Calif. Publ. Zool., vol. 17, 1917, no. 11), there were no breeding birds available for comparison, and their article was based almost entirely upon specimens from California. Briefly, for those who do not have access to that paper, the authors have concluded that "two well-defined subspecies of *Anser albifrons* occur in California during the winter months, instead of the single race heretofore recognized." The large rare form, Tule Goose, is considered as *Anser albifrons gambeli*, while the small bird, common throughout the United States, is given as identical with the European form. In addition to size, the two races are supposed to differ in color of plumage, in color of eye-ring, and in the number of tail feathers. The naked skin of the eye-lid of *albifrons* is described as grayish brown, while that of *gambeli* is given as yellow or orange. Females of both races, and the male *albifrons*, are described as having sixteen rectrices, while the male of the larger form is supposed to have eighteen.