

of the San Diego Society of Natural History it appears to be a female or immature bird.

*Larus canus brachyrhynchus*. Short-billed Gull. According to L. M. Huey of the San Diego Society of Natural History, the status of this gull in San Diego County is uncertain. On December 15, 1934, while collecting sea-birds off La Jolla, in company with T. W. Harvey, III, we noticed a gull slightly smaller than the abundant Western, California and Ring-billed gulls. When it flew within range we both fired and secured the bird which has been identified by Mr. Huey as the above species. It is a female and is now in my collection.—KARL W. KENYON, *La Jolla, California, March 2, 1935*.

**Black-headed Jay Mimicking Loon.**—At Okanagan Landing, on a morning in early May, the tremolo call of a Loon (*Gavia immer*) coming, so I thought, from far out on the lake and subdued by the distance, was accepted as genuine without question as to its source. Then my attention was attracted to a party of three Black-headed Jays (*Cyanocitta stelleri annectens*) which moved about in the brush along the lake shore, and, to my surprise, the low, quavering call, again repeated, was traced to one of these birds which was perched on a hawthorn branch thirty feet from where I stood. Upon its last performance the mimicked loon call was followed by a warbled cadence of four liquid notes.—J. A. MUNRO, *Okanagan Landing, B. C., Canada, August 11, 1934*.

**Condors in Northern Los Angeles County, California.**—On August 9, 1934, at a point near the Antelope Valley highway and some eight miles east-northeast of Sandberg, I saw seven Condors (*Gymnogyps californianus*) feeding upon, or flying about, a dead sheep. They were accompanied by two Turkey Buzzards and thirty or more Ravens.

On December 14, 1934, I saw three Condors circling high over the Liebre Ranch headquarters. On December 15 three sailed within fifty feet over Sandberg (on the Ridge Route), going toward Cobblestone Mountain; on December 17, one sailed over at a height of fifty feet, headed northeast toward the desert. On January 12, 1935, three Condors sailed over the same place, 200 feet or so aloft, also headed northeast toward the desert.—HARVEY T. ANDERSON, *Sandberg, California*.

**Unusual Food Habits of California Gulls.**—During the past three years a few local complaints and newspaper reports have been received that gulls in Salt Lake Valley, Utah, have become destructive to the cherry crop. The first report in 1931 could not be confirmed and the State game commissioner wrote that he had been unable to verify the complaints although he had heard of a number.

In 1932 additional reports were received, and during the past season damage was reported in both Utah and Salt Lake valleys. Under date of September 13, 1934, Newell B. Cook, Commissioner of Fish and Game in Utah, wrote the following:

“As the cherries ripened in different localities in the State, the Sea-gulls would work heavily on this fruit. If you were to go to Rock Island this fall, you would find the entire north end of the island covered with cherry stones. This is also true of some of the islands of Great Salt Lake. These birds were very destructive the last year to Utah’s crop of cherries.

“During the hot weather of early July the Sea-gulls also worked heavily on grasshoppers and crickets. They would eat and disgorge several times a day. This also happened in 1929 at Roy, Utah.”

A number of competent and reliable observers have witnessed the gulls feeding on the cherries, and in localized areas the damage has been considerable. Mr. C. Lynn Hayward, of the zoology department of Brigham Young University, Provo, Utah, writes under date of January 23, 1935, that since the gulls appeared to be unable to alight in the foliage, they would hover over the trees and beat the fruit down with their wings. The birds would then fly to the ground and feast on the harvest. A county agricultural agent reported that in many cases the ground was heavily covered with ripened fruit and that the birds had practically stripped the trees.

Mr. Hayward further reported that “the gulls now nest on Rock Island, Utah Lake, in great numbers and the colony there has been on the increase for a number of years. A number of parties who visited the island last summer report . . . that the ground in the vicinity of the nests was thickly strewn with cherry stones. Just how long the

gulls have been attacking the cherries I do not know, nor do I have any definite information as to just how widespread the damage is."

It is reported that almost countless cherry stones can be seen near the nesting sites on the various islands of Great Salt Lake where the California Gull (*Larus californicus*) nests. A report from Davis County states that in addition to knocking the cherries to the ground, the gulls flop down in the tops of cherry trees, with outspread wings supporting their weight, and devour all fruit within reach.

This new food habit seems to have been developed largely as the result of an increased gull population and consequent greater competition for the limited food supply.—CLARENCE COTTAM, *U. S. Biological Survey, Washington, D. C., February 12, 1935.*

**Another Winter Record of the Townsend Warbler in Portland, Oregon.**—On January 11, 1935, a male Townsend Warbler (*Dendroica townsendi*) was found dead in a small park near Chapman School in Portland, Oregon, by Ruth Russell Du Bois. This constitutes the fourth winter record of this species for Oregon. The first bird, found on January 13, 1928, was recorded by Gabrielson and Jewett (*Pacific Coast Avifauna* no. 19, 1929, p. 40) and the second and third, January 12, 1931, and January 13, 1932, were reported by Jewett (*Condor*, 34, 1932, p. 190).

It is worthy of note that the birds were found on almost identical dates of the various years, that is, January 13, January 12, January 13, and January 11. A further item of interest is that the first, third, and fourth birds were found by Mrs. Du Bois under the same small grove of fir trees.—H. M. DU BOIS, *Portland, Oregon, January 24, 1935.*

**Random Notes on Raptors at Florence Lake, California.**—My limited acquaintance with the raptors may prove of interest to those who may be compiling economic data for or against these birds. Personally there is one of this family that visits Florence Lake, Fresno County, California, that I come as nearly hating as it is possible for me to despise any of Nature's children. That is the Sharp-shinned Hawk (*Accipiter velox*). And I am grateful for the fact that they come to plague me for a few days only, in September.

Sometimes a single one will turn our usually peaceful bird haven into utter chaos. More often, there are several of them together, as many as six sharp-shins having been here at the same time. While they remain it matters not what luckless bird shows itself on the feeding ground, the sharp-shin drops on it, grasps it out of mid-flight or eventually gets it when it seeks safety in a tree. From dawn until dark these bloodthirsty fellows snatch our pets. A few have paid the penalty, but more often they escape Mr. Lofberg's aim.

Chickadees, juncos, Brewer Blackbirds, Robins and Blue-fronted Jays are the birds that are here at the time, to be preyed upon. Whether the Clark Nutcrackers are wiser or their size intimidates this hawk, I do not know. Whatever the reason, the nutcrackers go about unmolested.

For several years we had chickens. In December or January of those years, a Western Goshawk (*Accipiter atricapillus striatulus*) would try to catch a chicken—and occasionally succeed. The hens would give their danger call and I would grab Mr. Lofberg's revolver and hurry out. I would merely shoot a hole in the air, the report frightening me quite as much as it did the goshawk, yet the bird would hasten away. Every eleven days, during the time the goshawk was in the vicinity, this comedy would be re-enacted. Over a period of six years we know the goshawk killed four of our chickens. Two of these I was able to retrieve for our own use, as I arrived at the kill. But the other two were partially eaten when I arrived on the scene. Even so, I hold no particular grudge against these birds. With the goshawk, creatures do have an even chance; but with the sharp-shin, they are doomed the moment the sharp-shin sees them. Or so it seems to me.

Apparently the goshawk did not prey on our birds. Jays and nutcrackers set up a clamor when this hawk was near and they would flock above it. The other birds sought cover. But I never saw it bothering any of them, and since we disposed of the chickens the goshawk no longer comes at all.

Two pairs of Golden Eagles (*Aquila chrysaetos*) spend a long summer season near Florence Lake. One pair apparently has a nest on the dikes two miles north of us, though I have been unable to locate their aerie. They hunt over Lower Jackass