

appeared at different points along the roadway or whether it was perhaps a family group. Our experience the first evening made us suspect that there were more than one bird.

Our next opportunity to visit the region came on September 1 and 2, when no Poor-will was seen. This spring we have taken two evening drives on the sandhill road. The first one, on May 3, was without result but the second on May 22 was more successful. After having driven over the hill and back three times we were returning home with a negative verdict when a Poor-will fluttered across the road just in front of our windshield. Returning to the spot we got the eye-shine for a split second as the bird came into view around a curve. But it was headlight shy and flew the instant the light struck. However, these two observations led me to conclude that the birds probably nest on this sandy hill.

In August numberless moths were flitting in front of our headlights, but in May moths were few and far between. Whether it was this scarcity which led to the difference in behavior or whether it was the secretive instinct of the breeding season I cannot say. It is even possible that in August we were seeing young birds not yet wise enough to recognize the danger attendant upon too great familiarity with the automobile.

As I said before, the eye-shine was the color of a live coal. Also the eye looked very large in proportion to the size of the bird. Not once did we get the reflection from both eyes at the same time; nor did we hear any sound either vocal or mechanical in connection with its flight. So long as the bird perched on the ground the spot of light was motionless and showed no turning of the head from side to side.

After having known Poor-wills for many years only from the call, it was a distinct pleasure to see the bird in action and to learn something at first hand concerning its habits.—AMELIA SANBORN ALLEN, *Berkeley, California, May 23, 1935.*

**Glaucous Gull on the British Columbia Coast.**—At Departure Bay, near Nanaimo, Vancouver Island, during the month of March, 1928, and during the period February 25 to March 25, 1929, one or more Glaucous Gulls (*Larus hyperboreus*) was encountered almost daily; 5 were seen on March 28, 1928, and 3 were in sight at one time on March 20, 1929. The total number observed was 12 in 1928 and 10 in 1929. All were young birds in various stages of immaturity. So far as I am aware no adult Glaucous Gulls have been reported from British Columbia. In the totals given, which are estimated, allowance has been made for individuals which might have been seen more than once; but, as a matter of fact, many of these birds possessed some character of plumage which served to identify them individually. In no instance was a bird so distinguished seen more than once, a fact which points to their being transients. Invariably they were among the large flocks of Glaucous-winged Gulls that had been attracted by local spawnings of herring.

At first, mistakes in identification were made, examples of immature *glaucescens* with bleached primaries and light-colored backs (also bleached) being mistaken for immature *hyperboreus*. But on examining specimens of the latter a character was noted which afterward served as an identification mark in the field. I refer to the coloration of the bill, which in immature birds is ivory, lightly shaded with pale yellow or vinaceous, except for the terminal one-third which is abruptly dusky. This holds good with all but one of the immature specimens of the species I have examined. In the case of *Larus glaucescens*, birds of the year have a uniformly dark bill, while in older birds the otherwise light-colored bill is clouded with areas of dusky purple that contract as age progresses. Never, so far as I am aware, does there occur in this species the definitely bi-colored bill characteristic of immature *hyperboreus*.

The exception noted is a male taken on March 28, 1928. This specimen apparently is in the third winter plumage, the yellow-shafted primaries are white, secondaries and tertials largely drab gray, the unmarked rectrices pale ecru drab with white edges, and the mantle chiefly pale neutral gray. This is the oldest of five specimens collected. The coloration of the bill while fresh was ivory and pale vinaceous blotched with benzo brown and with a subterminal, irregular blotch of dusky extended along to a point below the nostril. This particular color-combination is common in *Larus glaucescens* of similar age. The possibility of this specimen being a hybrid between *Larus hyperboreus* and *Larus glaucescens* has been considered.

On March 14, 1929, I was concealed near the edge of a cliff watching a flock

of Glaucous-winged Gulls on the water and on the beach a hundred feet below, when a large gull with pale-colored mantle and white primaries alighted among them. Swimming about in constant activity it frequently elevated its wings and I was startled to see (through 6X binoculars) that on the two outermost primaries of each wing about four inches from the top were dusky areas conspicuous against the otherwise immaculate surface of these feathers. These markings could be detected also when the wings were folded. The tail was pale fawn-color, faintly mottled, this and the streaked head being the only indications of immaturity noted. The mantle was pale bluish-gray. This bird moved about on the water for five minutes or so; then, taking wing and circling several times over the flock of gulls below, it passed within twenty-five yards of my hiding place, thus providing a different aspect of the wings from that obtained while the bird was at rest. It clearly was observed that the dusky wing markings were not an extraneous stain such as contact with crude oil might have caused. After alighting on the water again and resting there for a short time the bird again arose and flew to a small reef 200 yards away. There it could be seen, conspicuously large and light-colored among a gathering of Glaucous-winged Gulls, with head relaxed between the shoulders as if ready for an extended rest. Anxious to secure this specimen I made haste to return in a boat with my gun, but a fisherman just ahead of me put the gulls to flight and I never saw the bird again, although for a week afterwards each gathering of gulls was carefully scanned.

At the time, it was thought, and I still am of the opinion, that the bird in question answered to the description of the Nelson Gull, *Larus nelsoni*; but lacking the proof there is no intention of recording it as such.—J. A. MUNRO, *Okanagan Landing, B. C., July 20, 1934.*

**The English Skylark on Vancouver Island.**—Sentiment for the homeland has prompted the transplanting of things that had somehow taken root in our hearts when years were longer and life was at the Spring. Maybe it is only a prairie flower, or a long-remembered race of beans that climbed to the skies on the old homestead and hung heavy with pods of infinite tenderness. Really, the writer, twice in the present planting season, has had offered him a handful of beans whose kind had been the family stay in lands remote, when grandfathers were barefoot boys and dutifully dropped the seeds for their sires to cover with the hoe.

But sometimes it is birds, whose nests clung to the thatched eaves or whose song filled the unforgettable summer days. There have been many attempts to perpetuate memories of the homeland by the introduction of these feathered friends into the transplanted settlements of our country, some of them succeeding measurably well, some of them too well. We are all familiar with the English Sparrow, which came whether he wished to or not and stayed whether we liked its kind or would have them hence. And more recently the European Starling, coming by request and connivance, has perched all over our eastern landscape and promises to be gone nevermore. In this connection we will be pardoned for a hint of sympathy with the Chinaman who may or may not have released the Crested Mynahs of the Orient in his gardens on the Fraser River delta. In his heathen heart may have stirred something of the same longings that fill the soul of the transplanted European.

Most of the many attempts to introduce the European song birds of romance and story into our land have resulted in failure, or but temporary success; this, dare we say, partly by reason of their finer spiritual qualities that ill adapt them to competition and strife in new surroundings. The English Skylark itself has failed in several instances where its introduction had been carefully and hopefully planned. In fact, from present knowledge of the matter, faithfully gleaned, the colonization of skylarks in the district about Victoria, B. C., is unique in its success—so far. For no other attempt at introduction of the bird into America has attained the goal of permanent residence. Perhaps the distinctively English countryside about Victoria and the evident sympathetic regard of the transplanted Briton for the skylark has made the bird feel more at home there than elsewhere on our continent. In some American minds and policies there is strong sentiment against mingling avifaunas, even though the introduction were safe and sane from a biological standpoint.

At any rate, about 100 pairs of English Skylarks (*Alauda arvensis*) were liberated on the southern end of Vancouver Island in the fall of 1903. Ten years