

Colton called my attention to a drowned bird in a bowl of water in her flower garden. It proved to be an immature male, Z8.524, of this species. Identification checked by McCabe.—LYNDON L. HAR- GRAVE, *Museum of Northern Arizona, Flagstaff, February 18, 1936.*

Notes from Maricopa County, Arizona.—During the period between January 31 and February 9, 1936, the writer, with three student assistants, S. G. Harter, Philip Lichty and Norris Bloomfield, collected birds and mammals for the San Diego Society of Natural History from a base camp 10 miles south of Gila Bend, Maricopa County, Arizona. Among the birds taken were a few worthy of mention, either for the locality or their occurrence at this season.

Green-tailed Towhees (*Oberholseria chlorura*) were particularly abundant and many were seen all during our stay. A single Woodhouse Jay (*Aphelocoma californica woodhouseii*) was seen and shot at by the writer on February 1; and two specimens of Chestnut-backed Bluebirds (*Sialia mexicana bairdi*) were taken from a small flock that was found ranging over the desert plains on February 8. Both the Leconte Thrasher (*Toxostoma lecontei lecontei*) and Crissal Thrasher (*Toxostoma dorsale dorsale*) were singing; a female of the former species that was collected showed signs of incubating. A single Myrtle Warbler (*Dendroica coronata hooveri*) was secured on February 8, and of two specimens of white-crowned sparrows collected, one was *Zonotrichia leucophrys gambelii* and the other *Zonotrichia leucophrys leucophrys*; taken on February 1 and 2, respectively. A pair of Canyon Towhees (*Pipilo fuscus mesoleucus*) was found, which, both from their behavior and from dissection, were apparently settled for the breeding season.

A small fresh water mollusk (*Succinea*) was found in the rump feathers of a Western Vesper Sparrow (*Poocetes gramineus confinis*) collected on February 4, and was the first example of molluscan "hitch hiking" via the avian trail that the writer had ever seen.—LAURENCE M. HUEY, *San Diego Society of Natural History, Balboa Park, San Diego, California, March 11, 1936.*

Asiatic Gyrfalcon in the Okanagan Valley, British Columbia.—The Asiatic Gyrfalcon so seldom is recorded from southern British Columbia that any observations of its actions would seem of interest to place on record. On December 19, 1935, a young female (*Falco rusticolus uralensis*) was collected under the following circumstances.

I was motoring past a small brush-fringed creek in otherwise open country when some one shot at, and missed, a female mallard which then flew over the open range toward Okanagan Lake. A large falcon suddenly appeared and flying after the duck on the same level gained upon it rapidly, whereupon the duck swerved from its former straight course and the falcon shot past it. The duck then spiraled down to a small ice-covered pond where it alighted. The falcon flew swiftly toward the standing bird and in the next five minutes or so swooped at it again and again, each time clearing the duck by a foot or more. After this it alighted on the ice about eight feet from the duck and remained there motionless for a few minutes. The mallard quacked continuously but did not move from its position. The falcon then rose and again began swooping at the duck. By this time my companion and I were walking toward the pond, one on either side and several hundred yards apart. When distant from the pond about 75 yards the mallard rose and flew toward Okanagan Lake and the falcon, passing close to my companion, was shot.

In the crop of the gyrfalcon were approximately two ounces of flesh from the breast of a male mallard, identified by the presence of the characteristic chestnut-colored breast feathers. The weight of this specimen was three pounds and twelve ounces; bill, cere, and rectus pale green-blue gray; the bill darkening to dark gull gray toward center, and with the terminal third black; tarsus court gray; iris dark brown.—J. A. MUNRO, *Okanagan Landing, B. C., January 15, 1936.*

Bird Records from near Phoenix, Arizona.—Sheltered canyons in the vicinity of Phoenix, Arizona, have offered us many thrills, but the greatest probably came on January 23, 1936. We were below the Stewart Mountain Dam in a great semi-circular area made by the dam and the canyon sides. The winter had been mild, one side of the canyon was covered with generous splotches of chuparosa (*Beloperone californica*) in bloom. When we drove into the area we remembered having seen Costa and Black-chinned hummingbirds on February 10, 1934, in a similar situation about 25 miles away.

With the aid of 8-power binoculars we started working the area and soon found several each of Costa and Black-chinned hummingbirds and then noticed a larger one, which seemed to be spending at least a part of the time in the trees going over the undersides of the leaves and branches. Between feedings he chased a gnatcatcher away. Soon we saw the bright color of the bill and on consulting the guide realized we were seeing a Broad-billed Hummingbird (*Cyanthus latirostris*). We each saw it six or eight times at close range and with binoculars.

That should have been enough, but on the way home we stopped at Mesa to tell our friend Earl Sanders of our find and he said he had one for us. We climbed up about 18 feet in an old olive tree where he showed two young Western Mourning Doves (*Zenaidura macroura marginella*) about ready to leave the nest. From Mr. Sanders' notes we supply the following data: "Nest with two eggs found January 5, hatched the 9th or 10th." On January 23 they were well feathered, with the face marks plain. The nest was a last year's Mockingbird's nest.—HARRY L. CROCKETT and RUTH CROCKETT, 90 Columbus Avenue, Phoenix, Arizona, March 2, 1936.

A Harris Sparrow Observed near Chico, California.—On March 16, 1936, my wife and I were surprised to see a large black-faced, black-throated sparrow feeding with a flock of Gambel and Golden-crowned sparrows near our window. We soon identified the bird as the Harris Sparrow (*Zonotrichia querula*). The bird remained about our place for two days, giving us many opportunities to observe it at a distance of about 15 feet. Generally it was associated with the Golden-crowned Sparrows and occasionally would pursue one of these about the shrubbery and grapevines. During its brief stay at our ranch the bird sang several times from the higher branches of an apple tree. The song seemed to me to resemble that of the Gambel Sparrow though there was something distinctive about the last two notes. We tried to catch and photograph the sparrow but without success.—LLOYD G. INGLES, *Chico State College, Chico, California, March 23, 1936.*

Notes on Alaskan Birds.—1. Additions to the Avifauna of Kodiak Island. To my recent list (Bull. Chicago Acad. Sci., vol. 5, no. 3, 1935, pp. 13-54) may be added two more birds.

Phaeopus hudsonicus (Latham). Hudsonian Curlew. One record, an adult, unsexed, collected at Graveyard Point, Afognak Island, May 14, 1916, by the late E. M. Ball, and now in the United States National Museum.

Certhia familiaris montana Ridgway. Rocky Mountain Creeper. While my paper was in press, the late Harry S. Swarth wrote me that the California Academy of Sciences had a Kodiak-taken specimen of this creeper, collected by Hanna. This is the first record for the island. I am indebted to Mrs. Davidson for the complete data on this bird: Woody Island, Kodiak Island, September 21, 1920.

2. The Mongolian Plover on St. Lawrence Island and its status as a breeding species in North America. The United States National Museum has recently received a few birds from Paul Silook, an Eskimo collector on St. Lawrence Island. Among them is an adult (unsexed) Mongolian Plover, *Charadrius mongolus mongolus* Pallas, taken at Gambell, in the western part of the Island, in May, 1935. It constitutes the first record for this island and the date leads one to wonder if it might not have been going to breed there, but of that there is no evidence. Hitherto the species has never been recorded as nesting anywhere in North America, although the presence of three young birds on Nunivak Island in mid-August (Swarth, Pac. Coast Avif. No. 22, 1934, p. 27) was suggestive. However, now it may be definitely stated that it does nest in Alaska. The data are as follows:

In an earlier note (Condor, vol. 36, 1934, p. 89) I recorded an adult male Mongolian Plover collected at Goodnews Bay, Alaska, by Mr. D. Bernard Bull, on June 10, 1933. In a letter written to me on December 4, 1934, Mr. Bull said concerning this specimen, "... the Mongolian Plover was a nester; I took three eggs, nearly fresh and have them in my collection now; is this not the first American record of actual breeding?" I replied (December 13, 1934) that it was and that he should publish it. Nearly half a year later (May 11, 1935) I again wrote him urging him to publish his data, but either my letters never reached him or he was unable to attend to the matter. Inasmuch as a year has elapsed since his letter, I am publishing these data lest the record be lost.

3. The range of Peale Falcon. According to all authorities, the breeding range of *Falco peregrinus pealei* includes the Aleutian Islands (Kyska, Unalaska, the "nearer islands," that is, the eastern ones of the Aleutian chain) and the islands off the coast of southern Alaska (Sergief Island, Forrester Island) south to the Queen Charlotte Islands (Graham Island, Langara Island), and also the Commander Islands on the Asiatic side of Bering Sea. A recent study of this falcon reveals, however, that the birds breeding in the Commander Islands are different from Alaskan (that is, typical) *pealei*. The Commander Island birds have the pectoral spots, especially in the female, very much broader than in *pealei* and the abdominal bars somewhat broader as well. It seems that the name *rudolphi* Kleinschmidt (Falco, vol. 9, 1909, p. 19) based on a winter bird from Hakodadi, Japan, may be available for the Commander Island duck hawks, but this is not certain, for at least three races of the species are apt to occur in Japan in winter. Hartert and others have considered *rudolphi* a synonym of *pealei*, probably on the basis of comparison with Commander Island birds, which would indicate that the name be applicable to the birds of that area. The breeding range of the Peale Falcon, at any rate, is restricted to the Alaskan islands south to the Queen Charlotte group.—HERBERT FRIEDMANN, U. S. National Museum, Washington, D. C., December 19, 1935.