

Larus hyperboreus. Glaucous Gull. A male of this species was collected at the Seaside lagoon on January 5, making the fourth specimen known for this county. The right wing of this bird had been broken by a rifle slug, and it was badly infected with gangrene when the individual was captured. Two additional individuals were seen at this locality on this same date, and two more were observed by L. O. Williams and von Bloeker at the estero in Monterey on January 8.

Tyto alba pratincola. Barn Owl. The recent cold spell, in which the thermometer dropped as low as 20°F. (the coldest temperature recorded in 18 years) in the Salinas district, apparently caused the small, normally nocturnal mammals of this region more or less to cease activities at night, and it forced them abroad more in the daytime. As a result, owls were obliged to do their foraging by day, too. This we found the Barn Owls and a Short-eared Owl (*Asio flammeus*) doing in the salt marsh at the mouth of the Salinas River during our operations there. On December 23, one Barn Owl which too closely encroached upon the territory of a Marsh Hawk (*Circus hudsonius*) had the temerity to attempt to "stand its ground" when attacked by the hawk. For several minutes feathers were flying as the birds met face to face in the air and struck at each other with feet and wings. Finally the Barn Owl, apparently realizing it was no match for its adversary, dodged off to one side and rapidly flew away while the hawk returned to its perch to preen its ruffled plumage.

Phalaenoptilus nuttallii californicus. Dusky Poor-will. On the evening of January 7, while setting traps for small mammals at Camp Ord, 3½ miles east of Marina, Rudd and von Bloeker heard the call of a Poor-will. The call was repeated a number of times.

Aeronautes saxatalis saxatalis. White-throated Swift. A large flock, numbering approximately 150 individuals, was observed each day from January 1 to 9 at the mouth of El Toro Canyon. Sometimes the flock behaved as a unit, soaring, wheeling, and turning *en masse*. At other times, the individuals flew according to their own whims, each independent of the flock. In such instances the group would become widely scattered in the air, then suddenly, as if some signal had been given, they would gather together again and fly in flock formation as a unit again. Four specimens were collected in this locality on January 1. On January 10 flocks of seven in Chualar Canyon and eight in Wild Horse Canyon were seen.

Tachycineta thalassina lepida. Violet-green Swallow. Swallows of this species were observed in small numbers in company with a large flock of nearly 300 Tree Swallows (*Iridoprocne bicolor*), flying over the Salinas River at the mouth of El Toro Canyon every day between December 31 and January 9. We estimated the ratio of Violet-green Swallows to Tree Swallows in this mixed flock to be one to twenty.

Sialia currucoides. Mountain Bluebird. A small flock of seven individuals was seen flying on the morning of January 3 across the road at Camp Ord in a northwesterly direction.—O. P. SILLIMAN, *Salinas, California*, and JACK C. VON BLOEKER, JR., *Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, Berkeley, February 15, 1937*.

The Harris Sparrow in Northwestern Montana.—On October 2, 1936, while watching a flock of Gambel Sparrows (*Zonotrichia leucophrys gambelii*) that had been feeding daily for more than a week on weedseeds at my farm home near Fortine, Montana, I discovered among them a bird entirely new to me. After continued study of the bird from as near as four feet, I identified it as an immature Harris Sparrow (*Zonotrichia querula*). It was seen again the following day; and on October 4 and 5 two birds of this species fed with the Gambel Sparrows.

On the morning of October 6 there were five Harris Sparrows in the mixed flock, of which one was taken by a hawk later in the day. The remaining four birds fed about the yards, sometimes by themselves and sometimes with the Gambel Sparrows, for more than a week. In keeping with the usual crepuscular habits of *Zonotrichia*, these four birds regularly frequented the feeding-grounds in the deep twilight of early morning and late evening. The Gambel Sparrows began to thin out as some resumed their migration, the last one of the season being seen October 14. The four Harris Sparrows, however, all remained until October 15; two were seen daily from that time until October 20.

Though there seems to be no previous record of the occurrence of this species west of the continental divide in Montana, this region is within the general range covered by casual occurrence of the Harris Sparrow in migration. But to me it seemed remarkable that after watching migrating *Zonotrichia* about my home during twelve seasons, my first record of the Harris Sparrow should involve five migrating birds that used a common feeding-ground, that did not appear or remain together, and that seemed to be migrating in at least two groups. A possible explanation is that these five birds together moved southward from their summer home in company with Gambel Sparrows, and so reached this locality west of the main range of the Rockies. This explanation, however, is weakened by the fact that the Harris Sparrows did not travel as

a unit flock, but they appeared together only at times at a favorable feeding-ground, and by the fact that all of them remained here after the last Gambel Sparrows had departed.

During the morning of October 6, while the five Harris Sparrows then present were feeding on the ground about thirty feet from my house, I slowly approached them with a camera in hope of securing a distant photograph of the group. As I stood in full view about twelve feet from the birds they suddenly scattered precipitately. A blur of feathers hurtled into a small birch tree about a rod from where I stood, and a second later there emerged a Sharp-shinned Hawk carrying one of the sparrows in its talons. Almost before I realized what was happening, the hawk with its prey skimmed by within two feet of my shoulders, skirted a corner of the house, and disappeared. A few seconds later the remaining four Harris Sparrows were again picking up weedseeds in the spot they had been forced to vacate so suddenly.

As the birds did not fully conform to any of the available published descriptions of the varying plumage of this species, I venture to include here a digest of my incomplete notes taken and rechecked at various times as I observed these Harris Sparrows daily for three weeks. It is perhaps significant that the five birds were practically identical in size and plumage coloration. "General comparison with Gambel Sparrow: decidedly larger and heavier, about three-quarters of an inch longer; back, wings, and tail much as in *gambelii*, but with streaks on back more uniform in width, the contrast between brown and gray not so marked; wings with narrow whitish or pale buffy bars, tips of primaries margined with whitish; tail without light markings. Entire head and neck except throat, an unmarked light brown, forming a hood (suggestive of a female towhee) that cuts sharply across the breast; no suggestion of black on crown; center of throat with a wedge-shaped patch of clear white narrowly margined at the sides with deep brown or black. Brown head 'hood' separated from the clear white underparts by a conspicuous band of dark brown or black spots and streaks, this band widened at the center to form a large, triangular patch narrowing downward through the central part of the breast. Sides of chest, flanks, and under tail-coverts heavily washed with medium brown. All markings of throat and breast very distinct and conspicuous, with no merging of outlines or colors." Thus the birds appeared to me in life.—WINTON WEYDEMEYER, *Fortine, Montana, March 11, 1937.*

Notes on the Saw-whet Owl.—The known breeding range of the Saw-whet Owl (*Cryptoglaux acadica*) extends southward in the mountain ranges of western North America to southern California (San Jacinto Mountains, Stephens, Condor, vol. 4, 1902, p. 40), southern Nevada (van Rossem, Pac. Coast Avif. No. 24, 1936, p. 24), central Arizona (San Francisco Mountain, Mearns, Auk, vol. 7, 1890, p. 54), and probably northern New Mexico (Bailey, Birds of New Mexico, 1928, p. 338). But also the species is known from Mexico south to Vera Cruz. A related species occurs in the arid tropical zone in Guatemala (Griscom, Am. Mus. Nov., no. 438, 1930, p. 1). It is entirely in keeping with this widespread occurrence that this owl should be found in southeastern Arizona, and it is only surprising that it has not heretofore been met with in this section of the western cordillera.

On the evening of May 18, 1936, in Bar Foot Park, 8300 feet, in the Chiricahua Mountains, Cochise County, Arizona, the rhythmic whistling of a Saw-whet Owl was heard at a distance. The next evening at twilight, just after the Whip-poor-wills had become active, one of these owls began calling in some low aspens at the foot of a talus slope near camp. I had no difficulty in approaching the bird and shining its eyes. The owl was collected (no. 68855, Mus. Vert. Zool.) and proved upon dissection to be a male, with testes 7 mm. in length. At 2:30 a.m., the same night, I again heard the notes of a Saw-whet in the distance. A lengthy stalk, lasting more than half an hour, was made possible by the continuous calling of the bird. Although I could not induce it to move toward me by imitating its note, it was not disturbed by my noisy approach through two hundred yards of deciduous oak scrub on a talus slope. Finally its calling tree was reached, a dense *Pseudotsuga* on the crest of a ridge bounding the park. There it remained effectually concealed in the dense foliage immediately overhead. With every gust of wind, it stopped calling, and finally, shortly before daybreak, it ceased altogether.

This experience substantiated a belief that, several years before, I had called one of these owls into camp one night in the Sierra Ancha, Gila County, central Arizona. In the evening of June 6, 1931, on Workman Creek, west of Aztec Peak, in the low Transition zone of these mountains, at 5500 feet, the rhythmic whistle of this owl was heard. The note was coming from a steep slope above a cliff on the north-facing side of the canyon. After my imitation of it for about 15 minutes, the bird came down into the canyon bottom, fluttered overhead, and perched close to me in an open tangle of live oaks and alders. There it called excitedly and loudly. In the beam of the light it appeared distinctly yellow, and no ear tufts were noted. Unfortunately an effort to collect it failed.