

there were approximately a dozen of these gulls feeding in a cow pasture at the time of the collection. The specimens, now mounted (without data) in the State House at Boise, have been identified by Marshall who mentions the deep red bill color and the white primary tips as diagnostic. They have also been seen by Stanford, who concurs with this determination. Attention was first drawn to this record by Jones.

(3) A flock of about fifty birds was seen on May 24, 1941, near Henry, Caribou County, by Victor E. Jones and L. H. Walkinshaw. The gulls were wheeling about high over head and were identified by Walkinshaw as Franklin Gulls.

(4) An unstated number was seen on November 11, 1941, near Springfield, Bingham County, by V. E. Jones and his son. These birds flew over within shotgun range, but were not recognized until too late for a shot.

Finally, Mr. Stanford states that he has seen this species occasionally in the last five years along the Snake River in the vicinity of Weiser and as far downstream as Old's Ferry, on the Oregon boundary, but his notes are not now available for examination.

From the foregoing it would appear that the Franklin Gull occurs occasionally in spring, summer, and autumn at various points along the Snake River drainage in southern Idaho, although additional specimens are needed to substantiate the several sight records. The possibility that breeding colonies may be established in this part of the state seems good, and stragglers might profitably be looked for on the larger lakes of the northern panhandle during migrations.—JOHN W. SLIPP, *University of Washington, Seattle, June 26, 1942.*

Contacts of Ravens with Other Species.—In the past seven years I have observed three instances of contacts between Ravens (*Corvus corax*) and other species that seem worth recording. The raven was attacked in two cases and was the aggressor in one encounter.

On July 10, 1935, on the Flambeau River in Phillips County, Wisconsin, I was watching the activities of a pair of Crows (*Corvus brachyrhynchos*) in the tops of some dead spruce spars. They had young near by. A raven flew past and was immediately assailed by the crows. The squawks of the raven as it twisted and dodged were very much like those of the crows, yet deeper and louder. A few days later (July 12) I watched a raven on a tall snag near its young. A Red-tailed Hawk (*Buteo borealis*) which was soaring in circles chanced to pass near in one of its movements. It was set upon by the raven much in the manner of a crow; the hawk was pursued approximately a mile before the raven gave up the attack.

On April 30, 1942, I visited a cliff in the "scablands" near Lamont, Whitman County, Washington. A Prairie Falcon (*Falco mexicanus*)erie on the cliff was but a hundred feet from the nest of a raven. The falcon's nest had undoubtedly been used for many years; the accumulation of material probably exceeded a ton in weight and the bottom material was much decomposed. Decomposition takes place slowly in the semiarid atmosphere of this region. The raven nest was apparently a new one. It was placed in a wide crack behind the pillars formed by weathering of the cliff. As my companion and I approached the nest, the raven flew off the nest and away from the cliff. It was immediately set upon by the falcon which launched itself from its nest. The raven wheeled quickly, passed over the cliff and across the highland. It kept a few feet from the ground during its flight, and the falcon gave up the pursuit rather quickly. It appeared that the "hedge-hopping" flight of the raven was a mechanism for making it difficult for the falcon to stoop.

The explanation for the proximity of the nests of the two species seems to be that the raven began nesting before the falcon had returned to the old nesting site. The seven young of the raven were well-fledged, but the falcon nest contained four eggs which did not hatch until the following week.—LEONARD WING, *The State College of Washington, Pullman, Washington, July 20, 1942.*

Blue-winged Teal Nesting in Sacramento County, California.—On June 4, 1942, Mr. Terrence Potter and I were checking bass nests in the spawning pond at the Elk Grove bass hatchery in Sacramento County, when a pair of Blue-winged Teal (*Querquedula discors*) alighted close to us in an adjoining pond. The white crescent at the base of the bill of the drake showed very plainly. The large, white spot on either side of the body near the base of the tail was also prominent. I was positive of the identification.

On June 12, while draining the spawning pond, a male dropped into the pond about 60 yards from us. This was too far to observe the white crescent, but the white spot near the base of the tail showed plainly. Mr. Abe Woodard and Rudolph Gerhardt were with me at the time.

Later the same evening a male and female were in rearing pond No. 8 with a brood of seven ducklings. I had to approach quite close for positive identification because there were a number of

Cinnamon Teal with broods of young. I flushed the Blue-wing drake from the pond and watched it settle in another pond. I again flushed it, and it returned to pond No. 8 where it had been with the female and young. This, in my mind, is pretty convincing that the young were the offspring of these two birds.—C. H. FREYSCHLAG, *Bass Hatchery, Elk Grove, California, July 24, 1942.*

Blue-winged Teal with Young in Honey Lake Valley, California.—On June 17, 1941, Jay Dow and I were driving along the first road to the north of Hartson Lake in Honey Lake Valley, Lassen County, California. As we crossed a small, wet swale a pair of Blue-winged Teal (*Querquedula discors*) was noted close to the road; with them was a brood of young which was without doubt their own. The male was in full breeding plumage and thus was positively identified.—J. S. HUNTER, *Division of Fish and Game, San Francisco, California, July 24, 1942.*

Food of the California Clapper Rail.—The recent article on the food of the Clapper Rail by Moffitt (*Condor*, 43, 1941:270-273) records crabs as the only crustacean food of 18 California Clapper Rails (*Rallus o. obsoletus*) examined by him, and our perusal of the literature has not revealed others.

To make published data as complete as possible, it seems desirable to record our finding of several amphipods in the upper esophagus of a female Clapper Rail. This bird was collected October 29, 1938, about one-half mile north of Alviso, Santa Clara County, California, as it fed through the low vegetation of the salt marsh. Unfortunately, we have no record of its stomach contents. Another individual was watched for several minutes at distances of a few feet as it foraged among salicornia and sedges. It appeared to be picking small objects from the vegetation, and we supposed it to be feeding on insects and small crustaceans. Two or three small areas of exposed mud were crossed without probing. These observations were made in mid-morning of a heavily clouded, partly drizzly day. The tide was low.

It should be noted that many mud snails (*Ilyanassa obsoleta*), to which the rail paid no attention, were in full view on the surface of the mud. Although not seen on that day, large numbers of the horse mussel, *Modiolus demissus*, were known to occur in the mud of the area. Also present in large quantities was the small mud crab, *Hemigrapsus oregonensis*. Because these species are all mentioned by Moffitt as forming considerable percentages of the stomach contents of the birds examined by him, it is of particular interest that they were not hunted by the two rails we watched, even though known to be present in quantity in the immediate area concerned.—FREDERICK H. TEST and AVERY R. TEST, *University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan, July 1, 1942.*

The Scissor-tailed Flycatcher on the Florida Keys.—Supplementing previous evidence indicating that the Scissor-tailed Flycatcher (*Muscivora forficata*) is a more or less regular winter visitant to the Florida keys, the authors wish to report four individuals seen January 3, 1942, at the eastern end of Lower Maticumbe Key, about 80 miles east of Key West. The birds were observed for about ten minutes at distances of 15 to 60 feet while they were perched on wires beside the Overseas Highway and while catching insects on the wing. Because of their short tails and pale colors they were adjudged females.

Previous winter records include five listed by A. H. Howell (*Florida Bird Life*, 1932:319) for the period from 1885 to 1930, three by Alexander Sprunt, Jr. (personal letter), for the winters of 1937, 1938 and 1939, and one by Joseph E. Warren and Earl R. Greene who recorded two birds seen on December 26, 1941, near Key West (*Audubon Mag.*, supplement, January-February, 1942:34). Howell (*loc. cit.*) also cites five winter records for the mainland of Florida between 1885 and 1930.—GEORGE A. PETRIDES and MIRIAM P. PETRIDES, *Washington, D.C., June 13, 1942.*

An Avifauna from Indian Kitchen Middens at Buena Vista Lake, California.—Excavations of two large shell heaps on the southwesterly shores of Buena Vista Lake, Kern County, California, were made in 1933 and 1934 under the direction of the Smithsonian Institution. These sites were chosen because it seemed likely that they would contain quantities of archaeological material (Wedel, *Smithsonian Inst., Bur. Amer. Ethnol., Bull.* 130, 1941:194). Most of the remains found there are probably not more than 500 years old. The bones of birds, mammals, reptiles, and fishes, taken from the village middens together with the artifacts, were sent to the United States National Museum for examination. A study of the mammal remains showed that almost every available species