

two birds had been observed at the refuge in previous winters, and 13 individuals were taken in the open hunting season of 1934.

Larus argentatus. Herring Gull. The Herring Gull is becoming a fairly common visitor to the Bear River marshes, although it was considered merely an accidental visitor to the State until about 1938. Since that time a dozen or more have been seen each year and a number of specimens have been taken. In June, 1915, at the mouth of the Bear River, Dr. Alexander Wetmore found the remains of a specimen that had died during the previous winter or spring. Despite three seasons of intensive work on the Bear River, Wetmore did not find a live bird. Most of our records refer to the spring or fall, but a few individuals have been noted throughout the winter, and at least one immature bird spent most of the summer of 1941 in the northern part of Salt Lake Valley. Since February 26, 1943, one or more birds have been observed almost daily on the Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge.

Sturnus vulgaris. Starling. We regret to report that this unwelcome foreigner seems to be increasing rapidly in Utah. Between 75 and 100 birds were observed feeding on the glasswort (*Salicornia*) mud flats near the headquarters of the refuge on March 12, 1943. They have been observed by a number of the refuge personnel. If the birds become abundant and firmly established, this fruit-producing section of northern Utah will probably suffer as a result of their depredations.

Leucosticte tephrocotis littoralis. Hepburn Rosy Finch. On February 2, 1943, Williams and Jensen observed a flock of some 300 rosy finches—many of which were Hepburn—feeding on the foothills near Willard, Utah. Observation was made under favorable light conditions, at close range, and with the aid of good field glasses; there seems little chance for misidentification, but it is unfortunate that no specimens were taken.—CECIL S. WILLIAMS, G. HORTIN JENSEN, and CLARENCE COTTAM, *United States Fish and Wildlife Service, Chicago, Illinois, May 10, 1943.*

A Record of the Western Tree Sparrow in Southern California.—In the early days of ornithology in southern California, Riverside was a center of much activity. One of the vanguard of young collectors of that community was W. W. Price. His specimens became widely scattered through exchanges and a number of his "takes" have proved to have distinct significance. Notable was his record of a Yellow-green Vireo obtained in 1887 at Riverside (Price, *Auk*, 5, 1888:210).

Just recently come to light through the alertness of Brighton C. Cain of Oakland is a Western Tree Sparrow (*Spizella arborea ochracea*) taken by Price on February 7, 1888, at Riverside, California. The specimen presumably was brought to Oakland by Price, for he attended high school there. It was found in the collection of E. G. Mervin of that city who in 1936 gave his collection to the Oakland Boy Scouts; most of the birds were taken locally by Mr. Mervin and his brother in 1891 and 1892. Mervin told Cain that he had been greatly helped in starting his collection by Price.

The record specimen, now no. 87811 in the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, bears a pink-stringed jeweller's label, on which is written in ink: "Riverside, Cala.," and on the opposite side, "Bells Sparrow ♀ W.W.P. 2-7-88"; the words "Bells Sparrow" are crossed out in pencil. The writing agrees well with samples of Price's handwriting of that period, especially with that on a label of a Yellow Warbler taken by him in April, 1888, at Riverside. Loye Miller, who was a schoolmate of Price's at the time, can adduce no evidence that would throw doubt on the authenticity of this specimen and its data. Identical jeweller's labels were used in that period by Price, and he would not have been expected to switch labels, although there is no absolute proof that such did not occur. Several common local species were misnamed by these young ornithologists and it is not surprising that the Tree Sparrow should have been called a Bell Sparrow.

This record is the first for the Tree Sparrow in southern California. The species has been reported six times from five localities in northern California, once as far south as Pacific Grove, Monterey County (Kimball, *Condor*, 24, 1922:97).—ALDEN H. MILLER, *Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, Berkeley, California, April 23, 1943.*

Fungus Disease in a Glaucous-winged Gull.—On February 15, 1943, an immature (2 year old) male Glaucous-winged Gull (*Larus glaucescens*) was obtained by Bolander on the shore of a pond near the Palace of Fine Arts in San Francisco, California. Autopsy of this bird seemed to indicate it had been dead but a few hours. The lungs exhibited extensive lesions and were hardly more than a mass of greenish, powdery fungus surrounded by an irregular thin covering of recognizable lung tissue that was only paper-thick in some places. There were also tubercular-like lesions on the liver and heart. The clavicular, cervical, axillary and thoracic air sacs did not show definite lesions but contained an abundance of the green fungus. The fungus was grown on a corn meal-agar medium and determined to be *Aspergillus fumigatus*, a common cause of mycotic pneumonia in both wild and domestic birds. Davis and McClung (*Jour. Bact.*, 40, 1940:321-323) recently reported an outbreak of this disease in Herring Gulls about the harbor of Boston, Massachusetts, in which they estimated

a loss of 60 gulls in a flock of about 200. We were unable to obtain any other records of sick or dead gulls attributable to this infection in the San Francisco Bay area.—CARLTON M. HERMAN AND GORDON BOLANDER, *Bureau of Game Conservation, California Division of Fish and Game, San Francisco, May 18, 1943.*

Harris Sparrow in Washington.—Recently when Mr. Stanley Jewett stopped in to examine the bird skins in the collection at Walla Walla College, he discovered the skin of a Harris Sparrow (*Zonotrichia querula*) which was taken in Walla Walla County, Washington, on February 20, 1938. Mr. Jewett regards it as the first authentic record for the state.—ERNEST S. BOOTH, *Department of Biology, Walla Walla College, College Place, Washington, May 10, 1943.*

European Starling Problem in Eastern New Mexico and Adjacent Western Texas.—Previous reports of the European Starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*) in New Mexico have recorded its spreading to new localities and indicated an increasing number in the eastern part of the state (Condor, 42, 1940:86; 43, 1941:197; 44, 1942:182).

It now appears that there is a definite trend toward the building up of a large number of these birds in this area which produces sorghum for grain. During the past winter, counts were made of flocks of Starlings at intervals when they happened to be noted during investigations of cranes. The counts were as follows:

Nov. 27, 1942	—9 miles southeast of Roswell, N. M., in alfalfa field where cattle were pastured	75
30	—3 miles east of N. M. Military Institute, Roswell, N. M.....	25
Dec. 8	—3 miles northeast of Roswell, N. M., where road crosses Berrendo River.....	50
10	—1 mile north of Dexter, N. M., mingling with Cowbirds, Red-winged Blackbirds, Brewer Blackbirds, pipits, and gulls.....	25
	1 mile south of Hagerman, N. M.....	125
	3 miles south of Hagerman, N. M.....	600
	4 miles south of Hagerman, N. M.....	200
13	—just south of Lubbock, Texas.....	15
13	—just south of Ackerly, Texas.....	150
17	—5 miles east of Roswell, N. M., at Bogel farm.....	25
31	—2 miles north of Carlsbad, N. M.....	25
Jan. 5, 1943	—1 mile north of Portales, N. M.....	250
23	—3 miles south of Hagerman, N. M.....	800
	Total.....	2,365

These counts evidently represented only a small portion of the total number of Starlings present, since no special effort was made to record the birds except while the writers were driving along the highway from Dexter to Artesia, New Mexico, on December 10. Continued increase will probably aggravate the damage wrought by blackbirds and cranes which is already being felt by the farmers.—CLARENCE A. SOOTER and LUTHER C. GOLDMAN, *United States Fish and Wildlife Service, Frenchglen, Oregon, April 20, 1943.*