

Point Lobos, California:  
50 Western Gulls  
(also 24 aluminum only)  
H. M. Hill and T. H. Work.

blue  
aluminum  
white

Tomales Bay, California:  
17 Western Gulls  
H. M. Hill and T. H. Work.

black  
aluminum black

Farallon Islands, California:  
174 Western Gulls  
(also 82 aluminum only)  
H. M. Hill and T. H. Work.

white  
green      aluminum

Records on these gulls have come in, even during the war; every record helps to fill in the picture of migration and life history. Location of banded adults during the summer months is especially desired for data on breeding colonies.

The numbered aluminum bands from birds found dead should be sent to the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington, D.C. If a living gull is seen, observe *carefully* the color combination, and report with date, place, and your name to the writer.—MRS. M. C. SARGENT, *Box 109, La Jolla, California, April 10, 1946.*

**Copulation Performed by Killdeer During Incubation Period.**—On April 29, 1946, at the Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge, Brigham, Utah, a female killdeer (*Oxyechus vociferus*) was closely observed leaving her eggs, which she had been incubating for 16 days, and advance about 8 feet from her nest site to meet an approaching male. Almost immediately copulation took place, after which the female wiggled her tail and shook her feathers, then returned to her nest and resumed incubation.—LLOYD F. GUNTHER, *Bear River Refuge, Brigham, Utah, May 1, 1946.*

**An Unusual Flight of Sharp-tailed Grouse.**—A long flight of a flock of Sharp-tailed Grouse (*Pedioecetes phasianellus*) was observed along the foothills east of Providence in Cache County, Utah, on March 22, 1946. The flock of twenty-three was sighted at 10 a.m. on a stormy cold day. Snow had been falling just prior to the time of observation. When first sighted the grouse were approximately a quarter mile south of the observers traveling in a northward direction at approximately 200 feet above the ground.

The grouse were identified by both writers. Field glasses were used to follow the flight as the birds flew north along the base of the mountains. The grouse were still progressing north when they were last seen approximately  $2\frac{1}{2}$  miles north. The birds undoubtedly came from the south end of Cache Valley where the largest remaining numbers of this grouse in Utah are found. A refuge has been established in this end of the valley for the grouse. A few have been reported within the past year in the north end of the valley. Speculation arises as to whether these birds were migrating from an area of too great concentration of grouse or whether the flight was part of a regular spring movement which we have not detected before. If flights of such length occur with any regularity, the one small refuge area in the south end of the valley may be inadequate to protect and to supply other needs of this grouse.—JESSOP B. LOW, *Utah Cooperative Wildlife Research Unit*, and DAVID M. GAUFIN, *State Fish and Game Department, Logan, Utah, April 22, 1946.*

**Notes on Distribution and Color of the Mexican Turkey Vulture.**—Friedmann's synopsis of the North American races of *Cathartes aura* (Proc. Biol. Soc. Wash., 55, 1933:187-190) cites Mazatlán, Sinaloa, as the northernmost point of occurrence for the Mexican Turkey Vulture on the west coast of México. While there has been a suspicion that the actual range of the race, northwardly, would be found to be approximately coextensive with the Lower Arid Tropical Zone, no specimens have been collected in order to settle the question until recently.

On March 7, 1946, I recorded the wing and tail measurements of two dried carcasses found on one of the harbor beaches at Guaymas, Sonora. A few days later, on March 14, I shot two males from an assemblage of some half-dozen breeding pairs on Isla de los Burros, a sand island sometimes designated as Isla Lechuguia, off Topolobampo, northern Sinaloa. One of these was prepared as a specimen (Dickey Coll. no. 33341), the other was measured and the colors of the soft parts recorded. On the basis of these four individuals it is evident that the range of *Cathartes aura aura* extends northward on the west coast of México to at least latitude  $28^{\circ}$  in Sonora. The measurements in millimeters of the four birds are given below. The wing length is that of the natural chord (not flattened) from the carpal edge to the tip of the longest primary; the tail length is measured from the insertion of the central pair of rectrices to the tip of the longest.

		Wing	Tail
Sex?	Guaymas, Sonora.	485	240
Sex?	Guaymas, Sonora.	497	250
Male	Isla de los Burros.	500	250
Male	Isla de los Burros.	490	244

Of chief interest, however, were the colors of the soft parts of the two males, in which they were identical. These colors were noted immediately. It is well to stress the "immediately," since they began to change a few minutes after death and after the lapse of an hour bore little resemblance to those of the living bird. Not having a color chart at the time, the color terms in quotes are an approximation based on field notes. Head, neck, cere (including encirclement of nostrils), tarsi, and feet, about "Carmine" or "Eugenia Red," the color more or less concealed on lower tarsi and feet by whitish scales and excrement; extreme lower bare portion of neck at juncture with the feather line, yellowish orange, the color mostly concealed and obvious only on examination; transverse corrugations across crown between eyes and small tubercles on preocular region, ivory white; transverse corrugations of hind crown, nape, and sides of head, grayish blue (about "Deep Green-Blue Gray"); iris, grayish brown; bill, ivory white; claws, dull black. Within fifteen minutes after death the tarsi and feet had changed, through blood drainage probably, to dull yellowish white and the red portions of the head to reddish brown. The blue became darker and at first more violaceous but within an hour was blackish brown. In the now dried specimen the once red, orange, and white parts of the head and neck are a dirty "Yellow-Ochre," the once blue area is a nondescript dull black, and the tarsi and feet are pale, dull brown.

When adequate and reliable data have been gathered and the variations due to age, sex, and season are accurately known, it is likely that current ideas as to characters and the relationships of the several races of the Turkey Vulture will undergo some revision. Concerning our two northern races (*septentrionalis* and *teter*), the existing published data are very unsatisfactory. It is suggested that close scrutiny of living birds with the aid of binoculars, especially during the nesting season, would produce information of value.—A. J. VAN ROSSEM, *Dickey Collections, University of California, Los Angeles, March 29, 1946.*

**A Ross Goose Taken in Wallowa County, Oregon.**—On January 24, 1946, I received a pair of wings from State Police Officer George Rogers of Enterprise, Wallowa County, Oregon, with a request that I identify these remains of a bird shot in his district. They proved to be from an immature Ross Goose, *Chen rossii*. As no previous occurrence of this vanishing species was known from the northeastern section of Oregon, I wrote requesting additional information. Under date of January 29, 1946, Rogers replied that the Ross Goose "was killed on November 4, 1945, by I. S. Surber. He and Bill Warnock were hunting ducks out on the J. H. Dobbin ranch about three miles southeast of Enterprise and were walking along one of those small streams which flow through the place when a bunch of mallards got up. This little snow goose got up all alone and attempted to follow along behind the mallards but was downed by Mr. Surber." Recent known occurrences of the Ross Goose outside of its regular winter range have been few and far between and should be placed on record.—STANLEY G. JEWETT, *Portland, Oregon, February 18, 1946.*

**The Identity of the Orange-crowned Warblers of the Santa Monica Mountains, California.**—The peculiar distribution of the insular form of the Orange-crowned Warbler has been reviewed and mapped recently (Grinnell and Miller, *Pac. Coast Avif. No. 27, 1944:393-395, fig. 40*). This race, the Dusky Orange-crown (*Vermivora celata sordida*) has been found nesting in two mainland areas. The northernmost of these is the Point Firmin-Point Vincente district, Los Angeles County, where breeding *sordida* has apparently been satisfactorily identified by sight in the field (Willett, *Pac. Coast Avif. No. 21, 1933:143*) as sometimes may be done with this form. The Santa Monica Mountains, scarcely twenty miles north of Point Vincente, support a breeding population of Orange-crowned Warblers which has never been identified subspecifically. The coastal position of these birds and the fact that the Santa Monica Mountains probably once were connected with the Channel Islands has made it seem possible that the birds would prove to be *sordida*. Nevertheless, in mapping ranges (*loc. cit.*) it was guessed that the birds of these mountains were *V. c. lutescens*, which form occurs in adjoining interior mountains and in coast ranges north of the Santa Clara Valley of Ventura County.

On March 17, 1946, I took three males at Topanga, Los Angeles County, in the Santa Monica range about four miles from the coast. These birds were settled on breeding territories, were singing regularly, and had fully enlarged gonads. All are *lutescens*, their color and bill size being characteristic of that race. There is no clear evidence of intermediacy, although the birds are not as brilliant as the more highly colored variants of *lutescens*.—ALDEN H. MILLER, *Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, Berkeley, California, March 29, 1946.*