

History of a Wintering Harris Sparrow at Berkeley, California.—An immature Harris Sparrow (*Zonotrichia querula*) was first observed near my home in north Berkeley, California, on the morning of November 22, 1948. It was foraging on the ground in association with Gambel White-crowned Sparrows (*Zonotrichia leucophrys gambelii*). It was not seen again until November 26, when it, or another individual, was seen going to a feeding station for the first time. It was seen daily the rest of November, 25 days in December, 29 days in January, 1949, 24 days in February, 26 days in March (heard singing three of the days not seen), 18 days in April to and including the 19th, which was the last day it was seen. Observations were generally made from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

My garden, in which these observations were made, is part of an almost continuous strip of native live oak and toyon with a scattering of redwood, deodar, atlantic cedar, pine, spruce, acacia, eucalyptus and garden association extending for about one-half mile north and south just above the first sharp rise in the slope of the Berkeley Hills. This strip connects on the north with a canyon in which the flora is somewhat more in the original native state and the cover is heavy. The garden is almost never visited by Nuttall White-crowned Sparrows or English Sparrows which are resident 100 yards below.

Some interest was shown by the Harris Sparrow in suet, finely chopped meat, weed seed, "Instant Ralston" breakfast cereal (salvage), both plain, and baked with waste kitchen fat and a small amount of baking soda and salt. None of these except baked cereal was taken consistently. Sunflower seeds were not eaten. By far the greatest amount of feeding was done in the tops of the live oaks where animal food appeared to be taken. An especial interest was shown in the dried pomes of *pyracantha* left on the bushes in the late winter. The eating of grass was observed on several occasions.

The plumage, as recorded on November 22, was "Head brown, crown finely marked, cheeks buffy, fine black line on sides of throat, throat white, irregular black blotch across breast below white throat, bill dark flesh color." On November 26, the crown was darker, the throat grayish, and the black was more concentrated at the center of the breast blotch. The black lines at the sides of throat seemed less distinct. The tail feathers were of uneven length, with those at rest on top approximately 1 cm. shorter than those below. The tail feathers gradually grew out until by December 11 they appeared all about the same length. There was no further discernible change until March 14, when more black was noted on the chin. On March 22 I noted: "More and more black on throat and face, especially about the bill, and buffy streaks on sides showing black at forward end." April 9: "More black on face, throat, breast and sides. The bill, which lost color somewhat during the winter, again deep flesh." April 11: "Notably darker, daily, on face and throat. Streaking on sides now almost entirely black on left side; on the right side it is faded buff except at the front where it is black." April 16: "Throat appears solid black." April 19: "Cheeks definitely gray and crown black."

The first observation of song was on February 14. The song included notes in the lower register of the song of the Gambel Sparrow mixed with high squeaking sounds; it generally ended in a coarse croak. There was little of the plaintive quality heard later. There seemed to be no repetition of phrases then or later. Characteristic sounds were merely delivered singly and in combination. By mid-March the song had taken on a more musical quality and consisted primarily of a long, loud, quavering, musical note descending slightly in pitch, followed by one or more notes of less volume, sometimes lower in pitch. In addition to the wholly musical song, musical notes were often included in a series of coarse sounds. Also heard occasionally was a "chup-chup-chup." From mid-March on, the song increased to such an extent that it invariably preceded sight observations.

A peculiar mannerism of this individual was the way in which it picked up dead leaves from the ground and turned them over by the petiole, sometimes carrying them up into adjacent cover. No satisfactory explanation was found for this habit, as observation failed to disclose any food obtained from the leaves. Also characteristic was the extremely rapid pursuit of Gambel Sparrows. This pursuit increased in frequency and energy as spring progressed. It seemed that an individual Gambel Sparrow was selected for this attention in any one period and other Gambel Sparrows, as well as members of all other species, were ignored. During the pursuit, the Gambel Sparrow was followed in all of its turnings, often at a distance of a foot or less, into the nearest cover and even about in the cover. This Harris Sparrow was never seen except in the presence of Gambel White-crowns. Flight when disturbed was invariably into tall shrubs or low trees. Although there seems to have been little wandering of this bird during the period of observation, a Harris Sparrow, probably this individual, was reported on January 17, by Mrs. J. A. Berry at 85 Menlo Place, about one-third of a mile north,

on the rim of the canyon mentioned before. A report of a Harris Sparrow by Mr. Dudley Beeson in San Leandro on February 9 was undoubtedly of another individual.—RUSSELL H. PRAY, *Berkeley, California, August 4, 1949.*

Second Record of the Ross Goose from Arizona.—On December 10, 1948, Dave Mitchell and Bill Baxter of the Arizona Game Department confiscated a white goose, taken by a hunter near the northern boundary of the Havasu Lake National Wildlife Refuge. This was at a boat dock, known locally as Five-Mile Landing, which is situated on the Arizona side of the Colorado River near Topock, Mohave County. The dead bird was given to me, and a skin was prepared from it. The specimen was sent to Alden H. Miller for comparison and positive identification and proved to be a typical first-year male of the Ross Goose (*Chen rossii*). It lacked the warty protuberances at the base of the upper mandible that are characteristic of adults of this species.

The presence of the Ross Goose along the Colorado River had been indicated to the writer by hunters who had told of its occasional occurrence with its larger relative, the Snow Goose. The writer knows of another probable kill on the Bill Williams River near its confluence with Lake Havasu, at Parker Dam, Arizona. This occurred in the 1947 waterfowl hunting season, but since no examination of the bird was made the occurrence may be questioned. However, I have every confidence that the hunter who took this bird is able to recognize a Ross Goose from a Snow Goose. Before the specimen taken in 1948 was obtained, there were no authentic records of occurrence along the Colorado River. Thus this record represents the first of the Ross Goose for the Colorado River valley and the second for the state of Arizona. The only previous record for Arizona to the writer's knowledge is that of Cooke (Auk, 31, 1914:403) who recorded a specimen taken by Dr. Mearns at Fort Verde on October 24, 1887.—WARREN M. PULICH, *Boulder City, Nevada, August 31, 1949.*

A Record of the Short-tailed Albatross.—The publication of Yamashina's report (Tori, 40, 1942:191-270, as summarized in "Japanese Ornithology and Mammalogy during World War II," Wildlife Leaflet 305, Fish and Wildlife Service, 1948, p. 20) of the destruction of the Torishima breeding colony of the Short-tailed Albatross (*Diomedea albatrus*) prompts me to publish a recent observation. A single example of *albatrus* was seen on February 17, 1946, at latitude 37° 08' N, longitude 124° 29' W, about seventy miles off San Francisco, while en route to Pearl Harbor aboard the U.S.S. Bowditch. The bird approached the stern twice, the second time coming within fifty yards and making identification through 8× glasses certain. Although there were no Laysan Albatrosses (*D. immutabilis*) present for direct comparison, two were seen the next day, and the difference between the two forms was striking. The white back of the Short-tailed is a most conspicuous field mark and can be seen almost as far as the bird. This individual had the white of the back extending a few inches up the wing. In the air *albatrus* appears larger than the Black-footed Albatross (*D. nigripes*) and the body is much stouter. Its flight is more deliberate, with less swinging and wheeling. The bill appeared to be yellow, although Mayr (Birds Southwest Pacific, 1945:4) gives "pinkish" as the color of the bill in the adult.

Although the summary of Yamashina's article does not specifically state that no Short-tailed Albatrosses have been seen on Torishima since 1933, that is the inference that I draw and that the last definite record was a specimen collected in 1936. The occurrence of a single bird ten years later, while it may raise hopes that birds are still breeding in small numbers, cannot be considered proof of this, since a few non-breeding survivors might still exist.—MELVIN A. TRAYLOR, *Chicago Natural History Museum, Chicago, Illinois, August 4, 1949.*

Record of the European Nightjar in a State of Stupor.—The following quotations are from two letters I recently received from Aldous Huxley concerning the finding of a European Nightjar (*Caprimulgus europaeus*) in an apparent state of coma in England. They recite an incident which has an interesting bearing on my recently published account of the hibernation of the Poor-will (Condor, 51, 1949:105-109).

Mr. Huxley says in a letter dated February 25, 1949, and written from Palm Desert, California: "I was about ten at the time and we were staying at a house in Hertfordshire at the foot of the Chilterns, which is chalk country. My brothers and I were wandering in the park when we noticed a nightjar lying inanimate in a recess between the roots of a tree—I think a beech. We picked up the