

to the most barren regions while in North America it is found in more varied habitats, in the absence of competitive species. A similar example, among many, is that of the Water Pipit (*Anthus spinoletta*) which in the Nearctic region has invaded the tundra. The Black-capped Chickadee does have competitors in the Boreal Chickadee (*Parus hudsonicus*) and Mountain Chickadee (*Parus gambeli*) which have taken its place in the subalpine or Hudsonian zone of the western mountains.

Let us examine now the main object of this paper, the vocal manifestations. Few observers have had the opportunity to study this group of chickadees in the various points of its holarctic range. Being well acquainted with the population of the Alps, I found no perceptible difference between the call notes of *montanus* of that area and *atricapillus*. The song, however, is quite different. If we transcribe the song of *montanus* of the Swiss Alps by a monotonous *dü-dü-dü-dü*, the song of *atricapillus* in most parts of North America may be rendered by *dee-düh*, a well known song. This disyllabic song, and I wish to emphasize this fact, is not encountered in every part of the North American distribution range. In Alaska, around Anchorage, the song of the Black-capped Chickadee is identical with the one heard in the Alps. I heard this song very often, to the exclusion of any other, during a stay in Anchorage in 1956-57 and in 1960. How far south or west this "dialect" extends, I do not know. I once heard this four-syllable song near Jasper, Alberta, in the range of *Parus gambeli* but I did not see the bird.

The splitting of *atricapillus* and *montanus* as proposed by Snow (Bull. Brit. Ornith. Union, 76, 1956:29-31) and by Mayr (Beitr. zur Vogelkunde, 5, 1955:116) did not take into consideration this seemingly intermediate Alaskan population. Recordings of the songs of northwestern American *atricapillus* are highly desirable and would give a better understanding of the relationship between the Nearctic and Eurasian populations of this group.

As a final note, I would like to mention the two parallel cases of *Parus carolinensis* and *P. salicarius*. In his study of *montanus* and *salicarius*, Thönen (*op. cit.*) has analyzed with thoroughness the ecological and vocal differences between these two so-called subspecies. Brewer published similar studies (Auk, 80, 1963:9-47; Wilson Bull., 73, 1961:348-373) on *Parus carolinensis* considering it a full species. *Parus salicarius* is regarded as a subspecies of *montanus*, yet *salicarius* appears to me more different from *montanus* in its vocal manifestations and ecological choice than *carolinensis* is from *atricapillus*. It should therefore be suggested that *salicarius* be given specific rank in order to give this group a consistent treatment.—MICHEL DESFAYES, Los Angeles, California, January 10, 1964.

**The Band-tailed Pigeon in the Panamint Range of California.**—Few published records exist for the Band-tailed Pigeon (*Columba fasciata*) in eastern California, Nevada, and southeastern Oregon. Luther C. Goldman collected an individual 7 miles east of Calexico and 3 miles north of the Mexican boundary on October 4, 1941 (Neff, North American Fauna, 58, 1947:20). I know of two records for Nevada, that of a mature band-tail near Success Divide in the Duck Creek Range by Leo K. Couch on November 4, 1943 (*loc. cit.*), and that of a juvenal female collected 4 miles west of Fallon (Alcorn, Condor, 1941, 43:119). A lone juvenile collected by Stanley G. Jewett in the Steens Mountains, Harney County, was believed by Neff (*op. cit.*:19) to be the only record of the species east of the Cascade Range in Oregon.

The following observations of the Band-tailed Pigeon in the Panamint Range of eastern California were recorded by the persons mentioned and the author in the winter and spring, 1962-63: November 4, approximately 81 observed feeding from terrestrial and arboreal cones at Thorndike Spring, elevation 7400 feet; November 11, 25 observed in flight at Mahogany Flat, 8133 feet; December 11, 20 observed in flight over the west slope of Wildrose Peak, 8000 feet; January 24, approximately 50 observed on the east slope of Roger's Peak, 8500 feet, by Norman A. Bishop; March 23, 19 observed feeding on piñon nuts at Thorndike Spring; March 24, 23 observed in flight at Thorndike Spring and Mahogany Flat; and April 7, 1 observed jointly with Robert T. Orr at Mahogany Flat.

The Panamint Range represents an ecological "island," of Transition and Boreal life-zones. The piñon pine (*Pinus monophylla*), which the local Shoshonean Indians, perennial gatherers, assured me yielded a bumper crop of nuts during the winter of 1962-63, occurs commonly above 6000 feet (Wauer, Condor, 66, 1964:298-299). Edminster (American Game Birds of Field and Forest, 1954:422) mentions the propensity of the Band-tailed Pigeon to scout about for food in winter months, after

one food supply fails (notably acorns). This may explain these first noted occurrences of the species in the Panamint Range. The ecological isolation of the range and paucity of previous records may indicate the ingress in November of one large flock of Band-tailed Pigeons which, after finding suitable habitat and a plentiful food supply, wintered in the area. No specimens were collected to determine the race involved.—BRUCE B. PAIGE, *Death Valley National Monument, Death Valley, California, December 3, 1963.*

**California Gull Nesting in Colorado.**—Until 1961, the California Gull (*Larus californicus*) was considered only a casual visitor in Colorado (Bailey and Niedrach, *Birds of Colorado*, in press). Only two authentic specimens were known as of 1961, although I have since collected four California Gulls in the Fort Collins area. Since 1952, numerous sight observations have been made in north-central Colorado, both on the plains and in North Park. Most sightings have been in the late spring and early fall but there are a few in July and August and others in March and November.

California Gulls are common nesters on Bamforth, Twelve Mile, and Twin Buttes lakes near Laramie, Wyoming, as close as 25 miles to Colorado. Therefore, it is not surprising to find this species increasing in Colorado. In the course of capturing Ring-billed Gulls (*Larus delawarensis*) and Herring Gulls (*Larus argentatus*) with a cannon-net trap near Fort Collins, I banded five California Gulls on Timnath Reservoir in September, 1962; 27 were banded from a flock of about 200 on April 23, 1962, and one was banded on October 2, 1963. All gulls banded in 1963 were dyed yellow with picric acid. In May and June of 1963, at least nine of these color-marked California Gulls were seen in or around the nesting colonies near Laramie and one on Pathfinder Reservoir near Casper, Wyoming. Three of the dyed gulls near Laramie were either incubating or brooding young according to Dr. Kenneth L. Diem of the University of Wyoming. One banded adult California Gull was recaptured at Timnath Reservoir on October 30, 1962; this bird had been banded as a fledgling at Bamforth Lake on July 4, 1958, by Dr. Diem.

On April 28, 1963, Donald G. Davis found five gull nests associated with 55 White Pelican (*Pelecanus erythrorhynchos*) nests and three Double-crested Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax auritus*) nests at Riverside Reservoir, Weld County, Colorado. The gull clutches were incomplete at that time, and there seemed to be many pairs of gulls that had not yet begun to lay. The species of gull involved was not then determined, although eggs measurements fell within the proper range for California Gulls rather than for the Ring-billed Gulls. Nesting of the pelicans has been described by Ryder and Grieb (*Wilson Bull.*, 75, 1963:92).

Observations of the nesting colony by the author on April 29 and May 18 verified that the gulls were California Gulls. Alfred M. Bailey, Arthur Gresh, James Hitch, and the author visited the colony on June 28 to band and photograph at which time an estimated 50 pelicans, 10 cormorants, and 100 gull young were practically fledged. Ten nests of Snowy Egrets (*Egretta thula*) were found in low willows on the island. At least one pair of yellow-dyed California Gulls defended several downy young that swam away. These dyed gulls had initially been captured and released near Fort Collins approximately 45 miles to the northwest some three months earlier. On July 1, Charles R. Hayes and Charles E. Graham saw "ten or twelve yellow gulls" in the Riverside Colony. Six nests of Forster Terns (*Sterna forsteri*) containing one to three eggs each were found on subsequent visits to the colony on July 11 and 22. In all, 22 California Gulls, 44 White Pelicans, 8 Double-crested Cormorants, 46 Snowy Egrets, and two Forster Terns were banded on the island in 1963. The fledgling California Gulls were dyed red. At least two of these marked gulls have been observed near Greeley and Loveland to the west.

This is apparently the first record of the California Gull nesting in Colorado and represents a southeastward extension of the breeding range. In 1962, the island was not visited until late July at which time any young gulls that might have hatched that season had probably departed. In 1961, Richard M. Hopper reported flightless gulls (species unknown) on the island. In June and July of 1962 and 1963, Ring-billed Gulls, both immatures and adults, were noted flying and feeding in fields near Riverside Reservoir. None was seen in the Riverside nesting colony although a few nest near Laramie. Carl Maag, local caretaker for the Riverside Gun Club, relates that pelicans, gulls, and other waterbirds have nested intermittently on the island for the past 15 years, perhaps longer. Thus, California Gulls have probably nested in Colorado prior to 1963 although no authenticated records are known.