

relatively unavailable to avian predators. Two groups of chorusing spadefoots were observed from 16:00 to 17:00, on 12 June 1973, in a pond on each side of State Route 94, 0.5 km east of Punkin Center, Lincoln County, Colorado. This region is a shortgrass prairie now grazed by cattle. Chorus group 1 was in a temporary pond about 0.5 hectare in area and 1 m deep, and chorus group 2 in another such pond of about 1 hectare and over 1 m deep.

Our attention was first attracted to the toads by four Swainson's Hawks which were flying around the pond site of chorus group 1. The birds were obviously capturing some kind of prey, using two fishing techniques. One involved a slow, relatively shallow descent over the pond, extending the talons several cm into the water, picking up some small object, and flying off to land with it either on the shore or out on the prairie. The birds then proceeded to rip at the object and consume it. On one occasion, a hawk dropped into very shallow water and pummeled a prey item with its talons. We heard spadefoots calling at this site and suspected the hawks were capturing them. We investigated the ponds, causing the hawks to fly away; we could find no remains of the prey nor see toads in the water.

Chorus group 2 was then heard and we proceeded to it. There were seven *Buteo swainsoni* at this pond, fishing in the same two ways described earlier. The toads in this chorus group were clearly visible, floating in the middle of the pond as they called. The hawks were clearly seen to pick up and carry off toad-sized objects (five toads collected from pond 2 ranged in snout-vent length from 51 to 58 mm). Again, upon our approach the hawks flew away. We could find no remains of prey except for what was apparently a partly dried stomach of a toad-sized vertebrate.

While evidence that the hawks were capturing toads is largely circumstantial, our observations are strongly suggestive of this behavior. In addition, the ponds are temporary, hence, the hawks were not feeding on fish or some other aquatic prey. We also noted that adjacent ponds, which lacked chorusing toads, did not have hawks active around them.—OWEN J. SEXTON, *Department of Biology, Washington University, St. Louis, Missouri 63130*, and KEN R. MARION, *Department of Biology, University of Alabama, Birmingham, Alabama 35233*. Accepted 19 November 1973.

A specimen of *Larus glaucescens* from Hudson Bay.—On 1 June 1964 I collected a Glaucous-winged Gull (*Larus glaucescens*) from a flock of several hundred Herring (*L. argentatus*), Thayer's (*L. thayeri*), and a few Glaucous (*L. hyperboreus*) Gulls at a garbage dump at Fort Churchill, Manitoba. The specimen (Univ. of Michigan Museum of Zoology no. 211,531) is an immature female, apparently in second alternate plumage. Its measurements (in mm.) are: exposed culmen, 54.4; depths of bill at base, 18.2; depth of bill at gonyx, 19.3; wing (chord), 420; tail, 175; tarsus, 66.5. The weight was 1140 g, with little subcutaneous fat.

Because of the specimen's pale brownish primaries and rectrices, as well as geographic considerations and associated species, I originally identified it as an immature of *L. thayeri*. At that time I had had no prior experience with that species, the immature plumages of which have never been described in full.

The immature plumages of *L. glaucescens* are closely similar to those of *L. thayeri*, but the following characters allow the correct identification of the Fort Churchill specimen. One, the primaries and rectrices are pale grayish brown and essentially concolor with the wing coverts, mantle, and general body coloration; in *thayeri* the primaries are usually dark brown and contrast rather sharply with the mantle and body coloration.

Two, the rectrices, which are the same color as the primaries, are uniformly colored and lack any trace of mottling on the outer rectrix; in *thayeri* the rectrices are darker brown and the outer rectrix is mottled. Three, the wing coverts are finely dotted with white; in *thayeri* the edges of the wing coverts are deeply scalloped with white. Four, the specimen is too large for *thayeri*; its dimensions far exceed those given by Smith (Ornithol. Monogr., 4, tables 5 and 8, 1966) for a large series of female *thayeri* from the breeding grounds. On the other hand, it falls in the upper end or exceeds the dimensions of a small series of female *glaucescens* measured by Dwight (Bull. Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist., 52, 1925). Particularly evident is the specimen's heavy bill, which differs markedly from the shorter and slenderer bill of female *thayeri*.

In these and in other characters of plumage and soft part coloration, the Fort Churchill specimen is indistinguishable from *L. glaucescens*. There is no evidence of hybrid ancestry. At my request, Eugene Eisenmann and John Bull compared the specimen with the outstanding collection of larids in the American Museum of Natural History and independently reached the same conclusions.

The Glaucous-winged Gull is common along much of the west coast of Canada and the United States, but very rare away from the immediate vicinity of the Pacific. I know of only one seemingly unquestionable report from inland Canada, a bird banded as a chick in British Columbia and recovered in Alberta (Salt, Auk, 87:428, 1961; Merilees, Canad. Field-Nat., 75:170, 1961). Other Alberta records, the only other reports for interior Canada, (Salt, Canad. Field-Nat., 80:114, 1966; Stirling, Blue Jay, 25:131, 1967) lack details or measurements and are unconvincing.

Published specimen records for inland localities in the United States include Oklahoma (Sutton, Auk, 55:277-278, 1938), Arizona (Phillips, Marshall, and Monson, Birds of Arizona, Univ. of Arizona Press, Tucson, 1964), and California (McCaskie and Cardiff, Condor, 67:542-544, 1965). I have not examined these specimens. There are also sight records of *glaucescens* inland in several western states, e.g., Idaho (Burleigh, Birds of Idaho, Caxton Printers Ltd., Caldwell, Idaho, 1972), but most of these lack any substantiation and the probability of confusion with *thayeri* is high. I have examined a recent specimen from Nevada that was thought to be *glaucescens* (Monson, American Birds 26:639, 1972), but it is clearly referable to *thayeri*.

Thayer's Gull winters commonly on the west coast and probably reaches its central arctic breeding grounds after an overland flight across western Canada and parts of the United States. Studies are beginning to indicate that this species occurs regularly in the interior. I suggest that the vast majority of records attributed to Glaucous-winged and Iceland (*L. glaucoides*) Gulls in the inland western United States and Canada are actually of Thayer's Gull. A full review of this subject, including examination of all alleged specimens, is needed.

I am indebted to Eugene Eisenmann and John Bull for their assistance and to W. Earl Godfrey for information on Canadian records of *glaucescens*.—JOSEPH R. JEHL, JR., *Natural History Museum, P. O. Box 1390, San Diego, California 92112. Accepted 11 February 1974.*

First record of Sabine's Gull in Nevada.—On 21 September 1972, a Sabine's Gull (*Xema sabini*) was observed on Virginia Lake, a 40 acre impoundment in southwest Reno, Washoe County, Nevada. This constitutes the first verified sighting of a Sabine's Gull in Nevada. The bird, an apparent adult in nuptial (gray-headed) plumage, was first observed in the lake about 40 m offshore, where it fed in a dabbling manner for approxi-