

In the interior of North America this species breeds in many places in large numbers. It feeds on fish and also on locusts, catching the latter in the air.

Two eggs in the British Museum are very different from each other. One is of a regular oval form and has an olive-buff ground, sparingly marked, except at the larger end, where there are huge confluent blotches forming an irregular zone, with spots and specks of deep chocolate-brown; the underlying pale purple markings are few and inconspicuous. The second specimen is a pointed oval and has a light buff ground, boldly marked all over with spots and blotches of blackish-brown. The underlying markings on this egg are numerous, large, and conspicuous⁹.

7. *Larus californicus*.

Larus californicus, Lawr. Ann. Lyc. N. Y. vi. p. 79¹; Bull. U. S. Nat. Mus. no. 4, p. 51²; Sumichr. La Nat. v. p. 234³; Herrera, La Nat. (2) i. pp. 188⁴, 329⁵; Baird, Brewer, & Ridgway, Water-Birds N. Amer. ii. p. 242⁶; Ferrari-Perez, Pr. U. S. Nat. Mus. ix. p. 179⁷; A. O. U. Check-l. N. Amer. Birds, 2nd ed. p. 19⁸; Saunders, Cat. Birds Brit. Mus. xxv. p. 276⁹; Oates, Cat. Eggs Brit. Mus. i. p. 217, t. 18. fig. 2¹⁰.

L. delawarensi similis, sed major, interseapulio saturatiore schistaceo; scapularibus et secundariis latius albo terminatis, albedine primariorum extimorum latius extensa: rostro flavo, macula vel fascia subterminali sæpius obsoleta, macula anteapicali intense coccinea; pedibus virescentibus; annulo periophthalmico miniato; iride corylina. Long. tota circa 18.5, alæ 15.2, caudæ 5.9, culm. 1.9, tarsi 2.3.

♀ *ad.* mari similis, sed minor. Long. tota circa 18.0, alæ 15.2. (Descr. maris et feminae ex Ventura, California. Mus. nostr.)

Ptil. hiem. ptilosi æstivæ similis, sed pileo et collo summo grisescenti-brunneo striolatis: rostro grisescenti-albo, apice flavicanti-albo, nigro subterminaliter vittato; pedibus sordide virescenti-albis; iride corylina.

Hab. WESTERN NORTH AMERICA, chiefly in the interior, from Alaska southwards⁸, once as far east as Kansas⁹.—W. MEXICO⁶, Valley of Mexico (*Herrera*^{4 5}), Vera Cruz, Alvarado (*Ferrari-Perez*⁷), Gulf of Tehuantepec on the coasts, San Mateo (*Sumichrast*^{2 3}).

The present species is larger and darker than *L. delawarensis*, with a mantle of deep slaty-grey; it is further distinguished by having the zone on the bill ill-defined or altogether absent. *L. californicus* breeds chiefly on the lakes and rivers from the Lower Anderson River to Utah, and winters on the Pacific coast of Central America⁹. It also visits the interior, having been noted by Herrera as occasional in the Valley of Mexico⁵, and Prof. Ferrari-Perez has recorded a specimen from the State of Vera Cruz⁷. Sumichrast met with the species on the coast of the Gulf of Tehuantepec only^{2 3}.

The Californian Gull breeds in immense numbers on some of the lakes of North America, and Mr. Ridgway found an area of several acres on the main island of Pyramid Lake thickly crowded with the nests. These were mere heaps of dirt and gravel, mingled with rubbish of sticks, bones, and feathers, raised a few inches above the surface, and with a slight depression on the top. By far the larger number were