



**KLAMATH SEAGULLS** are really local—they don't come clear from the ocean to feed here where they're often seen following plows and in seeded areas in farmers' fields. One large local colony of gulls nested this year on the Unit 7-B Dike on Lower Klamath Lake, just beyond the state line. An estimated 10,000 adult gulls made their homes here the past season, making 3,500 nests with two to four eggs per nest. Picture No. 1 (at top) shows the gull "hotel" on the lower lake. Tulelake Refuge Mgr. Tom Horn says the gulls nesting here are of two main types—the California (65 per cent) and Ring Billed. The California is the most abundant breeding gull in this area, he says, and favors the alkaline lakes and marshes of Eastern Oregon and Northern California. That includes the Klamath Basin, Malheur, Warner, Goose and Clear Lakes. The Ring Billed in turn nests within the larger colonies of the Californians. Horn notes the gulls are masters of flight, and are at home equally on water or land. He says that during nesting their unscrupulous food habit is viewed with mixed feelings. When they harass young ducklings or when pheasant and other eggs are

found at gull nests, it takes no small restraint to not condemn the gulls to extinction, or at least to a wildlife desert. However, Horn says, they are scavengers and clean and glean from trash piles, garbage dumps and refuse. Milk bottle caps, orange peels and small cut bones are found out there on the Lower Lake. To their credit, too, is the fact they feed on grasshoppers. Their young are fed by regurgitation, and among the enormous amount of insects the hoppers are prominent in number.

It was the California gull, Horn says, that destroyed the Mormon cricket infestation near Great Salt Lake in 1848-50. During farming seasons, gulls follow plows, picking up insects and mice. Young gulls grow and obtain mastery of the air very rapidly.

Picture No. 2 shows adult gulls in full flight. No. 3 shows a newly hatched young one and two unhatched eggs. No. 4 is a small gull egg just hatching. No. 5 shows newly hatched gulls, and No. 6 is a young one beginning to develop flight feathers.

All Photographs by Herald and News Staff Photographer Don Kettler.