

# CONTINENTAL BIRDLIFE

VOLUME 1, NUMBER 5, OCTOBER 1979

## CONTENTS

109 Dotterel at Ocean Shores, Washington / *Dennis Paulson*

112 Blue-phase Ross' Geese: a Call for Photographs

### Short Notes:

116 An Albino American Kestrel / *M. Vincent Mowbray*

117 Malar Patterns of Light Phase Adult Jaegers / *Kenn Kaufman*

118 Letters

119 Answer to Snap Judgment 4

121 Editorial: Coming Attractions

122 Book Reviews / *edited by Elaine Cook*

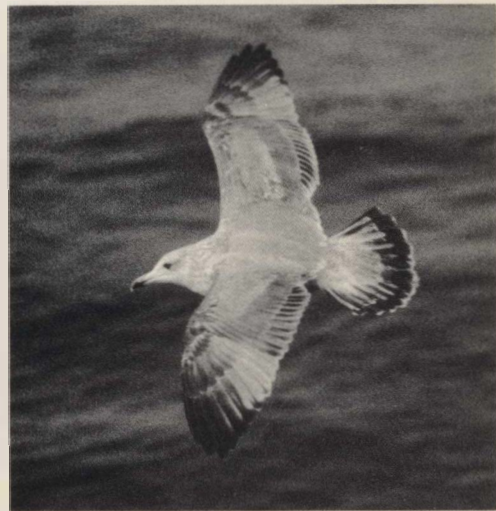
128 Recent Literature in Field Ornithology

132 Latest Rumors

## Snap Judgment 5

This gull was photographed somewhere over North American waters in late September. What is it — and why?

The answer, a discussion of the diagnostic characters involved in the identification, and the name of the photographer will appear in the December 1979 issue of *Continental Birdlife*.





# CONTINENTAL BIRDLIFE

A JOURNAL OF NORTH AMERICAN FIELD ORNITHOLOGY

VOLUME 1, NUMBER 5

OCTOBER 1979

# CONTINENTAL BIRDLIFE

A Bimonthly Journal of North American Field Ornithology

*Editor* / KENN KAUFMAN

*Associate Editor* / JANET WITZEMAN

*Assistant Editor* / ELAINE COOK

*Photographic Consultant* / ROBERT A. WITZEMAN

*Design Director* / MARILYN HOFF STEWART

*Production Advisor* / JAK A. KEYSER

*Production & Circulation* / JANET WITZEMAN

Subscriptions are \$9.00 annually in the United States, \$10.50 annually in Canada and elsewhere. All subscriptions are by calendar year. Make checks or money orders payable to CONTINENTAL BIRDLIFE, INC.

Address all communications to:

Continental Birdlife  
Post Office Box 43294  
Tucson  
Arizona 85733

Drawings in this issue: Hooded Mergansers *Lophodytes cucullatus* on page 127 by Marilyn Hoff Stewart; others by Kenn Kaufman.

*Cover photograph:* A Curve-billed Thrasher *Toxostoma curvirostre* sings from atop a Saguaro *Cereus giganteus* at Phoenix, Arizona. Photographed in January 1978 by Jolan B. Truan.

# CONTINENTAL BIRDLIFE

VOLUME 1, NUMBER 5, OCTOBER 1979



## Dotterel at Ocean Shores, Washington

DENNIS PAULSON

On 8 September 1979 Susan Hills and I observed a Dotterel *Eudromias morinellus* near the base of the Point Brown jetty, Ocean Shores, Grays Harbor County, Washington. It was resting on open sand among scattered herbaceous plants, the only nearby bird a Horned lark *Eremophila alpestris*. Earlier in the day small groups of American Golden Plovers *Pluvialis dominica*, Killdeers *Charadrius vociferus* and Whimbrels *Numenius phaeopus* roosted in the same area.

The bird was first seen at 1710 PDT as we drove by it. My first impression was of a Buff-breasted Sandpiper *Tryngites subruficollis* because of the buffy appearance of the breast of the facing bird. As soon as I looked at it through my binoculars I saw the light band across the breast and recognized it as a Dotterel. We watched it for about 30 minutes through a 20X spotting scope, and I was able to obtain recognizable photographs by resting my camera and 500mm lens on the spotting scope, although conditions were considerably less than optimal, with a driving wind and hard rain. Twelve other observers were rounded up from the general area, all of whom got to see the bird; no one was heard complaining about the weather conditions!

The bird appeared a bit smaller than an American Golden Plover, individuals of which we had seen repeatedly on the same day, but it could have passed for that species at a distance because of its general size, shape and coloration. At times it stood up a bit straighter than is typical of a golden plover, but at other times its stance was similar. It bobbed occasionally like a yellowlegs and ran in typical plover fashion several times, although more rapidly than I considered typical of other plovers. It was very cryptic when it stopped, especially when it squatted down at intervals. We did not see it feed, probably because it was disturbed by our presence. After we left, the bird was flushed (Mark Egger, personal communication), and it flew rapidly away low over the sand, then returned to the same spot a short time later. Many observers looked for it in vain the following day, beginning at dawn, so it was probably about to depart on its way south when we observed it.



The bill was black and rather petite, more narrow and pointed than in other plovers of the area. The legs were fairly bright yellowish-brown. The crown was heavily marked with fine whitish streaks on a brown ground color, rather like a Brewer's Sparrow *Spizella breweri* in the negative. There was a dark smudge in front of the eye and a dark line behind it. A contrasty white line began over the eye and extended around the nape to meet its opposite, the line becoming suffused with rich buffy orange toward the rear. The rest of the head was plain buffy brown. The eye stripe was the brightest mark on the bird and an excellent field mark, as was the line across the breast. The back was heavily streaked dark and light gray, the streaks parallel to the body axis. The wing coverts were streaked dark and very light brown, the streaks diverging posteriorly. The light edgings contributed to a highly patterned effect, clearly indicating a juvenile or first-winter bird.

The hindneck and most of the underparts were light buffy brown, reminiscent of a Buff-breasted Sandpiper but not so bright. The fine (1-2mm wide) whitish band across the breast curved like a smile extending from either side at the anterior edge of the back and wing streaking. Just before and after the breast band the feathers had indistinct dark tips, producing a scaly pattern. The posterior underparts paled to whitish toward the rear, the white confined to an oval patch on the belly and under tail coverts. The wings, which extended to the tail tip when folded, were whitish underneath, with no obvious markings on the wing linings nor indications of a wing stripe. I did not see the bird fly.

It called once — a soft "put, put" — but was silent for the remainder of our extended observations, even when it was flushed by subsequent observers. It responded with extended neck and high-level alertness when a passing Killdeer called, and I was impressed that it had responded to a call perhaps it had never heard nor been programmed to recognize.

Dotterels are rare to casual in western and northern Alaska during the breeding season (Kessel and Gibson 1978). Hills and I were unable to find any at Wales, Alaska, during the summers of 1978 and 1979, although the birds had been seen there in previous years. This is not surprising for populations of a species at the very edge of its range.

In migration Dotterels have been found in the fall on the Pacific coast of North America. One was collected at Shemya in the Aleutian Islands on 17 September 1977 (Kessel and Gibson 1978). The bird was called an "immature male," presumably indicating a juvenile. South of Alaska there are two previous records for North America. An adult female was collected at Westport, Grays Harbor County, Washington, on 3 September 1934 (Brown 1934, 1935). I have examined this specimen, #9085 in the Washington State Museum. It is in fresh winter plumage but with outer primaries still in molt. A juvenile stopped at the Farallon Islands, California, from 12 September to 20 September 1974 (Henderson 1979).

Thus all four fall migrant Dotterels on the Pacific coast of North America were recorded in the narrow period 3-20 September. It is of special interest that one of the four birds was an adult, as it is the juveniles of most species that wander off course when they are making their first migration. For example, virtually all individuals of the common Pectoral Sandpiper *Calidris melanotos*, the uncommon Baird's Sandpiper *C. bairdii*, the rare Sharp-tailed Sandpiper *C. acuminata*, and the casual Ruff *Philomachus pugnax* that are seen in Washington are juveniles. In all these species, the adults do not usually deviate from their autumn migration routes, which do not pass through this region. The normal pattern is for adult shorebirds to precede

the juveniles, and the adult Dotterel from Westport fit that pattern, being 5 days earlier than the earliest record of a juvenile.

A rather substantial storm occurred at Ocean Shores on the day of the present sighting, with strong westerly winds. In addition, the weather on the coast of Washington was unsettled during the preceding week. It is tempting to conclude that such weather phenomena play a part in the occurrence of Siberian shorebirds on the Pacific coast of North America. However, the Pacific Ocean is very wide indeed at the latitude of Washington, and it may be more likely that these birds started down the Pacific coast of Alaska than that they were blown across the ocean by westerly winds.

It is of some interest that two of the Pacific coast birds associated with flocks of Killdeers (Brown 1934; Henderson 1979). The Dotterel is a shorebird of relatively dry and open habitats and should be looked for in the haunts of Killdeers, American Golden Plovers and Buff-breasted Sandpipers, any of which I suspect it would flock with.

#### LITERATURE CITED

- BROWN, D.E. 1934. Dotterel — a first record for the United States. *Murrelet* 15: 79.  
———. 1935. Dotterel in western Washington. *Condor* 37: 82.  
HENDERSON, PHILIP. 1979. A Dotterel on Southeast Farallon Island, California. *West. Birds* 10: 92-94.  
KESSEL, BRINA AND DANIEL D. GIBSON. 1978. Status and distribution of Alaska birds. *Stud. Avian Biol.* No. 1.

Author's address: Washington State Museum, University of Washington, Seattle, WA 98195



Juvenile or first-winter Dotterel *Eudromias morinellus* at Ocean Shores, Grays Harbor County, Washington, 8 September 1979. Second Washington state record. Photo by Dennis Paulson.

Several small "blue geese" were seen this winter, suggesting that either blue Snows are crossing Ross' or more outrageous that the Ross' actually has a blue morph. Ah, the obvious things we've never noticed.

— Rich Stallcup and Jon Winter, 1976

## Pinning Down the Blue Ross'

### THE EDITORS

Indeed, the idea seemed outrageous. Waterfowl perennially have been among the most heavily studied of birds, and the Snow Goose complex in North America had received at least its full share of attention. True, the unsuspecting birdwatching public had taken a jolt with the overdue lumping (A.O.U. 1973) of the "Blue Goose" and "Snow Goose;" but with this taxonomic move accomplished, the situation seemed rather clearly defined:

The most numerous form, the Lesser Snow Goose *Chen c. caerulescens*, nested from northeastern Siberia to north-central Canada and wintered mainly from the Pacific states to the Gulf of Mexico, with an outpost on Chesapeake Bay; it had two color phases, one white with black wingtips and the other (often called "Blue Goose") dark with a white head and upper neck. A larger subspecies, the Greater Snow Goose *C. c. atlantica*, nested in the northeastern Canadian Arctic and wintered mainly in the middle Atlantic states; it had no blue phase, being always white. And there was a scarcer smaller species, Ross' Goose *C. rossii*, breeding in north-central Canada and wintering in central California and locally east to the Gulf of Mexico; it too was always of the white-with-black-wingtips type.

Admittedly, there had already been a few breaks in this neat pattern. Beginning in the early 1960's, hybrids between Ross' and white Lesser Snow Geese had been detected in migration and then on the breeding grounds (Trauger *et al.* 1971). More surprisingly, two birds that were evidently blue phase Greater Snow Geese were collected in Canada in 1973 (Palmer 1976). But in 1976, the suggestion of a blue phase in Ross' Geese seemed totally new and bizarre.

However, at the same time that Stallcup and the other California birders first noticed these "pint-sized Blue Geese," a few professional waterfowl biologists were also beginning to close in on the blue Ross'. Results of their study have just been



published, in the July 1979 number of *The Auk* (McLandress and McLandress 1979). These researchers confirmed the existence, in the wild, of two more elements in this complex: blue phase Ross' Geese, and blue phase hybrids between Ross' and Lesser Snow Geese.

For the field observer, this is news indeed. Although certain identification of the blue phase Ross' may be possible only under ideal viewing conditions, and pinning down one of the blue hybrids may require an even better look, watching for such individuals should add interest to birding in any area where Snow or Ross' geese occur.

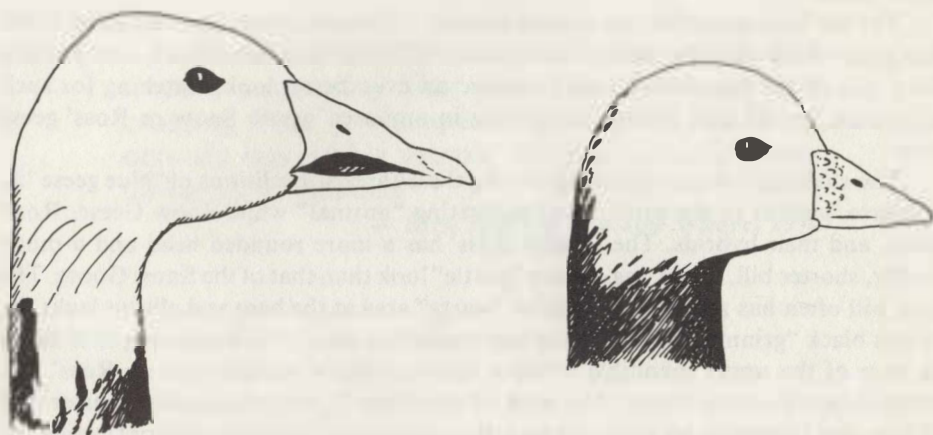
The challenge of distinguishing among these three size editions of "blue geese" is, of course, similar to the problem of separating "normal" white Snow Geese, Ross' Geese, and their hybrids. The smaller Ross' has a more rounded head and a much smaller, shorter bill, imparting a more "gentle" look than that of the Snow Goose. The Ross' bill often has a grayish bumpy or "wart" area at the base and always lacks the Snow's black "grinning patch" where the mandibles meet. The feathering that meets the base of the upper mandible forms a nearly-straight vertical line on Ross', but curves forward on the Snow. The neck of the Ross' is proportionately shorter and thicker; and (although we have not seen this mentioned anywhere in print) when the two species are seen standing or walking on land, the tail of the Ross' appears proportionately a bit longer.

These characters will be equally useful in identifying Ross' of the blue phase. Interestingly enough, according to the paper in the *Auk* (McLandress and McLandress *op. cit.*), there are also plumage characters which may help to distinguish blue Ross' from blue Lesser Snow Geese. Blue Ross' evidently have the neck and back feathers darker, more blackish, than those of blue Snows. The head/neck pattern may be a better field mark: whereas blue-phase Lesser Snows typically have the upper half of the neck whitish like the head, the blue Ross' observed so far have had the neck entirely dark, with blackish feathers extending up to the base of the throat and the rear part of the crown. If this pattern proves to be consistent, it might be the best single character to watch for when seeking blue Ross' among large flocks of geese. Incidentally, the blue Ross' detected thus far have been largely white-bellied (like many blue-phase Lesser Snows but unlike the darkest individuals).

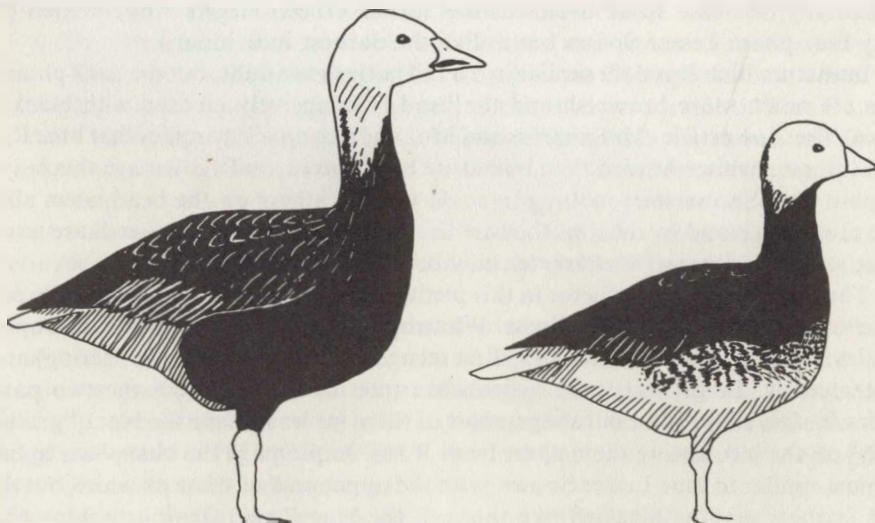
Immature blue Ross' are similar in overall pattern to adults, but the dark plumage areas are much more brownish and the head is extensively mottled with blackish-brown. The *Auk* article (McLandress and McLandress *op. cit.*) implies that blue Ross' immatures are whiter-headed than immature blue Snows, and age for age this may be true, but blue Snows start molting in some white feathers on the head when about three months old and by the time they are five to six months old their heads are mostly white; so this comparative character may be of dubious value for field use.

The real complicating factor in this picture, of course, is the existence of *hybrids* between Ross' and Lesser Snow geese. White hybrids have been known for a couple of decades, but blue-phase hybrids were first recognized (or first began appearing) much more recently. In general these hybrids are intermediate between the two parent species in size, shape, and bill shape; most of them (at least) have the black "grinning patch" on the bill, setting them apart from Ross'. In plumage the blue phase hybrids are most similar to blue Lesser Snows, with the upper part of the neck white, but their back feathers may be blackish like those of the blue Ross'. Obviously, blue phase hybrids (like blue Ross') should be identified with extreme caution, and preferably only when other geese of known species are nearby for comparison.





Artist's conception: Distinctions between blue phase Snow Goose (left) and Ross' Goose (right).



Taking the subject a step further, the *real* complicating factor — are you ready to absorb this? — is that the Ross' X Lesser Snow hybrids are fertile, and they may mate with other hybrids or with individuals of either of the two parent species, producing more variations on intermediacy. The offspring of a Ross' X hybrid pair are apt to look a lot like Ross', and only the most critical examination is likely to reveal the differences. Realization of this fact should make the field observer suitably cautious (if not actually discouraged!).

But it is not our purpose to be discouraging. On the contrary, we want to encourage field observers to tackle the challenge presented by this complex of species and color morphs of geese. By way of encouragement, we hereby offer a "reward:" For the first publishable photograph (or, preferably, series of photographs) received of a wild blue-phase Ross' Goose, we will pay a reward of \$100 in addition to our usual honorarium of \$7 per photo; the only stipulation is that the photographs not be offered for publication elsewhere. Since photography and driving are both increasingly expensive activities, of course, no one who goes out looking for blue Ross' is likely to turn a great profit on this \$100 reward. Nevertheless, we hope that the contest concept (though perhaps not the chance of the monetary reward itself) will add to the incentive for prospective searchers.

Now that the blue phase Ross' has a price on its head, potential "bounty hunting" photographers will want to know where the bird is likely to be found. To our knowledge, all of the definite and probable blue Ross' detected so far have been on the wintering grounds in California or along the migration route in the Canadian prairie provinces. However, Ross' (of the "normal" white phase) also migrate in numbers through the Great Plains to winter on the Gulf coast in Texas and Louisiana, and Snow X Ross' hybrids have been found on this route as well; it seems possible that blue Ross' might occur here also, overlooked among the huge numbers of blue phase Lesser Snow Geese. For that matter, Ross' Geese have even been recorded as accidentals on the Atlantic seaboard . . . and, while there are overwhelming odds against the occurrence of a blue phase bird there, such an event is perhaps not totally impossible.

## LITERATURE CITED

- AMERICAN ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION. COMMITTEE ON CLASSIFICATION AND NOMENCLATURE. 1973. Thirty-second supplement to the American Ornithologists' Union Check-list of North American birds. *Auk* 90: 411-419.
- MCLANDRESS, M. ROBERT, AND ILSE MCLANDRESS. 1979. Blue-phase Ross' Geese and other blue-phase geese in western North America. *Auk* 96: 544-550.
- PALMER, RALPH S., ED. 1976. *Handbook of North American Birds*. Volume 2. New Haven and London, Yale University Press.
- STALLCUP, RICH. AND JON WINTER. 1976. The winter season, December 1, 1975 - March 31, 1976: Middle Pacific Coast Region. *Am. Birds* 30: 760-764.
- TRAUGER, DAVID L., ALEX DZUBIN, AND JOHN P. RYDER. 1971. White geese intermediate between Ross' Geese and Lesser Snow Geese. *Auk* 88: 856-875.

## Short Notes

### An Albino American Kestrel

While birding near Palisade Reservoir in Idaho on 8 September 1979 Eddie Chew and I observed an albino American Kestrel *Falco sparverius* hovering, in typical fashion, in front of our car. As we stopped the kestrel dropped over the edge of the road and perched on a dead flower stalk 1m in height at a distance of about 10m from us. It remained there approximately five minutes dropping to the ground twice in unsuccessful attempts to capture a large grasshopper. The kestrel finally rose about 15m and flew out of sight. Our notes, confirmed by the color slide, state that the cere, legs and feet were yellow, the eye dark and the plumage completely white with no discernible signs of color. The photograph was taken by Eddie Chew of Idaho Falls, Idaho. — M. Vincent Mowbray, 4316 Fortune Ave., Las Vegas, NV 89107.



American Kestrel *Falco sparverius* with entirely white plumage, found near Palisade Reservoir, Idaho, on 8 September 1979. Photo by Eddie Chew.

### Malar Patterns of Light-phase Adult Jaegers

The three species of jaegers (Pomarine *Stercorarius pomarinus*, Parasitic *S. parasiticus*, and Long-tailed *S. longicaudus*) constitute a notoriously difficult problem in field recognition. Immature birds pose the most excruciating aspects of this difficulty; but even typical light-phase adults may confuse inexperienced observers, especially if the distinctive central tail feathers are broken or missing. For this reason, practically any character separating the species may be worth noting.

Although it seems not to be mentioned in any of the standard references, I have always received the impression that light phase adults of each species displayed a different facial expression. Part of this, of course, is due to differences in bill shape. But I believe that another major factor is the pattern of the malar region — the tract of feathers extending back from the base of the lower mandible.

In light phase adult Pomarine Jaegers, this area is almost always entirely deep black, imparting a “heavy-jawed” appearance and emphasizing the bulk of the bill. The adult Long-tailed has the basal, or forward, part of the malar region black, sharply set off from the whitish or yellowish rear portion; the black area usually extends only one-third to one-half as far back as in the Pomarine. Light phase adult Parasitic Jaegers are more variable in this character. Their malar areas may be mainly whitish, with only a gray central smudge, or they may be mostly dark gray, shading to blackish centrally; but it is a good general rule that the *darkest* portion of their malar areas lies at the *center* — and that the color pales somewhat toward the base of the lower mandible. In the figure below I have sketched out typical examples of the malar pattern in each species.

I would like to thank Dr. George E. Watson for allowing me to check my impressions against the collection in the U.S. National Museum, Washington, D.C. —  
*Kenn Kaufman, Post Office Box 43294, Tucson, AZ 85733.*

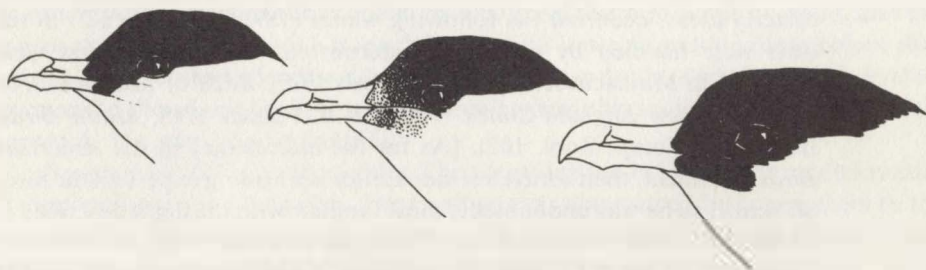


Diagram to show malar patterns of adult light-phased Long-tailed (left), Parasitic (center), and Pomarine (right) jaegers.



## Letters

### MORE ON GREAT GRAY OWLS

In the May 1979 issue of *American Birds* there was an article on last winter's Great Gray Owl incursion in the Northeast. In that article, the authors mentioned just one historical invasion, one that happened in the winter of 1890-1891. The "Changing Seasons" in that same issue referred to the "oft-quoted invasion of the years 1889-90." At the time I read this I assumed it was just another misprint. Now I see that you [*C.B.* 1 (2): 30; April 1979] refer to invasions happening in *both* of the aforementioned winters. Were you just trying to stay on the safe side, or were there actually two invasions?

M.J. Krantz  
Newark, New Jersey

Here is our understanding of the subject. Evidently there were several flights of Great Gray Owls *Strix nebulosa* in the last decade of the nineteenth century. Numbers reached southern Ontario during several winters, but the largest flight there was recorded in 1889-1890: during that winter one man received 23 specimens, and another received 26 (J.H. Fleming 1907, *Auk* 24: 71-89). Another major flight, which reached more easterly areas, occurred the following winter (1890-1891) when 27 of the owls were handled by a single taxidermist in Maine and a few were recorded in Massachusetts (E.H. Forbush 1927, *Birds of Massachusetts and other New England States*, Vol. 2; R.S. Palmer 1949, *Maine Birds*, Bull. Mus. Comp. Zool. 102). [As for the discrepancy in the *American Birds* treatment: their article's senior author is a leading expert on the birds of Maine, so he was undoubtedly most familiar with the flight described in *Maine birds*; the writers of the "Changing Seasons" column obviously picked up on the big Ontario flight, since it was prominently quoted in A.C. Bent's *Life Histories* series; and in the editing process evidently no one noticed that the dates did not match.]

Thus, in the 1880's-1890's (as in the 1960's-1970's) there were several Great Gray Owl invasions of varying magnitude, one flight reaching New England in a big way but most of them concentrated farther west. The parallels are intriguing. Is it possible that this species goes through long-term population cycles in eastern North America, with the peaks some 70 to 80 years apart? — K.K.



This photograph of a small bird captured for banding appeared first on the rear cover of the August *C.B.* Can you identify the bird?

## Answer to Snap Judgment 4

KENN KAUFMAN

When we first showed this photo to our “unofficial advisory board” of warbler devotees, it drew an interesting mixed response. Some of these birders identified the bird almost immediately on the basis of an unanalyzed first impression. Others, no less knowledgeable, attacked the problem by analyzing this bird point by point, and this approach took them through a much longer and more circuitous route before they arrived at the correct identification. Our readers, no doubt, varied as much in their reactions to this photo. For the sake of completeness, this answer is based on the latter approach, the step-by-step analysis.

For starters, the bird is a warbler. This identification to family is as much a matter of elimination as anything else. The small size (as determined by comparison to the normal-sized human hand in the picture) and general aspect of the bill immediately narrow the choice down to within a few families of insectivorous passerines. After some obviously poor candidates have been weeded out, the vireos and warblers remain. The impression of a rather robust body and heavy bill might lead one to entertain thoughts of a vireo momentarily, but a second look will reveal that the bill is all wrong: it tapers to a hard point; a typical vireo bill seen in profile would appear more parallel-edged near the base, with the upper ridge (culmen) curving strongly near the tip to create a slight hook. So the bird in question here must be a warbler — and a rather plain, unmarked one, especially as viewed in black and white. We will have to make the most of each visible character.

It is my instinctive reaction, on first glance at a warbler, to look immediately at the wings — because the *wing-pattern* provides a rapid and broad division of the family, a first major step in the narrowing-down process. As a general rule (subject to many exceptions), warblers belonging to most genera have unpatterned wings, while most members of the popular genus *Dendroica* show wing-bars. Some examples of the latter are really striking: the western birder, hunting fall vagrants, often feels a quickening of pulse on glimpsing the bold black-and-white wing that denotes a Bay-breasted *D. castanea*, Blackpoll *D. striata*, Blackburnian *D. fusca* or some other eastern warbler.

However, the wing-pattern of the warbler in the photograph certainly does not fit into this category. There are two broad, well-defined wingbars — but they do not contrast at all strongly with the ground color of the wings; seen in monochrome, they appear medium gray against a slightly darker gray. This seemingly nondescript pattern is in fact a good clue to the bird's identity, since it is shared by few warbler species. The only North American warblers likely to duplicate the wing-bar pattern shown here are Golden-winged *Vermivora chrysoptera*, Yellow *Dendroica petechia*, Prairie *D. discolor* and Palm *D. palmarum* warblers, and perhaps Cape May Warbler *D. tigrina* and the juvenile Chestnut-sided Warbler *D. pensylvanica*.

Having narrowed the choice down this far, we may look for specific characters to rule out members of this group. The Golden-winged is rather easily eliminated because, even in its dullest plumages, the outlines of the dark throat and auricular patches should be discernible. The ill-defined but distinct dark line before and behind the eye rules out both Yellow and immature Chestnut-sided warblers, since both have a very pale area surrounding the eye, imparting a "surprised" or "wide-eyed" look. The Cape May is ruled out by the pale area below and behind the eye, and by structural characters (the Cape May has a finer, needle-tipped bill, and a shorter tail). Palm Warbler is more difficult to eliminate. However, one would expect a Palm to show a longer superciliary, more sharply set off by a darker crown. The pattern of the auriculars is also distinctly odd for Palm Warbler: the pale area below the eye is quite large, and it fades out gradually rearward, but the forward edges of the auricular patch are traced by a distinct dark stripe — the darkest feathers on the entire head.

Actually — as many readers may have noticed in an unanalyzed first impression — the odd dark stripes on the face of this bird duplicate, in shadowy form, the unique black face-pattern of the breeding-plumaged adult male **Prairie Warbler**, and this is the key to the bird's identity. This individual, probably a first-autumn immature male, was photographed by Elisabeth W. Phinney on Appledore Island, New Hampshire, in early autumn 1976.

## Editorial: Anticipation

There are birdwatchers who thoroughly enjoy the literature of ornithology — who, when they cannot be afield, get nearly as much satisfaction from reading about birds. There are birdwatchers who look forward to some publications almost as much as to the spring migration. We (the editors) must admit to being among this happy company of addicts: hooked on words as well as birds, and always ready for the next “wave” of either.

Some publications we look forward to for the sheer pleasure of reading: thus we await any new bird-related essays from such gifted writers as Louis Halle or George Sutton. Some reference works we anticipate for the satisfaction of having accurate information in accessible form: thus we await, for example, Volume 3 of *The Birds of the Western Palearctic*, which will cover in massive detail most of our shorebird, gull and tern species. And some publications we enjoy for the agreeable surprise of seeing what they will contain: thus we await, every month, the arrival of our favorite bird journals.

When we first initiated *Continental Birdlife*, we wondered whether knowing in advance what we were going to publish would detract from our enjoyment of it. Happily, this proves not to be the case. The enjoyment just lasts longer. There is keen excitement each time a new manuscript comes in; pleasure, too, of a special kind, in seeing each article through the editing and printing process. And there is still anticipation, of a different sort, as we look forward (vicariously) to the enjoyment that our readers will derive (hopefully) from each issue.

So far this journal has contained, perhaps, an alarmingly high proportion of material written by the editors . . . but we now look forward to publishing a number of fine papers written by others. One of the world's leading museum ornithologists recently sent a discussion of Black-throated Blue Warbler plumages; it will appear in our next issue. One of the top fieldmen in the Southwest is taking time out from his migration studies to work up for us an article on vireo identification. For Neotropical buffs, we have an upcoming update on recent additions to the Suriname bird list. Other articles in press or in preparation will deal with various waterbirds in the interior Northwest, nesting of Berylline Hummingbirds in Arizona, plumage sequences in gulls, Gyrfalcon records in the Midwest, and other subjects.

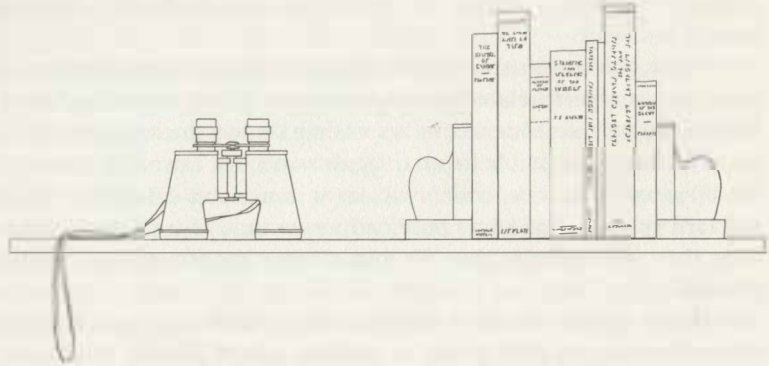
Also “in the works” now is our most ambitious project to date: a comprehensive, thoroughly illustrated article on field identification of all the North American pipits (accidentals included). Sometimes secretive in habits, often similar and subtle in pattern, never adequately treated in field guides, the pipits can provide challenges or headaches for the keen field observer. Our article should cast a definitive light on the subject and encourage more birders to look for out-of-range individuals. The authors of this work are Jon Dunn of Encino, California, already well-known for his authoritative writings on field identification, and Theodore G. Tobish of Fairbanks, a talented young Alaskan ornithologist with a growing reputation for skill in the field. We have been working with the authors on this project since last summer: the thoroughness and depth of their research has been impressive. We doubt that anyone else in North America could treat the pipit identification problem as effectively as they will.



## Reviews

Edited by

ELAINE COOK



**Parrots of the World** — Joseph M. Forshaw, illustrated by William T. Cooper. Second (revised) edition 1978. Lansdowne Editions, Melbourne, Australia. 616 pp.

Available in the United States at:

International Scholarly Book Services, Inc., Dept. P  
2130 Pacific Avenue  
Forest Grove, Oregon 97116  
Price (Fall 1979) \$39.50 plus \$1.50 shipping

and

Buteo Books  
P.O. Box 481  
Vermillion, South Dakota 57069  
Price (Fall 1979) \$47.50 plus \$1.00 shipping

and possibly other sources. Check your favorite dealers.

There is now a revised edition of *Parrots of the World* by Joseph M. Forshaw available in the United States. The color plates are high-quality, as in the first edition. The information on each parrot has been updated with published and unpublished data from field research through 1977.

The book's dimensions have been reduced 20 percent to 12"x8¼"x1¼" by using very narrow margins. All but the largest plates are the same size as in the original first edition.

In Vol. 1 No. 1 of this Journal, Elaine Cook reviewed a T.F.H. Publications reprint of the first edition of this book. Though one-half the price of the original first edition it was also lower in quality than the first edition, especially the color plates. It was unfortunate that this reprint was published, since the second edition came out the

same year. Now that the second edition is available in the United States the cheap reprint is obsolete. I recommend that you buy that second edition and have the current work of Joseph Forshaw, appreciate the excellent color plates of William Cooper, and support the quality printing of Lansdowne Press. — *Dirk V. Lanning*

(The Editors would like to express apologies to J. M. Forshaw for having promoted inadvertently the "wrong" edition of his book, and thanks to Dirk Lanning for sending us this notice. Lanning is a Research Associate of the Chihuahuan Desert Research Institute, and has recently been studying Thick-billed Parrots *Rhynchopsitta pachyrhyncha* in western Mexico.)

**The North American Birder's Library Lifest** — edited by Susan Roney Drennan. 1979. Garden City, N.Y.: Doubleday. 630 pp., 20 illus. \$24.95.

and

**The Birder's Field Notebook.** — edited by Susan Roney Drennan. 1979. Garden City, N.Y.: Doubleday. about 150 pp., 1 fig. \$4.95.

Publisher's address:  
Doubleday & Company, Inc.  
245 Park Avenue  
New York, New York 10017

From the advertisements for these books ["a new integrated way to keep every bird you see . . . until now you have had to rely on makeshift notebooks for recording observations and data"] you might infer that together they provide a complete note-keeping system. This is not the case.

All you can really do with one copy of each book is record your lifest, state and provincial lists, thirty other lists, and details of 72 individual birds. There's no provision for recording the species and numbers of birds you see every time you're out in the field. Ergo, if you want to record that you saw 2,000 Myrtle Warblers at Chincoteague on the tenth of February 1980, you'll need to continue using whatever "makeshift" system you've developed for recording daily notes. However, the two volumes are briefly noted here, so that our readers may decide for themselves whether these would be useful additions to their note-keeping systems.

**The North American Birder's Library Lifest:** If one keeps a life list, state list, and various other whatever lists, it's convenient to be able to record them all in one place. This daunting volume was evidently designed for that purpose. A sample one-species spread is reproduced at reduced size below.

Note that the boxes for state lists are very small, 5/16 of an inch square, and you lose some of that to the lettering in the box. With a fine-tipped pen and a steady hand you can fit a date in, but there's little hope of getting a location in also. The thirty blank boxes are larger, 1/2 square, but still not expansive. However, on the positive side, there is ample space in which to lovingly inscribe all details of your life birds.

**The Birder's Field Notebook:** This is a nifty little book. Except for a brief introduction and some blank pages at the end, the entire book is made up of 72



**Waterfowl: Ducks, Geese & Swans of the World** — Frank S. Todd. 1979. San Diego, Calif.: Sea World Press. x + 399 pp., 788+ illustrations, map. \$45.00.

Publisher's address:  
Sea World Press  
1250 Sixth Avenue  
San Diego, California 92101

Recently, we have seen a plethora of new "duck books" (several of which are noted briefly after this review); however, we think you should take special note of this fine book. Its aim, from the preface, is "to increase public appreciation of waterfowl by providing a single volume that photographically depicts virtually *all* species and subspecies of waterfowl in color." This aim is more than accomplished; not only the photographs, but moreover the text, should increase your appreciation for and knowledge of the waterfowl.

The sheer abundance of color photographs in the book is staggering: there are nearly 800 in total, each is beautifully reproduced, and the great majority were taken by Frank S. Todd himself. Lest you fear that all these photos are of drakes floating on placid ponds, let me assure you that they are not. There are indeed pictures of drakes sitting on ponds, but there are also ducks taking off, flying, landing, preening, feeding, courting, and copulating. There are photos of waterfowl habitats, nests, eggs, tiny ducklings, large ducklings, juvenile birds, adult males and females of various subspecies. And there are a variety of miscellaneous shots that include animals that eat ducks and eggs (bears, alligators, skuas), Eskimos hunting ducks, ducks being banded, plants to grow in your zoo to keep ducks where you want them, and people being attacked by ducks. Two particularly striking pictures are one of Lesser Magellan Geese *Chloephaga p. picta* flying against mountains in Tierra del Fuego and a 1929 picture of an English aviculturalist's duck pond that has on it three living Pink-headed Ducks *Rhodonessa caryophyllacea*, a species that is now extinct.

The text flows around the photographs, avoiding a strict format but presenting basic natural history information for every species and subspecies of duck, goose, swan, and screamer in the world. Among the types of information commented on for most species are the birds' range (migration routes, if any), status, appearance, feeding habits, calls, nests, eggs, and ease or difficulty of being maintained and bred in captivity. Before the species descriptions, there is an introduction to waterfowl and brief summary of classification. The text concludes with an interesting chapter about displaying, maintaining, and propagating waterfowl in captivity, and a chapter on man and the future of waterfowl. Two appendices are included; one is an essay by Todd explaining his photographic equipment and techniques. The other is a tabular summary of all waterfowl species and subspecies giving English and Latin names, distribution, average weights, nesting information, and status in the wild and in captivity.

Photo captions in books often read as though they were hurriedly composed between the galleys and final printing. The captions in *Waterfowl* are a happy exception to this curse; they are well-written, interesting, often include information not given in the text, and make browsing through the book a real joy.

The one slightly sour note is that the index gives only English names. If you know a bird only by its Latin name, it will probably take you a while to locate it here.

In summary, we strongly recommend this book — and commend its author/photographer, who has succeeded in communicating his fascination with the



subject in a contagious way. This volume is sure to turn many birdwatchers into confirmed waterfowl enthusiasts. — E.C.

**The Waterfowl of the World** — Jean Delacour. 1974 reprint edition. New York, N.Y.: Arco. 4 vols., slip-cased. \$150.00 (Arco Publishing Co., Inc., 219 Park Avenue S., New York, New York 10003).

Originally published from 1954 to 1964, but still *the* classic, authoritative reference on waterfowl. I have not personally examined the reprint edition; but even if the Peter Scott plates are not reproduced well (and I should hope that at this price they're perfect), the text alone is worth the money.

**Wild Geese** — M.A. Ogilvie. 1978. Berkamsted, England: T. & A.D. Poyser. 350 pp., 16 color plates, 41 tables, 40 maps, line drawings. £7.80 (T. & A.D. Poyser Limited, 281 High Street, Berkamsted, Hertfordshire, England) available in the U.S. for \$25.00 from Buteo Books, P.O. Box 481, Vermillion, South Dakota 57069.

Ogilvie uses an interesting format of discussing classification, identification, ecology, breeding, population dynamics, distribution, status, migration, and conservation of the world's geese in separate comprehensive chapters rather than under species accounts. For example, migration patterns are discussed for all goose species in one fell swoop. Since the excellent index will get you to everything on, for example, Red-breasted Goose *Branta ruficollis*, the format is not a hindrance. Rather, the text becomes fascinating since comparisons and analogies between species are explored and commented on. Regrettably, Ogilvie omitted the unique, aberrant Nene *Branta sandvicensis*; he states in the introduction that there is a comprehensive monograph on the Nene in the works.

**Wildfowl of the World** — Eric Soothill and Peter Whitehead. 1978. Dorset, England: Blandford Press. viii + 297 pp., color plates, maps, line drawings. £7.50 (Blandford Press Ltd., Link House, West Street, Poole, Dorset BH15 1LL, England) available in the U.S. for \$14.95 from Sterling Publishing Co., 2 Park Avenue, New York, New York 10016.

Only 128 species of waterfowl are included in this book, of a total count of about 150 species. The omissions range from obscure insular forms to such delights as Masked Duck *Oxyura dominica*, Whistling Swan *Cygnus columbianus*, and Torrent Duck *Merganetta armata*. The range maps and comments on identification suffer from

similar lapses. Each species account includes a color photograph; however, the majority are probably of captive birds, many with bands showing or against obviously unnatural backgrounds (e.g., a pair of Spectacled Eiders *Somateria fischeri* on brilliant green grass). The index is abysmal. On the positive side, there is an interesting list, alphabetically by country, of important wetlands for wildfowl, although Alaska has been elevated to a full nation and the USA is curiously placed between the Netherlands and Norway.

**Ducks, Geese, and Swans of the World** — Paul A. Johnsgard. 1978. Lincoln, Nebraska: University of Nebraska Press. xxiii + 404 pp., 59 color plates, many black and white illus., 132 maps. \$35.00 (University of Nebraska Press, 901 N. 17th Street, Lincoln, Nebraska 68588).

The format of this book resembles that of most large-scale monographs, but lacks color paintings. Each species account covers the following items: other vernacular names, subspecies and range, measurements and weights, identification and field marks, habitat and foods, social behavior, reproductive biology, status, relationships, and suggested readings. There are distribution maps for each species, some color photographs, and numerous line drawings. The dry, terse text makes this a reference book, rather than easy reading for a slow Sunday afternoon. The most interesting sections of the text are the comments on taxonomic relationships of the waterfowl; Johnsgard brings together analyses of plumage, structure, behavior, and feather proteins and makes authoritative comments on the likely relations of subspecies, species, and genera.

**A Guide to North American Waterfowl** — Paul A. Johnsgard. 1979. Bloomington, Indiana: Indiana University Press. viii + 274 pp., 31 color plates, black and white illus., maps. \$15.95 (Indiana University Press, Tenth & Morton Street, Bloomington, Indiana 47401).

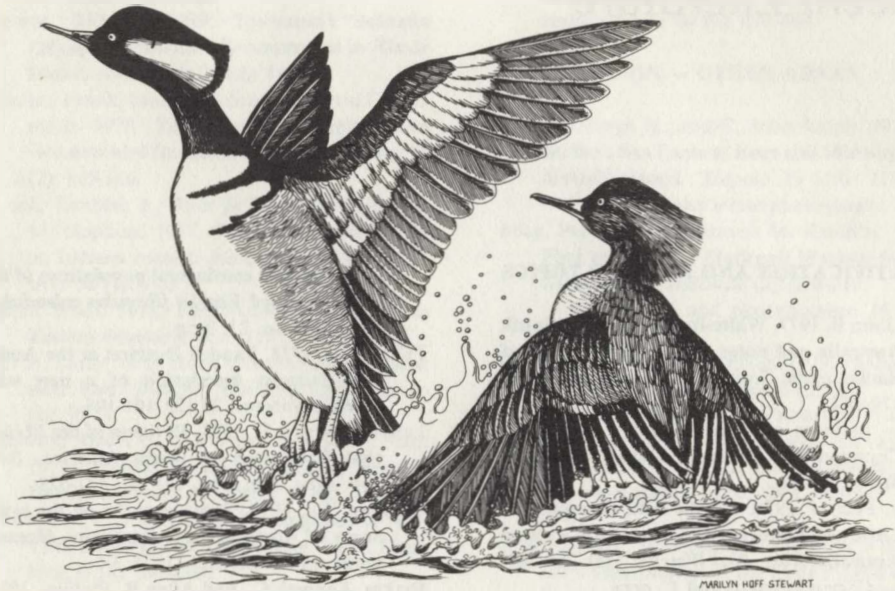
This is a rewritten version of the preceding book limited to species regularly occurring in North America. Unfortunately, the interesting sections on taxonomic relationships in *Ducks, Geese, and Swans of the World* are omitted here. As with Johnsgard's other writings, however, this book may be counted upon as an accurate source of information.

**North American Ducks, Geese & Swans —**

Donald S. Heintzelman. 1978. New York, N.Y.: Winchester Press. xiv + 236 pp., maps, illus., 16 color plates. \$15.00 (Winchester Press, 205 East 42nd Street, New York, New York 10017).

Only 53 pages of this book directly discuss waterfowl. And unfortunately, the information covers only the species' size, field recognition, flight style, habitat, and range within North

America. The field identification material is rehashed from field guides and the ranges are described incompletely. Most of the rest of the book is a list of United States waterfowl refuges. All the information in this section is available from the U.S. Department of the Interior, which presumably explains why Canadian refuges are not included.



**NEWS FROM THE FIELD GUIDE FRONT —** It is widely known, perhaps common knowledge, that Roger Tory Peterson is in the process of redoing his eastern *Field Guide to the Birds*, with new plates, new text, and the addition of range maps. *Birds of North America* by Robbins, Bruun, Zim and Singer is also being overhauled and updated. Now another entry in this category is in the works: a guide covering all birds of North America north of Mexico is being prepared under the sponsorship of the National Geographic Society.

While the National Geographic might seem an unlikely contender in this competitive field, their book is already off to a good start. Dr. George Watson, of the U.S. National Museum, and Claudia Wilds, well-known Washington D.C. birder, have been contracted to research the basic information (including every imaginable identification problem). For the all-important question of illustrations, the Geographic reportedly has been negotiating with Guy Tudor and H. Douglas Pratt, both of whom are brilliant and experienced bird illustrators. Although we may wonder what will happen to the book if the final editing is done by non-ornithologists, for the moment at least the project shows considerable promise.

## Recent Literature

### IDENTIFICATION AND RELATED TOPICS

- Cox, John B. 1977. **White-fronted Terns in South Australia and notes on the identification of similar terns.** *South Aust. Ornithol.* 27 (5): 179-184.  
— Includes notes on Roseate, Arctic, and Common terns as well as White-fronted Tern *Sterna striata*.
- Curry, Peter J. 1978. **On the field characters of Little and Torresian crows in central western Australia.** *Aust. Bird Watcher* 7 (8): 265-269.  
— *Corvus bennetti* and *C. orru*.
- Davis, Thomas H. 1979. **A guide to differentiating Parasitic and Long-tailed jaegers.** *Newsletter Linn. Soc. N.Y.* 32 (8); 3 pp.
- Gibson, Daniel D. 1978. **Separation of tattlers and snipe.** *'Elepaio* 39 (1): 8.  
— Deals with Wandering vs. Polynesian tattlers, and North American vs. Asian races of Common Snipe.
- Hamerstrom, Frederick, and Frances Hamerstrom. 1978. **External sex characters of Harris' Hawks in winter.** *Raptor Res.* 12 (1/2): 1-14.
- Ripley, S. Dillon. 1979. **A semi-albino Snow Goose.** *Avicult. Mag.* 85 (1): 5.  
— With photograph.
- Robertson, B.I. 1977. **Identification of Pacific and Dominican gulls.** *Aust. Bird Watcher* 7 (1): 5-10.

### TAXONOMY AND NEW FORMS

- Browning, M. Ralph. 1979. **A review of geograph-**

**ic variation in continental populations of the Ruby-crowned Kinglet (*Regulus calendula*).** *Nemouria* no. 21; 9 pp.

- Falla, R.A. 1978. **Banded Dotterel at the Auckland Islands: description of a new subspecies.** *Notornis* 25 (2): 101-108.
- Lanyon, Wesley E. 1978. **Revision of the *Myiarchus* flycatchers of South America.** *Bull. Am. Mus. Nat. Hist.* 161 (4): 427-628.
- McKean, J.L. 1978. **Some remarks on the taxonomy of Australian oystercatchers, *Haematopus* spp.** *Sunbird* 9 (1/2): 3-6.
- Parkes, Kenneth C., and Allan R. Phillips. 1978. **Two new Caribbean subspecies of Barn Owl (*Tyto alba*), with remarks on variation in other populations.** *Ann. Carnegie Mus.* 47 (20): 479-492.
- Pratt, H. Douglas. 1979. **Nomenclatural notes on Hawaiian birds.** *'Elepaio* 39 (8): 84-85.

### RARA AVES

- Kiff, Lloyd F., David B. Peakall, and Sanford R. Wilbur. 1979. **Recent changes in California Condor eggshells.** *Condor* 81 (2): 166-172.
- Mills, Stephen. 1978. **What's wrong with the Nene in Hawaii?** *Oryx* 14 (4): 359-361.  
— Predation and habitat destruction by introduced mammals are preventing the Nene or Hawaiian Goose *Branta sandvicensis* from building up wild populations.
- Shuler, Jay, Perry Nugent, John Trochet, and Joe van Os. 1978. **Bachman's Warbler observations continue in l'On Swamp.** *Chat* 42 (2): 23-24.



## DISTRIBUTION — NORTH AMERICA

- Abraham, Kenneth F., and Fred Cooke. 1979. **First record of King Eider nesting in Manitoba.** *Blue Jay* 37 (1): 45-46.
- Andersen, Erling S. 1978. **Notes of the birds of Upernavik, north-west Greenland.** *Avicult. Mag.* 84 (3): 167-170.
- Balch, Lawrence G., H. David Bolen, and Gerald H. Rosenband. 1979. **The Illinois Ross' Gull.** *Am. Birds* 33 (2): 140-142.
- Berns, Vernon D. 1979. **Golden Eagle nest on Kodiak Island, Alaska.** *Condor* 81 (2): 218. — First for Kodiak.
- Bowen, Richard. 1979. **Townsend's Solitaire (*Myadestes townsendi*) occurrence in Rhode Island.** *Am. Birds* 33 (2): 142.
- Brazier, Frank, Manley Collin, and David Chaskavich. 1978. **Yellow-crowned Night Heron — a new bird for Saskatchewan.** *Blue Jay* 36 (3): 145-146.
- Brock, Kenneth J., Peter B. Grube, and Edward M. Hopkins. 1978. **The Black-headed Gull: an Indiana record.** *Indiana Audubon Quarterly* 56 (1): 1-2.
- Butot, Rudi. 1978. **First Alberta record of an Eastern Bluebird.** *Blue Jay* 36 (1): 41.
- Carter, Larry. 1978. **Rock Wren in Indiana: a new state bird.** *Indiana Audubon Quarterly* 56 (2): 50-51.
- Conway, Albert E., and Susan Roney Drennan. 1979. **Rufous Hummingbirds in eastern North America.** *Am. Birds* 33 (2): 130-132.
- Delehanty, Charlie. 1978. **Photographs of New York State rarities: 29. Western Grebe.** *Kingbird* 28 (4): 208-209. — First documented New York state record.
- Eckert, Kim. 1978. **Invasion of Great Gray and Boreal owls, winter 1977-78.** *Loon* 50 (2): 63-68.
- Eckert, Kim R., and Terry L. Savaloja. 1979. **First documented nesting of the Boreal Owl south of Canada.** *Am. Birds* 33 (2): 135-137.
- Follen, Don G., Sr. 1979. **A probable breeding record of Great Gray Owls in Wisconsin.** *Passenger Pigeon* 41 (2): 53-57.
- Hjertaas, Dale G. 1979. **The Cattle Egret arrives in Saskatchewan.** *Blue Jay* 37 (2): 104-107.
- Lee, David S. 1979. **Second record of the South Trinidad Petrel (*Pterodroma arminjoniana*) for North America.** *Am. Birds* 33 (2): 138-139.
- Lee, David S., and Richard A. Rowlett. 1979. **Additions to the seabird fauna of North Carolina.** *Chat* 43 (1): 1-9.
- Lock, Ross A. 1978. **A second Great Gray Owl record from Nebraska, and other recent owl records.** *Nebraska Bird Review* 46 (1): 16.
- Manuwal, David A., Philip W. Mattocks, Jr., and Klaus O. Richter. 1979. **First Arctic Tern colony in the contiguous western United States.** *Am. Birds* 33 (2): 144-145.
- Parker, James W., and John C. Ogden. 1979. **The recent history and status of the Mississippi Kite.** *Am. Birds* 33 (2): 119-129.
- Plantania, Steven. 1978. **First record of the Fal-cated Teal in North Carolina.** *Chat* 42 (3): 58.
- Renaud, Wayne E., Guy J. Wapple, and Durand W. Edgett. 1979. **The Piping Plover in Saskatchewan: a status report.** *Blue Jay* 37 (2): 90-103.
- Thiel, Richard P. 1978. **The distribution of the three-toed woodpeckers in Wisconsin.** *Passenger Pigeon* 40 (4): 477-488.

## DISTRIBUTION — OTHER AREAS

- Balazs, George H., and C. John Ralph. 1979. **A Steller's Sea Eagle at Kure and Midway: first Hawaii record.** *'Elepaio* 39 (10): 117-118. — Two black and white photographs.
- Boag, Peter T., and Laurene M. Ratcliffe. 1979. **First record of a Blackpoll Warbler for the Galapagos.** *Condor* 81 (2): 218-219. — Mist-netted and photographed 16 May 1976.
- Britton, P.L., and H.A. Britton. 1979. **Phalaropes in coastal Kenya.** *Scopus* 3 (2): 58. — Almost all Northern Phalarope *P. lobatus*; Red Phalarope *P. fulicarius* is a vagrant.
- Carter, Michael J. 1977. **A Buller's Albatross in Victorian waters.** *Aust. Bird Watcher* 7 (2): 47-48.
- Cheshire, Neil, John Jenkins, and Peter Nesfield. 1979. **Distribution of the Cape Pigeon in the Tasman Sea and south-west Pacific.** *Notornis* 26 (1): 37-46. — Cape Petrel *Daption capense*.
- Chilman, P.W.G. 1979. **A voyage in the Caribbean and Gulf of Mexico, April, 1977.** *Sea Swallow* 28: 11-14.
- Clunie, F., F.C. Kinsky, and J.A.F. Jenkins, 1978. **New bird records from the Fiji archipelago.** *Notornis* 25 (2): 118-127. — A complete list of species and subspecies recorded subsequent to Mayr 1945, Mercer 1966, and King 1967.
- Doughty, Chris, and Michael J. Carter. 1977. **American race (*dominica*) of the Eastern Golden Plover (*Pluvialis dominica*) in Westernport Bay, Victoria.** *Aust. Bird Watcher* 7 (1): 23-24.
- Duffy, David C., and Natasha Atkins. 1979. **A second breeding record for the Grey-hooded Gull (*Larus cirrocephalus*) on the coast of Peru.** *Condor* 81 (2): 219.
- Dunnet, G.M., and S.W. Kotagama. 1978. **Red-necked Phalarope in Sri Lanka.** *J. Bombay*



- Nat. Hist. Soc.* 75 (1): 215.  
— Second record, six birds (= Northern Phalarope).
- Groh, Guenter. 1979. **Little Gull *Larus minutus* at Lake Turkana: a new bird for Kenya.** *Scopus* 3 (1): 26.
- Isles, Andrew. 1977. **The first Victorian record of the Grey-backed Storm Petrel.** *Aust. Bird Watcher* 7 (3): 101-102.
- Klapste, Jaroslav. 1977. **The Barn Swallow (*Hirundo rustica*) in Australia.** *Aust. Bird Watcher* 7 (1): 25-34.
- Klapste, Jaroslav. 1977. **An occurrence of the Buff-breasted Sandpiper *Tryngites subruficollis* near Swan Hill, Victoria.** *Aust. Bird Watcher* 7 (2): 56-59.
- Lane, S.G. 1978. **The Asian Dowitcher on the east coast of Australia.** *Sunbird* 9 (1/2): 13.  
— Second Queensland record for *Limnodromus semipalmatus*.
- Lindsey, A., and T.R. Lindsey. 1978. **A sight record of the Dunlin on the Cairns waterfront.** *Sunbird* 9 (1/2): 1-2.
- Lovegrove, T.G. 1978. **Seabird observations between New Zealand and Fiji.** *Notornis* 25 (4): 291-298.  
— Illustrates field characters of Pterodromas and storm-petrels.
- May, I.A. 1978. **Occurrence of the Grey-backed Storm-Petrel in South Australian waters.** *South Aust. Ornithol.* 28 (1): 25-26.  
— Description, and comparison with Wilson's and White-faced storm-petrels.
- Meeth, P. 1978. **Certain smaller albatrosses (known locally as mollymawks) breeding in New Zealand sea areas.** *Sea Swallow* 27: 10-13.
- Moriguchi, Kazuaki, Sadao Kobayashi, and Syozo Yoshida. 1978. **New record of Red-throated Pipit *Anthus cervinus* from Hokkaido.** *Tori* 27 (4): 118.  
— In Japanese, with an English summary.
- Perry, E.H. 1978. **A Temminck's Stint (*Calidris temminckii*) in Kitwe.** *Bull. Zambian Ornithol. Soc.* 10 (1): 37-38.
- Plumb, W.J. 1978. **The Lesser Golden Plover in Kenya.** *Scopus* 2 (3): 72-73.  
— Summary of records, brief notes on identification.
- Pratt, H. Douglas, and Phillip L. Bruner. 1978. **Micronesian Megapode rediscovered on Saipan.** *'Elepaio* 39 (6): 57-59.
- Rabol, Jorgen, and Stefan Pihl. 1978. **Brillesanger *Sylvia conspicillata* og Tyknaebbet Lovsanger *Phylloscopus schwarzi* po Christianso i efteraret 1976.** *Dansk Ornithol. Foren. Tidsskr.* 72 (1/2): 51-57.  
— In Danish (?) with an English summary: Spectacled Warbler and Radde's Warbler at Christianso, Autumn, 1976.
- Ralph, C. John, and Robert L. Pyle. 1979. **First record of the Buff-breasted Sandpiper in Hawaii.** *'Elepaio* 39 (11): 140.
- Rix, C.E. 1977. **New records of Ringed Plover in Australia.** *Aust. Bird Watcher* 7 (2): 40-44.
- Roberts, T.J. 1978. **Unusual ornithological records for Pakistan.** *J. Bombay Nat. Hist. Soc.* 75 (1): 216-219.
- Sakai, Howard F., and C. John Ralph. 1978. **A recent sighting of the 'Akiapol'au in South Kona, Hawaii.** *'Elepaio* 39 (5): 49-50.
- Smith, Fred T.H. 1977. **Another Victorian record of the Buff-breasted Sandpiper.** *Aust. Bird Watcher* 7 (2): 59-60.
- Smith, Fred T.H., R.J. Swindley, and J.G. Barkla. 1978. **A second Australian record of the White-rumped Sandpiper.** *Aust. Bird Watcher* 7 (6): 194-197.
- Taylor, Avery L., Jr., and Mark S. Collins. 1979. **Rediscovery and identification of the "mystery" *Garrulax* on Oahu.** *'Elepaio* 39 (8): 79-81.  
— Descendants (?) of released *G. caerulatus* (Gray-sided Laughing-Thrush).
- Taylor, P.B. 1978. **Two further records of Temminck's Stint (*Calidris temminckii*) in 1977.** *Bull. Zambian Ornithol. Soc.* 10 (1): 39-40.  
— Second and fourth Zambian records.
- Townsend, Simon. 1978. **A record of Common Sandpiper at Broken Hill, N.S.W.** *Aust. Bird Watcher* 7 (8): 278-279.
- van Tets, G.F. 1977. **Lesser Black-backed instead of Dominican Gull at Melville Bay, N.T.** *Aust. Bird Watcher* 7 (1): 11.
- Vernon, D.P. 1977. **The first live Australian specimen of the Westland Petrel (*Procellaria westlandica*).** *Aust. Bird Watcher* 7 (2): 44-46.  
— With one photo.
- Vuilleumier, Francois, and David N. Ewert. 1978. **The distribution of birds in Venezuelan paramos.** *Bull. Am. Mus. Nat. Hist.* 162 (2): 47-90.

## TECHNIQUES

- Crawford, Walter. 1979. **Hand-rearing of the Roseate Spoonbill.** *Avicult. Mag.* 85 (1): 23-25.
- Evans, David L., and Betty S. Evans. 1978. **The care and feeding of young Red-winged Blackbirds.** *Avicult. Mag.* 84 (4): 191-195.

## PLUMAGES AND MOLTS

- Elgar, R.J. 1978. **Dimorphism in a captive female White-necked Jacobin.** *Avicult. Mag.* 84 (3): 147-149.  
— Molted from a somewhat male-like plumage

age into a typical female plumage.

#### ECOLOGY AND BEHAVIOR

- Boswall, Jeffery. 1978. Further notes on tool-using by birds and related behaviour. *Avicult. Mag.* 84 (3): 162-166.
- Carraway, Patricia, and Clarke Carraway. 1979. The Bahaman Parrot. *Avicult. Mag.* 84 (3): 18-23.
- Frith, C.B. 1978. The function of display and coloration in the Sunbittern. *Avicult. Mag.* 84 (3): 150-157.
- Ingels, Johan. 1978. The nesting of three tanagers common in French Guinea. *Avicult. Mag.* 84 (2): 105-110.  
— Blue-gray *Thraupis episcopus*, Palm T. *palmarum*, and Silver-beaked *Ramphocelus carbo* tanagers.
- Lanyon, Wesley E. 1979. Development of song in the Wood Thrush (*Hylocichla mustelina*), with notes on a technique for hand-rearing passerines from the egg. *Am. Mus. Novit.*, no. 2666, 27 pp.
- Lemke, Thomas O. 1979. Fruit-eating behavior of Swallow-tailed Kites (*Elanoides forficatus*) in Colombia. *Condor* 81 (2): 207-208.
- Martin, Dennis J. 1979. Song of the Fox Sparrow. II. Intra- and interpopulation variation. *Condor* 81 (2): 173-184.
- Mobbs, A.J. 1979. Methods used by the Trochilidae (hummingbirds) when capturing insects. *Avicult. Mag.* 85 (1): 26-30.
- Snow, Barbara K. 1978. Calls and displays of the male Bare-throated Bellbird. *Avicult. Mag.* 84 (3): 157-161.
- Stiles, Edmund W. 1979. Nest and eggs of the White-browed Tapaculo (*Scytalopus superciliosus*). *Condor* 81 (2): 208.

#### MISCELLANEOUS

- Coles, David. 1978. Breeding the Plush-capped Jay at Padstow Bird Gardens. *Avicult. Mag.* 84 (3): 125-128.
- Gibson, L. 1978. Breeding the Skylark in Canada. *Avicult. Mag.* 84 (2): 74-77.
- Hancock, F.W. 1978. Breeding Cassin's Finch. *Avicult. Mag.* 84 (4): 186.
- Meyburg, Bernd-Ulrich, and Christiane Meyburg. 1978. Spanish refuge for Europe's birds of prey. *Oryx* 14 (4): 337-342.
- Rosenfield, Robert N. 1979. Broad-winged Hawk

preys on Saw-whet Owl. *Passenger Pigeon* 41 (2): 60.

#### FULL TITLES, AND PLACES OF PUBLICATION, OF SERIALS CITED ABOVE

**American Birds** National Audubon Society, New York, New York. **American Museum Novitates** American Museum of Natural History, New York, New York. **Annals of Carnegie Museum** Carnegie Museum of Natural History, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. **Australian Bird Watcher** The Bird Observers Club, Melbourne, Australia. **Avicultural Magazine** Avicultural Society, Berkshire, England. **Blue Jay** Saskatchewan Natural History Society, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Canada. **Bulletin of the American Museum of Natural History** The Museum, New York, New York. **Bulletin of the Zambian Ornithological Society** The Society, Kitwe, Zambia. **The Chat** Carolina Bird Club, Tryon, North Carolina. **Condor** Cooper Ornithological Society, Los Angeles, California. **Dansk Ornithologisk Forening. Tidsskrift** Dansk Ornithologisk Forening, Copenhagen, Denmark. **'Elepaio** Hawaii Audubon Society, Honolulu, Hawaii. **Indiana Audubon Quarterly** Indiana Audubon Society, Decatur, Indiana. **Journal of the Bombay Natural History Society** The Society, Bombay, India. **Kingbird** Federation of New York State Bird Clubs, Syracuse, New York. **The Loon** Minnesota Ornithologists Union, Minneapolis, Minnesota. **Nebraska Bird Review** Nebraska Ornithologists' Union, Omaha, Nebraska. **Nemouria** Delaware Museum of Natural History, Greenville, Delaware. **Newsletter of the Linnaean Society of New York** The Society, New York, New York. **Notornis** Ornithological Society of New Zealand, Dunedin, New Zealand. **Oryx** Fauna Preservation Society, c/o Zoological Society of London, London, England. **Passenger Pigeon** Wisconsin Society for Ornithology, Chippewa Falls, Wisconsin. **Raptor Research** Raptor Research Foundation, Provo, Utah. **Scopus** East Africa Natural History Society's Ornithological Sub-Committee, Nairobi, Kenya. **Sea Swallow** Royal Naval Bird Watching Society, Sussex, England. **South Australian Ornithologist** South Australian Ornithological Association, Adelaide, Australia. **Sunbird** Queensland Ornithological Society, St. Lucia, Queensland, Australia. **Tori** Ornithological Society of Japan, Tokyo, Japan.

## Latest Rumors

September-October 1979

This is a brief recounting of some of the exciting bird occurrences that have come to our attention recently. We make no claims for the completeness of this summary. Although we believe that all of the records cited here are probably correct, we have not been able to check most of them out personally; readers desiring further information should consult the appropriate regional publications, or the regional reports in *American Birds*.

Two hurricanes made headlines in the East, but the avian fallout from these storms seems to have included no unexpected species, although "David" left more than 250 Sooty Terns *Sterna fuscata* scattered through the Northeast. More exciting finds concerned visitors from across the continent or across the Atlantic. Noteworthy entries in the first category were a Ferruginous Hawk *Buteo regalis* at the migrant raptor showcase of Cape May, and a California Gull *Larus californicus* at an inland lake in New York. Transatlantic highlights included a **Eurasian Kestrel** *Falco tinnunculus* at (naturally) Cape May, a **Black-tailed Godwit** *Limosa limosa* at Philadelphia, and a **Spotted Redshank** *Tringa erythropus* at New Jersey's Brigantine refuge. — For the most part, tropical strays failed to appear in our southern regions. **Streak-backed Orioles** *Icterus pustulatus* provided an exception, with two or perhaps three visiting a Tucson feeder; but local observers were more excited by the Connecticut Warbler *Oporornis agilis* which arrived in mid-September for a first Arizona record. — The obliging **White Wagtail** *Motacilla alba* remained staked-out on the central California coast into late September. Much less cooperative (only one brief sighting) but much rarer if genuine was a possible Yellow Wagtail *M. flava* at Bodega Bay in mid-September. Rounding out the state's Motacillid tally were a single Sprague's Pipit *Anthus spragueii* on the Farallones and a few Red-throated Pipits *A. cervinus* in southern California in October. The famous probable **Common Skylark** *Alauda arvensis* that caused so much consternation at Point Reyes last winter reappeared in late October, but evidently did not stay long. — The outer Aleutians have received little coverage in autumn, so the observers who visited Attu for two weeks in September expected some surprises . . . and found some. Their most exciting individual was a **Little Stint** *Calidris minuta*, only the second or third ever recorded in North America; but perhaps more significant was the discovery that **Siberian Rubythroat** *Luscinia calliope* and **Middendorff's Grasshopper-Warbler** *Locustella ochotensis* (both exceptionally rare in spring) were present in numbers, with minimums of ten rubythroats and seven grasshopper-warblers recorded.

