

and greater coverts whitish, forming two rather indistinct wing-bars; flight-feathers dark brown with sandy-brown edgings; axillaries and under wing-coverts washed greyish-brown. Tail: grey-brown, rather warmer towards the base; slightly rounded in shape. Under-parts: white basically; feathers of breast and flanks (notchin or belly) with blackish centres bordered by slight chestnut streaks; the black breast-spot so obvious in the field was not very apparent in the hand; under tail-coverts washed buffish, with grey-brown centres. Soft parts: eye dark brown; legs brownish-pink; bill dark grey on upper mandible, pale grey on lower.

In Great Britain reports of sight records are given the severest criticism before acceptance. Many are rejected. Even so, one record that slipped past the editors of British Birds illustrates the importance of publishing a detailed account. Rush and Ryan (1956, British Birds, pp. 36-37) reported a Harlequin Duck (*Histrionicus histrionicus*) that was examined in the hand, described, photographed, and released. Surprising as it may seem, Wynne-Edwards (1957, British Birds, pp. 445-447) argued convincingly that the reported Harlequin was actually a Long-tailed Duck (Oldsquaw) (*Clangula hyemalis*)! He wrote: "There is an unrecognized similarity between the juveniles of these two birds, about which none of the standard reference books gives warning." Only the complete detail, supplied by Rush and Ryan, allowed the bird to be "re-examined" by other ornithologists.

Thus, errors can be made; errors are made. The facts of animal distribution - specimen and sight records - must be verifiable by other scientists. The reporter is responsible for presenting evidence of occurrence that can be evaluated by others. The best and easiest means is to have the bird put up as a specimen by a qualified preparator, who holds appropriate Federal and state permits. The alternative is to write up a detailed description and publish it with recognizable photographs.

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A NEW INTERNATIONAL ORNITHOLOGICAL PUBLICATION

We have just received No. 1 of the International Ornithological Information Service which is Series B of THE RING. The stated aim of this new venture, which is printed in English, is to publish a periodical in which information may be found on all aspects of ornithological life and research. In order to introduce it to the ornithological world the two first issues will be mailed free of charge to all applicants. Further issues of the quarterly may be subscribed for \$1.50 for 4 issues.

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