

impacts of this movement on egg and nestling development are unknown, although all observed young appeared normal.

We thank J. A. Rodgers, Jr. for making helpful suggestions on the manuscript.

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Florida Field Naturalist 16: 35-37, 1988.

A specimen of the Asiatic Marbled Murrelet from Florida.—On the afternoon of 27 December 1986, while participating in the North Pinellas Christmas Bird Count as a member of Jack Dozier's party (Dozier, Hoffman, Woolfenden, and Manny Lopez), Hoffman found a Marbled Murrelet (*Brachyramphus marmoratus*) on the beach of Honeymoon Island, Pinellas County, Florida. The bird was found about 400 m south of the northern tip of the island's outer sandspit, on a tidal sandflat, just inland from the crest of the spit, near a highwater mark on the sand. The sand surface around the murrelet was rippled in a manner indicating water had flowed down the beach around the bird. It was lying breast downward, with its head tilted forward onto the sand. From the murrelet's fresh condition, posture, and position on the beach, and from the appearance of the surrounding sand, we conclude that it came ashore from the east, or bay, side of the spit, on the previous night's high tide, which peaked at about 19:00 hr EST. We suspect the murrelet arrived on the sand moribund, and expired within the next several hours.

Marbled Murrelets are small secretive alcids of the North Pacific Ocean. Unlike most other alcids they nest solitarily, often several kilometers inland (see Carter and Sealy 1986). The few nests discovered so far were in trees, or on bare ground in treeless areas. One nest was in a cavity on the ground (Johnston and Carter 1985). Marbled Murrelets generally do not gather in large flocks, but rather occur singly or in pairs, usually close to shore (but see Carter and Sealy 1986). The breeding range, as reconstructed from sightings of birds in breeding plumage (Dement'ev et al. 1968, Jehl and Jehl 1981, American Ornithologists' Union 1983), extends from southwestern Alaska to the central California coast (*B. m. marmoratus*) in North America, and apparently occupies the eastern shores of the Soviet Union (the Sea of Okhotsk, Kamchatka, and the Commander Islands south to the Kurile Islands), Japan, and Korea (*B. m. perdix*) in Asia. The North American race appears to be largely nonmigratory, but the Asian race probably is more migratory, as the northern portions of its breeding range often are covered by pack ice in winter.

Marbled Murrelets regularly inhabit large lakes, sometimes several kilometers inland from the Pacific Ocean (Carter and Sealy 1986), but until recently (Sealy et al. 1982) were unknown more than about 100 kilometers inland of their breeding range. Sealy et al. (1982) discussed four inland records: two from Quebec (one is now considered dubious, S. G. Sealy *in litt.* 1987), one from Indiana, and one from Mono Lake, California (first reported by Jehl and Jehl 1981). They referred these specimens to the Asiatic subspecies *perdix*, which can be recognized by its longer bill and otherwise generally larger size. Jehl and Jehl (1981) also noted that *perdix* is characterized by a distinctive white eye-ring.

The Honeymoon Island specimen, prepared as a study skin by Woolfenden (GEW 5848), is a female (ovary granular, 17X4 mm, largest ovum 1.5 mm dia.). The stomach was empty, and the bird was emaciated (mass 199.4 g, no subcutaneous fat), weighing about two-thirds normal weight (see Sealy et al. 1982). The murrelet was in basic plumage except that it retained enough feathers from the alternate plumage to give a distinctive speckled appearance to the belly. These feathers indicate that the bird was more than one year old, and

may well have been an adult (S. G. Sealy pers. comm). The murrelet showed no molt, except for "apterial" down molt on the belly.

For four measurements (exposed culmen 21.6 mm, bill height 6.7 mm, flattened wing 147.3 mm, tarsus 18.5 mm) the Honeymoon Island specimen falls outside the range for *marmoratus* and near the upper end of the range for *perdix* (Sealy et al. 1982, Sealy *in litt.* 1987). The tail length (at 37.7 mm) of our specimen also is large, falling above the range and mean of the slightly larger *perdix*, for which Sealy et al. (1982) measured only a small series of specimens, and near the top of the much wider range for the slightly smaller *marmoratus*. Our specimen also has a distinctive white eye-ring, and we refer it to the Asiatic race (*B. m. perdix*).

Since the publication of Sealy et al. (1982) several more inland records of Marbled Murrelets have appeared. Sealy (*in litt.* 1987) indicates that nine specimens are now known from North America inland of the breeding range, and all were identified as *perdix*. The Honeymoon Island specimen is thus the tenth North American specimen of *B. m. perdix* and the first record of this murrelet in the eastern United States south of Indiana. It is only the second Pacific Ocean alcid of any species reported from around the Gulf of Mexico. The first was an Ancient Murrelet (*Synthliboramphus antiquus*) found on Lake Pontchartrain, Louisiana, on 6 May 1954 (Lowery 1974).

Spencer G. Sealy generously provided access to an unpublished manuscript, evaluated photographs of the specimen, and reviewed two drafts of this paper. His comments and information were most helpful in preparing the paper.

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