

garded as a tanager. It is true that the bill is not typically tanagerine but here again there is a close resemblance to *Mitrospingus*. It is a natural conclusion therefore that *Rhodinocichla* is to be regarded as a tanager which has become more or less specialized for a particular manner of life. As the stomach contents indicate a ground feeder, it may be that that method of finding its living has been the factor associated with its specialization.

EIGHTEEN SPECIES OF BIRDS NEW TO THE PRIBILOF ISLANDS, INCLUDING FOUR NEW TO NORTH AMERICA.¹

BY BARTON WARREN EVERMANN.

WITH the appointment of a naturalist in the fur-seal service July 1, 1910, and the organization, in the Bureau of Fisheries, of the Alaska Fisheries Service, July 1, 1911, the Bureau at once began the formation of plans for a comprehensive and thorough study not only of the life history of the fur seal but also of the scientific management and conservation of the fur-seal herd that has its breeding grounds on the Pribilof Islands in Bering Sea. The plan is broad in its scope and contemplates a thorough study of all the species of animals and plants found on or about those islands. Dr. Walter L. Hahn, at that time head of the department of biology in the state normal school at Springfield, South Dakota, was appointed naturalist in the summer of 1910. He arrived at St. Paul Island August 24 and immediately entered upon his duties with an energy and intelligence which could scarcely be excelled. His untimely death on May 31, 1911, from exposure in the ice-cold water of the village lagoon, resulting from the capsizing of a boat, was a severe loss to the fur-seal service and to biological science. During his few months on St. Paul Island Dr. Hahn, from the

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voluminous notes and records which he left, appears to have been indefatigable in his field work and marvelously painstaking in recording his observations. His notes, typewritten up to noon of the very day of his death, record a vast number of new and important observations on the fur seals and blue foxes. They also teem with records of interesting observations on the birds and other animals of the islands.

Mr. Millard C. Marsh, pathologist of the Bureau of Fisheries, was appointed to the vacancy caused by the death of Dr. Hahn. He reached St. Paul Island, August 23, 1911, and took up and continued with commendable industry and intelligence the work so ably begun by his predecessor.

Among the observations that are of special interest to the readers of 'The Auk' are those relating to birds.

In this communication I desire to record the species which their observations have thus far added to the Pribilof Islands and to the avifauna of North America.

In Palmer's 'Avifauna of the Pribilof Islands,'¹ 69 species of birds are recorded. To these, one species, the Northern Flicker, *Colaptes auratus luteus*, has since been added by assistant fur-seal agent James Judge, and recorded by Mr. Austin H. Clark.²

To this number I am now able to add 18 species, four of which are new to North America. All the specimens mentioned are now in the United States National Museum.

For assistance in verifying the identifications of these specimens I am under obligations to Mr. Harry C. Oberholser of the Bureau of Biological Survey.

1. **Rhodostethia rosea** (*Macgillivray*). ROSS'S GULL.—A fine example in adult plumage was shot on one of the small freshwater lakes of St. George Island, May 25, 1911, by one of the natives. The specimen was preserved by Assistant Agent A. H. Proctor who forwarded it to the Bureau of Fisheries.

This species was first obtained in Alaska by Nelson, October 10, 1879. Since then it has been recorded by Murdock from Point Barrow.³

¹ The Fur Seals and Fur-Seal Islands of the North Pacific Ocean, Part 3, pp. 355-431, 1899, Government Printing Office.

² Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus., Vol. 38, p. 60, 1910.

³ Nelson, Report upon Natural History Collections made in Alaska between the years 1877 and 1881, Government Printing Office, 1887.

2. **Mergus serrator** *Linnæus*. RED-BREASTED MERGANSER.— A female (No. 55)¹ shot by Dr. Morgan December 16, 1910, on the lagoon, St. Paul Island, and preserved by Dr. Hahn.

Although a common species in many parts of Alaska it had not been previously noted on the Pribilof Islands.

3. **Chaulelasmus streperus** (*Linnæus*). GADWALL.— A female in good plumage (No. 101) was shot on the lake near Polovina, St. Paul Island, November 13, 1911, by Mr. Marsh who thinks the species is probably not uncommon, but that most of the natives do not distinguish it from the female Mallard.

Among the ducks collected by Dr. Hahn is also a fine male (No. 66) of the European Widgeon, *Mareca penelope*, taken April 30, 1911, which, however, had been previously recorded from these islands.

4. **Spatula clypeata** (*Linnæus*). SHOVELLER.— A male (No. 74) in excellent plumage obtained May 24, 1911, on St. Paul Island, by Dr. Hahn. Stomach contained larvæ and small seeds.

5. **Dafila acuta** (*Linnæus*). PINTAIL.— Two males (Nos. 178 and 179) in perfect plumage, were obtained by Mr. Marsh May 24, 1912, at the village pond, St. Paul Island.

6. **Marila marila** (*Linnæus*). SCAUP DUCK.— A fine specimen, a male (No. 153) of the Scaup Duck or Big Bluebill, was secured on the village pond, St. Paul Island, by Mr. Marsh, April 27, 1912.

7. **Marila fuligula** (*Linnæus*). TUFTED DUCK.— This interesting duck I am now able to add to the North American avifauna. A female (No. 69) was obtained on St. Paul Island May 9, 1911, by Dr. Hahn who was at first inclined to identify it as an example of the Little Bluebill or Lesser Scaup Duck, *Marila affinis*.

Dr. Hahn states that the stomach was full of grass, cress (?), small seeds and a few larvæ. There was but little fat. The eggs measured 4 mm. in diameter. The bird was accompanied by the male which escaped.

8. **Marila ferina** (*Linnæus*). EUROPEAN POCHARD.— A male (No. 158) in excellent plumage obtained on St. Paul Island by Mr. M. C. Marsh May 4, 1912. Mr. Marsh states that this duck is "seen occasionally by natives not all of whom recognize it." It is not improbable that they confuse it with other species.

This is the first North American record for this species.

9. **Somateria spectabilis** (*Linnæus*). KING EIDER.— Although the Pacific Eider had been recorded from these islands, not until now has the King Eider been known to occur there. The collections sent down by Mr. Marsh contain 3 fine specimens of this species, male and female, (Nos. 129 and 132) taken February 4, 1912, and a male (No. 128) taken March 9, 1912, all on St. Paul Island.

10. **Pelidna alpina sakhalina** (*Vieillot*). RED-BACKED SANDPIPER.— One specimen a male, (No. 42) was shot on St. Paul Island, October 30,

¹ The numbers in parentheses are the collector's original numbers.

1910, by Dr. Morgan. On December 11, 1910, Dr. Hahn saw three others which he believed to be this species.

11. **Machetes pugnax** (*Linnaeus*). RUFF.—A young female (No. 22) was secured on St. Paul Island, September 7, 1910, by Dr. Hahn. This is not only the first record of this common European bird for the Pribilof Islands but it is the first for the west coast of America.

12. **Cryptoglaux funerea funerea** (*Linnaeus*). TENGMALM'S OWL.—A female (No. 59) in good condition caught alive in the village on St. Paul Island, January 26, 1911, by a native who brought it to Dr. Hahn. The stomach was empty save for a few hairs. This is the first record for America of this interesting little Owl.

13. **Cryptoglaux funerea richardsoni** (*Bonaparte*). RICHARDSON'S OWL.—A male (No. 111) was shot with a rifle on St. Paul Island February 2, 1912. Although previously known from Alaska this is the first record for the Pribilof Islands.

14. **Euphagus carolinus** (*Müller*). RUSTY BLACKBIRD.—One specimen a male, (No. 99) was obtained near the lake at Northeast Point, St. Paul Island, October 20, 1911. It was shot with buckshot by one of the native watchmen, who brought it to Mr. Marsh. The bird was unknown to the natives.

15. **Coccothraustes coccothraustes japonicus** *Temminck & Schlegel*. JAPANESE HAWFINCH.—A fine example (No. 100) of this interesting Finch new to the American fauna was shot at the village landing on St. Paul Island, by a native, November 1, 1911. It was a new bird to the natives, none of them recognizing it as anything they had ever seen before.

16. **Plectrophenax nivalis nivalis** (*Linnaeus*). SNOW BUNTING.—In 1887 Mr. Ridgway described the Snow Bunting common on the Pribilof Islands as *Plectrophenax nivalis townsendi*.

It was therefore with considerable surprise that, among five specimens of Snow Buntings received from Mr. Marsh one (No. 172) proves to be the typical species. It is a male caught alive in the village of St. Paul March 31, 1912. The other four specimens are typical *P. n. townsendi*.

17. **Zonotrichia leucophrys gambeli** (*Nuttall*). GAMBEL'S SPARROW.—An adult male (No. 180) in fine plumage was obtained by Mr. Marsh, May 24, 1912, on St. Paul Island.

18. **Passerella iliaca insularis** *Ridgway*. KADIAK FOX SPARROW.—One male, (No. 15) was shot among the rocks near Gorbach rookery, St. Paul Island, September 7, 1910, by Dr. Hahn. High northeasterly winds had prevailed for several days. On October 4, another was seen near where the one was killed a month earlier. Still another was seen the same day among the rocks back of Reef rookery, and on October 15, one was seen among the rocks at Kaminista, St. Paul Island, by Dr. Hahn. Mr. Oberholser identifies the single specimen as *P. i. sinuosa* Grinnell which is not regarded as separable from *insularis* in the A. O. U. Check-List.