

observed two Western Sandpipers among other shorebirds at Shawnee Lake, Shawnee County, Kansas. He informs me that one of these two was almost in full breeding plumage as it was quite rusty on head, neck, and scapulars.

Western Sandpipers were again seen on July 28, 1940, by Mr. Hedges and the writer at Sunshine Lake. Three and one-half hours were spent searching and observing the 350-400 shorebirds. Five 'Westerns' were identified with certainty among about thirty Least Sandpipers (*Pisobia minutilla*) and twenty Semipalmated Sandpipers. Due to the difficulty in identifying the Western Sandpipers, more might have been present. The 'Westerns' were evidently in the process of molting as they were much grayer, especially about the head and neck, than those seen in the previous three weeks.

The species was most numerous on August 4, 1940, when at least fifteen were seen at Sugar Lake by Mr. Hedges and the writer. Also present were about 150 Least Sandpipers and 200 Semipalmated Sandpipers. At Sugar Lake on August 11, 1940, Mr. J. W. Cunningham, Mr. Hedges, and the writer saw six 'Westerns.'

Of seven 'Westerns' observed at Sunshine Lake on August 18, 1940, by Mr. Cunningham, Mr. Hedges, and the writer, one which proved to be a female, was collected by Mr. Cunningham, for the University of Missouri. The measurements of this specimen are: wing, 99 mm.; tarsus, 23; bill (culmen), 28; tail, 39. On this date the 'Westerns' were compared with three Baird's Sandpipers (*Pisobia bairdi*), one of which was collected by Mr. Cunningham. The Baird's Sandpiper is a slightly larger bird than the Western, is browner above with white-edged feathers, and has a brownish breast; the bill is not as long.

Five Western Sandpipers were seen at Sunshine Lake on August 25 by Mr. Cunningham, Mr. Hedges, and the writer. Comparisons were again made in the field with Baird's Sandpipers. Mr. Cunningham and I visited the same place on September 1, 1940, and saw three 'Westerns.' On subsequent trips we failed to find this species.

Having had considerable experience with this species in these two months, the writer was able to distinguish it without the aid of glasses. On all occasions the Western Sandpipers' preference for the deeper water was noticed, while the Semipalmateds preferred the water near shore, and the Least Sandpipers stayed more on the shore. The bill is carried downward by the 'Western,' which is a helpful aid in identification; even in flight, the bird carries its long bill tilted downward. On all occasions the Western Sandpipers were compared with other small sandpipers. Future studies may reveal to us that this species regularly migrates through this region.—EARL T. NEWTON, 5500 College Avenue, Kansas City, Missouri.

Types of shorebird flight.—During the spring and fall of 1940 and the spring of 1941 I had frequent chances to watch shorebirds from the air over San Francisco Bay. Sometimes, under the privileges of a practice area, it was even possible to follow up individual flocks at altitudes elsewhere illegally low. Most flocks, merely shifting about their feeding grounds or flushing ahead of a low-flying plane, seemed capable of very little speed,—even small commercial ships passed over or overtook them at two to one, and I began to doubt whether Least or Western or Red-backed Sandpipers (*Pisobia minutilla*, *Ereunetes maurii*, *Pelidna alpina sakhalina*) or godwit or curlew (*Limosa fedoa* and *Phaeopus hudsonicus* or *Numenius americanus*) could exceed at most 45 to 55 miles per hour, air speed, which roughly corresponds to Meinertzhagen's figures (*Ibis*, (11) 3: 228, 1921), until a single startling experience removed all doubt. Previously I had seen few flocks at alti-

tudes of over 300 feet, none over 600. On April 5, 1941, just before dusk, I was heading west up the outer boundary of the Oakland Airport at 1500 feet altitude and an air speed of 90, when two small, tight flocks, of perhaps a hundred birds each, characteristic mixtures of Red-backed and smaller sandpipers, overhauled me to starboard at an angle of about 30° to my course, crossed my nose, without hesitation or deviation, at a distance of not over 25 yards, and drew away to seaward. Unfortunately I was tied into the control traffic of a great airport, and could not follow. The two flocks were in close echelon, the individual positions fixed, the wing-beats rhythmic and powerful, in extreme contrast to the desultory, easily deflected flight of the lower flocks. The question of angle makes estimation of speed difficult, but familiar contact with other ships of known speed convinces me that the flocks were not moving under 110 m.p.h. air speed, and probably a good deal over. Without attaching too much weight to a single episode, however precise and unmistakable, I believe I had had the great luck to stumble on a near view of true migratory flight at a relatively high altitude, and suspect that, even if we do not subscribe to the romantic notions of a Gätke, it is not impossible that, contrary to the consensus of published opinion, not a slow, but rather a very fast mode may be used under such circumstances. Such a mode might even be a restricted or seasonal phenomenon, latent or impossible in the interim.—T. T. McCABE, 2620 Parker Street, Berkeley, California.

Black-billed Cuckoo in Colorado.—The thirteenth and fourteenth records of the Black-billed Cuckoo (*Coccyzus erythrophthalmus*) in Colorado, have come from within the Denver city limits this past summer. On June 5, 1941, a dead bird which had been clipped by a lawn mower, was found near Washington Park, and was taken by Mr. Dexter Landau, to the Colorado Museum of Natural History, where it was identified, and numbered 22620. The sex could not be determined. On August 22, 1941, I flushed a bird from ground covered with tumbleweeds, at the edge of the prairie, near a brick-yard at East 33rd Avenue and Dahlia Street. The size and shape and color and flight were those of a cuckoo (I have seen several in Connecticut), and no tail spots or rusty wing-feathers showed. After a low flight of about fifty yards the cuckoo alit in the weeds. I flushed it again and it flew back near the place where it had first been seen. The next time it was flushed it flew about twenty yards and perched on the edge of a brush pile, where I got a quick look at it through 8-power glasses. An Arkansas Kingbird dived at the cuckoo and it dodged into the brush. I went a quarter of the way around the brush so as to put the sun at my back, and slowly walked to the very edge of the pile without glimpsing the bird. Then I shook one of the limbs, and the cuckoo hopped out and perched in full view, for what seemed like a whole minute, on a twig not more than six or seven feet away. The entire bill was shiny black, and the spot which showed on the left side of the tail was about a quarter of an inch long. The bird flew away and circled back to the foot of a fencepost some twenty-five feet from the brush; then hopped up on a rail of the fence. It soon flew away out of sight beyond some buildings. That evening and the next morning I spent two hours unsuccessfully looking for a nest, but did not see the cuckoo again.—THOMPSON G. MARSH, *University of Denver Law School, Denver, Colorado.*

Second Record for Western Burrowing Owl in Wisconsin.—On October 8, 1941, while engaged in field work for the Milwaukee Public Museum I collected a Western Burrowing Owl, *Speotyto cunicularia hypugaea*, for that institution.