

guillemot, fulmar and kittiwake from the very first days of our life on the floe." Bunynitsky, who was on board the *Sedov*, and who was the source of Fisher's information, has also remarked (*Comptes Rendus*, 27: 122-127, 1940) that "it is curious to note that we fell in several times with the *P. nivalis* beyond the 86th parallel. The appearance of these birds either coincided with or followed a strong gale. The birds were always greatly exhausted. . . ."

Thus, from these shreds of information it seems that the high Arctic is probably not quite so desolate as one might suppose. We have yet to learn, however, the source of the birds, whether they normally frequent such high latitudes, what their feeding habits are, and the answers to many other questions.—RAYMOND A. PAYNTER, JR. *Museum of Comparative Zoology, Cambridge 38, Massachusetts.*

Pine and Yellow-throated warblers Feeding on the White Pine Scale Insect.—On December 17, 1950, Mr. William R. Solomon and I found a Pine Warbler (*Dendroica pinus*) in a small, dense grove of White Pine (*Pinus strobus*) and Scotch Pine (*Pinus sylvestris*) located within the boundaries of the Split Rock Golf Course, Pelham Bay Park, Bronx County, New York.

After observing and identifying the bird, we noticed that it was rubbing its bill along and among the needles of the White Pine. After collecting some needles, we found small white splotches irregularly scattered along them. Professor Herman T. Spieth of the City College of New York kindly identified these white forms as those made by the wintering stage of the White Pine Scale Insect (*Chionaspis pinifoliae*).

The Pine Warbler was observed during the following two weeks and was found still feeding in the same manner. Although the White Pine Scale Insect occurred on both (*P. strobus* and *P. sylvestris*), the Pine Warbler was never seen feeding in the Scotch Pines.

Mr. Solomon and I revisited the Pine Grove on April 28, 1951, and were fortunate enough to find and observe a Yellow-throated Warbler (*Dendroica dominica*). The bird was observed for three and a half hours and was only seen feeding in the Scotch Pine (*Pinus sylvestris*). It acted and fed in a manner similar to that of the Pine Warbler. While the Yellow-throated Warbler was under observation, I believe it fed continually on this scale insect. Although neither bird was collected and the stomach contents of the warblers were not examined, I would say that this scale insect (*Chionaspis pinifoliae*) must have constituted the major source of food for the birds while they were observed in the pine grove.—MAURICE L. RUSSAK, 1675 Metropolitan Avenue, New York 62, New York.

A Mixed Clutch of Ruffed Grouse and Ring-necked Pheasant Eggs Hatch on the Same Day.—On the south side of a poplar-wooded hill at Midland, Michigan, May 5, 1953, a Ruffed Grouse (*Bonasa umbellus*) was accidentally flushed from a ground nest containing 19 eggs. There appeared to be two colors and sizes of eggs. By good fortune, it was possible to see the eggs hatching on June 3.

By 12:30 p.m. of that day, four Ring-necked Pheasant chicks (*Phasianus colchicus*) had hatched. The adult Ruffed Grouse then left the nest with these chicks and apparently did not return. Between 1:00 and 6:30 p.m. one more pheasant and three Ruffed Grouse chicks hatched. These chicks and the remaining eggs were collected at 5:30 p.m. and incubated. By back-checking on color photographs of the types of eggs and the young which hatched from them, it was determined that there were six pheasant eggs and thirteen Ruffed Grouse eggs in the nest on May 5. (Dr. Miles Pirnie of Michigan State College kindly identified the chicks, since the authors had no previous experience in separating the very young of these species.)

On June 4, the remaining eleven unhatched eggs were opened for examination of the contents. Two eggs contained fully formed dead chicks, another had been punctured by a bird's claw and was empty, another contained enough gas to blow up, and the remaining seven eggs were partially filled with solid yolk-like material or filled with liquid containing no noticeable embryos.

An observation of the speed and manner of hatching of a Ruffed Grouse egg was made. The egg was one and nine-sixteenths inches long. At 1:00 p.m., the bird made a hole about three-eighths of an inch from the tip of the large end of the egg. At 2:00 p.m. this had enlarged to a squarish hole one-quarter inch in diameter. The bird began to crack the egg by making bumps at one-quarter- to one-half-inch intervals, and after each bump, the intervening shell would crack. This continued in a circular pattern going clockwise, looking from the small end of the egg. By 3:00 p.m. the egg was cracked half-way around, and at 3:10 p.m. the bird broke out of its shell by cracking most of the remaining half of the shell in one push. The cracking appeared to be accomplished by turning only the head, while the body of the chick remained stationary.

It was found that the young pheasants and Ruffed Grouse preferred insects to grain (chicken mash), at least for the first week or more. They ate field-caught insects such as hairless caterpillars, adult moths and butterflies, mosquitoes and other flies, spiders, and plant bugs, especially mirids. They cared less for earthworms, ants, and hairy caterpillars and would not eat tent caterpillars, stink bugs, and hard, adult beetles.—E. E. KENAGA, M. A. WOLF, and A. E. DOTY, *Midland, Michigan*.

A Western North Atlantic Record for the Frigate Petrel (*Pelagodroma marina hypoleuca*).—A Frigate Petrel or White-faced Storm Petrel (*Pelagodroma marina*) was noted by the writer in a group of Wilson's Petrels (*Oceanites oceanicus*) approximately 60 miles SSE of Block Island, Rhode Island, at about 11:00 A.M. on August 18, 1953. The specimen was collected by Dr. Richard H. Backus, of the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, at about 12:00 noon (ship's position at this time 39° 48' N., 71° 02' W.). The bird was photographed and preserved in formalin and has since been presented to the American Museum of Natural History.

Dr. Robert C. Murphy of the American Museum has very kindly measured the bird and identified it subspecifically. His conclusions are as follows (*in litt.*): "Comparison and measurements show that this specimen is typical of the eastern North Atlantic or Cape Verde Island race (*P. m. hypoleuca*). . . . Weight, after removal from formalin, 56.4 gm.; wing expanse 414 mm.; wing 158 mm.; tail 70.6 mm.; culmen 19.4 mm.; tarsus 44.4 mm.; toe and claw 36.9 mm." Further information on the species may be found in Murphy and Irving (*Amer. Mus. Novit.*, No. 1506: 17 pp., 1951).

Reference to the four editions, and all supplements, of the A.O.U. Check-list has revealed only one other western North Atlantic record for this species (and subspecies)—400 miles off the coast of New Jersey (40° 34' 18" N., 66° 09' W.), September 2, 1885, by Robert Ridgway.

This record has also brought up a minor problem, namely, how are the offshore limits of the Check-List area constituted? No defining statements in this regard have been found in any of the material referred to.

To remedy this situation, the following is suggested: no natural hydrographic boundary that would hold for all coasts of North America being available, it is proposed that only those birds collected between a line on the sea-surface corresponding to the 1000-fathom contour of water depth and shore be included in the Check-List. The 1000-fathom curve is generally very near the point at which the continen-