

specimen taken in continental North America. All of the others are sight records except for a female taken by Barton W. Evermann on St. Paul Island, Alaska, in 1911.—ROBERT T. ORR, *California Academy of Sciences, San Francisco, and University of San Francisco, California.*

**Purple Galinule Strays to Southern California.**—On 1 October 1961 Mrs. J. B. Dalton found a strange bird that had been injured by flying into an overhead wire on Trieste Drive on the west side of Point Loma, San Diego, California.

The bird died during the night of 2 October and was presented to the San Diego Society of Natural History. It proved to be a young female Purple Galinule *Porphyryula martinica* and is now No. 30289 in the Society's collection. This specimen represents the westernmost occurrence of this species to date and a new bird to California.—LAURENCE M. HUEY, *San Diego Society of Natural History, Balboa Park, San Diego, California.*

**Parasitic Jaeger in Louisiana.**—On 14 January 1962, I collected an immature female Parasitic Jaeger (*Stercorarius parasiticus*) near the entrance of Calcasieu Pass, Louisiana (lat 29° 44.6' N, long 93° 20.5' W) approximately one and one-half km offshore. During the three hours we (I was accompanied by William Post, Jr., and John von Stade) remained in the area, two other jaegers (*Stercorarius* sp.) were observed, but neither was identified specifically. The specimen, the first of the species for Louisiana, has been placed in the Louisiana State University Museum of Zoology.—LOVETT E. WILLIAMS, JR., *Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission, Lake City, Florida.*

**Cattle Egret Expands Range.**—On 25 November 1961 the Research Vessel *Argo* of the Scripps Institution of Oceanography, University of California, La Jolla, California, collected a specimen of *Bubulcus ibis* between Cocos Island and Clipperton Island (6° N lat, 97° W long) approximately 920 km (570 miles) west of the Central American mainland. This bird flew aboard the *Argo* during the night of 24 November 1961 and refused to leave. On 1 December this bird was presented alive to the San Diego Zoological Garden. It has been placed on exhibit in the Scripps Walk-through Flying Cage containing shore and wading birds.—KENTON C. LINT, *Zoological Society of San Diego, San Diego, California.*

**Plumage in Spotted Munia (*Uroloncha punctulata*).**—Plumage pigmentation controlling mechanisms in birds ranges from complete genic to purely hormonal. (For a complete review, see Emil Witschi, pp. 146–168, in *Biol. and Comp. Physiol. of Birds*, Vol. II, Ed. A. J. Marshall, Academic Press, 1961.) In two species of Indian Finches, viz., Lal Munia (*Amandava amandava*) and Common Weaverbird (*Ploceus philippinus*), plumage changes in response to the pituitary hormones. In the Spotted Munia (*Uroloncha punctulata*) such changes appear to be genetically determined. The Spotted Munia is a small finch (of the Ploceidae family), distributed practically all over India (Salim Ali, *The Book of Indian Birds*, Bombay Nat. Hist. Soc., 1945, p. 136), and, in this species, there is no sexual dimorphism. Adult birds are chocolate brown in color, and the rump and breast feathers are prominently barred with black bands. Juveniles have dull-brown plumage and are without any pigmentation.

The birds used in the present investigation were trapped locally and maintained under uniform husbandry condition in the laboratory.

A number of adult and juvenile birds of both sexes were gonadectomized, and others were sexed by exploratory laparotomy. The castrates were later checked for any

regeneration of the gonads, and only those birds without gonadal regeneration were used in the study. The breast feathers of all the birds were plucked every month, and the regeneration studied for over a year. The birds were grouped as follows:

Group	Sex	Status	Number of birds	Regeneration
I	Male	Adult normal	23	Normal adult type
II	Male	Adult castrate	22	Normal adult type
III	Female	Adult normal	20	Normal adult type
IV	Female	Adult ovariectomized	18	Normal adult type
V	Male	Juvenile normal	5	Normal adult type
VI	Male	Juvenile castrate	5	Normal adult type
VII	Female	Juvenile normal	3	Normal adult type
VIII	Female	Juvenile ovariectomized	4	Normal adult type

All birds always regenerated colored adult plumage, showing complete independence of the cycling gonads and the pituitary, suggesting that the factors controlling plumage pigmentation in this species of Indian finches may be genic in nature.—P. D. TEWARY and J. P. THAPLIYAL, *Banaras Hindu University, India*.

**Observations of Drakes Accompanying Hens with Brood.**—During the 1960 and 1961 rearing seasons on the Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge, Utah, I observed nine drakes of seven waterfowl species each accompanying a hen with brood: Ruddy Duck (*Oxyura jamaicensis rubida*), 31 May 1960; Redheads (*Aythya americana*), 2-3 June 1960, respectively; Shovellers (*Spatula clypeata*), 5-7 June 1960, respectively; Gadwall (*Anas strepera*), 7 June 1960; Blue-winged Teal (*Anas discors discors*), 5 June 1960; Cinnamon Teal (*Anas cyanoptera septentrionalium*), 12 June 1960; and Mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos platyrhynchos*), 1 May 1961. Dates refer to the time of first observations only. Except for the Ruddy Duck and Mallard drakes, which are occasionally reported with a hen and brood, and possibly the Blue-winged Teal and Shoveller drakes, which may stay until hatching of the brood (Hochbaum, *A Canvas-back on a Prairie Marsh*, Baltimore: Monumental Printing Co., 1944) the above sightings are apparently of rare occurrences. None of the drakes seemed to remain with the hen longer than a week after the brood was hatched.—NICHOLAS J. CHURA, *Wild-life Research Unit, Utah State University, Logan, Utah*.

**Behavior of a California Gull Feeding on a Large Mallard Duckling.**—Odin (*Auk*, 74: 185-202, 1957) and others report the predaceous nature of the California Gull (*Larus californicus*) without detailed accounts of feeding behavior, which are difficult to obtain. In 1961, I (*Auk*, 78: 271-272) reported the manner in which a small juvenile coot (*Fulica americana americana*) was prepared for swallowing by being crushed and jabbed by the bill of the feeding gull. Subsequently, I witnessed a Mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos platyrhynchos*), 23 days old and weighing about 260 g, being consumed without prior "softening" by the gull.

On 26 May 1961 I placed several captive Mallard ducklings for observation in a small stream-fed enclosure located on the Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge, Utah. I was standing but 2.5 meters away when a gull swooped down and unsuccessfully attempted to grab one of the ducklings, which escaped by diving to the bottom of the stream. The gull flew away without an immediate second attempt, and the ducklings emerged from the water and preened themselves on the bank. I retreated to a point 12 meters away when the same or another gull landed beside one of the busy ducklings, quickly grasped it just behind the head and took flight. The victim kicked and jerked