

It may be, as Johansen (H. Johansen. *Revision und Entstehung der Arktischen Vogel-Fauna. Acta Arctica*, Fasc. VIII, Part 1, p. 98, 1956.) and Amadon (*Auk*, 70: 461, 1953) suggest, that *Chen rossii* is a relict form which formerly had a much wider distribution. Competition with the larger and more aggressive *C. caerulescens* may be suggested as a probable cause of the present restriction of the numbers and range of *C. rossii*, but knowledge of the breeding ecology of the latter form is so limited that this is little more than speculation.

All known nesting of Ross' Geese in the eastern Arctic has occurred along the peripheries of large Blue Goose concentrations, usually on small islets in lakes. There is good evidence that other species of geese nesting in such peripheral habitat receive heavier predation pressure from Arctic foxes (*Alopex lagopus*), Parasitic Jaegers (*Stercorarius parasiticus*), and Herring Gulls (*Larus argentatus smithsonianus*) (Cooch, unpublished; T. W. Barry, pers. comm.) than do similar species nesting in central portions of colonies or in better habitat. If the same predation pressures were exerted against Ross' Geese, average reproductive success would probably be too low to produce significant increases in Ross' Goose populations.

Because few hunters are able to detect the difference between flying Ross' Geese and white-phase Blue Geese, it is possible that the same shooting pressure is applied to both species. If that premise is correct, then approximately 30 per cent of the total eastern Ross' Goose population is accidentally shot each year.

The distribution pattern of Ross' Goose records on the Gulf Coast and during migration follows so closely that of Blue Geese and small Canada Geese originating from the western and northern portions of Hudson Bay, that it is probable that the birds involved come from McConnell River, Southampton Island, and possibly also from the Koukdjuak River area of western Baffin Island. It is not safe to assume that this represents a recent eastward extension of Ross' Goose range from the Perry River area. In view of Hearne's old records it is more likely that a very small population has always been present in the eastern Arctic, and that the recent increase in the number of observations merely reflects increased activity by ornithologists, particularly in the North.—C. D. MACINNES, *Department of Conservation, Fernow Hall, Cornell University, Ithaca, New York*, and F. G. COOCH, *Canadian Wildlife Service, 150 Wellington St., Ottawa, Ontario*.

The first record of the Double-striped Thick-knee in the United States.—On 5 December 1961, while making a survey of wintering geese on the Laureles Division of the King Ranch in Kleberg County, Texas, we came upon a Double-striped or Mexican Thick-knee (*Burhinus bistriatus*). It was feeding in brushy, dry grassland approximately 250 yards from the shore of the Laguna Madre, and some five miles from the nearest human habitation. It was alone, although several Long-billed Curlews (*Numenius americanus*) were feeding nearby. The bird was collected, and found to be a female, probably immature. Its stomach contained three beetles (two Scarabaeidae and one Carabidae), a weevil (Curculionidae), and the legs and other hard parts of several grasshoppers.

The skin was sent to the United States National Museum, where it was identified as *Burhinus bistriatus bistriatus* by Dr. J. W. Aldrich. The family Burhinidae is therefore added to the avifauna of North America as defined by the A. O. U. Checklist in its recent editions.—C. D. MACINNES, *Department of Conservation, Cornell University, Ithaca, New York* and E. B. CHAMBERLAIN, *U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Patuxent Wildlife Research Center, Laurel, Maryland*.