

Thus, in view of the divided opinion on the status of the type series of *leucolaema*, it seems that the most conservative approach would be to follow Oberholser's own decision that at least one bird therein, number 79108, is typical of the local population, and to recognize *leucolaema* as the proper name for the eastern, palest, prairie form. Further, a revision of the whole complex is badly needed to determine if the prairie forms exhibit stepped clines, permitting the sensible retention of the present sub-specific limits. Allan R. Phillips and Joe T. Marshall, Jr. (pers. comm.) think that only two forms should be recognized, an eastern, pale grayish population and a western, variably more brownish or richer form which should be called *occidentalis*. While I would hesitate to combine the exceedingly pale grayish birds of the type locality of *utahensis* with the ruddy birds of the Arizona–New Mexico plateaus, the conclusions of Phillips and Marshall, based on large numbers of specimens from Arizona and adjacent states, indicate the need for a revision of this species of the entire region of central North America.—ROBERT W. DICKERMAN, *Department of Microbiology, Cornell University Medical College, New York, New York.*

**Rufous-necked Sandpiper, *Erolia ruficollis*, in northeastern Ohio.**—On the morning of 21 July 1962 I noticed a small sandpiper with a decidedly reddish head and neck among about 50 Least (*Erolia minutilla*) and Semipalmated (*Ereunetes pusillus*) sandpipers that were moving along open sand at Walnut Beach, Ashtabula, Ohio. Immediately I pointed out the bird to Paul H. Savage of Ashtabula and Ralph Browning of Phoenix, Oregon, who were with me.

When first seen, the bird was about 75 feet away (24 m). At this range the color of the head and neck was quite apparent and could be noted even without binoculars. After careful study we tentatively identified it as a Rufous-necked Sandpiper (*Erolia ruficollis*).

Upon further observation (as close as 15 feet) we found that it was slightly smaller than a Semipalmated Sandpiper. The bill was black, thinner than a Semipalmated's, closely resembling that of a Least. Legs and feet were also black. The head and neck were uniform bright reddish brown with a few dusky streaks on the crown and somewhat lighter superciliary line. This color terminated rather abruptly and was replaced by unmarked white on breast, abdomen, flanks, and under tail coverts. The white flanks were streaked inconspicuously with dusky. The back, scapulars, wing coverts, and rump were ochre, tinged with rusty and marked with dark brown. The flight pattern appeared similar to that of the other small sandpipers. The call note was a single or double *pip*.

Although the bird fed with the other sandpipers, it was not seen wading. Rather, it walked over the mud and picked nervously for food. Frequently other birds would chase and peck at it, and when the group was flushed, it flew by itself.

Savage and Browning returned later in the day and saw the bird again. That evening I was able to photograph it with a 500-mm telephoto lens at a distance of 25 feet. The next day the bird was still present and was seen also by Lois Savage and Arvid Ahlquist.

Photographs were sent to Drs. Alexander Wetmore, Dean Amadon, and the late Dr. Harry C. Oberholser, all of whom corroborated our identification. Study skins sent to us by Amadon further aided in our making the identification.

The only North American records of this Siberian and east Asian bird given by the A.O.U. Check-list (fifth edit., 1957: 198) are as a breeder "near Wales at the end of the Seward Peninsula, western Alaska," and as a casual wanderer "on St. Paul Island, Pribilof Islands and at Nome, Alaska." This apparently constitutes the first record for the species in the United States outside Alaska.—JON AHLQUIST, *Department of Conservation, Cornell University, Ithaca, New York*.

**A specimen of Fuertes' Oriole, *Icterus fuertesi*, from Texas.**—Recently, while working in the collection of the Museum of Comparative Zoology, Harvard University, with the kind cooperation of Raymond A. Paynter, Jr., I was able to examine Harvard's series of the Orchard Oriole (*Icterus spurius*) while searching for material from the southwestern United States and Mexico. In the series I found an adult male Fuertes' Oriole in moderately worn breeding plumage. The specimen (M.C.Z. no. 258513) is labeled *Icterus spurius*, Brownsville, Texas, 3 April 1894, and is apparently the second specimen of the "species" taken (Sclater, *Ibis*, 81: 140–145, 1939). It was received from the A. C. Bent collection where it was no. 10864. In the card catalogue of the Bent collection and the M.C.Z. catalogue the bird is recorded as *Icterus spurius*. The specimen retains the original field label, a small "watch-tag" type, attached with pink string. This label indicates the locality as "Bville" and bears the date. In the U. S. National Museum several days later I encountered a collection of birds from Frank Benson Armstrong bearing the identical type of label, including a specimen of the Black-headed Oriole, *I. graduacauda audubonii*, taken 1 April 1894. It should be noted that "Bville" was always used as an abbreviation for Brownsville, not for Beeville, Texas, a town considerably to the north in Bee County.

While collectors of Armstrong's time were rarely precise in their localities, there seems little reason not to accept this record as coming from the general vicinity of Brownsville. As such, it is, of course, new to the fauna of the United States.

More interesting than the mere addition of the form to the A.O.U. Check-list are the implications of the specimen as to the specific status of *I. fuertesi*. Graber and Graber (*Condor*, 56: 274–282, 1954) were not able to document sympatry of *I. fuertesi* with *I. spurius* in the areas of Tamaulipas which they studied; they carried out their studies, however, in the end of the nesting season for *I. spurius*. Phillips (*Anales Inst. Biol., Univ. Aut. Nac. de Méx.*, 32: 368, "1961"), largely on the basis of the Grabers' findings, designated *I. fuertesi* as a subspecies of *I. spurius*. The Texas specimen neither proves nor refutes the positions of these authors finally, but does very interestingly point up a problem awaiting careful analysis in the field in northeastern Mexico.—ROBERT W. DICKERMAN, *Department of Microbiology, Cornell University Medical College, New York, New York*.

**Red-billed Tropicbird on Long Island, New York.**—The Red-billed Tropicbird (*Phaethon aethereus*) is a pan-tropical species and one of its subspecies, *mesonauta*, breeds in eastern North America as far north as the Virgin Islands and ranges in the nonbreeding season at least to Lat. 23° N (in the vicinity of the Bahama Islands). Its supposed occurrence, "casually north to the Newfoundland Banks" (A.O.U. Check-list, fifth edit., 1957, see p. 27), is based on an old, uncorroborated sight report.

On 10 June 1963 a dead immature bird of this species was picked up on the shore of Bergen Beach, Jamaica Bay, Long Island, New York, by Walter J. Lynch and brought to the American Museum of Natural History, where it was made into a study