

Dovekie on Little Diomed Island, Alaska.—Since the last (1957) A.O.U. Check-list of North American birds mentions only accidental occurrence at Point Barrow as constituting the Alaskan status of the Dovekie, *Plautus alle*, the following observations are of interest. James Kimball and I spent from 12 to 18 June 1965 on Little Diomed Island. On the night of 13–14 June, I was seated among the rocks part way up the side of the island, photographing the midnight sun. Least Auklets (*Aethia pusilla*), and Crested Auklets (*A. cristatella*) were alighting within a few feet of me when what I was sure was a Dovekie alighted about 40 feet away and after pausing a few moments disappeared among the huge boulders. I focused my camera on the area awaiting its reappearance but it did not return and it could not be flushed. Later, on the morning of 16 June, Tom Meadelook, an Eskimo who had been netting auklets for food, brought in a live Dovekie saying he considered it very rare but it was not the first one he had seen. Another Eskimo volunteered the information that he had taken three since 1949. Later that same day Orville Ahkinga brought in a second Dovekie he had netted. The first specimen is now no. 21107 in the Minnesota Museum of Natural History, University of Minnesota collection. The second one was later given to Mr. John Burns of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game at Nome. From these bits of information it would appear that a very small population of Dovekies has been nesting on Little Diomed for some years.—W. J. BRECKENRIDGE, *Museum of Natural History, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, Minnesota.*

Wandering onto the eastern Pacific Ocean of an eastern North American land bird, the Bay-breasted Warbler.—The capture at sea off the west coast of México of a Bay-breasted Warbler, *Dendroica castanea*, prompts us to review and discuss the occasional wandering of this bird onto the eastern Pacific Ocean, far from its usual habitat and migration route on the eastern side of North America.

The vagrant in question suddenly appeared, vigorously flying, in the laboratory of the Research Vessel "Horizon" of the Scripps Institution of Oceanography, at midday of 11 June 1965. The ship was rather slowly hauling a midwater trawl in deep water, on a course of 152° true north, and was then at 28° 47' N lat., 115° 39' W long., about 28 nautical miles north of West San Benito Island, and 45 miles southwest of Punta Canoas, the nearest location on the mainland of Baja California Norte. The ship was operating on a research cruise (MV 65-I) supported by National Science Foundation Grant GB-2602.

It is possible that the bird had come in from the northwest, since a strong wind was blowing from that direction. During 23 days at sea off Baja California on this trip very few land birds, and no other warblers, were seen.

The warbler was an adult male wearing the full breeding plumage. Its testes measured 6 × 5 mm. The stomach contained a few chitinous insect remains. The specimen is in the San Diego Natural History Museum (no. 35431).

When this bird was captured its pectoral muscles were flaccid and the keel of the sternum protruded sharply. It was promptly frozen and was kept in a deep freeze in a tight plastic bag in a glass jar until 8 July. When freshly thawed, although it showed no obvious fat, the bird did not appear to be notably emaciated. However, it weighed only 11.2 g, contrasting with the weights, 14 to 15.3 g, averaging 14.6 g, given by Hartman (1946: 55) for five specimens of the species. Other strays of the species have been reported as in "poor," "emaciated," or "weakened" condition.

The only published record we have found of a Bay-breasted Warbler taken at sea