

yellow on her belly and neck and a trace of streaking on her back, was rated as 6 on Sibley and Short's index (1964, Condor 66: 130), where 8 is pure *I. bullockii*. Specimen number 19314, showing extensive yellow on her belly, some yellow on her neck, and some streaking on her back, was rated as a 5 on that scale. The single immature male in the series was not classified. The variation of these birds from the typical form of *I. bullockii* does not necessarily indicate that genic introgression is occurring at the collecting locality, inasmuch as Rising (in litt.) indicates that the phenetic variation of Utah orioles falls within the range of nominal *I. bullockii*.

The Baltimore Oriole reported herein constitutes the first record for the species in the state of Utah as well as the only record for The Great Basin.—GARY L. WORTHEN, *Museum of Natural History, University of Kansas, Lawrence, Kansas 66044*. Accepted 3 Jul. 72.

**Unusual White-throated Sparrow nest.**—Lowther and Falls note in Bent (1968, U. S. Natl. Mus. Bull. No. 237: 1368) that White-throated Sparrows (*Zonotrichia albicollis*) have been recorded as building nests off the ground only seven times. On 5 June 1971 I found a White-throated Sparrow nest in a 20-foot fallen spruce that lay across a little-used trail in a dry, fairly open area 1 mile southwest of T Lake Falls in Hamilton County, New York. The sparrow flushed as I crossed the tree, and a search revealed a 4-egg nest 3 feet above the ground and well-hidden among the branches. The spruce had been down for at least a year, but was still alive and the needles were dense.—WILLIAM F. DAVIS, *423 West 46th Street, Ashtabula, Ohio 44004*. Accepted 17 Jul. 72.

**The 1971 status of 24 Bald Eagle nest sites in east central Florida.**—This is the eighth in a series of brief publications presenting the history since 1935 of 24 Bald Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) nest sites. Each paper has been based on a ground search of each site and, beginning in 1951, an air search as well. The most recent of these papers appeared in Auk 1968, 85: 680.

I carried out 19 hours of ground searches on 16, 18, 22, and 30 December 1971. These ground searches were longer and more thorough than any since 1951. A total of 5 hours was spent in aerial searches of the nest sites on 18, 22, and 30 December 1971. No earlier air search was as long as this one.

During my December visit James L. Baker, Wildlife Biologist at the Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge, was in the course of a continuing study of the nest sites of eagles lying within the NASA-controlled area that includes the refuge. At that time we failed to locate a nest within site 8 and tentatively classified it in the questionable category. On 6 April 1972 Baker wrote that a nest was built within this site in late February or early March and that incubation was then in progress. This letter also stated that an eaglet had hatched in a nest within site 16 where we had seen an eagle perched beside an empty nest. He further informed me of a young hatched at site 15 and an "incubating" eagle on a nest within  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile of the boundary of site 9. (Observations made after 6 April from a plane showed that the nest on which this eagle seemed to be incubating contained neither eggs nor young.) Of general interest is his locating a nest containing one young within a mile of the boundary of site 8. This last nest is at a site not included in my original study and its history is unknown to me.

Nesting activities at certain sites were unusually late in 1971-72. Sites 8 and 16 were both occupied during the December visits of 1961 and 1966. The lateness of

these nestings this year may have been caused by failure of earlier attempts, as eagles are known to renest (Bent 1937, U. S. Natl. Mus. Bull. 167: 325).

In assessing the state of occupancy each site has been placed in one of four categories. The highest category is that of "occupied" (O in Table 1) and includes those sites containing a nest thought to contain eggs or young. A somewhat lower state of occupancy is assigned to those sites in which there is a recognizable nest or nest remnant (N in Table 1). A still lower category (Q, for "questionable," in Table 1) includes those sites that appear ecologically suitable for breeding but no longer contain even a remnant of a nest. Finally, sites judged to be no longer ecologically suitable for breeding are rated as "extinct" (E in Table 1).

Table 1 compares the states of occupancy of these 24 sites in 1966 and 1971. The number of occupied sites decreased from 6 in 1966 to 4 in 1971. The number of sites at which an unoccupied nest was present fell from 6 in 1966 to 4 in 1971. The number of sites without a nest that were thought still to be ecologically suitable for breeding increased from 8 in 1966 to 12 in 1971. Four sites were thought to be no longer suitable for reproduction in both years.

The history of these nest sites since 1935 is given in tabular form in the 1968 paper cited above. The state of occupancy in 1971 was at the lowest level in the history of this study. In 1961 five sites were judged to contain a nest with eggs or young, the lowest level of occupancy prior to 1971. Perhaps the drop from 6 in 1966 to 4 in 1971 in the number of sites containing evidence of a nest is not significant, but a comparison of the total sites included in the two higher categories in 1966 (12 sites) and 1971 (8 sites) indicates a decline in the state of occupancy.

In the course of the ground searches five eagles were seen in both 1966 and 1971. These eagles include those seen at the nest sites and in the travel between sites, but not those seen from an airplane.

In 1961 the National Aeronautics and Space Administration acquired control of the land on which 15 of these nest sites lie. Despite the restrictions NASA imposed on the use of this area by the general public, the level of occupancy of these sites has fallen. The personnel of the Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge are concerned about the status of this eagle population and are gathering data that may permit the formulation of recommendations to benefit the birds.

Of the 9 nest sites lying outside of the NASA controlled area 1 is occupied, 1 has an unoccupied nest present, 4 are without a nest but are still ecologically suitable, and 3 are now extinct. These sites lying on privately controlled areas have a relatively lower proportion (22 as opposed to 40 percent) classified in the two higher categories of occupancy.

I thank Harold J. O'Connor, Manager, Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge, for arranging to have me flown over those nest sites lying within the NASA controlled

TABLE 1  
STATE OF OCCUPANCY OF 24 NEST SITES IN 1966 AND 1971<sup>1</sup>

	Site number																							
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
1966	E	E	N	Q	N	Q	Q	O	N	Q	E	N	N	O	O	O	Q	O	Q	Q	E	Q	N	O
1971	E	E	Q	N	N	Q	Q	O	N	Q	E	Q	Q	Q	O	O	Q	N	Q	Q	E	Q	Q	O

<sup>1</sup> For explanation of abbreviations, see text.

area. I am especially indebted to James L. Baker, Wildlife Biologist at the refuge, for assistance in both the air and ground searches and for information about the nest sites both before and after my visit. Taylor Dunn, of Titusville, Florida, provided me with both flying time and assistance in searching those nest sites lying outside of the NASA controlled area.—J. C. HOWELL, *Department of Zoology, University of Tennessee, Knoxville, Tennessee 37916*. Accepted 21 Jul. 72.

**Willetts in southern Brazil.**—On 16 December 1971 while driving on the ocean beach about 19 km southwest of Torres, Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil, approximately 29° 29' S, 49° 50' W, I saw two Willetts, *Catoptrophorus semipalmatus*, with a small flock of Golden Plover, *Pluvialis dominica*, and collected one of them. Eugene Eisenmann has kindly identified the bird as belonging to the eastern race, *C. s. semipalmatus*; exposed culmen 57.5 mm; wing chord 185 mm. It is No. 539 in my personal collection. Sex could not be determined. This appears to be the most southerly record for this race and the farthest south on the Atlantic coast of South America for the species. Oliverio de O. Pinto cited it as only accidental on the ocean beaches of northern Brazil (1938, *Catalogo das Aves do Brasil*, Rev. Mus. Paulista 22). This bird was found in the course of an avifaunal survey of Rio Grande do Sul under the aegis of the Smithsonian Institution and the Museu Nacional of Rio de Janeiro, with assistance from the Frank M. Chapman Memorial Fund.—WILLIAM BELTON, *Caixa Postal 119, Gramado, Rio Grande do Sul, 95670, Brazil*. Accepted 19 Jul. 72.

**Ventriloquism in a Wilson's Plover.**—On 16 June 1972 on a tidal inlet at Destin Pass, Okaloosa County, Florida, I was startled by sharp single whistling notes that seemed to emanate from small clumps of grass near the water's edge. The notes seemed to be coming from right at my feet, then a few yards to my left, then my right, then ahead of me. The grass clumps were too small to conceal any birds and were searched to no avail. As I walked forward the notes seemed ahead of me, then at my feet, then to the side. They continued until I was about 60–70 feet from where I first heard them, and a Wilson's Plover (*Charadrius wilsonia wilsonia*) then appeared out on the flat about 50 feet ahead of me. The notes continued, and as I watched the bird through binoculars, its bill movements coincided with the calls all around me. When I moved closer the bird flew to about the same place where I first heard the notes and stopped calling. The bird's ventriloquial ability was remarkable. I can find no reference to it in Bent (1929, *Life histories of North American shore birds*, U. S. Natl. Mus., Bull. 146: 257), who states only that it decoys prospective predators away from its nests.—ROBERT A. DUNCAN, *614 Fairpoint Drive, Gulf Breeze, Florida 32561*. Accepted 21 Jul. 72.

**Unusual bird records from southeastern Oregon.**—Since reports by Marshall (1959), Kridler and Marshall (1962), and Kridler (1965) from Malheur National Wildlife Refuge, Harney County, Oregon, several other unusual birds have occurred on the refuge.

ARCTIC LOON, *Gavia arctica*. McLaury collected an adult male in breeding plumage 15 miles south of refuge headquarters 2 June 1968. The specimen is now in the refuge museum. Although the species commonly occurs along the Pacific Coast, this is believed to be the first record in Oregon east of the Cascade Mountains.

KNOT, *Calidris canutus*. On 17 May 1970 Littlefield saw a single Knot feeding with Willetts (*Catoptrophorus semipalmatus*), Long-billed Dowitchers (*Limnodromus*