

Gannet on Kent Island, New Brunswick.—In the summer of 1972, a young adult Gannet (*Sula bassana*) established territory within a dense colony of Herring Gulls (*Larus argentatus*) on Kent Island, 9 km south of Grand Manan at the mouth of the Bay of Fundy. The Gannet was first sighted on 11 June 1972, and was last seen on 20 August 1972. Plumage and behavior of the Gannet were those of a young adult male establishing a nesting site, as described by Nelson (1965, Brit. Birds 58: 240). The nearest gannetries today are on Bonaventure and the Magdalen Islands, approximately 480 km to the north and northeast, respectively. Until the 1860s Gannet Rock, 8 km southwest of Kent Island, supported an active gannetry (Pettingill 1939, Proc. Nova Scotia Inst. Sci. 19: 319). The establishment of a lighthouse on the rock in 1831 probably contributed to the Gannets eventually abandoning it.

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***Tringa glareola*—a new breeding species for North America.**—Since the Wood Sandpiper (*Tringa glareola*) was first collected in Alaska on Sanak Island in 1894 (Littlejohn 1904), it has been recorded several times in the Aleutian and Pribilof Islands, Alaska. To date this species has been variously considered a straggler, rare visitant, or accidental (A.O.U. 1957) in North America, although it breeds commonly in the Commander Islands (Johansen 1961). On 2 July 1969 three downy young less than 1 week old were found on Amchitka Island, Alaska, thus establishing the breeding status of this sandpiper within the geographical limits of North America.

Amchitka is a tundra- and grass-covered island of low relief and dotted with numerous small freshwater ponds and lakes. The lakes and ponds are often fringed with emergent plants and boggy expanses, but more frequently the lichen-crowberry ground cover comes to the edge of the lakes. The young were first seen as they attempted to cross a road near some small, boggy ponds. When pursued, the young gave distress calls. Oddly enough, the first response to their calls was from nearby adult Rock Sandpipers (*Calidris ptilocnemis*) by way of alarm calls and distraction displays both in the air and on the ground. Not until after one young was captured did the adult Wood Sandpipers become conspicuous and begin to call. One young was collected and is currently deposited at the Chesapeake Bay Center, Smithsonian Institution (C.M.W. 2798).

Our other experiences with the species on Amchitka were as follows. None was seen in the summer of 1967 nor between 30 April and 12 August 1968. In 1969 these sandpipers were seen regularly between 14 and 21 May. On 15 May an adult male, the right testis measuring 12 × 5 mm, was taken (USMNH 533815). On 18 May at least five individuals were seen. At sunset on 26 May the flight song was heard and an adult performed the undulating display-flight some 350 feet in the air. The flight song was heard again on 12 June. It is rather musical and best described as a "deele-deele-deele" (see Witherby et al. 1940). No birds were seen between 12 June and 2 July when the downy young was collected. In 1970 between 5 May and 1 August only one adult was seen (5 June). In 1971 several individuals were seen, often in pairs, between 26 May and 25 June. Courtship flight songs were heard on 29 May and 25 June. Breeding was suspected again in 1971 but not verified. In 1972 none was seen during the field work between 1 June and 4 August.

Our Amchitka data together with a review of the following records and unpublished field notes suggest that this species has an irregular breeding status in the Aleutian Islands. Apparently it occurs as a spring migrant at irregular intervals, sometimes only one or two individuals on an island and at other times many. In those years that the birds are numerous they may breed. G. Vernon Byrd and Daniel D. Gibson (pers. comm.) have observations from Adak Island that might suggest occasional breeding there. They had extensive observations between December 1968 and June 1972. No Wood Sandpipers were seen prior to 1971, and in that year at least six were recorded. One male collected in 1971 had large testes (11×5 mm) suggesting breeding condition. The species was also recorded on Adak in August of that year.

The data from the Pribilof Islands also suggest that breeding has occurred there at irregular intervals. In 1954 Kenyon and Phillips (1965) not only saw the species during July, when the flight display and song were noted, but also in early August. Heretofore, most reports were only of birds in May and June. Again in the Pribilofs, Sladen (Auk 1966) collected a male in May 1961 with testes in breeding condition (left testis 12×7 mm) and an immature was collected in August of 1961. We think it is reasonable to suggest that breeding occurred in the Pribilofs at least in 1954 and 1961.

The species apparently is not gradually expanding its range into Alaska as many other species are, neither is it a new breeder in the Aleutian Islands. Instead we suspect that this species has had a long history of occasional breeding in the chain but has passed unnoticed simply because investigators have not worked in the Aleutians at regular and extended intervals. Breeding apparently occurs only in these years when enough individuals arrive on any one island to stimulate courtship displays. We have no data to define the eastern limits of its breeding range in the Aleutians.

(ADDENDUM: In 1973 after this note was in press at least three pairs bred on Amchitka. A dead half-grown young was found in a Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus*) eyrie on 11 July and a young weighing 46.5 g and capable of flying only about 15–20 feet was collected on 16 July (CMW 3059). On 27–28 May G. V. Byrd counted 20 paired and courting individuals within 2 miles of Massacre Bay, Attu Island and in the week of 22–26 June Gerald Maisel of Los Angeles, California photographed two downy young there. None was seen on Adak despite extensive searching.)

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Nest predation and interference by Western Meadowlarks.—Feeding on eggs of other birds and destroying nest contents is not widespread among passerines (Hatch 1965, *Condor* 67: 354) and has not been reported in ground-nesting oscines. During our researches on the habitat exploitation patterns and population dynamics of grassland birds (U. S. International Biological Program Grassland Biome, Pawnee National Grassland, north central Colorado) we observed Western Meadowlarks (*Sturnella neglecta*) destroying or eating the nest contents of two other ground nesting species.

The first instance of nest predation was recorded at 12:30 MST on 2 June 1972. While conducting a vehicular search for nests on a sparsely vegetated, dry pluvial lake bed, our attention was drawn to a Horned Lark (*Eremophila alpestris*) nest site. Both male and female Horned Lark were extremely agitated, uttering continuous alarm calls and fluttering up to approximately 1 m above the ground. The male then dived at and struck with its wings a heretofore unnoticed larger bird that was intently engaged in unknown behavior. When the third bird stood erect, we identified it as a male Western Meadowlark and noticed it had egg yolk dripping from its bill. Another male Horned Lark soon appeared and landed about 8 m from the nest. This male also voiced alarm cries, but did not join the unsuccessful attempt to drive away the meadowlark. We watched the entire event for approximately 60 seconds before we intervened. Nest inspection showed two eggs had been present, one of which was still intact. Whether the remaining egg was incubated after nest predation was not learned. On returning to the site a few days later we found it had been inundated by a heavy rain.

The second occurrence was at the nest of a Lark Bunting (*Calamospiza melanocorys*) on 19 June. The nest contained three eggs that had been incubated for 4 days (the first egg laid on 12 June). We were taking time budgets of the male Lark Hunting, watching from a portable, 20-foot high tower 20 m away from the nest, when a male meadowlark approached. At the time the meadowlark had an active nest containing five 4-day-old young 35 m to the southwest of the Lark Bunting nest. The meadowlark was foraging slowly less than 1 m from the Lark Bunting nest at 08:37 MST when the male bunting flushed from the nest and flew approximately 15 m to the north. The meadowlark exhibited an initial startle response, i.e., flight intention movements and alarm clicks, then approached the Lark Bunting nest and spent 27 seconds at it before making a 250-m flight to the south while giving two flight song repetitions. We inspected the nest immediately and found all three eggs pecked open and the yolks exposed, whereas all eggs were normal when inspected at 07:30 MST. The Lark Bunting pair returned to and inspected the nest, but did not incubate the broken eggs. On 23 June these same color-banded Lark Buntings initiated a second and successful nest 25 m north of the original site.

Interference by meadowlarks at a second Lark Bunting nest occurred at 09:50