

that one might expect from a moderately swung baseball bat. I looked around expecting to see another employee playing a joke. Having previously climbed unhindered into nearly 60 nests, I found it hard to believe that an eagle was gliding straight toward me. The dark line of the outstretched wings broken only by the white circle of the head approaching so silently and swiftly was mesmerizing. Finally realizing what had happened, I frantically yelled and waved at the last second to avoid another strike. Both adults kept flying very close to me alternating, first one then the other. After quickly descending to the ground, I found my work shirt and T-shirt cleanly torn. Later examination revealed three superficial lacerations on my back. While I was on the ground, an adult perched in the branches directly above me several times. When I climbed the tree to look into the nest a few minutes later, both birds renewed their attacks; but I was not struck again.

The pattern of attack was similar each time. The cottonwood stand was not dense, so the eagles had sufficient room to start a shallow glide about 15 to 20 m away. They flew straight toward me with wings fully extended, and legs trailing against the body as in normal flight. At the instant before striking, they swerved to the side and thrust the talons out simultaneously. The force of the blow received was in sharp contrast to the one reported by Murphy (1962, *Auk* 79: 712) which lacked "any appreciable force." It is interesting to note that both birds attacked and that they remained silent during the whole encounter, which lasted about 20 min. Twice as I was writing my field notes in a skiff drifting offshore, one of the pair flew silently overhead and then back to the nest area.

On 30 July, 10 days later, I revisited the same nest to band the 7-week-old eaglet. Both adults initially flew close and circled several times. The branches above me were struck once as I climbed the nest tree. After I entered the nest to band the young, the adults circled overhead, then perched nearby without further incident.—TERYL G. GRUBB, *Washington Department of Game, 2524 Boyer Ave. E., Apt. 436, Seattle, Washington 98102*. Accepted 13 May 76. This note was subsidized by the author.

**The status of *Sayornis saya yukonensis* Bishop.**—*Sayornis saya* (Say's Phoebe) breeds from central Alaska, Yukon, western Mackenzie east to south-central Canada, and southward to Baja California and central Mexico. The A.O.U. (1957) Check-list recognized three races of *S. saya*: *quiescens* of Baja California, *yukonensis* of Alaska and northwestern British Columbia, and *saya* of the remaining part of the species' range.

*Sayornis saya* was first divided by Bishop (1900) who confined nominate *saya* (type locality: near Pueblo, Colorado) south and east of Alaska and northwestern British Columbia. He named as a race, *yukonensis* (type locality: Glacier, White Pass, Alaska), the populations breeding in the Yukon Valley. Bishop described *yukonensis* as darker and more clearly gray above, less "scorched" below, and as having narrower pale edges on the wing coverts and secondaries than *saya*. The new race was further characterized by Bishop as having a longer tail and a shorter, broader bill than the nominate race. The race *yukonensis* was recognized by the A.O.U. (1945) Check-list Committee who cited Cory and Hellmayr (1927) and Burleigh and Lowery (1940).

The status of *yukonensis* has aroused considerable debate. Rand (1948) and Phillips (in Phillips et al. 1964) questioned the validity of *yukonensis*. Aldrich (in Jewett et al. 1953) recognized *yukonensis* and included Washington and northwestern Oregon within its range, remarking that the breeding specimens from Washington were

TABLE 1  
MEASUREMENTS OF ADULT *SAYORNIS SAYA* COLLECTED ON THEIR BREEDING GROUNDS

|                               | Wing chord  |             |        |      | Tail       |       |      |
|-------------------------------|-------------|-------------|--------|------|------------|-------|------|
|                               | N           | Range       | Mean   | S.D. | Range      | Mean  | S.D. |
| <b>Males</b>                  |             |             |        |      |            |       |      |
| Alaska                        | 15          | 100.1-108.1 | 103.97 | 3.23 | 78.5-85.3  | 82.51 | 2.28 |
| Brit. Columbia <sup>1</sup>   | 6           | 96.5-107.0  | 102.28 | 3.81 | 79.1-86.3  | 81.55 | 2.80 |
| California <sup>2</sup>       | 7           | 98.4-109.0  | 103.54 | 3.45 | 71.0-85.3  | 81.44 | 5.23 |
| Idaho                         | 9           | 101.5-106.3 | 104.51 | 1.67 | 77.8-86.6  | 81.58 | 2.36 |
| Arizona                       | 5           | 101.1-107.2 | 104.28 |      | 82.3-84.8  | 83.64 |      |
| Rocky Mtns. <sup>3</sup>      | 10          | 101.7-108.8 | 105.06 | 2.42 | 79.9-89.4  | 84.56 | 2.99 |
| <i>quiescens</i> <sup>4</sup> | 2           | 98.8-106.8  | 102.80 |      | 78.4-80.5  | 79.45 |      |
| <b>Females</b>                |             |             |        |      |            |       |      |
| Alaska                        | 12          | 96.5-99.0   | 97.82  | 1.13 | 75.6-81.1  | 78.03 | 1.73 |
| Brit. Columbia                | 7           | 92.5-101.1  | 97.51  | 3.25 | 76.0-82.0  | 78.71 | 2.32 |
| California                    | 6           | 91.6-100.6  | 96.03  | 3.01 | 74.6-84.4  | 78.22 | 3.35 |
| Idaho                         | 10          | 91.9-102.8  | 98.69  | 3.41 | 73.8-85.5  | 79.10 | 3.38 |
| Arizona                       | 2           | 102.5-104.7 | 103.60 |      | 78.1-86.0  | 82.05 |      |
| Rocky Mtns.                   | 8           | 98.2-110.4  | 103.78 | 4.93 | 79.6-86.2  | 83.05 | 2.54 |
| <i>quiescens</i>              | 3           | 95.8-99.9   | 97.23  |      | 76.0-79.2  | 77.70 |      |
|                               | Bill length |             |        |      | Bill width |       |      |
|                               | N           | Range       | Mean   | S.D. | Range      | Mean  | S.D. |
| <b>Males</b>                  |             |             |        |      |            |       |      |
| Alaska                        | 15          | 9.5-11.0    | 10.37  | 0.47 | 4.5-5.6    | 5.19  | 0.32 |
| Brit. Columbia                | 6           | 9.8-11.6    | 10.70  | 0.53 | 4.9-5.4    | 5.10  | 0.16 |
| California                    | 7           | 10.5-12.2   | 11.40  | 0.52 | 5.0-5.8    | 5.34  | 0.26 |
| Idaho                         | 9           | 9.9-11.9    | 10.86  | 0.68 | 4.8-5.4    | 5.19  | 0.18 |
| Arizona                       | 5           | 10.5-11.7   | 11.15  |      | 5.6-5.8    | 5.70  |      |
| Rocky Mtns.                   | 10          | 10.4-11.6   | 10.79  | 0.36 | 4.9-5.8    | 5.43  | 0.25 |
| <i>quiescens</i>              | 2           | 11.4-12.6   | 12.00  |      | 5.5-5.8    | 5.65  |      |
| <b>Females</b>                |             |             |        |      |            |       |      |
| Alaska                        | 12          | 8.9-10.4    | 10.01  | 0.43 | 5.0-5.7    | 5.53  | 0.21 |
| Brit. Columbia                | 7           | 9.2-11.0    | 10.41  | 0.60 | 4.3-5.4    | 5.01  | 0.34 |
| California                    | 6           | 10.0-10.8   | 10.38  | 0.34 | 4.6-5.5    | 5.18  | 0.34 |
| Idaho                         | 10          | 10.1-11.5   | 10.59  | 0.49 | 4.9-5.8    | 5.33  | 0.28 |
| Arizona                       | 2           | 11.0-11.2   | 11.10  |      | 5.4-5.5    | 5.45  |      |
| Rocky Mtns.                   | 8           | 9.8-11.8    | 10.86  | 0.71 | 4.8-5.7    | 5.33  | 0.34 |
| <i>quiescens</i>              | 3           | 11.1-11.4   | 11.20  |      | 5.1-5.8    | 5.46  |      |

<sup>1</sup> Western.<sup>2</sup> Central.<sup>3</sup> Montana, Wyoming, Colorado.<sup>4</sup> Baja California.

darker than comparable material from Alaska. Specimens from British Columbia, on the other hand, were considered to be nominate *saya* by Dickinson (1953), who did not reach any conclusion on the validity of *yukonensis* from the material at his disposal.

I examined adult specimens taken on their breeding grounds for geographic variation in coloration and size (wing chord, tail, and length and width of bill). All measurements are in millimeters. Measurements of the bill were taken from the anterior edge of the nostril.

My determination of variation in color is based on the examination of over 200 specimens. Slightly over one-half of the specimens are considered breeding birds

with the remaining specimens being migrants or possibly early or late breeding birds. Both Rand (1948) and Phillips (in Phillips et al. 1964) pointed out that the coloration of the species is subject to fading caused by various environmental conditions (e.g. solar radiation) and to fading and foxing in museums. Comparisons of specimens of similar museum age revealed that a great amount of variation exists in both dorsal and ventral coloration. This variation is also apparent in specimens that are here considered as possibly early or late breeding birds. Among the specimens that I consider to be definitely breeding, I found that there is a tendency for specimens taken in more humid regions from Oregon northward to be slightly darker. However, there is a great amount of individual variation among specimens collected in this region. Series from northwestern North America include both dark and pale individuals whereas specimens to the south and east are more frequently pale. Therefore, I conclude that the characters of coloration are insufficiently consistent to justify taxonomic separation of the northern populations.

Measurements from several samples of breeding birds are listed in Table 1. Sample sizes are small because of the difficulty in obtaining specimens that could be considered breeding birds. The wing chord did not prove useful in distinguishing the different samples. Length of tail is greatest in the Rocky Mountain sample for both males and females. My measurements of length of tail and those given by Rand (1948) contradict Bishop's (1900) statement that *yukonensis* has a longer tail than *saya*. In size of bill, my Alaskan sample has a smaller average length of bill for both males and females and a greater mean width of bill for females compared to the other samples (Table 1). Although these data agree with the description of *yukonensis*, a comparison of all the samples for size of the bill does not reveal any differences that would justify recognition of separate subspecies. Rand's measurements of exposed culmen and tarsus similarly do not reveal differences between populations.

Geographic variation in the northern populations of the species is inconsistent (Table 1). On the basis of the great amount of individual variation in color among specimens from the range of *yukonensis* (sensu A.O.U., 1957) and the lack of any appreciable mensural differences between samples of *S. saya*, I consider the name *yukonensis* to be a synonym of nominate *saya*.

I also examined specimens of the southern race *quiescens* (type locality: about 45 miles NE San Quintin, Baja California, Mexico). These specimens are noticeably paler and more ashy gray (less pale brown) than nominate *saya*. Grinnell (1926) did not measure his series of *quiescens*, but measurements of a small sample in the National Museum (Table 1) suggest that *quiescens* has a slightly shorter wing and tail and a slightly longer and broader bill than does *saya*.

I am indebted to the curators of the following museums for the opportunity to examine specimens: American Museum of Natural History, British Columbia Provincial Museum, Carnegie Museum of Natural History, Cleveland Museum of Natural History, Museum of Comparative Zoology, Oregon State University of Natural History, University of Alaska Museum, and University of Alberta Museum of Zoology. I am grateful to R. C. Banks, J. Farrand, Jr., and K. C. Parkes for their encouragement and critical reading of the manuscript.

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**A definite Colorado breeding record for the Harlequin Duck.**—According to the A.O.U. Check-list (1957: 88) the Harlequin Duck (*Histrionicus histrionicus*) breeds "south to . . . the mountains of Colorado . . ." Bailey and Niedrach (1965: 180) reviewed the few published statements alleging that this duck bred in Colorado (all based on field work done between 1875 and 1888), and could "find no records to substantiate the belief." Of the two recently published authoritative works covering distribution of North American waterfowl, that of Bellrose (1976: 382) cites Bailey and Niedrach's rejection of the Harlequin Duck as anything other than "a former extremely rare straggler in [Colorado]." Palmer (1976: 332) states that this species breeds "in conterminous U.S.: a few in mountainous terrain down into Cal., perhaps formerly into Colo.," but his map (p. 330) has the Rocky Mountain breeding range shaded only south to southwestern Wyoming.

Bailey and Niedrach (op. cit.: 28) not only reject the supposed breeding of the Harlequin Duck in Colorado, but state that the only specimens ever collected there were those taken by Edwin Carter: a male from Park County, 15 May 1875 (specimen lost), and a male and female from Jackson County, 21 May 1876 (specimens in Denver Museum).

A hitherto unreported specimen in the Carnegie Museum of Natural History confirms the breeding of the Harlequin Duck in Colorado during the period in which the unsupported claims were published. CM 21786 is a downy young of this species, collected 15 July 1883 by A. W. Anthony at "Vallacito river, S.W. Colo.," which equals Vallecito Creek, La Plata County, in the southwesternmost corner of the state. This is one of the areas of alleged but previously undocumented breeding: "For my part I believe [the Harlequin Duck] breeds in both the San Juan and La Plata Counties, as I have had a duck described to me by ranchmen, as breeding, which I can only refer to this . . . I know of no eggs having been taken" (Morrison, 1888: 165).

The Anthony specimen is a duckling of about 10-12 days of age. As Anthony did not collect an adult, we believe it to be important to emphasize that the downy young Harlequin cannot be confused with the young of any other waterfowl that could