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First North American record of the Asian Needle-tailed Swift, *Hirundapus caudacutus*.—On 21 May 1974, a swift with a weak and languid wing beat was collected on Shemya Island, Aleutian Islands, 52°43′ N, 174°07′ E, as it slowly foraged along a tundra hillside. This is the first New World record for a swift of this genus and species. The pattern of flight suggested that the bird was in poor condition and under a nutritional stress. Examination showed it to have an extremely reduced pectoral muscle, but the bird, deposited in the National Museum of Natural History (No. 526402, male, right testis 5 × 2 mm) weighed 88 g, which suggests a near average condition. As we were unable to locate spring weight data for this species, weights on another swift of nearly identical size, *Apus melba* from the Aegean region, were provided by G. E. Watson. The average weight of 12 breeding males of *A. melba* was 85.8 g.

The specimen is referable to the nominate form (*H. c. caudacutus*) based on wing length and forehead color. This race breeds essentially in central and eastern Asia and migrates to winter in Australia and Tasmania. Vaurie (1969, Birds of the palearctic fauna, vol. 2, Non-Passeriformes, London, H. F. and G. Witherby, Ltd., pp. 647–648) indicates that it breeds eastward to near the mouth of the Amur River, and on Sakhalin and the Kurile Islands, westward and northward to about 85° E, 56° N (Tomsk) in western Siberia, and southward to northern China and Japan. It is a straggler to England and Finland and its breeding range is moving westward and northward (in the region of 58° N, 78° E) in Siberia (Vaurie, op. cit.). Other races occur farther south in southeastern Asia.

In view of its breeding range in the northmost part of the Kuriles, it is not too surprising that this migrant wandered to the Aleutians, especially as the spring prevailing winds are from the southwest. Shemya is about 900 miles (1440 km) directly over water from the northern Kuriles or about 1100 miles (1760 km) following along the land masses of the Kamchatka Peninsula thence out the Aleutians to Shemya. This does not seem to be an extensive distance considering the statements of Vaurie (op. cit.: 647) ". . . swifts of this genus are credited as being the most powerful and fastest flyers of all birds" and of Slater (1971, A field guide to Australian birds, non-passerines, Pennsylvania, Livingston Publishing Company, p. 400) "Entirely aerial; not known to land in Australia." The southernmost record of this species wandering beyond Tasmania is from Macquarie Island, 54°37′ S, 158°54′ E (Warham 1961, Emu 16: 189).

Several English names are currently used for the species, the commonest and preferred one being White-throated Needle-tailed Swift.—CLAYTON M. WHITE, *Department of Zoology, Brigham Young University, Provo, Utah 84602*, and WILLIAM M. BAIRD, *69 Hartwell Avenue, Littleton, Massachusetts 01460*. Accepted 24 Feb. 76.

Parasitic Jaegers prey on adult ptarmigan.—During 1972–1974, we noted Parasitic Jaegers (*Stercorarius parasiticus*) in the Kashunuk River region of western Alaska feeding commonly on microtine rodents, eggs and young of shorebirds and passerines, waterfowl eggs, and infrequently on fish obtained by harrassment of Red-throated Loons (*Gavia stellata*), Arctic Terns (*Sterna paradisaea*), and Mew Gulls (*Larus canus*). We once saw Parasitic Jaegers prey on a larger organism as described below.

On 8 August 1974, we watched a pair of Parasitic Jaegers hunting the heath tundra near Old Chevak; one member of the pair swooped over an adult Willow Ptarmigan (*Lagopus lagopus*), which flushed and gave an alarm call. A shallow dive by the second jaeger passed close to the ptarmigan's back. The first jaeger then intercepted the ptarmigan, striking it with its beak near the dorsal base of the neck. Following this the ptarmigan gained about 2 m in altitude, and was immediately struck by the other pair member. The ptarmigan plummeted to the ground, flushed within seconds, and flew some 4 m before being struck again near the head. The ptarmigan was lost from view in high sedge adjacent to a small pond. The same jaeger that forced the ptarmigan from the air in both cases landed in the sedges.

We approached the pond edge and found the jaeger standing on the ptarmigan, which was in 10 cm of water. Examination showed the ptarmigan to be a molting adult male, weighing 680 g. Extensive tissue damage was visible on the dorsal surface of the neck near the base of the head.

We have found no record in the literature of jaegers killing large prey, though the larger antarctic *Catharacta maccormicki* has been seen killing Adelie Penguin (*Pygoscelis adeliae*) chicks weighing up to 2000 g (Young, 1963 Ibis 105: 310).

This unusual attack by Parasitic Jaegers on a larger prey organism may have resulted from a reduction in populations of *Microtus oeconomus*, a staple food item, which we found to be low in 1974, and by reduction in numbers of shorebird and passerine young by fox predation.

We acknowledge critical comment by L. L. Stebbins and P. D. Lewis, Jr., University of Lethbridge, and financial support by the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Bethel, Alaska 99559.—JOHN H. EISENHAUER, *Department of Biological Sciences, University of Lethbridge, Alberta* and JACK PANIYAK, *Chevak, Alaska 99563*. Accepted 26 Mar. 76.

Green Heron nesting in a Wood Duck box.—Green Herons (*Butorides striatus*) have been recorded breeding in a variety of habitats. Bent (1926, U. S. Natl. Mus. Bull. 135) reported that this species breeds either singly or in colonies. Normally it builds a crude stick nest in a tree or shrub or, more rarely, on the ground. Nests are usually associated with a body of water but may occasionally be a considerable distance from water. This note is the first published record of a Green Heron nesting in a cavity.

On 11 July 1975 I found a Green Heron nest in an artificial Wood Duck box on a steel fence post in Dunn Township, Ontario (42°54'N, 79°39'W). The cavity entrance faced southward and was 7.5 cm high, 10.0 cm wide and approximately 2.6 m above the surface of the water. The box was made of gray plywood and measured 27.5 cm square and 22.5 cm deep inside. The back of the box was 62.5 cm high tapering to 55.0 cm at the front. The nest was located at the edge of a slough about 50 m wide that averaged 0.3 m in depth. Water depth at the base of the nest was approximately 7 cm. Most of the slough was surrounded by a fringe of common cattail (*Typha latifolia*).

When I found it the nest contained at least three large nestlings. I did not disturb it at the time, but when I examined it later apparently all the young had fledged successfully. The herons had added a few twigs to the straw put in for Wood Ducks to make the nest.—ALLAN P. SANDILANDS, *Grand River Conservation Authority, 400 Clyde Road, P. O. Box 729, Cambridge (G), Ontario N1R 5W6*. Accepted 16 Apr. 76.

Snowy Egrets attracted to prey by Common Terns.—Snowy Egrets (*Egretta thula*) have been reported foraging with birds of several other species. These include other ardeids as well as Red-breasted Mergansers (*Mergus serrator*) (Christman 1957, Emlen and Ambrose 1970), Pied-billed Grebes (*Podilymbus podiceps*) (Leck 1971, Mueller et al. 1972), Forster's Terns (*Sterna forsteri*), Royal Terns (*Sterna maximus*), and Ring-billed Gulls (*Larus delawarensis*) (Rodgers 1974). In most of these cases the egrets were feeding on prey concentrated by activities of the other foraging species (e.g. Emlen and Ambrose 1970) or man (Rodgers 1974). This note records an instance of Snowy Egrets exploiting rich but highly ephemeral prey concentrations located by Common Terns (*Sterna hirundo*).

Observations were made near low tide between late June and mid-August 1975 in Plymouth, Massachusetts where the Eel River flows across sand and mud flats into Plymouth Harbor. Common Terns roosted on drier parts of the flats and bathed in the stream water, and egrets foraged there throughout the summer.

The typical sequence of events began when a few terns discovered a concentration of prey and began circling, calling and diving into the water. This quickly attracted more terns and up to 24 Snowy Egrets. The egrets foraged very actively amid the diving terns, stabbing repeatedly while running, wing-raising, and making short hops and flights. Foraging stabs were made at an average of about once every 2.5 seconds as compared to once every 14 seconds when not feeding in such groups. These foraging parties often moved varying distances up or downstream, apparently in response to movement of the prey or appearance of a new concentration. Between foraging episodes most of the egrets moved out of the water and preened. Several juvenile egrets were seen in the vicinity during these episodes, but apparently none took part in the group feeding.

The prey species was never seen, but the birds' actions suggested that they were pursuing schooling fish. The Eel River is a spawning ground for an anadromous clupeid, probably *Alosa* sp., and the young descend the stream in late summer.

These activities suggest that the egrets were taking advantage of the terns' greater mobility and ability to find scattered prey concentrations to exploit a resource that might otherwise escape notice. The terns