

A REPORT ON THE BIRDS OF NORTHWESTERN ALASKA AND
REGIONS ADJACENT TO BERING STRAIT. PART VIII

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HUDSONIAN CURLEW. *Numenius hudsonicus*.

Two curlews were seen flying over the tundra at Nome on June 19 and one on June 20. The following year Hendee collected two of this species at Golovin Bay on August 31.

BRISTLE-THIGHED CURLEW. *Numenius tahitiensis*.

The only curlew I collected on our trip proved to be of this species. It was taken on a spur of Cape Mountain on May 28, the benches there being the only places free of snow at that date. A fair wind had been blowing from Siberia and many other stragglers probably crossed the Strait. I collected *Calidris tenuirostris* within a few minutes after securing the curlew. Three other Bristle-thighed Curlew were seen along Lopp Lagoon on July 6, and several on July 8, at Mint River, which may have been this species.

BLACK-BELLIED PLOVER. *Squatarola squatarola*.

I did not observe this species until arriving at Humphrey Point, to the eastward of Barrow, where several were seen August 16. They were quite abundant around Wainwright the latter part of August, and a good series of adult and young birds was collected. One adult, still in breeding plumage, was observed on August 24 with three young which were well able to fly. The last records of the season were made at Icy Cape September 7 and at Wainwright September 13. The Black-bellied Plovers were never common about Wainwright during 1922. The first specimen was seen on May 30 and another on June 9. A few pairs were to be seen on the tundra during June, but they were very wary. Undoubtedly a number would have bred near Wainwright but for the persecution by the native boys. The one nest found was located in black moss, no effort being made to conceal the one egg, which, strangely enough, was accompanied by one of the Arctic Tern. I did not observe the species at Cape Prince of Wales.

GOLDEN PLOVER. *Pluvialis dominica dominica*.

PACIFIC GOLDEN PLOVER. *Pluvialis dominica fulva*.

Golden Plover were quite numerous in the vicinity of Nome between June 19 and 24, and I am certain they were nesting there. We collected a small series, one of which was a female with well-developed ovaries. We found them most numerous back from the tundra in the foothills, sometimes at a height of a thousand feet; and from the actions of several, I am sure they had nests in the near vicinity. We saw a few at Cape Blossom August 1 and at Point Hope on the 2nd. Young birds were quite numerous at Wainwright, Hendee taking one unable to fly on August 8. No adults were noted, which shows how soon the parents start their southward migration. The young proved to be quite common all through August and the first week in September. After September 10, however, they became scarce, as the tundra was covered with snow, and after September 20 none was seen.

Hendee first recorded them the following season on June 3 and again on June 5. None was then seen until June 17, at which date the birds were evidently paired. From that time until July 21 no Golden Plovers were seen. In the early part of August, a few birds were noted along the beaches, doubtless non-breeding birds, and by the middle of the month they were exceedingly common. All collected proved to

be young of the year. Hendee says: "From my observations, I believe the chief migration of the Golden Plover does not follow the coast, the few seen during June being stragglers which later went inland to breed. The greater number seen in the fall are young birds which come to the coast after leaving the adults. The natives state that these birds breed inland in very large numbers."

The first plover of the season taken at Wales was on May 19. The whole tundra was snow-covered, the only bare spot being immediately in front of my workshop where my Eskimo helpers had thrown water, and this proved to be a fine collecting spot. The specimen taken was a female with large ovaries, and she was very thin, doubtless due to her long journey. On May 28, the date when most of the migrants began to arrive, I saw a couple of flocks on a spur of Wales Mountain where they were working among the exposed mosses. After that date a few were to be seen daily about Wales, and they nested in limited numbers there, as I found scattered pairs over the tundra and on the hill slopes all summer. They were exceedingly wary and I secured but one set of eggs. This pair was nesting in the moss among some jagged boulders on the side of Cape Mountain. There was no lining to the nesting depression and no effort at concealment.

On working over our large series we obtained interesting results. Birds taken at Point Barrow all proved to be *dominica*, while only a few of this form were taken at Wainwright, the great majority there being *fulva*. Many individuals, however, appeared to be intergrades. Of the series submitted to Mr. Outram Bangs for examination, he says: "Three of your birds from Point Barrow are *Pluvialis dominicus dominicus* (Müller). Wainwright must, we think, be close to the meeting ground of the two races, as nos. 8872, 8887, 8890, 8904, 8910, 8897, 8920, 8875, 8882, 8889, 8894, 8884 and 8898 are more or less intermediate between *P. d. dominicus* and *P. d. fulva* (Gmelin). The others we call *Pluvialis dominicus fulva* (Gmelin). Only a few of them, however, are extreme *fulva* as represented by birds from East Siberia." In this connection, it is interesting to note that the Point Barrow expedition (Report of the Expedition to Point Barrow, Alaska, Lt. P. H. Ray) secured only *dominicus*, as did Dr. Grinnell at Kotzebue (Pacific Coast Avifauna, no. 1, 1899, p. 28).

SEMIPALMATED PLOVER. *Charadrius semipalmatus*.

Two birds of this species were observed at Whalen, near East Cape, Siberia, on July 11; one of these Hendee secured. The following season, on June 2, he collected another specimen at Wainwright.

MONGOLIAN PLOVER. *Charadrius mongolus*.

I collected a male of this species at Cape Prince of Wales on June 11. The tundra was still snow-covered, only a small, sandy strip being bare along Lopp Lagoon, and there I found this little wanderer from the Siberian shore in company with Yellow Wagtails. A south wind had been blowing for a few days previous, which changed to the north the evening before. On these changes of winds I observed that Old World birds were likely to drift across the channel. Two other specimens of this species were collected in 1849 on Choris Peninsula by an English sea captain.

TURNSTONE. *Arenaria interpres interpres*.

A few turnstones were noted on the gravel beach in the vicinity of Gambel village, on St. Lawrence Island, and Hendee found one downy young, which had left the nest June 29. A number of birds were seen at Point Hope August 2, several were seen at Barrow August 6, and off Cape Halkett, a small band in flight, on August 10. Hendee collected one from a flock of Red-backed Sandpipers, August 19 at Wainwright. The following spring he secured one bird on June 3, and I saw a few at Wales on June 5, collecting a pair on the 11th. Our birds should be considered as

A. i. oahuensis (Bloxham) if this form be finally recognized. In the meantime, however, as the authorities seem to disagree, it seems best to call our specimens *Arenaria i. interpres*.

BLACK TURNSTONE. *Arenaria melanocephala*.

This species was observed only at Saint Michael, where we saw a small flock on the rounded boulders of a point jutting into the bay. They are confiding fellows and allow one to study them at close range. We received a breeding female from Nagozruk, taken at Wales July 1, 1924.

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