

The Large-billed Sparrow at Salton Sea.—In a recent leaflet issued by the Audubon Society appeared a list of birds seen by a bird-study party at Salton Sea. Included among these was the Large-billed Sparrow. I discussed the matter with Mr. and Mrs. Ben L. Clary, of Coachella, who were members of the party. They both stated that they had seen the birds in question and, while unfamiliar with the species themselves, the identification had been made by Miss Mary Mann Miller.

The writer asked Mr. Clary to send a specimen to the Los Angeles Museum, which he very kindly did. The bird (no. 16913, coll. L.A.M.) is a female, taken by Ben L. Clary at Salton Sea, near Mecca, February 23, 1930. It is unquestionably *Passerculus rostratus rostratus*.

That this is a regular wintering ground for the species is, of course, not definitely proven. However, as the Audubon Society party noted them several days before Mr. Clary took the specimen, and as Mr. and Mrs. Clary have seen birds that they believe to be the same on different occasions during the winter months, it may develop that the Large-billed Sparrow winters regularly at Salton Sea.—G. WILLETT, *Los Angeles Museum, February 27, 1930.*

Blue-footed Booby on Salton Sea.—On November 1, 1929, there appeared on Salton Sea a bird unknown to the local residents. Snap shots made by Mr. Seth



Fig. 58. BLUE-FOOTED BOOBY (*Sula nebouxi*)
AT SALTON SEA, NEAR MECCA, CALIFORNIA,
NOVEMBER 1, 1929.

Hartley of the Salton Sea Salt Works were referred to me for identification. (See fig. 58.) Through the courtesy of Mr. George Willett of the Los Angeles Museum these were identified as "unquestionably the Blue-footed Booby (*Sula nebouxi*)."

Mr. Willett further states that "in the Condor (xxiv, 1922, p. 28) will be found a record of a booby probably of this species seen near Sunset Beach, Orange County, October 25, 1921. This is the only record for the state of California. The Blue-footed Booby breeds on islands in the Gulf of California so would not have far to go to get to Salton Sea."

In commenting on the peculiarities of this bird, Mr. Hartley says that it was utterly indifferent to man and apparently had no fear of anyone. Its system of fishing was to fly low over the water and as soon as it located its meal to fall head first after it into the water. Frequently it lit on the levees within a few feet of him, and on several occasions he was able to pick the bird up and carry it about. But if not in the mood for such demonstrations of affection, it did not hesitate to prod him with its long, sharp bill.

The residents of the vicinity developed quite an affection and admiration for their strange visitor because of its independence and indifference, and it was with regret that they noted its disappearance ten days later. With the opening of the hunting season at this time, either it was frightened away or was killed. The latter fate is suspected as the remains of a bird similar in appearance were found on the shore some weeks later.—MRS. BEN L. CLARY, *Coral Reef Ranch, Coachella, California, March 6, 1930.*

The Dotterel and other Birds from Cape Prince of Wales, Alaska.—The last collection of birds made by the representative of The Chicago Academy of Sciences at Cape Prince of Wales, Alaska, A. Nagozruk, during the summer of 1929, included several interesting specimens. Nagozruk was the field assistant of the undersigned during the spring of 1922, and since that time he has made valuable collections each season. The skins are first salted, and then are made into study material in the laboratory.

The present collection includes two specimens of the European Dotterel (*Eudromias morinellus*), which are the first records for continental North America. The Dotterel is included in the A. O. U. check-list on the basis of a single specimen taken on King Island, Bering Sea, July 23, 1897. Two other specimens for which I can find no Alaskan records are the Red-winged Blackbird (*Agelaius phoeniceus arctolegus*) and the Purple Martin (*Progne subis subis*). These birds were far from their beaten paths, and their occurrence at Wales seems more strange than that of the Dotterel. Swarth records a single Northern Red-wing from Kispiox Valley, northern British Columbia (Birds and Mammals of the Skeena River Region of Northern British Columbia, Univ. Calif. Publ. Zool., vol. 24, 1924, p. 348) which was, until the taking of the Wales specimen, "an extreme northwestern point of record for the species." If one cares to glance at a map, he will see that it is a long flight from Kispiox Valley to Cape Prince of Wales.

In addition to the above, there were three Golden Plovers (*Pluvialis dominicus dominicus*), all others I have seen from Cape Prince of Wales being *Pluvialis dominicus fulvus*. There were a Pallid Horned Lark (*Eremophila alpestris arctica*), a second record from Wales, a Scaup Duck (*Nyroca marila nearctica*), and an exceptionally fine plumaged Green-throated Loon (*Gavia viridigularis*). In years past, I have received several of the latter. The specimens, with their Chicago Academy of Sciences catalogue numbers, are as follows:

2228	Green-throated Loon	June 18, 1929
2237	Dotterel	June 15, 1929
2238	Dotterel	June 19, 1929
2239	Northern Red-wing	June 6, 1929
2240	Purple Martin	June 3, 1929
2241	Pallid Horned Lark	June 6, 1929
2245	Golden Plover	June 1, 1929
2246	Golden Plover	June 1, 1929
2247	Golden Plover	June 3, 1929
2289	Scaup Duck	June 25, 1929

I am indebted to Mr. Outram Bangs and Mr. James L. Peters for examining the above specimens and comparing them with specimens in the Museum of Comparative Zoology. In addition to the specimens listed, there were several Pintail Ducks and a Golden-eye which are being studied by Dr. H. C. Oberholser.—ALFRED M. BAILEY, *Chicago Academy of Sciences, Chicago, Illinois, February 1, 1930.*

New Records of Horned Larks from Southern California.—On December 21, 1927, Granville P. Ashcroft collected an adult female specimen of Merrill Horned Lark