

FROM FIELD AND STUDY

Some Actions of a Pair of Pallid Wren-tits at their Nest.—It was interesting to me to observe on May 15, 1932, the actions of a pair of Pallid Wren-tits (*Chamaea fasciata henshawi*) at their nest. I was forcing my way through some heavy brush on a ridge in the western part of Solano County, California, adjacent to Wildhorse Valley. The scolding notes of both of the birds upon my approach to a certain section of the chaparral strongly suggested that I was near their nesting site; but upon sighting one of the birds after it had dropped to the ground under the brush, fluttering its wings rapidly as does a young bird expecting to be fed, and moving forward as though with considerable effort, seemingly with legs too weak to hold it off the ground, I was almost fooled into believing the parents had young out of the nest. The bird on the ground had ceased its protest after assuming the rôle of an immature or disabled bird; but a minute or so of silence was too much for it, and, as I watched, it hopped up into the brush and began to scold me again. Then both of the birds feigned helplessness, apparently in an effort to attract my attention and to lead me away.

I looked for the nest and located it some six feet away neatly fastened into the crotch of a scrub oak, three and a half feet up. The contents of the nest appeared to be five large reddish-yellow, open mouths, but looking below this display of open bills I found little birds with eyes not yet open. My approach to the nest caused still more concern on the part of the parents who all but lit upon me in their anxiety, intermittently scolding and practicing the distraction ruse. Several times the birds lit upon a short stick, which I carried in my hand for the purpose of helping me to part the brush.

After I had departed and was some fifty feet away, a song made up of the characteristic staccato notes of this white-eyed species, coming from near the location of the nest, seemed to signify a sigh of relief at my departure.—EMERSON A. STONER, *Benicia, California, May 25, 1932.*

Additions to the Avifauna of St. Lawrence Island, Bering Sea.¹—Recently while unpacking several cases of archaeological material collected on St. Lawrence Island by Paul Silook, an Eskimo collector, some 35 bird skins were discovered. Of these the majority were merely additional specimens of species already recorded by me in my paper on the birds of that island (*Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus.*, 80, 1932, pp. 1-31), but three specimens of two species are worthy of permanent record. These are as follows:

Eudromias morinellus (Linnaeus). Dotterel. Two specimens, both from Gambell, in the northwestern part of the island, one dated May, 1931, the other June, 1931, are the first records for St. Lawrence Island. This species had been recorded only twice previously from the Nearctic region, once from King Island, July 23, 1897, by Stone (*Proc. Acad. Nat. Sci. Phila.*, 1900, p. 22) and from Cape Prince of Wales, June 15 and 19, 1929, by A. M. Bailey (*Condor*, xxxii, 1930, p. 161). Both the present specimens are adults in fairly worn plumage. Neither was sexed by the collector.

Aethia pygmaea (Gmelin). Whiskered Auklet. A specimen taken July 9, 1931, at Gambell, by Paul Silook is the first definite record for St. Lawrence Island. As previously stated in my paper (*op. cit.*, p. 28), Choris received specimens of this auklet from the natives of St. Lawrence Island and Cuvier based his *Mormon cristatellus* on one of these birds. Ridgway questioned the locality, but considered Cuvier's name to be a synonym of *A. pygmaea*. If Choris really received any number of these birds from St. Lawrence Island, the local status of the species must have changed since the time of his visit (1817), as Silook wrote on the back of the label of his specimen, ". . . this species is unusual kind, never seen before," and, as he, like most of the natives, spends a good deal of time in netting auklets for food, his statement must be taken as based on considerable experience and observation.—HERBERT FRIEDMANN, *United States National Museum, Washington, D. C., August 16, 1932.*

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