

incubated. The behavior of the parents, while the eggs were being collected, was very much different from that of other large hawks of my experience. They circled continually overhead, uttered shrill cries, and dove twice to within a couple of feet of the nest.—E. C. JACOT, *Tucson, Arizona, October 19, 1933.*

The Status of *Phalaropus fulicarius jourdaini* Iredale.—Some years ago Mr. Tom Iredale described (Bull. Brit. Ornith. Club, 42, 1921, p. 8) a Palaearctic race of the Red Phalarope as being "separable at sight from the typical form (type-locality, Hudson Bay, North America) in the paler coloration of the edgings of the feathers on the back, scapulars, and tertials, . . . in the present form they are only creamy and appear appreciably narrower." The type was taken July 7, 1921, at Liefde Bay, Spitzbergen.

I have recently had occasion to inquire into the validity of Mr. Iredale's form, basing my studies chiefly on the material in the Museum of Comparative Zoology, supplemented by a series of ten breeding birds collected by Mr. George Miksch Sutton on Southampton Island, kindly loaned me by Mr. W. E. Clyde Todd of the Carnegie Museum, and specimens loaned by Dr. Van Tyne from the Museum of Zoology, University of Michigan, comprising birds collected in June off the coast of Labrador, and breeding birds from the west coast of Greenland.

Laying out the material chronologically it is at once evident that the characters assigned to the proposed Palaearctic form have no taxonomic or geographic correlation but are the result of unusually rapid fading and wear. *Phalaropus fulicarius* carries its winter plumage well into the spring, but in most individuals nuptial dress is assumed by early May. Members of a long series taken off the Massachusetts coast at the time of the great flight between May 20 and 23, 1892, have the feathers of the upper parts broadly edged with shades between light ochraceous buff and ochraceous buff (females), or with ochraceous tawny (males). Birds from north-eastern Asia (Nishny Kolymsk and East Cape) and the northern coast of Alaska taken early in June (1-16) show a decided paling of these colors, as do specimens taken in Labrador June 12, Southampton Island June 12-16, the west coast of Greenland June 8-9, and the east coast June 8 and 20. At this season birds from Siberia are indistinguishable from those taken in Greenland. In the series from Siberia and Alaska I have been able to trace the progressive wear and bleaching up to the time that the first traces of winter plumage make their appearance about July 20; in fact by late June and early July the prevailing color of the upper parts is black with narrow white or creamy white edges.

It is quite obvious, therefore, that *jourdaini* based on worn breeding birds collected early in July is nothing more than a synonym of *P. fulicarius* and shows once more that comparisons based on noncomparable series are misleading and only create erroneous impressions.—JAMES L. PETERS, *Museum of Comparative Zoology, Cambridge, Massachusetts, October 10, 1933.*

Second Record of the Red-billed Tropic-bird in Arizona.—On June 22, 1928, while in Pinery Canyon, Chiricahua Mountains, I called at the home of Mr. Frank H. Hands, who is always, as many well know, interested in the fauna, and helpful to visiting collectors. On this occasion Mr. Hands produced a mounted bird, of a species unknown to me, but which he presently informed me had been identified by Mr. J. Eugene Law as a Red-billed Tropic-bird (*Phaëthon aethereus*). Mr. Hands expressed a desire to present the specimen to the University of Arizona, and thus it came into our possession.

I later wrote to Mr. Law concerning this specimen and in the ensuing correspondence it was mutually agreed that he should publish the record of its occurrence. Before the record had been committed to print, however, occurred the regrettable passing of Mr. Law. In March, 1933, still having the matter in mind I communicated with Mrs. Law concerning the desirability of placing this record in the permanent literature. She graciously responded with a transcription of Mr. Law's notes and signified her desire that the record be published.

The essential facts are these. The bird was found on September 15, 1927, by Mr. Frank H. Hands and Mrs. Hands, alive, but apparently exhausted, in the road between the Dos Cabezos and Chiricahua mountains in "Apache Pass draw". Mr.

Hands had the bird mounted in Douglas, Arizona, and in January, 1928, sent the specimen to Mr. Law for identification. The latter's notes detail a careful comparison with a bird in the D. R. Dickey collection (no. 15153), on which was based the identification of the specimen as an immature *Phaethon aethereus*. The bird was without any terminal plumes on the two central rectrices, concerning which point Mr. Law's notes read. "Terminal rectrices are broad, longer is 118.3 mm., both have black $\frac{1}{2}$ inch tip already partly gone as indicated by incised V at the end. As the tip of the rachis is approximately .6 mm. wide and squared, there may have been a long terminal plume at the first maturity of the feather." Since the bird seems clearly to have been immature, and since the young are described as "central tail-feathers not elongated" (Alexander, *Birds of the Ocean*, p. 323), or "no long, central tail-feathers" (Bent, *Life Histories of North American Petrels and Pelicans and their Allies* [U. S. National Museum Bulletin 121], p. 189), it is difficult to understand just why the plume may have been considered a possibility, although it is true that the tips are partly gone.

The only other occurrence of this species in Arizona known to me was, like the present record, based on a collected specimen "taken by Breninger at Phoenix, April 10, 1905, . . . now in the collection of the American Museum of Natural History (cf. Miller, 1910, p. 450)" (Swarth, *Pacific Coast Avifauna* No. 10, 1914, p. 10).—CHARLES T. VORHIES, *University of Arizona, December 1, 1933.*

The Plain Titmouse of Northern Santa Barbara County, California.—In the writer's recent paper on the birds of southwestern California (*Pac. Coast Avif.*, No. 21, 1933), the subspecific identity of the Plain Titmouse of northern Santa Barbara County was not stated, owing to lack of specimens from that region. Through the kindness of Ira N. Gabrielson, two specimens, a male and female, taken by him at Buellton, Santa Barbara County, February 17, 1933, have recently been examined and prove to be referable to *Baeolophus inornatus inornatus*. It seems probable, therefore, that, in the coastal district, the dividing line between *B. i. inornatus* and *B. i. transpositus*, of the San Diegan region, is along the Santa Ynez Range.—GEORGE WILLETT, *Los Angeles Museum, Los Angeles, December 10, 1933.*

A Full Set of "Runt" Mallard Eggs.—A set of "runt" eggs, shown in the accompanying photograph (fig. 16) was produced during the 1933 nesting period by the mallard that carries Biological Survey band 555414. This bird was banded on November 29, 1927, at the Rainbow End Game Refuge, Antioch, Nebraska, by F. J. Keller. She has returned to this station every year since, as follows: March 12, 1928, March 10, 1929, March 11, 1930, April 9, 1931, February 21, 1932, and March 12, 1933. [While this paper has been in press, Mr. Keller has reported that on February 4, 1934, Mallard No. 555414 again returned to his game refuge. This makes the seventh consecutive return for this duck.—F.C.L.]

A few days after the bird's first return in 1928, Mr. Keller noticed her on the roof of a barn and decided that she was searching for the site of her nest of the previous year, a haystack which had been standing at the end of the barn. In the meantime the hay had been fed, so Mr. Keller decided to offer her an artificial site. A box containing hay was accordingly placed on the barn roof. The duck immediately accepted it and has used the box for each succeeding nest. In 1928, 1929, and 1930, two sets of eggs were laid. Her total known egg production is as follows, the figures in parentheses being, in each case, the number that hatched: 1928, 16 (10); 1929, 18 (9); 1930, 22 (18); 1931, 12 (12); 1932, 14 (14); 1933, 14 (0). Total, 96 eggs, resulting in 63 ducklings.

Each year her young have been banded, and these have been recovered in several States and Canadian Provinces. Her own record for homing and for escaping the many and varied dangers that beset anatine life, is most remarkable, and interest in this Mallard is now enhanced by the production of the set of runt eggs here figured. This year (1933) she started to lay on April 12, and on the 18th Mr. Keller wrote the Survey that her nest held six runt eggs, adding the facetious comment that he guessed "the depression must have hit her."

Believing that our famous duck was entitled to a "better break" and feeling also that this set should be preserved, the author suggested to Mr. Keller that the eggs be carefully packed and shipped to the Biological Survey and that a set of normal