

Actitis macularia. Spotted Sandpiper. One seen along a road at the ranch on April 21. Eight birds found in an irrigation ditch at the ranch on April 29. On May 8 several seen at the lake. About the middle of May the species was common at both the lake and the ranch. The last one seen during the spring was at the ranch on May 24.

Tringa solitaria. Solitary Sandpiper. A single bird of this species was closely observed at the ranch during the morning of May 7.

Pisobia minutilla. Least Sandpiper. Ten birds were counted on April 24, feeding on a bank at the lake. Two were seen on May 12 at the lake.

Recurvirostra americana. Avocet. A flock of eight Avocets spent the morning of May 5 about the ranch. Several were noted at the lake on May 8. On May 12 the species was abundant at the lake and one nest was found containing three eggs. Remained common into the summer.

Steganopus tricolor. Wilson Phalarope. Noted as common on May 7 in the ponds surrounding the lake. On May 12 it was abundant in large flocks on both the lake and the surrounding ponds. Five days later not a single bird of this species could be found.

Lobipes lobatus. Northern Phalarope. On May 17 a flock of about 25 was noted on a pond north of the lake.—WILLIAM G. WEBB, *Eagle Rock, California, September 10, 1938.*

Great Blue Heron Swimming.—While it is probable that most birds can swim when occasion requires, it is a novelty to see any of the larger waders demonstrating this inherent ability of their own free will and choice.

In company with Dr. Irvin Rasmussen, Mr. Cecil Williams, and Mr. Lee Kay, the writer saw this feat accomplished by a Treganza Blue Heron (*Ardea herodias treganzai*) at Gunnison Island, Great Salt Lake, Utah, July 12, 1938. It is believed that the individual was a bird of the year and that it probably had been raised on this island, which is about one mile long and a half mile wide. As the island is 30 to 40 miles from a source of food, it is probable that the bird had never ventured far beyond the confines of its homeland. When our company approached, the bird took wing and flew in a semicircle over the mainland, alighting in the shallow brine some 30 yards from shore, whence it proceeded to walk into deeper water. On reaching water that was too deep for wading it began to swim with apparent ease and skill. It remained resting on the lake for about two hours, during which time it came much closer to shore, where we could easily observe it with binoculars. It was noted swimming in water that was probably not more than 6 or 8 inches deep. During this time its legs were held tightly against the body, but we could see that the feet were in motion. When, on one occasion, the writer approached the bird as it swam near shore, it promptly stood up and walked toward deeper water. More than half the length of the tarsus was then visible above the waterline. It is possible that the great buoyancy of this nearly saturated water was an inducement to swimming.—CLARENCE COTTAM, *United States Biological Survey, Washington, D. C., October 5, 1938.*

The Amur Barn Swallow, a New Bird for North America.—Mr. Paul Silook, an Eskimo collector at Gambell, St. Lawrence Island, has recently sent in to the United States National Museum an adult barn swallow which he obtained at his home. On examination this bird turns out to be a perfectly typical example of the Amur Barn Swallow, *Hirundo rustica gutturalis*. It has a broad blue-black pectoral band separating the deep reddish bay of the chin and throat from the very pale, whitish abdomen. Unfortunately, the specimen is somewhat mutilated, lacking the tail, and is accompanied by no data, other than the knowledge that it was taken at or near Gambell either in the spring or summer of 1938. The record recalls to mind the fact that O. J. Murie lists a specimen of barn swallow taken on St. Lawrence Island during the spring of 1934 (*in* Geist and Rainey, *Archaeological Excavations at Kukulik, St. Lawrence Island, Alaska, 1936* (actually 1937), Appendix V, p. 374) under the name *Hirundo erythrogaster*. This is the only previous record of any barn swallow for the Island. In response to my request, Mr. Murie has kindly sent me his specimen for study, and I find that it also is *Hirundo rustica gutturalis*. It does not have the broad pectoral band of the Silook example but has some blue-black across the breast; it has the light underparts and dark throat, chin, and forehead characteristic of *gutturalis*.

It may be worthy of note that these two specimens are not of the northeast Siberian race, *tyleri*, as might be expected on geographic grounds, but of the more southern Amur-Ussuriland race. They, together with such other St. Lawrence records as *Anthus gustavi* and *Cuculus canorus bakeri*, suggest that when Asiatic birds stray over to St. Lawrence Island, they are not necessarily (or even usually) the forms of the adjacent mainland area. This causes one to wish for actual specimens of the Yellow Wagtail (*Budytes flavus*) from the Island. The species has been listed on the basis of Nelson's early observations, which have always been assumed to be referable to *B. f. alasensis*, but without proof (see Friedmann, *Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus.*, vol. 80, 1932, p. 30).—HERBERT FRIEDMANN, *United States National Museum, Washington, D. C., November 10, 1938.*