

## FROM FIELD AND STUDY

**Sharp-tailed Sandpiper in Alexander Archipelago, Southeastern Alaska.**—The Sharp-tailed Sandpiper, an Asiatic species known as a late summer and fall visitant to the northwestern coast of Alaska, has not been reported previously from Alexander Archipelago in southeastern Alaska. There are, however, records of occurrence at Valdez Narrows, Alaska (Grinnell, Univ. Calif. Publ. Zool., 5, 1910:375), along the coast-line in British Columbia (Munro and Cowan, B. C. Prov. Mus. Special Publ. No. 2, 1947:108), Nooksack River, Washington (Bent, U. S. Nat. Mus. Bull. No. 142, 1927:169), and San Diego, California (Anthony, Auk, 39, 1922:106).

While I was hunting ducks on the marsh at Fish Creek, Douglas Island, Alaska, on October 26, 1949, I flushed a sandpiper from the tall grass. This bird uttered no sound as it flew. I collected the bird, which Herbert Friedmann diagnosed as an adult male Sharp-tailed Sandpiper (*Erolia acuminata*). Had this bird escaped, I would have recorded its presence as a Pectoral Sandpiper, but once in hand it was found to differ both in size and coloration from that species.

From previous records on the occurrence of the Sharp-tailed Sandpiper along the Pacific coast of North America, one would expect to encounter this species casually on the outer islands of Alexander Archipelago, although the specimen under discussion was collected on a salt-water marsh adjacent to the mainland.

I am indebted to Herbert Friedmann of the United States National Museum for his identification of the specimen which is now in the collections of that institution.—RALPH B. WILLIAMS, *Juneau, Alaska, January 25, 1950.*

**Fulmar at Ross, California.**—On the evening of February 5, 1949, one of us (Orr) was informed that a rather unusual bird had been picked up alive the previous afternoon on Sir Francis Drake Boulevard, in front of the Ross Police Station in Marin County, California. The bird was obtained from the Chief of Police at Ross the following morning and proved to be a very weak and emaciated Fulmar (*Fulmarus glacialis rogersii*) in dark plumage phase. According to the police all attempts to induce the bird to eat had been unsuccessful. On the morning of February 6 the Fulmar was found dead in the paper carton in which it had been confined. It was prepared as a study skin ( $\delta$  no. 61013) at the California Academy of Sciences and the carcass was saved for further study. No evidence of bodily injury was apparent, but numerous lice of two species were present on the feathers. These were kindly identified by Robert L. Edwards of Harvard University Biological Laboratories, Cambridge, Massachusetts, as *Perineus nigrolimbatus* (Neumann) and *Saemundssonina occidentalis* (Kellogg).

Although during this same month and the first half of March, 1949, large numbers of dead and dying Fulmars were noted along the coast of central California, usually after severe storms, the occurrence of this species at Ross which is 6 miles inland is unusual.—ROBERT T. ORR, *California Academy of Sciences, San Francisco, California*, and ALLEN E. BREED, *College of the Pacific, Stockton, California, February 15, 1950.*

**Rock Dove Alighting on Stream.**—At Woodlawn, Baltimore County, Maryland, a low dam backs up a small stream called Gwynns Falls to a width of 75 feet and a maximum depth of perhaps two feet. On this water a Rock Dove (*Columba livia*) alighted twice within a minute on the evening of October 2, 1949.

I first noticed the bird at 5:15 p.m. as it flew about over a 200-yard stretch of the stream and its banks, at heights of perhaps 30 feet down to 6 feet. Occasionally it flew still closer to the surface as though it would alight there, but it always rose again. I had stopped watching it when, a few minutes later, I heard splashes and looked in time to see the bird rising above the roiled water and flying away. At a distance of possibly 50 yards, with 12 $\times$ 38 monocular, I could see nothing in its bill.

I now kept my glass on the bird continuously. For perhaps half a minute it flew about as before. Then, near the middle of the stream, it settled tail-first on the water, coming to rest with wings spread on the surface, about two-thirds opened. For a second or longer it floated in this position and during this time dipped its bill, and apparently part of its head, into the water. Then it rose with splashing beats of the wings but with no sign of unusual effort and, affording no view of its bill, flew out of sight into a tree on the far shore.

Since the stream's bank was low and flat in some places, there seems to have been no need for the bird to alight on the water to drink. Its actions suggested a search for food and first an unsuccessful and later a successful descent for it. Plants do not grow in the stream.

Cottam (Condor, 51, 1949:150-151) has reported Rock Doves alighting on and rising from open water, and swimming and bathing there.—HERVEY BRACKBILL, *Baltimore, Maryland, February 21, 1950.*

**Occurrence of the Road-runner in Arkansas.**—Allan's record of the Road-runner (*Geococcyx californianus*) in eastern Oklahoma (Condor, 52, 1950:43) calls for a report from Arkansas. The Road-runner was first reported from Hempstead County, Arkansas, in May, 1936, by Dwight Isely (unpublished). Since then it has been seen occasionally in that county. Subsequent reports of its occurrence elsewhere in the state are from Crawford, Little River, and Logan counties. According to these reports the Road-runner is seen occasionally in the two western tiers of counties at least as far north as Fort Smith, in Crawford County.—W. J. BAERG, *University of Arkansas College of Agriculture, Fayetteville, Arkansas, February 20, 1950.*

**Comments on Specimens in the Hachisuka Collection from the Philippine Islands.**—Recently Marquess Masauji Hachisuka was kind enough to send to me his collection of birds made in the Philippine Islands in 1929 and 1930. This collection contained many rarities and a number of newly described forms which were inaccessible for study during the war. Consequently it has seemed worthwhile to re-examine some of these specimens and compare them with material now in the United States.

*Orthotomus "nigrogularis"* Hachisuka (Tori, 11, 1944:525-528; Mt. Hamihitan, Mindanao). The type and only specimen of this species, a male, is in this collection. It serves to clear up the problem of the black-headed tailorbirds of Mindanao, since *O. nigrogularis* is a synonym of *Orthotomus nigriceps* Tweeddale. As pointed out by Mayr (Jour. Wash. Acad. Sci., 37, 1947:140-141), *O. nigriceps* is a sexually dimorphic species, and in Hachisuka's original description, he unfortunately compared his specimen with the specimen of *nigriceps* illustrated in the plate in the description of that species (Tweeddale, Proc. Zool. Soc. London, 1877, pl. 85) in which the throat is pure white.

Mr. Usher of the British Museum kindly examined the type and only specimen of *nigriceps* in that museum which appears to be a young male molting into adult plumage. This specimen bears no relation to the bird illustrated in the plate, which must have been a female. He writes that the head and nape are black, there is a broad white supercilium which extends in front and behind the eye, and the chin, throat, neck and cheeks are vermiculated with black and grayish white, this coloration extending down as far as the breast. In "*nigrogularis*" the entire throat and upper breast are pure black. Hachisuka's specimen then would appear to be the only adult male of *Orthotomus nigriceps* in any collection in the United States or Great Britain. This specimen measures: wing, 51 mm.; tail, 48; culmen, 15.5. The iris is recorded as "light reddish brown."

*Dicaeum "isag"* Hachisuka (Bull. Biogeog. Soc. Japan, 11, 1941:1; Mt. Apo, Mindanao). This species proves to be a synonym of *D. nigrilore* on comparison of specimens of "*isag*" with a series of *nigrilore* in the American Museum of Natural History. This supposition was originally made by Mayr and Amadon in their review of the Dicaeidae (Amer. Mus. Nov. No. 1360, 1947:18).

*Dicaeum davao* Mearns. This flowerpecker was collected by Hachisuka at Ambosikalan, Cotabato Province, Mindanao, and was discussed by him (Tori, 11, 1941:61-89). Unfortunately the form was overlooked by Mayr and Amadon (*op. cit.*). On examination it proves to be a strongly marked race of *D. pygmaeum* as suggested by Hachisuka; it has a very brightly colored steel blue back and is the Mindanao representative of that species. As such it links up the species *pygmaeum* with *celebicum* of Celebes and Mount Kinabalu in Borneo, a member of what Mayr and Amadon term the *hirundinaceum* superspecies. If this apparent relationship is true, it would indicate a double invasion of the Philippine Islands, by *pygmaeum*, related to *celebicum*, and by *ignipectus*, as both the latter species are listed as members of the *hirundinaceum* superspecies. If *pygmaeum* is admitted as a relative, then the superspecies must be realigned in this case, as sympatric forms are involved, although they may be ecologically separated on the islands where they occur together, that is, on Mindanao.

"*Cinnyris picta*" Hachisuka (Proc. Biol. Soc. Wash., 54, 1941:52; Atong Atong Plantation, N. W. Basilan). The type of this bird has been examined and the skin relaxed. Messrs. Mayr and Delacour as well as myself had previously agreed that it was an artifact, and the process of relaxa-