

Killdeer Fails to Desert Displaced Nest.—On July 16, 1955, my son was harrowing a dry hillside at Escondido, California, that had previously been cultivated every few weeks. A pair of Killdeers (*Charadrius vociferus*) followed him and showed distress whenever the tractor approached a certain place. At length the tractor passed over the "nest" and the teeth of the harrow buried three of the four eggs before they were seen. The tractor was stopped and the driver dismounted, picked up the visible egg and felt through the soil to find three more. These he placed "about 12 feet uphill from where the eggs had been," on a small spot which he flattened with his hand. The parents ran around in circles, finally locating the eggs, and immediately one bird sat on them. Four days later the parents were still incubating. Apparently the members of the pair take turns incubating.—CHAPMAN GRANT, *Escondido, California, July 15, 1955.*

Distributional Records of Waterfowl from the Interior of Alaska.—During the past three years several noteworthy observations on the distribution of waterfowl in interior Alaska have come to my attention. The first of these was made by James W. Brooks, who saw two Blue-winged Teal (*Anas discors*) on the Salchaket Slough along the Tanana River near Fairbanks, Alaska, on September 4, 1952. One of the ducks was collected (no. 599 Univ. Alaska Mus.); it proved to be a juvenal female, weighing 445 grams and having minute, uniform-sized ovules. A second observation of the Blue-winged Teal in the interior was made on June 23, 1954, when Robert G. Kirkpatrick, Wilbur L. Libby, and Peter E. K. Shepherd watched a paired male and female in a lightly wooded channel at Minto Lakes, Alaska, thirty miles west of Fairbanks. Although attempts were made to find this pair later in the season, it was not seen again.

The breeding range of the Blue-winged Teal is generally known to extend northwestward to northern Saskatchewan (latitude 58°N), southern Mackenzie (Great Slave Lake), and central British Columbia (Quesnel); Rand (Nat. Mus. Can., Bull. 105, 1946:15) records a pair near the confluence of the Pelly and Ross rivers, Yukon Territory. Scattered occurrences, however, have been noted in Alaska: Kodiak Island (Forest and Stream, 33, 1899:348), Copper River Valley (Abercrombie, Alaska Copper Riv. Expl. Exped. 1899, 1900:137), Fort Yukon and Yukon mouth (Dall and Bannister, Trans. Chicago Acad. Sci., 1869:297), Yukon River (Cantwell, Operations U. S. Revenue Steamer Nunivak, 1899–1901, 1902:286), St. Michael's (Turner, Contrib. Nat. Hist. Alaska, 1886:133), Atka (*ibid.*), and Cape Romanzoff (Dall and Bannister, *op. cit.*; Nelson, in Arctic Cruise Revenue Steamer Corwin, 1881, 1883:97).

Apparently, no further observations of the Blue-winged Teal in Alaska have been published; recently, however, personnel of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service in Alaska have seen an occasional individual in Alaska. Bob L. Burkholder (*in litt.*) observed an adult with two ducklings on July 13, 1949, on Jim Creek near Palmer in the Matanuska Valley; one was shot at Wrangell in the fall of 1952 (U. C. Nelson, *in litt.*); and Gomer S. Hilsinger reports having seen one in a hunter's bag in Juneau in October, 1953. Victor H. Cahalane reports (*in litt.*) seeing the species on two occasions while he was traveling on the Bartlett River in Glacier Bay National Monument on the afternoon of September 30, 1954.

Another species unusual in interior Alaska is the Ring-necked Duck (*Aythya collaris*). An adult male was collected (no. 801 Univ. Alaska Mus.) at Ace Lake, near College, Alaska, on August 7, 1953, by R. Harkema. The northwestern edge of the range of this species is usually considered to be central British Columbia (latitude 56°N), central Mackenzie Valley (Ft. Simpson), and Athabasca Lake (Ft. Chipewyan), although a female was collected at Marsh Lake, southeast of Whitehorse, Yukon Territory, on October 5, 1920 (Rand, Can. Field Nat., 64, 1950:216) and Soper (Can. Wildl. Serv. Mgmt. Bull., Series 2, No. 7, 1954:31) noted a pair near the outlet of this same lake on June 21, 1950. One other specimen from Alaska was taken on June 11, 1842, at Sitka and is in the Zoological Institute of the Academy of Science of the U.S.S.R. at Leningrad (F. C. Lincoln, *in litt.*). A few sight records also have been recorded from Alaska: Nearer Island, St. Michael's, Amchitka, and Attu (Turner, Contrib. Nat. Hist. Alaska, 1886:133–134); Admiralty Island (Bailey, Auk, 44, 1927:187); Kenai Peninsula (Gabrielson, Auk, 61, 1944:117); Petersburg (Webster, Wilson Bull., 53, 1941:42); and Kodiak (R. D. Jones, *in litt.*).

On May 9, 1954, I observed a European Widgeon (*Mareca penelope*) near Fairbanks, Alaska.

This bird was a highly-plumaged male, apparently unpaired, and was in the company of about ten pairs of Baldpates (*Mareca americana*). Unfortunately, it was not possible to collect the bird, but I watched it for ten minutes. This species has been observed in interior Canada—Grand Rapids, Lake Winnipeg, and Fort Rae, Great Slave Lake—but previous reports in Alaska have all been from the coastal areas, chiefly from the Bering Sea (Hasbrouck, Auk, 61, 1944:93-104).

Thanks are extended to I. N. Gabrielson, F. C. Lincoln, and Chandler S. Robbins who kindly assisted in compiling and reviewing waterfowl records for this note, to U. C. Nelson who summarized many of the recent observations made by Alaskan personnel of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, and to those who made previously unpublished observations available to me.—BRINA KESSEL, *University of Alaska, College, Alaska, May 17, 1955.*



Brown Creeper (*Certhia familiaris*) at entrance to nest in Monterey pine. The nest was 10 feet above ground in a spiral slit. Young left the nest on June 30. Photograph taken on June 24, 1953, at Point Lobos Reserve, Monterey County, California, by Ken Legg.

Acorn Woodpecker on Santa Catalina Island, California.—Since the early period of study of the birds of the channel islands off southern California (see Howell, Pac. Coast Avif. No. 12, 1917), records have accumulated to show that there has been some colonization of these islands by Acorn Woodpeckers (*Balanosphyra formicivora*). This has apparently taken place since the first decade of the century and has resulted in permanent residency in the oaks on Santa Cruz Island (Miller, Condor, 53, 1951:122) and probably on Santa Rosa Island also. Although others may have noted this woodpecker on Santa Catalina, formal record of this further extension of range seems not to have been made. On August 23 and 24, 1955, I noted small groups of this species in the oaks in Avalon and in the oaks of the bottoms of the two canyons northwest of Avalon. Since there were several social or family groups spaced out over a mile of separate canyon systems, the occurrence is hardly to be regarded as casual and seems to reflect a definite colonization.—ALDEN H. MILLER, *Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, Berkeley, California, September 16, 1955.*