

U.S. Nat. Mus. Bull. 130, 1925:114) includes starfish among various marine organisms which the species is "said to eat."

On March 21, 1959, Holmes, Roger T. Peterson, and others, saw another King Eider, this time on ocean waters at Cypress Point, about five miles from Monterey. Although this bird remained for most of the time rather far from shore, often in the company of a group of Surf Scoters (*Melanitta perspicillata*), it occasionally approached to within 30 yards of the beach. The bird was "a young male . . . just going into adult plumage . . ." and having the "fundamental pattern of white chest and dark back." The short bill, as compared to *Somateria mollissima*, was "fairly orange or deep chrome yellow, but the bird had not yet developed the full frontal shield . . ." (Peterson, in a letter). The forehead profile, however, was abrupt, and not sloping, as in either *S. mollissima* or in the Spectacled Eider (*Lampronetta fischeri*). The bird was seen again in the same area of water on March 22 and 23 and was last seen there by Williams on March 26, 1959.

A King Eider was again seen on June 24 and 25, 1959, in the same section of the harbor of Monterey in which the first eider was watched during February and March, 1958. Its presence was reported first by Hubert Arnold. Like the eider of March, 1959, it was a sub-adult male, possibly the same individual?, with orange-yellow bill and characteristic head profile, but lacking the frontal shield. The neck and sides of the head were white, irregularly mottled and blotched with grayish, but the whitish line, which in adult plumage arches over the eye and extends down the neck, was distinctly outlined. When the bird turned its head upside down during preening, the forward-pointing V-mark on throat and chin showed faintly. Although no attempt was made to test the bird's ability to fly, flightlessness was indicated by the extremely worn condition of the primaries and secondaries, the latter appearing to be mere shafts without barbs.

The status of the King Eider in California, according to Grinnell and Miller (Pac. Coast Avif. No. 27, 1944:88), is that of a "rare straggler in winter from far north," being heretofore known from only "three definitely determined" occurrences in the San Francisco Bay area based on specimens taken between 1879 and 1933.—LAIDLAW WILLIAMS, *Carmel, California*, and RICHARD T. HOLMES, *Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, Berkeley, California, August 25, 1959*.

**The Age of the Cave Swallow Colonies in New Mexico.**—On July 23, 1930, a field party from the University of Kansas Museum of Natural History collected two Cave Swallows (*Petrochelidon fulva pallida*), at Slaughter Canyon, eight miles southwest of White City, Eddy County, New Mexico. These birds were fairly clearly from a nesting colony; the field notes of Harry C. Parker, one of the Museum party, read: "The boys got back from Slaughter Canyon with a story of a huge hole in the mountain side. . . . They also had two swallows. . . . The swallows live in the big cave, which goes several hundred feet straight down." The two specimens (KU 18028, 18029) were prepared as skins, identified as Cliff Swallows (*Petrochelidon pyrrhonota*), and have remained unreported until now.

Recently Kincaid and Prasil (Condor, 58, 1956:452) published the only heretofore known records of Cave Swallows in New Mexico, based on birds seen and specimens taken in 1952 and subsequent years at a colony in Goat Cave, eight miles southwest of the entrance to Carlsbad Caverns National Park, Eddy County. A reasonable implication of this report by Kincaid and Prasil, although not so stated by them, was that the colonization of southeastern New Mexico by Cave Swallows had taken place recently, perhaps owing to an extension of range paralleling the generally northward extensions of breeding range now known of several kinds of vertebrates of México and the American southwest. Such implication should be avoided in view of the specimens dating from 1930, 22 years antecedent to the erstwhile first records of occurrence in New Mexico. It is wholly possible that the age of the Cave Swallow colonies in New Mexico is only 29 years, but it is much more likely that the colonies have been established for a longer period of time, during which collectors did not look for southern "exotics" as far north as New Mexico.—RICHARD F. JOHNSTON, *Museum of Natural History, University of Kansas, Lawrence, Kansas, September 25, 1959*.

**The Rock Sandpiper, Another Northern Bird Recorded from the Cool Coast of Northwestern Baja California.**—For several years I have been convinced that the Rock Sandpiper (*Erolia ptilocnemis*) migrates southward as far as the discordantly cool northwestern coast of Baja California, México, but inasmuch as the species had been reported as ranging no farther south than