

successfully. The characteristic harrier-type flight continued as the falcon slowly worked its way out of sight. It may be significant that this behavior was performed by an immature bird. The food obtained from this method would scarcely be worth the energy expended which suggests the behavior was a method which may have been a result of inexperience. Williams (Wyo. Game and Fish Dept. Bull. No. 5, 1948:65) suggests that young, as a result of inexperience, may feed on grasshoppers until they can take larger quarry, but he does not mention the method employed in the capture of grasshoppers.

It is entirely possible that the bird I observed was "playing" and not seeking food. Munro (see Cade, Wilson Bull., 65, 1953:29) observed a Prairie Falcon of undetermined age "playing" with cow manure, alternately swooping down, picking it up, dropping it, and picking it up again. The bird that I observed did, however, appear to be entirely absorbed in a food hunt and seemed to be earnestly seeking something. Gabrielson and Jewett (Birds of Oregon, 1940:202) mention that the stomach contents of one Prairie Falcon contained a white-footed mouse (*Peromyscus maniculatus*) which possibly might have been taken in the manner just described.

The Gyrfalcon has been reported by several naturalists as similarly coursing low over the ground like harriers (Cade, *op. cit.*:232). Also, Kessel and Cade (Biol. Papers Univ. Alaska, No. 2, 1958:83) cite this method for Gyrfalcons along the Colville River, Alaska. Some ornithologists, for example Otto Kleinschmidt (*in* Voous, Atlas of European Birds, 1960:76) and Meinertzhagen (Birds of Arabia, 1954:334) consider the Prairie Falcon and the Gyrfalcon to be very closely related, belonging to the same group (possibly even representing one species) along with the other large desert falcons of Eurasia. Perhaps this would account for the similarity of behavior between the two kinds, and indeed the harrier method so often seen in the Gyrfalcon may be more common in the Prairie Falcon than the literature indicates. However, my experience is that the normal mode of hunting for the Prairie Falcon is the expected falcon method of a swift, direct flight about 30 to 200 feet in the air with a long low-angle stoop at the potential prey.—CLAYTON M. WHITE, *Department of Zoology, University of Utah, Salt Lake City, Utah, March 21, 1962.*

A Breeding Record of the Redwinged Blackbird in Alaska.—Gabrielson and Lincoln (Birds of Alaska, 1959) cite Bailey (1930) and Webster (1948) for the only published records of the Redwinged Blackbird (*Agelaius phoeniceus*) in Alaska. These records were based on specimens of the race *arctolegus* collected in widely separated geographic localities, two in extreme northern Alaska and two in southeastern Alaska. As far as I am aware, no breeding records have been published for this species in Alaska. Observations of the Redwinged Blackbird reported in this note were made during the summers of 1957 and 1958 while I was conducting an ecological study of the Trumpeter Swan for the United States Fish and Wildlife Service in south-central Alaska.

On July 15, 1957, I observed from eight to ten adult male and female Redwinged Blackbirds in the vicinity of the Bremner River. The Bremner River is located approximately 70 miles east of Cordova, at 61° north latitude and between 144° 00' and 145° 15' west longitude. These birds were scattered around the edge of a large pond and occasionally made short flights from the bordering alders (*Alnus crispa*) to the emergent vegetation in search of insects. No nests or young were found at this time.

On August 7, 1958, a female and two short-tailed young were seen along the border of a slough draining into the Bremner River. Both young were being fed by the female who, during the course of the observation, made numerous trips to capture flying insects. Occasionally, other adult Redwinged Blackbirds were noted in this general area in July and August, but no other young were seen.—PETER E. K. SHEPHERD, *Alaska Department of Fish and Game, College, Alaska, March 5, 1962.*

Birds Observed Wintering on Middleton Island, Alaska.—The birds that breed on or visit Middleton Island in Prince William Sound, Alaska, during the summer have been reported by Rausch (Condor, 60, 1958:227-242). The writers visited the island from February 24 to February 26, 1961, and the following birds were observed during that period. All information cited on wintering ranges in Alaska is from Gabrielson and Lincoln (Birds of Alaska, 1959).

Acanthis flammea. Common Redpoll. Flocks of 20 to 25 individuals were commonly seen flying over the upland meadows. They were the most abundant species of bird observed, and they commonly winter in Prince William Sound.

Phalacrocorax pelagicus. Pelagic Cormorant. A number of these birds was flushed from their perches on a rock jutting out of the ocean on the south end of the island. This species is common throughout the area during the winter.

Larus glaucescens. Glaucous-winged Gull. Fifteen to 20 gulls were seen wading in the brakish pond on the western shore. This species winters in southern and south-central Alaska.

Capella gallinago. Common Snipe. Two Common Snipe were flushed from a marsh on the north end of the island on February 25. Although this species winters casually north to southeastern Alaska, none has been reported wintering as far north as Middleton Island. A possible reason for the occurrence of this species in the area is the fact that the mud and water in the marshes were unfrozen.

The preceding species were observed during the summer by Rausch; the following observations, however, represent wintering or non-breeding records only.

Plectrophenax nivalis. Snow Bunting. Observed on two occasions: on February 25, one bird was seen flying over the northern upland meadow; on February 26 another Snow Bunting was seen flying over the northwestern beach. The latter bird was collected for the University of Alaska Museum. Snow Buntings are a common wintering species in Prince William Sound.

Nyctea scandiaca. Snowy Owl. Snowy Owls were first reported on Middleton Island in November of 1957, and four to six individuals have remained on the island, probably because of the abundance of rabbits. These owls have not reduced the population of rabbits; in fact after transecting all of the vegetation types, we estimated that there was a minimum of 7000 rabbits present. The island is not situated in a common wintering area for the species. One specimen was collected for the University of Alaska Museum.

Philacte canagica. Emperor Goose. Five Emperor Geese were seen wading in a brakish pond on February 25. They were seen again on February 26 wading in the surf on the western beach near the brakish pond. Gabrielson and Lincoln stated that probably small numbers of Emperor Geese winter north to Prince William Sound, but the last record of them in this area was about November 13, 1930, when a large flock was seen on the Copper River Flats.—THOMAS P. O'FARRELL, *Department of Zoology, University of Tennessee, Knoxville, Tennessee*, and ARTHUR M. SHEETS, *Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Cordova, Alaska, February 8, 1962*.

Baltimore Oriole at Santa Barbara, California.—On November 2, 1961, I was called to the home of Mrs. Russell Kriger in Santa Barbara, California, to identify a Baltimore Oriole (*Icterus galbula*). It was a brilliantly colored male and was attracted to the limb of a weeping willow tree which had been punctured by a Yellow-bellied Sapsucker (*Sphyrapicus varius*). Mrs. Kriger said it visited this same spot several times a day and was first noticed on October 7, 1961; and it was still there on January 16, 1962.

This is the first substantiated record of *Icterus galbula* in California. [A conclusive color photograph of this bird was examined by the editor.]

It is interesting to note the unusual number of wintering orioles at Santa Barbara in 1961-62, all of which have been males. There are four species represented: Bullock (*Icterus bullockii*), quite common, both adult and immature; Hooded (*Icterus cucullatus*), a few, this winter and last; Scott (*Icterus parisorum*) two sightings both this winter and last; and now, the Baltimore.—WALDO G. ABBOTT, *Department of Ornithology, Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History, Santa Barbara, California, January 16, 1962*.