

tory Museum, who prepared it as a specimen. The bird proved to be an adult female in winter plumage and is now specimen no. 30290 in the San Diego Natural History Museum.

This appears to be the first time that the Ruff has been collected in the western United States outside of Alaska, where it has occurred accidentally on St. Paul and St. Lawrence islands. There are three other records of the Ruff in California. Marie Mans studied one with Pectoral Sandpipers (*Erolia melanotos*) and Knots (*Calidris canutus*) at Bodega Bay, Sonoma County, on September 9, 1961. I found a Ruff at Solano Beach, San Diego County, on September 21, 1962. The bird was feeding in grassy fresh-water pools at a sewage plant along with dowitchers (*Limnodromus*), Lesser Yellowlegs (*Totanus flavipes*), Greater Yellowlegs (*Totanus melanoleucus*), a Baird Sandpiper (*Erolia bairdii*), a Solitary Sandpiper (*Tringa solitaria*), a Stilt Sandpiper (*Micropalama himantopus*), and four Pectoral Sandpipers. I and six others, including Arnold Small, saw this bird again on September 23. On December 19, 1962, Edwin Willis, Paul DeBenedictis, and I found a Ruff on the Lower Klamath National Wildlife Refuge, Siskiyou County. The bird was feeding on the mud around one of the fresh-water pools with a flock of shorebirds including five dowitchers, ten Least Sandpipers (*Erolia minutilla*), and three Dunlin (*Erolia alpina*).

The Ruff may be a rare but regular visitor here on the Pacific coast, as it is on the Atlantic coast. It apparently feeds around small fresh-water pools rather than on open salt-water mud flats. If large shorebirds around these pools are checked carefully more Ruffs may be found in California and other western states.—R. G. McCASKIE, *Tahoe City, California, April 23, 1962.*

Cooper Hawk Attacks Pigeon by Stooping.—On December 27, two miles north of Richvale, California, at approximately 3:30 p.m., a Cooper Hawk (*Accipiter cooperii*) was observed hunting about forty feet above the open fields. Flying north, it struck a domestic pigeon (*Columba livia*) flying southwest. Bodily contact was apparent, for the pigeon lost feathers, but the prey was not held. After it was first struck, the pigeon continued along its same line of travel but in a somewhat unsteady flight and at approximately the same speed. The hawk turned to the left and with seemingly little effort overtook the pigeon and struck again, but still did not retain it in its talons. Upon being attacked for the second time, the pigeon dropped to the ground. The hawk then returned to its victim. While attempting to gain a better vantage point, I missed seeing the hawk recover its prey and leave the scene of the kill.

The two areas over which the hawk had struck the pigeon were examined as well as the spot at which the pigeon dropped. Several back and rump feathers were present at the first position and large quantities of blood and feathers were found at the others.

This particular hunt strikingly differs from other recorded kills by accipiters (see Rudebeck, *Oikos*, 2, 1950:65–89, and Meinertzhagen, *Pirates and Predators*, 1959). The general pattern is for the hawk to sit quietly in a tree and in a sudden dash to surprise and overtake the prey and immediately kill it by grasping while on the ground. But there are occasional instances of repeated stoops having been recorded for other accipiters. Dixon (*The Field*, 1954:795) stated that wild goshawks on the prairies of Manitoba and Saskatchewan sometimes attacked in a manner characteristic of falcons. In this relatively open country, goshawks were seen to hunt by circling about two hundred feet above the ground and then diving on jack rabbits. They repeatedly struck rabbits at the back of the neck and always made at least one such dive before grasping the prey. R. B. Treleaven (*The Falconer*, 3, 1957:129–130) witnessed a wild European Sparrowhawk (*Accipiter nisus*) kill a lark in much the same manner as a Peregrine strikes its prey by diving from a great height and forcing the lark very low to the ground.—RODENY A. MEAD, *Department of Zoology, University of California, Davis, May 3, 1962.*

Sight Records of Willets in Alaska.—On August 8, 1961, Glen A. Sherwood and I observed two Willets (*Catoptrophorus semipalmatus*) in the Minto Lakes area, approximately 50 miles west of Fairbanks. The two birds, flying together, passed us at very close range. The following day, accompanied by Peter E. K. Shepherd, we saw a single bird, also in flight at close range, in the same area. These are apparently the first records for this species in Alaska since the report by Hartlaub (*Jour. für Ornith.*, 31:257–286) in 1883 on the basis of which it was included on the hypothetical list by Gabrielson and Lincoln (*Birds of Alaska*, 1959:828).—WILLET T. VAN VELZEN, *Otsego, Michigan, April 2, 1962.*