

Erolia acuminata. Sharp-tailed Sandpipers. Almost always present on the beaches in December on both islands. Especially abundant in November and December of 1963, when several flocks of 20 to 30 birds were present for several days. Bryan and Greenway (*op. cit.*:114) reported this species "as an occasional visitor" on Midway.

Cyclorhynchus psittacula. Parakeet Auklet. Two specimens from beach of Eastern Island in late January of 1963, evidently blown in, along with the Horned Puffins, by heavy storms of the preceding two weeks. Reported by Robert Klemm, my research assistant.

Fratercula corniculata. Horned Puffin. Eight examples in January of 1963: one alive on beach at Kure Atoll; two dead in edge of *Scaevola* on west side of Sand Island; and five dead on beaches of Eastern Island. Reported by Robert Klemm.

Asio flammeus. Short-eared Owl. This species has never been found in numbers greater than two or three, and usually on Eastern Island, despite the abundance of food represented by exotic rats and mice. My last observation was of a caged bird in the home of Commander Boyd Weber on December 8, 1961; the bird was incapable of flight because its feathers were badly disrupted by road tar. Since much of the prime habitat of this species has been bulldozed in the last two years, the bird may no longer exist on Midway. It was observed on Kure Atoll in December of 1963.

Alauda arvensis. Skylark. One bird on December 6, 1961, and two on November 30, 1963, on open grassy area in middle of Eastern Island. It is probable that these individuals belonged to the population established on the larger Hawaiian Islands to the southeast.—HARVEY I. FISHER, *Southern Illinois University, Carbondale, Illinois, September 19, 1964.*

Black Brant Summering at Salton Sea.—Five Black Brant (*Branta nigricans*) were at the Salton Sea National Wildlife Refuge, Imperial County, California, during the summer of 1963. The birds were first seen on April 22, feeding on newly sprouted bulrush (*Scirpus tuberosus*). From that time on, throughout the summer, they were observed frequently. For a period in July and August only three could be found, although on September 7, four were seen, and on September 15, five. The final observation was of three birds on October 12.

During July and early August, the three birds passed through their prebasic [= postnuptial] molt and were completely flightless for a time. Two of the birds retained the usual appearance of the Black Brant, but the third became much lighter in color. Temperatures ranged from 110° to 120° F. during their stay, quite different from what they would have encountered had they completed their normal migration. The birds appeared to be healthy at all times.

Guy McCaskie kindly informed us of his observations of two Black Brant at the north end of the Salton Sea on September 16, 1962. On April 9, 1963, he saw a flock of at least 100 at the same location. He also reported that at least 30 were still there on April 27, 1963, and one was there until at least May 11 of that year.

In the spring of 1964, about 225 Black Brant appeared at Salton Sea Refuge on April 16. This number decreased to five by the middle of May, when they were last seen at the north end of the sea. On June 27, one was observed on the refuge, and on June 30, a pair was noted. McCaskie saw about 30 at the north end of Salton Sea on April 25, May 2, and May 9. On September 6, 1964, he saw two on the refuge.

In the past, wintering Black Brant have been found only on the Pacific coast of Lower California. In 1964 large numbers of Black Brant were reported to have wintered on the Gulf of California side. This change in wintering grounds is a likely explanation for their inland appearance at Salton Sea which is on a direct flight line northward from the head of the Gulf of California.—JOHN H. NOWAK, *Delta National Wildlife Refuge, Venice, Louisiana*, and GALE MONSON, *Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife, Washington, D.C., December 3, 1964.*

A Record of the Groove-billed Ani in Southern Nevada.—A Groove-billed Ani (*Crotophaga sulcirostris*) was seen by us at Boulder City, 2450 feet elevation, Clark County, Nevada, on December 7, 1964, and was kept under observation for about one-half hour. The bird seemed unafraid and we were able to approach to within a few feet of it and note the grooves in the heavy beak and the zygodactylous feet. When discovered it was perched in a trellis in a garden,

eating morning glory seeds; later it foraged in arbor vitae and fed on fruits of the myrtus. The nearest records of the species are for southeastern Arizona (see Phillips, Marshall, and Monson, *The Birds of Arizona*, 1964, for a discussion of these records).—PAULINE LONG and FLORENCE E. POYSER, *Boulder City, Nevada, December 8, 1964.*

Notes on the Owls of the Tres Mariás Islands, Nayarit, México.—Until now no actual specimens of owls have been recorded from the Tres Mariás Islands, Nayarit, México. Grayson (*Proc. Boston Nat. Hist. Soc.*, 14, 1872:270) listed two owls from the Tres Mariás Islands: the Barn Owl, *Tyto alba* ("heard at night") and the Burrowing Owl, *Speotyto cunicularia*. Nelson (*N. Amer. Fauna*, 14, 1899:39) added a sight record of *Micrathene*. Stager (*Auk*, 74, 1957:428-429) dropped *Speotyto* and *Micrathene* from his check-list for lack of verified records. Stager did retain, however, Grayson's (*op. cit.*) sight record of *Tyto alba* from Maria Madre Island. Grant and Cowan (*Condor*, 66, 1964:225) included this record in their updated check-list. None of these records was supported by specimens.

While collecting in the Tres Mariás Islands during March and April of 1964, a single specimen of the Elf Owl (*Micrathene whitneyi*) was caught in a "mist net" stretched across a small dry stream course on Maria Magdalena Island. This example (LACM no. 45484), a male with slightly enlarged testes, was caught at about 3:00 a.m. on March 24, 1964. There was little fat present on the specimen. The stomach contained only very small fragments of beetles. It is of interest that this specimen was caught in the bottom "shelf" of the net, about two feet off the ground.

Upon comparing this specimen with available material of *Micrathene whitneyi whitneyi* from the mainland of México, *M. w. sanfordi* from Baja California, and *M. w. graysoni* from Socorro Island, it was found to be most similar to specimens of *M. w. whitneyi* from the Mexican mainland. The only obvious difference is that the specimen from the Tres Mariás Islands differs from the three species in having nearly uniform colored retrices. Most of these feathers have only one or two very indistinct pale buff or whitish spots on the inner webs near the base of each feather. The specimen measures: wing, 110.7 mm.; tail, 51.6 mm.; culmen (from cere), 8.9 mm. These measurements fall within the range of *M. w. whitneyi*.

Many of the giant cacti, with woodpecker holes in them, were examined for additional Elf Owls, but none was found.

During the process of setting up the above mentioned net, a small owl (*Otus* sp. ?) with ear tufts, landed in a dead tree about 30 feet away. The bird was well silhouetted against the evening sky (7:30 p.m.) and the ear tufts were clearly seen. It was not possible to collect this bird.

On Maria Cleofa Island, another owl was seen. It was flushed from a rocky cliff along the shoreline at about 11:30 a.m. on March 27, 1964. The bird was dark in color and had small white spots on the wings and back and I have no doubt that it was a member of the genus *Speotyto*. It flew directly into a heavy growth of brush and vines, where it disappeared.

During the two nights spent ashore on the islands, one each on Maria Magdalena and on Maria Cleofa, no members of the genus *Tyto* were seen or heard.—JAMES R. NORTHERN, *Los Angeles County Museum, Los Angeles, California, December 14, 1964.*

Oregon Juncos Collected in Massachusetts.—On February 17, 1963, an Oregon Junco (*Junco oreganus*) appeared at the home of Mrs. Elizabeth Romaine in Middleboro, Plymouth County, Massachusetts, and was seen daily until March 26, 1963, when it was collected. The specimen, which was a male, had a completely ossified skull, a wing length (chord) of 80 mm., and weighed 19.9 gm. On October 16, 1964, I collected another Oregon Junco in Sudbury, Middlesex County, Massachusetts. This specimen was an adult female, with a completely ossified skull, a wing length (chord) of 73 mm., and weighed 18.0 gm. Both specimens, now in the Museum of Comparative Zoology at Harvard, were identified as *Junco oreganus montanus* by Alden H. Miller who stated (*in litt.*) that they were typically *montanus* and that he could see no signs of a hybrid background in either specimen. These are the third (MCZ no. 285857) and fourth (MCZ no. 285858) specimens of *Junco oreganus* for Massachusetts; the previous two specimens being also referable to *montanus* (Griscom and Snyder, *The Birds of Massachusetts*, 1955:240-241).