

NOTEWORTHY RECORDS OF VIREOS IN CALIFORNIA

R. GUY McCASKIE

1640 Guy Street
San Diego, California 92103

Intensified fieldwork during recent years in California has added to our meager knowledge of the status of many species of birds including some of the vireos.

Vireo bellii. Bell's Vireo. This species is a regular summer visitor between late March and late September in suitable habitat in southern California. One collected in San Diego, San Diego County, on 4 January 1963 was the first winter record for California (McCaskie and Banks, Auk 81:356, 1964). A wintering individual collected along the Colorado River on 7 March 1951 (Monson and Phillips, A Checklist of the Birds of Arizona, p. 52, 1964) appears to be the only other winter record for the Southwest.

Richard Stallcup saw one at Ramer Lake, Imperial County, on 28 December 1963, and I saw the bird there on 8 February 1964. I saw one near Parker Dam, San Bernardino County, on 28 November 1964. It would now appear that this species occasionally winters in Southern California.

Vireo flavifrons. Yellow-throated Vireo. A single bird was collected at Wildrose Campground, Death Valley National Monument, Inyo County, on 7 May 1963 by B. P. Paige, and is now in the Death Valley National Monument Museum. This is the only specimen taken in California.

Vireo solitarius. Solitary Vireo. This species is a regular migrant and summer visitor between late March and mid-October with stragglers regularly occurring in November. Since 1952 there have been about 10 December sightings reported in Audubon Field Notes. I saw a single bird in San Diego, San Diego County, on 25 December 1966, and one in Bonita, San Diego County, on 1 December 1963. One was seen in Pasadena, Los Angeles County, on 15 January 1944 (Grinnell and Miller, Pacific Coast Avifauna No. 27:387, 1944); one was collected in Bonita, San Diego County, by Larry Sansone on 2 January 1966, and is now in the Los Angeles County Museum. I saw one in San Diego, San Diego County, on 3 February 1963. It would now appear that this species occasionally winters in Southern California.

Vireo flavoviridis. Yellow-green Vireo. A single bird collected near Riverside, Riverside County, on 1 October 1887 is the only previous record for California (Price, Auk 5:210, 1888). A single bird was present at Dana Point, Orange County, between 22 and 27 September 1964, and I was able to observe it from a distance of less than 10 feet on 23 September.

Vireo olivaceus. Red-eyed Vireo. This species has been considered accidental in California. Records of fall migrants include one that was found dead in Los Angeles, Los Angeles County, on 10 October 1931 (Widmann, Condor 34:47, 1932); one that was collected in San Diego, San Diego County, on 6 October 1914 (Huey, Condor 17:58, 1915); and one that was collected near Imperial Beach, San Diego County, on 19 October 1962 (McCaskie and Banks, Auk 81:356, 1964). Records during the summer, which are probably of delayed spring migrants, include one that was seen near Satley, Sierra County, between 9 and 19 June 1962 (McCaskie and Banks, *ibid.*); one that was collected on the Farallon Islands on 16 June 1958 (Bowman, Condor 63:410, 1961); and an adult male (Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, Berkeley, no. 149630) that was collected in Oakland, Alameda County, by H. L. Cogswell on 4 July 1963 after having been present since 11 May 1963.

Richard Stallcup saw a single bird near Moss Landing, Monterey County, on 9 September 1962. Marianne Shepard banded one at Deep Springs, Inyo County, on 1 September 1966. I collected an immature male (San Diego Natural History Museum no. 35098) near Imperial Beach, San Diego County, on 10 October 1964, and I saw one in the same location between 28 and 30 October 1966. This individual was banded by Alan Craig on 29 October, and a photograph of it is in the San Diego Natural History Museum. Paul DeBenedictis and I saw one near Laguna Dam, Imperial County, on 5 June 1964.

This species now appears to be an irregular fall wanderer with occasional individuals occurring in the late spring.

Vireo philadelphicus. Philadelphia Vireo. I collected an immature male (San Diego Natural History Museum no. 35511) near Imperial Beach, San Diego County, on 9 October 1965. This appears to be the only record for California.

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NOTES ON THE STATUS OF THE TUFTED DUCK (*AYTHYA FULIGULA*) IN NORTH AMERICA WITH A REPORT OF A NEW OBSERVATION FROM WYOMING

MICHAEL GOCHFELD

Naval Hospital
Pensacola, Florida 32508

The Tufted Duck (*Aythya fuligula*) has been reported in North America with increasing frequency in the past 15 years, although before 1949 the only records were from Alaska. However, since the species is fairly often kept in public zoos and private aviaries, it has been questioned whether these records represent wild birds. Of the two Massachusetts records reported in the A.O.U. Check-list of North American Birds (1957), the bird at Marshfield has been considered an escapee,

and the status of the bird from Newburyport has been questioned also.

Several of the records published more recently have indicated that the observers or others attempted to determine if any aviary had lost a Tufted Duck before the observation. Several other reports in Audubon Field Notes offer no such discussion.

The two Alaskan records, including a specimen from St. Paul Island in 1911 and a sight record of two pairs from Attu Island in 1945 (Gabrielson and Lincoln, The Birds of Alaska, 1959), are tacitly assumed to represent wild birds. This seems justified, as the species breeds eastward to Eastern Siberia and Kamchatka (Bent, U.S. Natl. Mus. Bull. 126, 1923), and has been reported as a rare summer resident and probable breeder on the Commander Islands (Johansen, Auk 78:44, 1961).

Orr (Auk 79:482, 1962) reported a specimen taken inland in Alameda County, California, in 1949, and noted that his inquiries to local aviculturists did not reveal any lost Tufted Ducks. Olson (Auk 78:638,

1961) reported a bird inland at Portland, Oregon, and noted that his search of local aviaries yielded "inconclusive results." He concluded that the Oregon bird, if it was an escapee, had traveled far from its point of origin.

The Tufted Duck has been reported three additional times in Audubon Field Notes since 1960. A "juvenile male" was seen at Vancouver, British Columbia, in November 1961 (Aud. Field Notes 16:67, 1962). A pair was recorded at Falmouth, Massachusetts, January and February 1963, and another or the same pair was seen at Carver, Massachusetts, on 24 March 1963 (Aud. Field Notes 17:311, 1963). A male was noted near New York City from 18 February to 1 April 1966 (Aud. Field Notes 20:404, 1966).

In view of the above reports of the Tufted Duck, the following sight record, the first for interior North America, is presented. On 10 April 1966 Dr. and Mrs. William Pope, Dr. Linda Gochfeld, and the author were observing migrating waterfowl on lakes west of Laramie, Wyoming (elevation 7165 feet). On a lake seven miles west of Laramie, along state highway 130, Mrs. Pope discovered a male Tufted Duck, a species she had photographed three weeks earlier at the Denver City Park Zoo. The rest of the party observed the bird through binoculars and a 30-power telescope for about 45 minutes. During this time the bird fed actively and also preened and rested. Fourteen other species of ducks were on the lake, but no Ring-necked Ducks (*Aythya collaris*) were present. The Tufted Duck associated mainly with Greater Scaup and Lesser Scaup (*Aythya marila* and *A. affinis*) and was readily distinguished from these by the black back contrasting with the entirely white sides. The tuft was visible

nearly all the time. A photograph of the bird was not suitable for reproduction, although it was readily recognized by several editorial consultants as a picture of a Tufted Duck.

It was not possible to revisit the lake later in the season, but it seems clear that whatever its origin the Tufted Duck was migrating with the native species. Several aviculturists and zoos in Colorado, New Mexico, and Kansas were contacted, but none reported any missing Tufted Ducks.

It is apparent that no matter how extensive a search of aviaries one conducts with negative results, there can be no conclusive evidence for the wild origin of Tufted Duck records; conversely, a positive response from an aviary does not prove that a duck observed in the vicinity was definitely an escapee. Several factors, however, support the conclusion that some of the birds reported were of wild origin. The presence of birds at a great distance from the aviary and the occurrence together of a male and female strongly suggest wild origin. In addition, the increasing number of records gives more occurrences than one can account for by known or postulated escapes. Although other Eurasian species kept in aviaries have been reported occasionally in various parts of the country, the Tufted Duck has apparently been the most often recorded.

In fact, each additional record sheds some light on the status of previous records. As further reports are gathered a pattern of movement or range extension may emerge that will clarify the status of the Tufted Duck in North America. (Present address: R. F. D. 1 Lexington Avenue, Mohegan Lake, New York 10547.)

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OBSERVATIONS ON FOOD-CACHING BY AN ADULT FEMALE SPARROW HAWK

REY STENDELL and LEE WAIAN

Department of Biological Sciences
University of California, Santa Barbara
Goleta, California 93106

While attempting to trap and band Sparrow Hawks (*Falco sparverius*) in the Goleta Valley (Santa Barbara County, California), the authors discovered a food cache known to have been maintained by an individual of this species from 10 December 1965 through 19 January 1966.

Two instances of an individual Sparrow Hawk storing food on the ground were recorded by Tordoff (Wilson Bull. 67:138-139, 1955). Pierce (Condor 39:140, 1937) has reported food caching by a captive Sparrow Hawk. Our observations on a single adult female give further evidence of food storing in this species and suggest that one single tree may be used over a period of time.

The storage site that we observed was located in a Canary Island Pine (*Pinus canariensis*) four feet tall adjacent to a parking lot. The majority of the cached

animals were placed approximately three feet above the ground either in the crotch of the main trunk and a secondary branch or on the needles. The hawk was usually seen perched on nearby telephone poles and wires. As we approached the cache site, she invariably moved closer, often uttering her high, rapid cry. On several occasions the Sparrow Hawk flew up from the tree, but only once was she seen to remove a cached animal. We never observed her depositing a prey item.

During the 40-day observation period at least 17 prey items were deposited in the cache. Prey species included 4 *Mus musculus*, 4 *Reithrodontomys megalotis*, 1 *Microtus californicus*, 2 *Sceloporus* sp., and 6 unidentified small mammals. No insect or bird remains were observed at the cache. The greatest number of animals in the cache at one time was five (1 lizard and 4 small mammals); often there were none. The longest period any one animal remained cached was seven days (*R. megalotis*). All small mammals except one had been decapitated. Lizard remains consisted of the tail and caudal part of the trunk including the pelvic appendages.

By 19 January storing at the site ceased, although the hawk remained in the area. Periodic checks of the site were made after this date, but no prey animals were seen.

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