

several small groups flying westward through the haze toward St. Matthew Island, then about 80 miles away. Occasional and usually single snow buntings reach Arctic coastal points in March, preceding by a month the irregular and protracted arrival of migrating flocks. Apparently single snow buntings can navigate their course to nesting grounds without benefit of guidance from association in flocks.

GENERAL REMARKS

The greatest aggregation of birds, all busily feeding, was seen within the margin of ice in central Bering Sea. In the same loose ice and polynia were numerous harbor, ringed, some ribbon, and bearded seals, and several herds of walrus. Evidently regions within the ice are important in late winter for support of large populations of birds and mammals. Bottom trawls in the polynia over the shallow (100 m) continental shelf brought up crabs, shrimp, and starfishes. The waters were rich in microplankton and the under layers of solid, heavy ice were deeply stained brown and contained many diatoms. Although the water was from -1.5°C to -1.8°C and insolation had been

screened by heavy ice and snow, there had evidently been sufficient wintering fauna and flora to support many birds and mammals.

Birds are a visible index of the animal life produced at sea, and our observations suggest that on future cruises planned watches and records of sightings could provide useful indications of the distribution of marine productivity in terms of the great numbers in the winter populations of birds over the Bering Sea.

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AERIAL EAGLE COUNT IN COLORADO

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Between 10 January and 24 February 1967 and between 1 January and mid-March 1968 the junior authors recorded sightings of Bald Eagles (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) and Golden Eagles (*Aquila chrysaetos*) made from a light plane engaged in a survey of pronghorn antelope (*Antilocapra americana*) in southeastern Colorado. In both years the plane flew parallel transects 1.6 km apart at an altitude of about 60 m, systematically covering nearly the entire southeastern quarter of the state, which is comprised of sagebrush plains, grassland, and wheat land. The majority of the eagles were seen perched on the ground or on fence posts, but some,

especially Golden Eagles, were seen in the air. Since adjacent transects were flown several minutes apart, it is possible that some eagles were counted more than once, but the observers felt this unlikely. No attempt was made to distinguish between Golden Eagles and immature Bald Eagles, and the latter, seen occasionally from the ground, were almost certainly included under the former; hence only adult Bald Eagles were recorded for that species.

In the area of about 57,000 square kilometers, 56 Golden Eagles and 19 adult Bald Eagles were counted in 1967, and 114 and 46, respectively, in 1968. These data indicated that Bald Eagles are actually fairly common winter residents on the high plains of Colorado. Except for one communal roost of 23 Bald Eagles in cottonwoods near a small stream observed in 1968, that species was uniformly distributed in the region. Sightings made in this count, and substantiated by other observations from the ground, indicate that wintering Bald Eagles in southeastern Colorado do not necessarily remain near river courses, but are most frequently seen on the open plains far from water, where they must feed largely on small mammals.

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A CALIFORNIA SPECIMEN OF THE BAR-TAILED GODWIT

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On 17 July 1968 a Pacific Bar-tailed Godwit (*Limosa lapponica baueri*) was collected by the junior author on North Humboldt Bay, 0.5 mi. S of Arcata, Humboldt County, California. The bird had first been observed on 11 July 1968. It was again seen on 16 July feeding on the mud flats in the vicinity of many Short-billed Dowitchers (*Limnodromus griseus*), Western Sandpipers (*Erolia mauri*), and a few

Marbled Godwits (*Limosa fedoa*) and Willets (*Catoptrophorus semipalmatus*).

The specimen is a female in worn winter plumage, and was undergoing extensive body molt at the time of collection. The ovary was 11 mm long and showed no signs of recent enlargement. Total length was 464 mm, culmen was 107.5 mm, and the wing (flat) was 238 mm. It weighed 552.8 g and was extremely fat.

This apparently represents the first specimen for California and the second south of the Alaskan breeding grounds on the Pacific coast. Munro (Condor 37:178, 1935) and Brooks (Condor 44:33, 1942) reported a British Columbia specimen.

The subspecific identification was made by E. Eisenmann and C. Vaurie of the American Museum of Natural History. The specimen is in the Humboldt State College Collection (No. 1475).

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