

LITERATURE CITED

- BROOKS, A. 1922. Notes on the abundance and habits of the Bald Eagle in British Columbia. Auk 39:556-559.
- COUCH, L. K. 1929. Introduced European rabbits in the San Juan Islands, Washington. J. Mammal. 10:334-336.
- IMLER, R. H., AND E. R. KALMBACH. 1955. The Bald Eagle and its economic status. U.S. Fish Wildl. Serv. Circ. 30.
- LATHAM, R. M. 1955. The controversial San Juan rabbit. Trans. N. Amer. Wildl. Conf. 20:406-414.
- MUNRO, J. A. 1938. The northern Bald Eagle in British Columbia. Wilson Bull. 50:28-35.
- MURIE, O. J. 1940. Food habits of the northern Bald Eagle in the Aleutian Islands, Alaska. Condor 42:198-202.
- RETFALVI, L. I. 1965. Breeding behavior and feeding habits of the Bald Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus* L.) on San Juan Island, Washington. MF Thesis, Univ. Brit. Columbia, Vancouver.
- SOUTHERN, W. E. 1963. Winter populations, behavior, and seasonal dispersal of Bald Eagles in northwestern Illinois. Wilson Bull. 75:42-55.
- SOUTHERN, W. E. 1964. Additional observations on winter Bald Eagle populations: including remarks on bio-telemetry techniques and immature plumages. Wilson Bull. 76:121-137.
- STEEL, R. G. D., AND J. H. TORRIE. 1960. Principles and procedures of statistics. McGraw-Hill, Toronto.
- WRIGHT, B. S. 1953. The relation of Bald Eagles to breeding ducks in New Brunswick. J. Wildl. Mgmt. 17:55-62.

Accepted for publication 25 August 1969.

BIRD OBSERVATIONS FROM TIERRA DEL FUEGO

ALLAN R. KEITH

Blue Mill Road
New Vernon, New Jersey 07976

The following observations were made by me as a member of a tour called "Antarctic Expedition 1967" which, as part of its itinerary, spent a total of eight days on or near Tierra del Fuego. Ninety species were recorded from the island or adjacent waters while aboard the ARA *Lapataia*. Notes on the 24 of greatest interest are presented here. Information on the other species is contained in an unpublished manuscript deposited in the libraries of the Division of Birds, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C., and the Museo Argentino de Ciencias Naturales, Buenos Aires, Argentina.

Specifically, the time spent in Tierra del Fuego was as follows. The *Lapataia* arrived at Ushuaia at 08:30, 13 January, and remained there until 07:05, on 14 January. On 13 January I explored the hills directly behind the town of Ushuaia and visited Parque Nacional Tierra del Fuego. On 14 January the ship left for the Antarctic and returned to Ushuaia at 21:45, 27 January. On 28 January Dr. Ira N. Gabrielson and I drove from Ushuaia to Lake Escondido and back. On 29 January the entire party drove from Ushuaia to Río Grande, with a stop at the east end of Lake Fagnano at noon-time. On 30 January, Dr. Gabrielson and I drove from Río Grande back toward Ushuaia, a total distance of about 70 miles over the road, and returned. On 31 January the entire party was driven from Río Grande to the Argentine and Chilean border patrol stations near San Sebastián Bay. After crossing the border we continued north through Cullen to Cerro Sombrero where we boarded a plane for Punta Arenas, thus leaving Tierra del Fuego. The map in figure 1 shows the route followed on the island.

I wish to express my thanks to Dr. Philip S. Humphrey, now of the Museum of Natural History, University of Kansas, for suggesting that these notes be published, and to David Bridge of the Smithsonian Institution for invaluable help on the content of the manuscript. The scientific and vernacular names of de Schauensee (The species of birds of South America and their distribution. Livingston Publ. Co., Narberth, Pennsylvania. 1966) are used in the following annotated list.

Silvery Grebe. *Podiceps occipitalis*. At least two were seen in Ushuaia harbor by Gabrielson on 12 January. Three were there on 13 January, and two were still there on 29 January. These appear to be the southernmost records for this species and are of further interest because the birds were on salt water.

Black-bellied Storm-Petrel. *Fregetta tropica*. Of interest is one bird seen at approximately 56°00' S, 65°30' W on 27 January. This bird is rarely recorded so far north of the Antarctic in the austral summer.

Black-necked Swan. *Cygnus melancoryphus*. Sixteen were seen in one of two lakes about 70 mi. over the road S of Río Grande on 30 January. Though at some distance, several swans the size of adults, but grayish in color and without the black heads and necks of adults, could be distinguished through a 30× telescope; they appear to have been immatures. Our guide told us that the swans nest in this lake. This appears to be the southernmost record to date for this species and, if correct, the southernmost breeding locality.

Spectacled Duck. *Anas specularis*. Two birds at Lake Roca west of Ushuaia in Parque Nacional Tierra del Fuego were seen on 13 January. This locality is extremely far south for this species.

Speckled Teal. *Anas flavirostris*. This species was common in all the areas where it was observed. Two broods of downy young were seen on 28 January where the Milna River flows out of the northern end of Lake Escondido. One brood consisted of only two young about 10 cm long, and the other contained five young about 7 cm long. On 31 January at the Chilean San Sebastián border patrol station, a pair with one downy young was found in a small stream in open grassland. When surprised by me, the young bird hid beneath an undercut bank, the female flew off, and the male began a "broken-wing" act. The male fluttered along the stream and in the pasture until it had "led" the author nearly 150 m from where the young bird hid.

Southern Wigeon. *Anas sibilatrix*. One male seen at Lake Roca on 13 January was especially far south for this species, being well south of the cordillera.

Red Shoveler. *Anas platalea*. Since there are few reports of this species in Tierra del Fuego, it is of interest to record a flock of 10 birds, of mixed sex, in a small freshwater pond, together with the following species, about 25 mi. over the road S of Río Grande on 30 January. The birds were observed at a distance of about 15 m by both Gabrielson and myself for 10

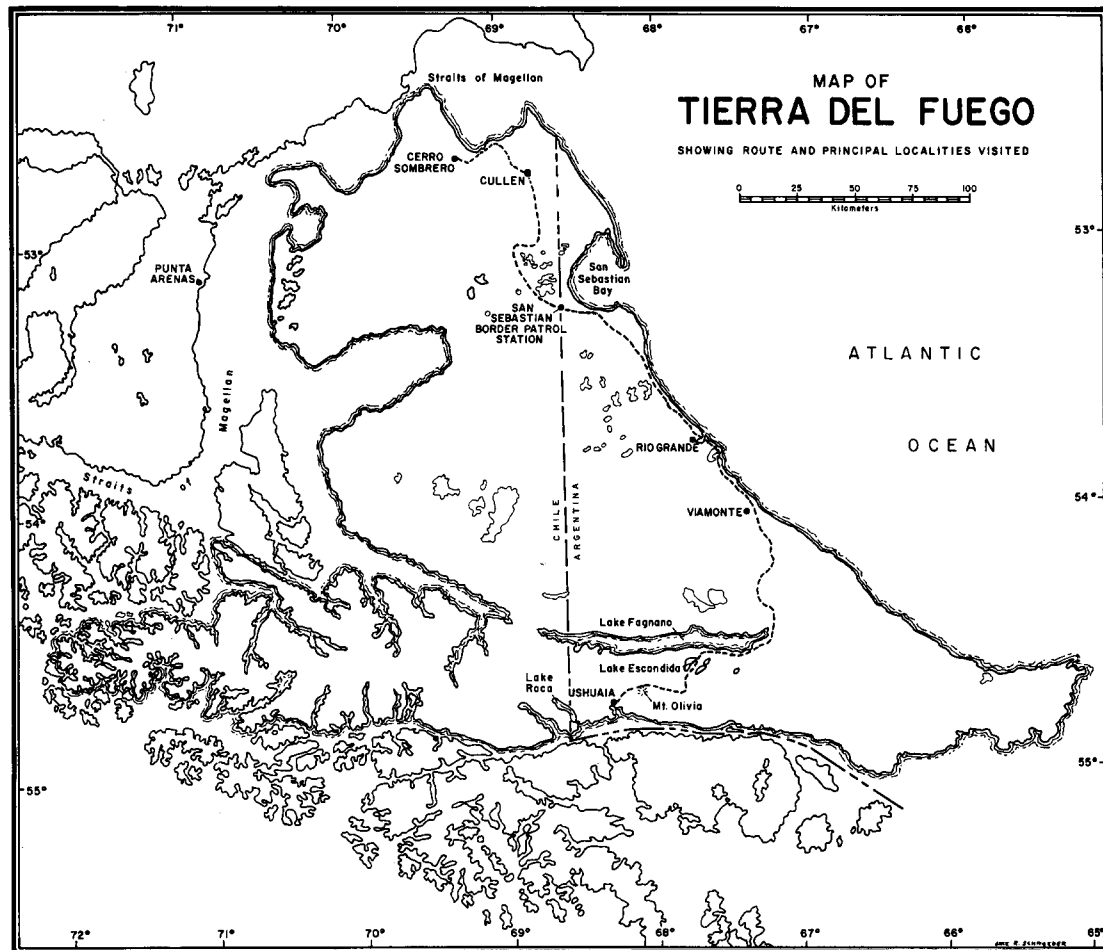


FIGURE 1.

min. Diagnostic field marks such as the characteristic bill, green scapulars, and reddish-brown sides with black spots were carefully noted.

Rosy-billed Pochard. *Netta peposaca*. Four males and at least one female of this species were seen in a marsh at the east end of Lake Fagnano on 29 January, and a flock of eight birds, both males and females, was seen on 30 January by Gabrielson and myself in the same location as given for the previous species. In both cases the birds were seen both sitting and flying at a distance of no more than 20 m. Diagnostic field marks noted include, for the males, the pink bill, purplish-black head, gray sides, black back, and black wings with a distinct white wing-stripe. The females were dark brown with lighter patches on the sides of the head. These two Fuegian sightings constitute the first published records for Tierra del Fuego and a range extension of about 850 miles. The most southern published records are Huanulán and Neluán, Río Negro, Argentina, (Peters, Bull. Mus. Comp. Zool. 65: 303, 1923). The species is an accidental visitor to the Falkland Islands, where a flock of 30 was recorded in 1920 (Cawkell and Hamilton, Ibis 103a(1):13, 1961).

Peregrine Falcon. *Falco peregrinus*. One was seen flying northeast over the marsh at the east end of Lake Fagnano on 29 January. This bird is scarce this far south. It was not possible to determine whether it was the local South American breeding race *cassini* or the North American migrant race *anatum*, which

could conceivably venture to this latitude in the austral summer.

Greater Yellowlegs. *Tringa melanoleuca*. Two were flying and calling over the marsh at the east end of Lake Fagnano on 29 January. The next day a group of 14 was seen feeding on a small mudflat where a small river flows into the sea near the beach about 20 mi. S along the road from Río Grande. These records are of interest because of the southerly latitude and the number of birds seen.

Baird's Sandpiper. *Calidris bairdii*. Over 40 were seen on the mudflats of a lagoon just north of Río Grande on 30 January. They were observed feeding and flying.

White-rumped Sandpiper. *Calidris fuscicollis*. At least 10 were seen on mudflats at the edge of San Sebastián Bay near the Argentine border patrol station on 31 January. They were observed feeding and flying; the white rump patch which distinguishes this species from *C. bairdii* was noted.

Sanderling. *Calidris alba*. Four in non-breeding plumage were seen on mudflats at the edge of a lagoon just north of Río Grande on 30 January.

Hudsonian Godwit. *Limosa haemastica*. One was seen on mudflats at the edge of San Sebastián Bay near the Argentine border patrol station on 31 January. The tide was coming in rapidly over the flats of this shallow bay, and the bird flew in and landed at the outskirts of a flock on Magellanic Oystercatchers

(*Haematopus leucopodus*). Field marks noted at about 30 m were the white wing-stripe, white rump, black terminal tail band, and decurved bill.

Red Phalarope. *Phalaropus fulicarius*. A flock of 12 birds, probably of this species, was seen flying northeast over the ocean about 30 mi. SE of New Island on 27 January. The day was sunny and the sea calm, providing excellent visibility. The birds flew past the ARA *Lapataia* within 20 m of the observers. They had a white wing-stripe and no white rump, which distinguished them from Wilson's Phalaropes (*Steganopus tricolor*). Lack of stripes on the back and the presence of extensive white on the top of the head ruled out the Northern Phalarope (*Lobipes lobatus*). This leaves the possibility of a Sanderling (*Calidris alba*), with which they could have been confused, but Sanderlings do not have a black mark behind the eye in non-breeding plumage, which I believe I saw on these birds. While it would be surprising to find Sanderlings so far at sea, this is where one expects to find phalaropes. Both observers have had considerable previous field experience with all three species of phalaropes and with Sanderlings, and both arrived at the conclusion, independently, that the birds seen were phalaropes. This detailed discussion is included because there are few definite records for *P. fulicarius* for southern South America and because this is possibly the first record of this species for Tierra del Fuego.

Arctic Tern. *Sterna paradisaea*. Three birds, believed to be this species, were seen in the Beagle Channel on 14 January. On several occasions, they approached the ARA *Lapataia* within a few meters of the observers and were noted by Gabrielson, who is very experienced with this species at all times of the year, as being "distinctly smaller than the other terns present, and (with) a much shorter and slender bill" (pers. comm.). I noted a whiter cheek patch just below the black cap, which is a distinctive mark in the northern hemisphere but not necessarily here because of the possible presence of Antarctic Terns (*Sterna vittata*), which also have this patch. The Antarctic Tern is also slightly smaller than the South American Tern (*Sterna hirundinacea*), which is abundant in the Beagle Channel. These smaller birds were not seen sitting, which might have provided an opportunity to identify them as *paradisaea* on the basis of the shorter tarsi. The possibility exists that the birds seen were in fact *vittata* instead of *paradisaea*. Despite this possibility, both observers, on the basis of their previous experience with it in life and their subsequent experience with *vittata* in Antarctica, felt certain that the birds seen were *paradisaea*. However, the Arctic Tern can only be added to the hypothetical list of Tierra del Fuego birds at this point.

Rock Dove. *Columba livia*. This species is established at Ushuaia where it was observed on 13 and 29 January in small numbers.

Short-eared Owl. *Asio flammeus*. One was seen hunting over brushy hillsides near the Chilean San

Sebastián border patrol station on 31 January. The characteristic flight and light patches in the primaries were observed for about 5 min. at close range.

Thorn-tailed Rayadito. *Aphrastura spinicauda*. Several individuals were observed in the beech forest at the foot of Mount Olivia on 28 January. Of particular interest was a pair of adults feeding two very recently fledged young which called attention to their presence by their loud cries for food when the adults approached.

Cinnamon-bellied Ground-tyrant. *Muscisaxicola capistrata*. As this species is not well known in Tierra del Fuego, it is of interest to record the presence of one on the sandy shore of San Sebastián Bay near the Argentine border patrol station on 31 January. Diagnostic field marks noted were the tawny breast and almost reddish-brown belly.

Chilean Swallow. *Tachycineta leucopyga*. This is the common swallow of the Ushuaia area and in the forested cordillera as far north as the east end of Lake Fagnano. In this area, *Notiochelidon cyanooleuca* appears to be almost entirely absent; none were observed in four days of careful search by myself and Gabrielson on 12, 13, 28, and 29 January. Very few *T. leucopyga* were seen north of the east end of Lake Fagnano in the more open grassland country on 29 January, and only four were seen in the neighborhood of Río Grande on 30 January. It nests in locations similar to that of the Tree Swallow (*T. bicolor*) in North America. Adults were seen perching on and entering nesting holes in dead tree stubs at Lake Roca, Parque Nacional Tierra del Fuego, on 13 January; at the foot of Mount Olivia along the edge of the Olivia River on 28 January; and at the marsh at the east end of Lake Fagnano on 29 January. They were also nesting under the eaves of the metal roof of Hotel Petrel under construction at Lake Escondido on 28 January. Here the cries of young birds could be heard when the adults brought food to them. This species seems to be closely associated with open forest habitat, especially where it is combined with lakes and/or rivers.

Blue-and-white Swallow. *Notiochelidon cyanooleuca*. This is the common swallow of the open grassland area of eastern Tierra del Fuego. It appears to replace *Tachycineta leucopyga* in these areas and is often found far from forested habitat, especially around streams and flocks of sheep. Several of these birds hovered near me as I walked through the grassland country surrounding the Chilean San Sebastián border patrol station on 31 January. Presumably they were seeking the insects disturbed by my feet.

House Sparrow. *Passer domesticus*. This species is established at Ushuaia, the Chilean San Sebastián border patrol station, Viamonte, Cullen, Río Grande, and Cerro Sombrero in Tierra del Fuego. In fact, this bird can be found at almost any occupied human habitation, regardless of how remote from heavy vegetation or from other buildings.

Accepted for publication 29 December 1969.

CACTUS WRENS ATTACK GROUND SQUIRREL

E. LINWOOD SMITH

Department of Biological Sciences
The University of Arizona
Tucson, Arizona 85721

On 24 May 1969 in Saguaro National Monument, east of Tucson, Arizona, I observed a confrontation of a

Harris antelope ground squirrel (*Ammospermophilus harrisi*) by two Cactus Wrens (*Campylorhynchus brunneicapillus*).

The squirrel was first seen running onto a horizontal limb of a large cholla cactus (*Opuntia fulgida*) containing a Cactus Wren nest. Simultaneously, a Cactus Wren flew out of the upper branches of the plant, pecking, and striking the squirrel with its feet. The squirrel, tail raised, crouched on the limb momentarily and then retreated toward the center of the cactus. A