

(*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 cyanoleuca* 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 cyanoleuca*. 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.

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CACTUS WRENS ATTACK GROUND SQUIRREL

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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

brief chase terminated when the squirrel was knocked off balance and became impaled on cactus spines. The wren continued pecking at exposed parts of the impaled, immobilized squirrel. Pecking bouts were alternated with a very intense wing and tail spreading display accompanied by a harsh, staccato, buzzing vocalization.

A second wren appeared 2½ min after the squirrel became impaled. Both wrens pecked the squirrel for about 2 min until it was knocked out of the cactus. Because of adhering cholla branches, the squirrel was unable to escape after it hit the ground. The birds continued their attack on the ground, both giving the wing-tail display, but with less intensity and without vocalizing.

Shortly, the squirrel freed itself from enough cholla branches to run under a nearby shrub. At this point the wrens flew off. I examined the partially helpless squirrel, and, finding no injuries, released it.

The whitetail antelope ground squirrel (*A. leucurus*), whose range complements that of *A. harrisi*, may be a predator of bird nests. Bradley (J. Mammal. 49:14,

1968) reports finding unidentified feathers in the stomachs of *A. leucurus*. He states that vertebrates are a common component of the diet of *A. leucurus* and may be taken as prey or carrion. Dietary studies of *A. harrisi* have not been done but, considering similarities in ecology and appearance to *A. leucurus*, *A. harrisi* may also prey on bird nests.

Anders H. Anderson (pers. comm.) does not recall seeing the wing-tail display by Cactus Wrens in response to danger. This display, or a modified form of it, is frequently seen as pair formation behavior and is often accompanied by a growling vocalization (Anderson and Anderson, Condor 59:274, 1957).

An interesting aspect of this encounter is the apparent lack of precipitating factors. The Cactus Wren nest in the cholla was an old one, apparently unused for a year or more. The nearest new nest was over 50 ft away in the top of a 20-ft tree and was not a brood nest. Furthermore, there were no fledgling Cactus Wrens found in the vicinity of the encounter.

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WATTLED JACANA CAUGHT BY AN ANACONDA

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In the early morning of 5 December 1965 I was wading through the ankle-deep water of a lagoon near Maasstroom (Commewijne District), Surinam, in search of birds. On arriving in an open part of the lagoon without any vegetation I saw in the far distance something in the water which looked like a tire of a motor bicycle.

On approaching I noticed that it was an anaconda

(*Eunectes murinus*) with an adult Wattled Jacana (*Jacana jacana*) tightened in its coils. Both animals seemed motionless. The head of the bird was above the water level, so there was no question that it was being drowned. When I gave the snake a few kicks with my foot, it loosened its grip on the bird and vanished with a tremendous splashing of water. The Jacana walked a few feet, looking a bit dizzy, and then flew away, apparently unhurt.

The snake was not a large specimen (about 2 m long). Although it is well known that anacondas lurk in the water to entangle their prey, which often consists of water birds, I have never found mention of the species they actually catch.

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NOTES ON THE TERRITORIALITY OF HAMMOND'S FLYCATCHER (*EMPIDONAX HAMMONDI*) IN WESTERN MONTANA

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Knowledge of the ecology of Hammond's Flycatcher, *Empidonax hammondi*, comes from Davis (Auk 71: 164, 1954) who studied its breeding biology in the vicinity of Flathead Lake, Montana, and from Johnson (Univ. California Publ. Zool. 66:79, 1963) who studied the biosystematics of sibling species of the *Empidonax hammondi-oberholseri-wrightii* complex. This note supplies supplementary data on the territoriality of *E. hammondi* where it is locally sympatric with *E. oberholseri*. The information was gathered as part of a study of the breeding bird communities of three western Montana avifaunas (Manuwal, MS Thesis, Univ. of Montana, 1968).

The study area was located in the Lubrecht Experi-

mental Forest, 40 mi. NE of Missoula, Montana. It consisted of two miles of narrow creekbottom bordered on the north by a south-facing slope covered by an uneven-aged open stand of Douglas fir (*Pseudotsuga menzeisii*) and ponderosa pine (*Pinus ponderosa*), and on the south by a north-facing slope covered by a mosaic of lodgepole pine (*Pinus contorta*), Douglas fir; Engelmann spruce (*Picea engelmanni*), and alpine fir (*Abies lasiocarpa*). Alders (*Alnus tenuifolia*) provided the overstory in the creekbottom, while dogwood (*Cornus stolonifera*) was the understory, much of which had been removed or damaged by cattle grazing. Between the creekbottom and the south-facing slope there was a wide (12–120 m), grassy opening containing scattered conifers and a well-used dirt road.

Population density and territory delineations were determined by the spot-map method described by Kendeigh (Ecol. Monogr. 14:67, 1944). All three study plots were gridded with one-meter red-topped wooden stakes spaced 30 m apart. Notes on behavior were taken concurrently. In addition, many additional hours were spent observing *E. hammondi* in other locations outside the study area.

Figure 1 shows the territories of *E. hammondi* located on the south-facing slope. Similar territories were occupied in 1967 and 1968 by three different males. Although each territory changed slightly in

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