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American Black Duck Record from Korea.—On 18 June 1977, two American servicemen stationed at Kwang Ju Air Base in Korea found a dead bird, carrying a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service band, in rice paddies 3 mi (4.8 km) west of Kwang Ju, and sent the band, number 767-65352, to the FWS.

According to the records of the FWS Bird Banding Laboratory, the band had been placed on an American Black Duck (*Anas rubripes*) at the Elm Hill Game Management Area 1 mi (1.6 km) east of Kerr Dam, Mecklenberg Co., Virginia, on 11 February 1969. The bird had been identified as an after-hatching-year male by the bander, D. B. Duffer, of the Virginia Commission of Game and Inland Fisheries. It was one of 15 American Black Ducks banded at that location on that day.

This appears to be the first report of the American Black Duck in Asia. The species is a casual migrant or visitant as far northwest in North America as central Alaska (Kessel and Gibson, *Studies in Avian Biology* no. 1, 1978; American Ornithologists' Union, *Checklist of North American Birds*, 6th ed., 1983). A bird in central Alaska might join a flock of Mallards (*Anas platyrhynchos*) or another species that migrates to Asia with some frequency. American Black Ducks have been reported as vagrants in northern Europe (A.O.U., *op. cit.*), so flights of some distance are not unprecedented.

I thank Kathleen Klimkiewicz of the Bird Banding Laboratory for making information about this band recovery available to me, and the Virginia Commission of Game and Inland Fisheries for permission to publish this report of its band recovery.—RICHARD C. BANKS, *Denver Wildlife Research Center, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, National Museum of Natural History, Washington, D.C. 20560*. Received 17 Feb. 1985; accepted 29 May 1985.

Comments on Preparing Owl Pellets by Boiling in NaOH.—I have used Schueler's (*Bird Banding* 43:142, 1972) NaOH-boiling method to prepare approximately 20 kg of owl pellets and find it superior in speed and accuracy to manual sorting. In my experience a few slight modifications of Schueler's recommended procedure are desirable. Schueler recommends decanting the NaOH solution off pellet material "as soon as all of the hair and feathers are dissolved." This is a critical point. Hair and feathers are separated from bones within 5 min after the solution begins to boil, and further boiling often damages bones. I have found that it is best to use a 2% rather than a 3% solution and to pour it off before all hair and feathers are dissolved when preparing pellets containing very small bones. Even such a short boiling period in a dilute solution loosens hair and feathers enough that they can be removed by washing with water. This modification has another virtue: it does not corrode aluminum band numbers enough to make them illegible, so that one does not need to sort pellets manually to detect aluminum bands. Detecting bands by manual sorting defeats the time-saving quality of Schueler's method. I recovered 30 aluminum ear tags from my pellets, 14 after they went through the boiling process, and all identification numbers were still readily legible when the NaOH treatment was restricted to the short time periods encouraged here. Boiling longer, however, would indeed necessitate prior removal of metal tags.—WILLIAM S. LONGLAND, *Department of Biology, University of California, Riverside, California 92521*. Received 8 Jan. 1985; accepted 30 Apr. 1985.

Water Loss from Pipped Eggs of Two Species of Noddies.—Rahn et al. (1976) reported that water loss from eggs of two congeneric noddies (Black Noddy, *Anous minutus* and Brown Noddy, *A. stolidus*), over the incubation period, represented 16% and 14% of the mass of the freshly-laid eggs. These values likely underestimate water loss from the eggs because they did not include the accelerated water loss that occurs from pipped eggs.