

Temminck's Stint at Vancouver, British Columbia

First documented record for Canada

*Brian M. Kautesk, Robert E. Scott,
David S. Aldcroft, and John Ireland*

ON THE AFTERNOON OF September 1, 1982, an immature Temminck's Stint (*Calidris temminckii*) was spotted by R.E. Scott, a visiting British ornithologist, and two local Vancouver birders, John Ireland and David Aldcroft, at the George C. Reifel Migratory Bird Sanctuary in Delta, British Columbia. The stint remained in the area until 09:00 P.D.T., on September 4, 1982, when it was last seen by Doug Kragh and Alex Gray. During this period the stint was observed by many birders and photographed by Ervio Sian, Dennis Paulson, and several others.

The George C. Reifel Sanctuary is located on Westham Island; Delta is approximately 18 kilometers south of Vancouver, B.C. The Temminck's Stint frequented a brackish slough in the sanctuary, one kilometer in length by 6-9 meters in width. The slough is bordered by grass and Cat-tail (*Typha latifolia*) while the banks are a mixture of Red-berry Elder (*Sambucus racemosa* var. *arborescens*), *Rubus* species, Red Alder (*Alnus rubra*), Pacific Crabapple (*Pyrus fusca*) and a scattering of conifers.

The Temminck's Stint associated with

a small mixed flock of Least Sandpipers (*Calidris minutilla*), Western Sandpipers (*C. mauri*), Semipalmated Sandpipers (*C. pusilla*) and several Lesser Yellowlegs (*Tringa flavipes*). The stint was often seen keeping close company with a Least Sandpiper which afforded close comparisons for the observers.

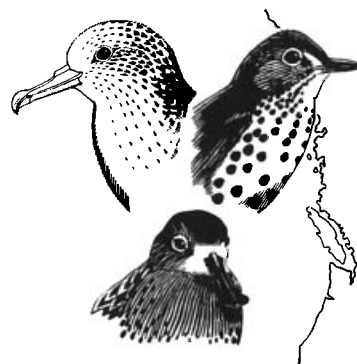
When first sighted the stint gave the appearance of a miniature gray Baird's Sandpiper (*C. bairdii*) owing to its elongated appearance, with long wings and an even longer tail. The bird flew and displayed immaculate white outer tail feathers with a narrow dark center. Fortu-

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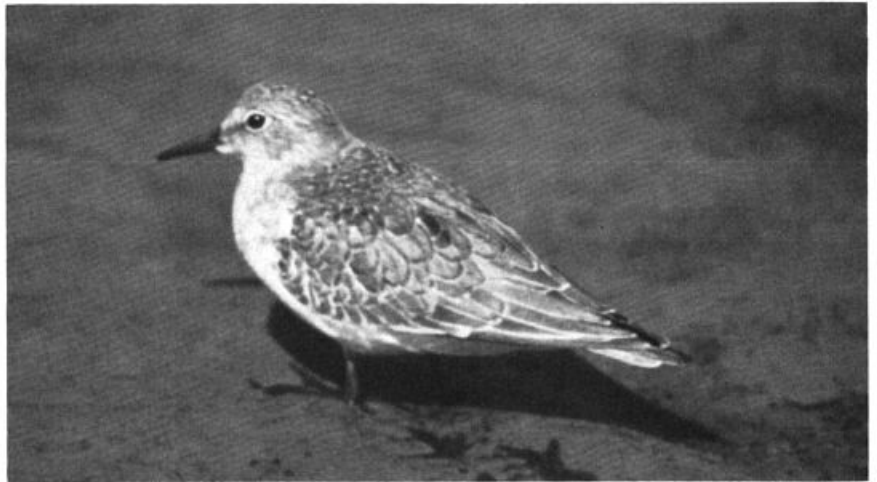
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nately, the bird settled and the following detailed description was taken by the authors:

“. . . larger in the body than Least, slightly smaller than Western, the size of Semipalmated Sandpiper but slimmer in the body. Small, only slightly drooping black bill, straighter, finer and shorter than Western's, but only slightly thinner and shorter than Least's. Sides of the head and breast suffused pale gray-



brown. Supercilium very indistinct with virtually no head pattern. Lower breast and belly brilliant white. Crown gray-brown streaked with darker brown lines, white eyelids, brown eye. Mantle gray-brown, feathers edged darker brown. Wing coverts pale gray-brown without center spots and having darker gray narrow subterminal bands and shaft streaks. Folded primaries dark brown. Absolutely no stripes or other markings dorsally. The stint appeared outstandingly uniform in shade from breast to lower back. Legs brownish-yellow, rather short compared to body, making the bird appear crouched and tense. This position was exaggerated by the long wings that crossed at the tips and the even longer tail, which was dully pointed at the tip. The tail also had a protuberance appearing oddly three-cornered. Brilliant, immaculately white outer-tail feathers which were sensational when the bird flew or fanned its tail. The white outer-tail feathers were also visible at rest with a dark center to the tail. The stint tended to crouch when the other peeps were flushed, but when it did fly it occasionally towered up into the air. Flight at times resembled that of a Spotted Sandpiper (*Actitis macularia*) with stiff flaps of the wings followed by a short

glide. Feeding action was composed of sharp stabs of the bill straight down and rapid into the mud like a sewing machine. Flight call was a distinctive trill, repeated frequently, unlike another Nearctic calidrid. . . ."

It should also be noted that on September 4, Kragh saw the bird adopting a more hunched and rounded appearance, with the tail spread and appearing squarish, the white outer feathers extending outwards from the sides of the folded wingtips.

The Temminck's Stint is a bird of the Palearctic tundra breeding from northern Scandinavia to the Chukchi Peninsula and the Bering Strait (Prater *et al.*, 1977). Roberson (1980) lists 16 records for Alaska through 1980 from the Aleutians, the Pribilofs, St. Lawrence Island, St. Matthew Island and one from mainland Alaska (Cape Prince of Wales). To the authors' knowledge, this Vancouver sighting is the first photographically documented record south of Alaska. However, there have been a number of previous sight records for the Vancouver area which, in light of the recent discovery, should be reviewed. Coincidentally, two birds believed to be Temminck's Stints were seen in exactly the same location



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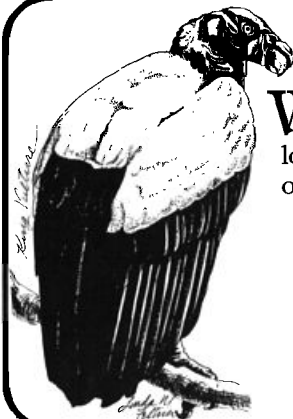
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and at the same time in September, 1981 by Brian Kautesk. The first seen by Kautesk on September 6, was a molting adult and on September 7, 1981, an immature very similar to the 1982 bird was discovered by David Mark. Both birds were studied closely that day by Kautesk, Kragh *et al.* Unfortunately this pair defied the efforts of photographers. Finally the first Canadian report of a Temminck's Stint was obtained by Kautesk alone December 14, 1980. This bird was a very dark, winter-plumaged bird, seen with Least Sandpipers on Blackie Spit, Crescent Beach in Surrey, B.C. (*AB* 35 329, 1981).

LITERATURE CITED

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—Apt. 6, 1661 East 10th Ave., Vancouver, B.C. V5N 1X6, Canada (Kautesk); Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, The Lodge, Sandy, Bedfordshire SG19 2DL, England (Scott); 65 East 42nd Ave., Vancouver, B.C. V5W 1S4, Canada (Aldcroft); 3015 West 12th Ave., Vancouver, B.C. V6K 2R4, Canada (Ireland).

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In 1981 the Soci t  d'Etudes Ornithologiques in France, publisher of *Alauda*, set up a French Rare Birds Committee (see *Alauda* 49:312, 1981; *British Birds* 75:186). The French "Comit  d'homologation" is now benefiting from the support of the "Union Nationale des Associ-

ations Ornithologiques", which wishes to study any record of unusual species in France, and will regularly publish reports of accepted records with the observers' names. In this way, records from 1981 and 1982 are concerned as well as those for the current year. Please send any relevant observations to: Secr tariat du Comit  d'homologation, La Corderie Royale, B.P. 263, 17305 Rochefort Cedex — France.

THE SECOND IBEROMERICAN ORNITHOLOGICAL CONGRESS will take place December 4-10 1983 at Xalapa, Veracruz, Mexico. Persons who request information will get the second notice of the Congress, including instructions for resume preparation. Other persons interested in attending or participating, should write to: Mario A. Ramos, Apartado Postal 388, Xalapa, Veracruz, Mexico. Deadline for submission of resumes is August 15, 1983. Formal invitations will be sent only upon request. There will be exciting field trips and tours both before and following the Congress papers sessions.

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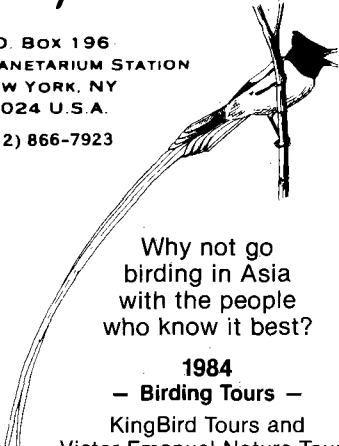
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At the XVIII International Ornithological Congress in Moscow (August 1982), the International Ornithological Committee accepted the invitation of the National

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