

to the lake [inland from the post] I saw a family of Pipits—the parents calling in an agitated manner, and several Snow Buntings, the gray juvenals flying about the rocks rather awkwardly. But the chief joy of the day came in seeing my first Wheatears. I saw at least three of them, apparently all in juvenal plumage. The birds were tame; I saw them clearly. They perched on the rocks and snapped at flies on the wing much like a Redstart, with widely spread tail, and a reckless, headlong manner. They were all somewhat mottled brownish above, and it seemed to me that they had a tinge of reddish on the sides of the breast. The tails were decidedly the most noticeable feature, the vivid white patches showing at great distance *in flight*. The call-note was noticeably different from that of the Snow Bunting and Pipit. It sounded like *chüh* or *tchüh*. It was quite clear, but not very loud. The birds were not only tame but curious. When I stood still they often flew closer to inspect me the better. I saw no individual in what appeared to be adult plumage. This was a real treat." Two paragraphs farther on I added: "The Wheatears I saw today bobbed their tails much in the manner of Pipits. They had a facial expression similar to that of *Anthus* also."—GEORGE MIKSCH SUTTON, *Museum of Zoology, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan*.

A North American record of the Bean Goose.—On April 19, 1946, two men, Steve Likanof and George Rukivishnikoff, from the village on St. Paul Island, were hunting on the near-by lagoon, and killed two out of a flock of three geese. The geese were unknown to them and also to Clarence Olsen, Asst. Superintendent of the Pribilofs, who spent the winter there. Since the bird was not known to anyone on the islands, John Hansen, who had worked with several visiting naturalists, skinned it, treated it with alum, stretched it over a wire frame, spread its wings and hung it up to dry. He did a fine job of skinning and preserving it.

When I arrived in the island on June 17, 1946, the bird was immediately shown to me. It was obviously not a North American goose but was not a species with which I happened to be familiar. The skin was given to me. On board the Brown Bear, after some difficulty I relaxed it sufficiently to fold the wings and shape it so that it could be shipped safely. The skin has now been identified by John Aldrich and proves to be *Anser fabalis sibiricus* (Alpheraky), a new bird for North America. The skin is now in my collection at the Patuxent Research Refuge of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service.—IRA N. GABRIELSON, *Wildlife Management Institute, Washington 5, D. C.*

The case of the Yellow Warbler.—At the Ottawa meeting of the American Ornithologists' Union in 1926 I presented a brief informal paper under the above title, calling attention to the possibility that the *Motacilla aestiva* of Gmelin [Syst. Nat., 1 (2): 996, 1789], the basis of our present *Dendroica aestiva*, might be found to apply to the darker-colored northern race of the Yellow Warbler, which had been christened *ammicola* by Batchelder (Proc. New England Zool. Club, 6: 82, 1918). This name was based on the bird of Newfoundland, which I found to be precisely the same as that of the north shore of the Gulf of St. Lawrence and of James Bay. The question arose as to which was the prevailing form at the City of Quebec, which (following the procedure in analogous cases) I took as the restricted type-locality of *aestiva*. There were four breeding specimens from this locality in the collection of the Carnegie Museum, and through the courtesy of the late Gus A. Langelier five more were placed at my disposal. Of these nine specimens, one male and one female were clearly referable to the northern race; the rest of the series was just as clearly referable to the southern race. It appears, therefore, that the latter is the prevailing form in the breeding season in the Quebec region, although the locality is obviously

on the border-line between the respective ranges of the two forms. While a larger series might afford a different result, under present circumstances I think we are justified in continuing to use Gmelin's name *aestiva* for the southern race and Batchelder's name *annicola* for the northern.—W. E. CLYDE TODD, *Carnegie Museum, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.*

A new name for *Bonasa umbellus canescens* Todd.—When casting about for a suitable name for the Ruffed Grouse of northern Ontario, described by me in the *Auk*, 57: 395, 1940, it never occurred to me to consult any Russian works for a possible previous use of the name I chose. Messrs. Friedmann and Aldrich, however, in their monographic review of this species (*Condor*, 45: 99, 1943), cited a published reference to a *Bonasa canescens* dating back to 1895. As long as my *canescens* was considered the same as *umbelloides* Douglas, as said by Friedmann and Aldrich, it did not seem worth while to rename it, but since Messrs. Snyder and Shortt [*Canadian Journal Research*, (D) 24: 128–129, 1946] have revived the race to which it had been applied, I propose to rechristen it

***Bonasa umbellus obscura*, subsp. nov.,**

with the same specimen as the type.

I take advantage of this opportunity to add that I do not at all agree with Friedmann and Aldrich's treatment of *monticola* and *medianus*, but further discussion of this matter will have to be postponed.—W. E. CLYDE TODD, *Carnegie Museum, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.*

Bar-tailed Godwit on Long Island, New York.—On or about November 15' 1946, a specimen of the Bar-tailed Godwit, *Limosa lapponica lapponica* (Linnaeus), in winter plumage, was collected by Mr. John Rose of Center Moriches, Long Island. The locality was on the south side of Moriches Bay, opposite Mastic, Long Island. The specimen was taken to the American Museum of Natural History where, with Dr. R. C. Murphy and Mr. J. T. Nichols, I compared it carefully with a series of European examples. We found that it agrees in every respect with winter examples collected in England. The specimen has been presented to the Museum where it is now catalogued as No. 308,880.

This is the first known occurrence of this bird on Long Island and the third for North America, being the second specimen actually to be taken in this country. The first record, mentioned by Bent in his 'Life Histories of North American Shore Birds,' Part 1 (*Bull. U. S. Nat. Mus.*, 142: 295, 1927), was on Cape Cod, Massachusetts, September 16, 1907. The second record, without a specimen taken, was in New Jersey. It was reported by C. W. Urner (*Proc. Linn. Soc. N. Y.*, 50–51: 56, 1940) as having been seen by him at Absecon, N. J., on July 17, 1937; a separate account by J. K. Potter (*Bird-Lore*, 39: 393, 1937) says: "Brigantine, N. J., July 18 and August 14, Bar-tailed Godwit (Urner and others)." This indicates that there was probably a single bird in that general region which remained for some time and was seen by different observers. In any case, the present occurrence, it may be repeated, makes the third record and the second specimen for North America.—CARL L. MULLER, *New York, N. Y.*