

Some Bird Observations at Chevak, Alaska.—While on an expedition to western Alaska during the summer of 1946, I spent 17 hours in the field on June 20 and 21 in the vicinity of Chevak, about 22 miles east of Hooper Bay near the Bering Sea. Chevak is located at about 61.5° N. latitude and 167° W. longitude. This Eskimo village is located on the Kashunuk River along which we worked during the two days. The weather was cold, rainy and very windy. The country is typical tundra with a few small alders and willows. Through the moss I found: crowberry, *Empetrum nigrum*; Alaska tea, *Ledum decumbens*; alpine bearberry, *Arctostaphylos alpina*; and patches of cotton sedge, *Eriophorum*, as well as many other tundra plants.

The following numbers of birds was observed during the two days: Pacific loon, *Gavia arctica pacifica*, 8; whistling swan, *Cygnus columbianus*, 5; cackling goose, *Branta canadensis minima*, 103 (Three nests were found June 21, all within three meters of a lake. They contained three, five and six eggs); emperor goose, *Phylactes canagica*, 8 (A female was flushed June 21 from a down-lined nest with five eggs); white-fronted goose, *Anser albifrons*, 62 (Four nests were found June 20 on the tundra back from any lake, and another nest was found June 21—they contained four, four, three, two and six eggs, respectively); pintail, *Anas acuta tzitzihoa*, 30; green-winged teal, *Anas carolinense*, 2; greater scaup, *Aythya marila nearctica*, 3; old-squaw, *Clangula hyemalis*, 20; American scoter, *Oidemia nigra americana*, 24; Steller's eider, *Polysticta stelleri*, 3; Alaska ptarmigan, *Lagopus lagopus*, 11 (A nest found June 20 contained only two eggs; another found June 21 contained seven eggs); lesser sandhill crane, *Grus c. canadensis*, 17 (On June 20, an Eskimo named Mutchin showed me the plundered remains of two eggs from a nest he found June 16. We found another nest with two eggs on June 20 and another on June 21. Each was located on a small knoll in the tundra. The last two nests, slightly hollowed for the eggs, were constructed of a few grasses and sedges with a few willow twigs about five to 18 cm. long. Both nests measured 35.5 by 43.1 cm. The eggs in the second nest measured 93.5 by 55 mm. and 94.3 by 56.5 mm. Those in the third nest, 87.5 by 53.1 and 89.5 by 54.6 mm. The latter weighed 119.9 and 118.3 grams); golden plover, *Pluvialis dominica*, 2; black-bellied plover, *Squatarola squatarola*, 2; black turnstone, *Arenaria melanocephala*, 14 (On June 21, I found a nest with one egg nearly ready to hatch, two newly-hatched young and a third young which was dead. The latter bird weighed 12 grams); Wilson's snipe, *Capella g. delicata*, 2; red-backed sandpiper, *Erolia alpina pacifica*, 47 (A nest with four eggs was found June 20—they averaged 35.55 by 26 mm. in length and width and 10.8 grams [10.6 to 11.1] in weight); western sandpiper, *Ereunetes mauri*, 32 (A nest with four eggs was found June 21); Pacific godwit, *Limosa lapponica baueri*, 3; red phalarope, *Phalaropus fulicarius*, 4; northern phalarope, *Lobipes lobatus*, 8; parasitic jaeger, *Stercorarius parasiticus*, 7; long-tailed jaeger, *Stercorarius longicaudus*, 2; glaucous (?) gull, 8; short-billed gull, *Larus canus*, 24; Sabine's gull, *Xema sabini*, 26; yellow wagtail, *Motacilla flava*, 4; Savannah sparrow, *Passerculus sandwichensis*, 12 (A nest, found June 20, contained four young about two days old); longspur, *Calcarius lapponicus*, 12.—LAWRENCE H. WALKINSHAW, 1703 Central Tower, Battle Creek, Michigan.

Unusual Accidents of Birds.—My recent note (Auk, 65: 298, 1948) on the unusual death of a Red-winged Blackbird brought a letter from Mr. F. J. Freeman of Itasca, Illinois, who kindly gave me permission to publish one of his observations on an unusual avian accident. Mr. Freeman wrote that the caretaker of the Elk Grove Forest Preserve of Cook County, Illinois, in the winter of 1947, found a Screech Owl, *Otus asio*, caught in a tree crotch; it had apparently died from strangulation. I wish to add a recent observation of my own. A female Dickcissel, *Spiza*