observations of nests located in stumps. Notably, the three examples to come to my attention all relate to Barred Owls in Florida. Bent (1938: 198) mentions a nest in the Kissimmee Prairie region "in an open cavity on the top of an oak stub only 6 feet high, in a dense hammock of large live oaks." The other two nests of this sort were found by Roy C. Hallman in a cypress swamp in St. Johns County from which the larger trees had been cut: one, March 25, 1934, in a hollow cypress stump three feet high, and one, March 4, 1936, in a similar four-foot stump. The single egg in each of the nests rested on dead cypress needles and rotten wood near ground level. The two nest locations were approximately 40 feet apart and, in all probability, the nests belonged to the same pair. Bent (1938: 184) has recorded other instances of the persistent attachment of Barred Owls to particular patches of woods in the face of disturbance by lumbering. I am much indebted to Mr. Hallman for permitting me to mention these records and to examine photographs of a parent bird at the first nest taken by Samuel A. Grimes. Two of the photographs have been published (Bird-Lore, **36**: facing p. 283, 1934; Florida Nat., **10**: 64, 1937): the first bears a brief explanatory legend, the other has no description of the circumstances involved. These stump nests, being located in natural cavities and within forest habitats, do not provide a close parallel to the ground nest here reported. They may, however, suggest that the Barred Owl in its Florida range is more prone to utilize unusually low nesting sites.

Individuals that depart markedly from the norm in choice of a nest site are of interest, because each such episode holds the potential of increasing the ecological amplitude and geographical range of the species, should it succeed and become established in part of the population. In the present instance, the source of the pioneering impulse is obscure, because typical Barred Owl nest sites are available nearby. The sawgrass marsh that predominates around Seven-Mile Fire Tower, encloses many island stands of mixed subtropical hardwood forest where natural cavities are present, if not plentiful, and both the Red-shouldered Hawk (*Buteo lineatus*) and Common Crow (*Corvus brachyrhynchos*) nest regularly in the immediate vicinity.

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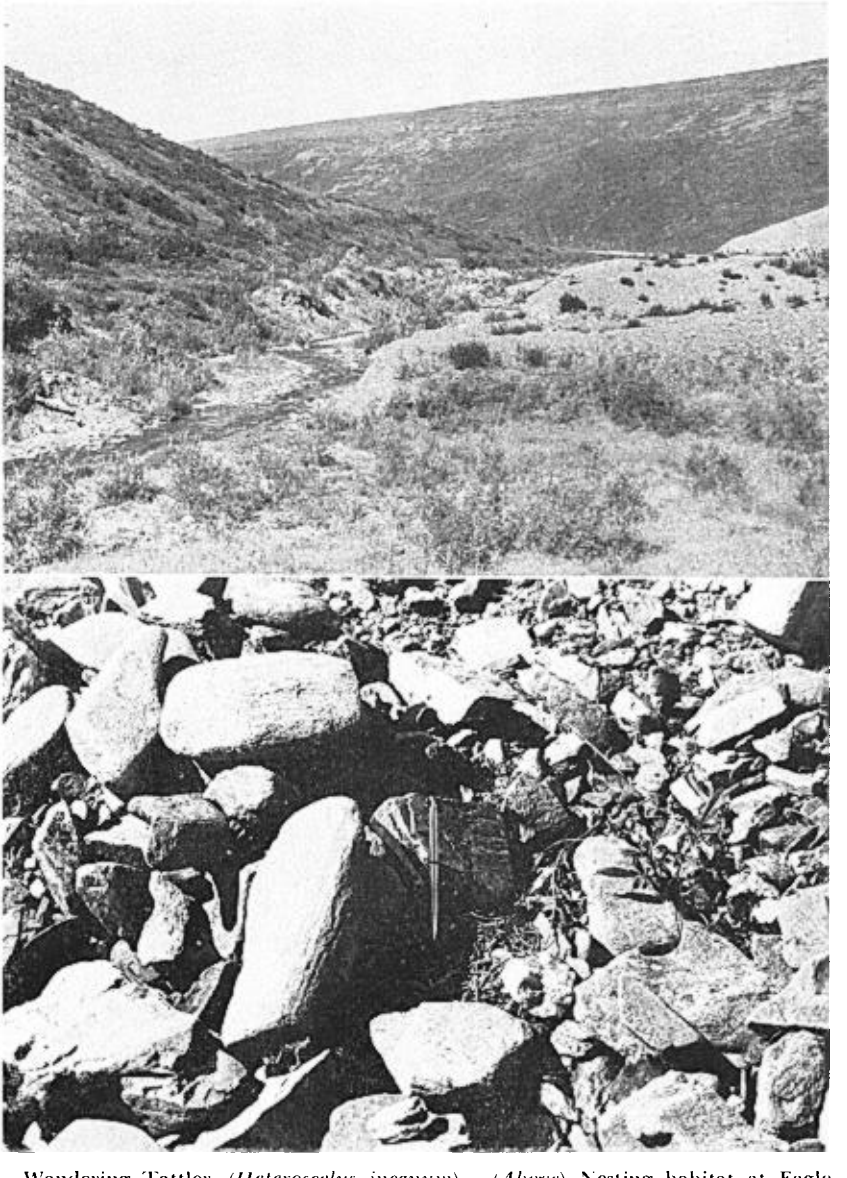
A New Breeding Record of the Wandering Tattler in Alaska.—Although the Wandering Tattler (*Heteroscelus incanum*) has been known for years as a migrant along the Pacific Coast of North America, its breeding place remained undiscovered until 1912, when a nest was found 25 miles south of the Arctic Ocean west of the Alaska-Canada border. Since that time, only a few other nests have been found, all in Mount McKinley National Park, central Alaska (Dixon, Condor 35: 173–179, 1933; Murie, Condor 48 (6): 258–259, 1946). At this primitive stage of research into the breeding biology of the Tattler, it is felt that a series of



Wandering Tattler (*Heteroscelus incanum*). (*Above*) Nesting habitat at Eagle Creek, northeast of Fairbanks, Alaska. (*Below*) Nest site located among old tailing-piles. Nest occupied in June, 1957 and 1958. (Photos. by R. B. Weeden).

records obtained from Eagle Creek, Alaska, should be brought to the attention of interested ornithologists.

It is largely through the efforts of Mrs. Alice Hering, of Fairbanks, Alaska, that this information is available. Mrs. Hering is keenly interested in the natural history of tundra animals and plants in the Eagle Creek area, and made accurate and valuable observations on the Wandering Tattlers in 1957 and 1958.

Eagle Creek (65°30'N, 145°30'W) drains approximately 25 square miles of upland tundra above the junction of Ptarmigan Creek at mile 102 on the Steese Highway, northeast of Fairbanks. The region around Eagle Creek is one of moderately high, rounded hills (Tanana Hills) rising to 4000 or 5000 feet in elevation, about 3500 feet above the Yukon Valley to the north and the Tanana Valley to the southwest. All of the area above 3000 feet is covered by tundra vegetation, characterized by a lack of trees, few annuals, and many graminoids, bryoids, perennial forbs, and low shrubs. Creek bottoms and slopes below 2800 feet contain stands of white spruce (*Picea glauca*), aspen (*Populus tremuloides* and *P. balsamifera*), and birch (*Betula papyrifera*). Between the forest and the true tundra there is a zone of riparian shrubs along the banks of the streams. The upper reaches of Eagle Creek have been the site of sporadic placer gold-mining operations for many years; as a result, stands of tall willows (*Salix* spp.) which once lined its banks have been stripped away in many places, exposing large areas of coarse gravel (Plate 8, *Above*). Whether denudation has affected the welfare of the Tattlers is unknown. However, the pair (or pairs) in this area used old tailing-piles for nesting and for observation points during the breeding season.

In 1956 the Wandering Tattlers were seen first on May 27. No special effort was made to study the Tattlers at that time, because of work in progress on ptarmigan ecology. However, it was clear that the Tattlers were defending a territory and/or nest site during the latter part of June. On July 1 the pair was flushed from their habitual spot on the gravel bars of the creek bed, and a very young, dark gray, downy chick was found. The chick had hatched only a day or two before. Perhaps other chicks were in the vicinity, but none were seen. The Tattlers were observed until the end of July, when they probably moved out of the area.

In 1957 the writer visited Eagle Creek early in June; a pair of Tattlers was seen in the same place as in the previous year, but no nest was found. However, Mrs. Hering found the nest with four newly-hatched young in it on June 22. A photograph of the chicks was taken and sent to the writer for verification of the birds' identity. The young Tattlers left the nest immediately, and were not noted again that year, although the adults (and, presumably, the young) were present for several weeks thereafter.

The following summer Mrs. Hering visited the territory on June 20, and found one egg in the same nest that had been used in 1957 (Plate 8, *below*). The egg (44.9 × 30.8 mm.) was pipped, but the young Tattler had died before it hatched. Two egg membranes were found within a few feet of the nest. The adults were present close to the nest site on July 11, 1958, when the writer arrived at Eagle Creek. No Tattlers were observed after July 24.

It is probable that at least one member of the pair in 1958 was the same as in 1957, as the same nest was utilized both years. The same area was inhabited in 1956, and it is possible that the continuity of use for all three years was due to the presence of one or both birds every year. No other Tattlers were seen on the 25

square mile drainage in 1956, 1957, or 1958, although several miles of gravelly streambanks are present in the upper Eagle Creek area. Apparently the survival and return of young Tattlers to the area was not sufficient to increase the population during that three-year period.—ROBERT B. WEEDEN, *Department of Zoology, University of British Columbia, Vancouver 8, Canada.*

Land Snails as Food of White-crowned Pigeon.—At Krause Lagoon, St. Croix, Virgin Islands, several hundred White-crowned Pigeons (*Colomba leucocephala*) nest yearly in the mangrove islands of this salt water marsh—the last remaining colony in these islands. For the past five years I have been banding these pigeons in an effort to determine the territorial range covered in their annual movement through the Virgin Islands. For this work squabs only have been used since the capture of adult pigeons in sufficient numbers for banding would be next to impossible.

White-crowned Pigeon squabs, always two in number—barring accidents—develop at an amazing rate. At twelve days of age they have become difficult to capture and when they are fifteen days old they can fly and may no longer be a banding possibility.

Undoubtedly one of the principal factors contributing to their rapid growth is the great amount of food fed to them by the parents. A White-crowned Pigeon colony at breeding time is a most active place. From dawn to dark the parent pigeons are on the wing in a constant effort to keep their demanding young filled. The foods given consist primarily of wild berries and fleshy drupes. The full crop of a pigeon squab is often larger and heavier than the rest of the bird. The early days of such squabs consist entirely of sleep and digestion.

The exception to the standard White-crowned Pigeon baby formula is the one where an engorged squab is picked up for banding and it is found that its weight in the hand does not somehow agree with the size of the bird. Examination of the squab discloses a crop full of rattling land snails—including shells! A disgorged snail proved to be *Drymaeus elongatus,* a common tree snail of the local scrub forest. These snails, generally a drab white, and measuring on an average 25×10 mm., are quite abundant. They aestivate during dry periods and often appear like fruit clinging to the scrub. It was found that from one percent to two percent of pigeon squabs were fed these snails. I was told by my local guide that this occurrence was more apt to take place in years of extreme drought when other foods were scarce. Snail appearance in the pigeon diet may be dictated chiefly by necessity rather than by choice.—G. A. SEAMAN, *Box 474, Christiansted, St. Croix, Virgin Islands.*

Notes on Bachman's Sparrow in Central Louisiana.—Notes on the ecology of Bachman's Sparrow (*Aimophila aestivalis*) were obtained during a study of birds in relation to the direct or artificial seeding of Longleaf Pine (*Pinus palustris*) and Loblolly Pine (*P. taeda*) in central Louisiana from 1955 to 1957. Stoddard (in Burleigh, "Georgia Birds," pp. 667–668, 1958) has presented an account of the ecology of this species in the pine woods of southern Georgia. Detailed studies in Louisiana have not been reported. Observations were made on experimental lands of the Kisatchie National Forest, about 25 miles southwest of Alexandria, Rapides Parish.

Habitat: The terrain in this area varies from flat to gently undulating. Natural vegetation is predominantly Longleaf Pine with an interspersion of small stands