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Utah Cooperative Wildlife Research Unit, Utah State University, Logan, Utah.

PINK-HEADED DUCK—INFORMATION WANTED

Our Corresponding Fellow, Sálím Ali, of the Bombay Natural History Society, 91 Walkeshwar Road, Bombay 6, India, wishes information on any specimens existing in public or private museums of the probably extinct Pink-headed Duck (*Rhodonessa caryophyllacea*). The provenance of specimens and any other data on the original labels will be welcome.

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Department of Conservation, Cornell University, Ithaca, New York.

COLOR-DYED SHOREBIRDS

As part of a shorebird population study on the Florida Gulf coast, a large number of shorebirds were trapped, banded and color-dyed in the spring of 1959. Birds caught in May were dyed a vivid golden color; birds trapped in June were dyed scarlet, which apparently faded to pinkish within two weeks. Other colors will be used in the fall, 1959. Those observing colored shorebirds should communicate with Horace Loftin, Dept. of Biological Sciences, Florida State University, Tallahassee, Florida.

Ed. Note: Those employing a dyeing technique for marking birds should be careful to refrain from obscuring field-marks and should avoid colors that resemble or may fade or change into hues borne by other species of the group.

PERCY FITZPATRICK INSTITUTE OF AFRICAN ORNITHOLOGY

Applications are invited for the post of Director of the newly-founded Institute at the University of Cape Town. The Institute is an independent organization, but the post carries academic status. Applicants should have an M.Sc. or its equivalent, preferably in zoology, and have experience in organized research. Applications giving age, marital status, qualifications, and experience, and accompanied by two recent testimonials, must reach the Chairman of the Board of Control before 1st February, 1960. Particulars regarding duties, salary, and other matters may be obtained from: C. K. Niven, Chairman, Board of Control, Amanzi, Uitenhage, Cape Province, South Africa.

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Museum of Zoology, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan.

Comparative Endocrinology. Edited by Aubrey Gorman. 1959. 746 pp. Price, \$15. John Wiley Sons, Inc., New York. This book contains forty-three papers delivered at the Columbia University Symposium on Comparative Endocrinology held at Cold Spring Harbor, New York, May 25-29, 1958. The papers provide a discussion of recent developments. Four deal primarily with birds: A. Wolfson, *Ecologic and physiologic factors in the regulation of spring migration and reproductive cycles in birds*; A. V. Nalbandov, *Neuroendocrine reflex mechanisms: bird ovulation*; E. Witschi, *Endocrine basis of reproductive adaptations in birds*; A. V. Nalbandov, *Role of sex hormones in the secretory function of the avian oviduct*. Many of the other papers contain information on birds or comparative data of interest to students of avian physiology, behavior and ecology. —E. EISENMANN.

NEW PUBLICATION

A new publication series, *Occasional Papers of the C. C. Adams Center for Ecological Studies*, will begin to appear in late 1959 or early 1960. Persons or organizations interested in being placed on the mailing list should communicate with: Director, C. C. Adams Center for Ecological Studies, Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, Michigan.

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Fundação Brasil Central, Avendia Nilo Peçanha 23 III, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

FUERTES RESEARCH GRANT OF THE WILSON ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Applications for grants during 1960 are now being received. The committee recommending the grants wishes to emphasize that any type of ornithological research may be supported and that recipients need not be affiliated with educational institutions. In fact, the committee hopes to encourage the development of research by amateur ornithologists. The important criterion in making awards will be the potential contribution to knowledge intrinsic in the work envisioned.

Information and application forms may be obtained from Harvey I. Fisher, Department of Zoology, Southern Illinois University, Carbondale, Illinois.

Whimbrels, Long-billed Curlews, Buff-breasted Sandpipers, Lesser Yellowlegs, Pectoral Sandpipers, Golden Plovers, Mountain Plovers, and Killdeer were present in the pasture either continuously or occasionally throughout April, the Eskimo Curlew consorted with none of them regularly. But Emanuel and Fowler report that, on April 12, the bird flew into the pasture in company with a flock of about 20 Golden Plovers, and stayed with this flock (flying and settling with it) the entire afternoon. On April 26, Yramategui saw it keeping company with four Golden Plovers; a few hours later the plovers, and also the curlew, had disappeared. When the Eskimo Curlew was feeding, and was approached, other birds nearby generally departed before it did. But once it had been disturbed, it flushed more easily thereafter, and would fly off alone even when other birds remained. Only Feltner and Deaver heard it call. They said the call was different from that of both Whimbrel and Long-billed Curlew; they described it as "a low tremulous whistle."—GEORGE G. WILLIAMS, *The Rice Institute, Houston, Texas*.

Ed. Note: Because of variation in bill length, the conclusive feature distinguishing the Eskimo Curlew from the Whimbrel is that the former has the blackish primaries unmarked, while in the Whimbrel there are buff barrings on the inner webs of the outer primaries and on both webs of the inner primaries. This distinction is, unfortunately, of questionable value in the field, for with closed wing the Whimbrel usually shows only the plain outer webs of the longer primaries, the inner primaries being concealed by the secondaries (which are barred in both species). The character of the primaries was therefore not mentioned by Griscom in Peterson's "Field Guide to the Birds," (Rev. ed., 1947); he however distinguished the leg color of the Eskimo Curlew as "dark greenish, instead of bluish gray" (p. 92). Coues' "Key to North American Birds" (vol. 2, p. 844, 5th ed., 1903) similarly calls the legs "greenish-black". On the other hand, Ridgway ("Birds of North and Middle America", pt. 8, p. 412, 1919) and Forbush ("Birds of Massachusetts and other New England States", vol. 1, p. 457, 1925) respectively describe the legs of the Eskimo Curlew as "dull slate color or dark gray in life" and "grayish-blue". The only Eskimo Curlew specimen in the American Museum of Natural History with indication of soft parts is labelled "feet gray". Specimens in the American Museum of the closely allied Least (or Pygmy) Curlew or Little Whimbrel, *N. minutus*, of northeastern Asia (wintering chiefly in Australia) bear labels variously describing the legs as "light brown", "leaden grey", or "grey blue". According to Ridgway (*op. cit.*, p. 411), while *minutus* differs from *borealis*, the Eskimo Curlew, in certain toe and tarsal characters, the only plumage difference is that the Asiatic bird has pale buff (rather than cinnamon buff) axillars and under wing-coverts. N. A. Gladkov ("Birds of the Soviet Union", vol. 3, p. 316, 1951) treats *minutus* as a subspecies of *N. borealis*.

CONTRIBUTORS TO RECENT LITERATURE

The short reviews in the Recent Literature section of 'The Auk,' vol. 76, were contributed by the following persons (their identity being indicated in most instances by initials): P. H. Baldwin, W. C. Dilger, E. Eisenmann, J. C. Howell, J. W. Hardy, D. W. Johnston, S. C. Kendeigh, R. F. Labisky, F. McKinney, H. C. Mueller, M. T. Myres, R. W. Nero, K. C. Parkes, H. C. Seibert, J. T. Taner, M. A. Traylor, A. Wetmore.