

After 3 April, despite intensive search of the area for almost two weeks, the bird was reported on only two other occasions. On 4 April Mr. Armand Yramategui reported an Eskimo Curlew in the same pasture where the Stricklings and I had seen it the previous day. Mrs. J. A. Snyder and Mr. Clinton Snyder reported an Eskimo Curlew in the same pasture on 6 April and compared it with Whimbrels and Long-billed Curlews. They also reported that the bird had reddish-cinnamon axillars and under wing coverts. This observation lends further substance to the identification of the bird as an Eskimo Curlew, rather than a Least Curlew, since Ridgway (*Birds of North and Middle America*, 1919, p. 411) lists the only plumage difference between the two species as the cinnamon-buff axillars and under wing coverts of the Eskimo Curlew, in contrast to the pale-buff axillars and under wing coverts of the Asiatic bird.—VICTOR L. EMANUEL, 2607 Tangley, Houston, Texas.

**Two Unusual Bird Records for California.**—On 18 September 1960 Dr. Francis X. Williams, Associate Curator of Entomology at the Natural History Museum, picked up a dead Worm-eating Warbler, *Helminthos vermivorus*, on the street at 3rd Avenue near the City Park in Chula Vista, San Diego County, California. The bird was still warm, and the fractured tip of its beak gave evidence of its having struck a solid object, in all probability a window pane. The specimen, an immature male, is Number 30219 in the collection of The San Diego Society of Natural History and represents the first record of this species for California.

On the same date a specimen of Red-breasted Goose, *Branta ruficollis*, was shot by a hunter near Carlsbad, San Diego County, California. This small goose was feeding in a pond on the Kelley ranch when collected and was brought to the museum by Mr. H. C. Kelley, Jr., who had recognized it as a very unusual bird. The specimen, an immature male, was in very thin flesh when prepared as a cabinet skin and is now Number 30220 in the collection of the San Diego Society of Natural History.

The capture of this goose so far from its native range in Middle Siberia offers some question of its origin. However, the flight feathers show evidence of considerable use, and the body plumage, in a state of partial moult, is in clean condition, which would not have been so with a cage-reared bird, nor is it probable that a cage bird would have been in such thin flesh. The date of capture also closely correlates with the southward migration of northern waterbirds. In all probability, this Red-breasted Goose had strayed eastward from its normal range and followed or joined the North American migrants on their southward journey. The capture of this bird represents an additional species to the North American list and a new bird for California.—LAURENCE M. HUEY, *Natural History Museum, Balboa Park, San Diego, California*.

***Somateria mollissima v. nigra* in Minnesota.**—In late October and early November 1959 Minnesota was apparently invaded by a small flight of Common Eider. Two were shot 25 October near Warroad, Roseau County, on the south shore of Lake of the Woods. Dr. John Larson of Warroad kindly sent one specimen in the flesh and the skin of the other to the University of Minnesota Museum of Natural History. A third was shot from a flock of seven ducks 6 November at Squaw Lake, Itasca County. The partially plucked specimen was obtained by Minnesota Warden Robert Greig and forwarded to Lee who presented it to the Museum. The Warroad specimens (MMNH 15812 and 15813) and the head and feet of the Squaw Lake bird (MMNH 16400) were sent to W. Earl Godfrey of

the National Museum of Canada, who identified all three birds as the race *v. nigra*. These are the first specimens of the Common Eider taken in Minnesota. An earlier sight record of Common Eider by William Pieper at Grand Marais, Cook County, 7 November 1955 is considered valid.—ROBERT W. DICKERMAN, *University of Minnesota, Museum of Natural History, Minneapolis, Minnesota*, and FORREST B. LEE, *Minnesota Division of Game and Fish, St. Paul, Minnesota*.

**Aggressiveness of Migrant Myrtle Warblers toward Woodpeckers and Other Birds.**—In making observations on woodpeckers over the course of eight years in the vicinity of Seneca, Maryland, I have noted repeated instances of attacks made on them, as well as on other birds, by migrant Myrtle Warblers (*Dendroica coronata*). These attacks have taken place in October and November. On 9 November 1957, for example, a Red-bellied Woodpecker (*Centurus carolinus*) with something yellow in its bill, possibly a piece of acorn, was swooped at and closely pursued by a Myrtle Warbler as it flew across a canal. I have witnessed similar attacks on Red-headed (*Melanerpes erythrocephalus*), Hairy (*Dendrocopos villosus*), and Downy (*D. pubescens*) woodpeckers, as well as on Bluebirds (*Sialia sialis*), all occurring in mid-air. The frequency of such episodes may be indicated by observations made in 1960. Thus, on 20 November I saw a Myrtle Warbler attack a Downy Woodpecker that was feeding on poison ivy berries (*Rhus radicans*). The Downy flew across the canal with the warbler in pursuit, both rested in a tree within a short distance of each other, and the warbler resumed the attacks when the woodpecker took wing again. This sequence happened three times. While standing at the same spot a few minutes later, I observed a similar series of attacks on a Chickadee (*Parus carolinensis*), which had a poison ivy berry in its bill; on a Blue Jay (*Cyanocitta cristata*), which was driven from an oak; and on a Cardinal (*Richmondia cardinalis*). On 27 November I observed Myrtle Warbler attacks on a Downy and a Hairy Woodpecker and finally on a Robin (*Turdus migratorius*). This last episode was unusual. The Robin refused to leave the limb on which it was perching except to fly at the Myrtle Warbler three times.

Factors common to many episodes, such as those described above, were that the birds either had food in their bills or were close to a poison ivy vine covered with berries. The warblers develop a territorial possessiveness about these vines, for they feed on the berries regularly. This type of behavior is not unique. I have (1958, *Wilson Bull.*, 70: 347–358), for example, observed a Mockingbird (*Mimus polyglottus*) that drove several species of woodpeckers away from a group of persimmon trees, where they were feeding on persimmons. Another aspect of the warblers' behavior is that they appear to be quick to take advantage of what other birds may be feeding upon. As described elsewhere (Kilham, 1953, *Wilson Bull.*, 65: 41), I observed an example of this behavior on 6 January 1953, when a Myrtle Warbler stayed close to and followed a Yellow-bellied Sapsucker (*Sphyrapicus varius*) that was feeding on hackberries. Such habits may have survival value for a warbler that may migrate late or even winter in the north.—LAWRENCE KILHAM, 7815 Aberdeen Road, Bethesda, Maryland.

**A Note on the Pectoral Muscles of Birds.**—It is well known that the fundamental force of wing movements is produced by pectoral muscles. The *M. pectoralis major*, attaching ventrally on the head of humerus, pulls the wing bones down, and *M. supracoracoideus* (*M. pect. minor*), with its tendon passing through