

On 19 May 1962 I took an adult male Bristle-thighed Curlew, *Numenius tahitiensis* (USNM 479557), from Salt Lagoon, St. Paul. The left testis measured  $13 \times 7$  mm and seemed to be coming into breeding condition. The first Pribilof specimen was taken on St. George on 26 May 1917. The Wood Sandpiper, *Tringa glareola*, was recorded four times at St. Paul. I took the first seen (USNM 476212, ♂) on 28 May 1961, near Lake Antone. The testes were in full breeding condition (left testis  $12 \times 7$  mm). Another bird was taken (USNM 476183, immature ♀) on 27 August. Others were seen on 28 September 1961 (one) and 30 May 1962 (two birds near Lake Antone).—WILLIAM J. L. SLADEN, *Department of Pathobiology, Johns Hopkins University, 615 N. Wolfe Street, Baltimore, Maryland.*

**The occurrence of Red-throated Pipits in California.**—In October, 1964, Dr. Duane Carmony and I spent a considerable amount of time checking the birds feeding in a cultivated field in the Tijuana River Valley one mile south and three miles east of Imperial Beach, San Diego County, California. The field was about 200 acres in area, and had produced a crop of tomatoes. The tomato plants and many rotting tomatoes had been plowed into the ground, leaving a large level area of freshly exposed earth along with some remnants of the original crop still exposed. In this condition the field proved to be a suitable feeding area for many birds, the majority being about 2,500 Horned Larks (*Eremophila alpestris*) and 1,000 Water Pipits (*Anthus spinoletta*), among which we were able to find a few Red-throated Pipits (*Anthus cervinus*), and Lapland and Chestnut-collared longspurs (*Calcarius lapponicus* and *C. ornatus*). It is interesting that this dry, cultivated field also attracted some shorebirds, including Mountain, American Golden, and Black-bellied plovers (*Eupoda montana*, *Pluvialis dominica*, *Squatarola squatarola*), and Baird's and Least sandpipers (*Erolia bairdii* and *E. minutilla*), all regular migrants or winter visitants in this area.

I first saw a Red-throated Pipit among the Horned Larks and Water Pipits on 12 October. The next day Carmony and I found at least three birds and collected two. Both specimens were prepared by Richard C. Banks of the San Diego Natural History Museum (SDNHM). One, a female, weighed 19.5 g and had a fully ossified skull; the other, probably a male, weighed 21.6 g and had an incompletely ossified skull. Both were moderately fat and in fresh plumage. The specimens are now nos. 35097, SDNHM, and 154172, Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, The University of California, Berkeley.

Carmony and I checked the field almost daily after the initial discovery and were able to find as many as 15 Red-throated Pipits in a day. It is possible that 17 birds were present in the field when the species was first detected, and that 15 were present 14–18 October. After this the number of Red-throated Pipits present dropped. The last was noted on 27 October, and it appeared that the birds of the "flock" did not all depart together, but left over a 10-day period.

The Red-throated Pipit appears to be a little smaller than the Water Pipit, which it closely resembles. The upper parts, from the top of the head to the upper tail coverts, are a richer brown than those of the Water Pipit, and are boldly streaked with a buffy brown. The tail is dark, with white on the outer edges, and appears to be shorter than that of the Water Pipit. The underparts are a pale buff, and there are bold black streaks across the upper breast and along the flanks. The legs are pale pink. In most of the birds at Imperial Beach the throat was unmarked and appeared to be buffy yellow, and the stripe over the eye was the same color. Two

or three of the birds had a pinkish rust color on the throat area; one of these proved to be an adult female. One bird had a strong brick-red wash that extended up onto the face to include the eye-stripe, and extended down the breast to the upper belly; it was presumed to be an adult male, but was not collected. In flight the birds occasionally gave a single *cheep* note.

The Red-throated Pipit has apparently only rarely strayed into North America from its breeding range in Siberia. It appears to be casual in Alaska, where there are at least five records including one definite breeding record (Watson, *Condor*, 65: 447, 1963), and has occurred once accidentally in Baja California (Ridgway, *Proc. U. S. Natl. Mus.*, 6: 156-157, 1883). The appearance of at least 17 birds more or less together along the coast of California was therefore completely unexpected, but it is possible that a small flock appeared in Alaska and followed the coast south in the fall.—R. GUY McCASKIE, P.O. Box 241, Tahoe City, California.

**A possible back-cross hybrid involving Scaled and Gambel's quail.**—In 1928 the Marquess Hachisuka published a colored illustration of a presumed hybrid between the Scaled Quail (*Callipepla squamata*) and Gambel's Quail (*Lophortyx gambelii*) (Ornith. Soc. Japan, Suppl. Pub. no. 12: plate 4, 1928) from the collection of Mr. Ralph T. Kellogg of Silver City, New Mexico. The specimen, a male in adult plumage, had been collected near Pinos Altos, Grant County, New Mexico, on 26 November 1916. Recently I was able to examine the Kellogg collection, through the courtesy of Mr. Ralph T. Dury of the Cincinnati Museum of Natural History, and, although the specimen in question could not be located, two other hybrids involving these species came to light.

One of these specimens is a hybrid resulting from the crossing of a male Gambel's Quail and a female Scaled Quail in captivity. It is a male in adult plumage and was procured from the Ligon Game Farm near Carlsbad, New Mexico, on 27 January 1935. This hybrid is slightly paler (perhaps due to fading) than the one figured by Hachisuka but is otherwise closely similar. This fact suggests that the early Kellogg



Figure 1. A presumed back-cross hybrid involving *Callipepla squamata* and *Lophortyx gambelii* taken at Burro Cienaga, Grant County, New Mexico, on 2 November 1930.