

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.

specimen was an  $F_1$  (first generation) hybrid also, although it would not necessarily indicate that the same pairing of sexes was involved.

The other specimen is also a male in adult plumage (Figure 1). It was taken at the Burro Cienaga, approximately 30 miles southwest of Silver City, in Grant County, New Mexico, on 2 November 1930. While more similar to the male Gambel's Quail, this specimen shows an approach to the Scaled Quail in several respects. It has 14 rectrices, a characteristic of *Callipepla* (and of the  $F_1$  hybrid), rather than 12 as in *Lophortyx*. The feathers of the breast, back, and upper flanks are faintly though distinctly squamate. The color of the head plumes is dark reddish-brown rather than black. The rufous of the crown, chestnut of the sides, and the black of the belly, throat, forehead, and sides of the crown are reduced in extent by the encroachment of the adjacent light-colored areas. In other words, the specimen is intermediate between the  $F_1$  hybrid, of these two species, and Gambel's Quail, and for this reason I think it represents the result of such a back-cross.

Although these two species produce  $F_1$  hybrids both in captivity and, more rarely, in the wild, I know of no previous report of any apparent back-cross involving them.—JOHN P. HUBBARD, *The University of Michigan, Museum of Zoology, Ann Arbor, Michigan*.

**Predation on a Greater Prairie Chicken by a Goshawk.**—Grange (*Wisconsin grouse problems*, Madison, Wisconsin, Cons. Dept., 1948; see p. 124) considered the Goshawk (*Accipiter gentilis*) the most skillful grouse predator in Wisconsin. Ammann (*The prairie grouse of Michigan*, Lansing, Michigan, Dept. Cons., 1957; see p. 104) found evidence in Michigan of avian predation upon prairie grouse on dancing grounds and later he watched a Goshawk feeding on a freshly killed male Sharp-tailed Grouse (*Pedioecetes phasianellus*) on a dancing ground in Michigan's Upper Peninsula (*J. Wildl. Mgmt.*, 23: 110-111, 1959). Berger *et al.* (*J. Wildl. Mgmt.*, 27: 778-791, 1963) present circumstantial evidence of a Goshawk killing a prairie chicken cock on a booming ground. However, the actual kill is apparently rarely witnessed.

At 0925 hours on 15 April 1960 I arrived at a dancing ground of Greater Prairie Chickens (*Tympanuchus cupido*) five miles northwest of Merritt, Missaukee County, Michigan (lower peninsula). There were 12 prairie chickens, probably all cocks, on the dancing ground. I watched them for a few minutes through  $7 \times 35$  binoculars at a distance of 100 yards. At 0930, apparently disturbed by my presence, two widely separated birds flushed from the dancing ground. One settled down on the far side of the dancing area in the flooded border of a brushy ditch. After a few minutes it flew again, and a large hawk concealed in the brush immediately struck it down. At this instant two Common Crows (*Corvus brachyrhynchos*) dived at the fluttering birds and the remaining 10 prairie chickens flushed from the dancing ground. Up to this point I was uncertain of the identity of the hawk so I waded into the brush to investigate. The hawk flushed unhurriedly from its prey and perched on a fence post about 40 yards away. It was an adult Goshawk. When I moved closer it flew to a nearby tree. I picked up the almost undamaged prairie chicken carcass; the hawk was still perched in the area when I left.

I examined the prairie chicken later and found that the Goshawk's attack had opened a flap of skin in the middle of the back and broken the neck near the base of the skull. This paper is a contribution of Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Project, Michigan W-95-R.—RICHARD J. MORAN, *Houghton Lake Wildlife Experiment Station, Michigan Department of Conservation, Houghton Lake Heights, Michigan*.