

Two Soviet recoveries of Dunlins banded at Point Barrow, Alaska.—MacLean and Holmes (Auk, this issue, p. 893) conclude on morphological and behavioral grounds that Dunlins (*Calidris alpina*) breeding in Alaska represent two distinct races: *C. a. pacifica* of western Alaska and the American Pacific coast, and *C. a. sakhalina* of northern Alaska, Siberia, the Yellow Sea, and the Sea of Japan. They hypothesize that birds breeding in northern Alaska migrate across the Bering Straits to wintering grounds on the Asian Pacific coast. This hypothesis is confirmed by Soviet recoveries of two Dunlins that I banded as breeding adults on nests within 8 km of Point Barrow (71° 18' N, 156° 47' W). One bird (U.S.F.&W.S. No. 72-191708) was banded on 15 July 1968 and shot on 28 October 1969 at Lazarev Cape, Nikkolaev District, USSR (52° 13' N, 141° 28' E). The second (U.S.F.&W.S. No. 67-193801) was banded on 19 June 1969 and shot on 17 October 1969 on Sakhalin Island, near Starodubsk, Dolinskii District, USSR (47° 27' N, 142° 49' E). The information on these specimens was relayed to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service by its Soviet counterpart: The Centre of Ringing and Marking of Birds and Terrestrial Mammals, Zoological Institute, USSR Academy of Natural Sciences, 12 Dravchenko Street, Moscow V 331, USSR. This research was supported, in part, by the Arctic Institute of North America, project O.N.R. 420.—DAVID W. NORTON, *Institute of Arctic Biology, University of Alaska, College, Alaska 99701*. Accepted 9 Nov. 70.

On the type locality of *Ortyx leylandi* Moore.—In an earlier work (Monroe, Ornithol. Monogr., 7, 1968, pp. 98–99) I recognized a race of Crested Bobwhite (*Colinus cristatus*) from the Comayagua, Sula, and Quimistán valleys of Honduras. The earliest available name for this subspecies is *Ortyx leylandi* Moore (Proc. Zool. Soc. London, 1895, p. 62), based on a specimen obtained by Joseph Leyland at “Flores, on the road from Omoa to Comayagua.” I was unable to trace this particular Flores, and I discussed (Monroe, op. cit., pp. 27, 417) its probable location at length. I have recently learned of an archeological site called Flores, well-known in the 1800s and situated on the old road from Omoa to Comayagua, which then followed the Sula and Comayagua valleys rather than the present-day mountainous route through San Pedro Sula, Taulabé, and Siguatepeque. On the east bank of the Ulúa River about 7 km north of Progreso, Departamento de Yoro, Honduras (15° 25' N, 87° 49' W), Flores is within the known range of *C. c. leylandi*, and its location in the Sula valley further supports the contention that Leyland confined his collecting in Honduras to that area.—BURT L. MONROE, JR., *Department of Biology, University of Louisville, Louisville, Kentucky 40208*. Accepted 25 Mar. 71.

Wing-loading—a plea for consistency in usage.—The term wing-loading has two common usages in the present day ornithological literature. Certain authors have used it to mean wing area per unit of body weight (Hochbaum, 1955: 69; Welty, 1962: 424; Earhart and Johnson, 1970: 252) while others have used it to mean weight per unit of wing area (Barlee, 1964: 305; Brown and Amadon, 1968: 58). As the same term is applied to both concepts one would logically assume them to be synonymous. They do not convey equivalent meanings (anymore than 2 and 1/2 do) as the latter is, of course, the reciprocal of the former. Because the term is conceptual the usage is left to the discretion of the user. I would suggest that for the sake of convenience (and avoidance of confusion) it would be preferable to settle upon a single usage for the term. As an example, how does the weight and wing area of *Buteo lagopus sanctijohannis* as reported by Poole (1938:

517) compare with the wing-loading of *Buteo lagopus* indicated by Brown and Amadon (1968: 56)? The wing area per gram given by the first author is 2.33 square centimeters per gram while the second authors list the wing-loading as 0.40 grams per square centimeter. One must convert $1/2.33 \text{ cm}^2 \text{ per g}$ to a decimal fraction in order to arrive at a comparable figure (0.43). As the term, by its name, suggests the load of weight placed on the wings it seems reasonable, to me, that grams per square centimeter is to be preferred for reporting wing-loading. It would be a further convenience if all wing-loadings were reported in the metric system although Saville (1957: 215) in his classic paper reported them in pounds per square foot. This obviously necessitates further conversions before making comparisons. Finally it should be noted that authors (e.g., Earhart and Johnson, loc. cit.; Hochbaum, loc. cit.) have attributed to Poole (1938) the reporting of "wing-loading" while Poole (1938) uses the wing area per weight throughout his work and the term wing-loading does not appear.

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Bald Eagles stealing fish from Common Mergansers.—Wintering Bald Eagles (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) concentrate along a several kilometer stretch of open water below a hydroelectric dam across the Wisconsin River at Prairie du Sac, Wisconsin. Most of the eagles I watched foraging there during January and February 1971 scanned the river from the air or from perches high in bordering trees and then swooped to the surface for fish. However on 4 February from 09:00 to 10:45 I saw eagles stealing fish from Common Mergansers (*Mergus merganser*). In contrast to their usual high perches, the fish-stealing eagles perched at low elevations (1-2 m), or stood on the shoreline ice 25-30 m from about 50 mergansers fishing in midstream.

A merganser normally swallowed its catch within a second or two of surfacing. Eagles took off and flew only toward those that had been manipulating fish at the surface for a longer period ($> 5-10$ seconds). The mergansers dove when the attacking eagle was within 1-2 m, apparently either carrying the fish down with them or releasing it near the surface to be grasped by the successful pirate. Two of eight attempted steals by adult eagles were successful, as was one of three