

area. I am especially indebted to James L. Baker, Wildlife Biologist at the refuge, for assistance in both the air and ground searches and for information about the nest sites both before and after my visit. Taylor Dunn, of Titusville, Florida, provided me with both flying time and assistance in searching those nest sites lying outside of the NASA controlled area.—J. C. HOWELL, *Department of Zoology, University of Tennessee, Knoxville, Tennessee 37916*. Accepted 21 Jul. 72.

Willetts in southern Brazil.—On 16 December 1971 while driving on the ocean beach about 19 km southwest of Torres, Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil, approximately 29° 29' S, 49° 50' W, I saw two Willetts, *Catoptrophorus semipalmatus*, with a small flock of Golden Plover, *Pluvialis dominica*, and collected one of them. Eugene Eisenmann has kindly identified the bird as belonging to the eastern race, *C. s. semipalmatus*; exposed culmen 57.5 mm; wing chord 185 mm. It is No. 539 in my personal collection. Sex could not be determined. This appears to be the most southerly record for this race and the farthest south on the Atlantic coast of South America for the species. Oliverio de O. Pinto cited it as only accidental on the ocean beaches of northern Brazil (1938, *Catalogo das Aves do Brasil*, Rev. Mus. Paulista 22). This bird was found in the course of an avifaunal survey of Rio Grande do Sul under the aegis of the Smithsonian Institution and the Museu Nacional of Rio de Janeiro, with assistance from the Frank M. Chapman Memorial Fund.—WILLIAM BELTON, *Caixa Postal 119, Gramado, Rio Grande do Sul, 95670, Brazil*. Accepted 19 Jul. 72.

Ventriloquism in a Wilson's Plover.—On 16 June 1972 on a tidal inlet at Destin Pass, Okaloosa County, Florida, I was startled by sharp single whistling notes that seemed to emanate from small clumps of grass near the water's edge. The notes seemed to be coming from right at my feet, then a few yards to my left, then my right, then ahead of me. The grass clumps were too small to conceal any birds and were searched to no avail. As I walked forward the notes seemed ahead of me, then at my feet, then to the side. They continued until I was about 60–70 feet from where I first heard them, and a Wilson's Plover (*Charadrius wilsonia wilsonia*) then appeared out on the flat about 50 feet ahead of me. The notes continued, and as I watched the bird through binoculars, its bill movements coincided with the calls all around me. When I moved closer the bird flew to about the same place where I first heard the notes and stopped calling. The bird's ventriloquial ability was remarkable. I can find no reference to it in Bent (1929, *Life histories of North American shore birds*, U. S. Natl. Mus., Bull. 146: 257), who states only that it decoys prospective predators away from its nests.—ROBERT A. DUNCAN, *614 Fairpoint Drive, Gulf Breeze, Florida 32561*. Accepted 21 Jul. 72.

Unusual bird records from southeastern Oregon.—Since reports by Marshall (1959), Kridler and Marshall (1962), and Kridler (1965) from Malheur National Wildlife Refuge, Harney County, Oregon, several other unusual birds have occurred on the refuge.

ARCTIC LOON, *Gavia arctica*. McLaury collected an adult male in breeding plumage 15 miles south of refuge headquarters 2 June 1968. The specimen is now in the refuge museum. Although the species commonly occurs along the Pacific Coast, this is believed to be the first record in Oregon east of the Cascade Mountains.

KNOT, *Calidris canutus*. On 17 May 1970 Littlefield saw a single Knot feeding with Willetts (*Catoptrophorus semipalmatus*), Long-billed Dowitchers (*Limnodromus*

scolopaceus), and Wilson's Phalaropes (*Steganopus tricolor*) about 16 miles southwest of the refuge headquarters. Later the same day the bird was collected and is now in the U.S. National Museum (UNSM 563673). Littlefield saw two additional birds in breeding plumage 18 May 1971 near Double-O Patrol Station. The A.O.U. Check-list (1957) considers the Knot occurs sparingly on the Pacific Coast, but we know of no records for eastern Oregon. Records exist for Nevada (Linsdale 1951), eastern Washington (Rogers 1966), and inland California, especially in the Salton Sea area. Numerous reports along the California coast in recent years suggest the species is increasing there (Chase and Chandik 1966).

BAND-TAILED PIGEON, *Columbia fasciata*. Records for eastern Oregon continue to increase, especially in the northeastern portion of the state. A similar increase has been noted on the refuge. R. E. Toltzmann caught a sick or injured bird at refuge headquarters 18 June 1968. The bird was photographed and released. On 3 and 4 May 1970 and 5 June 1971 single birds were again seen at refuge headquarters. These records are the first on the refuge but not for southeastern Oregon; Jewett saw a single bird 19 October 1928 on Home Creek Ranch, 25 miles south of Frenchglen, Harney County, Oregon (Gabrielson and Jewett 1940: 325).

YELLOW-BILLED CUCKOO, *Coccyzus americanus*. We watched a Yellow-billed Cuckoo for approximately 20 minutes on 20 May 1970 as it fed among willows (*Salix* sp.) along the Donner and Blitzen Rivers 28 miles south of headquarters. Marshall (1969) reported the last known record of the species in Oregon was near La Grande, Union County, 28 November 1944.

BLACK-CHINNED HUMMINGBIRD, *Archilochus alexandri*. On 23 May 1970 an adult male Black-chinned Hummingbird appeared with an unidentified female hummingbird near refuge headquarters. On 24 May several members of the Salem and Portland Audubon Societies saw the bird again. Although the species nests in surrounding states, these are the first sight records for the refuge. Gabrielson and Jewett (1940) consider this species rare in Oregon, known only from two female specimens taken near Mt. Vernon, Grant County, in 1915 and Adel, Lake County, in 1925.

PARULA WARBLER, *Parula americana*. On 19 May 1970 McLaury photographed a female Parula Warbler 1 mile north of the Double-O Patrol Station. This is the first record of the species for Oregon, but there are recent spring and fall records from California (Austin 1971). The photographs are on file at refuge headquarters.

CAPE MAY WARBLER, *Dendroica tigrina*. On 9 June 1967 McLaury and members of the Oregon Natural History Society watched an adult male for approximately 20 minutes at the Buena Vista Patrol Station, 20 miles south of headquarters. The species has been reported recently in California in the fall, but apparently not in the spring (Austin 1971), which makes this first Oregon sight report especially interesting.

BLACKPOLL WARBLER, *Dendroica striata*. An immature male flew into an office window at refuge headquarters 7 September 1967. The specimen (USNM 530472) was identified by John Aldrich, U. S. National Museum. While the species is now considered a regular fall migrant in California (Austin 1971), this is the first Oregon record. These records of eastern warblers suggest their route to and from California might possibly be through southeastern Oregon.

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Tail flashing display in the Whip-poor-will.—On 25 April 1954 I was walking at dusk with a companion along a dirt road on the wooded banks of the Mohican River near Spellacy, Ashland County, Ohio. Whip-poor-wills (*Caprimulgus vociferus*) were calling and suddenly we came upon one sitting in the road in front of us. We paused within 20 feet to watch it. In about a minute the bird ascended more or less vertically on beating wings to a height of nearly a meter above the road, hovered there momentarily, and then began a display that evidently has not been reported in the literature. While it still hovered silently, the tail feathers appeared to hang loosely suspended in a vertical position. In a few seconds they were suddenly spread for a fraction of a second and fell back in a folded position. This rapid opening and closing of the tail revealed the white spot on the outer rectrices, which showed it to be a male, and produced an instantaneous white "flash" in the gathering dusk. The Whip-poor-will continued to hover and repeated the performance five or six times in perhaps 15 seconds. Welty (1963, *The life of birds*, Philadelphia, W. B. Saunders Co.) published an excellent photograph of identical hovering behavior in the European Nightjar (*Caprimulgus europaeus*). The function of this display has been variously interpreted as courtship, aerodynamic stabilization, or attracting or flushing insect prey.—JAMES A. BRUCE, *4144 Suitland Road, Apartment 102, Suitland, Maryland 20023*. Accepted 2 Aug. 1972.

Gopher snake predation on the Common Bushtit.—At 14:45 on 19 April 1972 we watched a gopher snake (*Pituophis melanoleucus*), enter the nest of a pair of Common Bushtits (*Psaltriparus minimus*) 2.6 m from the ground in a 5-m high cypress tree on the University of California, Santa Barbara campus. Adult bushtits near the nest gave alarm notes, but did not attack the snake. By 15:25 the snake was completely inside the nest; its weight stretched the supporting strands and partially dislodged it. Removing the nest from the tree and carefully opening a longitudinal