

5.1. It is longer-winged than all but one of nine juvenal *difficilis* from California which, in my opinion, are correctly labeled as females.

Because breeding populations consist not only of fully adult birds but also of first-year birds, which still possess juvenal remiges, it is not inappropriate to refer to their measurement ranges when identifying autumn immatures. The wing chords of breeding females (adult and first-year combined) measure: 28 *hellmayri*, 63.5–68.1 (\bar{x} = 65.9, SD = 1.3); 30 *difficilis*, 59.6–65.3 (\bar{x} = 62.1, SD = 1.5). As first-year birds tend to be smaller than adults, the wing chord of an autumn immature would be most likely to fall in the lower part of the range for breeding birds of its subspecies. The Oklahoma specimen's wing chord lies in the zone of overlap for breeding females, but it is at the low end of the *hellmayri* range and longer than most *difficilis*.

Because of geographic proximity, it is more likely that a Western Flycatcher wandering into the Oklahoma Panhandle would be a member of the race *hellmayri* rather than of the nominate form. Thus, geographic probability supports evidence from coloration and measurements, and I have identified the specimen as *E. d. hellmayri*.

I am grateful to A. R. Phillips for suggestions on subspecific identification of *E. difficilis* and to R. C. Banks for helpful criticism of the manuscript. D. M. Niles of the Delaware Museum of Natural History and W. E. Lanyon of the American Museum of Natural History kindly allowed me to examine specimens in their care. I also thank Eugene Boyd for permitting field work on his property and George Wint of the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation for granting my collecting permit.

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- JOHN S. WESKE, *National Fish and Wildlife Laboratory, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, National Museum of Natural History, Washington, D. C. 20560*. Accepted 15 Mar. 76. This paper was subsidized by the National Fish and Wildlife Laboratory.

First breeding records of Wilson's Phalarope for James Bay, Ontario.—

There appear to be no published records of Wilson's Phalarope (*Steganopus tricolor*) on the James Bay coast, though R. H. Smith reported 10 birds at Boatswain Bay (51°50'N, 78°50'W), Quebec, in southeast James Bay on 7 July 1943 (MS, 1944). The nearest known major breeding area in Canada is 500–600 miles to the southwest on sloughs and potholes on the Manitoba prairies, though the species also breeds very locally in marshes in southern Ontario (Godfrey 1966, Natl. Mus. Canada Bull. 203: 168), and in 1974 a nest with four eggs was found on Nun's Island near Montreal, Quebec (Steeves and Holohan 1975, Canadian Field-Naturalist 89: 185).

During fieldwork at North Point (51°29'N, 80°27'W), Ontario, in southwest James Bay in August 1974 and May–August 1975, we recorded the species regularly

in small numbers. In 1975 we saw 3 male and 3 female Wilson's Phalaropes on a shallow pond in the coastal marsh behind a series of gravel ridges about 3 miles south of North Point on 17 May. One of eight birds seen there the next day was collected. Two males were observed at North Point on 18 May. On 22 May a pair was seen in a cattail-*Menyanthes*-sedge marsh inside the outer line of willow about a mile inland from the gravel ridges, and two to four remained continually at this marsh throughout June. On 10 June we found a nest near some willows on the west side of the marsh. On 24 June the nest still contained four warm eggs, but by 26 June they were destroyed. On 22 June we found 3 small downy young with their parents on the east side of the marsh about 200 yards from the first nest; 1 downy young was collected. One to three adults continued in the marsh until 9 July, and we saw others nearer the coast until 5 August.

The species was also seen on the coast in small numbers during autumn migration. Records were as follows: 1974—August 13 (1); 1975—July 18 (2), 21 (1), 23 (1), 24 (1), 29 (3), August 2 (1), 6 (2). Bearing in mind the few ornithologists who have worked on the James Bay coast during the breeding season, it appears possible that Wilson's Phalaropes may breed regularly in small numbers in suitable habitat at least in the southern part of James Bay. R. I. G. MORRISON, *Canadian Wildlife Service, 2721 Highway 31, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada K1A 0H3*, and T. H. MANNING, *R.R. #4, Merrickville, Ontario, Canada*. Accepted 2 April 1976. This note was subsidized by the authors.

Female ptarmigan reoccupying nest site.—On 11 June 1973 a female Willow Ptarmigan (*Lagopus lagopus*) was found incubating 12 eggs near Fort Churchill, Manitoba. The nest was beneath a dwarf willow (*Salix* sp.) on the extreme northwestern margin of a slightly elevated mossy hummock, almost entirely surrounded by surface water, in an extensive sedge-tundra association about 0.5 km east of Christmas Lake. On 14 June, both parents were mist-netted, banded, and released. On 1 July the entire clutch hatched successfully. Both parents accompanied the young when they left the nest on 2 July. Throughout incubation the male remained nearby and was often seen under a black spruce about 15 m from the nest.

On 12 June 1974 the same female was found incubating 13 eggs at the same nest site. Both parents were caught on 16 June and the male was unbanded. The entire clutch hatched successfully on 3 July. On 4 July the brood left the nest. During incubation the male was frequently noted beneath the same spruce favored by the 1973 male. Spectrographic analysis indicated significant vocal variations between the two males. Thus, the female, despite the loss and replacement of the 1973 mate, selected the same nest site in 2 consecutive years.

Between 1967 and 1974, 14 other nests of this species were found near Churchill, and in two instances marked females nested within the study area in consecutive years. Successive nests of one of these were 120 m apart, whereas the nests of the other bird were 200 m apart. In no other instance were females found nesting at or nearer nest sites they had occupied previously. Several banded female Willow Ptarmigan remained in the study area throughout the winter and spring of each year. Such fidelity to nest site or natal area has not been reported previously for North American tetraonids. Females may be capable of rearing broods more successfully in places with which they are familiar, and it is possible that the observed ptarmigan behavior may be of selective value.—R. M. ALISON, *Ministry of Natural Resources, Whitney Block, Wildlife Branch, Queen's Park Crescent, Toronto, Ontario M7A 1W3, Canada*. Accepted 10 Apr. 75.