Record of Prolonged Incubation by a Killdeer

LEON R. POWERS
Department of Biology, Northwest Nazarene College, Nampa, Idaho 83651 USA

Prolonged incubation beyond the normal hatching time has been documented for a number of avian species (summarized in Skutch 1962, Holcomb 1970, Drent 1971, Welty 1975), but I have found only two reports of this phenomenon for species within the genus *Charadrius*. Wilcox (1959) recorded a Piping Plover (*C. melodus*) nest that was incubated approximately 22 days beyond the average incubation period and Graul (1975) reported a Mountain Plover (*C. montanus*) that continued incubation for at least 14 days beyond the average incubation period.

During the summer of 1976 I observed a case of extremely prolonged incubation for the Killdeer (*C. vociferus*) on the campus of Northwest Nazarene College, Nampa, Canyon Co., Idaho. The nest, containing four eggs, was found on 21 June and was being attended by two adults. Periodic observation of the nest was maintained almost daily through 14 August.

About halfway through the preceding observation period it appeared that one of the birds quit attending the nest. Two eggs disappeared from the nest on 12 August, but the remaining adult continued to attend the nest throughout most of 13 August. On 14 August the nest had been deserted and the remaining two eggs were collected on 18 August and found to be infertile.

This record represents prolonged incubation of at least 28 days beyond the average incubation period (26 days) recorded for the Killdeer (Bent 1929, Hiett and Flickinger 1929, Furniss 1933, Davis 1943, Bunni 1959, Demaree 1975).

I thank Dean and Ruth Cooke, and Tom Rowen for their assistance in monitoring the nest activities.

Literature Cited

BENT, A. C. 1929. Life histories of North American shorebirds. Part two. U.S. Natl. Mus. Bull. 146.

BUNNI, M. K. 1959. The Killdeer in the breeding season; ecology, behavior and the development of homiothermism. Unpublished Ph.D. dissertation, Ann Arbor, Univ. of Michigan.

DAVIS, E. 1943. A study of wild and hand reared Killdeers. Wilson Bull. 55: 223–233.

DEMAREE, S. R. 1975. Observations on roof nesting Killdeers. Condor 77: 487–488.

DRENT, R. 1971. Incubation. Pp. 333–420 *in* Avian Biology, Vol. 5 (D. S. Farner and J. R. King, Eds.). New York, Acad. Press.

FURNISS, O. C. 1933. Observation on the nesting of the Killdeer plover in the Prince Albert District in Central Saskatchewan. Can. Field-Nat. 47: 135–138.

GRAUL, W. D. 1975. Breeding biology of the Mountain Plover. Wilson Bull. 87: 6–31.

HIETT, L. D., & F. R. FLICKINGER. 1929. Speaking of Killdeer. Bird Lore 31: 319–323.

HOLCOMB, L. C. 1970. Prolonged incubation behavior of Red-winged Blackbird incubating several egg sizes. Behavior 36: 74–83.

SKUTCH, A. F. 1962. The constancy of incubation. Wilson Bull. 74: 115–152.

WELTY, J. C. 1975. The life of birds. Philadelphia, W. B. Saunders.

WILCOX, L. 1959. A twenty year banding study of the Piping Plover. Auk 76: 129–152.

Received 18 January 1977, accepted 19 April 1977.

Emberiza variabilis and *Ficedula parva* New to North America and the Aleutian Islands, Alaska

DANIEL D. GIBSON
University Museum, University of Alaska, Fairbanks, Alaska 99701 USA

GEORGE E. HALL
7966 Resurrection Drive, Anchorage, Alaska 99504 USA

On 18 May 1977 we collected an adult male Gray Bunting, *Emberiza variabilis* (UAM 3573, 26.6 g, no fat, left testis 12 × 10 mm), feeding alone in greening *Elymus* and *Heracleum* in a natural runoff at the base of a steep, vegetated, 80-m bluff at North Beach Ledge, Shemya Island (52°43′N, 174°05′E). This

eastern palearctic species breeds in southern Kamchatka, in the Kurile Islands, and on Sakhalin Island, and winters from Japan as far south as the Ryu Kyu Islands (Vaurie 1959, The birds of the palearctic fauna. Passeriformes: 697, H. F. & G. Witherby, Ltd., London). The only prior records east of Kamchatka have been stragglers in the Commander Islands, where an adult male was collected 11 June 1883 (Stejneger 1885, Bull. U.S. Nat. Mus. 29: 247) and where Hartert (1920, Novit. Zool. 27: 155) stated it had "occasionally occurred, but we did not receive specimens."

On 1 June 1977, accompanied by Brina Kessel, we collected an adult male Red-breasted Flycatcher, *Ficedula parva*, foraging from rusted World War II wreckage lining the steep, rocky, 25-m bluff at Barrel Cove, South Beach, Shemya Island. By its black upper-tail coverts, gray breast, and reddish restricted to the throat, the specimen (UAM 3578, 9.5 g, thin, no fat, left testis 11 × 10 mm) was determined to be an example of *F. p. albicilla*. On 5 June 1977 a second male of this species was observed at Gambell, St. Lawrence Island, Alaska, by Ben F. King, Davis W. Finch, Richard Stallcup, William C. Russell, and others. The species has a wide range in Eurasia, breeding west to central Europe. This subspecies breeds from eastern Russia and the southern Ural Mountains east across Siberia to Anadyrland, Kamchatka, and Amurland, and winters in India and on the Malay Peninsula (Vaurie 1959, op. cit.: 321–322). There have been three records of stragglers in the Commander Islands: a female taken 20 or 29 May 1883 (Stejneger 1885, op. cit.: 274), and a male and a female on 7 June 1911 and 5 June 1914, respectively (Hartert 1920, op. cit.: 153). Some recent authors do not recognize the genus *Ficedula* and refer to this species as *Muscicapa parva*.—*Received 28 June 1977, accepted 18 July 1977.*

First North American Records of Siberian House Martin *Delichon urbica lagopoda*

GEORGE E. HALL
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Anchorage, Alaska 99504 USA

EUGENE A. CARDIFF
San Bernardina County Museum, 2024 Orange Tree Lane, Redlands, California 92373 USA

Two observations of *Delichon urbica lagopoda*, the first of this Asiatic race in North America, were made in Alaska in June 1974. One House Martin was observed feeding over a gold dredge pond at Nome by Hall and a bird tour group on 6 June 1974. It was associated with two Tree Swallows (*Iridoprocne bicolor*), and on 7 June had moved to a second nearby pond, where it was collected by Cardiff. The specimen, a male (UAM 3545), weighed 20.0 g, had moderate fat, and left testis 7.5 × 5.0 mm. A second House Martin was seen at Webster Lake, St. Paul Island, Pribilofs, by the same bird tour group on 12 June 1974. Watched at length as it fed over the pond, this bird appeared to have the same amount of white on the upper tail coverts as the bird at Nome, and was doubtless the same race.

This form breeds in Siberia west of the Yenisei, east to Yakutia and Anadyrland, and south to Mongolia (Vaurie 1959, The birds of the palearctic fauna, Passeriformes, London, H. F. & G. Witherby, Ltd.). Nominate *urbica* ranges throughout the western Palearctic and has occurred in Greenland (A.O.U. 1957, Check-list of North American birds, 5th ed., Baltimore) and Bermuda (Wingate, 1959, a checklist and guide to the birds, mammals, reptiles and amphibians of Bermuda).

We thank M. Ralph Browning, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, National Museum of Natural History, for subspecific identification of the specimen. *Received 21 February 1977, accepted 14 March 1977.*