

FROM FIELD AND STUDY

Second Occurrence of Wilson Plover in California.—While strolling on the ocean shore at Imperial Beach, San Diego, County, California, May 11, 1918, examining with the aid of glasses various waders, I discovered a Wilson Plover (*Ochthodromus wilsonius wilsonius*) and three Snowy Plovers engaged in feeding along the wave-swept beach. They all took flight, circled around over the breakers and settled on the wet sand at the edge of the water. The Wilson Plover permitted me to approach to within some fifty feet, then running rapidly would catch up with its more timid companions which had earlier moved out of possible danger. Similar acts were repeated a number of times; it then took the lead, uttered a few notes and flew in the direction of the original feeding place. On disappearing from sight, I retraced my steps nearly a quarter of a mile, and there, not a hundred feet from where they first flew, on a dry portion of the beach, the Wilson was seen standing on the sand-drift. Its associates were close by. Two of them claimed ownership to a set of three eggs; the other appeared greatly disturbed when I examined a shell-lined hollow in the sand. Suspecting that the Wilson might have a brooding mate, I withdrew to watch from a distance, but as I did so, the bird gradually approached nearer. When I stopped, it would also stop and remain motionless. If I advanced too near, it would retreat, keeping the distance between us at all times the same or about so. This peculiar action was too trying for me, so I decided to give up temporarily the hunt for its nest.

On June 16, I searched the beach carefully without seeing a bird of this species. All further attempts to locate this Wilson Plover were frustrated by the U. S. Government; for on my next visit to this locality, the beach and the road leading to it were placarded with large wooden signs, reading "Danger: U. S. Aerial Gunnery Range."

So far as I can learn, this is the only Wilson Plover seen in the state since the species was added to the list of the birds of California through the record of a male taken by myself at Pacific Beach, June 29, 1894 (Nidologist, II, May, 1895, p. 87).—A. M. INGER-SOLL, *San Diego, California, August 4, 1918.*

Heermann Gull With White Primary Coverts.—Mr. Willett's note regarding the occurrence of white primary coverts in *Larus heermanni* (CONDOR, xx, May, 1918, p. 122), suggests the advisability of recording a similar specimen in the Museum of the Geological Survey of Canada. This bird is a female in worn changing plumage, probably just coming into maturity, taken August 14, 1917, at Alert Bay, B. C., off the northeast coast of Vancouver Island. Four outer primary coverts on one wing and two on the other are pure white. The dissimilarity is probably due to molt. Of a hundred or more gulls of this species observed at the same time and during several successive days this was the only one noted that showed these conspicuous white wrists in flight, and it was collected on that account. It is difficult to offer a satisfactory explanation to this sporadically (?) recurring variation.—P. A. TAVERNER, *Museum Geological Survey, Ottawa, Ontario, August 10, 1918.*

Pacific Coast Records of the European Widgeon.—Fifty years ago Dr. J. G. Cooper published the first note on the presence of the European Widgeon (*Mareca penelope*) on the Pacific Coast. Since then, reports of the capture of this species have appeared from time to time, the most recent being that of Mailliard in THE CONDOR for last May, relative to specimens secured in 1908 and 1917. The records of the occurrence of the European Widgeon in America now number more than a hundred, of which nearly twenty percent are based on specimens taken on the Pacific Coast. The Alaska and British Columbia records have been published several times and need not be repeated here. The Washington records are all recent and are due to the energy of Bowles and Warburton who have reported one record for each winter since 1915. So far as I am aware Oregon is not yet represented by any notes on this species. The California list includes at least eleven records, representing a dozen or more specimens and is exceeded only by that of North Carolina. Most of the California records are mentioned in Grinnell, Bryant and Storer's "Game Birds of California" (in press), but the data of the California and Washington

specimens are not to be found in any one place and therefore it may be convenient to recapitulate them all briefly in the order in which the birds were collected.

CALIFORNIA

- (1) 1868. San Francisco market. Several specimens. Cooper, Proc. Calif. Acad. Sci., iv, 1868, p. 9.
- (2) 1882, February 17. San Francisco market. Specimen no. 542 in the Bryant collection. W. E. Bryant, Forest and Stream, xxvi, June 24, 1886, p. 426.
- (3) 1884, winter. Eureka, Humboldt County. Specimen shot by Charles Fiebig and now in the Eureka Public Library. Townsend, Auk, iii, 1886, p. 491; Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus., x, 1887, p. 184.
- (4) 1884. Rio Vista, Solano County. Two specimens [in collection of F. H. Holmes, obtained in San Francisco market January 25 and February, 1884]. Belding MS, quoted by Grinnell, Pac. Coast Avifauna, no. 11, 1915, p. 33.
- (5) 1890, November 24. San Francisco Bay. Specimen no. 124,776, U. S. Nat. Museum, collected by C. H. Townsend.
- (6) 1904, February 16. Bixby, Los Angeles County. Specimen shot by C. H. Mears on the Pasadena Duck Club preserve and formerly owned by Joseph Welsh of Pasadena. Now in the Grinnell collection. Grinnell, Auk, xxi, 1904, p. 383.
- (7) 1905, February 5. Bixby, Los Angeles County. Specimen shot by Robert Erskine Ross on the same marsh in which the Welsh specimen was obtained. Ross, Forest and Stream, lxiv, Feb. 25, 1905, p. 153.
- (8) 1905? Eureka. Specimen in collection of Dr. F. H. Ottmer of Eureka. F. J. Smith MS, quoted by Grinnell, Bryant and Storer, "Game Birds Calif". (in press), p. 112.
- (9) 1908, December 5. Merced County. Specimen in California Academy of Sciences, collected by Rollo H. Beck. Jos. Mailliard, Condor, xx, May, 1918, p. 122.
- (10) 1911, October 20. Arcata Bay, Humboldt County. Specimen shot by Alden Trott. F. J. Smith MS, quoted by Grinnell, Bryant and Storer, "Game Birds Calif". (in press), p. 112.
- (11) 1917, December 19. Norman, Glenn County. Specimen belonging to the Zindo Gun Club, shot by Samuel Pond of San Francisco, and now in the office of Drs. C. H. Bell and E. Pitres of that city. Jos. Mailliard, Condor, xx, May, 1918, p. 122.

WASHINGTON

- (1) 1915, January 12. Nisqually Flats, Thurston County. Specimen shot by L. W. Brehm of Tacoma. Bowles, Condor, xvii, Mar., 1915, p. 102; *ibid.*, xviii, May, 1916, p. 129.
- (2) 1916, January 15. Nisqually Flats. Specimen shot by Mr. Ditz of South Tacoma and now in the Bowles collection, Tacoma. Bowles, Condor, xviii, May, 1916, p. 129.
- (3) 1917, March 31. Nisqually Flats. Specimen collected by Stanton Warburton, Jr., and now in the Warburton collection, Tacoma. Warburton, Condor, xix, July, 1917, p. 142.
- (4) 1918, January 13. Nisqually Flats. Two adult males brought in to Edwards Bros. of Tacoma for mounting. Bowles, Condor, xx, Mar., 1918, p. 93.

The California records include three birds from Humboldt Bay, three from San Francisco Bay, two from Bixby, Los Angeles County, and one each from three interior localities: Merced County; Rio Vista, Solano County; and Norman, Glenn County. So far as shown by the dates which have been recorded, the birds were shot during the four months from October 20 to February 17. Several of them are now preserved in public museums: The Bryant specimen should be in the Oakland Museum, the Fiebig specimen is in the Public Library at Eureka, the Townsend specimen is in the National Museum, and the Beck specimen in the museum of the California Academy of Sciences.

The five Washington specimens were all obtained on the Nisqually Flats, near Olympia, and were collected between January 12 and March 31. At least two are in the collection of J. H. Bowles and one is in that of Stanton Warburton, Jr.

All the birds enumerated in the above lists were males. The difficulty of distinguishing the females of *Mareca penelope* and *Mareca americana* probably explains why more females of the former species are not recognized in the field and saved. Cooperation on the part of sportsmen will doubtless bring to light other specimens and show that the European Widgeon occurs more frequently than is generally supposed. So far as practicable the present location of all recorded specimens should be ascertained and as many as possible of them should be placed in public museums where they may be properly and permanently preserved.—T. S. PALMER, *Washington, D. C., June 2, 1918.*