

lend variety. A more thorough investigation of this field would be worth while, for I have reason to believe that several species of northern ducks breed there, and breed at a much later season than in our country. On November 20 (1909) I found a brood of young Shovellers (*Spatula clypeata*) unable to fly, and the natives told me that hundreds of ducks nested there, among them Gadwall, Dusky, Sprig, Shoveller, and Cinnamon Teal.

The South Pacific, where I am living now, is a poor place from the point of view of a lover of the Anatidae. We have only one duck in the islands south of the Line (though I know a man who claims that Shovellers come to Penrhyn Island every year about Thanksgiving time, and remain for two or three months), called *Anas superciliosa*, and reminding one of a small dull-colored Gadwall. Three migrating waders reach Tahiti every year from the north: The Pacific Golden Plover (*Charadrius dominicus fulvus*), the Wandering Tattler (*Heteractitis incanus*), and the Bristle-thighed Curlew (*Numenius tahitiensis*).—C. B. NORDBOFF, *Papeete, Tahiti, Society Islands, November 22, 1921.*

Second Occurrence of the Yakutat Song Sparrow in California.—On September 19, 1915, Mr. Laurence M. Huey took a specimen of *Melospiza melodia caurina* Ridgway, at Fortuna, Humboldt County, California. The bird is a female (no. C 281, coll. Donald R. Dickey), and becomes, I believe, the second recorded instance of the capture within the state of this rare winter visitant to the northwest coast of California.

The bird was taken on a brushy hillside in the immediate vicinity of Fortuna, and at a distance, therefore, of several miles from the sea. In this connection, it is interesting to note the wide departure from normal in the associational behavior exhibited during migration by this individual. In its breeding range and on its winter ground the bird is essentially a "beach-comber". This has been clearly indicated by the single winter capture heretofore recorded for California (Grinnell, Condor, XII, 1910, p. 174), and by the Oregon experience of Shelton (Condor, XVII, 1915, p. 60), and the Alaskan notes from Admiralty Island given by H. S. Swarth (Condor, XIV, 1912, p. 73). Here, on the contrary, it was found far inland in the characteristic habitat of the host of Townsend Fox Sparrows that were coming in at the time from the north, and in an association quite distinct from that of the beach.

Dr. Joseph Grinnell and Mr. H. S. Swarth have kindly compared the specimen with the birds from more northern stations that are now in their care at the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, Berkeley, California.—DONALD R. DICKEY, *Pasadena, California, December 22, 1921.*

Rufous Hummingbird Tragedy.—On April 24, 1920, Mrs. Stoner found in the back yard a male Rufous Hummingbird (*Selasphorus rufus*), badly stunned and fluttering on the ground beneath the clothesline, with which no doubt it had collided. The line was one of the continuous wire lines working on a pulley at each end, and quite possibly in trying to avoid one of the wires it flew into the other, some ten or twelve inches above or below. It was taken into the house, but lived only a few minutes. The outer tail feathers measure 3 mm. in width, and the next to middle tail feathers are notched. The skin was preserved. This incident cites a date of the northward migration in this locality, as well as one of the many hazards birds have to contend with.—EMERSON A. STONER, *Benicia, California, December 31, 1921.*

Wintering of the Nuttall Sparrow in Los Angeles County.—Because of the paucity of records of this species from Los Angeles County, California, it may be of interest to note that this sparrow was found to be fairly common in Placerita Canyon, near Newhall, during December, 1920, and January, 1921.

Mr. E. J. Brown and the junior writer spent several odd days collecting in this locality with the following results: December 15, 1920, we took four adult specimens of *Zonotrichia leucophrys nuttalli* and saw several more at sufficiently close range to make us fairly sure that they were of the same form; December 30, 1920, we took three additional adults and saw what we were confident were two more; January 24, 1921, we took another adult.

All of these birds were either in the typical "song sparrow" cover of a damp willow bottom, or among the blackberry vines of a ranch garden.—D. R. DICKEY AND A. J. VAN ROSSEM, *Pasadena, California, January 13, 1922.*

Kamchatka Sea Eagle at Kodiak, Alaska.—The accompanying photograph is of the Kamchatka Sea Eagle (*Thalassoetus pelagicus*), which was taken last summer on the island of Kodiak, Alaska, by a party of which I was a member. The capture was made August 10, 1921, at the outlet of a small lake without name, which is tributary to the upper end of Karluk Lake. The photograph was taken from the outlet stream, looking lengthwise of the smaller lake, which is about two miles long.

The bird was shot by a native who formed a member of our party, and who frequently hunts about Karluk Lake. He stated that he had observed this strange eagle



Fig. 28. KAMCHATKA SEA EAGLE CAPTURED ON KODIAK ISLAND, ALASKA, AUGUST 10, 1921.

on a number of previous occasions and had tried to capture it, and that this was the only bird of the kind he had ever seen. Bald Eagles were abundant in this locality.

My few notes state that the head was not white but was covered with feathers variegated much as in the Golden Eagle. The tail and leg feathers were white, as were the entire front edges of the wings. The feet and bill were extremely powerful, obviously larger than in the Bald Eagle, which we had for comparison. Both bill and feet were strikingly bright in color, of a deep golden yellow, which covered also the bare portion of the legs. The tail feathers were graduated.—CHARLES H. GILBERT, *Stanford University, California, January 20, 1922.*

Red Phalarope in Southern California.—At the October meeting of the Southern Division of the Cooper Club comment was made on the numbers of Red Phalaropes (*Phalaropus fulicarius*) dying on the beach. Several persons reported the birds also inland. On October 25 I saw twelve on a flooded meadow in Los Angeles on South Main Street near Manchester Avenue. At Wilmington tide flats, October 22, several flocks of twelve or more birds each were closely observed for several hours altogether. During the whole day only three or four bodies were found, although one sick bird was picked