

to the writer's attention at the Deer Park Guard Station on the Boise National Forest, Idaho, during the past summer (1939).

At the edge of the horse pasture of the station a block of sulfurized salt is kept for the horses and the deer that come in at night. The grass for several feet around the block has been removed by their pawing, so that there is a clear view of the ground.

On the morning of August 12 I observed nine Red Crossbills (*Loxia curvirostra*) on this area and flushed them to a nearby lodgepole pine tree. They returned to the salt area almost as soon as I sat down about fifteen feet from it. The birds could then be seen feeding on some coarse salt scattered around the block, using the tongue in the same manner as described in detail by Aldrich. One male bird was seen to "lick off" salt from the block itself.

For several weeks after this, a flock of the same size, probably the same one, visited the block regularly. On several instances, birds were seen "fighting," by posturing, for the favorable feeding place under the block, which was several inches above the ground.

Other birds noted at the salt during the same period were the Western Mourning Dove, Cassin Purple Finch, Evening Grosbeak, and Pine Siskin. The dove, however, apparently used the place for dusting and resting during the middle of the day, whereas the other birds were seen in early morning or late evening and probably fed on the salt, as there was little if any vegetable material near the block.—WILLIAM H. MARSHALL, *Bureau of Biological Survey, Boise, Idaho, January 29, 1940.*

**A European Widgeon in Solano County, California.**—Mr. Paul S. Wetmore of Benicia, California, shot a European Widgeon (*Mareca penelope*) on the grounds of the St. Germain Gun Club on Grizzly Island, Solano County, California, on October 29, 1939. This appears to be the first recorded occurrence of this species in my county since 1884, when two were taken at Rio Vista (see Grinnell, *Pac. Coast Avif. No. 11, 1915, p. 33*). Mr. Wetmore, who is a veteran duck hunter, recognized the bird as an unusual species and he presented it to me for my collection of scientific skins. It is a male; weight 1 pound, 12 ounces; length 19½ inches and wing spread 31½ inches.—EMERSON A. STONER, *Benicia, California, December 16, 1939.*

**Posturing of the Western Sandpiper.**—Observations of the 1940 spring shore-bird migration in the San Francisco Bay area have led me to notice the general presence of an interesting habit of the Western Sandpiper (*Ereunetes mauri*). In large flocks of feeding sandpipers there is often some little "conflict" between individuals; one will meet another head on while food hunting or again will

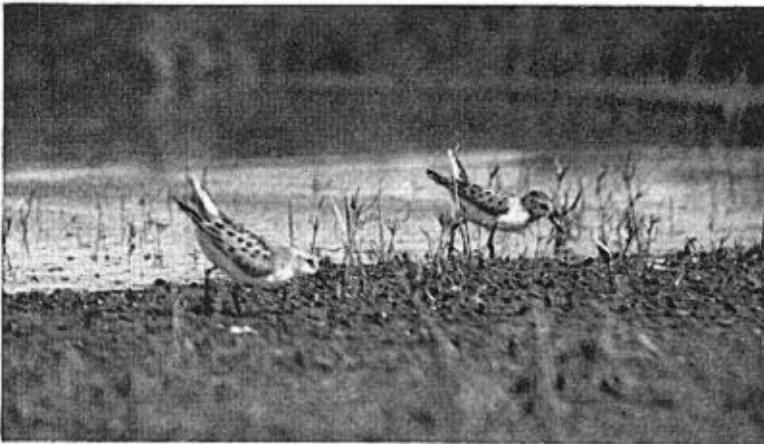


Fig. 61. Tail-elevating posture of Western Sandpiper.

chase its neighbors away from the area in which it is feeding. On such occasions the head may be lowered and the tail thrown up stiffly, the wings not being noticeably dropped. A rigid posture will be held for a moment (fig. 61) then the bird will relax, go on about its food hunting, and the tail will gradually descend to a normal position as shown in figure 62.

Bent (Life Histories of North American Shore Birds, U. S. National Museum, Bull. 142, 1927, p. 256) records the courtship behavior of this sandpiper on its northern nesting grounds. The elevation of the tail is pointed out as one part of a complicated display. It seems possible that this tail-



Fig. 62. Normal feeding position of Western Sandpiper.

elevating posture while in migration may be the first manifestation of a chain of instincts which will become more fully developed as the birds move northward and the breeding season becomes further advanced.—DAVID GELSTON NICHOLS, *Berkeley, California, May 2, 1940.*

**New Bird Records for Lincoln County, Nevada.**—The period of May 16 to 28, 1939, was spent in the field in Lincoln County, Nevada, with Mr. Stanley G. Jewett of the Bureau of Biological Survey and Mr. Merle R. Gross of the Soil Conservation Service. Messrs. Adrey E. Borell and W. S. Long, also of the Soil Conservation Service, were with us for two days. The purpose of the field work was to obtain material for a preliminary wildlife management plan for the county. In the course of our observations the following birds not recorded for Lincoln County by Linsdale (*Pac. Coast Avif.* No. 23, 1936) or Cottam (*Condor*, vol. 38, 1936, pp. 122-123) were observed, and in some cases collected (approximate elevations taken from the U. S. Department of Commerce airways maps).

*Phalacrocorax albociliatus* ssp. Double-crested Cormorant. Seen on Frenchy Lake, Pahrnagat Valley, 4800 feet, Lower Sonoran Zone.

*Egretta thula brewsteri*. Brewster Egret. About half a dozen seen at Coyote Spring, 2700 feet, Lower Sonoran Zone, and apparently the same birds seen next day at Upper Pahrnagat Lake.

*Butorides virescens anthonyi*. Green Heron. An immature seen at Hiko Lake, Pahrnagat Valley, 5300 feet, Lower Sonoran Zone; an adult seen several times at upper end of Rose Valley, 5500 feet, lower edge of Transition Zone.

*Plegadis guarauna*. White-faced Glossy Ibis. About 15 seen on a reservoir at Comet, 4500 feet, Upper Sonoran Zone.

*Dafila acuta tzitzihoa*. Pintail. Seen on Maynard Lake and Lower Pahrnagat Lake, 3500 feet. (Estimated 20,000 seen on the lakes in Pahrnagat Valley, September 21, 1938.)

*Spatula clypeata*. Shoveller. A pair seen on Maynard Lake.

*Accipiter airicapillus*. Goshawk. Immature seen above Sheep Spring, Juniper Mountains, 6900 feet, Transition Zone; adult (male?) on Wilson Peak, 7500-8500 feet, Transition-Canadian Zone; nest with 3 eggs, both parents present, May 21, 20 miles north of Ursine, 6000 feet, Upper Sonoran-Transition Zone (see Bond, *Condor*, vol. 42, 1940, pp. 100-103).

*Buteo swainsoni*. Swainson Hawk. Seen in Delmar Valley and Tule Flat, both in the Joshua tree belt.

*Dendragapus obscurus obscurus*. Dusky Grouse. Several seen, and much sign, on Wilson Peak, 8000-8500 feet, Transition-Canadian Zone; also reliably reported from 4 miles west of Geyser Ranch, 8000-9000 feet.

*Centrocercus urophasianus*. Sage Hen. Four males seen on Table Mountain (12-15 miles east of Pony Spring), 8500 feet, Transition Zone; also reported from several other localities.

*Phasianus colchicus*. Ring-necked Pheasant. Found locally common in meadow, hay and crop lands of Pahrnagat Valley, Meadow Valley Wash, Ursine, Eagle, and Rose valleys.