

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-

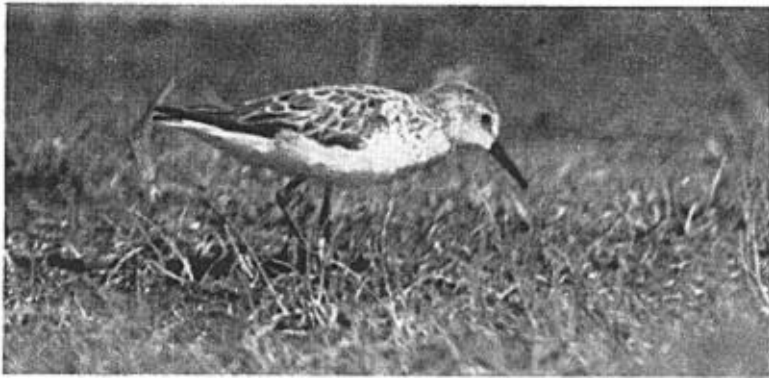


Fig. 62. Normal feeding position of Western Sandpiper.

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, Pahranaagat 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 Pahranaagat Lake.

Butorides virescens anthonyi. Green Heron. An immature seen at Hiko Lake, Pahranaagat 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 tzitzihoo. Pintail. Seen on Maynard Lake and Lower Pahranaagat Lake, 3500 feet. (Estimated 20,000 seen on the lakes in Pahranaagat 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 Pahranaagat Valley, Meadow Valley Wash, Ursine, Eagle, and Rose valleys.

Charadrius nivosus nivosus. Snowy Plover. A female found dead on the highway, 3000 feet, in Lower Sonoran, *Covillea* association, 7 miles by road south of Maynard Lake on May 16. This seems to be the fourth recorded specimen from the state.

Capella delicata. Wilson Snipe. Calling in lower Spring Valley, 5300 feet.

Numenius americanus ssp. Long-billed Curlew. One seen at Muddy Spring, 3500 feet, in company with Black-necked Stilts (*Himantopus mexicanus*).

Pisobia minutilla. Least Sandpiper. A flock of a dozen or more at Lower Pahranaagat Lake, 3600 feet.

Chlidonias nigra surinamensis. Black Tern. Several at Frenchy Lake, at Comet Reservoir, and at Upper Pahranaagat Lake.

Megaceryle alcyon caurina. Belted Kingfisher. One seen at Hiko Lake.

Empidonax griseus. Gray Flycatcher. A male collected by Jewett in the Cedar Range 12 miles east of Panaca, 6900 feet, May 17, has been identified by Dr. Pierce Brodtkorb. Wing and tail are smaller than average, and the bill is extremely narrow.

Otocoris alpestris utahensis. Horned Lark. Common in the County. A male picked up on the highway in Delmar Valley, 5300 feet, has been so identified by Dr. Alden H. Miller, rather than *O. a. leucolaema* as recorded by Linsdale. The specimen shows approach toward *O. a. leucansiptila*.

Toxostoma bendirei. Bendire Thrasher. The male of a pair collected by Jewett in Delmar Valley, 5500 feet. (See Jewett, Condor, vol. 42, 1940, p. 126).

Oreoscoptes montanus. Sage Thrasher. Locally common all over the Upper Sonoran and higher zones. A male collected by Jewett on May 20, 15 miles west of Caliente.

Hylocichla guttata auduboni. Hermit Thrush. Common on Wilson Peak about 8000 feet; male collected by Jewett, May 25; also seen on Table Mountain, 7500-8500 feet.

Dendroica aestiva rubiginosa. Yellow Warbler. A male collected by Jewett at Carp, 2700 feet, undoubtedly a migrant (identified by A. H. Miller). This appears to be a new record for the state of Nevada.

Wilsonia pusilla pileolata. Pileolated Warbler. A male collected at Sheep Spring, Juniper Mountains, 6700 feet, May 20.

Spinus pinus pinus. Pine Siskin. A small flock seen and heard in cottonwoods at Muddy Spring, 3500 feet, Lower Sonoran Zone.

Loxia curvirostra ssp. Red Crossbill. Six seen at close range in Douglas fir-white fir forest. Wilson Peak, 8500 feet.

Junco caniceps caniceps. Gray-headed Junco. Male and female collected May 26 by Jewett, and others seen, Canadian Zone, Wilson Peak, 8500 feet.

Zonotrichia leucophrys ssp. White-crowned Sparrow. Several seen on Wilson Peak, 7500-8500 feet.

In addition to new birds for the County, certain of those previously recorded deserve mention as having been seen "out of place" according to life-zone, in unusual numbers, or doing something remarkable otherwise.

Buteo borealis calurus. Red-tailed Hawk. A nest containing three young in a juniper about 12 miles east of Pony Spring was visited twice and was found to contain on one visit remains of an immature Piñon Jay (*Cyanocephalus cyanocephalus*), 4 young and 2 adult jack rabbits (*Lepus californicus deserticola*), and one young and one adult chipmunk (*Eutamias dorsalis*); on the next visit it contained remains of 1 adult jack rabbit, one immature Piñon Jay and a garter snake (*Thamnophis* sp.).

Aquila chrysaetos canadensis. Golden Eagle. An immature seen carrying a ground squirrel (*Citellus variegatus grammurus*) 5 miles east of Crystal Spring; two seen feeding on dead jack rabbits along the highway, north end of Delmar Valley; nest with two well-grown young about 10 miles north of Panaca, May 21.

Falco mexicanus. Prairie Falcon. A magnificent stoop by one of these birds was seen near Comet. It shot downward several hundred feet to seize a ground squirrel (*Citellus townsendii mollis*), which it carried off without apparent loss of speed.

Lophortyx gambelii gambelii. Gambel Quail. Found in a wide variety of situations, from Lower Sonoran (2700 feet) to the lower edge of the Transition (6200 feet) Zone; much commoner in desert brush near water or wet meadows.

Porzana carolina. Sora. Remains of 2 found in pellets of a Horned Owl (*Bubo virginianus occidentalis*), 4 miles north of Alamo, Pahranaagat Valley.

Oxyechus vociferus vociferus. Killdeer. A nest containing three eggs, situated a few hundred yards south of Crystal Spring was destroyed by cattle.

Zenaidura macroura marginella. Mourning Dove. Extremely abundant practically throughout the County. Between 5000 and 10,000 were estimated to have come to water at Coyote Spring, 2700 feet, the evening of May 23.

Gymnorhinus cyanocephalus. Piñon Jay. No occupied nest was found, but young were still being fed by the parents on May 20. Several times small flocks were seen in the Delmar Valley in the Joshua trees.

Turdus migratorius propinquus. Robin. Nesting commonly as low as the Lower Sonoran Zone, as in the Pahrangat Valley, but only in wet areas with willow, cottonwood, ash, or box elder.—R. M. BOND, *Soil Conservation Service, Berkeley, California, November 13, 1939.*

Killdeer Swimming.—On December 20, 1938, as I was driving along the Harkins road one-half mile west of Watsonville, California, I saw a Killdeer (*Oxyechus vociferus*) cross the road with one wing dragging. As it was the wrong time of year for the bird to be simulating injury, a stop was made and the bird pursued. It ran for a way along the bank of a drainage ditch, then seeing that it was about to be captured, ran down the bank and unhesitatingly entered the water. In spite of the broken wing, the bird floated as trimly as any bird that normally swims. The feet were seen working steadily and to my surprise the bird moved readily upstream against a moderate current. The whole performance surprised me, as I had watched the Killdeer for years, but had never seen it enter the water and swim before, but then I had never before seen it necessary for the bird to resort to that medium for escape.—ALBERT C. HAWBECKER, *Watsonville, California, March 19, 1940.*

Random Notes from the Humboldt Bay Area.—*Puffinus tenuirostris*. Slender-billed Shearwater. A female was taken on September 12, 1937, near the entrance of Humboldt Bay by Robert Talmadge.

Philacte canagica. Emperor Goose. A male was taken on April 26, 1925, on south Humboldt Bay. On December 6, 1927, a male and two females were taken on the marshes about two miles east of Eureka.

Falco columbarius suckleyi. Black Pigeon Hawk. Three birds were collected on the peninsula across the bay from Eureka in 1925: males on January 24 and 31, and a female on February 14.

Stercorarius parasiticus. Parasitic Jaeger. A female was taken on September 2, 1933, on the ocean side of Humboldt Bay.

Rissa tridactyla pollicaris. Pacific Kittiwake. A male was found on the ocean beach August 14, 1937, by Robert Talmadge.

Xema sabini. Sabine Gull. A male was collected February 7, 1932, on the ocean side of Humboldt Bay.

Cyclorhynchus psittacula. Paroquet Auklet. A female was taken on April 5, 1924, by George McDaniel on the ocean side of Humboldt Bay.

Strix occidentalis caurina. Northern Spotted Owl. Two young, not long out of the nest, were taken on July 29, 1913, in a grove of lowland fir, redwood, and Sitka spruce about three miles south of Eureka. On July 28, 1916, a young male was taken at the same place. Two young females were taken in Eureka, one on August 20, 1931, and the other on August 20, 1939. A live adult female was left in a sack at my back door by an unknown "owler" on January 18, 1939.

Penthestes atricapillus occidentalis. Oregon Chickadee. A male was taken October 23, 1924, also in Eureka.

Vermivora celata sordida. Dusky Warbler. A female was taken in Eureka on January 1, 1935.

Geothlypis trichas sinuosa. Salt Marsh Yellow-throat. An immature female was taken in Eureka on November 25, 1917.

Junco hyemalis hyemalis. Slate-colored Junco. A female was taken on March 17, 1935, by Miss Leno Moll in Eureka.

Zonotrichia albicollis. White-throated Sparrow. A male was taken May 8, 1934, a mile outside of Eureka, by Miss Leno Moll.

The above-mentioned specimens have been identified by the late Dr. Joseph Grinnell and by Dr. Robert T. Orr of the California Academy of Sciences.—JOHN M. DAVIS, *Eureka, California, April 20, 1940.*

Black Vultures Perch on Telephone Wires.—The foot of a vulture, fitted largely for walking and perching, would hardly seem adapted for grasping as slender a support as a telephone wire. The usual procedure of a vulture, when choosing a place to alight, is to pick some sturdy limb, pole-top, or rock, where the whole foot acts as a support, with the long toes functioning as aids to balance.