

FROM FIELD AND STUDY

American Pintail on Palmyra Island.—"On or about November 5th, 1942, a flock of wild ducks, consisting of two species, arrived on this island at approximately 6 a.m. This flock was in a very exhausted condition, and without much effort were all picked up and placed behind a wire fence, properly fed, and allowed to rest and to recover. One bird had a leg tag with the following numbers stamped into same, '40-693910.' It was interesting to note that these birds had flown a considerable distance, and if it is permissible, I would like very much to know where this particular bird was tagged, and its migration habits."

The foregoing letter, signed by Ensign Arthur R. Murphy, U.S.N., was duly received by the Fish and Wildlife Service. Investigation revealed a remarkable flight by an American Pintail, *Dafila acuta izitzihoa*. This bird, a drake, was one of the many victims of botulism at the Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge in northeastern Utah. Successfully treated at the refuge hospital, it made a complete recovery and was banded and liberated on August 15, 1942, by the refuge superintendent, Vanez T. Wilson. The elapsed time between banding and recapture was 82 days.

While Palmyra Island is administratively a part of the Territory of Hawaii, it is about five degrees north of the equator in the Line Island group, nearly 1100 miles south of Honolulu. A case of this kind promotes speculation and since Ensign Murphy reports that this bird and its companions were so totally exhausted that they were readily captured, it seems reasonable to assume that Palmyra was the first "land fall" the birds had made since leaving the coast of North America. The over-water flight was in excess of 3000 miles and the total flight from the Bear River marshes must have been about 3600 miles.—FREDERICK C. LINCOLN, *Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington, D.C., August 28, 1943.*

Occurrence of the Magnolia Warbler Off the Coast of California.—On the morning of June 8, 1943, the men of a small ship operating about 10 miles west of Halfmoon Bay, California, were surprised to discover a small yellow bird perched low in the rigging. I recognized it as a warbler but could not place it as to species. Later, when compared with skins in the collection of the California Academy of Sciences, it was found to be a male Magnolia Warbler (*Dendroica magnolia*). Grinnell and Wythe (*Pac. Coast Avif.*, 18, 1927:134) list this eastern species as a transient of rare occurrence in the San Francisco Bay region and mention two specimens taken on the Farallon Islands on May 29 and June 2, 1911. Grinnell (*Pac. Coast Avif.*, 11, 1915:148) lists three other records for California: one taken on Santa Barbara Island on May 15, 1897; one in Los Angeles, October 21, 1897, and one on October 5, 1901.

The occurrence in 1943 was about 20 miles south and east of the Farallon Islands. When first observed, the bird seemed in good condition and flew from one part of the ship to another. It took no interest in the crumbs, suet or meat offered by the ship's crew, but made an extensive search about the deck. Fresh water was put out for it but the bird passed close by without partaking. It was seen to sample a puddle of water that must have been salt or brackish.

Three attempts were made by the bird to leave the ship, but when 50 to 100 yards away with no other solid object in sight, it returned. In its search, it hopped about at the feet of men on watch and across my lap when I sat on the deck locker to watch. It seemed to take comfort in the shelter that my outstretched overcoat made from the cold strong wind. Timidity was lost in preoccupation. The bird could have been taken in the hand numerous times without difficulty.

After an hour or more of unusual intimacy, it retired to a remote perch, and I did not see it again until in the afternoon when it was brought to the bridge in the hands of a seaman. I had hoped the creature would last until land was reached, but it already was so weakened that it hardly moved, and in a few moments it expired in my hand. The change from moderate exhaustion to collapse took place in about 5½ hours, as the bird was first observed at about 10:30 a.m. and lasted until 4. I suggest that the bird died of thirst.

This specimen, now no. 58350 in the collection of the California Academy of Sciences, had a weight of 6.5 grams when prepared by Dr. Robert T. Orr.—RICHARD G. MILLER, *U.S.N.R., Miami Beach, Florida, August 27, 1943.*

Birds of Unusual Occurrence in Prospect Park, Redlands, California.—Although my brother, Donald, and I have resided in Prospect Park nearly twelve years, it has been during the past six years only that we have devoted our attention to the distribution of birds there. During this period we have observed one hundred and twenty-three species within the boundaries of the park.

Prospect Park is, in reality, a combination of orange grove and park. The total area is thirty-