

A Record of the Old-squaw in the San Joaquin Valley.—On December 24, 1939, with a view to observing waterfowl, I drove 12 miles from my home in Planada, Merced County, California, to Lake Yosemite, a 500-acre body of water used as a reservoir by the Merced Irrigation Company. Few birds were seen on the lake but a half mile north in a small pond were a few ducks and a dozen Mud-hens. Remaining with the Mud-hens after the others flew away was a whitish duck that I thought resembled an Old-squaw. As it seemed reluctant to leave, I drove back home, got my gun, and returned to the pond where the bird was secured. It proved to be an immature male Old-squaw (*Clangula hyemalis*), the first of this species I have taken in California.—R. H. BECK, *Planada, Merced County, California, January 25, 1944.*

The American Redstart in Utah.—In the early days of ornithological collecting in Utah the American Redstart (*Setophaga ruticilla*) apparently was frequently encountered. Then there is a lapse of several decades before the species is again mentioned in the ornithological literature of the State. Recently the writer had occasion to collect a breeding pair and gather other information bearing on the status of the bird at Ogden. Before presenting these data, however, it seems worthwhile to summarize the early records.

The first report is that of Ridgway (U. S. Geol. Expl. 40th Par., 4, pt. 3, 1877:438) who found the bird to be common in the Salt Lake region. He wrote: "This beautiful little bird was common in summer throughout the Wahsatch district, being one of several eastern species which have their westward range limited only by the commencement of the arid and treeless region of the Great Basin. It was abundant in the valleys and the lower portion of the cañons, but it did not extend far up into the mountains. A few were seen, in June, in the orchard of the 'Church Ranche,' on Antelope Island." Ridgway collected one adult male on Antelope Island on June 4, 1869.

J. A. Allen (Bull. Mus. Comp. Zool., 3, 1872:167) reported one seen on September 8, 1871, near Ogden.

Henshaw (Rept. Geog. Geol. Expl. . . . West 100th Mer. . . . Wheeler, 5, 1875:209) found the species the following year. He stated: "In Utah, the Redstart appears to be of rather frequent occurrence in the wooded section of the lowlands, especially in the alder thickets, along many of the streams." One male specimen was taken by him on July 29, 1872, at Provo.

It would seem from these early reports that between the years 1869 and 1872, at least, the American Redstart was fairly common in northern Utah. Somewhat anomalous, then, is the lapse of some 70 years before the Redstart is again recorded, this time by Twomey (Ann. Carnegie Mus., 28, 1942:449) who reports: "One specimen: two miles south of Jensen. A single male was collected by A. C. Lloyd on August 20, 1935. On September 20, 1937, a pair was seen in some dense willows at the Ashley Creek marshes."

On June 10, 1942, the writer was shown the nest of a Redstart by R. D. and R. L. Porter, James Poorman, and Paul Newey, all young bird enthusiasts of Ogden, Utah. The nest was situated in a cottonwood-willow thicket, 2 miles south of Ogden. It was about 6 feet from the ground and rested in a crotch of a dead willow. The nest was so placed as to overhang a small stream of running water. There were four eggs in it. The pair of birds was soon seen and collected, together with the nest and eggs, all of which are now deposited in the Museum of Zoology at the University of Utah. Incubation had evidently just begun because the eggs were fresh when blown.

These four students first saw Redstarts in their field work around Ogden on June 7, 1940. A nesting pair was seen at that time. After the young left the nest, nothing more was seen of the birds that season. A male was seen on May 22, 1941, but no other records were obtained that year nor were any nests found. On May 23, 1942, a pair of Redstarts was seen and the observation repeated on May 25. On June 10, 1942, the pair was collected as described above. The boys reported that they saw Redstarts in the same area in early June, 1943. In every instance the Redstarts were seen in the cottonwood-willow association that borders the Weber River, and since they were not found elsewhere in extensive field work throughout the region, it appears that they were strictly limited to this habitat.

The finding of the species in the Ogden area for the last four years suggests the regular occurrence of the bird there. Individuals are seemingly not numerous. Also it appears that they are restricted to that one habitat. Thus it may be that the species was simply overlooked in Utah in the interval between 1872 and recent years. It is possible that they are less abundant now than formerly, but in any event the present status of the bird is that of a summer resident in the Ogden area.—AARON ROSS, *Department of Biology, University of Utah, Salt Lake City, Utah, November 1, 1943.*

Rare Birds Seen in Southern California.—In the fall of 1942 a Harris Hawk (*Parabuteo unicinctus*) took up temporary residence on the tops of several telephone poles near Oceanside, San

Diego County, California. As this hawk is seldom seen in coastal southern California, its occurrence caused many to visit the locality to make its acquaintance. Observers were able to approach the bird closely and study it through their binoculars. It was seen on November 1, 1942, by Mr. and Mrs. O. M. Stultz, Caroline Daugherty, Don Eckleberry, and Dorothy Groner. On November 6, 1942, it was seen by Alma Mason, Ruby Curry, Mrs. Kent, and the writer. The hawk was carefully identified as it stretched its wings, preened its feathers, and finally took flight after about twenty minutes.

Also worth reporting is a Glaucous Gull (*Larus hyperboreus*) in second-year plumage seen in the Los Angeles area. Careful study of specimens furnished by George Willett of the Los Angeles Museum verified the identification of this rare gull. It has been carefully studied several times in January and February of 1944 on the same fresh-water lake.—WYATT A. KENT, 815 South Irolo Street, Los Angeles, California, February 21, 1944.

Specimens of the Pacific Golden Plover from California.—In 1936 Grinnell (Condor, 38, 1936:219) reported the first specimen of the Pacific Golden Plover (*Pluvialis dominica fulva*) from California. This bird had been taken on January 15, 1922, at Bay Farm Island, Alameda County, but had remained unrecognized among a series of *Pluvialis dominica dominica* until noted by Allan Brooks. Grinnell reported in detail on this bird, pointing out that *fulva* in contrast to *dominica* shows (1) a well-defined dull brownish chest area set off rather sharply from the extensively clear white abdominal area, (2) a more extensive pervasion of clear apricot yellow throughout the dorsal surface, (3) an extension of yellow to the sides of the head and weakly to the pectoral area, and (4) a shorter wing.

Subsequently this bird was examined by Dr. R. A. Falla of New Zealand when he was visiting at the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology in February of 1939. He ventured the opinion that *fulva*, as known to us from this Californian specimen and from those from the Hawaiian Islands, is not the same as what he considers *fulva* in New Zealand. However, no direct comparison with material from New Zealand was then possible, nor has it yet been feasible to pursue this particular problem. There may indeed be a difference. Dr. Falla further suggested to Dr. Grinnell and to me that the California-taken specimen and our Hawaiian material represented adult *P. d. dominica* and that other Golden Plovers in winter plumage from the Pacific coast were immatures; thus one might explain the differences that were presumed to be racial. The breast markings of the bird from Bay Farm Island he accounted for particularly in this way.

This very proper and welcomed criticism lead me, as was intended, to review the identity and age of our material. It seems true generally that the under parts in immature Golden Plovers are more distinctly mottled than in adults, and that this mottling extends down over the belly to greater degree and without sharp delimitation. Birds of known immaturity from Alaska, some with remnants of natal down, invariably show extensive mottling. How infallible this distinction may be is not known, but most of our specimens seem to fall naturally into one of two categories compatible with this interpretation. But it is also equally clear that two races are involved in North America, as has long been agreed. Age for age, the characters of brilliance and extent of gold coloring and wing length hold up along the lines already reviewed above. From western Alaska, the Hawaiian Islands, Fanning Islands, the Philippines, and Siam, there are at hand brightly colored *fulva* which contrast with dull *dominica*. *Fulva* seems to be more sharply mottled beneath in immature plumage and more distinctly banded across the breast in adult plumage. *Fulva* may not prove identical throughout the Pacific Basin, but at the moment, judging from scattered samples, it seems reasonably uniform in this vast area.

The first-reported Californian example of *fulva* still seems, on the basis of characters other than the mottling of the breast, to be of this race; I judge it to be an adult. But also at hand is another Californian example which, beyond all doubt, is a representative of the richly colored *fulva* as known from the Bering Sea area. It is a heavily mottled immature male, no. 5953 in the collection of Ralph Ellis, taken September 10, 1922, at Eureka, Humboldt County, by Franklin J. Smith. It is extensively marked with bright gold above and this color extends on to the sides of the head and breast and even as a dull wash on to the belly. Measurements: wing, 166.5 mm.; tail, 62.7; culmen, 21.7; tarsus, 43.5. For comparison of measurements, see Grinnell (*loc. cit.*) and Ridgway (Birds N. M. Amer., pt. 8, 1919:84, 89). This second specimen is, then, a strongly marked example of *fulva*, and it substantiates the occurrence of this form as an occasional migrant to California. I am indebted to Ralph Ellis for permission to report upon this bird.—ALDEN H. MILLER, *Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, Berkeley, California, April 2, 1944.*