

FROM FIELD AND STUDY

Harris Sparrow from Humboldt County, California.—On February 1, 1958, a large sparrow was observed at a feeder in the company of Fox and White-crowned sparrows (*Passerella iliaca* and *Zonotrichia leucophrys*). The bird spent the entire day in the immediate vicinity. On the next day the bird was still present and it was collected. On closer examination it was found to be an immature Harris Sparrow (*Zonotrichia querula*). The identification was verified by Dr. Charles Yocom of Humboldt State College.

The exact location of this collection was on the north side of the mouth of the Mad River, four miles north of Arcata, Humboldt County, California. There are a number of records of Harris Sparrow from scattered areas of the state. To my knowledge, this is the first record for Humboldt County and the northern coastal area of California. The specimen has been placed in the Humboldt State College collection.—WARREN J. HOUCK, *Humboldt State College, Arcata, California, February 5, 1958.*

Inland Occurrence of Black Turnstone.—On August 28, 1957, below Inwood Cabins along the south shore of Lake McDonald in Glacier National Park, Montana, my attention was attracted about 4 p.m. to a larger than usual "sandpiper" foraging at the waterline and moving east toward the upper end of the lake. Approaching to within 25 feet, I observed with binoculars that this bird had chiefly slaty to sooty-black plumage. It proved to be a little under Killdeer size and it showed in every detail the characteristic black and white feathering, and the bill and leg colors of the Black Turnstone (*Arenaria melanocephala*) in postbreeding plumage.

Circling ahead, I outdistanced the forager and came down to await it at the waterline. At three yards the shorebird took flight and passed within a few feet of me to alight just beyond me. On closing its wings, the migrant turnstone quickly extended them upward again over its back until the black primaries almost met in a Willet-like movement that once more displayed the diagnostic patterns of dorsal surface and upper and under wing.

Previously, the farthest known inland occurrences of this Pacific coastal species have been records from Watson Lake, Yukon; the Atlin region and Nulki Lake, British Columbia; Washington County, Oregon; and the Salton Sea, Imperial County, and Needles, San Bernardino County, California (A.O.U. Check-list, Fifth Edition, 1957:176-177). All of these records were made within 225 miles or less of tidewater.—JOHN L. BLACKFORD, *Libby, Montana, January 28, 1958.*

Oldsquaw Found at La Jolla, California.—As there appears to be no record of an Oldsquaw (*Clangula hyemalis*) in southern California waters since 1938 (Sefton, Condor, 41, 1939:83; Grinnell and Miller, Pac. Coast Avif. No. 27, 1944:86), the presence of a dead bird of this species on the beach at La Jolla, San Diego County, California, on January 25, 1958, is of interest. The bird was found after a storm at the high water mark about 50 yards north of the Scripps Pier in La Jolla by Mr. A. G. Morley, Jr. The specimen, a male, was debilitated and did not have complete winter plumage. It was turned over to Mr. Laurence M. Huey, of the San Diego Natural History Museum, and it is now in the collection of that museum.—ARTHUR G. MORLEY, JR., *San Diego, California*, and JAMES R. SAMS, *San Diego Natural History Museum, San Diego, California, February 8, 1958.*

Female Gadwall Returns to Nest Site After Loss of Young.—On July 13, 1956, at Ogden Bay Refuge, Weber County, Utah, I discovered a female Gadwall (*Anas strepera*) that had returned to her nest to resume incubating three unhatched eggs after the apparent loss of her newly-hatched young. The events which led to this observation are as follows.

A study of the Gadwall's breeding behavior which I made in 1956 and 1957 required the recognition of individual females. To this end, incubating birds were trapped on their nests by means of a nest trap described by Sowls (Trans. N. Amer. Wildlife Conf., 14, 1949:260-275) and individually marked with "Koroseal" plastic neck tags of the type designed by Taber (Jour. Wildlife Manag., 13, 1949:228-231). The particular female with which this article is concerned was trapped and marked on June 21, 1956. On that date her nest contained 10 eggs in the ninth day of incubation, but at the time of hatching the clutch had been reduced to five eggs as the result of predation by California Gulls (*Larus californicus*). The nest was situated in the weedy cover of a dike bank, about five yards from an adjacent borrow pit.

On the morning of July 5, when I returned to the nest to determine its fate, I found two young that had hatched the evening before being brooded at the nest and three unhatched eggs (later found

to contain dead embryos). At my approach the two chicks hurried out of the nest, down the dike bank and into the borrow pit where their mother was calling loudly and performing distraction displays. Recording the nest as having been partially successful, I moved on to check on the progress of other nests. However, eight days later, on July 13, I happened to pass the site again and found the female back on her nest incubating the unhatched eggs. I do not know the exact date of her return, but I found her at the nest on each of the next three days, July 14, 15, and 16, before she finally abandoned the three addled eggs. During this period, her identity was confirmed twice by observation of her colored neck tag.

Apparently, soon after leaving the nest, the bird's two young became lost, or possibly they were killed by California Gulls, which nest in large numbers at Ogden Bay, and Odin (Auk, 74, 1957:185-202) cites several instances of their predation on young waterfowl in northern Utah; following this the hen returned to incubate what remained of her original clutch in response to an incubation drive that persisted even after the time of hatching.—JOHN M. GATES, *Utah Cooperative Wildlife Research Unit, Logan, Utah, January 24, 1958.*

Kiskadee Flycatcher in San Jose, California.—On February 1, 1958, a Kiskadee Flycatcher (*Pitangus sulphuratus*) was observed in a residential area at San Jose, California. According to residents the bird had been in the vicinity for about four months. The only other record of this species for California was that of a female taken in 1926 at Inglewood, Los Angeles County (Wyman, Condor, 29, 1927:23).

The bird was observed for about 20 minutes at close range, and the black and white stripes on the head, yellow crown-patch, sulphur-yellow underparts, rufous wings, and relatively short tail were all evident and clearly established its identity as a Kiskadee Flycatcher. The bird was observed feeding on bread placed out as food for birds by the residents of the area. This may in part explain its survival for at least four months in this locality. Whether it is an escaped caged bird or a natural stray was not determined.—H. THOMAS HARVEY, *San Jose State College, San Jose, California, February 10, 1958.*

Some Prey of the Pygmy Owl.—Two observations of the Pygmy Owl (*Glaucidium gnoma*) securing food have been noted at the Hopland Field Station at Hopland, Mendocino County, California. On December 21, 1957, at 1:30 p.m., a Pygmy Owl carrying a meadow mouse (*Microtus californicus*) was seen flying rapidly about four feet above the ground. The adult mouse, which was recovered, was still warm and had probably been caught under an oak tree whence the owl had flown; it weighed 55.4 grams. The owl, which has been catalogued at the Field Station, was a female weighing 76.1 grams. The stomach of the owl was distended by its contents of a juvenal deer mouse (*Peromyscus maniculatus*) and a Jerusalem cricket.

The second observation was made earlier in the year at 8:00 a.m. when a Pygmy Owl was heard and seen falling to the ground in a struggle with a Nuttall's Woodpecker (*Dendrocopos nuttallii*). On the ground the owl held firm as the woodpecker struggled a few more seconds. After some moments hesitation, the owl flew with its prey to a branch 50 feet away. At this point the sudden approach of another observer caused the owl to drop its prey and take flight.—ELBERT M. BROCK, *University of California Field Station, Hopland, California, February 27, 1958.*

A Range Extension of *Meleagris gallopavo mexicana* into Southwestern New Mexico.—The A.O.U. Check-list of North American Birds, Fifth Edition, 1957, lists *Meleagris gallopavo merriami* as the only race of Turkey occurring in southern New Mexico. A specimen collected in 1957, however, indicates that the range of the race *Meleagris gallopavo mexicana* extends north into Hidalgo County, New Mexico. On May 16, 1957, an adult female Turkey was caught in the Peloncillo Mountains of Hidalgo County, New Mexico. The exact collection site was in Section 7, Township 33, Range 21, at approximately 5000 feet elevation. This location is about 7½ miles north of the Mexican border and 3½ miles east of the Arizona border. The bird was sent to the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology and there identified by A. Starker Leopold as *M. g. mexicana* (MVZ 135247). The Turkey weighed ten pounds. It had a five- to six-inch beard, and the largest ovum measured 11 mm. Only one other verified collection of *M. g. mexicana* has been made in this general area. A female (U. S. Nat. Mus. 126718) was collected on May 31, 1892, by Mearns and Holzner in the San Luis Mountains on the México-New Mexico boundary line (John W. Aldrich, 1957, *in litt.*).