

U.S. Nat. Mus. Bull. 130, 1925:114) includes starfish among various marine organisms which the species is "said to eat."

On March 21, 1959, Holmes, Roger T. Peterson, and others, saw another King Eider, this time on ocean waters at Cypress Point, about five miles from Monterey. Although this bird remained for most of the time rather far from shore, often in the company of a group of Surf Scoters (*Melanitta perspicillata*), it occasionally approached to within 30 yards of the beach. The bird was "a young male . . . just going into adult plumage . . ." and having the "fundamental pattern of white chest and dark back." The short bill, as compared to *Somateria mollissima*, was "fairly orange or deep chrome yellow, but the bird had not yet developed the full frontal shield . . ." (Peterson, in a letter). The forehead profile, however, was abrupt, and not sloping, as in either *S. mollissima* or in the Spectacled Eider (*Lampronetta fischeri*). The bird was seen again in the same area of water on March 22 and 23 and was last seen there by Williams on March 26, 1959.

A King Eider was again seen on June 24 and 25, 1959, in the same section of the harbor of Monterey in which the first eider was watched during February and March, 1958. Its presence was reported first by Hubert Arnold. Like the eider of March, 1959, it was a sub-adult male, possibly the same individual?, with orange-yellow bill and characteristic head profile, but lacking the frontal shield. The neck and sides of the head were white, irregularly mottled and blotched with grayish, but the whitish line, which in adult plumage arches over the eye and extends down the neck, was distinctly outlined. When the bird turned its head upside down during preening, the forward-pointing V-mark on throat and chin showed faintly. Although no attempt was made to test the bird's ability to fly, flightlessness was indicated by the extremely worn condition of the primaries and secondaries, the latter appearing to be mere shafts without barbs.

The status of the King Eider in California, according to Grinnell and Miller (Pac. Coast Avif. No. 27, 1944:88), is that of a "rare straggler in winter from far north," being heretofore known from only "three definitely determined" occurrences in the San Francisco Bay area based on specimens taken between 1879 and 1933.—LAIDLAW WILLIAMS, *Carmel, California*, and RICHARD T. HOLMES, *Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, Berkeley, California, August 25, 1959*.

The Age of the Cave Swallow Colonies in New Mexico.—On July 23, 1930, a field party from the University of Kansas Museum of Natural History collected two Cave Swallows (*Petrochelidon fulva pallida*), at Slaughter Canyon, eight miles southwest of White City, Eddy County, New Mexico. These birds were fairly clearly from a nesting colony; the field notes of Harry C. Parker, one of the Museum party, read: "The boys got back from Slaughter Canyon with a story of a huge hole in the mountain side. . . . They also had two swallows. . . . The swallows live in the big cave, which goes several hundred feet straight down." The two specimens (KU 18028, 18029) were prepared as skins, identified as Cliff Swallows (*Petrochelidon pyrrhonota*), and have remained unreported until now.

Recently Kincaid and Prasil (Condor, 58, 1956:452) published the only heretofore known records of Cave Swallows in New Mexico, based on birds seen and specimens taken in 1952 and subsequent years at a colony in Goat Cave, eight miles southwest of the entrance to Carlsbad Caverns National Park, Eddy County. A reasonable implication of this report by Kincaid and Prasil, although not so stated by them, was that the colonization of southeastern New Mexico by Cave Swallows had taken place recently, perhaps owing to an extension of range paralleling the generally northward extensions of breeding range now known of several kinds of vertebrates of México and the American southwest. Such implication should be avoided in view of the specimens dating from 1930, 22 years antecedent to the erstwhile first records of occurrence in New Mexico. It is wholly possible that the age of the Cave Swallow colonies in New Mexico is only 29 years, but it is much more likely that the colonies have been established for a longer period of time, during which collectors did not look for southern "exotics" as far north as New Mexico.—RICHARD F. JOHNSTON, *Museum of Natural History, University of Kansas, Lawrence, Kansas, September 25, 1959*.

The Rock Sandpiper, Another Northern Bird Recorded from the Cool Coast of Northwestern Baja California.—For several years I have been convinced that the Rock Sandpiper (*Erolia ptilocnemis*) migrates southward as far as the discordantly cool northwestern coast of Baja California, México, but inasmuch as the species had been reported as ranging no farther south than

northern California, I withheld any printed statement to that effect. Publication of the range extension is now prompted by the demonstration of the occurrence of this northern species in southern California (Small, Condor, 61, 1959:225).

On intertidal rocks in northwestern Baja California I have seen at close range, on at least three occasions, one or two sandpipers that seemed definitely referable to this northern species. They were medium-sized, rather chunky, and in flight exhibited conspicuous white wing bands but no white tail base. They were larger than Spotted Sandpipers and did not tip as that species does. Following are the more definite sight records, extracted from the notes made on our monthly surveys of coastal temperatures: (1) One bird at Papalote, a generally deserted fishing camp on the very cold southwestern shore of Punta Banda, at latitude $31^{\circ} 43.4' N$, on April 27, 1952. (2) One bird between Punta Cabras and the point charted as Punta San Isidro but known to local residents as Punta Piedras Blancas, at latitude $31^{\circ} 19.0' N$, on April 28, 1952. (3) Two birds at Santo Tomás Anchorage, at latitude $31^{\circ} 33.3' N$, on August 8, 1952.

Each of these three localities is in an area wherein strong upwelling markedly reduces the inshore sea-surface temperature and renders the atmosphere along the rockbound shore cool and moist. Furthermore, during the winter of 1951-52, and in several preceding years, the coastal water temperatures fell below normal.

The Rock Sandpiper has not been reported from Baja California or elsewhere in México. The discovery of this northern species there closely parallels the recent southward extension of the known range of the Common (American, or Black) Scoter, *Oidema nigra* (Hubbs, Condor, 57, 1955:121-122, and 58, 1956:448-449). The far-southward occurrence of that species is further elucidated by the following additional observations, listed from south to north: three drakes, with one male Surf Scoter, in surf at tip of Punta Baja, at latitude $29^{\circ} 56.9' N$, on April 29, 1959; six resting and three diving, in surf, at mouth of Rosario Cañon (latitude $30^{\circ} 09.8' N$), on May 27, 1957; eleven, mostly drakes, in three groups, well outside surf, between Socorro and Rosario, at approximate latitude $30^{\circ} 12.2' N$, on May 27, 1957; three drakes in surf at same locality, on April 30, 1958; six, in surf at same place, on April 29, 1959; at least one, a drake, in surf, with Surf Scoters, at Punta San Isidro (= Punta Piedras Blancas), at latitude $31^{\circ} 17.7' N$, on April 30, 1958; five females and one drake, in surf, between Punta Cabras and Punta San Isidro, at latitude $31^{\circ} 19.0' N$, where one of the Rock Sandpipers was seen earlier; three drakes seen by me on the 1957 Christmas Census, on December 29, as they flew into San Diego Bay, California, low over the entrance, in early morning, on the flight course of multitudes of Surf Scoters; one drake, seen on surface of San Diego Bay entrance, at bow of ship, on June 20, 1959. The records for Baja California extend the known range of the Common Scoter southward about 65 miles and show that the species migrates as far as Baja California even in the unusually warm years of 1957, 1958, and 1959. The record of June 20 for San Diego strengthens the view that some scoters of this species summer over in the far southern reaches of its wintering range.

It now seems plausible to assume that any northern littoral bird that even rather rarely moves southward as far as the San Diego region will eventually be found in northwestern Baja California, where the coastwise temperatures, by reason of the greater upwelling of ocean water, are cooler than in southern California. I am finding this to be true of the marine fishes, generally.

In fact, nearly all northern coastal birds that are known to reach the San Diego region have now been taken or seen in Baja California. Two notable exceptions are the Oldsquaw (*Clangula hiemalis*) and the Mew Gull (*Larus canus*). Recent records of the Oldsquaw in southern California have been published by Morley and Sams (Condor, 60, 1958:337) and by Small (Condor, 61, 1959:302-303). It seems safe to predict that these species will be reported from south of the border.

Three other northern littoral birds have been reported from San Diego but not from México, but since these four have been recorded very rarely from about San Diego (Sams and Stott, Occas. Pap. San Diego Soc. Nat. Hist., No. 10, 1959:1-49) it seems unlikely that they will soon be seen by the few bird watchers in Baja California. These species are the Red-necked Grebe (*Podiceps grisegena*), recently reported from San Diego County by Stott (Condor, 61, 1959:299-300), Sharp-tailed Sandpiper (*Erolia acuminata*), and Common Murre (*Uria aalge*). The two other northern littoral birds that are included in the San Diego list, namely the Parakeet Auklet (*Cyclorhynchus psittacula*) and the Horned Puffin (*Fratrercula corniculata*), were found dead and may have drifted southward after death.—CARL L. HUBBS, *University of California, La Jolla, California, June 27, 1959.*