

in east-central Alaska; that is, at Ft. Yukon Flats, Minto Lakes, and Tetlin. In recent years they have become quite abundant in this restricted range and have spread over a much larger area than formerly. In 1959 Canvasbacks were seen frequently from the lower Kuskokwim River up the Bering Sea coast north to Kotzebue Sound and all across interior Alaska to the Canadian border. Of nine nests under observation on the Copper River Delta, seven hatched with an average brood size of 5.8 young. Canvasbacks were more abundant in the Tetlin area than in any previous year. Two flocks of more than 1500 each were observed there on Butterfly and Old Albert lakes, from which 309 were banded. These were largely flightless adult males, but in addition 32 broods were tabulated. These observations of recent years indicate that the Canvasback is a common summer resident in much of Alaska and is abundant in some areas.

Oxyura jamaicensis. Ruddy Duck. The only previous record for the Ruddy Duck in Alaska was on August 15, 1916, at Totem Bay near Petersburg when two were seen and a male was collected (Gabrielson and Lincoln, *op. cit.*:239).

On June 1, 1957, Dan Rose took a Kodachrome picture of a pair of Ruddies near the airstrip at Northway, Alaska, about 25 miles east of Tetlin. On several occasions in the summer of 1959 a few Ruddy Ducks were observed near Tetlin. On August 19 an adult female was taken in the banding trap and saved for a study skin. On August 25 in a different lake system a female and brood of five downy young were observed. One of the young, a male, was collected the following day and subsequently sent to the United States National Museum with the adult female collected earlier. This constitutes the farthest northwest record for the Ruddy and the first breeding record for Alaska.

A drought in the north-central United States and the prairie provinces of Canada became very acute in 1959. As shown by the aerial breeding population surveys, species of waterfowl that are primarily prairie nesting were much more abundant generally in Alaska and the Northwest Territories than in the previous ten years. The present drought, however, is the most severe and extensive of any experienced since aerial surveys have been made in the far north. It is reasonable to assume, then, that the occurrence of these species in Alaska in 1959 is not necessarily unique. Undoubtedly in former droughts of equal or greater severity the range of several species was extended this far but nobody was on hand to record the phenomenon. Or perhaps some of the early, doubted records were made during years of climatic conditions in the south paralleling those of 1959 and absence in the interval between has led to discrediting of the earlier observations.

The most significant and intriguing feature of this "extension of range" is the fact that the stable Arctic and sub-Arctic regions may be an effective reservoir for displaced waterfowl during adverse times in their normal range.—HENRY A. HANSEN, *Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife, Juneau, Alaska, October 30, 1959.*

Behavioral and Ecologic Notes on the Brown-headed Cowbird.—On August 14, 1958, on the campus of the University of California, Berkeley, California, I watched for one-half hour an adult female Oregon Junco (*Junco oreganus*) repeatedly feed an almost fully-grown, juvenal-plumaged Brown-headed Cowbird (*Molothrus ater*). The young cowbird persistently postured in food-begging display: wings raised and fluttering, bill agape, with a continual *zweet!* note given at a rate of six or seven each five seconds. It is likely this young cowbird was one actually reared by the junco, not merely one that had "adopted" the junco after having been fledged; the support for this inference lies in the length of time the bond persisted between the two birds, in spite of some insistent disturbance of the birds on my part. Friedmann (*The Cowbirds*, 1929:279) remarked that the bond between a fledged juvenile cowbird and a temporarily adopted foster parent is exceedingly loose.

This particular juvenile was of interest in that it uttered notes of alarm or anxiety, a phenomenon unknown to Friedmann (1929:273) but apparently of some frequency in cowbirds in Texas (Robert K. Selander, personal communication). Whenever I approached the birds, which were mostly active on the ground, they flushed into nearby small trees; the cowbird always flushed first and gave sharp, clear alarm notes of high frequency: *pip-pip-pip*. The notes had the quality and phrasing of many emberizine alarm notes and were unlike any notes from cowbirds I have otherwise heard or found described. This is not to imply the cowbird mimicked the notes of the junco, for the alarm notes of the attendant junco were of higher frequency and of different phrasing, as: *titiit, titiit*.

In passing it may be noted that the Oregon Juncos of west-central California (*J. o. pinosus*) seem not heretofore to have been recorded as hosts of Brown-headed Cowbirds (Friedmann, 1929; Auk, 48,

1931:52-56; Condor, 35, 1933:189-191; Wilson Bull., 46, 1934:25-36; Auk, 60, 1943:350-356; Auk, 66, 1949:154-163).

Friedmann (1943:356) listed Song Sparrows of the race *Melospiza melodia samuelis* as hosts of this cowbird; this was based on a record at Soap Lake, Gilroy, Santa Clara County, California. The nomenclature is in accord with that of the fourth edition of the A.O.U. Check-list of North American Birds (1931), and thus refers to Song Sparrows now called *M. m. gouldii* in the fifth edition of the Check-list (1957). Additionally, Friedmann had earlier (1934:114) listed *M. m. santaecrucis* as a host, on a record made at Irvington, Alameda County, California; the nomenclature here is apparently that of Grinnell (Pac. Coast Avif., 18, 1927:119), and it also refers to Song Sparrows today called *M. m. gouldii*.

This confusion in nomenclature is of no significance in itself, but it renders obscure the relationship of cowbirds to hosts within a vegetation type to which Brown-headed Cowbirds are seemingly little attracted, that of the Pacific coastal salt-water marshes. Two instances of parasitism by cowbirds validly pertaining to *M. m. samuelis* as the host in a true salt marsh have already been published (Johnston, Condor, 58, 1956:29) but the significance of these records was not appreciated at the time. These two instances are the second and third known layings of cowbirds within the vegetation of salt marshes (see Friedmann, 1949:16). On San Francisco Bay marshes Song Sparrows place their nests within clumps of pickleweed (*Salicornia ambigua*), cordgrass (*Spartina foliosa*), or gumplant (*Grindelia cuneifolia*). The nests of the Song Sparrows parasitized by Brown-headed Cowbirds were placed in gumplant shrubs, that is, in that vegetation most closely resembling the life form of some plants found within "normal" habitats of cowbirds. One egg of a cowbird was in each nest, the first of which was found on May 12, 1955, ten inches above ground level, containing two eggs of the host; the second nest was found on June 6, 1955, nine inches high, and contained three eggs of the host. The first clutch was deserted and the second, judged later from the beaten and plate-like appearance of the nest, hatched and fledged at least the cowbird.—RICHARD F. JOHNSTON, *Museum of Natural History, University of Kansas, Lawrence, October 2, 1959.*

Occurrence of the Osprey in Uruguay.—Recently on two occasions I have observed the Osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*) in Uruguay, thus extending the known range of this hawk south to this country and to latitude 35° south on the Atlantic Coast of South America. Heretofore migratory Ospreys have been recorded south to latitude 42° in Chile, to Tucumán in Argentina, to Lambaré in Paraguay, and to Torres at 29° in Brazil (Hellmayr and Conover (Cat. Birds Amer., pt. 1, no. 4, 1949:234-236).

On February 11, 1959, my wife and I were camping at Playa Penino, 30 kilometers west of Montevideo on the Río de la Plata. At this locality the salinity is low and fish are plentiful. Here an Osprey arose among a group of aquatic birds and was observed carefully for several minutes. On February 22 at the same place, an Osprey was again seen and watched as it caught a fish. The bird was in sight for an hour.—RODOLFO ESCALANTE, *Montevideo, Uruguay, October 22, 1959.*

Another Record of the Baikal Teal in Northwestern Alaska.—A pair of Baikal Teal (*Anas formosa*) was observed on May 28, 1959, at Cape Sabine, Alaska. The birds were flushed from a small tributary of the Pitmegea River at a point two miles from the Arctic Ocean. They flew across the river and landed on a gravel bar fifty yards away where they preened for several minutes before flying up the river. Conditions for observation were very good; it was a clear evening and the sun was at my back. I did not recognize the birds in the field, but instead made a detailed sketch of the male, which was later readily identifiable. The male was in breeding plumage. The markings of the male are so bizarre that there is no likelihood of misidentification. I was in the field at this locality from May 20 to 29, and from June 12 through August 11. The teal were not seen again.

This species was first recorded in North America by A. M. Bailey who collected a male on September 21, 1921, at Wainwright, Alaska (Condor, 26, 1924:195). Five records have been published subsequently. Two males were taken on King Island on May 23 and 25, 1931 (Bailey, Auk, 50, 1933:97). Collins collected a pair in breeding plumage on St. Lawrence Island on July 23, 1937 (Gabrielson, Auk, 58, 1941:400). A second pair in breeding plumage was taken at Wales on June 8, 1942, and a male was collected, also at Wales, on June 22, 1944 (Bailey, Colorado Mus. Nat. Hist., Popular Series,