

eggs in this nest had hatched but no birds were seen. There was no rat in this nest; it apparently had been eaten by a rattlesnake which was present in the nest at the time of inspection. This nest also contained *Triatoma rubida rubida* and *Triatoma peninsularis*.

The authors are reporting this biological association in the hope that it may be of some future value to ornithologists studying the ecology of quail. Funds for this expedition were made available from The Associates in Tropical Biogeography of the University of California at Berkeley and the College of Medical Evangelists of Loma Linda.—RAYMOND E. RYCKMAN and JOSEPH V. RYCKMAN, *Department of Microbiology, College of Medical Evangelists, Loma Linda, California, May 26, 1960.*

Baikal Teal in British Columbia.—On December 20, 1957, an immature male Baikal Teal (*Anas formosa*) was taken by the writer at Ladner, British Columbia. Contrasted with the specimen of a drake shot in May in central Siberia, the specimen has no white on the elongated scapulars but these are margined on the outer vane with rusty red and on the inner vane with pale tan-khaki. The patterns on the head are the same, except that on the specimen from Ladner the feathers of the four light patches are margined with gray. The black stripes on the side of the posterior neck, and, to a lesser extent, the mid-face stripes, have light tan-whitish feather margins; the black feathers of the front and crown are margined with a rusty color.

A Baikal Teal has been recorded from California (A.O.U. Check-list, 5th ed., 1957:76), but doubt exists as to whether the bird was wild or an escaped captive. The record of a wild bird in British Columbia tends to weaken somewhat the supposition that the California specimen was a captive.

The specimen from British Columbia is now the property of the Department of Zoology, University of British Columbia.—J. HATTER, *Fish and Game Branch, Department of Recreation and Conservation, Vancouver, British Columbia, February 1, 1960.*

Records of the Bar-tailed Godwit and Tufted Duck on Midway Atoll.—Through the courtesy of the United States Navy and financial aid provided by the American Philosophical Society, and the Bureau of Aeronautics, United States Navy, the author spent 14 days on Midway Atoll in the Pacific Ocean in December of 1959. The primary purpose of the trip was to obtain avian specimens for morphological and parasitological studies. However, a few study skins were prepared, and among these are two worthy of recording.

One female Bar-tailed Godwit, *Limosa lapponica baueri*, was taken on Sand Island on December 12, 1959. Although this species is known to migrate over water southward from the Aleutian Islands, there seems to be no specimen from Midway; the nearest locality of record, supported by a skin, is Laysan Island.

On December 5, 1959, a very emaciated, male Tufted Duck, *Aythya fuligula*, landed in a shallow puddle on a macadam road on Sand Island of the Midway group. The nearest known occurrence to the north is Wilson's sight record (Condor, 50, 1948:126) on Attu Island, some 1900 miles away. The nearest known occurrence to the west is in the Marianas Islands.

Both skins are in the collection of Southern Illinois University.

I am grateful to Dr. A. L. Rand of the Chicago Natural History Museum for identifying these two specimens, representatives of which I had never seen.

On each of my trips to Midway (1945, 1946, and 1959) there have been repeated reports of "owls and cormorants," made by naval personnel. In March, 1959, Mr. John W. Atwell (U.S. Navy) sent me a colored slide of two owls, taken as the birds left the perch. They were not identifiable except as owls. In December, 1959, a jaeger (*Stercorarius*) was observed repeatedly, but it could not be obtained. It would seem worthwhile for persons visiting the atoll to make an attempt to take specimens.—HARVEY I. FISHER, *Southern Illinois University, Carbondale, Illinois, May 16, 1960.*

An Instance of Piracy by the Red-tailed Hawk on the Peregrine Falcon.—On December 17, 1959, I went out just at dawn to feed my flock of pigeons. As I walked past the building in which they are kept the entire flock flushed at high speed from the roof where they had been perched. As they passed overhead, there was a sharp, hissing rush followed by a snapping crack, as though a dry stick had been broken. I looked up to see an adult male Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus*)

pulling out of a stoop and one of the pigeons flying in a little circle about eighteen inches across and almost hovering. The falcon curved back, but the pigeon managed to elude it, yet continued to fly in a very small circle. On the next pass the falcon, slowing almost to stalling speed, reached out its feet and grabbed the pigeon from the air, flying with it across a wide flat toward a timbered ridge about a quarter of a mile away.

I hurried toward the house to get the binoculars but had not gone inside when the flock of pigeons again flew past full speed toward the loft, hotly pursued by another mature Peregrine Falcon, this time a large female. The pigeons made the shelter of the loft and this falcon, too, flew across the flats toward the timber on the ridge.

Upon checking with binoculars, the falcon with the pigeon was found sitting on the side limb of a tall dead cedar snag. The pigeon, gripped by the neck, hung down below the limb, apparently dead. The larger falcon flew about the perched bird, made a couple of half-hearted passes at it, and then flew along the ridge a little way and perched in another tree.

Suddenly into the field of the binoculars came a Red-tailed Hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis*), wing-tips back, travelling at very high speed. The falcon with the pigeon screamed and took off, still carrying the pigeon, and dropped steeply down the ridge toward the flats in the opposite direction to the incoming hawk. The Red-tail did a beautiful twisting turn with scarcely any loss of speed and curved down and under the flying falcon. What happened then is none too clear; my impression was that the hawk turned upside down as it went under the falcon. In any event the pigeon was hurled from the feet of the falcon for a distance of some thirty feet and was immediately followed down by the Red-tail, which at once began to deplume the pigeon. It was set upon by both falcons which spent some five minutes screaming and diving at it, but it paid them scant attention and retained the pigeon.

This piracy may be more pronounced in the Puget Sound region than elsewhere. Wintering buteonid hawks in this area must feed primarily on birds, as there is no sizeable rodent population of any kind here.—FRANK L. BEEBE, *Provincial Museum, Victoria, B.C., Canada, April 21, 1960.*

Additional Distribution Records of Some Birds in Interior Alaska.—A number of observations on the distribution of birds in interior Alaska have come to my attention in the past few years and are recorded herewith.

Aythya americana. Redhead. On May 27, 1960, I saw a full-plumaged male Redhead at Smith Lake, near College. This locality is about 200 miles northwest of the Tetlin area where Hansen reported a breeding population in the summer of 1959 (Condor, 62, 1960:136-137).

Aythya collaris. Ring-necked Duck. Since the first specimen of the Ring-necked Duck in interior Alaska was taken on August 7, 1953 (Kessel, Condor, 57, 1955:372), several additional sight records have been made in the College area. Several of us watched a male at Smith Lake on May 19, 1957; Robert W. Kelly photographed a pair at Smith Lake on May 18, 1958; Earl L. Schene reported another pair from Goldstream Valley about 5 miles west of Ester on May 18, 1958; and a pair and a single male frequented Smith Lake between May 21 and May 27, 1960. Heinrich K. Springer watched a single bird, apparently an immature male, swimming in a small, ice-surrounded pool on October 9, 1960, about 3 miles east of Fairbanks.

Charadrius vociferus. Killdeer. These plovers appear to be only stragglers in Alaska; Gabrielson and Lincoln (Birds of Alaska, 1959) cite only four localities north of the Alaska Peninsula where they have been seen: Kuskokwin River, Mountain Village on the lower Yukon River, Tolugak Lake in the Brooks Range, and Point Barrow. Adding to these localities, I saw two of these birds on the fields of Creamer's Dairy Farm, between College and Fairbanks, on May 12, 1953; none has been seen in the vicinity in succeeding years.

Aphriza virgata. Surf-bird. Until now the only definitely known breeding localities for the surf-bird have been in McKinley National Park (Dixon, Condor, 29, 1927:3-16) and in the Forty-mile River area of eastern Alaska (lat. 64° 15' N, long. 143° W; Murie, Auk, 41, 1924:231-237). On June 25, 1952, however, I came upon an adult male Surf-bird with a downy chick at the top of a small, dome-shaped rise on Eagle Summit (lat. 65° 30' N, long. 145° 30' W) near the Steese Highway. The top of the dome is about 4000 feet in elevation and is largely bare, supporting a sparse, alpine *Dryas*-fellfield association. As I reached the top of the dome, the adult flew toward me and gave a broken-wing distraction display. I prostrated myself and after watching for about five minutes