

some adult males) of *minor* can be distinguished if a blackish outer border to the white wing band is definitely observed. Individuals showing neither character may be males of either species.—EUGENE EISENMANN, *American Museum of Natural History, New York, New York, July 6, 1962.*

A Ross Goose in New Mexico.—On December 30, 1956, an immature female Ross Goose (*Chen rossii*) was shot by a hunter just north of the La Joya Game Refuge, in the Rio Grande Valley, Socorro County, New Mexico. The La Joya Refuge is located approximately 15 miles north and 1 mile east of the town of Socorro. This specimen (no. 500) is preserved in the Museum of Southwestern Biology of the University of New Mexico and in so far as I know represents the first record of the species for the state. Richard H. Manville has examined the specimen and has confirmed its identification. The Ross Goose is listed as casual in Arizona (Camp Verde and Topock), Colorado, and México (Laguna Bustillos, Chihuahua) in the American Ornithologists' Union Check-list (5th ed., 1957:68) and is termed "a casual visitor" to Texas where there are records from Wharton, Jefferson, and Colorado counties (Wolfe, Check-list Birds Texas, 1956:14).—DAVID M. NILES, *The Museum of Southwestern Biology, University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, New Mexico, August 3, 1962.*

Unusual Occurrence of the Dipper in Washington.—The distribution of the Dipper (*Cinclus mexicanus*) in North America has been described in some detail by this writer (Auk, 76, 1959:191–192). Its altitudinal range varies from near sea level in Alaska (Bailey, Birds of New Mexico, 1928:531–535) where ocean tides apparently keep the streams open during winter, to 12,000 feet in elevation on the North Fork of the San Joaquin River in California (Michael, Condor, 28, 1926:45). It is not uncommon to discover this species at high lakes during summer and in streams of lower valleys during winter.

On December 26, 1960, Frank Richardson, Jared Verner, and I saw a mature Dipper near the University of Washington campus boathouse at Seattle. The bird displayed its characteristic dipping habit as it stood perched near the end of a piling, and it appeared to be healthy. The surrounding region is more or less marshy and penetrated by wide strips of freshwater through which one may canoe. Dippers are common on rushing streams near Seattle but it is unusual to see them in an extensive urban environment. The fall and early winter weather at Seattle and vicinity in 1960 was nearly normal and it cannot account for the presence of the bird at such low altitude.

The water near the campus boathouse is continuous with Lake Washington. The major water resources for Lake Washington are the Sammamish River which empties into the extreme north end of the lake near Kenmore and the Cedar River with its mouth at the extreme south end, in Renton. These rivers are located about 12 and 18 shoreline miles, respectively, from the campus boathouse. Coal Creek and May Creek discharge into the southeast region of Lake Washington but contribute a comparatively small volume of water. It is likely that the Dipper strayed a considerable distance from its normal range, most probably from either the Sammamish River or the Cedar River. In either case the bird probably would have traversed shorelines consisting of brush, coniferous forest, marsh, and residential property, since movement of Dippers about lakes takes place along shores. Marsh and residential property are atypical habitats for the Dipper. A maximum seasonal movement of about 8 miles was noted in western Montana (Bakus, Condor, 61, 1959:418) in normal habitat.—GERALD J. BAKUS, *Department of Biology, San Fernando Valley State College, Northridge, California, June 13, 1962.* Present address: *Allan Hancock Foundation, University of Southern California, Los Angeles, California.*

The Occurrence of the Ruff in California.—On March 30, 1962, while I was looking at shore birds feeding in some grassy pools near the mouth of the San Diego River in San Diego, California, I saw a Ruff (*Philomachus pugnax*) feeding with a flock of dowitchers. The Ruff was easily distinguished from the accompanying dowitchers by the fact that its bill was shorter, the back was "scaly" due to the pale margins of the feathers, and a large white oval spot showed in flight on either side of the tail. The Ruff fed continually during the 30 minutes that it was under observation and drove off any dowitchers that came close by flying at them in an aggressive manner.

After 30 minutes I collected the Ruff and gave it to Mr. L. Huey of the San Diego Natural His-

tory Museum, who prepared it as a specimen. The bird proved to be an adult female in winter plumage and is now specimen no. 30290 in the San Diego Natural History Museum.

This appears to be the first time that the Ruff has been collected in the western United States outside of Alaska, where it has occurred accidentally on St. Paul and St. Lawrence islands. There are three other records of the Ruff in California. Marie Mans studied one with Pectoral Sandpipers (*Erolia melanotos*) and Knots (*Calidris canutus*) at Bodega Bay, Sonoma County, on September 9, 1961. I found a Ruff at Solano Beach, San Diego County, on September 21, 1962. The bird was feeding in grassy fresh-water pools at a sewage plant along with dowitchers (*Limnodromus*), Lesser Yellowlegs (*Totanus flavipes*), Greater Yellowlegs (*Totanus melanoleucus*), a Baird Sandpiper (*Erolia bairdii*), a Solitary Sandpiper (*Tringa solitaria*), a Stilt Sandpiper (*Micropalama himantopus*), and four Pectoral Sandpipers. I and six others, including Arnold Small, saw this bird again on September 23. On December 19, 1962, Edwin Willis, Paul DeBenedictis, and I found a Ruff on the Lower Klamath National Wildlife Refuge, Siskiyou County. The bird was feeding on the mud around one of the fresh-water pools with a flock of shorebirds including five dowitchers, ten Least Sandpipers (*Erolia minutilla*), and three Dunlin (*Erolia alpina*).

The Ruff may be a rare but regular visitor here on the Pacific coast, as it is on the Atlantic coast. It apparently feeds around small fresh-water pools rather than on open salt-water mud flats. If large shorebirds around these pools are checked carefully more Ruffs may be found in California and other western states.—R. G. McCASKIE, *Tahoe City, California, April 23, 1962.*

Cooper Hawk Attacks Pigeon by Stooping.—On December 27, two miles north of Richvale, California, at approximately 3:30 p.m., a Cooper Hawk (*Accipiter cooperii*) was observed hunting about forty feet above the open fields. Flying north, it struck a domestic pigeon (*Columba livia*) flying southwest. Bodily contact was apparent, for the pigeon lost feathers, but the prey was not held. After it was first struck, the pigeon continued along its same line of travel but in a somewhat unsteady flight and at approximately the same speed. The hawk turned to the left and with seemingly little effort overtook the pigeon and struck again, but still did not retain it in its talons. Upon being attacked for the second time, the pigeon dropped to the ground. The hawk then returned to its victim. While attempting to gain a better vantage point, I missed seeing the hawk recover its prey and leave the scene of the kill.

The two areas over which the hawk had struck the pigeon were examined as well as the spot at which the pigeon dropped. Several back and rump feathers were present at the first position and large quantities of blood and feathers were found at the others.

This particular hunt strikingly differs from other recorded kills by accipiters (see Rudebeck, *Oikos*, 2, 1950:65–89, and Meinertzhagen, *Pirates and Predators*, 1959). The general pattern is for the hawk to sit quietly in a tree and in a sudden dash to surprise and overtake the prey and immediately kill it by grasping while on the ground. But there are occasional instances of repeated stoops having been recorded for other accipiters. Dixon (*The Field*, 1954:795) stated that wild goshawks on the prairies of Manitoba and Saskatchewan sometimes attacked in a manner characteristic of falcons. In this relatively open country, goshawks were seen to hunt by circling about two hundred feet above the ground and then diving on jack rabbits. They repeatedly struck rabbits at the back of the neck and always made at least one such dive before grasping the prey. R. B. Treleaven (*The Falconer*, 3, 1957:129–130) witnessed a wild European Sparrowhawk (*Accipiter nisus*) kill a lark in much the same manner as a Peregrine strikes its prey by diving from a great height and forcing the lark very low to the ground.—RODENY A. MEAD, *Department of Zoology, University of California, Davis, May 3, 1962.*

Sight Records of Willets in Alaska.—On August 8, 1961, Glen A. Sherwood and I observed two Willets (*Catoptrophorus semipalmatus*) in the Minto Lakes area, approximately 50 miles west of Fairbanks. The two birds, flying together, passed us at very close range. The following day, accompanied by Peter E. K. Shepherd, we saw a single bird, also in flight at close range, in the same area. These are apparently the first records for this species in Alaska since the report by Hartlaub (*Jour. für Ornith.*, 31:257–286) in 1883 on the basis of which it was included on the hypothetical list by Gabrielson and Lincoln (*Birds of Alaska*, 1959:828).—WILLET T. VAN VELZEN, *Otsego, Michigan, April 2, 1962.*