

August and 25 August 1967, respectively. On 4 July 1968 an active nest was discovered at Brooks River campground by Mr. and Mrs. J. Hand, visitors to the Monument. The following day I watched the female feeding young in the nest, 12 ft up in a 14-inch birch stub. One week later the nest was vacant, but at least one male was seen at irregular intervals in the Brooks River vicinity throughout July and August 1968: on 30 July, 3 August, 7 August, and 18 August.

Olive-sided Flycatcher. *Nuttallornis borealis*. The only previous record of the Olive-sided Flycatcher on the Alaska Peninsula is by Cahalane (1959), who saw two at Brooks Lake, Katmai NM, 9 September 1953. On 18 August 1968 I watched a single bird flycatching from spruce tops 5 mi. E of Brooks River.

Northwestern Crow. *Corvus caurinus*. Although crows are regarded as numerous in the Kodiak-Afognak area by both Murie (1959) and Gabrielson and Lincoln (1959), the only previous record of the species on the peninsula is that of Gabrielson and Lincoln (*op. cit.*), at Kukak Bay in 1926. On 2 May 1967 I saw a flock of seven at close range along the beach at Katmai Bay. At Kukak Bay I observed at least 12 in a scattered flock, and three feeding on the beach, on 2 and 3 July 1967, respectively. The species is probably regular, as at least a visitor, to the Pacific coast of the base of the peninsula.

Red-breasted Nuthatch. *Sitta canadensis*. One of two Red-breasted Nuthatches was observed and heard calling in mixed spruce-birch woodland on the peninsula that juts west into the Bay of Islands (58°38'N, 155°25'W), Naknek Lake, on 27 August 1968. This first peninsular record of the species is the westernmost for Alaska.

Brown Creeper. *Certhia familiaris*. The only published record of the Brown Creeper from the Alaska Peninsula is by Cahalane (1959), one at Brooks River on 18 August 1954. Four additional records, all from the immediate vicinity of Brooks River, are as follows: for 1966, one on 22 June; for 1967, one on 3 August, one on 8 August (D. Love, a visitor to the Monument); and one on 12 August 1968.

Swainson's Thrush. *Hylocichla ustulata*. Williamson and Peyton (1962) found Swainson's Thrush abundant in the Iliamna Lake area. There are two other records southwest of there, at Naknek and King Cove (Gabrielson and Lincoln 1959). It is a common summer resident in the spruce forest of Katmai NM, however, although less so than the abundant Hermit

(*H. guttata*) and Gray-cheeked (*H. minima*) Thrushes. I recorded the species throughout three summers, and food-carrying adults were encountered on several occasions. The earliest arrival date was 22 May 1968 at Brooks River, and the species can be seen through at least the third week of August at the same locality.

Red Crossbill. *Loxia curvirostra*. Three specimens from Kodiak and one from as far west as Unalaska (Gabrielson and Lincoln 1959) are the only previous records of Red Crossbills for southwestern Alaska. In Katmai NM at the peak of the white spruce (*Picea glauca*) cone crop in 1967 the first small group of 12 was recorded on 7 July, 5 mi. E of Brooks River. From then through at least 6 September 1967 this species, as well as White-winged Crossbills (*L. leucoptera*), was numerous, scattered throughout the spruce forest from Brooks River to an area 10 mi. E of there. On 5 August 1967 I hiked seven miles through the area in which both species were concentrated. I counted 122 *curvirostra* in flocks of 15-30 and 59 *leucoptera*, mostly singles or groups of less than a dozen. Neither species was seen during 1966 or in June 1967, and no Red Crossbills were seen during the 1968 season. A few pairs of White-winged Crossbills were present throughout the latter summer.

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SPECIMEN RECORDS FOR SOUTH DAKOTA BIRDS

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The following records, accumulated during the past two years, represent species which have been unrecorded or are considered rare in South Dakota. All specimens were deposited at the University of South Dakota Museum, Vermillion.

Buff-breasted Sandpiper. *Tryngites subruficollis*. Eight birds were found in a plowed field 6 mi. S of Howard, Miner County, 18 May 1967, and a male was collected. I have observed this species in South Dakota on only one other occasion, 16 May 1946, near Wilmot, Roberts County, in the northeast corner of the state. In the Great Plains states, Buff-breasted Sandpipers are reported regularly in numbers only at Norman, Oklahoma (Oring and Davis 1966); far

to the northwest they occur regularly in the vicinity of Edmonton, Alberta (Bent 1929:77). It would be very interesting to know what route is taken between these two points. Possibly the main flight is non-stop from Oklahoma to Alberta, which would account for the paucity of reports between these two points. The bird I took in Miner County was extremely fat, so heavy that I marveled at its making the long flight from its wintering ground in South America and still maintaining such a reserve of fat.

Varied Thrush. *Ixoreus naevius*. An immature male was taken from a flock of about 35 Robins (*Turdus migratorius*), at Twin Lakes, Sanborn County, 29 November 1966. This is the first specimen record for the state; prior to this there have been two sight records for the Black Hills in the vicinity of Rapid City (Pettingill and Whitney 1965:80). The Varied Thrush has been observed in several states east of South Dakota during recent years. There was evidently a minor invasion of this species into our region

during the winter of 1966-67, when at least four sight records were reported in Minnesota (Andrews 1967:396).

Sprague's Pipit. *Anthus spragueii*. I first observed this species on the Missouri River hills just north and west of Chamberlain, Lyman County, during the period 17-19 September 1966. Pipits were seen each of the three days, usually as single birds, but on one occasion two were observed. In 1967 I located Sprague's Pipits 15 mi. SW of Fort Pierre, Stanley County, an area 70 mi. NW of Chamberlain. At least six birds were found in three localities; three birds were found in one area, but usually only one or two birds were flushed. Pipits were observed daily during the period 30 September-2 October. A specimen was taken on the latter date. On 2 May 1968 I observed two Sprague's Pipits 10 mi. N of Woonsocket, Sanborn County, and on 4 May a single bird was located in Tripp County, 11 mi. NW of Ideal. During the last 10 days of September 1968 I observed this species during each of four days in the field in Lyman County when birds were seen near Fort Pierre, Reliance, and Kennebec. Pipits were heard or seen at four different localities near these towns, but it was unusual to flush more than two birds at any one spot. They invariably flew up from medium to heavy grassland. Water Pipits (*Anthus spinoletta*) were also observed during this period, but they were found in flocks feeding in harvested cropland, never in heavy native grassland. I became quite familiar with this species on its wintering ground in southeastern New Mexico (Harris 1964), and have had little trouble identifying the birds in the field, relying on call, flight pattern, and habitat to

separate this pipit from associated species, usually Horned Larks (*Eremophila alpestris*) and Chestnut-collared Longspurs (*Calcarius ornatus*).

House Finch. *Carpodacus mexicanus*. A female was taken 30 December 1966 at Mitchell, Davison County, while I was conducting an Audubon Christmas Census. This is the first observation and specimen for the state, although the bird might be expected to occur in the southwest corner of South Dakota. According to the A.O.U. Check-list (1957:560-561) the House Finch is resident in the Nebraska panhandle and in southeastern Wyoming.

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AN INSTANCE OF A CAPTIVE TURKEY VULTURE KILLING PREY

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Actual observations of a Turkey Vulture (*Cathartes aura*) killing live animals for food have not been reported in recent literature, hence are rare enough to be noteworthy. Pearson (Bird Lore 21:319, 1919) and Scott (Auk 9:120, 1892) report anecdotal instances of live feeding. We were on a visit to the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum near Tucson when the following observations were made in the walk-through bird exhibit about 14:00 on 11 September 1968.

We had just entered the first pen containing Gambel's Quail (*Lophortyx gambelii*) Roadrunners (*Geococcyx californianus*), Turkey Vultures, and Curve-billed Thrashers (*Toxostoma curvirostre*) when we were aware of a combat between two thrashers. This fight ended with one of these birds lying exhausted at the edge of the water pool just 4-5 ft from the observation walk, and the victor left the scene. At this time we sat down more or less to await developments.

In a very short time an adult Turkey Vulture approached the beaten thrasher and eyed it. The thrasher summoned its strength and made for protec-



FIGURE 1. At this point the vulture has taken the thrasher from the cholla the second time. Note thrasher's attempt to escape. Photo by C. H. G. 105 mm lens @ 1/60 sec.

tion at the base of a cholla bush 3-4 ft from the pool. The Turkey Vulture followed it, and, reaching into the base of the cholla, grabbed it by the tail and pulled it partly out of the vegetation. It escaped and went deeper into the cactus. The vulture again reached into the cholla and pulled the thrasher out (fig. 1), this time carrying the bird several feet away from the cholla. The vulture put it down and studied it. The thrasher lay still a few seconds, then scolded and pecked at the vulture, and suddenly escaped and fled back to the same cholla.

The vulture followed and again pulled it from the cactus by the tail, carried it to the same spot, put it down momentarily, and then picked it up by the front end and carried it farther away (fig. 2). At this point, the scene of action was about 15-20 ft