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FIRST RECORD OF A BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKE IN IDAHO

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The Black-legged Kittiwake (*Rissa tridactyla*) is a common oceanic gull that winters off the Pacific coast from British Columbia south to northwestern Baja, California (A.O.U. Check-list 1957). While there have been several inland reports of Black-legged Kittiwakes in various western states (Haywood et al. 1976, Weber and Larrison 1977, and others), to our knowledge this species has never before been reported in Idaho. The purpose of this note is to document the first record of this species in Idaho and to review past records of the kittiwake in adjacent states.

The carcass of a juvenile male Black-legged Kittiwake was found by the authors on 13 February 1980, approximately 5 km southeast of Howe, Butte Co., Idaho. The nearest large body of water is American Falls Reservoir, located on the Snake River, 85 km to the southeast. This bird appeared to have been dead less than 24 h. A large wound on the dorsal portion of the body, just behind the neck, indicated that the bird

may have been killed by a raptor. The carcass weighed 277.5 g and contained no deposits of body fat.

Most of the inland sightings of Black-legged Kittiwakes in the northwestern United States have been made in the last eight years (Table 1). It is unclear whether this recent increase in sightings is the result of greater effort by field biologists, or if it results from a pioneering tendency of the kittiwake due to an increase in the number of reservoirs along major northwestern rivers. Juvenile gulls of many species wander great distances in the late summer and fall (Pettingill 1970, Parsons and Duncan 1978). Since at least one of the records was for an adult and most of the sightings occurred during the winter and early spring, this does not immediately offer a satisfactory explanation for the majority of inland kittiwake records. Further, the sightings of kittiwakes do not follow the same pattern as those of the Ancient Murrelet (*Synthliboramphus antiquus*; Munger 1965); Munger indicated that murrelets wander inland primarily during October and November, and their movements are associated directly or indirectly with adverse weather over the Pacific coast. However, we found that at least one and usually a series of low pressure systems had moved inland across the Pacific Northwest within a two- to three-week period just before each inland kittiwake sighting (U.S. Dep. of Commerce) except for the 1898 sighting, for which we have no data. We suggest that inland movements by the Black-legged Kittiwake are often the result of winter storms moving inland from the Pacific coast.

TABLE 1. Inland records of Black-legged Kittiwakes in the northwestern United States.

Area	Time of sighting	Age of bird	Authority
Eastern Washington			
Potholes Reservoir	January 1972	adult ^b	Verner 1974
Asotin County	February 1976	unknown ^b	Weber and Larrison 1977
Southeastern Idaho			
Butte County	February 1980	immature ^c	this report
Western Montana			
Ninepipe N.W.R. ^a	April 1977	immature ^c	P. D. Skaar (pers. comm.)
Fort Peck Reservoir	December 1978	immature ^b	P. D. Skaar (pers. comm.)
Utah			
Fish Springs N.W.R.	March 1972	unknown ^c	Haywood et al. 1976
Wyoming			
Near Douglas, Wyoming	November 1898	unknown ^c	McCreary 1937

^a National Wildlife Refuge.

^b Sighting.

^c Specimen found dead or collected.

The specimen was identified by R. Johnson of the Zoology Department, Washington State University and was donated to the Charles Conner Museum at Washington State University (Catalogue No. 80-233).

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BREEDING RECORD FOR THE SNOWY PLOVER FOR MONTANA

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While working in the Canyon Ferry Wildlife Management Area near Townsend, Broadwater Co., Montana on 24 June 1975, I observed a Snowy Plover (*Charadrius alexandrinus*) on a gravel shoreline. The bird was near a 240-ha artificial pond. Construction of the pond in 1974 created extensive mud and gravel flats, which have attracted a variety of shorebirds. I collected the bird, which blended exceedingly well with the gravel background; it was not until I approached the specimen that I discovered I had shot two birds. When the skins were prepared, examination of the gonads suggested that the birds had been breeding. The fe-

male had a shelled egg in the oviduct and the male's testes measured 6 mm in length. The two specimens (Montana State University Vertebrate Collection 5970 and 5973) are the only Montana specimen records. The nearest breeding range (A.O.U. Check-List of North American Birds, Am. Ornithol. Union, Baltimore, 1957) is in Utah, 450-500 miles south of the Canyon Ferry location. The only other documented record of a Snowy Plover in Montana was an individual seen from 24-28 April 1975 on a gravel flat at Ft. Peck Reservoir (Carlson, *Am. Birds* 29:868-869, 1975). A photograph of the bird appeared in *American Birds* (29:997, 1975).

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OCCURRENCE OF TWIN GADWALL EMBRYOS

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Twin embryos have been reported in eggs of several bird species. Berger (1953) noted twinning in the American Goldfinch (*Carduelis tristis*) and the Song Sparrow (*Melospiza melodia*). Romanoff and Romanoff

(1972) found twinning as common in birds as it is in other animals. They noted that twins can form from eggs with double yolks, eggs with one yolk and two blastoderms, and eggs with one yolk and one blastoderm.

Chilling Mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*) eggs to 0° and 4°C for five to 10 days (Batt et al. 1975) and inducing hypothermia in White Leghorn Chickens (*Gallus gallus*; Sturkie 1946) increased the incidence of twins. These methods affected embryonic development after the eggs had been deposited and in the hen before laying. Sarvella (1975) suggested that cleavage may be stimulated by various types of stress.

A part of our waterfowl field research involves the attachment of a tag to the web of wild Gadwall (*Anas*