AUCKLETS THROUGH BUNTINGS — The **Parakeet Auklet** first and last occurred in a "wreck" during the winter of 1962-63. This season three individuals were found dead on the beach at Midway Feb. 5-6 & 15 (GG,HR, TP). The regular occurrence of Short-eared Owls in the n.w. islands during winter, such as the four + Feb. 11 & 21 at Midway (GG), lends credence to the thought that the gene pool of the native race (the Pueo) may well be continually diluted by Asiatic and North American migrants. A Belted Kingfisher, the first record for Maui I., was seen offshore fishing in the waters of Hana Bay Feb. 3 (BT,CH). The Warbling Silverbill apparently continues its spread on the island of Hawaii as one was seen at Bird Park in Hawaii Volcanoes Nat'l P., Dec. 15 (KW).

S.A.

Passerines from the n. are very rare in Hawaii, and interestingly enough the only records are from the Northwest Is., where habitat is scarce and the birds more obvious. This season, a **Snow Bunting** turned up at Tern I., FFS, Nov. 9-15 (VB,TT, RS,SS), for probably the fourth state record. Many such immigrations must have occurred in the past, some being successful. It is amazing that more did not take hold, as our native passerine avifauna is apparently the result of relatively few successful colonizations, probably fewer than five.

ISLAND ABBREVIATIONS — (K.) Kauai Is., (M.) Maui Is., (Mi.) Midway Atoll, (O.) Oahu Is., and (F.F.S.) French Frigate Shoals.

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DISTRIBUTION, IDENTIFICATION

The Greenland Wheatear (Oenanthe oenanthe leucorrhoa) in North America

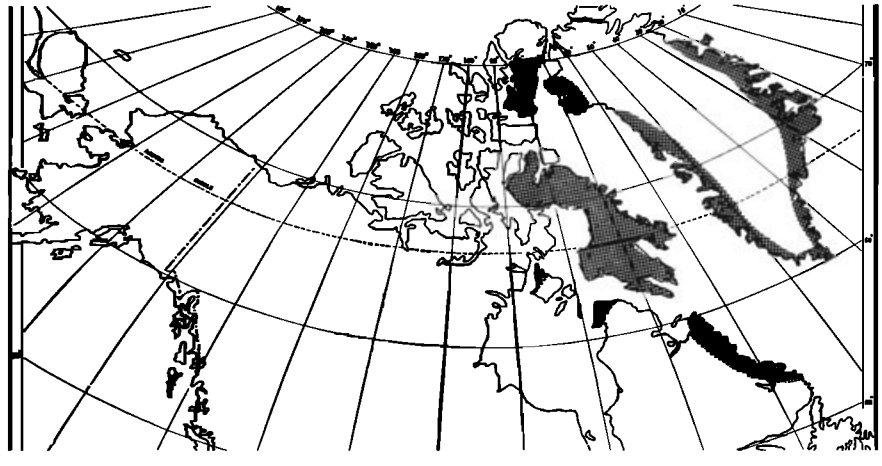
Bertel Bruun

WHILE TAKING A CASUAL stroll through my bay-side garden in Westhampton, New York, before the inevitable departure for New York City on Sunday, October 16, 1977, I came upon a Wheatear. During the next hour I had ample opportunity to watch it closely and photograph it, both as it sought food on the rough lawn and flew about avoiding my approaches. The bird was not observed during the week, but was present again on the following weekend, October 22 and 23. It was not seen again after the latter date.

Being familiar with both the Greenland Wheatear (*Oenanthe oenanthe leucorrhoa*) from Iceland, and the nominate race (*O.o. oenanthe*) from Europe, it was clear that the Westhampton bird belonged to the former subspecies. It appeared quite large, the breast was rather deeply colored, and the stance was more upright than that of the continental race. Furthermore, it had the habit of frequently perching on houses, fences and bushes as well as on other rather tall structures in the area. The nominate race only rarely exhibits this peculiarity and prefers to perch closer to or on the ground. The Greenland Wheatear apparently shows this behavior only during migration (Witherby 1945). Interestingly enough, both the records from the Caribbean, with which Dr. K. H. Voous kindly supplied me, refer to this behavior: "First recorded 4 Nov. 1962 at Malpais, Curaçao when a solitary and rather tame bird carefully avoided being captured and ringed by repeatedly perching on top of a mist net rather than flying into the net (P. A. van der Werf). Another bird was seen and photographed 18 Dec. 1975 on a horizontal branch of a Wabi tree (*Acacia tortuosa*) at Amboina Plantation, Bonaire, N.W.I. (Brother Candidus)."

In the hand, wing measurements provide the best guide to the subspecies. The measurements for the nominate race are 92-100 mm for the male and 90-96 mm for the female, whereas the Greenland Wheatear measures 99-110 mm (male) and 96-105.5 mm (female) (Svensson 1975). The Greenland Wheatear is also relatively long-legged, the tarsus measuring 27-33 mm, whereas that of the nominate race measures 25-27 mm (Witherby 1943).

Because of the brown rather than black lores and ear coverts and the creamy-white rather than white eyestripe, the Westhampton bird could be identified as either a female or an immature. As the inside of the mandible, which is yellow in the immature, black in the adult (Svensson 1975) was not seen,

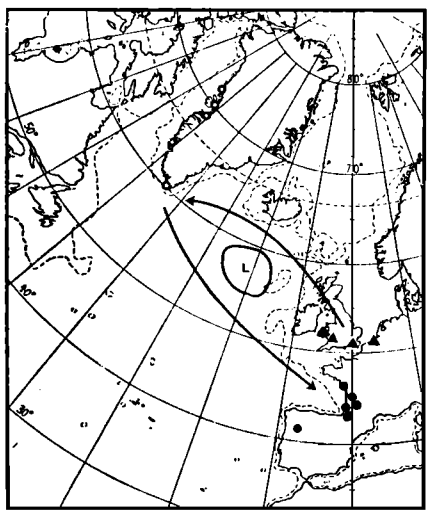


Map 1. Breeding distribution of Greenland Wheatear (P.l. leucorrhoa) after Godfrey 1966 and Salomonsen 1974.

it was not possible to determine the age of the bird.

My chance observation led to further study of the occurrence of the subspecies in the New World.

THE BREEDING DISTRIBUTION of the Greenland Wheatear encompasses Iceland, Greenland and northeastern Canada (Godfrey 1966, Salomonsen 1971) where it is numerous. It has been gradually spreading northward since the early part of this century (Salomonsen 1951). It arrives in Greenland in the first half of May. Departure from the breeding grounds starts in the middle of August and continues into the latter part of September. Occasional birds may linger on well into October and even November (Salomonsen 1951). They pass through the British Isles from late August into October and early November *en route* to western Africa where they winter (Witherby 1943). Banding records from Greenland (Salomonsen 1967) (no recoveries of banded Canadian or Icelandic birds have occurred outside the breeding areas) together with observations at sea (Snow 1953) have led Salomonsen to postulate two different areas of crossing of the Atlantic in spring and fall. The fall recoveries are five from southwestern France—four from October and one from September—as well as one from northern Portugal in October. The spring recoveries are three from southern England and Wales and one from Belgium, all made in the month of May (Map 2). Salomonsen interprets this as indicating a tendency by the Greenland birds to follow a more southerly fall route, which takes advantage of the westerly winds prevailing south of a low-pressure area situated south of Iceland, and a more northerly spring route taking advantage of the easterly winds prevailing north of the same low-pressure area (Map 2) (Salomonsen 1967). Such a more northerly spring route could also help explain why spring records in the United States are so few, as compared to fall records.



Map 2. Recoveries of Greenland Wheatear banded in Greenland (open circles). Dots indicate fall recoveries, triangles spring recoveries. Arrows indicate the probable routes followed in spring and fall. "L" indicates low-pressure area south of Iceland. Modified from Salomonsen 1967.

By searching out all the records published in *Audubon Field Notes* and *American Birds* as well as the appropriate reference books (Bond 1974, Bull 1964, -1964, 1974, Forbush 1929, Godfrey 1966 and Lowery 1960) I have been able to collect 53 records from the eastern United States and southeastern Canada. David Wingate kindly supplied me with records from Bermuda and James Bond and K. H. Voous equally kindly with those from the Caribbean. There are no records from South America. Although most records are sightings and therefore undetermined on the subspecific level, it must be noted that all specimens obtained in the area have been of the Greenland race. I therefore find it reasonable to assume that only the former subspecies has occurred in the area.

Table 1. Records of Greenland Wheatear (Oenanthe oenanthe leucorrhoa) in the New World south of the breeding grounds, by month.

	Jan.	*Feb.*	*Mar.*	*Apr.*	*May*	*Jun.*	*Jul.*	*Aug.*	*Sep.*	*Oct.*	*Nov.*	*Dec*
Canada (SE)	2							2	3	3		
U.S. (East excl. N.Y.)	1		1		1		1		14	7	2	
New York					1	1			8	1	1	1
Bermuda			2						7	5		
Caribbean islands									1	1	1	2
Totals	3		3		2	1	1	2	33	17	4	3

OF THE INDIVIDUAL states New York has the largest number of records (13 plus two with inadequate dates for analysis) (Bull 1964, 1974). This high number is readily explained by the large size of the state, combined with its concentration of active birdwatchers. Most records from the area are from September, corresponding well with the time of departure from the breeding grounds (Table 1). Spring records are rare, and it is not possible to determine whether these birds have wintered in the New World or have crossed the Atlantic the same spring when observed.

In trying to determine whether observations have become more frequent in recent years I compared the records from the recent five-year periods (Table 2). Although there has been a steady increase in observations, this appears not to reflect a true change in the status of the bird's occurrence, but rather an increase in the number of competent observers.

The occurrence of the species in Bermuda corresponds well with the conditions on the East Coast. There are seven records from September, five from October and two from March. These latter are at such an early season in relation to the usual time of spring migration that one might strongly suspect local winter-

Table 2. Records of Greenland Wheatear in the New World south of the breeding grounds, by five-year periods.

	before 1951	**1951-55**	**1956-60**	**1961-65**	**1966-70**	**1971-75**	**1976-**
U.S. & Canada	11	4	3	8	10	14	3
Bermuda	1	2	1	1	4	3	2
Caribbean islands	1	1		1	1	1	
Totals	13	7	4	10	15	18	5

ing. In his letter on the occurrence of the Wheatear in Bermuda, Wingate adds an interesting note on the nominate race: "According to A. H. Verrill (1901) "The Wheatear . . . has been introduced within the last 3 years near St. George's and is apparently doing well. A small flock was often seen on the barren hillsides of Coney Island. Another flock of about the same number of individuals was observed on the neighboring shores of St. George's Island.""

Greenland Wheatear (O. o. leucorrhoa), *Westhampton, L.I., NY, Oct. 16, 1977. The lengths of the tarsus can be extrapolated from the ¾" board on which the bird is sitting. Thus measured it is found to be 78 mm long (see text). Photo/ Bertel Bruun.*

"This report was corroborated by A. E. Verrill in 1902 except that he understood that the birds originated from a wrecked vessel that resulted in the escape of a number of other caged birds, notably goldfinches, about 1885. Strangely, there were no further records between 1901 and the publication of the checklist in 1931 and breeding was never confirmed at any time. However, there is a remote possibility that a small population did establish and survive until at least 1940 because Hughes-Hallett (who knew the birds well from England) obtained two very unseasonable records on 5 April and 3 August 1939, one of which was very near the point of original introduction."

"Although the Greenland subspecies of the Wheatear has been recorded as a frequent but scarce fall vagrant from mid-September and mid-October and again on two occasions in March, the likelihood of its occurrence in Bermuda in April and August of the same year seems almost infinitesimal."

Although "contamination" of the continental records by this population may have occurred, there is no evidence of this. In summary, the Greenland Wheatear must still be characterized as a rare, but probably annual fall vagrant in the eastern part of the United States and an extremely rare and irregular spring and even rarer winter vagrant there. The same statement is true for Bermuda and the Caribbean islands.

Acknowledgements

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DISTRIBUTION

Distributional notes on Ecuadorian birds

Charles F. Leck

DURING JUNE-JULY 1974 and February-April 1978 I had the opportunity to travel through much of the Republic of Ecuador, occupied in research and assisting ornithological tours. Of the more than five hundred species of birds identified, a few provide interesting new distributional data. I have had considerable previous field experience with most of the birds included here, furthermore, most are readily identified.

Plegadis ibis (*Plegadis* sp.). A small ibis of this genus was seen well in the rice paddy marshes north of Guayaquil (near Daule), Guayas July 5, 1974. Either *Plegadis chihi* or *P. falcinellus* would be a new species for Ecuador; recent Colombian and Venezuelan records suggest that the latter is more likely (specimens are required). The Puna Ibis (*Plegadis ridgwayi*) of the Andes from central Peru south has occurred rarely on the Peruvian coast (Pearson and Plenge 1974), but it is rather larger.

Masked Duck (*Oxyura dominica*). Two birds in female or ♀ plumage on the lake at Limoncocha, (near Rio Jivino), Napo Province, were seen by me and other members of a birdwatching tour including Betsy Thomas April 13, 1978. Both birds were shy but seen well, including their white wing patches. The range of this species in Ecuador is described as only west of the Andes (de Schauensee 1970, Blake 1977), although a map in the Blake reference correctly includes eastern Ecuador as well. The species had already been added to the list of birds known from Limoncocha (Tallman *et al.*, 1977), thus this is an additional record.

Greater Yellow-headed Vulture (*Cathartes melambrotus*). Neither de Schauensee (1966, 1970) nor Blake (1977) included Ecuador in the range of this species. In fact it is widespread and quite common in the oriente region (Napo and Pastaza Provinces). I found it near Puyo at the foothills of the Cordillera Oriental (975 m) during July 1974 (with direct comparison to *Cathartes aura*), and at the Rio Napo from Coca to Limoncocha (about 300 m) during April 1978. Ridgely (pers. comm.) also saw at least one along the Rio Naugaritza, north of Paquisha, Zamora-Chinchipe, in July 1978, and it was not uncommon east of Macas, Norona-Santiago, in August 1979. Pearson (1972) apparently published the first records of this bird in Ecuador, from Limoncocha, where he