

## Short Notes — Notes Courtes

### First observation of Pacific Golden Plover *Pluvialis fulva* in Senegal

On 10 May 2012, on an island in the Saloum Delta National Park called “Île aux oiseaux” (13°57'N, 16°37'W), we noticed a plover in almost complete breeding plumage (Fig. 1), which we immediately identified as either a Pacific Golden Plover *Pluvialis fulva* or an American Golden Plover *P. dominica*. The bird showed an upright stance, and its slim silhouette and long legs excluded the European Golden Plover *P. apricaria*, whose heavier body and shorter tibia result in a more compact shape. The bird was feeding in a tidal pool surrounded by low succulent vegetation, where a colony of Grey-headed Gulls *Larus cirrocephalus* was established. It fed without paying obvious attention to our group of observers. The bird was later identified from photographs as a Pacific Golden Plover, by reference to Van Duivendijk (2010).

The contrast between the broadly golden-spotted mantle and scapulars and the greyish coverts was striking. A white line running along the body from the forehead to the sides of the undertail coverts, distinctly widening at the sides of the breast, separated the upperparts from the black underparts. The flanks showed a chequered



Figure 1. Pacific Golden Plover *Pluvialis fulva*, Saloum Delta, Senegal, 10 May 2012.

black and white pattern. The underwing coverts were grey, clearly visible when the bird was flying. The bill was long. The wing-tip projected slightly beyond the tail and the tertials nearly reached the tail-tip, with three primary tips beyond the tertials. This combination of tertial and wing lengths is typical for Pacific Golden Plover in summer plumage, and excludes the American Golden Plover.

The Pacific Golden Plover breeds in Arctic and Subarctic regions of east Siberia from the Yamal Peninsula to Kamchatka, and in western Alaska. Wintering sites extend from Somalia to China, New Zealand and Oceania (O'Brien *et al.* 2006). In West Africa the Pacific Golden Plover is known from coastal Gabon, where it winters in small numbers, with records from 22 Oct to 17 May (Christy 1990). There are two records in Ivory Coast, on 5 Dec 1987 and from 23 Oct to 8 Nov 1989 (Fishpool & Demey 1991). This is the first documented record of Pacific Golden Plover for Senegal (Morel & Morel 1990, Sauvage & Rodwell 1998, Borrow & Demey 2001, 2011).

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