

of the ranch house. The other person was one Antonio, a cattleman of the mountain, who shot a Condor in 1933 and another in 1932. He said the birds spread disease among the cattle, but he sold all the quills to prospectors. Multiply Antonio and Phil by two or three and the years by two or three and we have a good clue to the Condor situation on the San Pedro Mártir.

That is what the Mellings told us—Salve, Adolph, his brother, and Mrs. Bertie, wife of Salve—all intelligent, trustworthy outdoor people, cattle raisers, residents of San Pedro Mártir every summer and acquainted with Condors for more than twenty-five years: All agreed that Condors have been getting scarcer and scarcer since about 1920; that twenty-five years ago you could see 20 to 30 Condors any summer day where there were dead cattle; that they have never seen Condors at any time away from the San Pedro Mártir (they knew of other people who had seen them in the Sierra Juarez); that they have seen none for the last few years except that Salve saw his last one in 1932 when Griffing Bancroft, according to Salve, vainly tried to bait a bird with a dead horse and that Adolph saw two in July, 1934, for two days at Encantada meadows and a lone one later in the summer on one occasion.

On August 23 and 24 we rode from the Melling ranch at Encantada, where we were camped, to the San Pedro Mártir Mission, 18 miles south. En route we camped over night in the Santo Dumas Flats, about 6000 feet altitude, situated about two miles west of Santa Rosa meadows. It was at Santo Dumas Flats that E. W. Nelson saw twelve Condors in 1905, at the carcass of a donkey, as told in his *Memoirs of Lower California*, page 22. There were six vaqueros at the same old shack. They told us that Condors used to come to the flats every summer to feed on dead animals. They had seen no Condors for four years except a lone one last summer. We scared several ravens and about thirty buzzards from a roosting place in a group of pines but no Condor.

Some of our informants told us it was a poor year to see Condors because, on account of the excellent season, there were no dead animals. But for three years before 1935 cattle died like flies. But there were no Condors at the great festal boards. In truth there are always a few dead animals wherever there are cattle. We scared a dozen Turkey Vultures from a carcass in La Grulla meadows. According to their habit the cowboys fired revolvers at the birds. Our conclusion was that every year was a bad year for Condors in the Sierra San Pedro Mártir. Nothing is protected on the Peninsula. How could such a tempting target as a Condor escape!

[Since writing the above, word comes that Salve Melling saw "one lone Condor in La Encantada about November 5, eating on a calf that had died. It is the only one seen this year."]
—CARROLL DEWILTON SCOTT, *San Diego, California, November 18, 1935.*

The Clark Nutcracker in Extreme Southwestern Arizona.—A young Clark Nutcracker (*Nucifraga columbiana*) was observed by us October 22, 1935, at Bates Well in Growler Pass, western Pima County, Arizona, altitude approximately 1600 feet. Another individual was observed on the Lechuguilla Desert, altitude about 1000 feet, near Tinajas Altas, southern Yuma County, on October 23. Both birds were seen in mid-day, and each was alone. The Bates Well bird was at a water trough, whence it flew into a nearby mesquite and permitted us to approach within fifteen feet, appearing to be hot and tired. The temperature was estimated to be, at this time, 85 or 90 degrees. The Tinajas Altas bird was seen in an ironwood or mesquite on the way between Cabeza Prieta and Tinajas Altas.

The nearest mountain country in any direction from which these birds could have come is probably at least 100 miles away. The Bates Well bird, judging from a faint mottling on its breast, was a young individual. Its features and plumage generally were in excellent condition. The area where these birds were seen is of an extreme desert type, with creosote bush (*Larrea tridentata*), *Fraseria dumosa*, and palo verde (*Parkinsonia microphylla* on the hillsides, and *Cercidium torreyanum* in the washes) prominent in the flora.

These occurrences are of some interest in view of the reported invasion of Clark Nutcrackers in the Cuyamaca Mountains of San Diego County this fall (*Natural History Museum Bulletin, San Diego, California, No. 108, November 1, 1935*). According to this bulletin Nutcrackers are now (apparently late in October, 1935) quite common throughout the Cuyamaca region. It seems possible that there is this year a somewhat more widespread wandering than usual of this interesting species.—WALTER P. TAYLOR, *U. S. Biological Survey, Faculty Exchange, College Station, Texas*, and CHARLES T. VORHIES, *University of Arizona, Tucson, Arizona, November 8, 1935.*

Donald R. Dickey's First Bird Photograph.—The picture here presented is believed to be the first bird picture ever taken by Donald R. Dickey. It happened in this manner. We were schoolmates at the Thacher School in the Ojai Valley, Ventura County, California, in 1904-

1905. Edgar Park and I had the pernicious craze of collecting eggs, albeit we collected "scientifically." We were hunting gnatcatchers' eggs among the stunted sycamores in a dry wash behind the school. We stumbled upon a Poor-will's "nest" consisting of the two squabs cuddled among the pebbles. I ran back to school and asked Donald whether he would take the picture. He would try, but had never taken any bird pictures before. (See fig. 7.)



Fig. 7. First picture taken by Donald R. Dickey; in 1904-1905, of Poor-wills in Ojai Valley, California.

The next time I saw Donald, after leaving school, was on the "Tanager" expedition where old acquaintances were renewed and delightful new ones with Alexander Wetmore, D. Thaanum and others were made.—CHAPMAN GRANT, *Maj., U. S. A. Ret., San Diego, California, November 8, 1935.*

Flammulated Screech Owl in the Sacramento Valley.—A Flammulated Screech Owl (*Otus flammeolus*) was taken from the roof of a hen house on the University farm at Davis, Yolo County, California, on October 31, 1935. The specimen, an adult female, is now in the collection of the Division of Zoology of the University of California College of Agriculture at Davis. Measurements are as follows: wing, 135.8 mm.; tail, 63.5; culmen (from cere) 9.65. The ovary was double; the right lobe was only slightly smaller than the left.

The present specimen, coming from a central point in the Sacramento Valley only 45 feet above sea level, furnishes apparently the first lowland record of this species in California.—JOHN T. EMLEN, JR., *Davis, California, November 22, 1935.*

Red-shafted Flicker Foraging on a Cement Pillar.—The fact that the Red-shafted Flicker (*Colaptes cafer collaris*) may depart from its typical habit of foraging in and beneath trees and shrubs and on open meadows was demonstrated to me on November 1, 1935. I was astonished to see a flicker fly up to and perch on the face of one of the fluted, cement columns or pilasters on the southwest side of the Life Sciences Building, University of California Campus. Here, approximately 60 feet above the ground, the bird clung in typical flicker manner—body parallel to the long axis of the column, feet grasping the substrate, tail braced against the cement—for approximately two minutes. Then it began to shift up the face of the pillar and to probe and peck with its bill into crevices in the cement, evidently gleaning insects. It continued its foraging tactics and movement upward until it attempted to progress across the face of one of the "cement bovine skulls", a molding on this side of the building. Here the footing must have been poor, for the bird slipped backward, flew downward a few feet, then upward to a ledge, coming to rest momentarily before flying away.

Time of day, 12:45 p. m.; lapse of time for observation, 5 minutes; weather cloudy, slow rain falling.

At a later date, under similar weather conditions, examination of the cement at the base of the column revealed the presence of numerous small ants, which were crawling over the face of