

A Male California Quail Hatches a Brood.—An instance of a male California Quail (*Lophortyx californica californica*) successfully incubating a set of eggs after the female had been killed was observed during the 1938 quail nesting study at the San Joaquin Experimental Range in the foothills of Madera County, California. The nest (S. J. E. R. no. A37, 1938) was discovered on May 24 under the edge of a small granite boulder. The female was then incubating a clutch of 20 eggs. A cock, presumably the mate, was perched in a nearby tree. Daily visits were made to the nest until May 28, and the hen was seen incubating on each occasion.

On May 31, female quail feathers, sufficient to indicate a kill, were found about 4 feet from the nest and a cock was found sitting on the eggs. The next day, June 1, the cock was again on the nest. He allowed the observer to approach within 3 feet without flushing.

On June 2, at 9:00 a.m., the nest was visited and no birds were found. Nine of the 20 eggs had hatched, as evidenced by pipping rings on the shells. Of the remaining 11 eggs, 2 were infertile and 9 were within one or two days of hatching, with most of the embryos showing sign of life. The low percentage of hatching success was possibly due to inefficient incubation on the part of the cock. The cock and his nine young were seen several times subsequently. On June 25, the last date of observation, only 4 young remained in the group.

These observations substantiate statements by Grinnell, Bryant and Storer (Game Birds of California, p. 529) and Price (Condor, vol. 40, 1938, p. 87) that the male California Quail will take over incubation in event of the female's death. The present observation is unique in that the cock succeeded in hatching at least part of the clutch and in caring for the chicks.—BEN GLADING, *San Joaquin Experimental Range, O'Neals, California, September 19, 1938.*

Notes on the Distribution of Loons and Grebes in California.—Knowledge that Dr. Joseph Grinnell is preparing a revised distributional list of the birds of California provides the incentive to make available certain accumulated information on occurrences of birds in this state. Readers familiar with our avifauna may find in these notes numerous obvious statements, but the facts to be presented, although known to many, appear to be unpublished. What may seem trivial and unworthy of mention now, if left unrecorded, may soon become lost through rapidly changing conditions. Man's influence upon bird life in his recent "development" of our state has been so profound that we are often unable to appreciate changes in avian populations until they have occurred. Then, we find that records of original conditions are lacking for comparison.

Specimen numbers refer to the writer's private collection of birds or to his field numbers, which are synonymous.

Gavia immer. Common Loon. No attempt has been made to differentiate subspecifically California taken examples of this species, although the validity of the race *elasson* (Bishop, Auk, vol. 38, 1921, p. 367) is acknowledged for breeding birds of the interior of the continent. Probably both forms winter in the state and their separation, requiring measurements of specimens, is impossible without birds in hand.

An adult male (no. 139) in full summer plumage was taken on a small fresh-water lake 2 miles southwest of Glen Ellen, Sonoma County, May 3, 1919. The birds are not uncommon along the coast in June; full plumaged adults and winter clad immatures (?) were found on Richardson's Bay, Marin County, and at the mouth of the Pajaro River, Monterey County, June 11 and 12, respectively, in 1938. An adult in full summer dress was observed on the California side of Topaz Lake, Mono County, July 6, 1923, where search failed to indicate that it was nesting.

Gavia arctica pacifica. Pacific Loon. It has been my experience that the present species is considerably more maritime in distribution along our coast than the Red-throated Loon. The latter is the common wintering loon of San Francisco Bay and neighboring inland bodies of salt water, where I have found the Pacific to be rare except in spring migration. The migration of the Pacific is a month later than that of the Red-throat. It appears that the bulk of Pacific Loons that traverse our coast may winter to the south of San Francisco Bay, possibly south of California. The Red-throated is locally the most common winter resident of the family.

Gavia stellata. Red-throated Loon. Abundant winter visitant; most of them leave in March. Capture of no. 248, a winter-plumaged female, May 22, 1921, on a salt-water ditch bordering the Black Point cut-off road, 1½ miles northeast of Ignacio, Marin County, presents an inland, also a seasonally late, record for this open water bird. It was not visibly disabled.

Colymbus nigricollis californicus. Eared Grebe. Abundant winter visitant to salt and brackish inland waters of the San Francisco Bay region, but scarcer along the open coast where it largely is replaced by the Horned Grebe (*Colymbus auritus*). Occasionally visits fresh water lakes in winter, as at 2 miles south of Glen Ellen, Sonoma County.

At least 30 pairs were nesting on Topaz Lake, Mono County, July 21, 1918 (adult collected); they also were breeding here July 6, 1923.