

**Ring-necked Duck near Corona, Riverside County, California.**—While shooting on the grounds of the Pomona Recreation Club near Corona, Riverside County, California, on December 12, 1915, I flushed a strange duck from the tules. The bird was taken and proved to be a female Ring-necked Duck (*Marila collaris*). As there are few published records of this bird from southern California I thought this worthy of note. The bird is now in my collection.—WRIGHT M. PIERCE, *Claremont, California*.

**Odd Performance of a Flicker with a Malformed Bill.**—Attracted to an upstairs window in the early morning of January 18, 1916, by the apparent nearness of a woodpecker's drumming, I found a Red-shafted Flicker (*Colaptes cafer collaris*) resting within five feet of my eyes, on a square galvanized iron drain, which extended down from the extending eaves to the house wall, at an angle of twelve or fifteen degrees. I was much surprised to note that its lower mandible curved gradually downward from the base and had grown nearly if not quite an inch longer than the upper mandible, which seemed perfectly straight and normal. At first, assuming that this bird had done the drumming, I concluded that this obvious deformity must be its tongue, for some reason kept extended. The bird's position, however, was such that it was silhouetted against the sky and it shortly satisfied that point by unmistakably extending and moving its real tongue.

But, to cap the climax, it turned its head to the left and drummed, turning it far enough so that a line between the points of the two mandibles would be at right angles to the axis of the body, in which position the lower mandible was out of the way and the upper free to drum. And drum it did, not once, but time and again with long pauses between, always turning its head with crown to the left. In the drumming its whole body vibrated, so much so that it literally rattled down the drainpipe backward a little each time it drummed.

As the sky was heavily overcast, I was unable to make out its sex. But it strikes me as notable that in spite of its deformity it had maintained itself in good enough condition and spirits to sense the mating instincts, of which drumming is undoubtedly one. Not only that, but it heads the spring procession, as the first drumming for 1916, heard on one of our drains January 12, was probably by this same bird: Rather earlier in the season than we are accustomed to expect it, though for a month or so each early spring our resonant metal work is a favorite sounding board for flickers at unreasonably early hours.—J. EUGENE LAW, *Hollywood, California*.

**The Old-squaw in West-central California.**—On November 21, 1915, an Old-squaw (*Harelda hyemalis*) was taken by Master James M. Moffitt on the Suisun Marshes, Solano County. A careful examination of the bird in-the-flesh left no doubt in my mind as to its identity.—JOHN W. MAILLIARD, *San Francisco, California*.

**Additions and Changes to the Summer Birds of Flathead Lake, Montana.**—Work during the summer of 1915 at the Biological Station at Flathead Lake has resulted in several additional species, and some changes in the identifications of others. With the new species I have included two found by Mr. Silloway, the records of which have never been published. The new species are as follows:

*Hydrochelidon nigra surinamensis*. Black Tern. While waiting at Somers for a boat to take me to Yellow Bay, I saw a pair of these birds flying over a small slough that was overgrown with rushes and cat-tails. From the actions of the birds when I approached the slough, I believe they were breeding, but since I was still travelling and not dressed for wading in a marsh I was unable to investigate.

*Spatula clypeata*. Shoveller. I saw a single bird of this species on the Pend-Oreille River near Polson, July 27.

*Phalaenoptilus nuttalli nuttalli*. Poorwill. This bird was heard calling in the hills back of Polson on the evening of July 26.

*Archilochus alexandri*. Black-chinned Hummingbird. Mr. Silloway has seen this bird in the vicinity of Yellow Bay, but the date of this occurrence is not given.

*Empidonax hammondi*. Hammond Flycatcher. Observations this season have shown that this flycatcher is not uncommon in the forests about Flathead Lake. It was first noted June 24, on a mountain slope back of Yellow Bay. A specimen was secured on Wild Horse Island, July 2. A nest was found near the station at Yellow Bay, June

26. This nest was saddled on the horizontal limb of a tamarack at a height of about twenty-five feet. It was observed frequently from the day it was found until the young flew late in July.

*Passerculus sandwichensis alaudinus*. Western Savannah Sparrow. First noted near Somers on June 23. Later found to be fairly common in the vicinity of Polson. Specimens were secured at Polson Swamp, July 12, and at Polson, July 27. These birds were examined by L. B. Bishop, who states that they are evidently not typical of any race. The first is a bird in juvenal plumage, and is nearest to *nevadensis*. The second, an adult, is more like *alaudinus*.

*Vermivora rubricapilla gutturalis*. Calaveras Warbler. There is a specimen of this bird in the collection of the University of Montana, taken by Mr. Silloway at Yellow Bay, August 6, 1912. This is evidently the first record of the species in Montana.

*Penthestes rufescens rufescens*. Chestnut-backed Chickadee. I found this bird fairly common in the forests near Yellow Bay, in flocks in company with the Long-tailed Chickadee. It was seen frequently, and a specimen secured on June 30.

Changes in identification and other notes follow.

*Bonasa umbellus togata*. Canada Ruffed Grouse. The bird occurring in this region has previously been recorded as *B. u. umbelloides*. If it is true that *umbelloides* always has a gray tail, then many of the birds of this region must belong to *togata*, for examination of specimens in the University of Montana collection, as well as observations in the field, show many birds with reddish-brown tails and the heavily marked under parts of *togata*. In the L. B. Bishop collection are a number of specimens of this bird from Columbia Falls, a point about twenty-five miles north of Flathead Lake. Some of them are referable to one form and some to the other, yet none of them show enough difference to warrant the assumption that there are two forms found in this region. I believe that the differences are entirely those of individual variation, but what to call the form in this region is a puzzle.

*Picoides americanus fasciatus*. Alaska Three-toed Woodpecker. An adult male, secured July 1, at Yellow Bay, was identified by L. B. Bishop as of this race. My observations in the field also go to show that this is the regular breeding race in this region, instead of *P. a. dorsalis*, the birds showing much less white on the back than do those of southern Montana.

*Junco hyemalis montanus*. Montana Junco. A male bird, secured at Wild Horse Island, July 2, proved to belong to this race, and not to *J. h. connectens*, the race originally attributed to this region.

*Melospiza melodia merrilli*. Merrill Song Sparrow. A specimen secured at Polson Swamp, July 12, was identified as of this race rather than *M. m. montana*. *Merrilli* is probably the regular breeding bird of the region.

*Ammodramus savannarum bimaculatus*. Western Grasshopper Sparrow. A nest of this bird, containing four eggs in an advanced state of incubation, was found at Polson, July 27. Since I know of no other definite record of the finding of a nest of this species in Montana, though the bird's occurrence in summer has been noted frequently, I wish to publish this record here.—ARETAS A. SAUNDERS, *New Haven, Connecticut*.

**Nesting of the Western Bluebird at Ventura, California.**—On June 14, 1915, a pair of Western Bluebirds (*Sialia mexicana occidentalis*) were observed feeding their young in a crevice under the cornice of one of the office buildings in Ventura.—RALPH ARNOLD and J. R. PEMBERTON, *Los Angeles, California*.

**The Belted Kingfisher Wintering in Fresno County.**—Sufficient evidence has accumulated to warrant the statement that *Ceryle alcyon* winters sparingly in the Fresno district. January 11, 1913, a single individual was seen to fly from his perch on Skagg's Bridge, on the San Joaquin River. January 18, 1913, another was noted on a willow tree over a small creek at the edge of the hills north of Sanger. December 24, 1915, a Kingfisher flew across the road near a small canal at Firebaugh. January 26, 1916, one was noted on a telephone wire near Oxalis, and I was informed that at least two had been present all through the winter. The above records would seem to indicate a slight extension of the range as given in Pacific Coast Avifauna no. 11, page 76.—JOHN G. TYLER, *Fresno, California*.