

Duck Hawk (*Falco peregrinus anatum*). About a dozen Duck Hawks were seen during the September flight. On the thirteenth, a flock of Cinnamon Teal whizzed past my head as I stood on the bank of Silvies River. They were traveling at a terrific rate of speed, but not until they had passed did I see the Duck Hawk close behind. Within a few seconds after passing me it struck one of the teal, and made for a nearby cliff with its victim. On August 24, late in the evening, while with a companion trying to secure a yellow-headed blackbird, a Duck Hawk darted viciously into a flock of blackbirds. As it was about to strike, it saw me and swung over my companion who brought it down as it passed overhead. It proved to be a fine adult male.

Pigeon Hawk (*Falco columbarius columbarius*). An immature female bird was secured on September 16, 1919, as it flew over.

Desert Sparrow Hawk (*Falco sparverius phalaena*). This is very common during September and October; it is less so in May and June, but is in evidence along the roads every day.—IRA N. GABRIELSON, *Portland, Oregon, October 24, 1921.*

**The Validity of the Catalina Island Quail.**—A series of sixteen quail from Catalina Island, of which thirteen are winter and three are fresh fall specimens, was recently examined by us. These bear out precisely the characters as given by J. Grinnell in his description of the form *Lophortyx [californica] catalinensis*, in *The Auk*, vol. 23, 1906, pp. 262-265. An additional character to which we wish to call attention is the wing formula of *catalinensis* as compared with *vallicola*. In *catalinensis*, the seventh primary is longest in thirteen out of the sixteen (or 81.25 percent), and the seventh and sixth are equal and longest in the remaining three (or 18.75 percent). The eighth primary is equal to or longer than the fifth in exactly the same high proportion. In a series of seventeen *vallicola*, from the San Diegan district, the seventh primary is longest in only three birds (or 17.65 percent), the remaining fourteen having the sixth, sixth and seventh, or fifth, sixth, and seventh longest. The eighth is equal to or longer than the fifth in only four (or 23.53 percent). It will thus be seen that the Island wing is the more pointed of the two. The wing formula of *L. californica californica* seems to be quite similar to that of *catalinensis*; but as most of our birds are moulting, we cannot be positive on this point.

Three birds from the southern San Joaquin Valley agree in some particulars of coloration with those from Catalina, namely, in color of flanks and broad striping on under tail coverts. However, the resemblance ceases here, for they are quite as small as the average *vallicola* from the San Diegan district (see Grinnell, *Auk*, vol. 23, p. 263). The one available quail from Los Coronados Islands (collection of H. Wright) has the small foot and bill of *vallicola*, but is too badly worn to give any comparative color values.

*Catalinensis* is a perfectly valid race and is quite as well differentiated from *vallicola* as is *vallicola* from *californica* proper. The pronounced characters preclude the possibility of artificial introduction, and it is difficult to understand why it has not been given equal standing with other insular forms, such as the horned larks and song sparrows, not to mention the San Clemente House Finch!—D. R. DICKEY and A. J. VAN ROSEM, *Pasadena, California, November 26, 1921.*

**Virginia Rail and Flammulated Screech Owl in the San Bernardino Mountains.**—On July 16, 1921, and again on the 17th, a Virginia Rail (*Rallus virginianus*) was seen near the mouth of Rathbun Creek, Big Bear Lake. It was feeding in marshy ground beside the road, and when passed in an auto could be closely observed. When we returned on foot, however, we could not find it.

On July 17 and 18, both morning and evening, the peculiar, ventriloquial, notes of the Flammulated Screech Owl (*Otus flammeotus*) were heard in the vicinity of the I S Ranch, Big Bear Lake; and on the 19th and 20th we heard the same notes at the Fish Hatchery at the north base of Sugarloaf Mountain. We did not succeed in seeing any of the producers of these strange calls at either place, repeating our experience with this species at Dry Lake, July, 1920, where we failed on three evenings to catch sight of one.—JOHN MCB. ROBERTSON, *Buena Park, California, December 4, 1921.*