

up. Two birds shot from tide pools had so much fat I had to scrape the skins, but the others were thin.

Between October 3 and November 28, I visited the flats at San Pedro or the rocks at Point Fermin nine times. At all times when found the birds were actively whirling in pools or flitting and dabbling about on the ocean. Besides those mentioned I have found only a few carcasses.

August 23 and several days thereafter I observed a lone Red Phalarope very closely. When first encountered the bird was making short flights along the beach to dodge a small child who persistently trotted after it from place to place. Finally it took refuge on the water. In a few moments, after preening and resting, it returned and trotted easily and fearlessly before my slow advance, flying only when frightened and then but a rod or so, or out to the water. Kelp flies seemed to satisfy its sporting instincts and hunger, and the bird stalked them slowly and pointedly one by one. With bill and neck outstretched and lowered in line with a fly on the sand, a slow advance was made until with a pounce the hunt closed. If the fly escaped, the phalarope sometimes ran after it, bill out.

Another pose interested me. On finding a kelp mass decaying and drawing flies, the Phalarope approached closely and so low that his breast touched the ground, but the rear of the bird was high up. At times he would remain with breast down and pick at the flies much as a dusting fowl picks up a stray grain. Mr. L. E. Wyman reported similar "breast to ground" actions of two phalaropes he saw feeding by a kelp mass on the beach.

Upon the arrival of the Red Phalaropes, a local paper stated that the harbor was covered with "Mo'her Cary's Chickens".—ROLAND C. ROSS, *Los Angeles, California, January 2, 1922.*

New Nesting Records of American Osprey in Northern California.—As nesting records of the American Osprey (*Pandion haliaetus carolinensis*) in the northern part of this state are rather rare it was interesting to note two nests during 1921.

One of these was under construction in the top of the tall stump of a dead fir in a cleared flat on the north side of the Klamath River, near Requa, Del Norte County, California, on May 18. The birds were seen bringing material for building purposes.

The other record is of an Osprey's nest noted on the South Fork of the Eel River some miles above Garberville, Mendocino County, California.

This nest was noted by Mr. Chester C. Lamb and myself on October 7, 1921, as we were returning from a fall field trip up the coast. It was placed on top of a tall, slim, rather isolated redwood tree standing on the edge of the river, and was in plain sight from the highway, but some half a mile distant therefrom. While no birds were seen, it was unmistakably the nest of an Osprey. My brother, John W. Mailliard, had also noted this nest as he passed by a few days previously.—JOSEPH MAILLIARD, *California Academy of Sciences, San Francisco, California, January 12, 1922.*

Kern County Notes.—Field work carried on during the last two years in the vicinity of Buena Vista Lake, Kern County, California, has resulted in an extension of the ranges of several birds. Not only has the Suisun Marsh Wren been found breeding about the Lake, but an interesting arm of Mohave influence has been indicated by the presence in the locality of birds that were formerly restricted, in our belief, to the more eastern desert regions.

Telmatorhytes palustris aestuarinus: A series of breeding marsh wrens taken in the tules about the shores of Buena Vista Lake were identified by Mr. H. S. Swarth as of this form. This extends the breeding range of this comparatively new race south to include the entire San Joaquin Valley.

Amphispiza nevadensis canescens: In our experience, this species has never before been found in summer save in the *Artemisia* association. Despite the absence of sage about this Lake, however, this is one of the commonest summer birds, adhering closely to the scrubby growth of *Atriplex polycarpa* which covers the hillsides and plains of the region.

Bubo virginianus pallascens: A pair of breeding birds and one juvenile taken by the authors on June 4, 1920, another juvenile taken June 22, 1921, the remains of an

adult bird found by the junior author on September 15, 1921, and a late fall specimen collected by L. M. Huey on October 21, 1919, agree in showing conclusively that the desert race of horned owl is the form found in the extreme southern San Joaquin Valley. Whether *palescens* has invaded the region in recent years and supplanted *pacificus*, which was formerly supposed to inhabit the section, or whether it has always been an established part of the local avifauna, is a debatable question. But the latter hypothesis seems much the more logical when we consider that this region also supports other typical desert forms, such as the Leconte Thrasher and California Sage Sparrow.

Otocoris alpestris ammophila: The horned larks breeding about Buena Vista Lake exhibit affinities that are distinctly analogous to those which characterize the horned owls of the region, in that they seem related to the form of the Mohave Desert, rather than to *actia* of the more northern portion of the San Joaquin. A series of breeding birds from the vicinity of the Lake do, in a few instances, show a slight tendency in the latter direction, but the great majority are so close to typical *ammophila* as to be referable with certainty to that form. Breeding birds from Corcoran, Kings County, California, in the collection of A. B. Howell, are unqualifiedly *actia*, so that *ammophila*, in the San Joaquin, must be confined to the extreme southern end of the Valley.—D. R. DICKEY AND A. J. VAN ROSSEM, *Pasadena, California, January 13, 1922.*

Position of Feet in Flight in Certain Birds.—Here are several apparent "rules" in bird life that have interested me for some time, and they are passed on to the readers of THE CONDOR for what they are worth.

1. All water birds in flight extend the feet behind.
2. All web-footed birds, with short tails, spread the toes in flight, the membranes apparently acting as an elevator or rudder. This group includes the murrees, murrelets, auks, and puffins.
3. All perching birds in flight fold the legs forward under the feathers.

All the short-tailed, web-footed birds that I have had under close observation, when getting under way do spread the toes, placing them side by side to form a wide flat surface, which is no doubt useful in flight. By the time these birds may have attained their regular speed, possibly the toes are relaxed, but they are then as a rule too far distant for accurate observation. I am not so certain that loons follow this rule. Grebes, which are lobe-footed, spread the lobe flat out in rising from the water, and, I think, close the toes after attaining full speed.—GEO. G. CANTWELL, *Puyallup, Washington, January 20, 1922.*

Further Remarks on the Occurrence of the Buffle-head at Eagle Lake.—We have read with interest Mr. Allan Brooks's comment on our record of the occurrence of the Buffle-head at Eagle Lake, California. Mr. Ray had received a similar letter from Mr. A. C. Bent drawing his attention particularly to the error in the identification of the young ducks shown in figure 33 of the Condor for November, 1921. It is evident that these are young American Mergansers. We do not wish to take up space unnecessarily in a discussion of this matter, but we believe a further account of the circumstances may be of interest, especially so, as Mr. Brooks has brought up several questions of doubt regarding the identity of the young following the female Buffle-head and also the actions of the male bird.

Mr. Ray and I feel positive that the young following the female are Buffle-heads and we can also vouch for the actions of the male Buffle-head. The error regarding the young ducks shown in figure 33, we believe, should and can be explained by the circumstances leading to their capture. Upon our first encountering the female and eight young, we recognized this as a new breeding duck for this locality and during our efforts to obtain a photograph it was noted that two of the young made several attempts at diving and in this way became separated from the parent. The remaining six kept well up with the parent and seemed to obey each warning. The diving efforts of the two young and the maneuvering of our boat caused a complete separation of the two from the parent and the remainder of the flock.

Several hours afterward, the two young of the photograph were found on the shore of the bay in which the female and young were encountered and not more than 50 yards from the point where the photograph, figure 32, was taken.