

associated with nuthatches. The call is a clear, short, and repeatedly uttered whistle, with very short intervals. The adult birds uttered this call in flight as well as when perching, recalling the habit but not the voice of linnets.—CLAUDE GIGNOUX, *Berkeley, California, August 24, 1923.*

Additional Records of the European Widgeon in Oregon.—Through the courtesy of State Game Warden A. E. Burghduff, I have had a chance to examine two specimens of the European Widgeon (*Mareca penelope*) during the past few years. The first was an adult male shot by Ed King, of Portland, Oregon, on Sauvies Island in the Columbia River, Multnomah County, Oregon, during November, 1920. The second was a beautiful adult male shot by J. L. Stafford, of Gresham, Oregon, on the Morgan ranch, on Sauvies Island, about the first of December, 1922.

Both these birds were mounted by Ed Gonty, taxidermist of Portland, and are in the possession of the men who shot them. Another mounted specimen is in the possession of the Portland Library Association and, upon inquiry, the only information I could get was that it was "shot along the Columbia River."

These, with Mr. Walker's record (CONDOR, xxv, p. 70), constitute three authentic records for northwestern Oregon. There is an element of doubt as to the exact locality of the specimen in the possession of the Portland Library Association.—STANLEY G. JEWETT, *Portland, Oregon, July 12, 1923.*

The Note of the Ruddy.—The note of the Ruddy Duck (*Erismatura jamaicensis*) being unknown to me, I resolved to become acquainted with it, if possible, in the season of 1923; and the opportunity came to me on June 8. I was on a collecting trip to Lake Majeau with Messrs. R. C. Harlow, Geo. H. Stuart, 3rd, and J. Fletcher Street, and while wading through a bed of tules I observed three Ruddies, two drakes and a female, a short distance out in the open water.

The drakes were evidently courting the female and gave their love note repeatedly. As near as I can render it, it is *chica, chica, chica, chica, quack*. It is given with a feeble utterance, especially the *chica* sounds; the final *quack* is louder. This call is very rapidly uttered by the drakes while the head is quickly jerked up and down, the bill striking the water at the end of each word sound. The only note uttered by the female was a feeble *quack*.

Afterwards I often heard the Ruddies near my home at Lac La Nonne, where at least three pairs were breeding in a bed of tules in front of the house. At a distance of about one hundred yards, the *chica* sounds were not audible, but the final *quack* or *quowk* was quite distinct. The notes of these birds differed slightly from the ones heard at Lake Majeau: the *chica* sounds were not the regular four heard there, but were given in twos and threes, also, and the ending was more often *quowk*, than *quack*.

I heard the Ruddies principally in the evenings and on the clear moonlight nights of the last few days in June and the first part of July. Later they seemed to be silent. Probably, when the female is sitting on the completed clutch of eggs, the drake ceases to call.—A. D. HENDERSON, *Belvedere, Alberta, August 13, 1923.*

A Possible Function of the Whiteness of the Breast in Crevice-searching Birds.—In reviewing one's field experience with birds, certain species are likely to stand out in memory by reason of their striking color, behavior, or voice, or of two or even all three of these features in combination. A person of an enquiring turn of mind will be led to ponder over the possible significance of these conspicuous features, and he will "gain merit," intellectually, by so doing, even if he never finds himself ready to offer a conclusive explanation.

At the moment of writing, I have vividly in mind the Dotted Canyon Wren (*Catherpes mexicanus punctulatus*), a bird met with, never in large numbers, but under circumstances which as a rule concentrate attention upon it. Let the reader, with me, recall this bird in its normal surroundings. Our first glimpse is likely to be of a fleeting avian figure, seen momentarily in a remote recess of a broken cliff face or of a rock slide. The bird may disappear for minutes at a time. By patiently waiting, one may again see the bird, barely indicated in the gloom of some cavern. What one then sees is a spot of white moving jerkily up and down, and this way and that.