

**The Coo of the Band-tailed Pigeon.**—There is no action of this interesting bird (*Columba fasciata*) which I enjoy more than its "coo". When the male pigeon starts this performance he usually maneuvers around for a firm footing and perhaps opens his bill slightly once or twice. Next he stretches his neck out in a line parallel with the axis of his body, and bends his head down to a right angle. With his bill open a crack he gives one gasp which fills out the skin of his neck until about three times natural size, and at the same time utters a very faint *oo* which is not usually audible over twenty feet. All of these are preliminary actions, as directly following the first sound comes the *whoo-oo*. This hoot is made by a quick expelling of the air from the bird's lungs, and is accompanied by a slight downward push which seems to give abruptness to the first note. The swelled neck skin is not reduced, as the bill is opened and the lungs are refilled for the following *coo*. There are usually about seven or eight of these hoots in a series, but sometimes as many as eleven. When finished, the male pigeon brings his neck back into its natural position and allows the air to escape from under the neck skin. This performance is repeated at irregular intervals through the early morning and the latter part of the afternoon.



Fig. 19. BAND-TAILED PIGEON AT REST IN OAK TREE.

In "North American Land Birds", by Baird, Brewer, and Ridgway, Dr. Suckley is quoted as saying that these birds could be heard cooing at quite a long distance. This depends a great deal upon the surrounding conditions. For my part I do not think their coo could be heard much over one hundred yards, if that far. The account of the band-tail's coo, in Grinnell, Bryant and Storer's "Game Birds of California", gives some different translations, which I believe are probably variations of accentuation and syllabication due to the individual feelings of the birds.

This is not the only vocal exhibition given by the species, as I have often watched a female, when seemingly angered at a male bird, side along the roost and with a thrust of the bill at the intruder, give a low guttural *caa*. I would hesitate in saying that either this sound or the coo are sexual characteristics.—JOSEPH H. WALES, *Pasadena, California, August 1, 1925.*