

which is now in the collection of the University of Kansas Museum, was identified by Dr. A. Wetmore. Several other individuals of this species, which has been recorded as a transient in all the published lists of the birds of the state, were seen between July 28 and August 2 in the grove in which this specimen was taken. The presence of this species at this location and at this time of year indicates that the Least Flycatcher may be found nesting in western Kansas.—JEAN LINSDALE, *Berkeley, California, April 28, 1926.*

Moving the Nest of the Killdeer.—Killdeer (*Oxyechus vociferus*) are quite common on our ranch near Buena Park, California, and have been the basis of some very interesting observations. The birds seem to know that every possible means will be used to protect their nests during the breeding season.

On June 19, 1925, a nest with four fresh eggs was found in the orange grove while the latter was being ridged preparatory to irrigation. It was, therefore, necessary to move the nest or see it destroyed. A mound of earth a foot high was scooped up by hand, a hollow made on the top, the pebbles and sticks of the original nest were placed in the hollow and then the eggs were lifted and placed in the new location in the same position as in the old nest. The parent hovered near during the time the nest was being changed, going through all the broken-wing performances it could invent. Immediately upon my withdrawal the bird returned to the eggs, investigated, and seemed satisfied.

On the following day the grove was irrigated. The parent sat on the nest, except when disturbed. On June 26, when the grove was cultivated, the bird was still sitting upon the mound and continued to do so until July 1, when it made a new nest at the foot of the mound and trailed the eggs down the side into the new nest. The trail was one-quarter inch deep and on an easy slope. On July 19, three of the eggs were hatched and we were able to capture one of the young and give it band no. 330661.

This is the third year that we have successfully moved a nest of this species. Late in May, 1924, a nest was moved six feet to the foot of a young orange tree. These eggs were slightly incubated. The nest was placed upon an eight inch elevation in its new location and all four eggs were hatched.

While plowing a field early in June, 1923, a nest of four eggs was found directly in the path of the plow. With the aid of a shovel the nest was moved out of the way each time the plow came around, thus allowing the parent to return between times and see that all was well. In this way the nest was finally moved to the foot of a young tree ten feet away. In this case, also, the parent continued to sit upon the eggs until they hatched.

From these observations it would seem that the Killdeer is not easily disturbed when nesting.—JAMES A. CALDER, *Buena Park, California, October 30, 1925.*

A New Race of Acorn-storing Woodpecker, from Lower California.—The collections of birds accumulating in the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology from the San Pedro Martir "section" of the Lower California peninsula are bringing to light quite a number of undescribed and satisfactorily distinguishable subspecies. It is now in order to diagnose a well-marked new member of the series of Acorn-storing Woodpeckers (Genus *Balanosphyra*). This we do, as follows:

Balanosphyra formicivora martirensis, new subspecies

San Pedro Martir Acorn-storing Woodpecker

Type.—Female; no. 46252, Mus. Vert. Zool.; La Jolla ("La Joya"), 6200 feet altitude, Sierra San Pedro Martir, Lower California, Mexico; October 16, 1925; collected by Chester C. Lamb; original no. 5066.

Distinguishing characters.—Most nearly like *B. f. bairdi*. Distinguished from that subspecies primarily by shorter wing, and by slightly shorter and notably weaker, more slender bill; also by average differences in head markings as set forth below and in fig. 50.

MEASUREMENTS IN MILLIMETERS (AVERAGE, MINIMUM, MAXIMUM)

	Wing	Tail	Culmen
<i>Balanosphyra formicivora bairdi</i>			
10 males from west-central California.....	142.0 (138.0-148.0)	78.7 (70.5-85.0)	28.7 (27.0-30.5)
<i>Balanosphyra formicivora martirensis</i>			
5 males	138.2 (132.0-144.0)	78.5 (72.0-82.0)	27.8 (25.5-29.0)
5 females	141.1 (135.0-145.0)	81.6 (78.0-84.0)	26.8 (25.0-28.0)

Range.—So far as now known, only parts of the Sierra San Pedro Martir, in northern Lower California, between latitudes 30° and 31°30'; altitude 5800 to 7200 feet; life-zone mainly Upper Sonoran (live-oak association), but also Transition locally or sporadically. Specimens examined, 10, from the following two localities, both on the western slope of the Sierra San Pedro Martir: La Jolla ("La Joya"), 6200 feet; Concepcion, 6000 feet. All collected by Chester C. Lamb.

Remarks.—The relatively feeble bill of this bird, as compared with that of the upper Californian *bairdi*, is the most conspicuous character of this subspecies. In bill structure it is closely similar to *B. f. aculeata*, of Arizona.

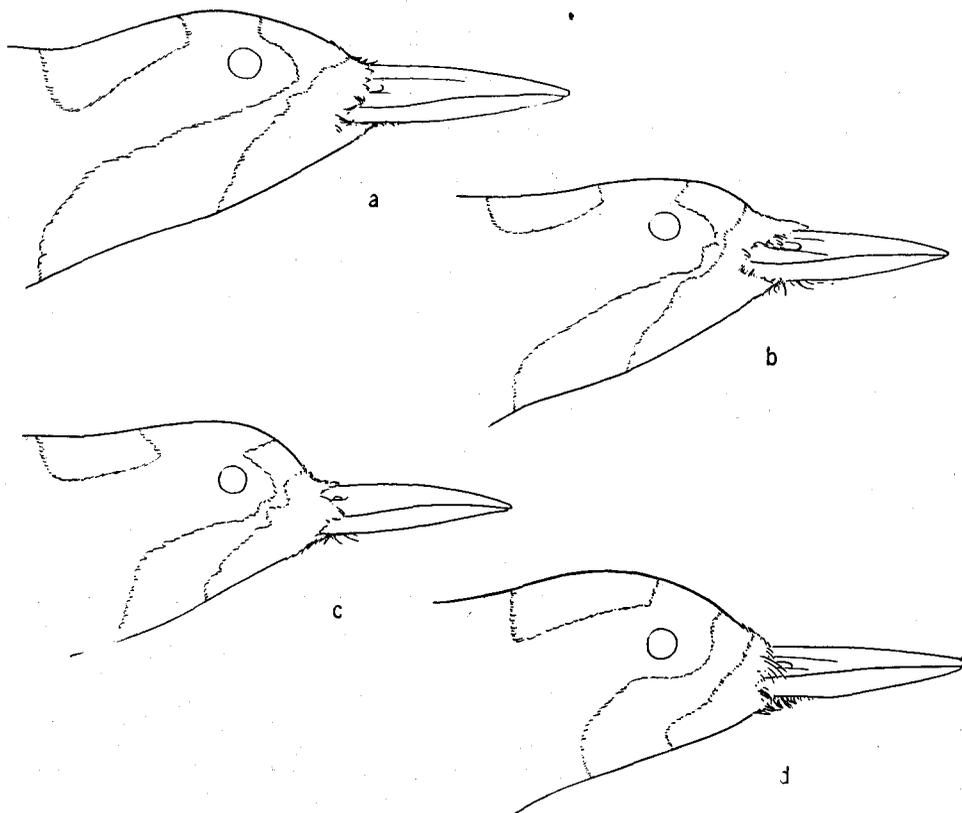


Fig. 48. SHOWING SIZE OF BILL AND EXTENT OF COLOR AREAS ON HEAD IN THE FEMALE OF FOUR RACES OF *Balanosphyra formicivora*. Natural size.

- a. *B. f. bairdi*, no. 23586, Mus. Vert. Zool.; Guerneville, Sonoma County, California; August 31, 1913.
 b. *B. f. aculeata*, no. 27718, Mus. Vert. Zool.; Sierra Ancha, Gila County, Arizona; June 24, 1917.
 c. *B. f. martirensis*, no. 46252, Mus. Vert. Zool.; Sierra San Pedro Martir, Lower California; October 16, 1925.
 d. *B. f. angustifrons*, no. 37366, coll. Louis B. Bishop; Sierra de la Laguna, Lower California; August 30, 1924.

The character of the head markings in the female is suggestive again of *aculeata*, the red area being usually more nearly square, as in that form, rather than shorter than wide, as in *bairdi*. The white frontal band averages slightly narrower than in *bairdi*, an approach toward the condition in *angustifrons*, of the Cape San Lucas region. The yellowish white (more dilutely yellow than in *bairdi*) U-mark on the lower throat in both sexes averages very much narrower in our specimens of *martirensis* than in a large series of *bairdi*—usually only about half the width in the former as in the latter. This we are not quite confident of as a real character, in that there is a chance that "make" of specimen (whether or not the skin of the throat was stretched) affects

the width of the white band. It occurred to us that counting the white feathers in a median line would prove the point; but this proved difficult and inconclusive in the dry and distorted skin.

In character of the markings on the feathers of the breast there is no departure from the condition in *bairdi*. The upper breast is broadly and solidly black, the black band not penetrated posteriorly with white streaks to such an extent as in *aculeata* and *angustifrons*.

The group of woodpeckers here dealt with, in so far as the province of the old A. O. U. Check-list is concerned, would now seem to stand as follows:

1. *Balanosphyra formicivora bairdi* (Ridgway). California Acorn-storing Woodpecker.
2. *Balanosphyra formicivora martirensis* Grinnell and Swarth. San Pedro Martin Acorn-storing Woodpecker.
3. *Balanosphyra formicivora angustifrons* (Baird). Narrow-fronted Acorn-storing Woodpecker.
4. *Balanosphyra formicivora aculeata* (Mearns). Mearns Acorn-storing Woodpecker.

—J. GRINNELL and H. S. SWARTH, *Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, University of California, Berkeley, March 13, 1926.*

Occurrence of Sabine Gull at Playa del Rey.—On April 22, 1926, arriving about noon at Playa del Rey with Mrs. Bates and Miss Craig, I found the tide low and extensive mud flats exposed. Few birds were then about the lagoon, but in a very short time we saw a small gull, its black feet extended in the act of descending to alight on the margin of a flat directly opposite us. Its head was apparently black, and its outspread wings were extensively black. It was recognized at sight as a Sabine Gull (*Xema sabini*). Five and six power binoculars were instantly turned upon it, and practically all field identification marks observed, though the plumbeous tone of the head and the black collar could not be distinguished at the distance the bird was from us. The yellow tip of the black bill was seen, and the slaty tone of the gray mantle was noted. The bird walked along the margin of the water, giving us a view of the folded wing, showing the white tips of the black primaries. Presently it flew across the channel, revealing the white tail, shallowly forked, and again alighted at the water margin facing us.

We then noticed a slight yellowish stain on the white breast. It walked into the shallow water, then swam about, and presently began to bathe. This process was carried on most vigorously for several minutes, particular attention being paid to the lower parts, to which the bill was applied repeatedly. Rising from the water it alighted nearer us on a flat directly in front of our place on the dunes, where it proceeded to shake and preen its plumage, again and again endeavoring to clear off with its bill a small spot of heavy oil that we now saw on its underparts. Thus the yellow stain was conveyed to the white breast. It then flew down to the lower end of the lagoon where it alighted near a large flock of resting gulls. It had held our undivided attention for nearly half an hour, and we now left it for a time.

Somewhat later a careful search of the lower area, including the beach and the pier, failed to reveal its presence, and we concluded that it had probably resumed its migratory journey, and that to that hampering spot of oil, and its need to free itself of it, we owed our fortunate chance to see this beautiful and rare visitor to our shore. Glad we are that we were at the right place at the right time. Our thoughts follow him on his long journey with the hope that the menace of that clinging burden may yet be overcome.

Subsequently, on May 20, a Sabine Gull was seen standing on Hermosa Beach, in the vicinity of the pier. In this favorable situation we approached quite near it, where the slaty hood and the black collar, not distinguished in the individual previously seen, were definitely observed. This bird, like its predecessor, was suffering from oil, but it plainly was not the one seen April 22.—FRANCES B. SCHNEIDER, *Los Angeles, California, May 24, 1926.*

Juvenal House Wren Reveals Ancestral Trait not Apparent in Adults.—On June 3, 1923, five nestlings of the Western House Wren (*Troglodytes aedon parkmani*) were banded at Altadena, California. On June 19, these juvenals, just out of the nest and