

skins of mammals. The main difference in the treatment of mammals is that the stick must be made to extend beyond the nose, to provide the secondary support which, in the case of birds, is furnished by the beak. This is accomplished by thrusting the stick through the skin of the animal—entering just below the left hind leg and emerging just

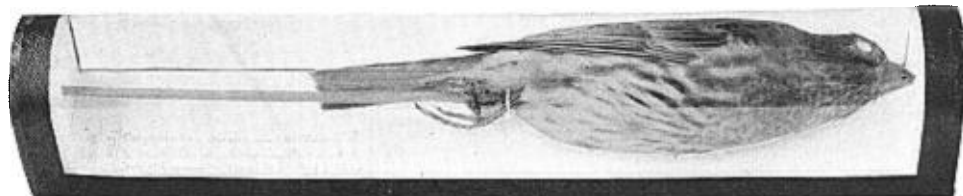


Fig. 33. THE SPECIMEN CONTAINER, OF WOOD AND CELLULOID.

above the left front leg—and tying the two legs to the stick. As in the case of birds, the mammal is placed with one side toward the wooden bottom of the cylinder.—WILLIAM S. WRIGHT, *Natural History Museum, Balboa Park, San Diego, California, September 21, 1926.*

The Derby Flycatcher near Los Angeles.—On September 4, 1926, a phone message from Inglewood announced that a “yellow-bellied kingfisher” had been killed at a cemetery there. Investigation disclosed the fact that a Derby Flycatcher (*Pitangus sulphuratus derbianus*) had been taken while apparently trying to catch fish in the goldfish pond where Belted Kingfishers had caused much trouble. Its actions, kingfisher-like appearance, and swoops toward the water, from a perch in the tules, were its undoing.

The bird was a female, in full molt. Dissection showed an empty stomach. Dr. H. C. Oberholser, who identified it, suggested that it had probably worked northward from Sinaloa, Mexico, its nearest normal habitat. This appears to be the first record of the species for the United States outside of extreme southern Texas.

The fish-catching habit of *Pitangus* is noted by Hudson, as also by Grayson who says he has “often seen them plunge into the water after large insects and small fish.”—L. E. WYMAN, *Los Angeles Museum, Los Angeles, November 9, 1926.*

Sabine Gull off San Diego County.—Frank Stephens, in his “Annotated List of the Birds of San Diego County” (Transactions, San Diego Society of Natural History, III, no. 2, 1919) does not include the Sabine Gull (*Xema sabini*), although he mentions other pelagic species, such as the Pacific Kittiwake, which are known to occur off the coast of the county. Dr. E. W. Nelson writes (Memoirs of the National Academy of Sciences, XVI, 1921, p. 13): “We were much interested, when a few miles off the mouth of San Diego Harbor (May 15, 1905), to see a number of Sabine Gulls scattered about feeding on the tide lines formed by the currents in the smooth sea. This was, I believe, the first record of these beautiful birds at San Diego.”

However, no Sabine Gulls found their way into the collection of the San Diego Society of Natural History until August 28, 1925, when Laurence M. Huey collected thirteen specimens. Since then there have been added six specimens collected by J. W. Sefton, Jr.—five taken on July 29, 1926, and one on September 13, 1926. All were taken on the ocean within a few miles of Point Loma. Of the 1925 birds, three were in immature plumage and six were adults in various stages of transition from dark to light heads. The remainder and all the 1926 birds were dark-headed. It is safe to assume that the Sabine Gull migrates regularly through Southern California waters.—CLINTON G. ABBOTT, *Natural History Museum, Balboa Park, San Diego, California, September 21, 1926.*

Account of the Discovery of a Rare Bird in Costa Rica.—The Puff-bird (*Micromonacha lanceolata austinsmithi*) was named by Dwight and Griscom (Amer. Museum Novitates, no. 142, 1924, p. 2), from a single bird taken by me at Carrillo, Costa Rica. In view of the fact that I have made subsequent trips to the vicinity of Carrillo, and failed again to meet with this species, also that none of the various collectors visiting that region in the years past have secured it, leads to the supposition that it may be very limited in number of individuals.