

While at Camp Idyllwild, San Jacinto Mountains (San Bernardino County), I observed a flock of 65 pigeons on November 26, 1932.

At Barley Flats (north of Mt. Wilson), on December 27, 1932, a flock was observed.

Again at Barley Flats on December 30, 1932, a group of 50 pigeons was seen at 9 a.m. and a smaller flock at 4 p.m.

In Millard's Canyon, a large flock of 70 was observed at 4 p.m. March 24, 1933.

When I look back over my bird lists for 1922, I recall how surprised I was to observe a group of 6 pigeons in the Upper Tujunga Canyon.

From my recent lists, I call attention to the great increase of this once uncommon bird in this region.—L. E. HOFFMAN, *University of Southern California, Los Angeles, March 26, 1933.*

**Oregon Vesper Sparrow in Sonoma County, California.**—The Oregon Vesper Sparrow (*Poocetes gramineus affinis*) is listed in Pacific Coast Avifauna No. 18 as a rather rare winter visitant, with only four records of occurrence in the Bay section which includes Sonoma County. On October 13, 1930, one was collected. No others were observed that year. October 3, 4, and 5, 1931, four were collected and a number of others observed on those dates. October 3, 1932, one was collected and one noted the following day.

From these occurrences I believe the Oregon Vesper Sparrow to be a yearly fall transient in varying but limited numbers in this section. There is a large number of Western Savannah Sparrows here as winter visitants and it is difficult to make positive identification of the Vesper Sparrow unless the birds permit close approach. For that reason it is possible that the Oregon Vesper Sparrows may be more numerous than the records indicate.

Five of the six birds collected are in the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, Berkeley. The ones not previously recorded are catalog nos. 62813-62816. All were collected in the same locality, about two miles north of Healdsburg.—C. W. EDGE, *Healdsburg, California, May 8, 1933.*

**Southernmost Record of the Horned Puffin.**—While walking on the beach three miles north of La Jolla, San Diego County, California, February 25, 1933, Mr. William R. Eastman, Jr., found the body of a peculiar sea bird that was unknown to him. After scrutinizing the bird, he threw it well up on the beach beyond the reach of the highest tides, and during the week following reported his find to the writer.

At my suggestion, he later retrieved the specimen, which proved to be a Horned Puffin (*Fratercula corniculata*). The condition of the bird prevented its being skinned in the regular way, but as it was well dried out it has been preserved as a mummy and now bears the number 16183 in the collection of the San Diego Society of Natural History. This occurrence constitutes the southernmost record to date for this species.—LAURENCE M. HUEY, *San Diego Society of Natural History, Balboa Park, San Diego, California, June 8, 1933.*

**Peale Falcon in California.**—In the collection of the California Academy of Sciences there is a California-taken specimen of *Falco peregrinus pealei* that for many years rested unrecognized in the series of *F. p. anatum*. As this form has not to my knowledge heretofore been reported from California, and in view of the impending revision of the Southern California bird list, this occurrence should be placed on record. The bird (C. A. S. no. 11694) was collected by R. H. Beck at San Diego Bay, March 31, 1908. It is an immature female in extremely worn plumage, and at the inception of a molt that apparently was to include all parts. A general feather renewal seems to have been in progress, proceeding from the head backwards, but not far enough advanced to indicate whether or not the remiges and rectrices would be changed. This molting condition in March seems unusual, but then the whole occurrence is unusual, both as to time and place. It seems safe to assume that this was a non-breeding bird, lacking the usual incentives toward

restriction within the normal range of its kind. Both the new plumage and the old are typical of *pealei*.

There is an adult female in the collection (no. 16481), taken by R. H. Beck at Pacific Grove, California, January 1, 1910, that is like *pealei* rather than *anatum*, but which I hesitate to record explicitly as the former. It lacks the cinnamonous tinge below that is usual in *anatum*, and it differs from ordinary *anatum* in that the feathers of the jugulum are longitudinally streaked. It is not as heavily marked below as is the case in the few northern adults of *pealei* that I have seen, and lacking knowledge of the nature and extent of variation in that subspecies I would not publish this occurrence as the sole basis for the inclusion of the Peale Falcon in the California list. I have no such hesitation regarding the San Diego specimen.—H. S. SWARTH, *California Academy of Sciences, San Francisco, June 10, 1933.*

**California Condor in San Diego County.**—On the morning of August 3, 1933, while traveling over the Imperial Highway thirteen miles west of Oak Grove Station, and only a few miles north of Palomar Mountain, San Diego County, California, a male and female California Condor (*Gymnogyps californianus*) were seen on the wing only a couple of hundred feet above the ground. They sailed about each other in opposing circles, and slowly climbed higher and higher to an elevation of perhaps a thousand feet, when they flew away toward Palomar Mountain. They were under observation through my binoculars for more than half an hour: A truly impressive sight.—DON MEADOWS, *Avalon, California, September 3, 1933.*

**A Cross-billed Blackbird.**—A female Brewer Blackbird (*Euphagus cyanocephalus*), caught in my yard in Benicia, California, in a bird trap on April 21, 1933, had an abnormally-shaped bill. The upper mandible extended downward and to the right of the lower, the tips of the two being .08 inch apart. The upper mandible had a bulge or overgrowth on the right edge. This may have been due to the fact that this edge did not hit upon the lower mandible and therefore did not receive normal wear. The length of the exposed culmen was .74 of an inch.

The mandibles closed somewhat like a pair of scissors, which accounted, no doubt, for the laceration of the end of the tongue and the absence of its extreme tip. Feeding would appear to have been difficult. Being an adult, however, it must have subsisted successfully for a year or more, for very likely it had been so handicapped from birth. After making the accompanying sketch, (fig. 47) the bird was banded and released.—EMERSON A. STONER, *Benicia, California, May 28, 1933.*

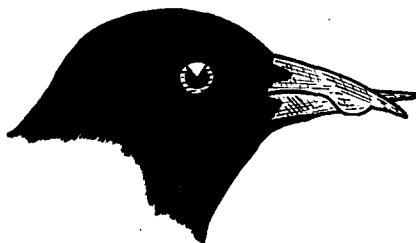


Fig. 47. HEAD OF BREWER BLACK-BIRD SHOWING ABNORMAL GROWTH OF UPPER MANDIBLE.

**The Tri-colored Red-wing in Oregon.**—Inquiry among interested ornithologists fails to produce any recent record of the Tri-colored Red-wing (*Agelaius tricolor*) for the state of Oregon; in fact, since there was apparently no Oregon-collected specimen to verify the records, the tendency has been to assume that probably early writers erred in their identification.

On July 14, 1931, the present writer, with Carl Richardson, now of Prospect, Oregon, noted three male *Agelaius tricolor* in a cattle lot about ten miles south of Klamath Falls, Oregon. The presence of cattle prevented the collecting of specimens, but we had opportunity to watch the birds closely and to compare them with Nevada Redwings (*Agelaius phoeniceus nevadensis*) feeding close by.

On June 13, 1933, Richardson and I located a nesting colony of *Agelaius tricolor* on the Williamson River Ranch of the California-Oregon Power Company, about 26 miles north of Klamath Falls. This colony was studied on June 13, 14, and 16; there were about fifty birds nesting in the nettle (*Urtica*) on the levee separating Agency