

close to a road that the automobiles kept the foliage on one side worn down. The nest was within a foot of my car as it stood on the road. The eggs were almost at the point of hatching but there were only six large young in the nest two weeks later. This is the largest set of this jay that I know about.

My records from southern California indicate that four eggs to the set are the most common, thirty-five per cent being of this number; either three or five are also common, while two are not rare. The average weight of forty fresh, or almost fresh, eggs was 5.996 grams, and the extremes were 6.85 and 5.10 grams. The brown type of egg is rare as I have seen but a single set in the field. The extremes of nesting dates which I have are April 6, 1919, four eggs, and May 31, 1931, five eggs; the average date is April 26.—WILSON C. HANNA, *Colton, California, October 22, 1935.*

**Remarks Stimulated by Brodkorb's "Two New Subspecies of the Red-shafted Flicker".**  
—Mr. Pierce Brodkorb recently (Occas. Papers Mus. Zool. No. 314, Univ. Mich., May 29, 1935) has given names to the Red-shafted Flickers of the Rocky Mountain region and of north-western Mexico. To take up the two names in order of their appearance, there is *Colaptes cafer canescens* with Bear Lake, Idaho, as the type locality and an ascribed range, speaking broadly, which includes the Rocky Mountains and adjacent areas to the east and west.

Now this area is, of course, on the edge of the meeting ground of the species *Colaptes auratus* and *Colaptes cafer*, a circumstance which is not even mentioned in the paper referred to! An analysis of the characters which are given as diagnostic of *canescens* shows that, in part at least, they may well be accounted for by an *auratus* influence. Briefly, there is the grayer pileum obviously an *auratus* tendency, the grayer back (concerning which see the comment by Ridgway on page 22 of Part 6 of the Birds of North and Middle America), and the more pinkish sides (in part, at least, *cafer cafer* or partly *auratus*). The "longer wing" is a matter of an average of three millimeters (less than 2 per cent), with the maximum (175 mm.) given as the same for both "races" (*collaris* and *canescens*). The claim of broader bill is not supported by any measurements.

Now it is not the intention of these remarks to enter into a discussion of the merits of recognizing, by name, a "new" flicker from the region of intermingling between *cafer* and *auratus*. The case has been exhaustively discussed by several eminently competent writers, a list of whom may be found in the cited volume of Ridgway. It is simply my contention that no description of a red-shafted, or any other, flicker from the Rocky Mountains region is entitled to serious consideration unless the author re-opens and gives careful analysis to the whole problem. In this connection, also, there are two old names, *Picus ayresii* Audubon, and *Colaptes hybridus* Baird, to be disposed of before any new ones are manufactured.

The case of the second description, *Colaptes cafer chihuahuae*, differs considerably from the foregoing in that the only question involved is a difference of opinion on how far to go in naming intermediates. The writer recently had occasion to investigate in considerable detail the geographic behavior of Red-shafted Flickers in central and northern Mexico and at that time came to the conclusion that there were increasing tendencies toward *mexicanus* from the Arizona border southward to Durango, but that there was insufficient stability of characters in this area to justify the bestowal of a name. However, he has not the slightest objection if anyone else desires to take such action.—A. J. VAN ROSSEM, *Pasadena, California, September 20, 1935.*

**Additional Bird Records from Death Valley.**—A summer, that of 1935, spent in Death Valley, California, brought to light several new bird records which are listed here.

*Aix sponsa.* Wood Duck. Two seen September 28 on a pond formed by overflow water from the Furnace Creek Ranch.

*Mycteria americana.* Wood Ibis. One seen at the same pond on July 30. Seen again the two following days at the same place and was very tame, allowing me to approach as near as ten feet. On the morning of August 2, I found the bird dead at the edge of the water. I found no marks of violence on it, so disease probably caused its death.

*Egretta thula.* Snowy Egret. Four seen August 21 at the pond. At the same time there was a flock of 26 Avocets. Two more of the Egrets were seen at the same place on August 31, one on September 1, and two on September 5. At one of my visits to the ponds I saw a flock of eight of the big American Egrets.

*Lobipes lobatus.* Northern Phalarope. July 1, two were seen swimming on the pond, and on August 6 two more were seen on the same pond.

*Tryngites subruficollis.* Buff-breasted Sandpiper. One seen on July 1 on the pond so often mentioned here. There were two overflow ponds about 100 yards apart and the sandpiper was seen for the next four days at one or other of the ponds. When flushed it would fly to the other pond. Before it left it became much tamer and would allow a reasonably close approach.