

of the Bureau of Biological Survey. The skin has been deposited in the Biological Survey Collections at the U. S. National Museum.

This specimen is apparently the first Arizona record for the Timberline Sparrow and one of a very few collected in the United States. The subspecies has been reported from central-southern New Mexico by Grinnell (Condor, vol. 34, 1932, pp. 231-232) and from central-western Texas by Van Tyne (Auk, vol. 53, 1936, p. 92).—JAMES O. STEVENSON, *National Park Service, Washington, D. C., November 30, 1937.*

**Another Saw-whet Owl from the San Bernardino Mountains, California.**—I recently examined a mounted specimen of *Cryptoglaux acadica acadica* that was taken by Roger Zachary, of Los Angeles, at Crestline, about 5000 feet altitude in the San Bernardino Mountains, October 27, 1937. The bird was taken alive, but died after a few days in captivity.—G. WILLETT, *Los Angeles Museum, Los Angeles, California, December 1, 1937.*

**An Unusually Early Molt in the Ruddy Duck.**—Although it is not unusual to see Ruddy Ducks (*Oxyura jamaicensis rubida*) in partial nuptial plumage by early March, Phillips (Nat. Hist. Ducks, vol. 4, 1926, p. 161) gives March 18 as the earliest known date at which this plumage has been found complete. It was therefore a matter of considerable surprise when, in the late afternoon of January 3, 1938, a male of this species was seen in the western part of Stow Lake, Golden Gate Park, San Francisco, in complete breeding plumage.

This individual was no more than twenty-five yards from shore when seen, and it afforded ample opportunity for close scrutiny. The unworn and unfaded appearance of the feathers precluded the possibility that this might be an old male that had failed to molt its nuptial plumage the previous autumn.

This same individual was observed at this locality on ensuing days and on January 7 a careful check was made of all the Ruddy Ducks on the lake. On this day about 75 individuals of this species were seen, of which approximately one-half were males. A careful examination of each bird through field glasses showed only one additional male to be in other than full eclipse plumage which is normally retained during the autumn, winter and early spring until late March or April. This bird had black on the head but not as yet on the nape. A considerable spotting of chestnut was present on the mantle, scapulars and sides.—ROBERT T. ORR, *California Academy of Sciences, San Francisco, January 11, 1938.*

**An Incubating Male California Quail.**—It is well known that in the California Quail (*Lophortyx californica*) usually the female alone incubates the eggs. The fact that sometimes a male quail is found incubating was noted by Grinnell, Bryant, and Storer (Game Birds of California, 1918, p. 529) who wrote: "The male bird will assume the duties of incubation if the female is done away with, but otherwise seems only to perform the duty of sentinel."

But such instances do not seem to be common, for E. Lowell Sumner, Jr. (Calif. Fish and Game, vol. 21, 1935, pp. 217, 254) in the course of thirty months of intensive field work on the California Quail never observed the male incubating and he only mentions one such case, that of a nest observed by the writer and others on the Stanford University campus in 1933.



Fig. 30. Male California Quail incubating.

It was with interest, therefore, that in 1936 on approaching a quail nest for purposes of photography I found the male incubating the eggs (fig. 30). Thirteen eggs were in the nest which was in a field just west of the Stanford campus. This nest was observed several times each day, on June 29, 30, July 1, 2, 3. Only the male was found on the eggs and nothing was seen of the female. On July 4 the nest was found broken up. Four of the eggs were missing, and many scattered feathers indicated the capture of the bird by some predatory animal.

At neither nest, in 1933 or 1936, was the female observed at any time. This fact tends to confirm the suggestion of Grinnell, Bryant, and Storer that males found incubating are not sharing the duty with the female but have taken it over after she has been killed.—JOHN B. PRICE, *Stanford University, California, November 29, 1937.*