

FROM FIELD AND STUDY

Sleeping Posture of the Rock Wren.—The night of October 15, 1939, two Rock Wrens (*Salpinctes obsoletus*) were found asleep in a shed near some cliffs in southern Alameda County. The wrens were perched side by side on the rough, vertical side of a mud wasp nest (*Sceliphron*, sp.) which was built on the 4" side of a 2" x 4" rafter. The position of the wrens was vertical, substantially that of a perching woodpecker or creeper (*Certhia*), with the tails jammed against the mud wasp nest for support and the feet about at mid-breast level, and far enough apart to show the outer toe on each side when the bird was viewed from behind. It was not possible to see exactly how the heads were held, but apparently they were placed with the beak pointed downward between one wing and the body. One of the birds awoke and slipped away in the beam of my flashlight, but the other did not stir. I left the birds for about fifteen minutes, and returned with another observer. The wakeful bird had returned to its former position and posture, and slipped away again. The heavy sleeper was picked up by hand. It is doubtful if the birds could have been reached by any small mammal, because of the position of the roosting site.—R. M. BOND, *Berkeley, California, October 23, 1939.*

Lesser Loon and Wood Ibis in Utah.—On August 14, 1939, I found a dead loon on U. S. Highway 91, 6 miles north of Scipio, Juab County, Utah. It was so badly decomposed that I was unable to determine the cause of its death. The fact that the large Sevier Bridge Reservoir is within two miles of this spot suggests the possibility that the bird was wounded there and flew to the road before death. The wing that was saved is 350 mm. long and identifies the bird as the Lesser Loon (*Gavia immer elasson*). Hayward (Wilson Bull., vol. 49, 1937, p. 304) mentions three other records of this loon in Utah.

On August 28, 1939, I collected a male Wood Ibis (*Mycteria americana*) at Virgin City, Washington County, Utah. It was walking about on a sandbar in the Virgin River, and was the only one seen. This is the first record of the Wood Ibis for southern Utah, but there are several records from the northern part of the State. Hayward (*loc. cit.*) mentions three records. C. W. Lockerbie, of Salt Lake City, has seen Wood Ibises on three occasions in the Salt Lake area. The ibis and the wing of the loon are now in the museum of the University of Utah.—W. S. LONG, *Soil Conservation Service, Salt Lake City, Utah, November 28, 1939.*

Rufous-necked Sandpiper Nesting on Seward Peninsula, Alaska.—Recently I received a brooding female Rufous-necked Sandpiper (*Pisobia ruficollis*), together with the set of four eggs and nest material, from a native collector working under the authority of a government permit. These were collected on June 15, 1939, near Cape Prince of Wales, Seward Peninsula, Alaska. The collector stated that the bird was a "Rufus Neck Sandpiper" and that the fresh eggs were in a nest



Fig. 36. Rufous-necked Sandpiper and set of eggs. Cape Prince of Wales, Alaska, June 15, 1939. Photo by J. E. McKinney.

made of grass and leaves at "mountain dry place." He also remarked that "these birds were hardly seen so few around."

This is one of the very few breeding records for this species, and I understand it to be the only perfectly prepared set of eggs in any collection. The photograph (fig. 36), and a few notes on the eggs will help to visualize them.

Upon first viewing the eggs I was impressed with a possible resemblance to those of the Baird Sandpiper (*Pisobia bairdii*) or possibly those of the Western Sandpiper (*Ereunetes mauri*), although they seemed to be smaller than the former and larger than the latter. A comparison was made with my series of each of these, and my estimate as to size was confirmed, but the eggs did not fit well as to coloration in either series.

The eggs are uniform in size, shape, and markings. They are ovate pyriform in shape with a smooth shell which has a slight luster. The markings are fairly heavy, with most of them on the large ends, and with little if any tendency to spirals. The ground color is Tilleul-buff and most of the markings, from pin point size to fairly large blotches, are bay and brownish drab. There are a few small flecks of black or slate black, chiefly on two eggs, superimposed on the large end of each egg. The average size is 29.7 by 22.6 mm. (30.1 x 22.6; 29.7 x 22.8; 29.7 x 22.6; 29.3 x 22.6). These specimens are no. 6475 in my collection.—WILSON C. HANNA, Colton, California, December 25, 1939.

Some Birds from the Bulkley River, British Columbia.—During the summer of 1938 Mr. Claude W. Ritz made a hunting trip to the Bulkley River, a tributary of the Skeena River in north-central British Columbia. Ritz made use of this opportunity to secure specimens of birds for the University of Michigan Museum of Zoology. He collected at Topley, near the head of the Bulkley River, on July 18, and at Hazelton, at the junction of the Bulkley and Skeena rivers, from July 20 to September 18.

Two parties from the Canadian Geological Survey worked at Hazelton in 1917. J. M. Macoun and Wm. Spreadborough collected there from June 20 to July 21, and P. A. Taverner spent the period from August 23 to 29 in the same area. The results of these two trips were published by Taverner (*Condor*, vol. 21, 1919, pp. 80-86), who listed 69 species.

From May 25 to September 26, 1921, Harry S. Swarth and W. D. Strong made a collecting trip to the upper Skeena in the interests of the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology of the University of California. Their headquarters were at Hazelton, but they also worked in the Kispiox Valley and on Nine-mile Mountain. Swarth's paper (*Univ. Calif. Publ. Zool.*, vol. 24, 1924, pp. 315-394) records 127 forms of birds from the upper Skeena. The University of California party found all the species reported by Taverner except *Charitonetta albeola*, *Buteo swainsoni*, *Otus asio*, *Corvus corax*, and *Euphagus cyanocephalus*. According to Brooks and Swarth (*Pac. Coast Avif.* No. 17, 1925, p. 83), the last was a misidentification of *Euphagus carolinus*, which was also secured by Swarth and Strong. The hawk and owl were included on admittedly doubtful visual and auditory evidence and may now be excluded from further consideration.

While the number of species taken by Ritz is not large, since he did not pay much attention to the smaller land birds, several species previously unknown from the region are contained in the collection, and others which were reported by Swarth and Taverner on the basis of sight records are now represented by specimens. The most interesting of his specimens are recorded here. Ritz's work brings the total of birds of the upper Skeena to 137.

Ardea herodias fannini. Northwestern Coast Heron. Hazelton, 1 ♀ juv., August 7. With only two sight records, Swarth assumed *fannini* to be the form of the upper Skeena, and this assumption now proves to be correct. Hazelton seems to be the most northern point at which *fannini* has been recorded from the interior.

Botaurus lentiginosus lentiginosus. American Bittern. Topley, 1 ♀, July 18. Swarth secured no specimens, but he reported seeing bitterns once or twice in the Kispiox Valley, which is the most northwesterly station for the bittern.

Spatula clypeata. Shoveller. Hazelton, 1 ♀, September 13. Previously unknown from the upper Skeena area.

Accipiter striatus velox. Sharp-shinned Hawk. Hazelton, 1 ♀ juv., July 28; 1 ♀ juv., August 12.

Accipiter striatus perobscurus. Northwest Coast Sharp-shinned Hawk. Hazelton, 1 ♂ juv., August 3; 1 ♀ juv., August 4. On comparing these two birds with more than 250 skins of *velox* in the University of Michigan collection, I find that they are much darker than any individuals of that race, thus agreeing with three juvenile *perobscurus* from Vancouver Island. Although forming a considerable range extension inland for this recently described race, the record is not unexpected, since several northwest coast forms occur in the upper Skeena region, at least on migration. We also have two Oregon specimens which must be referred to *perobscurus*, one from Portland taken November