

Catherpes mexicanus. Canyon Wren. On June 27, 1941, Donald and I heard the note of a Canyon Wren sounding from somewhere in the rafters of the barn. We soon located the bird; it remained for the rest of the day.

Certhia familiaris. Creeper. On October 4, 1942, I saw two creepers in a group of pecan trees near the house. Later a single bird only was observed. This bird was generally to be found in the pecan trees, in one of several deodars, or in a cedar of Lebanon near the house. A creeper was last seen in the park on March 21, 1943.

Sitta canadensis. Red-breasted Nuthatch. Noted in Monterey cypress trees on August 20, 1940, and on October 6, 1940. Heard at various times from September 21, 1942, to January 15, 1943.

Sitta carolinensis. White-breasted Nuthatch. In the late summer and fall of 1940, this nuthatch was present in the park in limited numbers. It seemed to be partial to the Canary Island pine, the pecan trees, and the Monterey cypress. The birds were present from August 27 until November 20.

Ixoreus naevius. Varied Thrush. This thrush was common in the park in the winter and spring of 1938 from February 17 to March 23. Occasionally as many as fifteen were noted at one time. In the winter of 1940-41 it was present from November 21 to April 3, and was noted more regularly but in smaller numbers than in 1938. In the park these birds seemed to favor the camphor and Catalina cherry trees. I have observed them feeding upon the berries of camphor trees, pepper trees, and toyon, and on persimmons.—MILTON MOORE, *Redlands, California, April 17, 1943.*

Catbirds Nesting on the Malheur Refuge in Southeastern Oregon.—On the morning of May 31, 1942, while observing birds along the banks of the Donner Und Blitzen River in the south end of the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge, about two miles east of Frenchglen and only a short distance up river from the old "P" ranch headquarters buildings, a familiar bird song was heard. Locating the bird, it was easily and quickly identified as a Catbird (*Dumetella carolinensis*) with which the writer was well acquainted in the mid-western states. Again on June 6 a Catbird was heard singing by the river just opposite the "P" ranch buildings; it allowed the observer to approach within a few feet before flying. Subsequently the song of this bird was heard frequently in this vicinity. On July 13 three different pairs of Catbirds were flushed from thickets of dogwood and alder along the bank of the river. These birds all appeared nervous and apparently they were nesting. On July 21 two pairs again were noted along the river in these same thickets.

The catbird was first seen in 1943 on June 10 at the "P" ranch. However, one or two birds had been heard singing at intervals a few days previously. On July 15 one pair was noted using the thickets in the vicinity of the orchard and another pair in the vicinity of the granary at the "P" ranch. Repeated search for nests was unsuccessful. On August 6 Mr. Matt. Morgan reported seeing a Catbird carrying a worm in its beak. Late in the afternoon of August 11 the writer heard a Catbird and "squeaked" it to within a few feet. Noting that it was carrying an insect in its beak, it was quietly watched. Two young, evidently just out of the nest, were found in a thicket of willows, roses and currants.

Gabrielson and Jewett (*Birds of Oregon, 1940:462*) recorded the Catbird as a regular summer resident of Oregon and give its range as the northeastern corner of the state. They also state that it "Undoubtedly breeds, although there are no actual breeding records."

From the evidence herein presented it would appear that the Catbird has extended its range in Oregon and must be regarded as a breeding summer resident of the Donner Und Blitzen Valley.—CLARENCE A. SOOTER, *United States Fish and Wildlife Service, Frenchglen, Oregon, September 24, 1943.*

A Deformed Redhead Duckling.—Few deformed and crippled wild ducklings are observed because death of such birds in one form or another quickly erases the evidence. However, a juvenile Redhead (*Nyroca americana*) was found on August 12, 1940, while the writer was observing the nesting of the Redhead in Iowa.

The nest in which the duckling was found had been discovered 10 days earlier in a patch of hardstem bulrush (*Scirpus acutus*) and bur-reed (*Sparganium eurycarpum*) growing in a 15-acre marsh. The clutch contained only four eggs, one of which had hatched. The other three eggs were undeveloped, probably infertile. The small clutch size, coupled with the late date of hatching, indicated that the nest was a re-nesting attempt by the female after one or more nesting failures. A larger percentage of the eggs was undeveloped in the other re-nesting attempts found during the same study than was undeveloped in earlier nests, a fact which adds emphasis to the importance of early nesting successes in the production of duck crops.

At the time of the last observation, the duckling was between 24 and 36 hours old. Although it seemed energetic and struggled to escape, it was unable to move from the nest.

Dissection showed that the legs were attached higher on the back than in a normal duckling.

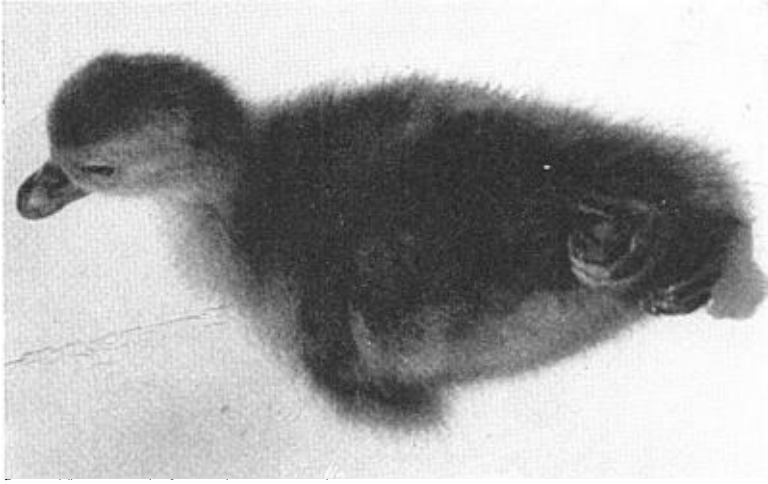


Fig. 64. Young Redhead (*Nyroca americana*) with deformed legs.

The right leg, which lay above the left leg, appeared to rise directly above the spinal column and it extended over to the left side of the body. The joints were stiff and the toes could not be extended. Evidently the malformation was the result of faulty embryonic development.—JESSOP B. LOW, *Illinois State Natural History Survey, Urbana, Illinois, September 23, 1943.*

The Horned Lark and the Rock Wren of the San Benito Islands, Lower California.

—When Grinnell's "Distributional Summation of the Ornithology of Lower California" was published in 1928, only two endemic forms of land birds were known from the San Benito Islands. This group of three, small, barren islands, which lies about twenty-five miles northwest of the nearest point on the Lower California mainland, has been visited on numerous occasions by naturalists but no intensive study of the avifauna as a whole has ever been made. The chief attractions, aside from various species of sea birds which nest there in abundance, have been the nearly extinct McGregor House Finch and the San Benito Marsh Sparrow; relatively scant attention has been paid to the few other species of resident land birds.

Mr. Alfred M. Bailey, Director of the Colorado Museum of Natural History, recently forwarded for determination some specimens of the Horned Lark and the Rock Wren collected by himself on the San Benitos and at the same time suggested that certain characters, if verified by other material, might be of subspecific value. It so happens that just these characters had long ago been noted in the limited series of both species in the Dickey Collection. They are further substantiated by a few other examples in the collection of the Los Angeles Museum.

Otocoris alpestris baileyi, new subspecies

San Benito Horned Lark

Type.—Adult breeding male, no. 29797 Dickey Collection; West San Benito Island, Lower California, Mexico, February 20, 1930; collected by A. J. van Rossem.

Subspecific characters.—Size smallest of all the races of *Otocoris alpestris*. Wings and tails of males average 93.6 and 59.0 mm., respectively. Coloration very similar to the larger *Otocoris alpestris actia* Oberholser of western California and northwestern Lower California, although perhaps averaging very slightly paler. Compared with *Otocoris alpestris enertera* Oberholser of the adjacent mainland of Lower California, size smaller and coloration darker throughout.

Range.—Resident on the San Benito Islands.

Remarks.—Behle, in his "Distribution and Variation of the Horned Larks of Western North America," 1942, has previously commented on the color of a specimen from these islands, which he included in the range of *enertera*. The twelve examples (8 males and 4 females) now available show very uniform color characters, even though they were collected in February, April, and June. I have