

R. Mall and I saw a bird which may have been an immature Laughing Gull at Bolsa Chica Gun Club in Orange County, California, on August 19, 1950. The identification was far from satisfactory, for the bird did not remain in the area for long. It appeared to be an example of what I call the "chicken" Laughing Gull, an expression used locally in the eastern United States to describe the early plumage of this bird. In this plumage there is considerable dark feathering on the breast, a black hood and a white spectacle about the eye.—ARNOLD SMALL, *Department of Zoology, University of Southern California, Los Angeles, California, August 25, 1950.*

**A Record of *Sphyrapicus varius varius* for California.**—On July 19, 1950, a mummified sapsucker was found in a deodar tree (*Cedrus deodara*) at 1420 East Mountain Street, Pasadena, California, and was subsequently identified by us as the Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, *Sphyrapicus varius varius*. The bird is a female in the first adult plumage. Its coloration is that of typical *varius*, although the individual is slightly aberrant in that four of the most anterior chin feathers are red. Distortion is so great that wing and tail measurements cannot be taken accurately. *Sphyrapicus varius varius* is not included in Grinnell and Miller's list of birds of California (Pac. Coast Avif. No. 27, 1944), and this is apparently the first recorded occurrence of that subspecies in the state of California. The specimen is no. 51136 in the collection of Robert T. Moore.—JOHN DAVIS, *Moore Laboratory of Zoology, Occidental College, Eagle Rock, California*, and THOMAS R. HOWELL, *Dickey Collection, University of California, Los Angeles, California, October 26, 1950.*

**Condor Egg Hatched in Incubator.**—An egg of a South American or Andean Condor (*Vultur gryphus*) was successfully incubated and hatched on June 1, 1950, in the Zoological Gardens of San Diego. The egg, which measured 76 mm. × 113 mm., was placed in the Zoo's incubator on April 7, one day after it was laid. The incubation period was 56 days. The temperature within the egg chamber was kept at 94°F., the humidity of the machine at 84 per cent. This egg was turned three times each day by hand.

The young Condor, a female, weighed 9 oz. thirty minutes after hatching. From previous experience with four males and three females raised in San Diego, sex of a newly hatched bird of this species can be determined by presence or absence of a fleshy caruncle on the head. The body length measured 20 mm.; width across the back 7 mm., wing length 6.5 mm. When first hatched, this bird appeared naked and eight hours passed before the body was dry and covered with a complete vestment of soft gray-black down.

We believe this to be the first successful attempt in incubating a Condor egg in a machine.—KENTON C. LINT, *Zoological Society of San Diego, San Diego, California, September 13, 1950.*

**Longevity of a Crippled Brewer Blackbird.**—The process of natural selection is in constant operation in natural environments to eliminate the weak, the crippled, and the otherwise unfit. However, in the congenial environment of a city, which may offer food, shelter, and protection from excess predation, the eradication of the unfit may be less complete. This fact is illustrated by an adult male Brewer Blackbird (*Euphagus cyanocephalus*) observed in the Crenshaw district of Los Angeles. The bird was first noticed because of its progression on the ground by hopping instead of the usual walking. When at rest the bird crouched down on the grass instead of standing. Closer observation revealed that the bird had no right leg. It did not appear to be inconvenienced by this lack, and it engaged in foraging and flight with the rest of the flock. The bird was first observed in the fall of 1948 and was dismissed from mind with the observation that perhaps the leg had been lost only recently and that the bird would soon be adversely affected by its crippled condition. However, in the fall of 1949 and again in the fall of 1950 it was seen in a flock of blackbirds which frequents the area. Although the individual bird was not marked in any other way, the probability of the same bird's reappearing in successive years is much greater than the probability of a different one-legged male blackbird's appearing in a given area each year. The continued reappearance of this bird provides an interesting note on the effect of especially favorable environment on the longevity of a bird with a major disability.—WILLIAM V. MAYER, *Department of Zoology, University of Southern California, Los Angeles, California, November 20, 1950.*