



FIG. 1. An adult Heermann Gull (*Larus heermanni*) photographed on the Anaho Island National Wildlife Refuge, June 19, 1961.

This appears to be the first record for the Heermann Gull in Nevada and the second record for this species far inland.—MICHAEL WOTTON, *Tacoma, Washington*, and DAVID B. MARSHALL, *Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife, Portland, Oregon, April 8, 1964.*

**Compound Clutch of the Chachalaca.**—The Chachalaca (*Ortalis vetula*) is an interesting and relatively unknown member of the avifauna of south Texas. Nesting data for this species are sparse and nowhere indicate that unusually large clutches, perhaps the result of intraspecific egg parasitism, may occur. Bent (U. S. Nat. Mus. Bull. 162, 1932:348), for example, reports that the clutch size is “invariably three in number . . . or rarely two. . . . Though perhaps sets of four occasionally occur.” Our observation of a 9-egg clutch at Santa Ana National Wildlife Refuge, Alamo, Texas, thus seems a noteworthy addition to the life history of the Chachalaca.

TABLE 1  
VARIATION BETWEEN AND AMONG CLUTCHES OF THE CHACHALACA

Clutch	Number of eggs in clutch	Average length in millimeters	Variance ( $S^2$ )
1	2	59.9	0.01
2	2	56.4	0.13
3	2	58.6	4.00
4	3	56.6	0.26
5	3	55.8	0.60
6	3	56.7	0.66
7	3	58.4	1.41
8	3	56.2	2.01
9	3	55.7	2.99
10	9	57.3	9.48



Fig. 1. Compound set of eggs of the Chachalaca. The nest, placed 200 cm. above ground in dense shrubbery, was constructed of twigs and lined with Spanish moss. Note the manner in which the eggs are stacked in the confines of the nest.

The eggs of the large clutch as well as those from three 2-egg and six 3-egg clutches were measured to determine the variability in egg dimensions. The width of the eggs was quite consistent (mean of 40.5 mm.  $\pm$  0.33) throughout the entire sample of 33 eggs; egg length averaged 57.1 mm.  $\pm$  0.67). Egg lengths were accordingly selected to show the variation expected among the eggs of a single female and between clutches (table 1). The 2-egg clutches showed less variation on the average than 3-egg clutches. These data, when compared with the variance of the 9-egg clutch suggests that several hens undoubtedly contributed to the large clutch. Both the longest (61.6 mm.) and the shortest (53.0 mm.) eggs in the sample occurred in the compound clutch.

When first observed on June 11, 1963, the nest with the large clutch contained 8 eggs; these fell into three fairly distinct groups (3, 3, and 2) both in size and in shell texture. The ninth and smallest egg was found in the nest on June 28 on top of the others (fig. 1). This would indicate that four hens likely contributed to the total clutch. Typical of many compound clutches in other species, the nest was never incubated and remained abandoned until collected in July.—RAYMOND J. FLEETWOOD, *United States Fish and Wildlife Service, Alamo, Texas*, and ERIC G. BOLEN, *Rob and Bessie Welder Wildlife Foundation, Sinton, Texas, April 20, 1964*.

**Blue Grouse Persists on Mount Pinos in Southern California.**—In the last 30 years the endemic form of the Blue Grouse on Mount Pinos, Kern County, California—the race *Dendragapus obscurus howardi*—has been rarely detected and has been feared extinct (A.O.U. Check-list, 5th ed., 1957:126). In this period I have often been in the field on Mount Pinos and on nearby Mount Abel and Frazier Mountain and have searched for the species in vain.

In the period from May 24 to 29, 1964, while collecting on Mount Pinos I heard two grouse hooting in the heavy white fir forest on the northwest slope at about 8700 feet elevation. On a later day I heard a single bird in this area. Inquiry of the California Division of Fish and Game