Placer County: Summit, 1. Nevada County: Independence Lake, 8. Siskiyou County: Mount Shasta, 1; Siskiyou Mountains, 1. Modoc County: Warner Mountains, 10.

Oregon. Fort Klamath, 3 (winter).

British Columbia. Midway, 3.

Sphyrapicus thyroideus nataliae

Colorado. Gold Hill, 2. Colorado Springs, 1. Pagosa, 2. Mill City, 1. Cebolla, 1. Elk Creek, 1. "Colorado", 4.

New Mexico. Santa Fe, 1. Ancho, 2 (winter). Willis, 1 (winter).

Arizona. Fort Whipple, 1 (winter). Huachuca Mountains, 8 (winter).

Mexico. Bolanos, Jalisco, 1 (winter).

Berkeley, California, February 7, 1917.

AN ABNORMAL EGG OF *FULICA AMERICANA*

By ALEXANDER WETMORE

WITH ONE PHOTO

ABNORMAL birds' eggs are of more or less common occurrence and have been of interest to the collector because of their oddity, but seldom has there been anything known concerning them that might explain their peculiarities.

On May 29, 1916, while passing through an area known as the Old River Channel, in the delta of Bear River, Utah, a commotion in the aquatic growth at one side attracted attention. Going over, I found an adult Coot caught under water and nearly drowned in long strands of the potato moss (*Potamogeton pectinatus*). On taking it up I found that it had only one foot, and this explained its inability to escape. The bird soon recovered and was tied and placed under some rushes in the bow of the boat along with other captives. This happened about nine o'clock in the morning. At noon the bird was given opportunity to drink, and about four in the afternoon it was placed in a pen where it had access to the river. The following morning I found to my surprise that the bird had laid an egg that was strikingly abnormal in color. Though I have examined many hundreds of Coots' eggs, I have never seen any at all resembling it.

The ground color of this egg is between pale smoke gray and light mineral gray[1], with the larger end washed with avellaneous. Small spots of bone brown that stand out rather prominently, larger and more abundant about the large end, are scattered over the surface. About the larger end are many blurred confused spots of purplish gray. These markings are found over the rest of the surface and vary in places to light purplish gray. The texture of the shell under a hand lens is seen to be similar to that of other Coots' eggs.

This egg is abnormal, then, in having a greenish gray ground with a concentration of heavier markings about the larger end. It has absolutely no resemblance to ordinary Coots' eggs, and no one who has examined it has recognized it. In general it resembles somewhat certain shore-birds' eggs, while it has a sug-

[1]Ridgway, Color Standards and Nomenclature, 1912.

gestion of pale eggs of the crows. In the accompanying photograph (fig. 24) a normal Coot's egg is shown along with the one just described. Careful scrutiny will serve to bring out some of the oddities that have been mentioned. The difference in size and shape between the two is normal and within the range of individual variation. As for the cause of this abnormality, it may be attributed to continued excitement and fear and their reactions through the nervous system upon the ordinary functions of the oviduct.

Washington, D. C., January 22, 1917.

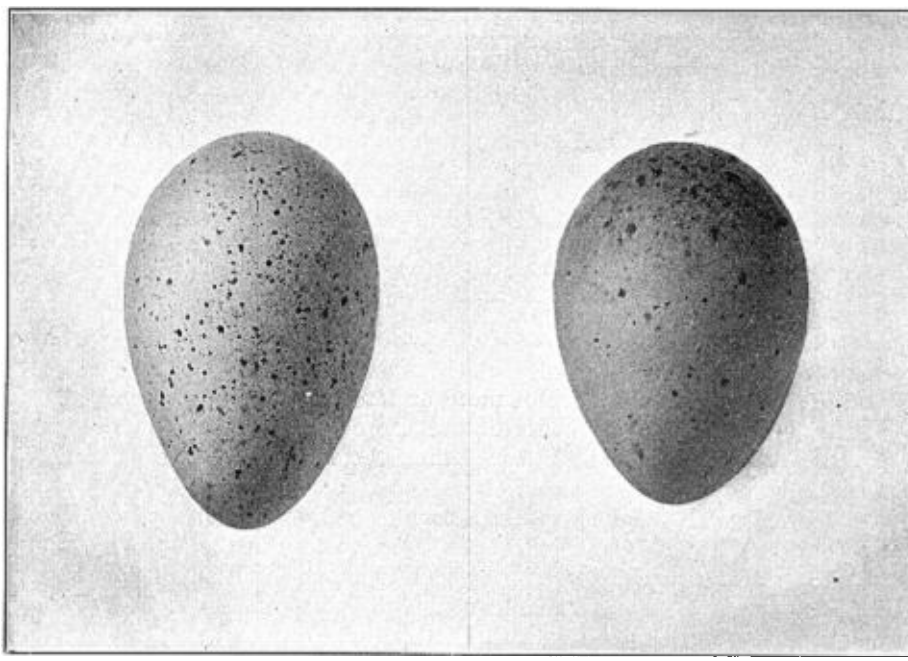

Fig. 24. NORMAL EGG OF COOT AT LEFT; ABNORMALLY MARKED SPECIMEN AT RIGHT. *Natural Size.*

NAMES OF WRITERS ON CALIFORNIA BIRDS

By T. S. PALMER

IN THE BIBLIOGRAPHY of California Ornithology[1], published in 1909, Joseph Grinnell has brought together nearly 1800 titles of publications on the birds of California and has indexed them under authors, local lists, and species, so as to facilitate ready reference to each paper or note. This Bibliography compares favorably in accuracy and completeness with any ever published in this country.

The Index to Authors includes the names of about 350 individuals. More than two thirds of these names are complete, but in 107 cases it was found impracticable to give the names in full. It seems highly desirable to complete these names while it is still possible to obtain the necessary data, in order that

[1]Pacific Coast Avifauna, No. 5, pp. 1-166.