

FROM FIELD AND STUDY

Are Red-headed Woodpeckers Moving West?—On June 7, 1915, the writer was surprised to see an adult male Red-headed Woodpecker (*Melanerpes erythrocephalus*) at Albuquerque, New Mexico. On February 2, 1916, another was seen at Roswell. The occurrence of this species in New Mexico was considered purely accidental until on August 28, 1917, J. S. Ligon reported five birds observed along the railway track between Socorro and Isleta. More recently Mr. Wm. Andrus saw one Red-head near Reserve, New Mexico, on the Tularosa River.

An examination of a map shows that most of these birds were seen on or near transcontinental railway lines, which strongly suggests that they crossed the plains by traveling along the lines of telegraph poles which follow the railroads. It is probably not unreasonable to hope that the Red-head will some day permanently extend its range westward to include New Mexico.—ALDO LEOPOLD, *Albuquerque, New Mexico, February 21, 1918.*

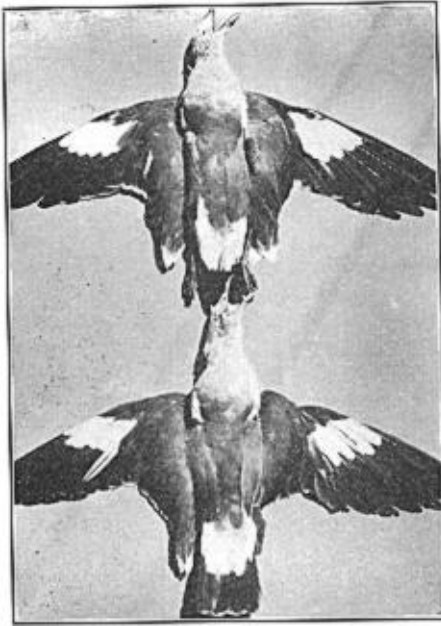


Fig. 21. SPECIMENS OF HEERMANN GULL SHOWING WHITE PATCHES ON WINGS.

A Peculiarity of Plumage in Some Specimens of the Heermann Gull.—There are in the collection of the writer five specimens of Heermann Gull (*Larus heermanni*) in which the majority, or all, of the primary coverts are white (as shown in fig. 21). There is also a similar specimen in the collection of L. E. Wyman; and in the Museum of History, Science and Art, Los Angeles, is a bird having two white feathers in the primary coverts of one wing, the other wing being normal in coloration.

The above specimens were all taken along the Los Angeles County coast in winter. They are all adult birds, five of them being in fall plumage with grayish head, and the other in spring plumage with white head. Five of the six specimens are females. The comparative uniformity of marking in so many specimens would seem to indicate something more than a freak of albinism. For this reason the case seems worthy of record.—GEORGE WILLET, *Los Angeles, California, March 17, 1918.*

Additional Records of European Widgeon in California.—The European Widgeon (*Mareca penelope*) occasionally takes a notion to wander along our Pacific Coast as a winter visitant and has been recorded in California several times, mostly quite a number of years ago. The most recent one of the half-dozen records given in Grinnell's *Distributional List* (Pacific Coast Avifauna no. 11) is 1904. A still more recent occurrence is that of a male taken in Merced County, by R. H. Beck on December 5, 1908, this specimen now being in the California Academy of Sciences. Also there is in the office of Drs. C. H. Bell and E. Pitres, of San Francisco, a mounted bird belonging to the Zindo Gun Club, of which these two gentlemen are members, which was shot at Norman, Glenn County, on December 19, 1917, by Mr. Samuel Pond, of San Francisco. This bird was most courteously loaned to me, a stranger to its owners, for examination and comparison, and proved to be a male European Widgeon in fine winter plumage that was complete in every detail except for a tuft of feathers of the post-nuptial stage still remaining among the under tail-coverts and which are in strong contrast to the remainder of the crissum.