

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.*

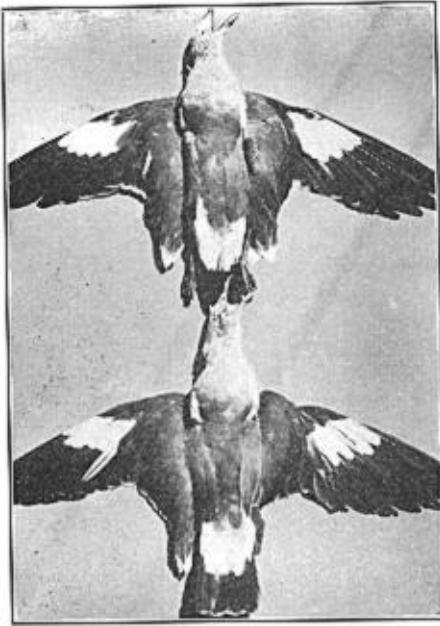


Fig. 21. SPECIMENS OF HEERMANN GULL SHOWING WHITE PATCHES ON WINGS.

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.

Probably a number of individuals of this species have been shot at various times in the years gone by, but there are very few labelled specimens in museums or collectors' hands from this state. Most of those shot have been mistaken, as was the one taken by Mr. Pond, for a cross between an American Widgeon (Baldpate) and a Pintail or a Cinnamon Teal. The back of the male bird is a good deal like that of a Pintail, while the red of the head and neck resembles that of a Cinnamon Teal, with the rest of the bird closely approaching the American Widgeon, so that the idea of some such cross is naturally suggested to the mind of any one unfamiliar with the European Widgeon.—JOSEPH MAILLIARD, *San Francisco, February 9, 1918.*

Another Reference to Early Experiments in Keeping Hummingbirds in Captivity.
—In *THE CONDOR* for September, 1917, p. 168, I called attention to the experiments made by Adolphe Boucard in San Francisco in 1852 in keeping hummingbirds in captivity. Boucard remained in San Francisco from August 16, 1851, to August 18, 1852, and then returned to France via Nicaragua and New York. He states that he collected many specimens of *Selasphorus rufus* and *Calypte anna*, that at one time he had as many as sixty of them alive, and that some of them lived four months.

With these facts in mind it is interesting to compare the following statement by Bonaparte in his "Notes sur les collections rapportées en 1853, par M. A. Delattre, de son voyage en Californie et dans le Nicaragua".

"M. Delattre has brought back from California, with their nests their eggs, and their young, two Hummingbirds, *Selasphorus ruber* Edw. [= *S. rufus*] and *S. anna* Lesson. By force of care he was able to keep in cages for seven or eight months a very large number of these delightful little beings which he had raised himself and on the habits of which he was able to make interesting observations which we shall not undertake to publish." (*Comptes Rendus*, xxxviii, April 3, 1854, p. 660.)

From other sources we learn that Delattre¹ left France in January, 1851, on a sailing vessel bound for California and that he reached San Francisco six months later (probably in August), after rounding Cape Horn. He returned via Nicaragua and reached home in the early part of 1853, and since he collected hummingbirds' nests, and eggs, he must have secured them in the spring of 1852, as he arrived in California after the season of 1851, and evidently left before the nesting season of 1853 in order to stop in Nicaragua and still reach Paris in the first half of that year.

It is very probable that the statements of Boucard and Bonaparte refer to the same or at least to simultaneous experiments. It is very unlikely that two French ornithologists should both conduct experiments in raising the same species of hummingbirds in San Francisco in 1852 and not know of each other's work. Boucard apparently does not mention Delattre, and the latter who never wrote very much, died shortly after his return, three months before Bonaparte's statement was published. When it is recalled that Boucard and Delattre both reached San Francisco by sailing vessel in August, 1851, and returned via the Nicaragua route in 1852, that Boucard was only a boy of 12 when he sailed and consequently rather young to undertake extended collections on his own initiative, while Delattre was an experienced collector 46 years of age, it seems more than likely that they were traveling together. In fact it is highly probable that on this, his first trip, Boucard was working under the direction of Delattre from whom possibly he acquired some of that interest in hummingbirds which became so marked in later years. If this surmise is correct it may throw some light on the region where Delattre collected in California. Boucard intimates that most of the year was spent in the neighborhood of San Francisco. That so experienced a collector of hummingbirds as Delattre secured nothing except *Selasphorus rufus* and *Calypte anna* indicates that he did not work in the mountains or in southern California, and the birds actually brought back could all have been obtained in the immediate vicinity of San Francisco or Monterey. Among other specimens collected was the type of *Passerculus alaudinus*. Under these circumstances it is perhaps reasonable to fix the type locality of this latter species as the vicinity of San Francisco Bay. Certainly the entire list of California birds obtained by Delattre should be re-examined critically in the hope of obtaining further light on the

¹Pierre Adolphe Delattre, often mentioned simply as "A. Delattre", was born in Tours, France, February 12, 1805, and died at Nice, France, January 3 1854, at the age of 49. He was an energetic explorer and traveling naturalist who devoted special attention to collecting hummingbirds. Between 1831 and 1851 he made several expeditions to America.