

before they can fly. No one has ever been able to state satisfactorily how long they are fed by their parents, but it is probable that it is not much shorter than a year. They are as downy as goslings until they nearly equal in size a full grown bird. During all that time they are very voracious, and the parents are constantly chasing for their support.

"A second species, *Sarcoramphus aequatorialis*, has been described some years ago by Mr. Sharpe; but having actually in my possession one specimen agreeing exactly with the type now in the British Museum, I am of opinion that it is only a young male, aged three or four years, and that it is the usual plumage of that age. It is then brown, or ash colour, all over, meanwhile the fully adult plumage of *Sarcoramphus gryphus* is black, with secondaries exteriorly edged with white, and a downy white ruff on the upper part and sides of neck. This last is naked and of a good size; the skin lies in folds in the male. The caruncles on the head of the adult males are well developed, and have somewhat the shape of a crown. A full grown bird measures from twelve to thirteen feet. The olfactory organs are well developed, and it has been said that it has an extraordinary power of scent; but I am more inclined to attribute the faculty of detecting their proper food, at considerable distances, to their sight, which must be prodigious. Life is scarcely extinct when flocks of these birds, invisible to naked eyes, pounce upon their prey".

There is little or no direct evidence in either account that the author spoke from first-hand experience or observation of either of these birds. The accounts are of interest only as collateral evidence gathered by a widely experienced collector and written up from his diary forty-three years after his original visits. He was an acquaintance of Lorquin and of his grandson, Leon Laglaize, and may have gained some of his knowledge from these widely experienced collectors.—CHARLES A. KOFOID, *Berkeley, California, October 26, 1922.*

The Status of the Rocky Mountain Downy Woodpecker in California.—I agree with Dr. Walter K. Fisher (Condor, iv, 1902, pp. 69-70) that the name *leucurus*—*Picus leucurus* of Hartlaub (Naumannia, ii, ii, 1852, p. 55)—ought to be used for the Rocky Mountain Downy Woodpecker. Although excessively brief, the description accompanying it is no worse than that of any one of a dozen other birds which nevertheless bears the name given it on meager basis. I have looked up all the literature cited by Fisher, and am convinced that he made a perfectly good case, even though his proposal in this regard was promptly turned down by the A. O. U. Committee (Auk, xx, 1903, p. 360).

Anyway, the name currently used for the Rocky Mountain Downy ("Batchelder") Woodpecker, *homorus*, is of rather doubtful applicability. *D[ryobates]. homorus* Cabanis and Heine (Mus. Heineanum, iv, ii, 1863 [1864], p. 65, footnote) was described sketchily from simply "Californien", and no type was indicated. I wrote to Dr. Erwin Stresemann of the Zoological Museum in Berlin asking him if the type of *homorus* might not be in the collection under his charge, and, if so, as to what information there might be had concerning it. Dr. Stresemann took considerable pains in the matter; at first he thought he had found the type, but was able later to find evidence ruling out the specimen in question. He is now inclined to think that Dr. Cabanis had no actual specimen in hand, but based his diagnosis on a statement or remark made by some one else, in manuscript or in previous literature. In other words, there may have been no type. Moreover, that a specimen of true *leucurus* had been obtained within the present boundaries of California previous to 1864 seems to me very unlikely.

Somebody years ago expressed the belief that "Downy" Woodpeckers in the Pacific states are more or less migratory. Perhaps this belief arose from the fact that occasional specimens from places in western and southern California had been identified as belonging to races breeding in areas to the northward or eastward. However, all the facts now available lead to the belief that our Pacific "downy" woodpeckers are quite sedentary, being subject only to local wanderings of individuals, about to the extent that most resident birds are.

Thus, with regard to the examples of "*gairdneri*" and of "*homorus*" (or "*leucurus*"), and even of "*pubescens*", which have been recorded far outside of the breeding metropolis in each case, I strongly suspect that what was really concerned in each instance, as far as relates to California, was an individual variant of *turati*. For exam-

ple, W. K. Fisher (loc. cit., p. 70) recorded specimens that he took to be *leucurus* from Ft. Tejon, Kernville, and Quincy, but at the same time remarked on their small size. Only the last named locality is likely to produce individuals even approaching true *leucurus* in relationship.

In the considerable series of *turati* in the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, even when specimens are considered only from the metropolis of the race, wide variation is observable in all the features used in distinguishing the subspecies of *pubescens*: whiteness versus smokiness of varying degree on the under surface and head, amount of spotting on the remiges and their coverts, barring on the outer rectrices, and measurements of wing, bill, etc. It seems not out of place for me to repeat what I have urged elsewhere; namely, that, on the basis of superficial resemblance alone and irrespective of the probabilities of immediate blood relationship, it is a grievous error to diagnose an extreme of individual variation in one subspecies as belonging to another subspecies.

At the present writing, the only part of California whence good specimens of *Dryobates pubescens leucurus* have been collected is the Modoc region of the northeastern corner of the state, where so many other Rocky Mountain and Great Basin races of birds occur. The undersigned would be glad of the chance of examining examples of supposed *leucurus* from anywhere else in California.—J. GRINNELL, *Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, University of California, Berkeley, August 3, 1922.*

The Tree Swallow Added to the Pribilof List.—The list of avian visitors to the Pribilof Islands is slowly growing and bids fair, in course of time, to include nearly every species of bird that may be found near the shores of either continent adjacent to the Bering Sea.

The latest wanderer to be recorded is a male Tree Swallow (*Iridoprocne bicolor*) which was taken by John Hanson, a native who has been quite interested in observing strange birds on these islands. This specimen was secured by Hanson at Northeast Point, St. Paul Island, Alaska, on May 25, 1922. It was shot with a .22 rifle, much to the detriment of its appearance. It is now in the collection of the Academy.

This species is found on the mainland of Alaska, but has never been recorded from the Pribilofs.—JOSEPH MAILLIARD, *California Academy of Sciences, San Francisco, California, October 27, 1922.*

Dwarf Cowbird Nesting in Alameda County, California.—While collecting near Irvington, Alameda County, California, on May 23, 1922, I found a nest of the Golden Pileolated Warbler containing one egg of the warbler and one egg of what I first thought to be a Santa Cruz Song Sparrow, but which later proved to be the egg of the Dwarf Cowbird (*Molothrus ater obscurus*). I collected the egg of the Cowbird and left the egg of the Pileolated Warbler so the latter could complete her set.

About twenty yards from the nest of the Pileolated Warbler (on this same date) I found a nest of the Santa Cruz Song Sparrow containing three eggs of the Song Sparrow and one egg of the Dwarf Cowbird. I continued my search and my next find was a nest of the Willow Goldfinch containing three eggs of this bird and one egg of the Dwarf Cowbird.

I returned to this same location on May 26, and visited the nest of the Pileolated Warbler from which I had collected the one egg of the Cowbird and found that the Pileolated Warbler had laid one more egg and was incubating, so I collected the set. I continued my search and about thirty yards distant I found another nest of the Pileolated Warbler containing one egg of the Cowbird only.

I made four more trips to this same location and collected the following sets: June 8, Golden Pileolated Warbler nest containing two eggs of the Warbler and one of the Cowbird; June 8, Santa Cruz Song Sparrow nest containing one egg of the Song Sparrow and one egg of the Cowbird; June 17, Golden Pileolated Warbler nest containing one egg of the Warbler and one egg of the Cowbird; June 17, Santa Cruz Song Sparrow nest containing one egg of the Song Sparrow and one egg of the Cowbird; June 23, Golden Pileolated Warbler nest containing one egg of the Warbler and one of the Cowbird; June 30, Santa Cruz Song Sparrow nest containing two eggs of the Song Sparrow and one of the Cowbird.