at Helston House, Clifton, a most delightful experience. The greater number of her birds were strange to me, being mostly tropical or Australian, if I remember rightly, and there were hardly any from North America. Of them all, perhaps, what struck me most was a pair of Horned Larks, seemingly quite happy, running about the floor of one of the cages. After associating the Horned Lark with the open prairie it seemed extraordinary that these birds could be content within such a circumscribed area. I remember Mrs. Burgess telling me that she had given up trying to keep indigenous birds. It seemed to her that the latter were ever mindful of their lost liberty, and did not thrive in consequence.

It was of particular interest to me to hear of Mr. Whitley, whom I have not met since I was at school with him in the nineties.—L. B. POTTER, *Eastend, Saskatchewan, Canada, March 10, 1926.*

Ruby-throated Hummingbird near St. Michael, Alaska.*—The United States National Museum has recently received a mummied specimen of the Ruby-throated Hummingbird (*Archilochus colubris*) from Mr. Oscar C. Hall, of St. Michael, who states that it was picked up by a native on the beach among the rocks at a place called Klukatauck, about eighteen miles from St. Michael. Mr. Hall's letter was dated December 31, 1925, but failed to indicate just when the bird was discovered. There seems to be no record for this species for British Columbia, and perhaps the most northern previous record is the very uncertain one quoted by Preble (North American Fauna, no. 27, 1908, p. 390) for Lake Athabaska, Alberta, or vicinity.. The specimen from Alaska has been recorded in the National Museum as no. 306,051.—BRADSHAW H. SWALES, *U. S. National Museum, Washington, D. C., March 2, 1926.*

Casualties among Birds.—As a continuation of my observations in 1924, on the casualties in the nest due to natural causes (Condor, vol. 27, 1925, p. 114) the following interesting results were obtained during the nesting season of 1925.

The observations covered 39 nests of 17 species of birds. Of a total of 168 eggs laid, only 104, or 62 per cent of the eggs hatched; and of these only 68 birds, or 65 per cent of the young, lived long enough to leave the nest. The percentage of eggs which produced adults was 40.5, giving a total casualty record of 59.5 per cent.

This final percentage is very interesting when compared with that of 1924, which gave a total casualty of 59.4 per cent, or almost an identical figure for the two years. This was surprising to me, as I expected to find a much higher percentage in 1925, due to the heavy rains during the early part of the nesting season, which destroyed many nests. This, however, seems to have been equalized by other outside agencies during the season of 1924.—ERNEST D. CLABAUGH, *Berkeley, California, February 17, 1926.*

Another New Race of Quail from Lower California.—Mr. James Lee Peters has recently well characterized (Proc. New England Zool. Club, VIII, May 16, 1923, pp. 79-80) the subspecies of California Quail inhabiting the Cape region of Lower California; and he names it *Lophortyx californica achrustera.* He, as well as each other recent author, considers the quail of the northern part of Lower California to belong to the race *L. c. vallicola* (Ridgway). The present accumulation of material in the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology brings out the fact, however, that the California Quail of the northern section of the Lower Californian peninsula have distinguishing characters warranting the application of a separate name to them. This I now do.

Lophortyx californica plumbea, new subspecies. San Quintin California Quail.

Type locality.—San José, 2500 feet altitude, latitude close to 31°, about 45 miles northeast of San Quintin, Lower California, Mexico.

Type.—Male, in full fresh annual plumage; no. 46206, Mus. Vert. Zool.; September 27, 1925; collected by J. Grinnell, orig. no. 6344.

Diagnosis.—In general characters similar to *Lophortyx californica vallicola* and *L. c. achrustera,* but tone of coloration clearer, less buffy or brownish; gray or lead-color on dorsum, foreparts and sides, and remiges, more slaty than in either.

Measurements.—While the new form obviously averages smaller than near-topotypes of *vallicola* (from the upper Sacramento Valley), there is so much variation in size elsewhere, throughout the general range of *vallicola,* as to make such difference

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