

Regulus calendula. Ruby-crowned Kinglet. I have taken specimens of this species in March. Only a migrant in this region.

Planesticus migratorius propinquus. Western Robin. A resident.

Sialia mexicana bairdi. Chestnut-backed Bluebird. Specimens have been taken at St. George, Leeds, and LaVerkin, Utah, in the spring months.

Sialia currucoides. Mountain Bluebird. Winter visitant. Taken by Mr. Woodbury in December.

Brigham Young University, Provo, Utah, October 29, 1926.

FROM FIELD AND STUDY

A Strange Meeting with a Flicker.—On the night of December 27, 1925, I had an experience with a Red-shafted Flicker (*Colaptes cafer collaris*) which seemed to me sufficiently unusual to be worthy of record. I was at Frank Stephens' ranch in La Puerta Valley, San Diego County, California, and about an hour after sunset, when it was completely dark and a light, drizzling rain was falling, I started to the pump-house for some water. I carried a flash-light in one hand and a pail in the other, being hatless and coatless at the time. After proceeding for a hundred yards or so I stopped to shift the pail and flash-light. While doing so, I was suddenly struck a sharp blow on the right arm, just above the elbow.

Completely startled, I dropped my pail and light, and instinctively grabbed my arm. To my amazement I found something rather soft, warm and downy, clinging there for all it was worth. Upon returning to the cabin with my prize, it was found to be a male Red-shafted Flicker. It was released soon after being identified, and lost no time in departing. Whether the bird mistook me for a tree, or my light attracted it, remains a mystery to me; at any rate, the fact that it was flying after dark and while it was raining is surely interesting.—JACK C. VON BLOEKER, *San Diego Society of Natural History, San Diego, California, April 29, 1927.*

Correct Portraiture of Some Birds.—In the London (England) *Field* for March 10, 1927, there is an article by Mr. Frohawk on the Short-eared Owl (*Asio flammeus*). Among other remarks the writer points out that this species invariably alights on the ground, never perching in trees; and that, notwithstanding, both in pictures and in museums, the bird is frequently shown doing this.

Looking through what ornithological literature I possess, I find two books that are extensively used by bird-student beginners. In these two, also in a colored picture out of a series, the Short-eared Owl is represented perching on a tree or stump. Is this owl never known to perch on a fence post? I have seen an individual seated on a hay stack.

Recently I purchased *British Birds*, by Archibald Thorburn, with the author's own beautiful illustrations. In this work the Short-eared Owl is portrayed squatting on the ground. In describing the Fulmar (*Fulmarus glacialis*) the same author says: "Like most, if not all Petrels, the Fulmar appears to be unable or unwilling to stand on its feet, and rests when on the ground in a crouching attitude." I presume that does not imply that the petrels, shearwaters, and fulmars cannot and do not walk about in the ordinary manner. But in the above-mentioned beginners' manuals the greater number of pictures represent the birds of this group at rest in an upright posture, or even on one leg.—L. B. POTTER, *Eastend, Saskatchewan, May 30, 1927.*

The Rufous-necked Sandpiper on St. Paul, Pribilof Islands.—In the bird collection of the California Academy of Sciences there is a specimen (no. 23552, male) of *Pisobia ruficollis* (Pallas) collected by G. Dallas Hanna at Northeast Point, St. Paul Island, Alaska, August 27, 1920. This bird was recorded as the Least Sandpiper by Mailliard and Hanna (*Condor*, XXIII, 1921, p. 95), but recent examination of the skin aroused suspicion that it might not belong to that species. It was sent to the United States National Museum for determination, where examination by Dr. C. W. Richmond, Mr. J. H. Riley, and Dr. H. C. Oberholser settled its specific identity as above indicated.