

seen at Okanagan Landing on November 7, 1927, just before the first cold weather and snow of the year, constitutes a notably late record.

Lanius borealis. Northern Shrike. At Okanagan Landing, on January 20, 1926, during a snowstorm, a compact flock of Redpolls was seen high in the air milling about in peculiar fashion. Suddenly the disturbing cause was seen to be a Northern Shrike which kept circling around the flock with occasional dashes into the midst of the frightened birds. In these dashes the Shrike seemed to single out a bird and try to separate it from the flock. This maneuver was repeated several times while the flock spiralled upward, higher and higher, finally to disappear in the grayness of leaden sky and falling snow. The last object seen was the Shrike apparently still unsuccessful in his hunting.

Turdus migratorius propinquus. Western Robin. During September and October choke-cherries furnish a favorite food of Robins in the Okanagan Valley. On October 1, 1927, a flock of twenty or more, after feeding greedily on cherries, flew into the tops of a near-by group of tall cottonwoods. Shortly afterwards came a pattering noise on the ground below, resembling the sound made by hailstones. Upon investigation this sound proved to be caused by the voided cherry pits falling from a considerable height and striking the dry leaves below. After a week or so a large number of pits were scattered on the ground under these trees and later in the season these were eaten by Evening Grosbeaks!—J. A. MUNRO, *Okanagan Landing, B. C., April 1, 1929.*

Notes on the Habits and Plumage of Young Kaeding Petrels.—The presence of *Oceanodroma leucorhoa kaedingi* Anthony about Guadalupe Island, Lower California, Mexico, is to be expected, as there are but few records of its capture far from this region. Yet it is of interest to record that two of four specimens of this bird taken from the immediate or near vicinity of Guadalupe by the writer on the nights of September 27 and 28, 1929, provided considerable data of scientific value. Both were young birds, with natal down still clinging to their feathers, and presumably had not flown for more than a few hours. The short time that had elapsed between their departure from their nests and their capture seems obvious from two angles—first, the fact that dampness or contact with water removes the clinging down, as it is very absorbent; and secondly, that, in view of this fact, the birds at the time of their capture had probably never rested on the surface of the sea.

The first of the specimens here considered was secured about 8:30 on the

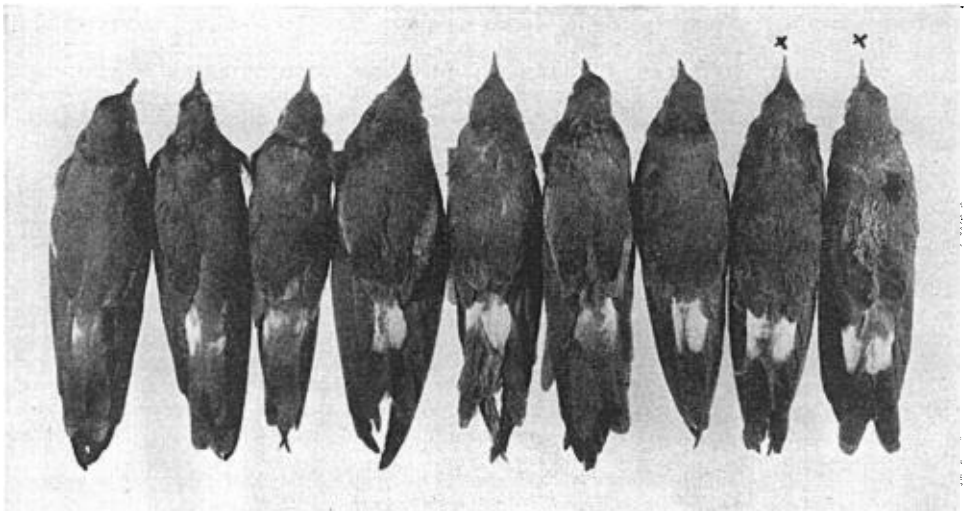


Fig. 27. SERIES OF KAEDING PETRELS SHOWING COMPARATIVE AREAS OF WHITE ON RUMP IN YOUNG (x) AND ADULTS.

evening of September 27, when it was attracted to the deck lights of the ship on which the writer was a guest. The ship was then at anchor about three-quarters of a mile off the Elephant Seal beach on the northwestern coast of the island. When this specimen first came into the hands of the writer, considerable natal down was still clinging to the feather tips. This down was extensively present about the head, hinder neck, back and flanks, with a slight sprinkling on the breast. In the course of preparation, however, nearly all the down was lost, excepting a large patch on the back.

The same condition prevailed as to the second specimen, though by far the heaviest area of down was on the flanks; in fact there was a greater amount of down over all. An unusual, or at least unexpected, feature in connection with the latter specimen was the point of its capture. The bird came aboard, in a decidedly fatigued condition, about 9:30 on the evening of September 28, when the ship was running directly from the island toward San Diego and was approximately 26 nautical miles off the north head of Guadalupe Island, making about 17 knots head speed. This distance from the island of its birth and the speed at which it must have been flying when coming aboard the ship seem phenomenal for a bird of this age. It is indicative of the arduous struggle of flight for which these nomads of the sea are prepared from the very hour they leave their nest.

The taking of these downy birds gives a clew to the approximate time of nesting of *O. l. kaedingi*, regarding which nothing has hitherto been recorded. Judging from knowledge of the time required for the development of *O. socorroensis*, gained on Los Coronados Islands to the northward of Guadalupe, it would seem that the eggs must have been deposited about the last of July. *Kaedingi* is most likely a crevice nester; for if it dwelt in burrows the feral house cats on the island would no doubt have exterminated it.

By far the most important fact discovered in the capture of these two young petrels was that the full complement of white rump feathers was attained in their first plumage. The writer made comparison with seven adult specimens of *O. l. kaedingi* and found that either of the two young birds here mentioned have as much white rump area as the adults, and in two cases even more—as may be seen in the illustration. It is therefore evident that at least in the race *kaedingi* the amount of white on the upper and lower tail coverts is not an index to their age, as was surmised by Oberholser (Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus., vol. 54, 1919, p. 172).—LAURENCE M. HUEY, *San Diego Society of Natural History, Balboa Park, San Diego, October 12, 1929.*

Chestnut-backed Chickadee in Lake County, California.—A male *Penthestes rufescens rufescens* taken by the late Walter Brett at Bergers Ranch, Lakeport, Lake County, October 20, 1893, is in my collection (no. 25669, coll. J. H. F.). Dr. Joseph Grinnell has confirmed the identification.—J. H. FLEMING, *Toronto, Ontario, October 13, 1929.*

A New Bluebird from El Salvador.¹—The eighteen specimens of *Sialia sialis* collected by the junior writer in El Salvador in the winter of 1925 and the spring of 1927 prove upon direct comparison with adequate series of the previously known races to be sufficiently distinct to deserve a name. The characters of this new race are outlined below.

Sialia sialis meridionalis, subsp. nov.

Type.—Male adult, no. 18400, collection of Donald R. Dickey; Los Esesmites, Chalatenango, El Salvador, C. A., February 22, 1927; altitude 8000 feet; collected by A. J. van Rossem; original no. 11263.

Subspecific characters.—Size, the smallest of all the races of *Sialia sialis*. Dorsal coloration of males identical with *Sialia sialis sialis* (Linnaeus) of the eastern United States; of the females brighter (but not lighter) blue, particularly on crown which is similar in color to the lower back; brown of the underparts of both sexes decidedly paler, close to "tawny" instead of "cinnamon-rufous" or "cinnamon-chestnut" in the

¹ Contribution from the California Institute of Technology.

² Ridgway, *Color Standards and Nomenclature*, 1912.