

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.**<sup>1</sup>—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

<sup>1</sup> Contribution from the California Institute of Technology.

<sup>2</sup> Ridgway, *Color Standards and Nomenclature*, 1912.

males. Compared with the geographically adjacent *Sialia sialis guatemalae* Ridgway, the size is very much less and the coloration slightly darker throughout, particularly on the underparts.

The measurements of the type, which, incidentally, are almost exactly the racial average, are, in millimeters: wing, 99.0; tail, 65.0.

*Range*.—Oak and pine regions of the Cordillera along the northern border of El Salvador.

*Remarks*.—It is a curious coincidence that this small new race in general resembles the common bluebird of the eastern United States more closely than it does that of the Guatemalan highlands which, conversely, is the largest of the known forms. The El Salvador bird is a permanent resident of, and is fairly common in, the oak and pine regions which cover great areas on the south slopes of the Cordillera between 3500 and 8000 feet. No trace of it was found in any part of the volcanic coastal range.

We are greatly indebted to the officials in charge of the collections of the Bureau of Biological Survey and the United States National Museum for the opportunity of examining all of the pertinent material in Washington.—DONALD R. DICKEY and A. J. VAN ROSSEM, *Pasadena, California, October 16, 1929.*

*Some Notes on Point Reyes Birds*.—On May 11, 1929, a White-tailed Kite (*Elanus leucurus*) was noted in the top of an oak in Lucas Valley. Lucas Valley is between San Rafael and Point Reyes, in Marin County, California.

On May 12, 1929, a nest of the Pigmy Nuthatch (*Sitta pygmaea*) was found on the ridge separating Tomales Bay from the Pacific Ocean. The elevation of the ridge at this point is about five hundred feet. We had stopped to investigate an old pine stub which showed several promising holes at various heights. As one of the boys was climbing past a small hole about seven feet above the ground a Pigmy Nuthatch flew out past his face.

The nesting site was opened up and was found to contain eight eggs. Unfortunately two of the eggs were broken when being removed, but the remaining six were safely given over to the University of California. The nest was about seven or eight inches below the entrance and was composed of lichen, moss and feathers. Both parent birds approached closely and we were able to take some snaps of one as she returned to the nest time and time again. She seemed puzzled to find the nest opened up and would pull at the nest material, scolding all the time. Two other pairs of nuthatches were noted in the vicinity and were undoubtedly also nesting in the pine stubs.

On the same date we found a peculiar nest of the Red-shafted Flicker (*Colaptes cafer collaris*). There is a corral at the ocean end of one of the numerous valleys. The fence is one of the usual type of poorly constructed enclosures and had several old redwood posts of large diameter in the structure. A Flicker flew out as we went by, revealing a nest in one of the posts about four feet above the ground. It contained six fresh eggs, which were left undisturbed. A trip to the Point at a later date showed young just hatched and we hope the family was successfully reared.

On the same date, May 12, 1929, Gordon Bolander noted a pair of ducks fly by as we were leaving the lagoon near Drakes Bay. After hesitating as to whether we should retrace our steps, a lucky decision was made to go back and see what they were. Lucky indeed, for there was a pair of Blue-winged Teal (*Querquedula discors*) on the lagoon. This lagoon is fresh-water but occupies the mouth of a stream emptying into Drakes Bay during flood periods. The identification was easy, as we were able to get within three hundred feet of the birds and the binoculars showed the crescent in front of the eye very plainly. As they flew by we were able to see the light blue shoulders and other details.

On May 30, 1929, we found an interesting colony of nesting sea birds. About one mile north of the ocean end of Bear Valley is a point with two outlying rocks. There is a U. S. G. S. monument on the point, and it is quite prominent as viewed from either the north or the south. The Baird, Brandt and Farallon cormorants (*Phalacrocorax pelagicus robustus*, *P. penicillatus*, and *P. auritus albociliatus*) were occupying the shelf below the cliff; that is, more exactly, with the exception of the Baird Cormorants which were on the steep cliffs and not on the flat shelves. The