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

Farallon Cormorants had young at this date, some of which were about ready to leave the nest. The other two species had eggs.

Scattered among the cormorants were a few California Murres, but no eggs were seen. On the jutting rock at the extreme end of the point we noted four nests of the Western Gull (*Larus occidentalis*), each containing three eggs. This is an easy colony to see and there are probably many California bird students that have not the opportunity to visit the Farallon Islands who would seize the chance to visit

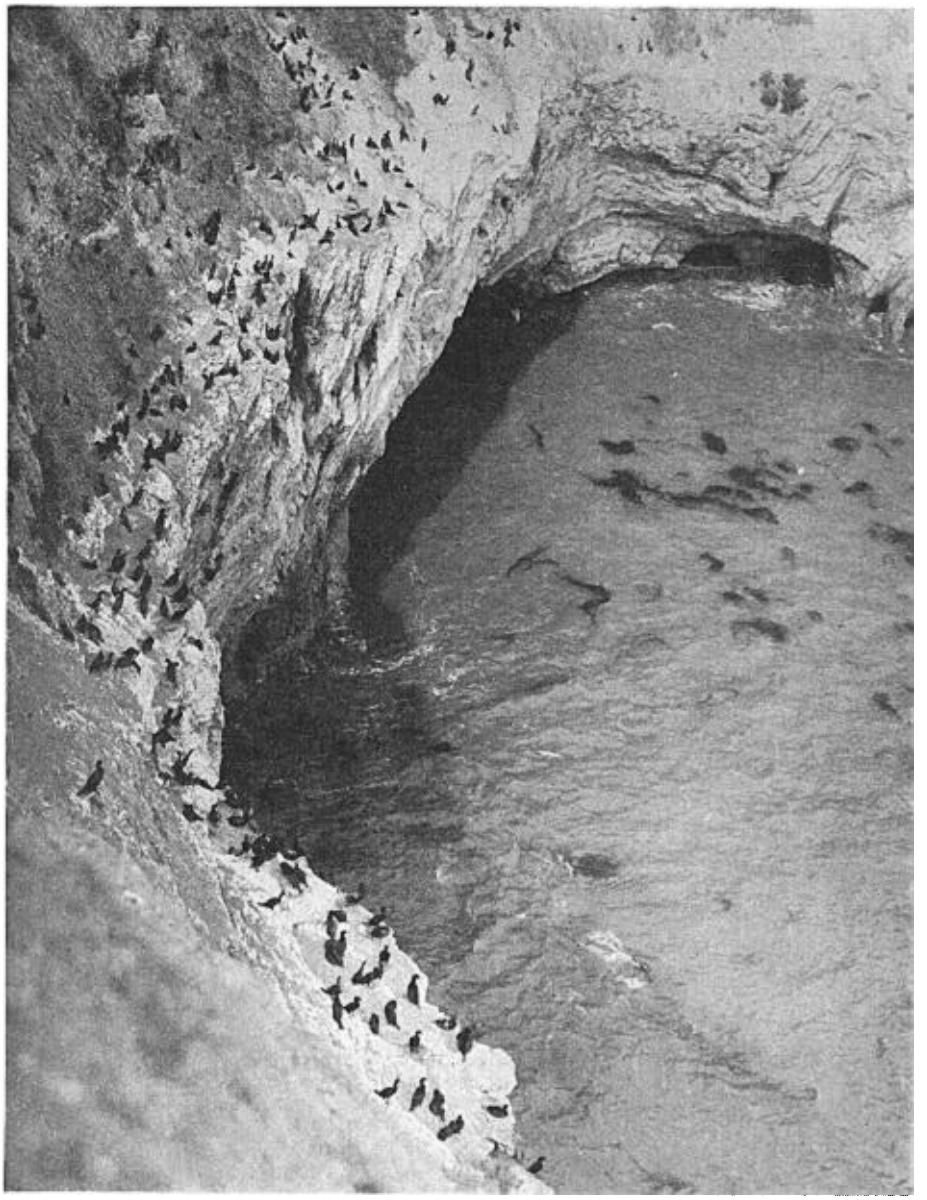

Fig. 28. CORMORANT ROOKERY NEAR POINT REYES, MARIN COUNTY, CALIFORNIA; PHOTOGRAPHED MAY 30, 1929.

this point during the nest season.—L. PH. BOLANDER and CHARLES A. BRYANT, *Oakland, California, September 10, 1929.*

Some Shore-bird Notes from Ventura, California.—A few notes on certain species of shore-birds seen along the coast at Ventura, Ventura County, California, follow.

Surf Bird (*Aphriza virgata*). A flock of twelve Surf-birds was discovered along the rocky beach at Ventura on May 11, 1929. The birds were accompanied by several Black Turnstones. A male specimen was secured.

Ruddy Turnstone (*Arenaria interpres oahuensis*). An immature male Turnstone was collected on the bank of the Ventura River near its mouth on September 17, 1929.

Knot (*Calidris canutus*). A dead Knot in winter plumage was found on the beach at Ventura on September 16, 1929. The bird had become too decomposed to be preserved, but measurements taken tally for the species. A wing was obtained for reference.—JAMES STEVENSON, *Los Angeles, California, September 24, 1929.*

An Extension of the Range of the Band-tailed Pigeon and of the Lead-colored Bush-tit in Oregon.—While stopping at a sheep ranch in Catlow Valley, Harney County, Oregon, I was much interested in the numbers of magpies and blackbirds that came each morning to feed on the crushed oats placed in troughs for the sheep in one of the corrals near the house. The supreme surprise, however, came about sunrise on the morning of October 19, 1928, when a lone Band-tailed Pigeon (*Columba fasciata*) alighted on one of the corral posts for a moment and then joined the magpies at the feast from one of the grain troughs. The bird was collected and proved to be a male of the year, much emaciated in flesh. The ranch house is located at the west base of Steens Mountain about 160 miles east of the Cascade Range and about 200 miles east of any previously known record station for this species. The intervening territory is mainly an arid sage-brush desert.

The range of the Lead-colored Bush-tit (*Psaltriparus plumbeus*) in Oregon has been known fairly well for some years as embracing the Steens Mountain district and west to and including the Warner Mountains in southeastern Oregon. It was with considerable interest that I learned that Mr. Harold Dobyns, of the Biological Survey, saw and watched a flock of ten or twelve of this species foraging in a clump of willows along Powder River near the town of Sumpter, Baker County, Oregon, on October 28, 1928. One bird was collected and preserved for identification. Sumpter is in the Blue Mountains and at least 80 miles north of previous record stations for this species.—STANLEY G. JEWETT, *Portland, Oregon, October 11, 1929.*

The Identity of Ortyx leucopogon Lesson[1].—In 1842, R. P. Lesson briefly described a quail collected about a year before by his brother, P. A. Lesson, at "San Carlos, Americae centralis Oceani Pacifici". For a few years thereafter this species remained in good standing. Then, no more specimens being taken anywhere in Central America, it was assumed, in spite of the pronounced characters evident in the two colored plates which had shortly followed the description, that the name really applied to the quail inhabiting western Panama. The colored plates of Des Murs and Gould were explained away as simply "a rather white-throated example of this [Panama] species" or even, and as it turns out very unjustly, as "probably improvements on nature."

Thus the matter has stood for nearly eighty years, for Gould in his great work on the American quails was the last authority of note to give to *Ortyx leucopogon* of Lesson its true value and characters. As will be seen, the resulting confusion was unnecessary, for in the first place the location of "San Carlos" was specifically stated as "San Carlos, prov. de San Salvador" in a preceding issue of the same magazine in which the species was subsequently described. Secondly, Lesson's description, while brief, applies well enough to the Salvador bird if the words "collari antici rufo" are interpreted to describe the reddish band across the upper chest.

When in Salvador in 1925 and 1926, the junior writer secured a series of 22 specimens of *leucopogon* which proved the correctness of the work of Des Murs and Gould. *Ortyx leucopogon* is the identical bird pictured by those two authorities. To make doubly sure, a specimen was sent to the Museum of Comparative Zoology for

[1] Contribution from the California Institute of Technology.