

March, 1930

FROM FIELD AND STUDY

an altitude of about 8,000 feet, my attention was drawn to a number of small ducklings bobbing and bouncing along the course of the clear, swift and icy-cold stream below the trail. (See fig. 47.)

Hastily dismounting, I headed the birds off on their swift, down-stream course and found that the brood consisted of an adult female and her family of five large downy young. Even when the family was approached to within twelve or fifteen feet, the mother refused to fly off and leave her young, but always tried to escape by swimming swiftly up or down stream. The young were equally adept at breasting

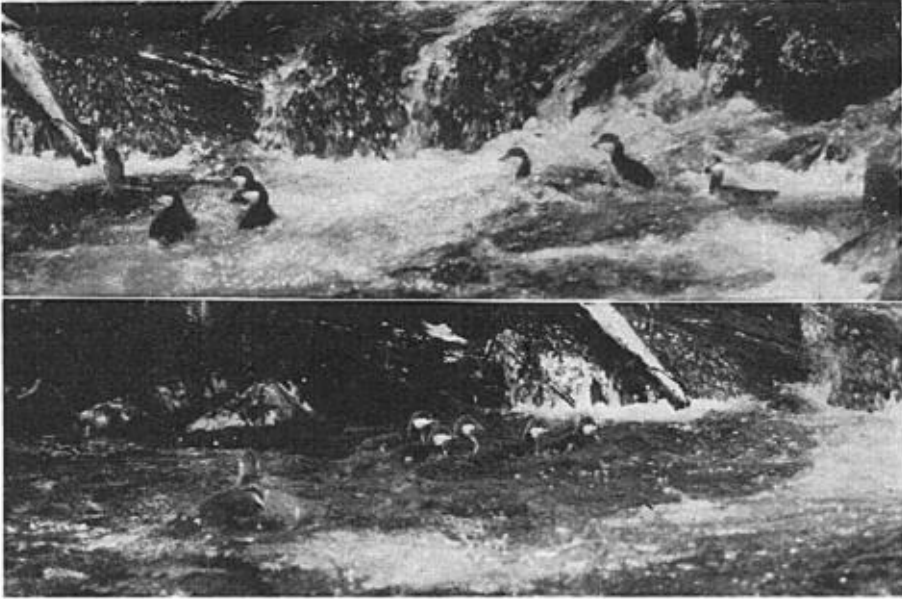


Fig. 47. PACIFIC HARLEQUIN DUCKS (TWO VIEWS); PARENT WITH FIVE YOUNG. IMNAHA RIVER, WALLOWA NATIONAL FOREST, WALLOWA MOUNTAINS, OREGON; JULY 29, 1929.

Photographed by Major John D. Guthrie.

the swift current. After photographing the family, I left them in peace on their rushing torrent amid the towering peaks of the Wallowa Mountains.—STANLEY G. JEWETT, *Portland, Oregon, October 11, 1929.*

**Wasp Eaten by a Mockingbird.**—The common yellow-and-brown wasp (*Polistes*) has, in addition to its formidable sting, a hard, tough armor which makes it difficult to kill. Having previously noticed the discreet attitude assumed by the California Thrasher (*Toxostoma redivivum*) upon encountering this insect at a drinking-place, it was with some surprise that, on the morning of October 21, I saw that a Mockingbird (*Mimus polyglottos leucopterus*) had captured a good-sized individual, which was still buzzing angrily. The Mockingbird dealt with the wasp vigorously, though with circumspection, and finally swallowed it piecemeal.—ROBERT S. WOODS, *Azusa, California, December 3, 1929.*

**Wire-perching Woodpeckers.**—The ease with which certain woodpeckers can perch on wires has been observed only lately by me, in spite of a lifetime of "bird-watching." I recently recorded this ability on the part of a Lewis Woodpecker (Condor, xxxi, 1929, p. 252) in the belief that it was perhaps something unusual. In the early part of September, 1929, I was staying at "The Willows," a resort about 35 miles east of San Diego, where a grove of live-oaks is passed by the pole-bordered highway to El Centro. Here the California Woodpeckers (*Balanosphyra formicivora bairdi*) daily used the electric wires as perches both for resting and as a vantage