

California Quail Feeding upon Acorns.—In his report on the life history of the California Quail (*Lophortyx californica*) Sumner (Calif. Fish and Game, 21, 1935, p. 191) reported observations which led him to conclude that this bird rarely, if ever, eats acorns. At the same time he demonstrated that quail tend to develop taste for certain foods locally and that sometimes they are slow to change from one preferred food to another. In view of these conclusions I was especially interested in the following observations which I was able to make in December, 1934. For several days I noticed that a covey of twenty or more quail foraged across a vacant lot next to my home at the north boundary of Berkeley, California.

At this time the lot was nearly bare of vegetation except for a single live-oak (*Quercus agrifolia*) growing near its margin. Beneath this tree the ground was rather thickly littered with acorns. Each day as the covey of quail moved across the area, it was plain that they were attracted to the acorns as food. All the birds appeared to be busy picking at the thin shells which they seemed to crush before picking up the contents, rather than attempting to swallow the acorns whole. The daily return of the birds to this spot for a long period indicated that they came by choice to get this kind of food—that it was not just an isolated example of a freakish occurrence. It may be that quail feed upon live-oak acorns often when they are available.—JEAN M. LINDSALE, *Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, University of California, Berkeley, February 15, 1936.*

Banding Records of Gambel Quail.—On January 3, 1936, while engaged in trapping and banding Gambel quail (*Lophortyx gambelii*) on the Santa Rita Experimental Range, Tucson, Arizona, I succeeded in retrapping five cocks which furnished some valuable data. Two of these were banded by Mrs. Gorsuch and myself, December 31, 1931, at which time they were definitely more than eighteen months old as determined by the unbarred feathers of the abulas. This accurately establishes the present ages of these birds as more than five and one-half years. Considering the daily perils to which our quail are exposed these are believed to be noteworthy records.

One of the oldest of these quail had been shot about six months before. A number 7, or 7½, shot had perforated the band near its top, breaking the leg just above. The shot was embedded in scar tissue on the opposite side of the leg which it penetrated. The leg healed in a slightly crooked manner, but the foot was still flexible with the exception of the second toe which was paralyzed either directly by injury from the shot, or from the resultant swelling which more than filled the band. The band was removed and replaced by another on the left leg. Despite the suffering and handicaps involved, this quail recovered and it may live to be retrapped in future years.

The sedentary habits of this species are well illustrated by such trapping records. One bird was retrapped at the identical spot where banded four years previously, three were taken but two hundred yards from the original point of capture, while the fifth, the greatest wanderer of all, had moved less than eight-tenths of a mile during a four-year period.—D. M. GORSUCH, *U. S. Forest Service, Albuquerque, New Mexico, February 7, 1936.*

A Nest of the Dipper in the Black Hills of South Dakota.—At five p. m. on November 29, 1935, I noted a Dipper (*Cinclus mexicanus unicolor*) on the shore ice of Rapid Creek between Pactola, South Dakota, and the Pactola CCC camp. As the bird is listed as accidental in that State (A. O. U. Check-list, 1931, p. 242), I returned to this spot on January 12, 1936, with Mrs. Halloran and made a search for this bird, but did not see it. I found a moss-covered, dome-shaped nest on a timber directly under the floor of a bridge one quarter mile downstream from where my first observation was made. I shipped this nest to the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, where it now is. Professor J. Grinnell has identified the nest as that of a Dipper, and it is now recorded under accession number 4862, catalog number 5010 in the collection of nests and eggs at the Museum.

On January 27, 1936, while scaling a deck of logs on Spring Creek near Sheridan, 10 miles south of the above location, I noted a Dipper at the water's edge on ice near the center of the small stream that was nearly frozen over. The bird teetered several times and then dove head-first into the icy water. It reappeared again and was observed for five minutes. This was at 11 a. m. The temperature at my home in Hill City 7 miles away was 17 below zero at 8 a. m. Maybe the Dipper dived to warm up!—ARTHUR F. HALLORAN, *Hill City, South Dakota, January 31, 1936.*