

Measurements.—Average, maximum and minimum measurements of five adult males: Total length (in the flesh) 366 mm. (375–358); tail 104 (106–100); wing 181 (187–178); exposed culmen 17.4 (18–16); nostril to tip 10.9 (11–10.5); depth of bill 8.7 (9–8). One adult female measures: Total length 350 mm.; wing 172; exposed culmen 18; nostril to tip 11.2; depth of bill 7.6.



Fig. 27. Comparison of bill shape in adult males of three races of White-tailed Ptarmigan: (a) *Lagopus leucurus leucurus*, no. 350, coll. K. Racey, Alta Lake, B. C.; (b) *L. l. saxatilis*, no. 8324, Provincial Museum, Mount Arrowsmith, Vancouver Island, B. C.; (c) *L. l. rainierensis*, no. 269376, Biol. Survey coll., Mount Rainier, Washington.

Comparisons.—Twelve specimens of the Vancouver Island ptarmigan are available for study. Of these, five are adult males in preliminary winter plumage (for terminology, see Dwight, *Auk*, vol. 17, 1900, p. 149), one adult female in preliminary winter plumage, one adult male in winter plumage, and five are young birds in the transition from juvenal to first winter plumage. In comparison with 26 specimens from Atlin, Revelstoke, Robson and Alta Lake, on the mainland of British Columbia, these differ in having the first primary quill black or shaded with black in 100% rather than 15% of the specimens examined. The same difference, though to a less degree, persists in the rest of the primary series.

Adult males of *saxatilis* differ from comparable birds from the mainland of British Columbia, and from *rainierensis*, in larger size, longer tail, larger, more hooked bill; in having head and neck clear black and white, with little or no admixture of brownish in the plumage, and ochres of the back and flanks averaging richer, browner and less gray.

The single adult female of *saxatilis* differs from all comparable mainland birds in having the ground color of the dorsal region and sides of the breast rich brown rather than grayish or brownish gray.

The juveniles differ as markedly as do the adults. Vancouver Island birds have the black and white barring of the head and neck slightly more subdued than the adults and with a tendency to more brownish in the ground color; nevertheless in comparison with the even brownish gray, finely speckled with black and white characteristic of the mainland birds the difference is striking. The juvenile specimens of *saxatilis* differ further in having the backs browner and more heavily mottled with black.

Females and juveniles of *Lagopus leucurus rainierensis* differ from comparable specimens of *saxatilis* in having the bill smaller and nearly straight rather than strongly hooked; they differ further in that the head and neck lack the strong black and white barring.—IAN McTAGGART COWAN, *Provincial Museum, Victoria, B. C., November 7, 1938.*

Red-tailed Hawk as Possible Enemy of Skunk.—On February 13, 1938, I found dead at the roadside between Castroville and Monterey, California, a Western Red-tailed Hawk (*Buteo borealis calurus*). The cause of death was not ascertained, but the feathers of the bird's breast and belly were soaked with the pungent musk (fluid) of skunk. Certainly the two animals had been close together, if not in contact; otherwise the feathers could hardly have been as thoroughly saturated as they were with musk.—ALBERT C. HAWBECKER, *34a Jefferson Street, Watsonville, California, November 23, 1938.*

Old-squaw Taken at San Diego, California.—As there appears to be no record of the capture of an Old-squaw (*Clangula hyemalis*) in southern California waters since 1921 (Anthony, *Auk*, vol. 39, 1922, p. 104), it may be worthy of note that I secured a specimen of this duck on San Diego Bay, November 11, 1938. The bird was a female in typical winter plumage, and it is now specimen no. 17944 in the collection of the San Diego Society of Natural History. There was also at this time an unusual number of White-winged Scoters (*Melanitta deglandi*) on the bay, perhaps 500 individuals in all—more than I had ever previously observed.—J. W. SEFTON, JR., *San Diego Society of Natural History, Balboa Park, San Diego, California, December 5, 1938.*