

FROM FIELD AND STUDY

Sleeping Posture of the Rock Wren.—The night of October 15, 1939, two Rock Wrens (*Salpinctes obsoletus*) were found asleep in a shed near some cliffs in southern Alameda County. The wrens were perched side by side on the rough, vertical side of a mud wasp nest (*Sceliphron*, sp.) which was built on the 4" side of a 2" x 4" rafter. The position of the wrens was vertical, substantially that of a perching woodpecker or creeper (*Certhia*), with the tails jammed against the mud wasp nest for support and the feet about at mid-breast level, and far enough apart to show the outer toe on each side when the bird was viewed from behind. It was not possible to see exactly how the heads were held, but apparently they were placed with the beak pointed downward between one wing and the body. One of the birds awoke and slipped away in the beam of my flashlight, but the other did not stir. I left the birds for about fifteen minutes, and returned with another observer. The wakeful bird had returned to its former position and posture, and slipped away again. The heavy sleeper was picked up by hand. It is doubtful if the birds could have been reached by any small mammal, because of the position of the roosting site.—R. M. BOND, *Berkeley, California, October 23, 1939.*

Lesser Loon and Wood Ibis in Utah.—On August 14, 1939, I found a dead loon on U. S. Highway 91, 6 miles north of Scipio, Juab County, Utah. It was so badly decomposed that I was unable to determine the cause of its death. The fact that the large Sevier Bridge Reservoir is within two miles of this spot suggests the possibility that the bird was wounded there and flew to the road before death. The wing that was saved is 350 mm. long and identifies the bird as the Lesser Loon (*Gavia immer elasson*). Hayward (Wilson Bull., vol. 49, 1937, p. 304) mentions three other records of this loon in Utah.

On August 28, 1939, I collected a male Wood Ibis (*Mycteria americana*) at Virgin City, Washington County, Utah. It was walking about on a sandbar in the Virgin River, and was the only one seen. This is the first record of the Wood Ibis for southern Utah, but there are several records from the northern part of the State. Hayward (*loc. cit.*) mentions three records. C. W. Lockerbie, of Salt Lake City, has seen Wood Ibises on three occasions in the Salt Lake area. The ibis and the wing of the loon are now in the museum of the University of Utah.—W. S. LONG, *Soil Conservation Service, Salt Lake City, Utah, November 28, 1939.*

Rufous-necked Sandpiper Nesting on Seward Peninsula, Alaska.—Recently I received a brooding female Rufous-necked Sandpiper (*Pisobia ruficollis*), together with the set of four eggs and nest material, from a native collector working under the authority of a government permit. These were collected on June 15, 1939, near Cape Prince of Wales, Seward Peninsula, Alaska. The collector stated that the bird was a "Rufus Neck Sandpiper" and that the fresh eggs were in a nest

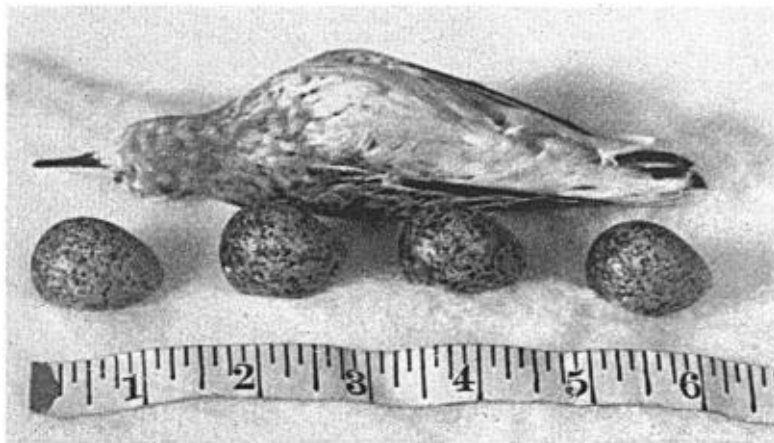


Fig. 36. Rufous-necked Sandpiper and set of eggs. Cape Prince of Wales, Alaska, June 15, 1939. Photo by J. E. McKinney.