

A single winter male from Santa Catalina Island is small (wing, 157; tail, 107) and slightly darker dorsally than comparable *collaris* but does not differ otherwise. I do not attempt to place it definitely at this time.

In conclusion I wish to thank Dr. Alexander Wetmore for color notes and other data concerning the two specimens in the United States National Museum.—A. J. VAN ROSSEM, *Dickey Collections, University of California, Los Angeles, July 12, 1944.*

Winter Record of Mourning Dove in South-central Oregon.—On January 6, 1944, a Mourning Dove (*Zenaidura macroura*) was recorded near Merrill, Oregon. It was approximately one-half mile north of town and was first noted when it flushed from a bare spot on an ice- and snow-covered pavement. It then alighted on a barbed wire fence at the edge of the road where it was observed further by the writer. The bird was apparently in good condition and flight was normal.

Mr. Robert Handley, of the Tule Lake Refuge, also observed a Mourning Dove the same day near the California border and approximately three miles southeast of Merrill.

These observations were deemed unusual in view of the snow and cold weather and the scarcity of records for this species from south-central Oregon at this season.—CLARENCE A. SOOTER, *Fort Wayne, Indiana, July 8, 1944.*

Bill Distortion in Mountain Chickadee Due to Bone Tumor.—In January, 1944, Mrs. Frederick A. Bushee of Boulder reported as a regular visitor at her bird-feeding station a Mountain Chickadee (*Penthestes gambeli*) with an abnormal bill. I saw the bird at her home and observed that the upper mandible was excessively long and decurved. During the second week in February the bird was missed for several days from the feeding station, and on February 14 was found dead on the ground not far from the porch on which food had been placed. Mrs. Bushee reported that for some time previous to its death it had had great difficulty in feeding. While feeding it had turned its head to one side—necessarily the right side, judging by subsequent examination of the dead bird. Other chickadees drove it away from the feeding station except when under Mrs. Bushee's supervision the others were kept at a distance while the handicapped bird fed.

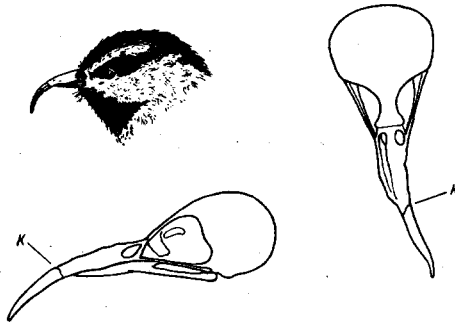


Fig. 41. Mountain Chickadee with bill distortion due to bone tumor. External view, $\times \frac{1}{2}$; skull outlines, $\times 1$.

When I first saw the dead bird I was struck by the fact that the bill was even longer and more decurved than when I had seen the live bird several weeks before. A sketch of the head of the dead bird was made the day after it was found (fig. 41). The distortion of the bill was evidently enough to account for death by starvation. Subsequently the skull was cleaned, but in the washing and drying process the upper mandible, presumably in losing moisture, became somewhat straightened.

Although I have on several occasions collected birds with distorted bills, this was such an extreme case that it seemed to merit careful examination. The increase in length proved to have been due to a tumorous growth of bone which seems to have been initiated at the front margin of the right nostril. Growth was more active on the right side near the culmen than elsewhere, carrying the bill forward with a downward curvature and a twist to the left. At the same time, growth of the tumor was not regular; hence its surface was not smoothly curved. The keratinized area of the normal upper mandible was carried forward by the tumorous growth as if it were pushed ahead of it, and the surface of the bill from the posterior margin of the nostrils forward to the line marked K (fig. 41) was uncovered bone. The bone of the tumorous area was hard on the surface, but in part spongy within. No other portion of the skull appeared to be abnormal.—GORDON ALEXANDER, *University of Colorado, Boulder, Colorado, June 3, 1944.*