



Fig. 1. Downy young of Ring-necked Duck in marsh growth at shore of Island Lake, Lincoln County, Montana. Photograph by John L. Blackford.

Saunders (*op. cit.*: 147-148) described the Black-poll Warbler (*Dendroica striata*) as a migrant in eastern Montana, found only in the prairie region of the state, and so far reported only in spring. However, in citing migration records from Great Falls and Choteau, it is clear that he refers to Montana east of the divide, thus leaving only the western third of the state without records of occurrence. The breeding range of the species has been known to extend south to central interior British Columbia (specimens in Mus. Vert. Zool.).

On July 6, 1941, after several days of intermittent pursuit of a new songster, I finally identified a male Black-poll Warbler near my former home two miles north of Libby, Montana. On July 8, 11, 19, and 30 it was recorded as singing steadily or frequently. On August 10, 1941, I recorded it as singing occasionally.

The dates of these observations from July 6 to August 10, the presence of the singer for a week previous, and the behavior indicated that the species was probably breeding here that year. The area directly concerned in these warbler observations was at the foot of a hill in understory of birch, mountain maple, and young spruce beneath primal Douglas fir-western larch-yellow pine overstory. Occasional large spruces (white or Engelmann) were scattered through the area. The elevation was 1980 to 2020 feet.—JOHN L. BLACKFORD, *Libby, Montana, February 5, 1953.*

Forster Terns Breeding on San Francisco Bay, California.—In central California the Forster Tern (*Sterna forsteri*) has long been known as a nesting species at Elkhorn Slough near Moss Landing, northern Monterey County, and at Los Baños, Merced County. Grinnell and Miller (*Pac. Coast Avif. No. 27, 1944:174-5*) knew of no breeding records for the San Francisco Bay region where the status of the species was considered by them to be that of a migrant and winter visitant. It seems likely, therefore, that the three breeding colonies which are here noted are of recent establishment.

On May 28, 1948, in company with the late Henry W. Carriger, Milton L. Seibert visited a colony containing an estimated 100 nests near the eastern approach to the San Mateo Bridge in Alameda County. This colony was first discovered by Mr. Carriger in 1947 or 1948. On May 6, 1951, near the eastern end of the Dumbarton Bridge in Alameda County, the writer noted adult Forster Terns carrying fish while in flight and saw adults apparently sitting on nests on a partly submerged dike in an evaporation pond of the Leslie Salt Company.

On July 8, 1952, Mr. Seibert and I visited two of the localities mentioned. The colony at the end of the Dumbarton Bridge was located on an old salt pond dike, now disconnected from other land areas so as to provide the birds with three low, narrow islands. The emergent surface was approximately four feet wide and 300 to 400 feet in length. This locality is approximately one-half mile southwest of the transmitter building of radio station KGO and on the opposite side of the highway from the station. The following census was made: adult birds in the vicinity, 60 to 70; juveniles on the wing, 10 to 15; juveniles out of the nest but not yet flying, 30 to 35; downy young in or near nests, 3; dead young birds on the dike, 25; nests containing one egg, 7; nests with two eggs, 4; nests with three eggs, 2; eggs out of nests, scattered on the ground, 45. An Avocet (*Recurvirostra americana*) nest containing one egg was on the dike with the tern nests.

The colony at the east end of the San Mateo Bridge was located on the property of the Oliver Brothers Salt Company, approximately one mile south of the highway approach to the bridge. The nests were widely dispersed on salt pond dikes and a complete census was impossible. On one of the dikes, approximately one-half mile in length, the following count was obtained: downy young, 3; nests containing one egg, 8; nests with two eggs, 7; nests with three eggs, 10; nests with four eggs, 1; eggs out of nests, scattered on the ground, 35. More than 50 fledged juveniles were observed in the vicinity and the total number of adults was estimated at between one and two hundred.

On June 7, 1953, in company with Dr. Eric Reynolds, Mr. Vaughan MacCaughy, and Mr. Alexander Sprunt IV, a third colony was found on Leslie Salt Company property, six-tenths of a mile south-southwest of Plummer's Landing and approximately two miles southwest of Newark, Alameda County. This colony was situated on a low dike covered with dry, dead *Salicornia*. The plants had been killed by the constant high level of water which has been maintained for that purpose by recent diking off of the tidal drainage channels. Eleven nests were found in a linear distance of 245 feet, 10 of them being in a space of 160 feet along the dike. Seven of the nests contained three eggs each and one nest contained two eggs. The other three nests were empty but within four feet of each of two of them were pairs of downy young approximately two days old. No remains of nests from previous years were detected. It seems probable that this colony was established only this year.

It is apparent that the presence of these colonies is dependent on the combination of factors resulting from the activities of the salt companies. The low dikes and the constant water level maintained in the evaporation ponds seem to be the factors which permit the establishment and success of the tern colonies. The colony at Elkhorn Slough, Monterey County, is also located on the dikes separating the evaporation ponds of a salt company. On May 24, 1952, this colony was estimated to contain close to 500 adults and 158 nests containing eggs were counted on dikes which represented approximately one-half of the nesting area. One nest contained newly hatched young on this date. On June 28, 1952, the colony contained nests with eggs and young in all stages of development, from hatchlings to fledged juveniles.

On several occasions in late spring and summer Forster Terns have been observed carrying fish in their bills in the vicinity of the Leslie Salt Company's evaporation ponds west of Alviso, Santa Clara County. It seems likely that a breeding colony may be located in that area.—CHARLES G. SIBLEY, *Department of Conservation, Cornell University, Ithaca, New York, September 24, 1952.*

Additional Records for the American Redstart in the Imperial Valley of California.
—In the spring and fall of 1952, we recorded the American Redstart (*Setophaga ruticilla*) on three different occasions. We collected an adult female 3 miles southwest of Niland, Imperial County, on May 15, 1952. On the next day we collected an adult female near the east edge of the Salton Sea west of Niland. Both redstarts were found flitting about in tamarisk trees with Orange-crowned and Pileolated warblers. On September 13, 1952, we collected an adult male 10 miles north of Westmorland, Imperial County. It was first observed in a thicket of screw-bean mesquite (*Prosopis pubescens*) with other warblers.

There is one other record for the American Redstart in the Imperial Valley—a female collected by us on October 3, 1948, near the southeast edge of the Salton Sea (Condor, 51, 1949:44). All four specimens are in the Cardiff Collection.—EUGENE CARDIFF and BRUCE CARDIFF, *Bloomington, California, March 31, 1953.*