

CALIFORNIAN NUTHATCH.

+SITTA PYGMEA, *Vigors*.

PLATE CCL.—ADULT.

The figures of this species were drawn from a specimen kindly lent me by the Council of the Zoological Society of London. It was procured by Captain BEECHEY in Upper California, and is therefore entitled to a place in our Fauna. Nothing is known of the habits of this bird, nor do I even know the sex of the individual figured.

CALIFORNIAN NUTHATCH, *Sitta pygmæa*, Aud. Orn. Biog., vol. v. p. 163.

Adult, $3\frac{1}{2}$, wing, $3\frac{5}{12}$.

California.

Adult.

Bill of moderate length, rather slender, subconical, compressed, the tip depressed; upper mandible slightly convex in the dorsal outline, the sides sloping, the edges sharp and overlapping; lower mandible with the angle short and rather narrow, the dorsal line ascending and slightly convex. Nostrils basal, lateral, oblong.

Head rather large, ovate; neck short; body short. Feet rather short and strong; tarsus compressed, anteriorly scutellate, behind sharp; toes free, scutellate above, the hind toe very large and strong; claws arched, much compressed, laterally grooved, acute, that of the hind toe much larger.

Plumage soft and blended. Wings of ordinary length; the first quill very small, the second considerably shorter than the third, the fourth longest. Tail very short, even, of twelve rounded soft feathers.

Bill bluish-black. Feet and claws reddish-brown. The upper part of the head and the hind neck are dull greyish-brown; the upper parts of the body dull leaden-grey; the quills and tail-feathers dusky, margined with light grey, the two lateral tail-feathers on each side with a white band toward the base; the lower parts brownish-white.

Length to end of tail $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches; bill along the ridge $\frac{6\frac{1}{2}}{12}$; wing from flexure $3\frac{5}{12}$; tail $1\frac{1}{4}$.



Californian Nuthatch.

Adults.



Audubon, John James. 1842. "Californian Nuthatch, *Sitta pygmea*, Vigors. [Pl. 250]." *The birds of America : from drawings made in the United States and their territories* 4, 184–184. <https://doi.org/10.5962/p.319363>.

View This Item Online: <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/item/125069>

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.5962/p.319363>

Permalink: <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/partpdf/319363>

Holding Institution

Smithsonian Libraries and Archives

Sponsored by

Biodiversity Heritage Library

Copyright & Reuse

Copyright Status: NOT_IN_COPYRIGHT

This document was created from content at the **Biodiversity Heritage Library**, the world's largest open access digital library for biodiversity literature and archives. Visit BHL at <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org>.