

Odd Nesting Site of Western Flycatcher.—While visiting Mr. James Ortega at Yountville, Napa County, Calif. on June 19, 1927, he invited my attention to a nest of the Western Flycatcher (*Empidonax difficilis difficilis*) built between the antlers of a pair of deer horns which hung on the wall close to the ceiling of the room in which he kept his specimens. He told me that the flycatchers had built the nest there, coming in through the window which was open at the top for a foot or so. The birds had deserted the nest about three days previous and Ortega allowed me to take the four slightly incubated eggs together with the nest.—EMERSON A. STONER, *Benicia, California*.

A Lower California Record of the Northern Violet-Green Swallow.—During the course of a recent visit to the Gulf of California with Mr. J. R. Pemberton, several mainland points were visited in addition to the many islands, the investigation of whose natural history constituted the main object of the cruise. On January 20, 1932, the 'Petrel' was at anchor at the extreme south end of Concepcion Bay on the Gulf coast of Lower California, a locality where several mangrove-bordered lagoons penetrated for short distances into a forest of giant cactus. Over the lagoons and adjacent desert were milling flocks of Violet-green Swallows in which were birds obviously of two distinct sizes. I collected one specimen of each more as a matter of routine than with any thought that the presence of the larger race was noteworthy, but on consulting Grinnell's recent Lower California 'Summation' I find that the presence of *Tachycineta thalassina lepida* in Lower California, in winter, rests on the rather meager basis of a specimen taken at La Paz in February and a sight record made in February in the Delta of the Colorado River. Therefore it may be advisable to place on record the present instance. As to the relative abundance of the larger *lepida* and the smaller, resident race *brachyptera* which were present at Concepcion Bay on the above date, it was my belief at the time that they were in approximately equal numbers. Certainly both were to be called abundant.

It is almost certain that the scarcity of more northerly winter records of the Northern Violet-green Swallow simply reflects lack of observation at that season. This race is probably fairly common and of regular occurrence in winter north as far as the Delta where Rhoads noted it in February, 1905, and Wright (Trans. San Diego Soc. Nat. Hist., 6, no. 19, 1931, 267) in February, 1929, and even into the Imperial Valley of California where I personally met with numbers in the winter of 1910-11.—A. J. VAN ROSSEM, *California Institute of Technology, Pasadena, California*.

The Song of the Red-breasted Nuthatch.—As the true song of the Red-breasted Nuthatch (*Sitta canadensis*) seems not to be generally known and never to have been fully described in the books, it seems worth while to put on record in 'The Auk' as adequate a description as I can give of the song as I have heard it this spring of 1932. I heard the song many