

All the birds are laying early this year. Mr. E. B. Ballard of Creston took a set of two Golden Eagle on Feb. 15 and another set of two of the same species on the 16th of the same month.

Obtained a set of three California Screech Owl, heavily incubated, on the 15th of March.
CHAS. S. THOMPSON, Paso Robles, Cal.

The Indigo Bunting in Colorado.—Larimer is the most northern county in Colorado. Situated as it is, the western part is of rugged mountains, the southern and a portion of the eastern is covered with fertile farms while the northern and north-eastern is of barren plains, all of which offer to the bird student each year new surprises. This spring we had with us for several days a flock of eight or ten Indigo Buntings (*Passerina cyanea*.) Prof. Cooke in his list of Colorado birds says, "Rare if not accidental. Taken twice in Colorado, once in El Paso County, while the other specimen is in the Maxwell collection." The Maxwell collection is without labels but is supposed to have been taken about twenty years ago in the vicinity of Boulder, Boulder Co. This county joins Larimer on the South. The Indigo Bunting occurs regularly in eastern Kansas, and I think that in a short time they will come regularly to Colorado. One has but to note the changes in this section within the past twenty-five years, the barren plain with only a few trees along the streams has changed to cultivated farms with shade trees and young orchards. In a few years more we will probably be able to add many eastern species to our already large list of birds. W. L. BURNETT, Ft. Collins, Col.

Nesting of Say's Phoebe in California.—It may be interesting to report that on May 1, 1900 I collected a set of four eggs of Say's Phoebe (*Sayornis saya*) near this place, in which incubation was begun. The nest was fastened to the side of a cave and composed of dry grass plastered together with mud. Subsequently I collected two other sets of four eggs each, and Messrs. Morcom and Swarth of Los Angeles kindly assisted in the identification of the birds.

C. B. LINTON, Whittier, Cal.

Notes From Alameda, Cal.—The Sharp-shinned Hawk (*Accipiter velox*) has been commoner at Alameda this winter than ever before. On Feb. 7 I took a ♂ the darkest I have yet noted. It had just eaten a California Towhee (*Pipilo f. crissalis*) and allowed me to approach within forty feet as it sat on the ground where it had been for some time. The hawk was quite thin and one leg had knit over an old break.

In the matter of discoloration of plumage of certain birds as mentioned by Richard C. McGregor in the January CONDOR (p. 18) some of the birds mentioned by Mr. Slevin were possibly shot by me, but the discoloration I attribute to their contact with the foliage of the cypress and pine, especially the latter and perhaps the eucalyptus. The most notable cases of discoloration under my notice have been in the California Purple Finch (*Carpodacus p. californicus*) shot at different seasons among the pines, except perhaps the Arkansas Goldfinch (*Spinus psaltria*.) that feeds on a sort of gummy weed of the thistle variety. The Sharp-shinned Hawk spends considerable time among the pines as does the Desert Sparrow Hawk (*Falco s. deserticolus*.) Specimens of the latter that I have seen have been so soiled as to appear dark on the breast and much soiled-looking upon the wing and tail tips. The Red-shafted Flicker (*Colaptes cafer*) is more or less soiled in individual specimens. It frequents these trees a great deal but a great amount of discoloration is due to its fondness for buildings and unused flues. The House Finch (*Carpodacus m. frontalis*) is often considerably soiled where nesting in pine and cypress trees and often feeds among the tar weed thistles with the goldfinches. A few specimens of Western Flycatcher (*Empidonax difficilis*) and Russet-backed Thrush (*Hylocichla ustulatus*) taken breeding in pine and cypress groves showed no soiled plumages.

Replying to Mr. Joseph Mailliard's remarks in the CONDOR (I. 54) as to which sex predominates in winter residents in different localities, I give my observa-

tions for Alameda and vicinity;—Dwarf Hermit Thrush (*Hylocichla aonalaschke*) ♂; Ruby-crowned Kinglet (*Regulus calendula*) ♂ to a noticeable degree; Western Robin (*Merula m. propinqua*) ♀; Varied Thrush (*Hesperocichla naxia*) ♀; Oregon Junco (*Junco hiemalis oregonus*) all ♂'s of over forty specimens taken during the past few years except ♀ March 11, 1899, ♀ March 24, 1900 and ♀ Alvarado, April 24, 1897; Anna's Hummingbird (*Calypte anna*) all ♂'s in midwinter. Mexican Horned Lark (*Otocoris a. chrysolama*) the few specimens taken were ♂'s; House Finch (*Carpodacus m. frontalis*) mostly ♂'s, often seen in pairs; California Purple Finch (*Carpodacus p. californicus*) mostly ♂'s, in plain garb; Cabanis's Woodpecker (*Dryobates v. hyloscopus*), a few noted, all ♂'s; California Clapper Rail (*Rallus obsoletus*) ♀'s by a large majority. D. A. COHEN, Alameda Cal.

Notes From Los Angeles, Cal.—I do not remember having seen the Pileolated Warbler (*Wilsonia pusilla pileolata*) recorded as occurring in California during the winter, and I was considerably surprised to see one of this species feeding in a willow tree in the vicinity of Los Angeles as late as November 11, 1899. A few days later, happening to be passing the place again I saw apparently the same bird and after that I found that I was almost sure to find it within a few hundred yards of the spot, by looking for it. I saw this bird almost every week all through the winter and kept track of it until about the end of February, 1900 when it was lost to view.

During October and November 1899 I saw several Townsend's Warblers (*D. townsendi*) in this vicinity. They are quite rare here in the fall and I have probably not seen more than eight or ten in the last six years, but it is a singular thing that the fall birds are, without exception, females. In the spring they are rather more numerous, some years being quite abundant, but all that I have ever seen or taken around here in the spring were males.

On October 30, 1899 I took an adult female Black-throated Gray Warbler (*D. nigrescens*) which I think is the latest they have ever been recorded from here. I also saw a Macgillivray's Warbler (*Geothlypis tolmiei*) on what I think is a very late date for this bird, Oct. 24, 1899. I did not secure the bird but was close enough to it to see that it was either a female or an immature bird.

Brewer's Sparrow (*Spizella breweri*) I have noted several times this winter, although I do not believe that it is known as a winter resident here. On Dec. 27, 1899 one was seen near San Fernando sitting on a bush singing; on Mar. 2, 1900 one was secured near Los Angeles, and a day or two later several more were seen. On May 2, 1900, they were seen near San Fernando in flocks of a dozen or more, H. S. SWARTH, Los Angeles, Calif.

Tape Worm in Young Mountain Quail.—About one in ten of the young Plumed Quail (*Oreortyx pictus plumiferus*) in Nevada, Placer, Eldorado and probably other counties in the Sierra Nevadas are infested with tape worms. I have found the worms in the entrails, in the abdominal cavity and frequently under the loose skin of the abdomen, especially between the thighs and body. As I have never found a tape worm in an adult I suppose the young afflicted quails die before they reach maturity. I can usually distinguish the diseased bird by its sickly appearance. I do not know that these tape worms are dangerous to man but have reasons for thinking they are. Since 1885 I have never eaten a young Mountain Quail without skinning it and examining the bird very carefully. How the bird acquires the worm and what the name of the latter is,—if it has one,—is unknown to me. I have made three ineffectual attempts to get the species identified through alcoholic specimens, but failed to get a report. Have been informed that tape worms are sometimes, though rarely, found in the young Sooty Grouse of the Sierra Nevadas. LYMAN BELDING, Stockton, Cal.

Nesting Notes From Tacoma, Wash.—The unusually warm spring has started the birds to housekeeping some two weeks earlier than is customary with them. An incubated set of two eggs of Allen's Hummingbird (*Selasphorus alleni*) was found on April 14, and the mother bird sat with the utmost composure to have her