

tents, and even after the snowfall of the 18th, which completely whitened the ground for several days, I could hear their clear, musical notes every few minutes as they flew past along the creek or up on the hills. Several were even seen on October 1 among the houses in Nome City, where they were being shot at whenever they alighted. The last two weeks of September became steadily colder and we were finally unable to carry on sluicing. So we returned to Nome City, and set sail on our schooner "Penelope," for California, on the 2d of October.

Thus, but 32 species were observed in the vicinity of Cape Nome during more than two months time. But of course this list would be largely increased if one should collect systematically, especially in the earlier part of the season.



The Nesting of Clarke's Nutcracker

[Read before Northern Division of the Cooper Ornithological Club Sept. 15, 1900.]

IN giving an account of the recent addition to the collection of Miss Jean Bell of the nest, eggs and parent of the commonly styled Clarke's Nutcracker (*Nucifraga columbiana*), I record an experience of difficulty and privation endured under the stimulus of eager desire and well-founded hope. I followed the assertion of a logger that he had seen several pairs of the omnivorous nutcrackers at a certain point in Salt Lake county. The place indicated was between Big Cottonwood and Neff's canons at an altitude of about 3,000 feet above Salt Lake City, and it was on the 25th day of April that I turned search into discovery and captured the female bird sitting on her nest and three eggs.

That the breeding was a second one was clear from the loss of feathers on the bird's breast. The eggs all perfectly fresh, the late date and the early season indicate this instance of nesting as particularly late for this bird. As to

characteristic features, the eggs were 1.20x.92, 1.22x.92 and 1.22x.93, pale grayish-green, spotted chiefly on their larger ends, of properly ovate form, the markings being of different shades of brown, gray and lavender.

My pilot to my covey was the male bird, whom I saw making a bee-line rapidly to a point which I suspected to be a nest. I listened eagerly and heard a chirp, then the male bird flew away. I quietly climbed the tree and at a height of 40 feet and on a branch at a point eight feet from the trunk my prize was visible. Slowly crawling to it, I succeeded in capturing the female, then the eggs and lastly the nest. This nest was constructed between growing shoots and accommodated its irregular shape to them. It is, in outside diameter, 12x14 inches, with a depth of 4½ inches. The inside cavity has a diameter of 4½ inches and a depth of 3 inches, and the nest is composed of coarse dead twigs of pine and heavily lined with fiber from pine bark.

The pine in which the nest was built was near the summit of the mountain and on its south slope near the outer edge of the forest. On April 26 I made another trip to the locality, reaching the summit shortly after daylight. I stationed myself on a high point and watched the movements of the nutcrackers through my field glass, and after making several false points which caused considerable rough climbing, I finally located a nest containing four young birds which would have left the nest in two or three days. The nest was on a horizontal branch about fifty feet up and five feet from the trunk, saddled on a four-inch limb, surrounded by a heavy growth of small twigs. In both cases the nest could not be seen from the ground. The tree in which this nest was situated was on the same mountain side, and about 200 yards farther down on the south side of the timber.

W. H. PARKER.

Salt Lake City, Aug. 29, 1900.