

ing day we returned to Mesa Grande where Prof. Dyche blew the egg and I brought it with me to San Francisco. It may now be seen in the collection of Mr. H. R. Taylor of Alameda.

P. L. GEDNEY.

San Francisco.



Notes on Some Unusual Sets of Eggs

The following are some unusual sets I have taken which may interest the readers of THE CONDOR:

1. RUSSET-BACKED THRUSH (*Hylocichla ustulata*.) June 11, 1895, five fresh eggs. Nest made almost entirely of redwood bark and placed among the out-growth of a redwood stump. Boulder Creek, Santa Cruz Co., Cal.

2. CASSIN'S VIREO (*Vireo solitarius cassini*.) June 6, 1896, six eggs, incubation advanced. Nest composed of leaves, grasses and stems, and placed in a low tree four feet up. Lexington, Santa Clara Co., Cal.

3. LONG-TAILED CHAT (*Icteria virens longicauda*.) May 27, 1900, five eggs, fresh. Nest made of leaves and grasses and lined with fine grass. Agnews, Santa Clara Co., Cal. Collected by Chas. A. Love.

4. CALIFORNIA PARTRIDGE (*Lophortyx californicus*.) May 23, 1900, two sets taken within 20 yards of each other, one containing 21 and the other 23 eggs, incubation begun. Nests in dry tules, made of same and but poorly concealed. San Francisco Co., Cal.

5. CALIFORNIA JAY (*Aphelocoma californica*.) May 1, 1900, two eggs, incubation advanced. Nest made of twigs and moss and lined with hair and grasses.

WESTERN LARK SPARROW (*Chondestes grammacus strigatus*.) June 21, 1898, two eggs, incubation begun. Nest of grasses and weeds in a small oak. Knight's Ferry, Cal.

MILTON S. RAY.

San Francisco, Cal.

Another Bluejay Incident.

In connection with the notes that appeared in the March-April and May-June numbers of the current volume of THE CONDOR concerning jays burying food I would like to mention a curious case of this sort that happened yesterday only a few yards from my creamery.

A Blue-fronted Jay, (*Cyanacitta s. frontalis*) was seen to fly to the ground from a small tree about twenty yards distant with a bay nut in his beak. After fussing around for a short time he chose a spot in the dry grass on a little hillside, either found a hole or made one, and stuck in the nut. After covering it over with a little loose earth he brought several lumps of dirt, one by one, from a radius of several feet, placed them on top of the nut and packed them down well. Satisfied with his work he flew back toward his tree. Before he even reached it, however, a California Jay (*Aphelocoma californica*), which had been watching the proceedings from a neighboring bush, flew down, resurrected the nut and flew off with it in triumph. By rights there should have been a fight, but there was no indication of dissatisfaction on the part of the original owner of the prize who allowed the thief to carry it off unmolested.

The question naturally arises as to why the California Jay should have stolen the nut. There were plenty of them still on the bay trees and lots on the ground under them, all to be had for the gathering. If he liked nut sprouts, worms or wormy flavors he could have waited and taken the chance of digging it up before the depositor thought of it again, or he could have gathered a lot more and buried them himself.

As both kinds of jays eat these nuts fresh, getting at the kernel by hammering the shell with their bills as they hold the nut against a horizontal limb until it splits open, it appears curious that they should bury it at all. It seems as if the Blue-fronted Jay had buried it either to keep it moist for a while or as a matter of provision for the future, though these nuts lie on the ground for a long time in a good state of preservation, or in fact until they are eaten up by squirrels and birds, or buried by natural processes. It also seems as if the California Jay had stolen the nut either out of pure mischief or actual spite.

JOSEPH MAILLAIRD,

San Geronimo, Cal., 10-21, '00.



Chas. K. Reed, the well known dealer of Worcester, Mass., has issued a very neat and compact hand-book on the collecting of birds and eggs and the mounting of birds, mammals and fishes. The volume is a handy one and contains much useful information which will be appreciated by collectors. The hand-book may be had on application.