

Nesting of the Dusky Poor-will

(*Phalacroptilus nuttalli californicus*)

I have been requested by one of our enthusiastic and experienced ornithologists, Mr. M. L. Wicks, to relate the experiences attending the taking of a set of Dusky Poor-will's eggs by myself in the season just closed. The find was

tensified at one end, also showing at this end very faint shell markings of small brown spots. The eggs measure about 1.05x.80 inches in size and are elliptical in form.

The bird was flushed on the north side of a foothill near Eagle Rock Valley in this county, and flew across a gulch close by, alighting on the bank of



Photo by M. L. Wicks, Jr.

NEST AND EGGS OF THE DUSKY POOR-WILL.

made on June 24, 1900, and notwithstanding the fact of their being taken so late in the season, the eggs, two in number, showed only slight traces of incubation.

Coues' Key gives the color of these eggs as "white." A better and more accurate description would be a delicately-faint "creamy white," slightly in-

its opposite side. I was able to approach to within about thirty feet of the point where she was sitting and studied her at my leisure while in this position. I then flushed her a second time and she flew back toward her nest, passing slightly in front of and about twenty feet above my head, giving me a perfect opportu-

ity of noting the appearance of the lower parts of her plumage. The general colors of the bird were more suggestive of a tortoise-shell cat than anything else I can compare them with.

The point at which the bird flushed, and where the eggs were taken, was at the foot of a live oak tree on a side hill. The eggs were lying in a shallow depression in the earth about the size of a man's hand and no attempt whatever had been made to keep the eggs from direct contact with mother earth. The illustration from a photograph taken by Mr. Wicks renders further description unnecessary.

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Some Additions to Van Denburgh's List of Land Birds of Santa Clara Co., Cal.

THE list prepared by Mr. Van Denburgh submits notes on 110 species and subspecies of land birds observed within the confines of the county, but his notes having been collected chiefly at two points on the western side of the valley (Los Gatos and Palo Alto), what may properly be termed the "floor" of the county has not been gone over, with the result that many of the marsh habitues and species frequenting the valley creek-bottoms have necessarily been overlooked. The author, however, has anticipated this in his list, and suggests that the list be completed by other observers.

I have accordingly thought it well to publish a list of additional land birds from my own notes, being allowed at the same time to incorporate a number of records from the field-notes of Mr. R. H. Beck, whose observations on the eastern side of the valley extend over a long period. Mr. Joseph Grinnell has also kindly permitted me to print his notes on several of the additional species, as observed by him at Palo Alto. In the following list the observer's name follows his notes, those so unaccompanied being my own:

Colinus virginianus. BOBWHITE. This quail was introduced some years ago at San Felipe, in the southern end of the county, by Mr. Chas. Culp, and is reported to have done well.

Circus hudsonius. MARSH HAWK. Breeds on the Alviso marsh. One nest found containing broken eggs (Beck).

Buteo lineatus elegans. RED-BELLIED HAWK. A set of three eggs taken by H. R. Taylor at Sargents in April, 1896. Observed by R. H. Beck at San Felipe during February, 1900.

Archibuteo lagopus sancti-johannis. AMERICAN ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK. Irregular winter visitant at Berryessa. One specimen secured and mounted (Beck).

Archibuteo ferrugineus. FERRUGINOUS ROUGHLEG. Observed at Berryessa as an irregular winter visitant. One specimen shot. (Beck).

Haliaeetus leucocephalus. BALD EAGLE. One shot near Coyote. (Beck). I observed a single bird at Sargents, at the southern end of the county, on March 19, 1899, flying rapidly over the ranges of hills.

Falco mexicanus. PRAIRIE FALCON. Seen occasionally in winter. (Beck). One shot at Berryessa by F. H. Holmes.

Falco peregrinus anatum. DUCK HAWK. Seen nearly every winter on the Alviso marsh. Known to breed in the county. (Beck).

Falco columbarius. PIGEON HAWK. One seen at Berryessa Sept. 25, 1891. (Beck). A specimen shot in the fall at San Jose by F. H. Holmes of Berryessa and now in his collection.

Coccyzus americanus occidentalis. CALIFORNIA CUCKOO. Heard at Palo Alto June 1-6. (Grinnell). Nests quite commonly near San Jose in creek-bottoms. (See Atkinson, CONDOR I, p. 95. Sept.-Oct., '99).

Dryobates villosus hyloscopus. CABANIS'S WOODPECKER. I shot one specimen, a male, at Sargents, Oct. 7, 1895, from a noisy flock of several frequenting a white-oak grove.

Aeronautes melanoleucus. WHITE-