

A Hawking Expedition.

ON APRIL 16, 1900, Prof. L. T. Merwin, Mr. Elmer Bickford and the writer journeyed to the hills east of Napa City to photograph and collect a set of Western Redtail (*Buteo b. calurus*) which Mr. Merwin had located two days before.

The nest was situated in the face of a cliff about 60 feet from the base and twenty feet from the top, and was com-

posed almost entirely of oak sticks and twigs, with a few pieces of tree moss ornamenting the outside. The eggs, three in number, were nearly ready to hatch, but were successfully prepared for the cabinet nevertheless.

The task of removing the eggs from the nest was allotted to Mr. Merwin by common consent, because he is at once agile, "reacher" and willing. The nest was inaccessible to the unaided hand so we used a small net at the end of a

long stick. The accompanying illustration will explain how it was done.

Mr. Merwin, partly suspended upon the rope seen in the picture, handled the net and tightly hugged the cliff as he passed it around behind him within reach of the writer whose rear elevation is decidedly conspicuous. It is to be regretted that Mr. Merwin does not appear in the picture for he has a cheerful countenance.

Mr. Bickford, ever alert for the



Photo by Elmer Bickford.

COLLECTING HAWKS' EGGS UNDER DIFFICULTIES.

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novel and picturesque, immortalized the scene by the aid of his faithful camera and it is by his kindness that we are able to present the photograph. The shrubbery in the foreground is growing from crevices in the rock and gives the picture a certain tame effect, when in fact the shrubs are 60 feet from the base of the cliff.

The hills in the background are a part of the low range extending in an easterly direction from the Napa water-

works. The woods and brushy hills in this neighborhood teem with animal life, and wild flowers without number grace their verdant heights.

F. C. CLARK.

Napa, Cal.



Song of the Golden-crowned Sparrow.

Mr. Lyman Belding of Stockton, Cal., submits the following query to CONDOR readers: "Does the Golden-crowned Sparrow ever sing while in California? I cannot say that I have ever heard it, though I have been where these birds were numerous. Dr. Cooper in 'California Ornithology' says it is a silent bird while here and he did not hear it sing on the Columbia River in May. My observations agree with his in this respect."

[Will not members of the Cooper Club and readers of this magazine observe, listen to and report any song they may hear from *Z. coronata*? Any observations sent in will confer a favor to Mr. Belding and to observers in general. Let the reports be forthcoming. ED.]



A List of Birds Observed on the Pima Indian Reservation, Arizona.

BY GEORGE F. BRENINGER, PHOENIX, ARIZ.

The following is a list of the species of birds seen during four days' travel in the lower part of the Pima Indian Reservation. These four days were September 18 and 19, 25 and 26. For the number of species noted, this list would be hard to surpass, embracing, as it does, 86 species seen on a tract of probably not more than five miles long by two miles wide. Migration was at its height, and, what might be more accountable for the presence of so much bird-life, very little shooting is done on the Reservation. A brief description of the ground may be of interest. The reservation is located on the Gila River, above its junction with the Salt River. A strip of land on both sides of the river is cultivated by the Indians, water for irrigation being drawn from the river and from a lake. The latter is of crater origin, and supplies an abundance of water. In consequence of this never-failing supply, a large area of ground covered with a dense willow growth is always flooded, and at the time of my observations teemed with bird-life. The crops along the ditch tapping the lake were luxuriant. The corn, the beans and the pumpkins sent forth such pleasant freshness that it is not to be wondered at that the tired, wing-sore birds after a night's flight, should be attracted by such a scene of peace and plenty. Away from irrigation was desert, dry and barren, supporting only such plant life as can withstand long drougths, and the heat of a long summer.

NOTE—In regard to the name of the Pacific race of the Black-headed Grosbeak, Mr. McGregor's article in the present number of THE CONDOR is quite apropos in reminding us of the name *capitalis*, which is certainly applicable instead of the new name *microrhyncha* unwittingly proposed by me last November. I did not have the pertinent literature available at the time of describing the form. It may be asserted, however, that none of the characters given as distinguishing *capitalis*, are determinant ones, being probably due to age or some variable cause other than geographical. The only tangible one seems to be that of the bills. Several Pacific coast males have the head as uninterruptedly black as Arizona examples. It may be further suggested that the authority for the name *capitalis* is Ridgway, not Baird. Therefore the name of our Californian Black-headed Grosbeak becomes technically, *Zamelodia melanocephala capitalis* RIDGWAY (Hist. N. Am. Bds. II, 1874, p. 70.).

J. GRINNELL.