

Notes on the Nesting of the Western Yellowthroat.

IN the spring of 1897 I found this species nesting quite abundantly in the low, damp districts which are overgrown with wild berry bushes and marsh grass in the vicinity of Pasadena. I spent considerable time watching this bird, particularly during the month of April of that year. The nest is usually well concealed, and no easy matter to find, even if you know there is one close by.

On the approach of any one in the proximity of the nesting place the female will noiselessly slip from the nest and very quietly make her way through the underbrush, and will make her appearance uttering an anxious twitter several yards from the vicinity of the nest. The first sound from her will generally bring the male, if he has not already shown himself. Between the 7th and 24th of April, I took sixteen nests of this species all containing four eggs, several of the nests being found before the sets were complete and taken later. With one exception all of these nests were similarly constructed, situated from one to eight feet from water and ranging from three to twenty-four inches from the ground.

The exception was a nest taken on the 22nd of April from a bunch of dried weeds close to a berry bush, twenty-five feet from the water line of Wilson's Lake. This nest was eighteen inches from ground and partially roofed over, and the only one I have ever found of this species so constructed. I have never found a complete set of less than four nor one that contained more than that number of eggs. During the entire season of 1897 I took twenty-one sets of eggs, with nests, of this bird. A fine, dry grass is the principal material used in the construction of the nests,

the interior sometimes being lined with hair.

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The Monterey and Coast Hermit Thrushes at Pasadena.

In looking over a large series of thrushes collected about Pasadena, I find a specimen of *Hylocichla aonalaschkæ verecunda* described by Osgood, *Auk*, April, 1901, p. 183. It was taken at Bailey Flats in the Sierra Madre mountains ten miles north of Pasadena, at an elevation of about 6,000 feet on Oct. 23, 1896.

I also find four specimens of *Hylocichla aonalaschkæ slevini* described by Grinnell, *Auk*, July, 1901, p. 258. Two specimens were taken April 11, one on April 8 and the other April 25, all in 1896. Mr. Grinnell's Pasadena specimen was also taken in April (25th). He points out a probable line of migration from the fact that a specimen has been taken at one other point to the south of Pasadena, namely, Santa Margarita Island, Lower California. Another interesting fact connected with this migration is that the northward movement does not reach the vicinity of Pasadena until April, by which time the Dwarf Hermit Thrush (*Hylocichla aonalaschkæ*) has departed; in fact the latter are nearly all gone by the latter part of March.

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HEARD IN THE MARSH.

First Melospiza—"They say the Tenth Supplement to the Check-List simply upset things."

Second Melospiza—"Yes, I had been told that my bright and superior garb would proclaim me ruler of this tule waste,—but the goods have not been delivered. By the way, Mr. Pipilo on yonder bush seems unusually brisk this morning. Wonder what's up?"

Pipilo f. carolæ (overhearing the conversation)—Haven't you heard the news? Great joke! While the Committee were counting the tail spots of my friend *Dendroica c. hooveri* I slipped on my fall suit and they really didn't know me!"

Whereupon the Second Melospiza acknowledged the joke a good one and ordered dinner for three.