

ly vibrating the wings. They are very numerous and when they have alighted on top of a bush are not suspicious. Four stomachs examined contained remains of coleopterous insects."

Two of each sex were secured. The reproductive organs indicated the proximity of the breeding season.

Anthus pensilvanicus.—The American pipit is well distributed over the territory visited. A pair was observed on Crater Mountain July 11; several were seen on top of Besboro Island, August 6, and two days later it was common on the high point forming Cape Denbigh. The species was also observed at Fallax Point August 11, and at Signal Doris August 29. A specimen taken on Amaknak, June 23, is darkly colored.

Parus hudsonicus evura Coues.—Several chickadees from Cairn compared with those taken by Grinnell on the Kowak River are darker. Mr. Harry C. Oberholser has kindly examined them and says: "Your chickadees are immature *Parus hudsonicus evura* of which *P. h. stoneyi* is a synonym. * * * Your birds, being immatures, are darker and more sooty above than the type of *P. h. stoneyi*, but are apparently identical."

Chickadees were abundant in the spruces at Cairn on August 19 and were again seen on the 22nd. They were always in flocks and their habits were not different from those of other similar species of the genus.

Phylloscopus borealis (Blas.).—Two willow warblers were secured near Cairn, August 19. I was watching small fish in one of the clear streams which flow through the woods below Cairn when my attention was attracted by an unusual note. Across the stream in the tops of the willows were four or five birds resembling vireos in color. Their actions were more kinglet like. They constantly moved about among the leaves or darted out over the water in pursuit of insects and returned to the trees. I felt these must be willow warblers and shot one across the stream fearing to wait lest they disappear altogether. My bird fell in the water but I managed to guide him to my side by aid of a convenient pole. Another bird was lured across the water by 'squeaking' and was at once secured although he lit so near me that I had to back away before firing. This was the only occasion upon which the species was seen.

Hyalocichla aliciae (Baird).—Four thrushes in fall plumage are like *H. aliciae* from the Kowak River.

The birds were silent and usually found in small brush or dense willow thickets. Specimens were taken near Cairn and Dexter in August. One in young plumage was taken near Cape Denbigh, August 12, and another in similar plumage on Besboro Island, August 4.

Merula migratoria (Linn.).—The robin was observed only at Castle Rock where a flock of a dozen or fifteen was located in the spruces, July 27.

Ixoreus naevius meruloides (Swain.).—The varied thrush was abundant in the spruce woods below Signal Cairn where four moulting examples were taken late in August.

Saxicola oenanthe (Linn.).—Several wheatears were seen near the summit of Castle Rock July 27 and another was observed on a rocky hillside near the Signal Doris, August 19.

The Least Tern at San Diego.

MR. F. W. KELSEY of San Diego has sent us two admirable photographs of the nest and eggs of the least tern (*Sterna antillarum*), one

of which is reproduced. The pictures were taken at Pacific Beach near San Diego, June 21, 1902. Mr. Kelsey writes: During the last six weeks I have

visited the locality three times and have experienced a great deal of pleasure in watching the habits of twenty or thirty pairs of birds that colonize there.

Unfortunately the energetic little fishers have many enemies and in the course of my explorations I found many deserted nests around which the broken shells told their own mute tale of destruction.

In this section we seldom find a set of this species containing more than

of shelter.

I am only a novice at collecting, but take pains to get as good specimens as possible of nests as well as of eggs, and the method employed in saving the nest shown in the illustration, in their original condition, may be of interest to some of your readers.

The scheme was suggested to me by Mr. Ingersoll and is as follows. While preparing for my trip I filled a two ounce bottle with shellac dissolved in



NEST AND EGGS OF LEAST TERN.

two eggs. The nesting places vary considerably, sometimes being merely a little wallow, 3 or 4 inches across, in the fine gray or black sand; at other times the eggs are deposited among coarse gravel and broken shells, while at others the nest is in the plain sand but is more or less elaborately decorated with bits of rock, shell, or wood. In all cases, however, that have come to my notice, the nests have been on almost level ground, and entirely devoid

of alcohol about in the proportion of one to ten.

After having photographed the nest and removed the eggs I carefully poured the shellac all over the surface to be preserved and left it for two or three hours, during which time the alcohol having evaporated, the sand to a depth of one half to three fourths of an inch, was thoroughly hardened and ready to be packed.