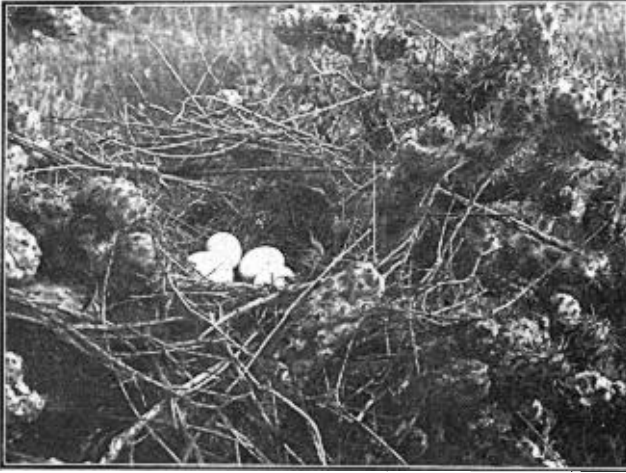


FROM FIELD AND STUDY

The Home of the California Road-runner.—On March 25th, 1903, one of the boys, a student in my Commercial School, told me of a road-runner's nest in Cholla Valley, and after school hours we started out to take a picture of the nest and to take the eggs.



NEST OF ROAD-RUNNER

After a walk of about two miles we arrived at the rustic abode, and found Mrs. *Geococcyx Californianus* at home, but she was somewhat shy and did not wish to have her picture taken, so we had to be satisfied with one of her nest and eggs, which are shown in the accompanying illustration.

The nest was a rather compact one, made of small weeds and twigs, carefully laid and woven among the branches of the "cholla" or "devil cactus" so common in Southern California. The outside diameter was about eleven inches, while the saucer shaped interior was about one and one-half inches in depth and six inches

in diameter. The eggs, four in number, and nearly white, measured 41 mm. in length by 30 mm. in diameter.

This wise little bird has a strange habit of building among the protecting thorns of the devil



YOUNG ROAD-RUNNERS

cactus, among whose thousand sharp points the old bird runs with apparent impunity, while the bristling spines keep out many an enemy and many an inquisitive visitor. In fact the thorny beds of cactus seem to be the favorite resort of the road-runner, and in the spring she may often

be seen leading her little brood of tiny chicks in and out among the almost impenetrable masses of thorns.

The second illustration shows two young road-runners, probably six weeks old, in the nest. This was in a clump of cactus in Upper Chollas Valley, and the little fellows were very patient and considerate, remaining quiet and looking pleasant while the artist went through the necessary preliminaries and made the plate. The one at the left, however, being somewhat shy, hid his head behind his companion just before the exposure was made. To see if the birds remained, because they were unable to run, I stirred them up a little and they hopped off the nest and ran away through the cactus and weeds, looking back occasionally to see if they were being pursued.—F. W. KELSEY, *Prin. San Diego Com'l. College.*

Early Nesting of *Calypste anna* in the Vicinity of Santa Monica, California.—During the season of 1901 I was fortunate enough to locate several sets of Anna hummers in January and February, but not having much time to devote to oology at that time I was compelled to confine my observations to a very small locality near my residence, namely, a grove of eucalyptus trees which was completely surrounded by a hedge of cypress. These latter were the favorite nesting place of the hummers. The whole grove, eucalyptus, cypress and all, only covered an ordinary city block of about 220 yards square.

In walking through this grove on January 21 of that year I noticed two female Anna hummers gathering material for nests and on watching them closely, soon located the nests, both of which were in cypress trees, and just started, one about twelve and the other twenty-three feet high. These nests were carefully watched and on January 30, I collected my earliest set of Anna hummers. The other only contained one egg on this date but a complete set was taken on February 1. On systematically going over and watching this grove I found seven nests in all before the first of March, all of which contained fresh eggs excepting one, and that nearly full fledged young, which, by my reckoning would have been a fresh set about the second week in January.

Locating so many sets in such a small place and so early in the season seemed to me quite unusual and I determined to follow it up the next season and see what the results would be. Circumstances compelled me to give this up in 1902 but the present year found me with plenty of time on my hands. I made my first observation trip on January 1, and I was rewarded by finding two nests just about ready for eggs. One contained a set on January 4, and the other January 8. My observations were not confined to the special grove I have mentioned above but took in several oak and eucalyptus groves within a radius of two miles of Santa Monica.

Between January 1 and February 18 I have found fifty-two nests of Anna hummingbirds and was only out, then, about two hours every third day. The following from my field book shows the result:

Jan. 1, 2 nests noted, both building.
 Jan. 8, 1 nest noted with a fresh set.
 Jan. 18, 1 nest noted with 2 eggs, slightly incubated.
 Jan. 21, 1 nest noted with two eggs perfectly fresh.
 Jan. 23, 1 nest noted with two eggs slightly incubated.
 Jan. 25, 6 nests noted, 4 of which were building and 2 contained fresh sets.
 Feb. 7, 2 nests noted, one contained a set badly incubated and the other fresh.
 Feb. 8, 1 nest noted, which contained young about $\frac{3}{4}$ grown.

They were in trees as follows: 1 in a cotton wood, 1 in a willow, 2 in sumachs, 5 in cypress, 36 in eucalyptus, and were from seventeen inches high, in a sumach, to about thirty feet in a cotton wood.

The above records, I believe, show that the Anna hummingbird is a very early breeder and in fact, it may be stated that they are just as plentiful in the latter part of January and the whole of February as in March, April, May and June. In looking over my notes for the past ten years I find no time where the Anna hummer has been as plentiful as the present season. We may even find that it breeds more abundantly in February than in any other month, or this may be a freak season, which will only be settled by later developments.—W. LEE CHAMBERS.

The Western Marsh Wren in California.—An examination of the marsh wrens in the collections of Mr. Frank S. Daggett and myself discloses the fact that two easily-

Feb. 10, 9 nests noted, 7 of which were building in the different stages and two fresh sets.

Feb. 11, 6 nests noted, one was building, 3 fresh sets, 1 with nearly grown young and one which contained two eggs of which one was broken, evidently by the parent as the nest was deserted and the tree covered with ants.

Feb. 13, 2 nests noted, both with fresh sets.

Feb. 15, 13 nests noted, 4 building and 9 contained fresh or slightly incubated sets.

Feb. 16, 3 nests noted, all with fresh eggs.

Feb. 18, 4 nests noted, 1 building, 1 with a fresh set and two with badly incubated eggs.