

By watching most diligently for several days I saw the birds dart downward and over the cliff on the ocean shore, a few miles from Santa Cruz, California. The cliff at this point turns sharply inland, forming a miniature bay, and lowering until it finishes in a small gulch or large crevice in the land, reached by the breakers only at high tide.

The nesting site was in the cliffs where the shore line turns inland, at a point where the cliff is forty or fifty feet high, and overhangs twenty feet or more, forming a sort of cavern. The egg was placed on a shelf or pocket about twenty feet from the top of the cliff, behind a tuft of grass, with which the rocks in this particular place are covered, owing to the moisture from constantly dripping water. There was no nesting material whatever, the egg lying on the wet mud and a little of the trampled green grass, just as on the former occasion.

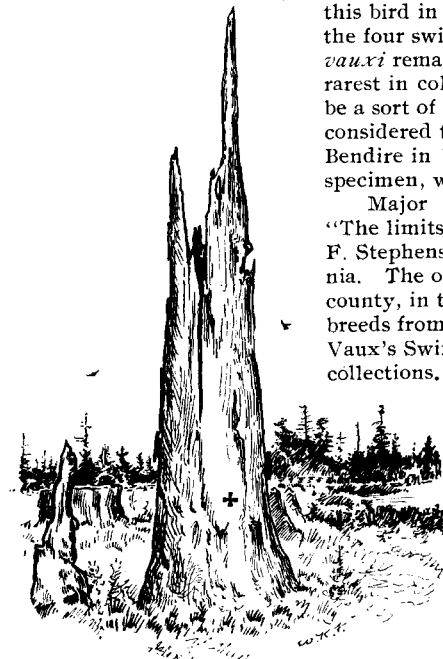
Upon preparing the egg I found that incubation was at least two-thirds advanced, and the specimen was saved with difficulty. I took the egg by means of a swinging rope ladder, with the aid of a dip-net and pole eight or ten feet long, after having flushed the bird and watched with field glasses her return to the exact spot from which the egg was taken. The egg is dull white, in shape is like a hummingbird's, and measures one and one eighth by three-fourths of an inch.

To make the identity more complete I yet had to secure the birds, which I did, after reaching the top of the cliff, by shooting them as they flew by a few minutes later. I still have the skins. I trust that this will prove beyond all doubt the identity of the take and place the same on record.—A. G. VROOMAN, *Santa Cruz, California*.

The Nest and Eggs of the Vaux Swift.—So little has been recorded concerning the nidification of the Vaux swift (*Chaturva vauxi*) that an account of the taking of a nest and eggs of this bird in northern California cannot fail to awaken interest. Of the four swifts numbered in our avifauna, the eggs of *Chaturva vauxi* remain, with the exception of those of the black swift—the rarest in collections and the securing of such a prize has come to be a sort of tradition in rarities. This may be realized when it is considered that the type egg figured by the late Major Charles E. Bendire in his "Life Histories of North American Birds," a single specimen, was taken in 1874.

Major Bendire in his work (Vol. II, p. 183) says, in part: "The limits of its breeding range are not well defined as yet. Mr. F. Stephens considers it only a rare migrant in southern California. The only breeding records I have are both from Santa Cruz county, in this State, and it appears reasonable to suppose that it breeds from there northward. But very few nests and eggs of Vaux's Swift have, as far as I am aware, found their way into collections.

"Dr. C. T. Cooke writes me from Salem, Oregon, that on May 9, 1891, he discovered one of their roosting and probably also breeding trees in the Willamette Valley—a large, inaccessible, dead and hollow cottonwood. The only eggs of Vaux's Swift I have seen were taken in June, 1874, near Santa Cruz, Cal. The nest is described as composed of small twigs, glued together with the saliva of the bird, and fastened to the side of a burned-out and hollow sycamore tree. It was not lined, and evidently was quite similar to the nest of the Chimney Swift. From three to five eggs are deposited to a set, and only one brood appears to be raised. The eggs resemble those of the Chimney Swift both in shape and color, but are con-



NESTING STUB OF VAUX SWIFT

Cross denotes position of nest

siderably smaller."

The three specimens in the United States National Museum collection, mentioned by Major Bendire, measured: 0.72 by 0.48, 0.70 by 0.50, and 0.69 by 0.49 inch, respectively. The type specimen was taken by Dr. James C. Merrill, U. S. A., at Santa Cruz.

The predilection shown by this swift, for building its nest in the hollows of lofty trees, beyond the reach of the most ambitious oologist, is responsible, chiefly, no doubt, for the rarity of its eggs, but I was fortunate last spring in securing a set of six, taken by Mr. Franklin J. Smith, in Humboldt county, with a photograph of the nesting stub, of which a sketch is reproduced. Although it was an exceptional opportunity to secure the eggs, as the dead stump was not over thirty feet in height, the feat was not readily accomplished by the

(Continued on page 179)

is preoccupied by *Picus torquatus* Boddart, 1783, a South American form known as *Cerchneipicus torquatus*. As none of the other names given to the Lewis woodpecker prove available it is named *Asyndesmus lewisi* Riley.

Dr. C. Hart Merriam presented a paper entitled: "Work of the Biological Survey in California, with special reference to Birds," at a meeting of the Section of Ornithology, of the California Academy of Sciences, October 3.

The Twenty-third Congress of the American Ornithologists' Union convened in New York City November 14.

The Southern Division held their annual October Outing Meeting at Newhall on October 28 and 29.

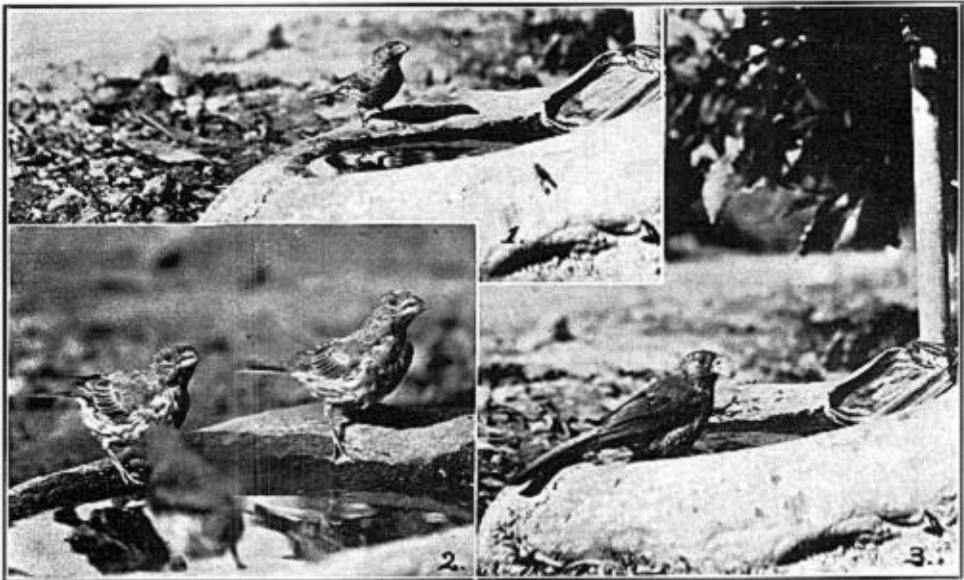
We again desire to thank The Pacific Monthly of Portland, Oregon, for the use of three plates for Mr. Finley's article.

space it has been necessary to defer four important articles. At the last moment we have been obliged to omit four portraits of European Ornithologists which were intended for this issue, and some club minutes already set up. These will appear in January.

FROM FIELD AND STUDY

(Continued from page 177)

collector, and while the eggs were saved the nest fell to pieces. The stump was situated in a small ravine, with only two or three tall trees near. The set was taken on June 15, and the eggs were fresh. The nesting site was discovered by watching the birds circling in rapid flight. They would circle nearer and nearer, and when directly over the stub would be seen to dart straight down into it. The nest



1 AND 2. HOUSE FINCHES; 3. ANTHONY TOWHEE

Photographed by Joseph Mailliard

In view of the publication of the recently adopted International Code of Zoological Nomenclature (Entwurf von Regeln der Zoologischen Nomenclatur. Als Grundlage fuer einer Neubearbeitung der internationalen Regeln der internationalen Nomenclatur-Commission vorgeschlagen von F. C. v. Maehrenthal in Berlin <Zoologische Annalen, I, 1904, 89-138. Also Bull. 24 of the hygienic laboratory of the Public Health and Marine Service of the U. S.; reprint of English text by C. W. Stiles) Dr. David Starr Jordan will not publish his new code of nomenclature, extracts from which were given in this journal January last, pp. 28-30. Dr. Jordan has reviewed the English text of the 'International Code' in *Science* of Oct. 20.

Owing to unusual demands on available

was built of pine needles, glued together with birds' saliva, and fastened to the walls of the stub, which were very smooth. It was a narrow affair, and the six eggs lay side by side. The nest was only about two feet from the ground, so that the climber was obliged to descend almost the entire distance inside the nesting stub. This set of eggs is now in the fine oological collection of Colonel John E. Thayer. The eggs, as Major Bendire stated, are markedly smaller than those of the chimney swift, and are noticeably conical. They correspond exactly, in size, with the specimen figured in "Life Histories."—H. R. TAYLOR, *Alameda, Calif.*

Birds Drinking.—While in Santa Barbara this past summer my attention was attracted to the comparatively fearless way in which the