

LIME KILN, JUNE 10 TO JULY 1.—I found a nest of the willow woodpecker in a rotten alder stub by a creek. The chips showed me that it was a late nest. It contained four fresh glossy white eggs. The parent bird was very noisy but did not come near. The next nests found were two of the western wood pewee. One contained four fresh eggs. The nest was saddled upon a limb of an alder about six feet from the ground. The other was built in a crotch of an alder about twenty feet from the ground and contained two eggs. The next nests were two of the valley partridge. One contained fifteen eggs and the other twenty-one eggs. I thought I had found a large set but another member of the party reported the finding of a set of twenty-two a couple of days later. This was the largest set reported. All nests were on the ground under bushes. Another peculiar nest I found was one built about ten feet down in an old mine shaft. It was some sort of a swallow's nest, built of red clay, and at this date contained three young. The parent birds would not come near, and were not seen closely enough to identify. It was quite dark and damp where the nest was.

Around Dry Creek, near Auburn, nighthawks were numerous. About dusk they would fly about high up in the air with their peculiar flight and cry. They would take three or four slow flaps of the wings, then three or four very fast flaps and rise in the air, always uttering their peculiar cry when rising. Once in a while they would dive straight down with a sound like an enormous bow-string being struck. It was likely to scare one if it came unexpectedly, and if one was not accustomed to it.

San Francisco, California.

FROM FIELD AND STUDY

Feeding Habits of the Lewis Woodpecker.—Late on the afternoon of December 8, 1906, while riding between Witch Creek and Santa Ysabel, I noticed ten Lewis woodpeckers (*Melanerpes lewisi*) flying about over a creek catching insects in the manner of swallows, with flight that was graceful, resembling that of the latter. I never before noticed them feeding in this way, their usual habit being to perch on top of dead trees, darting from a limb to catch passing insects. They have been unusually common here this fall.—H. W. MARSDEN, *Witch Creek, California.*

Notes From Placer County, California.—Band-tailed pigeons (*Columba fasciata*) occurred here in considerable numbers this fall, appearing to be most numerous along Bear River, where ideal feeding grounds abound. The first noted were a few scattering birds on September 21, 1906. On October 17, a flock of about three hundred were seen feeding on acorns and "coffee" berries; and scores of birds were continually passing overhead, following the course of the river. Large numbers have been killed by hunters.

This country is very much alive and the common turkey vulture is seeking new climes! During the first week of October I noticed five flocks of from twenty-five to sixty buzzards (*Cathartes aura*) slowly making their way westward. They appeared to be young birds, but I have never been able to discover breeding grounds in this vicinity.

A few robins (*Merula migratoria propinqua*) have remained in this locality thruout the summer. They breed here in small numbers, but usually leave soon after the young are able to fly.

Quail (*Lophortyx californicus vallicola*) are plentiful, even tho the late rains destroyed large numbers of eggs. I collected a set last spring under rather peculiar circumstances. We had cut and cocked our meadow grass, when the late rains came and interfered with hauling. Some of the hay was ruined and it was a month before it was removed from the field. These haycocks

make an ideal nesting place for the quail, and many a nest did we uncover. From one cock I had just pitched the third forkful of hay to the rack, when a quail flew past my head apparently from the wagon. Search revealed the fact that with the last fork of hay I had picked up a quail with her nest and eggs and had landed all safely on the rack. Twelve eggs were found reposing unharmed in their nest of feathers.

To my knowledge the last of the much persecuted mourning dove (*Zenaidura macroura*) left this locality November 4, 1906. Sportsmen (?) demanded of the Supervisors that they open the shooting season two weeks earlier than formerly, contending that by August 1, all the doves had gone to the valley. Yet on that date I knew of twenty nests, containing eggs or young, within an eighty-acre field on this place, and the birds were fairly plentiful thruout September.

A stray yellow-billed magpie or California crow occasionally visits at this altitude (1750 feet), but returns immediately to his valley home.—ERNEST ADAMS, *Clipper Gap, California*.

Band-tailed Pigeons at Santa Barbara.—On September 18, two of these handsome birds alighted on a lilac bush in our garden. They were quite tame, allowing me to approach within a few feet; thus I had an admirable chance to identify them as the above named. As they did not attempt to feed during their short stay, it is my supposition they were migrating, and had stopped over to rest. This is the first time I have seen *Columba fasciata* in this County.—REGINALD ROGERS, *Santa Barbara, California*.

A Notable Sparrow's Nest.—A nest of *Passer domesticus*, with two entrances, blew down from its unstable perch in the Virginia creeper on the side of my house, November 25. The sparrow had industriously gathered together a mass of dry grass as big as a hat. The nest, which was deep, was warmly lined with feathers. At one side, below, there was an opening thru the feathers evidently designed as a "look out," or ventilator. The bird might have escaped thru the hole in case of necessity, but probably used the main entrance exclusively as a point of ingress, as the feathers about the extra orifice projected blades outward, showing that the bird could not have well flown in without disarranging the downy window casement.—H. R. TAYLOR, *Alameda, California*.

The Alaska Water-thrush in California.—On August 16, 1905, I obtained an example of *Seiurus noveboracensis notabilis* which provides the second record known to me for this State. The bird was flushed from a tangle of bushes which surrounded a spring in a ravine, a hundred yards or so back of Jim Johnston's house at Cactus Flat. This is a "pocket" at about 6000 feet elevation, on the desert slope of the San Bernardino Mountains, San Bernardino County, California.

The region is an arid one, and I was at the spring on purpose to scrutinize the hordes of birds which were constantly visiting it for a drink and a bath. A good part of these were transients, which reminds us again that to stand the best chance of finding northern stragglers, one must strike the fall migration early in August.

The water-thrush was among a throng of warblers and small sparrows, several of the latter in streaked juvenal plumage, and I did not recognize it as anything noteworthy, until it flew up out of the shade and perched with other small birds, drying themselves in the open branch-work of a fire-killed oak. Then my attention became fixed upon it because of the peculiar recurrent dipping movement of its body, and its identity flashed into my mind. I promptly "auxed" the bird, and found upon skinning that it was a "bird-of-the-year," as shown by the large "windows" in the skull yet ungranulated. To be more explicit the specimen (No. 7157, Coll. J. G.) is in complete first-winter plumage. It is precisely like examples from northern Alaska in both coloration and measurements.—JOSEPH GRINNELL, *Pasadena, California*.

Another New Record for Marin County, California.—For the first time in my long residence in this County it has been my fortune to see a yellow-headed blackbird in this part of the State. On October 17, I saw two males of this species (*Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus*) flying north and close enough to be readily distinguished, being just about out of gunshot, but near enough to be unmistakable. There is no particular reason why this species should not be found here occasionally; but no individual has been previously recorded that I know of.—JOSEPH MAILLIARD, *San Francisco, California*.

The English Sparrow in Los Angeles County.—On dropping off the train at Newhall for the outing meeting, May 19, 1906, the first birds observed were a colony of English Sparrows, (*Passer domesticus*) which had their homes about the station buildings, and in the pines and eucalyptus trees adjacent. There was the same noisy chatter heard everywhere in the East; and the black-throated males with the duller females, made identification unmistakable. Thus we see that this little pest is gradually closing in on us, Tehachapi having heretofore afforded the nearest record (see Howard, CONDOR VIII, p. 67).—J. EUGENE LAW, *Hollywood, California*.