

several years. Mr. Hargrave, before mentioned in this writing, discovered the nest after watching the birds a long time.

I have been told that the birds are fairly numerous in a certain desert range of mountains; but I am afraid, as many others are, that the extinction of this great vulture is only a matter of time, not a long time either.

In closing I might mention that in early days the Mexicans used the large, hollow wing quills for the purpose of storing and transporting gold dust.

Shiprock, New Mexico.

ENGLISH SPARROW NOTES

By WILLIAM L. FINLEY

CONCERNING the notes on the English Sparrow (*Passer domesticus*) in a late issue of THE CONDOR, it seemed strange to me when I first went to Los Angeles not to find this bird about the streets, especially since it is so common in other parts of California. It would be interesting to have the records of other cities and know to what extent this foreigner has spread thruout the State.



ENGLISH SPARROW'S NEST INSIDE A HORNET'S NEST;
MALE SPARROW JUST ENTERING WITH FOOD
FOR ITS YOUNG

The Bulletin on the English Sparrow, published by the Department of Agriculture in 1889, showed that none of the region south of Monterey had been invaded.

When I first came to Portland in 1887, I didn't find an Englisher in the city. The bird was unknown here. The first pair likely came in the following year; for in the spring of 1889, I found a pair had reared a family about an ivy-covered house on Fourth and Pine streets. Since that time I have watched the population of the city grow till there is hardly a street that isn't overcrowded from the river to the hills.

The most unique example of sparrow nest-building we found one year when we discovered an Englisher in possession of a hornet's nest. The hornets had built up under the projecting eaves of the front porch of a cottage, just beside the bracket. I don't know whether the hornets left voluntarily or with the aid of the sparrows. The birds entered the nest thru the triangular hole in the bracket and had pulled out a part of the comb and replaced it with grass and feathers. As the young sparrows grew I expected to see the bottom drop out of the nest, but it didn't; it lasted for a second brood.

Portland, Oregon.

FROM FIELD AND STUDY

The Vermilion Flycatcher at Santa Barbara.—On the 15th of March, 1907, on the Modoc Road west of Santa Barbara, I came upon a Vermilion Flycatcher. It was catching insects after its manner, perching between whiles upon the fence posts or the wire, and now and then betaking itself for a little to the top of a neighboring oak. It seemed but yesterday, tho it was four years ago, that I had seen my first bird of this kind (the first of many) doing the same thing, with the same phoebe-like flirt of its tail, from a wire fence at Tucson, Arizona. Here, as there, the bird was very "observable", and I stayed with it for fifteen minutes or more, admiring its brilliant color, and in my enthusiasm pointing it out to a passing school boy, to whom I lent my twelve-power field-glass for an observation. "Yes," he said, when I inquired if he had "got it"; "yes, it is red and everything."

This, I understand from the Editor of THE CONDOR, is at least one of the northernmost records for the species in California.—BRADFORD TORREY, *Newton Lower Falls, Massachusetts.*

Where Does the Western Boundary Line Run for the Arizona Quail?—I recently made a trip from Mecca, California, around the western shore of the so-called Salton Sea to Calexico, on New River, and at that place we crossed to Lower California. We went thru the pass at the north end of the Cocopah range, into and down the valley that lies between the Cocopah and Coast Ranges for about 70 miles. We more than circled the former range without once getting out of the living ground of *Lophortyx gambeli*. How much further west or south they live I do not know, but would much like to. Having found them on the west side of the Cocopahs I was not, of course, surprised to find them east of it. Kindly enlighten me thru THE CONDOR.—HERBERT BROWN, *Tucson, Arizona.*

Notes from Clipperton and Cocos Islands.—In looking over "The Birds of Clipperton and Cocos Islands," by Messrs. Snodgrass and Heller, on my return from the Galapagos in 1902, I noticed the absence from their list of several species that were present on the islands when our party called. We stopped at Clipperton Island November 19, 1901, and went ashore for several hours. I saw on Clipperton Island in addition to the birds seen by Messrs. Snodgrass and Heller: *Squatarola squatarola* (Black-bellied Plover), two seen; *Numenius hudsonicus* (Hudsonian Cur-