

ately, all four species are considered game by the inhabitants, and only lack of fire-arms, and poor marksmanship, allow the birds to hold their own.

The most valued cage bird in southern Mexico is *Melanotis caerulescens*, a songster that cannot be excelled; also with great ability as a mimic. It must thrive well in captivity, from the numbers possessed by the people. Personally I never found it in numbers sufficient to call common, only running across them now and then in the heaviest of stream-side growth; the clue to its presence was usually the song.

The Solitaire of this region is *Catharus melpomene clarus*. It is another wonderful singer. I have heard it in a high and narrow barranca, where the tones were confined and producing effects that I wish all readers of this could share with me. It is a shy thrush and keeps to cover much, but can be easily recognized by the bright orange bill and golden brown upperparts.

The Western Mockingbird (*Mimus polyglottos leucopterus*) is a native. But they can poll nothing like the numbers that they occur in over the United States border. It frequently loses its liberty in order to adorn some rude wooden cage.

Bird catching is an industry not to be scoffed at in Mexico. Many species are trapped. Even the Cedar Waxwing (*Ampelis cedrorum*) must pay tribute during the short time it spends here. Occurring in flocks of a hundred or more, they are easy victims for trappers. Their monetary value is small, owing to inability to live in confinement for more than a few days. I was offered a pair for thirty-five cents, Mexican currency. Already the length of this article precludes reference to the Raptors and water-birds I met with. In closing, however, I do intend to make mention of a real game bird, *Colinus graysoni nigripectus*—a true Bobwhite. Unlike our native kinds they seldom seek brush cover, preferring the open fields, where nothing could be more inconspicuous, the plumage blending perfectly with the brown earth. A hard bird to flush, they will fly but a short distance, then alight, to repeat the tactics again if necessary.

The Bobwhites of the *C. graysoni* group are black-chested birds; in this variety the throat is white with black chin. The natives are not very well acquainted with it; and I found none in captivity. It probably never could be as popular a game bird as our eastern Bobwhite, owing to the difficulty in securing it, together with its moderate numbers.

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Brownsville, Texas.

## FROM FIELD AND STUDY

**Chestnut-sided Warbler at Sherwood, Mendocino County, California.**—While collecting at the above place in the fall of 1908, I secured on September 21st a Chestnut-sided Warbler (*Dendroica pensylvanica*), juvenal male. It was taken in a pine tree in the edge of the redwood forest and was apparently alone, as no other was noticed. The skin is now in the collection of Dr. L. B. Bishop, New Haven, Connecticut, who identified it, and believes it to be the first record for the State.—HENRY W. MARSDEN, *Witch Creek, California*.

**An Ancient Murrelet at San Pedro, California.**—On January 23, 1908, I went to San Pedro and spent about an hour on the beach looking for dead birds which had been cast up by the recent storm. I walked about a mile toward Long Beach and in this distance I found several Rhinoceros Auklets (*Cerorhinca monocerata*), several Cassin Auklets (*Ptychoramphus aleuticus*), one Sanderling (*Calidris leucophæa*), one Xantus Murrelet (*Brachyramphus hypoleucus*) and

two Ancient Murrelets (*Synthliboramphus antiquus*). I think this last is a record for San Pedro, as Mr. Grinnell informs me that this is the second record south of Santa Cruz Island, the other being a pick-up near San Diego.

These birds were badly stained with crude oil. I had great difficulty in removing it from an Auklet and an Ancient Murrelet which I saved. I used gasolene for cleaning, without injury to the feathers. The Sanderling was without wings, so was probably killed by some hunter. The other birds were apparently killed by the storm.

On February 8 I went down again and found two Brandt Cormorants, three Surf Scoters, one Ancient Murrelet, one Xantus Murrelet, one Cassin Auklet and one Rhinoceros Auklet. All



NEST AND EGGS IN SITU OF TOLMIE WARBLER IN MARIN COUNTY

Photographed by Joseph Mailliard

but the two Cormorants and one Scoter were in an advanced stage of decomposition and may have been a part of those observed on January 23. The Cormorants were the only ones free from oil.—HOWARD WRIGHT, *Pasadena, California*.

**Nest of the Tolmie Warbler.**—Mention is often made—as, for instance, twice in THE CONDOR, Vol. X, No. 4, by Gilman writing of New Mexico, and Rockwell of Colorado—of localities where the Tolmie Warbler is abundant, or at least common, in the breeding season; but it has never been my fortune to visit such a spot. Most of my observations on this species have been made at San Geronimo, Marin Co., California, where a few, a very few, pairs breed each year. The shyness of these birds and their habit of building near the ground in thick vines, in bunches of wormwood or thick clusters of tall ferns, make the discovery of a nest with eggs a