

such a good opportunity to show the structure of the nest and the customary half-hood over it that the next day found me at the right hour on the spot with a camera, with the accompanying more or less unsatisfactory result. This nest was built in a cow track, faced toward the east, and was on a hillside in such a way that the opening was up hill. In consequence of this the camera had to be more inclined even than if the ground were level, thus distorting the relative positions. But the structure and hood show fairly well. The photo was taken May 25, 1908, and the eggs were about fresh.—JOSEPH MAILLIARD, *San Francisco, California*.



NEST OF WESTERN MEADOWLARK, SAN GERONIMO,

MARIN COUNTY

Photo by J. Mailliard

Condors in a Flock—On October 1, 1908, about noon, I saw 18 Condors (*Gymnogyps californianus*) at one time at a point about 3 miles southwest of McKittrick, Kern County. In all of my work along the southeastern side of the Diablo and Temblor ranges during the last two years I have seen but two or three Condors, and this flock of 18 certainly were a surprise to me. As soon as I saw them I laid down on top of a hill and while eating my lunch had an excellent opportunity of observing them. I had my no. 8 binoculars and was able to bring some of them in very close as they circled over me. It was a great sight and one that I will never forget, as the greatest number I ever saw at any one time before was a flock of four which I saw in 1896, I think it was, on my way to Bear Valley, above San Bernardino.—RALPH ARNOLD, *Washington, D. C.*

Scolecophagus carolinus in Colorado.—While returning from a short trip up the South Fork of the Platt River, from Littleton, Colorado, February 20, 1909, I had the good fortune of meeting with a small flock of blackbirds, resembling the Brewer. There were about eight in the flock, males and females. I shot one and attempted to secure more, but they were very wild and escaped. They were in thick cottonwood growth near the river. The weather was mild with no snow on the ground.

Later, the bird taken (a male) was identified by Mr. Horace G. Smith, as a Rusty Blackbird, *Scolecophagus carolinus*, a rare bird for Colorado. The skin is now in my collection.

According to Prof. W. W. Cooke (*Birds of Colorado*, page 95) there are but two other records for Colorado: a pair collected near Denver, December 17, 1883, by H. G. Smith, and one taken by Prof. Wm. Osborn at Loveland, in November, 1889. Note that all these are winter records.—GEORGE RICHARDS, *Littleton, Colorado*.

The Swamp Sparrow on the Lower Rio Grande.—From rush grass growing along the banks of the Rio Grande, near Brownsville, Texas, I flushed three or four birds of this species (*Melospiza georgiana*) on December 23, 1908. One bird being secured proved to be an adult male.

Whether or not the species has been taken previously this far south, I cannot say positively; but the most extreme record I find (for Texas) prior to this note, is near San Antonio.—AUSTIN PAUL SMITH, *Brownsville, Texas*.