

muffled to the ears to keep out the biting frost of zero weather, I have heard this little fellow's beautiful ringing song above the roar of the icy waters.

***Certhia familiaris montana*.** A few seen in the pine and spruce belt, but nowise common. One taken on Rook's Creek, 7500 feet, November 3.

***Sitta carolinensis nelsoni*.** Seen occasionally through the Canadian and Hudsonian zones, but not common.

***Sitta canadensis*.** Common wherever spruce and pine timber is found, usually in company with *Penthestes gambeli gambeli*.

***Penthestes atricapillus septentrionalis*.** Common along Wood River in the willow and aspen thickets, but never seen in the coniferous belt.

***Penthestes gambeli gambeli*.** This and the next species were the most common birds in any part of the mountains, outnumbering all other species three to one. On October 31 I was on Boyle Mountain at about 8000 feet elevation, and I spent about an hour with a flock of this species that numbered well over one hundred individuals.

***Regulus satrapa olivaceus*.** Common everywhere in suitable forests. It was a pleasing sight to see these little mites searching the trunk and inner branches of the spruce trees that were laden to the breaking point with snow. They appeared all unmindful of the intense cold.

***Planesticus migratorius propinquus*.** A single individual seen along Spring Creek October 27.

FROM FIELD AND STUDY

Breeding of the Band-tailed Pigeon in Marin County, California.—While never resident, the Band-tailed Pigeon (*Columba f. fasciata*) was formerly intermittently abundant in portions of Marin County, California. Sometimes it appeared in flocks of a hundred or so in the fall or winter when food conditions seemed to attract them, and was usually quite numerous in the spring and summer. The birds would then be in evidence from April to July, and might be seen picking up stray kernels in the fields just planted with forage corn. Or, later, when elder berries were ripe they would come in small flocks and feed in the tops of the elder bushes. It seemed as if they must have bred here in those days, yet with all the deer hunting, range riding and deliberate searching for nests we never had any actual evidence of this, excepting once, when a bird was seen carrying material for a nest into a fir forest, though the nest was not discovered.

This pigeon is becoming scarcer all the time, and, while an occasional small flock is seen in this neighborhood, it never appears in such numbers as it did thirty, or even twenty years ago, and hence it seems singular that the first breeding record for this locality should have been made only this summer, when but few are left in evidence. This record was made purely by accident, the bird having been flushed from its nest when the writer was surveying a line through a forest of second-growth timber on a steep hillside at Lagunitas, near San Geronimo, Marin County, on July 30, 1912.

The nest, of small twigs loosely laid together and closely resembling that of a Mourning Dove, though naturally a little larger, was on an overhanging branch of a California lilac (*Ceanothus thyrsiflorus*) extending over a steep rocky place that was rather more open than the immediate neighborhood. The nest was about eight feet from the ground. The single egg it contained was in an advanced state of incubation, the embryo being probably within three days of breaking the shell.

At times the Band-tailed Pigeon, possibly on account of unfavorable food conditions in its natural haunts, gathers in large flocks in certain localities, and it then falls an easy victim to the hunter. Possibly also there are localities where it breeds in numbers and may easily be shot. Be this as it may, this fine bird is certainly and surely being destroyed faster than it breeds, and it is high time that it should be given some sort of protection, and listed with game birds.—JOSEPH MAILLIARD.

Some 1912 Spring Notes from Southern California.—*Mycteria americana*. Wood Ibis. On May 18 I saw a single bird of this species feeding in a small pond within a hun-

dred feet of a house in the outskirts of Los Angeles. I believe this is the earliest recorded date of the occurrence of this species in this section in the spring.

Zonotrichia leucophrys gambeli. Gambel Sparrow. Guy C. Rich saw an adult bird of this species at Hollywood, Los Angeles County, May 14.

Piranga ludoviciana. Western Tanager. This bird, always more or less irregular in its movements in this locality, has appeared in the coast district of southern California this spring in unusual numbers and remained considerably later than usual. Antonin Jay noted them daily in his garden in Los Angeles from early April until May 17 and saw a single adult male in the same locality as late as May 21. J. E. Law found them plentiful at Hollywood until May 14 and Guy C. Rich saw a pair in the same vicinity May 19. In a Los Angeles daily paper dated May 13, the correspondent from Ventura notes the abundance of the species in Ventura and vicinity.

Dendroica townsendi. Townsend Warbler. Unusually plentiful in migration this spring. I found it common near Newport, Orange County, May 12, and Antonin Jay found it plentiful in the willow regions near El Monte, Los Angeles County, as late as May 18.—G. WILLETT.



Fig. 79. NEST AND EGGS OF SCOTT SPARROW; HUACHUCA MOUNTAINS, ARIZONA

Breeding of the Scott Sparrow.—The mountains of Cochise County, Arizona, are inhabited by very few species of the sparrow family. The fingers of one hand would number them all.

The Scott Sparrow (*Aimophila ruficeps scotti*) is the most common one found really up in the mountains, aside from the Arizona Junco (*Junco phaeonotus palliatus*). These birds are rarely found above 6800 feet altitude, overlapping the zone occupied by the junco, which extends down to about 5800 feet; and are most common on the scantily covered lower ridges and foothills, where scattering oaks, madrona, and scrubby mountain mahogany are the only trees, together with plenty of bear grass and mesal plants. They much prefer slopes with a southerly exposure.

During May, their scolding notes and poor little song are to be heard constantly, when one is in the right localities. The birds keep pretty well out of sight, but if the observer will sit down and keep quiet, he will hear the leaves rustle and, by watching, presently see one hopping along, in and out among the bunches of grass and dead brush. At such times they may be seen chasing one another about like a pair of Canyon Towhees, uttering a similar chattering note.