

the male visited the nest for a moment. During one of the brooding intervals a blackbird rested on the telephone wire near the nest, and the male immediately drove him away.

I did not visit the park again until May 3, five days later. Then I stayed only a short time and did little watching, as a picnic party claimed my attention. The leaves had grown so large around the nest that it was harder to watch than at first, and I could not be sure whether the female was still brooding, or not, but from later developments I believe that the young had probably hatched. Three days later, when I watched for an hour, there was no doubt of it. During the hour fifteen trips were made to the nest, the feeding being very equally divided. In fact, with two or three exceptions, the birds were both at the nest at once each of the fifteen times. Several times the female stayed from one and one-half to two minutes at the nest. The male also lingered, though not so long as the female.

Only a few times did I hear either bird utter a note. No song was heard during my watching, only a single call note given in a very low tone. Though many of the writers on California birds speak of the Bluebird's song, I am inclined to think he has none. W. Leon Dawson author of the "Birds of Washington" tells us that in the fifteen years he has studied the Western Bluebird in Washington he has never heard one sing. If so reliable and thorough a bird student as Mr. Dawson has heard no song in Washington, where they nest abundantly, I believe we are quite safe in saying that they have no song. It is an interesting point, well worth the bird lovers' while to observe, should he come across a pair of these birds nesting.

I was prevented from visiting the nest until May 14, when I found the young had flown. They were nowhere about, but a friend told me that she had seen several young bluebirds in another part of the park the day before. On this day I watched at the nest for over an hour, and was mystified at the actions of the birds. It was evident that they were not feeding, and several times both birds made trips of inspection to the nest. The young were not about, nor did the old birds seem to be caring for them, so I came to the conclusion that the birds, having raised their first family, were making preparations for another. On June 2 I visited them long enough to assure myself that they were, indeed, occupying the same nest for a second brood.

Although I have not again watched the nesting habits of these Western Bluebirds I know that they are still about in this park.

FROM FIELD AND STUDY

Notes on the Texas Nighthawk.—The field party from the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology which spent the last season (1912) in the Sacramento Valley remained at Winslow, Glenn County, from June 15 to 20.

About 6 p. m. on the afternoon of June 17 I was tramping over the rocky country bordering Stony Creek, when a Texas Nighthawk (*Chordeiles acutipennis texensis*) was flushed. An examination of the place from which it flew showed the presence of two young, resting side by side on the rocky ground. The parent bird feigned a wound, fluttering about on all sides while I was in the vicinity. When I finally followed it, I was led farther and farther away from the site of the "nest."

On the morning of June 18 I desired to photograph the young birds but either they had moved, or the parent had moved them, and I was unable to locate them, although I went over the ground very carefully and may have looked right at them!

Evidently they were not far away, however, for every time I came into the vicinity the old bird was there to renew her deluding tactics.

I discovered them again on the morning of June 19. They were about fifteen yards from the place where I first found them, and the mother was brooding. The sun beat down fiercely during those days, and I cannot understand how the birds could withstand it on that rocky ground with the granite glare surrounding them and not a particle of sheltering shade.

I hurried to camp for the camera. Fifteen minutes later when I returned one of the young was eight feet from the other. I replaced it, took their pictures, and the photograph here reproduced is the result.

One evening about 8:30 p. m. I passed by the locality, and found that the young were more active than during the hours of daylight. They would run a few inches at a time in a straight line over the ground, while during the daytime they remained perfectly quiet and gave no sign of seeing the intruder.

The coloration of the young blended so remarkably with their surroundings that it was well-nigh impossible to see them. It was more difficult to see the birds in bright sunlight



Fig. 85. TEXAS NIGHTHAWK NESTLINGS, ILLUSTRATING THE PROTECTIVE NATURE OF THEIR COLOR AND MARKINGS

than at other times. When I returned with the camera the day I took the photograph, I had the utmost difficulty in locating the nestlings, although I knew exactly where they were. In fact, I nearly stepped on one. I had been looking straight at it, but failed to make it out.

Only one parent was noted at any time. The female and young were collected (nos. 22702, 23157, 23158, Mus. Vert. Zool.).

Incidentally Mr. Grinnell informs me that this is to date the most northern record of the breeding of the Texas Nighthawk by over two degrees of latitude.—WALTER P. TAYLOR.

Recent Santa Barbara Records.—Man-o'-war-bird (*Fregata aquila*). On the 12th of August (1912) two of these birds were seen sailing about over the estero near Carpinteria. Upon sighting us they approached curiously, allowing completest inspection, then passed inland nearly a mile, rising to a height of several thousand feet, after which they drove straight west till lost from sight (passing thus directly over Santa Barbara). Another bird was seen by Mr. Torrey and myself close in shore at a point thirteen miles west of town, on the 27th of the same month. Mr. E. S. Spaulding also reports having seen single birds on two occasions near the Santa Barbara pier.

Snowy Heron (*Egretta candidissima*). A single bird in full plumage was sighted on