

The skins were identified by Mr. H. C. Oberholser of the Biological Survey, to whom acknowledgments are due for this and other identifications mentioned beyond.

**Agelaius phoeniceus neutralis.** San Diego Redwing. A small series of redwings collected at Mack were identified by Oberholser as *neutralis*, making the first record for Mesa County.

**Zonotrichia leucophrys leucophrys.** White-crowned Sparrow. Made its first appearance at Mack sometime between April 29 and May 6. I was away from there, out of the County, between those dates. It was common May 6.

**Zonotrichia leucophrys gambeli.** Gambel Sparrow. This bird was common at Mack April 21, and remained so until the 29th. It no doubt left soon after that date for I saw none on my return May 6, when its place had been taken by the typical form.

**Spizella breweri.** Brewer Sparrow. One collected and others seen, May 6, near the Grand River, three miles west of Mack. First record for County.

**Junco oreganus shufeldti.** Shufeldt Junco. One collected near Mack, May 6, and identified by Oberholser. First record for County.

**Junco hyemalis mearnsi.** Pink-sided Junco. This species was seen and collected at Mack, April 26 and 27, and at the Sieber Ranch, May 12-15. The five specimens collected were all females, the males probably having left for their summer homes some time previously. Rockwell gives this species merely a passing mention, without locality, so I have thought it best to make this definite record.

**Amphispiza bilineata desarticola.** Desert Sparrow. Seen and collected near Mack, April 23-27, the first record for Mesa County. The birds frequented a mesa with scattering cedars and pinons on it about two and one-half miles west of Mack, apparently preferring the low brush about the edges of the gulches and at the foot of the mesa.

**Lanivireo solitarius plumbeus.** Plumbeous Vireo. Taken on Little Dolores Creek, near the Sieber Ranch, May 12. The first record for the County.

**Vermivora celata.** Orange-crowned Warbler. Taken at the Sieber Ranch May 12, the first record for the County. The specimen was identified by Oberholser as belonging to his subspecies *orestera*, which, however, has not yet been accepted by the A. O. U. Committee.

**Dendroica nigrescens.** Black-throated Gray Warbler. One collected at the Sieber Ranch May 10, and my notes say it was very common there May 14. Rockwell gives but one record of it, at Grand Junction.

**Polioptila caerulea obscura.** Western Gnatcatcher. Collected at the Sieber Ranch May 10-14. Several were seen. This is another of the birds of which Rockwell gives but one record.

## SOME FURTHER NOTES FROM THE TAHOE REGION

By MILTON S. RAY

WITH TWO PHOTOS BY OLUF J. HEINEMANN

THE FIRST three weeks of June, 1909, were spent in field work at various elevations around the southern end of Lake Tahoe. From our varied experiences, however, I have only culled those notes which are most likely to be of interest.

On June 1, scores of nests of the Black Tern (*Hydrochelidon nigra surinamensis*) were noted in the marsh at Al-Tahoe everyone of which was in the course of construction or just completed. On June 2 about three miles southeast of Bijou, I noted the Parkman Wren (*Troglodytes aedon parkmani*) for the



Fig. 36. NEST AND EGGS OF THE SORA RAIL, PHOTOGRAPHED JUNE 10, 1909, NEAR LAKE TAHOE

first time in the region. Its occurrence here at this date would indicate its nesting in this locality as very probable. On June 4 among the tall marsh grass of a boggy tract on the Bijou meadow, I found a nest of the Sora Rail (*Porzana carolina*) the first I believe to be recorded for Lake Valley. The nest held the un-

usually small complement of four eggs. Strange to say, two of these were infertile and two were pipped.

The day following, a nest of the Tree Swallow (*Iridoprocne bicolor*) was noted, with seven fresh eggs. It was built in a cavity in a pile of a wharf along the lake shore above deep water, a favorite nesting site here for this species. In this locality seven eggs is the usual complement although from all I have been able to learn five is the common number laid in the coast region. From this it might appear that a comparison of the number of eggs laid by the same species in high and low altitudes would be worthy of investigation. In those localities where seasonal conditions do not allow the raising of a second brood it may be found that this is partially compensated for by the increased size of the initial complement.

June 6 was spent at Al-Tahoe marsh where the customary nests of the Yellow-headed Blackbird (*Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus*), and of the Red-winged Blackbird were noted. In previous articles the latter was recorded as *Agelaius phoeniceus neutralis*, which was the label given by the California Academy of Sciences. I have had several of the skins recently examined by Mr. Harry S. Swarth of the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology who writes as follows: "The blackbirds are exactly like specimens that Taylor collected in Humboldt County, Nevada, and which he has rather hesitatingly referred to *Agelaius phoeniceus sonoriensis*. They are certainly not *neutralis* of southern California, which has a much heavier bill."

Besides the nests of the blackbirds I found one in which I was especially interested, that of a Wilson Phalarope (*Steganopus tricolor*). This, a frail affair of grasses, was placed on the ground among thick grass near the edge of a fast flowing slough, and contained a single fresh egg. The photograph was taken on June 19, at which time the nest held four eggs well advanced in incubation. It was necessary to cut away some of the thick grass in front in order to have the nest and eggs show on the plate.

Returning to Bijou by Trout Creek, two nests were found of the Audubon Warbler (*Dendroica auduboni*), which well illustrate the wide variation in Sierran nesting dates. One nest twenty-five feet up, on the extreme end of a limb of a giant lodgepole pine, was newly built, while the other, placed against the trunk of a small lodgepole pine, fifteen feet up, held four young ready to fly.

On June 9, a nest of the Ruby-crowned Kinglet (*Regulus calendula calendula*), first found on May 27, was collected with the small complement of five eggs. The nest, placed but ten feet up in a small lodgepole pine, is a gem of bird architecture. Plant fibers, mosses, plant down and fine bits of bark are daintily woven together and warmly lined with feathers and a few horsehairs. The nest is semi-pendant, broad-brimmed and thick-walled. The eggs are creamy-white, faintly clouded, chiefly around the larger end, with light brown. The female was collected with the set, insuring positive identification.

The Ruby-crowned Kinglet is not uncommon in Lake Valley (elevation 6620 feet), but is more abundant at higher elevations such as Summit, Forni's and Cold Creek Meadows, all of which lie between 7000 and 7500 feet altitude. To find a nest of these melodious midgets, however, is by no means easy, for their diminutive homes, tucked away among thick foliage, are difficult to spy, and sitting birds are rarely flushed. The Kinglet frequents the vicinity of streams and meadowlands, and the song is one of the most beautiful of all to be heard in the Sierran woodland. Beginning with a quick and melodious succession of "chill, chill, chill," it runs faster and faster and ends by carolling out into those

notes of a silvery sweetness "cheterree, cheterree, cheterree." I have heard the winter song of this bird along the coast but it bears little comparison in richness and melody to that heard here in its summer home.

At the Al-Tahoe marsh on June 10 a second nest of the Sora Rail was found, with thirteen eggs in varying stages of incubation. The nest, of dry tules, was



Fig. 37. NEST AND EGGS OF THE WILSON PHALAROPE, PHOTOGRAPHED JUNE 19, 1909, NEAR LAKE TAHOE; THICK GRASS, ORIGINALLY STANDING IN FRONT OF NEST, CUT AWAY TO AFFORD AN UNOBSTRUCTED VIEW

laced to tules above water three feet deep. As with the nest of the Phalarope it was necessary to cut away some of the thick growth to make a successful picture. Besides the nest of the rail two noteworthy ones of the Red-winged Blackbird were found. One held the rather rare complement of five eggs; the other, a set of four, contained two infertile runts, which in every respect but size

were identical with the normal species. The set measures 1.07 x .75, 1.06 x .75, .81 x .59, .75 x .59.

A trip was taken on June 11 to Deerington's, on the summit near Phillips' Station. It was late in the afternoon when I reached the lonely little cabin about which the ground still lay hidden beneath deep snow. On the following day a nest of the Western Robin (*Planesticus migratorius propinquus*) and a nest of the Sierra Junco (*Junco oregonus thurberi*) were found. That of the robin was noteworthy only in that it contained a runt egg. The set of three eggs measures 1.18 x .78, 1.16 x .81, .97 x .75. The nest of the Junco was placed under a little overhanging shelf of earth made by a snow-brook and composed of weed stems and grass and lined with horse and other mammal hair. It held four slightly incubated eggs. So well concealed was it that it would have remained undiscovered had not the sitting bird fluttered off.

The following morning two more nests of the Western Robin were found, one with three fresh eggs, the other with the unusual complement of five, well along in incubation. The nests were placed in pine and fir trees and deep snow lay beneath them. Near the cabin I observed a Western Tanager (*Piranga ludoviciana*) engaged in building a nest forty feet up in a tall lodgepole pine. As the ornithological prospect, owing to the lateness of the season, did not appear favorable, however, I availed myself of an opportunity to ride back to Bijou, which I reached early in the afternoon.

On June 15 along the lake shore near Bijou, a nest of the Spotted Sandpiper (*Actitis macularius*) was found with three eggs well advanced in incubation. The nest was placed among wire grass, and was a slight depression lined with grasses and stems. Mr. Richard Duttke found another nest of this bird in a like situation during the first week of July, of which he secured a photograph.

Two nests of particular interest, being the first of this species I had found on the floor of the valley, were noted on June 19. These were of the Sierra Hermit Thrush (*Hylocichla guttata sequoiensis*), and both were placed in thickets of lodgepole pine saplings eleven feet up. One held four eggs about to hatch, the other four half grown young. These were the first nests of this bird I have found below 7000 feet altitude. On June 21 preparations were made for the trip to Washoe Lake, Nevada, which has already been described in a previous number of THE CONDOR.

## NOTES FROM BUENA VISTA LAKE AND FORT TEJON

By CHESTER LAMB and A. BRAZIER HOWELL

ON JUNE 6, 1912, we left Los Angeles by automobile for a visit to Buena Vista Lake, situated in Kern County, and for old Fort Tejon, in the Tejon Mountains. Considerable interest is attached to the latter place, because it is the type locality of several of our birds, and because of the extensive work done there by Cooper, Xantus and others.

Shortly after noon on the 7th we arrived at the lake. The intervening time will not be itemized as it was filled in mostly with tire trouble, owing to our having failed to carry proper supplies of the appropriate kind. The lake, some thirty miles southwest of Bakersfield, we finally reached after having been misdirected half a dozen times. On the east side it is flanked by a high levee, and