

er female was encountered the same day under precisely the same conditions, but I had no time for an extended search and a superficial examination of the nearby territory failed to reveal her mate or the nest.

The finding of this nest, together with the fact that mated pairs of birds in breeding condition and plumage are present throughout the summer, fully warrants the assertion that the Wilson Phalarope nests regularly, in small numbers, in the grassy tracts surrounding certain shallow overflowed areas in Fresno and Madera counties and probably in Merced County also.—JOHN G. TYLER, *Fresno, California, June 20, 1917.*

Stomach Contents of an Oregon Ruffed Grouse.—The Oregon Ruffed Grouse (*Bonasa umbellus sabini*) is a rare game bird in California. So little is known of its habits in this state, or of its food, that an enumeration of the results of the stomach examination of a specimen obtained by H. S. Prescott at Requa, Del Norte County, California, January 14, 1916, seems worth while. Identification of the seeds and leaves was made by Miss Anna M. Lute of the United States Department of Agriculture. The crop and stomach contained: Berries and seeds of madroña (*Arbutus menziesii*); leaves of thimble berry (*Rubus parviflorus*); stems and leaves of dogwood (*Cornus*); unidentified pieces of stem.—HAROLD C. BRYANT, *Berkeley, California, June 20, 1917.*

An Early Experiment in Keeping Hummingbirds in Captivity.—It is not generally known that one of the first experiments in keeping hummingbirds in captivity and shipping them to Europe was made in San Francisco, in pioneer days, by Adolphe Boucard, the well known French ornithologist and authority on the Trochilidae. Boucard reached San Francisco August 16, 1851, and remained until August 18, 1852, when he returned to France via Nicaragua and New York. In his "Travels of a Naturalist" (p. 49) he describes his experiment as follows:

"From March to August [1852], I collected specimens of Natural History. Many were the species of beetles and butterflies that I collected in the suburbs of San Francisco. . . . I also collected many species of birds, and more particularly Hummingbirds. Two species were abundant, *Calypte annae* and *Selasphorus rufus*. I found many nests of these two species during the months of March and April, and at one time I had as many as sixty of them alive, all taken from the nests. I fed them with fresh flowers and small insects. Some of them lived four months. At first I had them all together in a large cage, made on purpose, but as soon as they were grown up, they began to fight so much that I was obliged to put them in separate cages. I put one pair in each, and I succeeded in keeping them alive and well for a long time. My intention was to send them alive to Europe, but even the most robust died at sea, and it was a complete failure.

"Nevertheless, I think if the same experiment was repeated in Florida, New Orleans, or New York, with *Trochilus colubris* there are many probabilities that they would arrive alive in Europe; but of course they could not live long there. Since 1852, I think one experiment of that sort has been made with the Columbian species, and many of them arrived safely in Paris; but they died soon after their arrival. There is more chance with the northern species."

Half a century later five species of hummingbirds were successfully carried from Venezuela to England². These birds were received by the Zoological Society of London, May 27, 1907. About 50 birds were captured of which 35 were shipped and 20 reached their destination alive. But there is a great difference between shipping hummingbirds to Europe from California via the Isthmus in 1852 and shipping them direct from Venezuela in 1907 with all the conveniences on modern, fast steamers, and it is not surprising that the first attempt resulted in failure.—T. S. PALMER, *Washington, D. C., July 7, 1917.*

Notes From the Southern Sierras.—In company with Mr. A. W. Hanaford I spent from June 16 to June 26, 1917, at various points in the San Bernardino and Sierra Madre mountains. The following notes do not cover all the species of birds noted, but only some of the more interesting ones.

Porzana carolina. Sora Rail. One bird flushed from the pasture at the east end of Bear Lake, altitude 6760 feet, on June 18. Possibly breeding, although we did not locate a nest.

¹Published in London in 1894; originally appeared in parts in the numbers of "The Hummingbird", III and IV, 1893-1894.

²*Bird Notes*, VI, 1907, p. 102.

Oreortyx picta plumifera. Plumed Quail. We noted this species in numbers between Clark's and Seven Oaks, elevation about 5000 feet. No eggs were found, but coveys of young were frequently met with in the brush. The old birds called the chicks with a note remarkably like the snarling of a wildcat, which somewhat disconcerted us at first.

Xenopicus albolarvatus gravirostris. Southern White-headed Woodpecker. Fawn-skin Valley, elevation 7000 feet, was the only locality where we found this bird to be abundant. Four nests were examined, three of them containing large young. From the other nest I collected three considerably incubated eggs on June 17. This seems to be a rather late set.

Chordeiles virginianus hesperis. Pacific Nighthawk. On the 19th I collected a set of two fresh eggs near Pine Knot, elevation 6800 feet, and not over 200 yards from the edge of Bear Lake. At Clark's Ranch, 5000 feet, nighthawks were seen and heard every evening of the three days we stayed there.

Aeronautes melanoleucus. White-throated Swift. Several colonies were noted in the San Gabriel Canyon at from 2000 to 3000 feet altitude. One nest that I examined June 24 contained four young nearly fully-fledged.

Stellula calliope. Calliope Hummingbird. Although birds were quite common at several points near Bear Lake, we located but one nest of this species. It was inaccessibly situated on a dead limb of a large pine tree on Grout Creek, at about 7000 feet altitude.

Sayornis nigricans. Black Phoebe. Common along all streams up to about 6000 feet. We took a set of four half-incubated eggs at Clark's, 5000 feet, on June 21. A similar set was noted near the in-take in San Gabriel Canyon, June 23.

Myiochanes richardsoni richardsoni. Western Wood Pewee. The commonest breeder everywhere. A set of three far-incubated eggs taken June 18 at 7000 feet, and many other nests noted at lower altitudes.

Empidonax difficilis difficilis. Western Flycatcher. A set of three fresh eggs collected with the parent June 21 at 5000 feet in the Santa Ana Canyon. This was our only record of this bird.

Otocoris alpestris actia. California Horned Lark. One pair noted at the I. S. Ranch, elevation 6800 feet. Their actions plainly showed that they had a nest in the vicinity, but I was unable through lack of time to locate it.

Cyanocitta stelleri frontalis. Blue-fronted Jay. Families of young Jays were on the wing at several localities, so a set of three almost fresh eggs that I collected June 18 on Grout Creek, 7000 feet, must be considered as an extremely late laying.

Junco hyemalis thurberi. Thurber Junco. June 19 I collected a set of four fresh eggs near Pine Knot, 6800 feet. The nest was unusual, being placed in an old tin can under a tree some dozen feet from the main road.

Pipilo maculatus megalonyx. Spurred Towhee. Four fresh eggs collected June 20 near Seven Oaks, 5500 feet. Much more common at lower elevations.

Vireosylva gilva swainsoni. Western Warbling Vireo. A characteristic bird of the canyons from 2000 to 5000 feet. A set of four half-incubated eggs taken with the parent birds just below Clark's June 20. On the 23rd I noted a bird brooding one heavily incubated egg in San Gabriel Canyon, 2500 feet elevation. I was unable to determine if there had been more than the one egg.

Dendroica aestiva brewsteri. California Yellow Warbler. Very common up to 5000 feet. A set of four slightly incubated eggs collected at Clark's, June 21, and another set of three fresh eggs taken at 2500 feet in San Gabriel Canyon. All other nests noted were unfinished.

Cinclus mexicanus unicolor. Dipper. Fairly common along the Santa Ana Canyon. A nest was found on a large log in the stream at about 4500 feet. The young had recently flown, and were still in the vicinity. One of them, when forced into the water, swam quite awkwardly and made haste to scramble back to the rocks.

Sialia mexicana anabelae. San Pedro Bluebird. Nesting commonly around Bear Lake, elevation 6760 feet. Many nests noted containing young, and one set of six eggs ready to hatch collected June 17. No Bluebirds were shot by us, and I am referring the birds noted to the subspecies *anabelae* on the authority of Willett's "Birds of the Pacific Slope of Southern California", *Avifauna* no. 7.—D. I. SHEPARDSON, *Los Angeles, California, June 30, 1917*.