

Telmatodytes palustris plesius. This wren as well as *Thryomanes bewicki eremophilus* apparently are residents in the vicinity of Lone Pine, both being fairly common during my stay.

A considerable number of perennial springs exist within a radius of three miles of the village, their advent, it is said, dating from an earthquake in the early seventies. These give rise to many boggy places or "vagys", usually invaded by Johnson grass, or briars. This affords excellent covert for the Ring-necked Pheasant (*Phasianus torquatus*), and within the area delineated, it is abundant, although, I believe, introduced within comparatively recent years.—AUSTIN PAUL SMITH, *Rich Mountain, Arkansas, July 12, 1919.*

The California Jay as a Bird Killer.—The literature of western ornithology contains numerous references to the damage done by the California Jay in destroying the eggs and young of small birds, but most of these accounts are unsatisfactory inasmuch as the authors fail to discriminate between what they have *actually seen* the Jay do and what they have inferred to be the work of the species. Without doubt this Jay is an enemy and an important one of the smaller species during the nesting season; but correct appraisal of the damage done can only be made after assembling numerous records of depredations definitely observed. The instance recited below, while not pertaining to a species of good repute, is offered as an example of the type of record needed with regard to all birds affected by the Jays operations.

While walking down a street in Berkeley, California, on the afternoon of May 2, 1919, my attention was attracted to a commotion among birds in a shade tree. One or more California Linnets were flying excitedly back and forth within the foliage of the tree and calling loudly and some English Sparrows also present were chirping in remonstrant tones. The object of their attention was a California Jay (*Aphelocoma californica*) which at my close approach flew out of the tree and made off carrying a young bird as he went. The Jay alighted on a large horizontal limb of a Monterey cypress and there, literally standing on his prey, began to peck vigorously at the latter's neck. The Jay's head moved up and down with the swift strong strokes that these birds use when any food is "at hand". All this time the fledgling had emitted an almost continuous series of cries but with the progress of the Jay's attack these suddenly ceased. The Jay continued to peck at his prey and soon stray feathers and bits of flesh began to come down from the tree. Wishing to learn the victim's identity, which was not evident from the strident notes it had uttered, I threw stones at the Jay until the bird was frightened enough to drop its prey and hop up into the tree. The dead bird was a young English Sparrow (*Passer domesticus*) presumably not yet out of the nest, as the flight feathers were not fully grown. It had been killed by the Jay pecking at its neck until the vertebrae were fractured and the spinal cord laid open and injured. The young bird is preserved as alcoholic specimen number 30833 at the California Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, exactly as it was found when released by the Jay.—TRACY I. STORER, *Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, Berkeley, California, July 31, 1919.*

EDITORIAL NOTES AND NEWS

We are glad to be able to present at this time the portrait of Major E. A. Goldman, recently returned to Washington from overseas service in the United States Army. Word now comes that he has been placed in charge of the Division of Biological Investigation, Bureau of Biological Survey, United States Department of Agriculture, a post which he is eminently qualified to fill. Goldman is favorably known in the west particularly for the field work he has done in many of the states as well as in Lower California and Mexico. His important scientific contributions have been chiefly in the field of mammalogy.

Members of the Cooper Ornithological Club will find interest in looking over a recent paper bearing the title: "Notes on Mammals Collected Principally in Washington and California between the Years 1853 and 1874 by Dr. James Graham Cooper" (*Proc. Calif. Acad. Sci.*, 4th ser., 1x, 1919, pp. 69-121). The author, our fellow member Dr. Walter P. Taylor, has gathered into the pages of this contribution a large amount of biographical matter relating to the all-round and gifted naturalist for whom our organization was named.

Ornithology has seldom had to bear with so serious a loss as that suffered in the

death of William Brewster, which occurred on July 11. Here was a man who was himself a student of scholarly attainments; he made many contributions to the permanent literature of ornithology. And also, being a man of some means, he was able to, and did, during his lifetime, advance in a material way the interests of other workers and institutions in this field. Now, by his will, as

With regard to Judge Ed Wall's article which appears elsewhere in this issue we fear the writer, in common with not a few other bird students, has an erroneous idea as to what constitutes a "record" in the annals of natural history. In our belief, not until *publication*, when made available to any diligent seeker for knowledge anywhere in the



Fig. 45. MAJOR EDWARD A. GOLDMAN, NOW IN CHARGE, DIVISION OF BIOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS, UNITED STATES BUREAU OF BIOLOGICAL SURVEY.

we learn from the *Boston Transcript*, he leaves to the Museum of Comparative Zoology, Harvard University, all of his large and exceedingly valuable collection of birds, to the same institution an endowment fund of \$60,000, to the American Ornithologists' Union \$2000, and to the Nuttall Ornithological Club \$2000. There are many other bequests, but the above serve to show Brewster's deep devotion to the scientific study of birds.

world, does any fact or set of facts reach the dignity of a true *record*. The facts Judge Wall now makes known, and which establish the nesting of the Wilson Snipe in southern California, are immensely important. But no one could possibly be held to account for ignorance of facts stored only in the memory or notebooks of one or a few persons.