

the Bird-lovers' Club of the Southwest Museum about May 5 carrying nesting material. Later they were seen by members of the Audubon Society. On July 9, 1920, the president and two other bird students from the Bird-lovers' Club saw four of these birds in Griffith Park near the Western Avenue entrance. Though fully feathered two of them were evidently young birds, for they had the light colored edges to the corners of the mouth that indicate youth, the soft downy look of new plumage, a different tone from that of the older birds, and they were actually being fed by a mature Blue-fronted Jay. The food given them was a highly sophisticated type for these creatures of the wild, for it consisted of pieces of what upon examination appeared to be an ice-cream cone which had been soaked soft and left on the bank beside a much-frequented trail. The birds however, were evidently used to civilization, for the one feeding paid no attention to the three observers less than twenty feet away, but made several visits to the flat, pancake-like object, tearing off strips and stuffing its mouth as full as possible before flying into a large sycamore tree where it was seen to feed the two young birds. This air of wontedness to civilization in the old bird, and the evident fact that the young birds had not been long out of the nest seem sufficient proof to me that the nest must have been in the immediate neighborhood. It would be interesting to know if this is the first record of the Blue-fronted Jay nesting in the Upper Sonoran Zone in Southern California.—MARY MANN MILLER, *Los Angeles, California, July 10, 1920.*

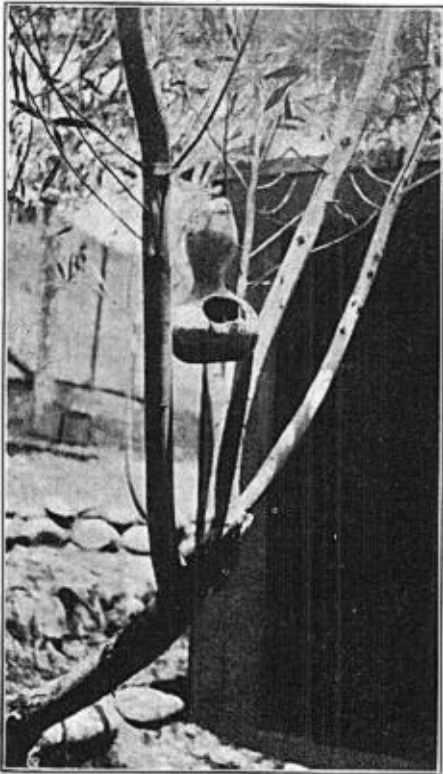


Fig. 38. GOURD USED AS NEST SITE BY A PAIR OF ANTHONY BROWN TOWHEES.

Domesticating California Birds.—

That many of our California birds will become more domestic with the years is evidenced by the experience of the writer. I have put up boxes, cans and gourds about my suburban home and made several drinking fountains in suitable places. For three years a San Diego Wren has occupied gourds near the door. A Black Phoebe has built over the window. An Ash-throated Flycatcher raised a brood in the elbow of an abandoned stove-pipe on an out-house. The Green-backed Goldfinch, House Finch (in boxes also), and California Shrike nest close to the house in orchard trees. A Mockingbird invariably builds in a thick tree in the back yard. The Anna Hummingbird and Arizona Hooded Oriole nest every year in one of my sugar gums. Cliff Swallows build on my neighbor's barn—and feed on my bees.

The Anthony Brown Towhee has often built in an elder bush or orchard tree; but not until last year did one ever use an artificial nest. A bird chose to raise a brood in a gourd hanging on the corner of a chicken yard in the full sun without a bit of shelter near it. Last April another Anthony Towhee (perhaps the same bird) nested in another gourd which was placed in the lower forks of an acacia tree about four feet from the ground. Although disturbed daily this bird raised her brood of four. I have seen scores of nests of Anthony Towhee in low bushes and found one years ago on the edge of a low bank in the grass, but never saw one in an artificial nest until last year—which shows that the birds can learn to get along with people.—CARROLL DEWILTON SCOTT, *San Diego, California, July 15, 1920.*