

FROM FIELD AND STUDY

Range of the Plain Titmouse in Oregon.—In the *Auk* (xxxvii, 1920, p. 594) Mr. W. F. Henninger records the Plain Titmouse (*Baeolophus inornatus inornatus*) as a new bird for the state list of Oregon. In looking over the available literature I was surprised to see that this species had not hitherto been mentioned (except in Bailey's *Handbook of Birds of the Western United States*, 1914, p. 456) as a common resident in the south-central part of the state. Its occurrence there has long been known to ornithologists. I have found it common at Grants Pass (November 30), Rogue River (October 4), Gold Hill (March, April and May), Medford (June, 1916), and Ashland (June, 1916). We therefore have a continuous line of records from Grants Pass on the north to within a few miles of the California line on the south. Specimens were taken by the writer at Grants Pass, Rogue River and Gold Hill during the spring of 1916, and I have seen several skins from Medford and Ashland. The species is common in the scrub-oak forests of the region along Rogue River and its tributaries in the lower valleys. So far as known it does not occur in the Douglas fir forests to the east or west of the valley.—STANLEY G. JEWETT, *Portland, Oregon, November 10, 1920.*

California Woodpecker Steals Eggs of Wood Pewee.—It is common knowledge that the jay is not the only egg eater among our birds. On occasion birds of many other species rob nests. The worst egg eater yet discovered in my aviary is a Santa Cruz Song Sparrow. The following note adds the California Woodpecker to the list of guilty birds.

While riding horse-back about a mile west of the village in Yosemite Valley, on July 17, 1920, my attention was attracted to a pair of Western Wood Pewees who were snapping their bills and making a great fuss. On looking above my head, I discovered a California Woodpecker (*Melanerpes formicivorus bairdi*) calmly perched on the pewee's nest and eating one of the eggs. I could see the white and the yolk of the egg on the woodpecker's bill, as he raised his head. After watching for some time, I attempted to frighten the robber away, but experienced considerable difficulty in doing so. When he finally left the nest the pewees continued to dart at him, to drive him farther away. Soon one of the pewees, apparently the female, returned to the nest, picked up an egg-shell and flew off with it. I was unable to see what she did with it. In half a minute she returned and began incubating the remaining eggs.—HAROLD C. BRYANT, *Berkeley, California, November 10, 1920.*

Late Nesting of the Green-backed Goldfinch.—While working around my place on November 1, last, I was attracted by the notes of a Green-backed Goldfinch (*Astragalinus psaltria hesperophilus*) and upon investigating found two young in a nest, ready to leave. On November 2 the birds had gone and I could not locate them.—W. LEE CHAMBERS, *Eagle Rock, California, December 6, 1920.*

Speed of Flight of the Red-shafted Flicker.—In the forenoon of November 1, 1920, I was driving a motor car on the main highway going north out of Fresno. We were making just 30 miles an hour on a level, straight road. The throttle was set and the speedometer was registering the speed very accurately under these conditions. A few miles north of Fresno a Red-shafted Flicker (*Colaptes cafer collaris*), flying from our right, attempted to cross the road about 100 feet in front of us, but upon arriving at the center of the road turned north and flew ahead of us for two-tenths of a mile, keeping about fifteen feet above the road. My guess is that the bird was surprised and, thinking itself pursued, made the best speed it could. We did not change our speed nor did the flicker change its course, and we overtook and passed under the bird in two-tenths of a mile. There was a little wind from the west but not enough to affect the speed of flight. The weather was fair and had been for several days. Evidently the bird was making only 27 miles an hour and flying as fast as it could. While there is no way of proving that the flicker was flying at top speed, the circumstances made me think it was. One of these birds was given a speed of 25 miles an hour when flying parallel with

an automobile but apparently not in front of it (Wetmore, CONDOR, XVIII, 1916, p. 112). These facts are some indication that flickers when not pressed fly very nearly as fast as they do when making their best speed.—CLAUDE GIGNOUX, *Berkeley, California, December 6, 1920.*

The Bendire Thrasher Nesting in California.—On April 11, 1920, I was collecting on the Mohave Desert near Victorville, California, with Mr. Selwyn Rich, a fellow member of the Cooper Club. He had the good luck to discover a nest with four eggs, incubation just started, of the Bendire Thrasher (*Toxostoma bendirei*). Unfortunately we were unable to collect the bird, but as the eggs were typical of this species there was little doubt left in our minds as to their correct identity. I substantiated our views, when, on April 26, 1920, in the same general locality, I took a similar set, with the female parent.

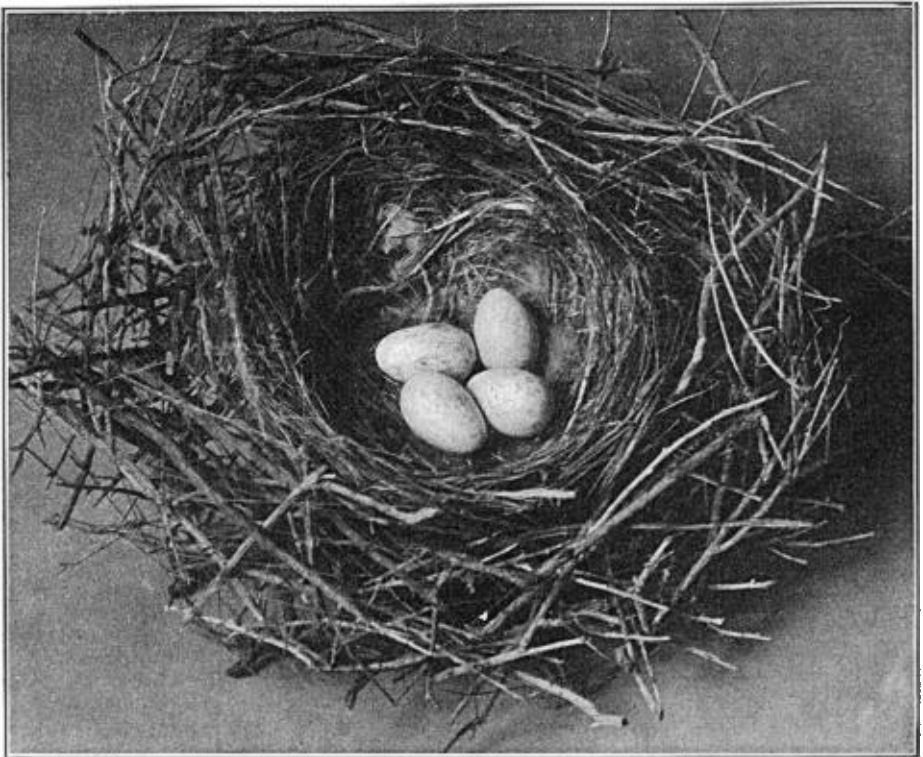


Fig. 7. NEST AND EGGS OF THE BENDIRE THRASHER; TAKEN NEAR VICTORVILLE, MOHAVE DESERT, CALIFORNIA; APRIL 26, 1920.

The nest in each case was about four feet up in "cholla" cactus, and in each instance the bird was extremely wary.

The main body of the nest is of sticks, and there is a well shaped cup, lined with fine grasses, weed stems, soft weed bark, a little rabbit fur and some cottony material (see fig. 7).

This adds another to the few records of the Bendire Thrasher in California, and it is, I believe, the first nesting record for the state. The bird collected is no. 1984, coll. W. M. P., and the sets of eggs nos. 1235, and 1266, coll. W. M. P.—WRIGHT M. PIERCE, *Claremont, California, October 4, 1920.*

Unusual Late Summer Birds in the Yosemite Valley.—There is a wider dispersal of nesting birds during August and September than at any other time of year. During