

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.

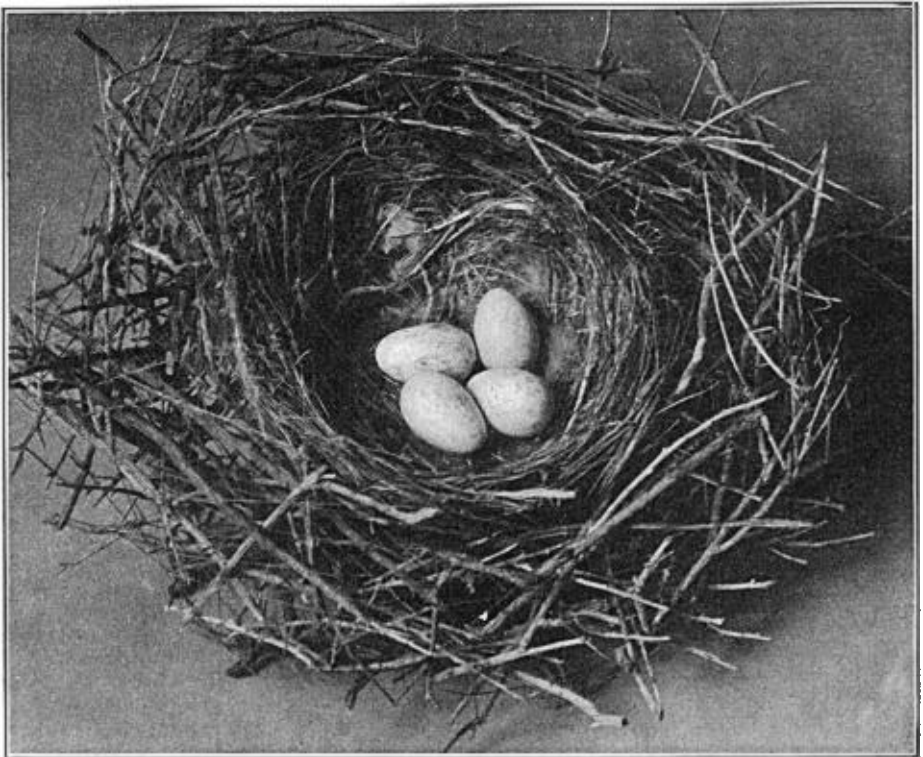


Fig. 7. NEST AND EGGS OF THE BENDIRE THRASHER; TAKEN NEAR VICTORVILLE, MOHAVE DESERT, CALIFORNIA; APRIL 26, 1920.

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

these months birds that habitually nest at lower elevations migrate higher into the mountains. Some worth-while evidence in this regard was obtained this summer in the Yosemite Valley, by keeping a daily bird record. Following are a few notes on the "erratic stragglers" that drifted into the Valley during the last few days of July and the months of August and September, 1920.

The first bird of this class to appear was the California Jay (*Aphelocoma californica*). One lone bird was seen on July 26, in the meadow near old Camp Ahwahnee. From this date until September 11, when they were last seen, the birds were found in this locality on every visit. Their numbers increased here, yet they were never seen in any other section of the Valley. On the morning of August 26, ten were counted.

The next wanderer to appear was the Black Phoebe (*Sayornis nigricans*). An individual of this species was first noted July 28. By August 5, there were a number of phoebes scattered along the stream within a mile of the village. One of these appeared one hundred yards above the Sentinel Bridge, selecting a dead stump which stood out of the river as his favorite perch. This bird held down the last patrol; no other phoebe was found up stream beyond this point. During the month of August and the first two weeks in September, phoebes were fairly common along the river below the village. Gradually their numbers decreased and on September 25 the Black Phoebe was noted for the last time.

On August 18, a Western Kingbird (*Tyrannus verticalis*) was discovered in the meadow below the village. When first seen he was perched on a pile of dry sticks. He flew often, diving into the dry grass for grasshoppers. By moving cautiously, the bird was approached to within twelve feet, and identification was made positive. This meadow was visited on several following days, but the bird was not seen again.

On the morning of September 4, in the meadow of our many bird adventures, a solitary White-rumped Shrike (*Lanius ludovicianus excubitorides*) was noted. Two days later the bird was again seen. This time we were able to approach within six feet of it. It was a handsome bird in full plumage and a clear view of its distinct rump patch was obtained.

A pair of English Sparrows (*Passer domesticus*) were noted September 2, in the barnyard at "Kinneyville".

August 29, a flock of fifteen California Bush-tits (*Psaltriparus minimus californicus*) was seen in the Kellogg oaks on the north side of the Valley. Again, on September 8, a small flock was seen. On September 12, a flock was seen in Illilouette Canyon, three thousand feet above the Valley floor.

On September 28, while we sat eating lunch, a strange bird flew out of the wild coffee bushes and lit in the branches of a Kellogg oak some twenty feet above our heads. We both thought it a waxwing. The actions of the bird were right, but the silhouette was a trifle off—the head did not appear to be crested. The strange bird sat quietly until a flicker flashed by, then, as though frightened, it crouched and sidled along the branch just as waxwings do when crowding together on a limb. In the course of a half hour the bird came three times to the coffee bush. The first two trips it stopped some distance away. As it pulled off berries, with its back towards us, we could plainly see two distinct white streaks, one on either side of the rump. The last time the bird came down from the oak we were able to get within six feet of it, and to identify it as a Bohemian Waxwing (*Bombycilla garrula*). We were greatly surprised to see the Waxwing swallow eight large coffee berries in the few minutes that he stayed in the bush.

Many other interesting birds were seen during our stay in the Valley, some that passed through in early spring on their way to the higher country, and birds that were driven down into the Valley during storms.—CHARLES W. MICHAEL and ENID MICHAEL, Yosemite, California, March 10, 1920.

**The Harlequin Duck in the Yosemite Valley.**—On arriving in Yosemite, on June 1, I was informed by Mr. and Mrs. Charles Michael that a pair of Harlequin Ducks (*Histrionicus histrionicus*) had been seen along the Merced River, near the Sentinel Hotel, on May 11 and May 26. On June 4, Mrs. Amy M. Bryant watched a pair of Harlequins for some time as they swam about in the river, and as they preened their feathers while perched on an old log. The birds were observed by other visitors in the Valley on several different occasions.