

the finches again in control of the premises. Unfortunately, it was impossible to make uninterrupted observation, so that circumstances connected with the withdrawal of the phoebes and advent of the finches, or vice versa, could not be ascertained.

Upon leaving Oakzanita on the 14th, it was a matter of conjecture as to which would eventually retire or how long the joint use of the nest could continue. There was no further opportunity to take note of activities until almost a week later. On the 20th the nest contained the remarkable number of eleven eggs, six of the phoebe and five of the finch, but had been deserted by both pairs. The finches had in no way, apparently, attempted to add lining or to alter the nest. It might be of interest to record that the only trace of incubation evidenced in the entire group of eleven was in one of the two phoebe eggs that happened to be sparingly dotted with reddish brown, and were thus identified as having been laid at least later than the two first examined on the 12th, both of which were unmarked.

The use of Black Phoebe nests by House Finches, often supplemented with new material, is not at all of rare occurrence, this chiefly, if not wholly, being found where buildings, bridges, and like structures have offered locations. A goodly majority of the nests thus utilized have doubtless fully served their original purpose, but in some cases, considering the instance cited, such occupancy may have resulted from aggressive tactics that compelled abandonment.—HAROLD M. HOLLAND, *Galesburg, Illinois, April 9, 1923.*



Fig. 44.

**An Albino Western Robin in Seattle.**—On the afternoon of March 20, 1923, I observed an albino robin on the campus of the University of Washington. It was one of a flock of some thirty robins, all of which were of the western variety (*Planesticus migratorius propinquus*), and it is safe to say it belonged to the same race. Its wings and back were entirely white, while its head and tail were a light gray. In most lights the tail looked white also, but when seen from above it appeared to be only a degree lighter than the head. The breast was cinnamon-rufous, but was of a perceptibly lighter shade than those of the other robins in the flock. Its eyes were of normal color and there was no trace of dark markings on the throat. It was still on the campus on March 24.—HORACE GUNTHER, *University of Washington, Seattle, Washington, March 26, 1923.*

**The Knot in Southern California.**—The Knot (*Tringa canutus*), always a rarity on our coast, is almost unknown here in spring. The most recent record, and the second, I believe, in ten years or more, is the capture of two on April 24 in a tide-marsh near Sunset Beach, Orange County, by a collector from this Museum. The birds were in a flock of five or six, feeding on a mud bank at low tide.—L. E. WYMAN, *Los Angeles Museum, Los Angeles, California, May 3, 1923.*

**Ants Destructive to Bird Life.**—The ornithologist visiting San Diego is usually impressed with the surprising scarcity of nesting birds in Balboa Park, though the surroundings seem to be ideal. It was not until I had been at the San Diego Museum of Natural History a year, that the possible explanation was presented. A swarm of bees that had been installed as an exhibit in the museum was destroyed in a few days by an insignificant ant. This ant, I was told, had in all probability reached our shores with some of the trees or shrubs brought in from South America. It was known as the Argentine Ant.

Such was my introduction to a pest that will doubtless cause immense loss to the state unless some check is soon discovered. A second swarm of bees was destroyed in six days, though all possible defenses were used. A third swarm of bees, in