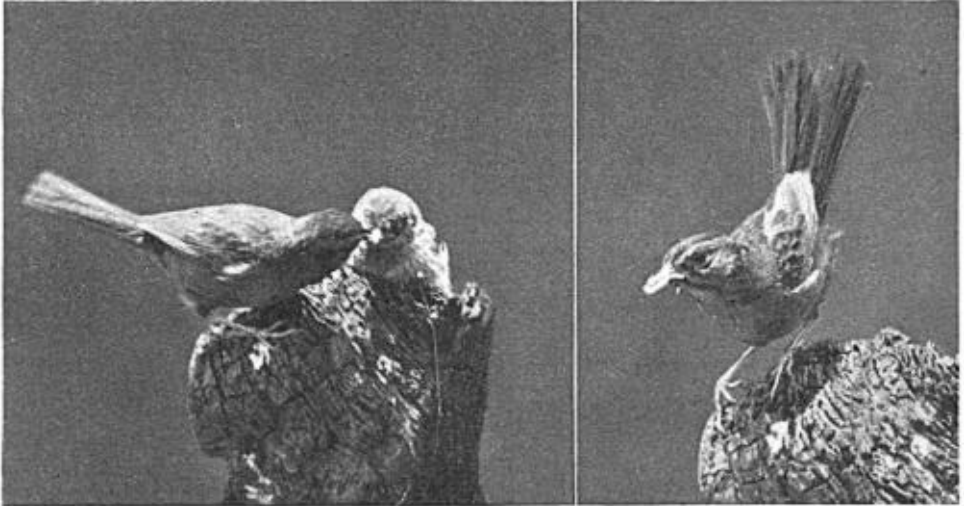


most characteristic call was a very loud, clear *r-r-rup, chur, chur chur chur*. This had good carrying qualities and could be heard for quite a distance. Even the presence of food in the bill did not interfere, as they were scolding constantly while bringing food to the young.

After taking several exposures I put one of the fledglings on the stump and within a few seconds the female was there with food. After making sure that he was unharmed she shoved a white grub down his throat (figure 25). As nearly as I



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Fig. 25. MRS. RUFIOUS-CROWN SHOVING A WHITE GRUB DOWN HER NESTLING'S THROAT.
Fig. 26. EVEN FOOD IN HER BILL DID NOT INTERFERE WITH SCOLDING. THE PECULIAR POSITION OF THE TAIL IS DUE TO A GUST OF WIND.

could make out, the food consisted mostly of white grubs and small caterpillars, with an occasional black insect or tiny butterfly.

Thus, by playing upon the parental instincts I was able to get pictures of an elusive and somewhat uncommon bird, such as otherwise would not have been possible.

Berkeley, California, December 18, 1924.

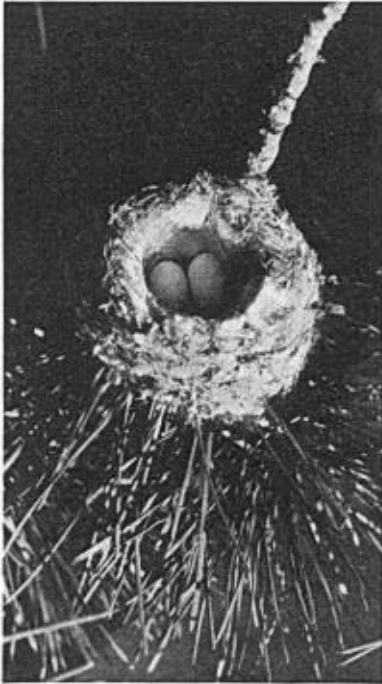
NESTING OF THE ALLEN HUMMINGBIRD IN GOLDEN GATE PARK

WITH FOUR PHOTOS BY YNES MEXIA

By HAROLD C. BRYANT

HERETOFORE I have believed along with others (see Bowles, CONDOR, XIV, 1912, p. 77, and Dawson, *The Birds of California*, II, 1923, p. 927) that the favorite nesting place of the Allen Hummingbird (*Selasphorus alleni*) is the tangle of berry vines along a stream. But a recent experience in Golden Gate Park, San Francisco, has led me to alter my view. A University Extension class in 1923, at my suggestion, spent considerable time searching berry vines for hummingbirds' nests in the Chain of Lakes district in this park, but was rewarded with only two nests—one located high in a cypress tree and the other in a eucalyptus tree.

Last spring (1924) the same class attempted a habitat key and consistently worked the various plant associations of this same district. On April 19, a trip through a growth of cypress and Monterey pines netted eleven hummingbirds' nests, all, with the possible exception of one, being those of the Allen Hummingbird. Three of the nests found were in pine trees; all the rest of them were in Monterey cypress. The lowest one was about $5\frac{1}{2}$ feet above the ground, the highest, 15 feet. Measurement of the inside diameter of two nests showed them to be $1\frac{1}{4}$ to $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches. Most of the nests contained eggs, but in one instance young birds ready to fly were found. In fact, one of the young birds launched out of the nest and had to be replaced. At least two nests were incomplete. One of these a week later was found to contain eggs.



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Fig. 27. NEST OF ALLEN HUMMINGBIRD IN PINE TREE. THIS NEST WAS DECORATED WITH ACACIA BLOSSOMS FROM A NEARBY SOURCE. CHAIN OF LAKES, GOLDEN GATE PARK, SAN FRANCISCO, MAY 4, 1924.

Fig. 28. ALLEN HUMMINGBIRDS A FEW DAYS OLD. TYPICAL NEST PLACED IN MONTEREY CYPRESS SIX FEET FROM GROUND. NOTE THE SITUATION BENEATH A SHELTERING LIMB.

In most instances the incubating female, frightened from the nest, helped in determining the location. On one area of less than an acre in extent, an unsystematic search disclosed five nests. In one instance nests were hardly 15 feet apart. Another casual search on April 26 disclosed three more nests on this same limited area, and undoubtedly several more nests could have been found had each tree been searched systematically. On May 3, in another group of cypresses, occupied nests were found in adjoining trees, and a third nest was situated in a tree not more than thirty feet away.

Although male Allen Hummers are very abundant in the willows surrounding the Chain of Lakes, it is seldom that a female is seen in this situation. On the other hand, in the coniferous forests only one male was seen, but females were much in evidence. In the instance of the small area with its eight nests, the loafing place of males was hardly 200 yards distant.

When we stop to think that the Rufous Hummingbird, a close relative, breeds commonly in coniferous forests of northwestern North America, it does not seem unreasonable that the Allen should choose a similar habitat in the humid coast belt of California. And evidently it was choice in this instance, for extensive tangles of berry vines near water were close at hand but were not chosen for nesting places.



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Fig. 29. A SINGLE ALLEN HUMMINGBIRD IN THE PINFEATHER STAGE. NEST BUILT IN EUCALYPTUS TREE.



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Fig. 30. TYPICAL NEST OF ALLEN HUMMINGBIRD IN CYPRESS. THE BIRD ON EDGE OF NEST TOOK ITS INITIAL FLIGHT SOON AFTER THE PHOTOGRAPH WAS TAKEN.

Judging by the number of male Allens, one is convinced that the bird is an exceedingly common breeder in Golden Gate Park. But even from this point of view it was surprising to find the nesting so concentrated in one particular area. In this instance one could almost speak of a colony of nesting Allen Hummers, for some of the truly colonizing birds do not build their nests any closer together than had these hummingbirds in this particular area. G. K. Snyder recorded the finding of eleven nests on Catalina Island in the search of thirty trees (Condor, xvi, 1914, p. 182), so this sort of nesting is not wholly unusual.

After this experience the class and myself are convinced that cypress trees form a very common nesting site for Allen Hummingbirds in the San Francisco Bay region and that numerous nests may be concentrated within a small area.

For the accompanying photographs I am indebted to a member of the extension class, Mrs. Ynes Mexia.

Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, University of California, Berkeley, December 10, 1924.