

fur seals. On the corner post will be noticed a small potted shrub, one of many that from time to time have been placed upon these supports. During spring of the present year (1928) a pair of Bush-tits (*Psaltriparus minimus minimus*) built a nest in the center of this little bush between the upright stalks, and they successfully reared a brood of young therein. The young were in the nest at the time that the photograph here shown was taken. The nest was known to the Aquarium attendants, and when the time came for removal of this lot of plants, for replacement by others, the bush-tit's shrub was left untouched and alone, as shown in the picture, until the young had flown.

It is hard to understand in what respect this peculiar nesting site had any advantage whatever over such as would be provided by the numerous trees and bushes to be found on all sides near by; and the disadvantageous publicity of the site might be thought to be an overwhelming detriment. The nest was well hidden, and, despite its



Fig. 96. THE EXPOSED SHRUB ON THE CORNER POST CONCEALS AN OCCUPIED BUSH-TITS' NEST. PHOTO TAKEN AT THE CALIFORNIA ACADEMY OF SCIENCES, SAN FRANCISCO, MAY 26, 1928.

exposed position, it may be doubted whether it was seen by a single one of the hundreds of visitors that crowded about it daily, engrossed as was their attention by the seals in the water below.—H. S. SWARTH, *California Academy of Sciences, San Francisco, September 11, 1928.*

Record Sets of Eggs of California Raptores.—In the CONDOR (xxx, 1928, p. 250) Milton S. Ray describes several record sets of eggs of this order. I submit herewith further data along this line, surpassing even the records submitted by Mr. Ray.

Under date of March 17, 1928, Mr. H. W. Carriger, Mr. L. Stevens and the writer took what is believed to be the world's record set of the Golden Eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*), a beautifully marked clutch of five eggs. They were deposited in a nest which had been built the year previous and in which two young had been raised. The bird covered the eggs until we were within a very few feet of the nest which was placed in an absurdly small white oak not over twenty feet from the ground.

Upon blowing the set, one egg was found to be badly addled while the other four were fairly evenly incubated, probably less than a week along. The most sparingly

marked egg of the set was the least incubated, whereas the addled egg was the most heavily marked. It is our opinion that the addled egg was laid somewhat in advance of the other four, because of its apparent nest stain on one side.

The variation in size, of the five eggs, is perfectly normal, in comparison with the variation which is commonly found in sets of this species. Eggs numbered from 1 to 5 measure, respectively: 3.00 x 2.13, 2.82 x 2.21, 2.86 x 2.20, 2.94 x 2.19 (addled) and 2.96 x 2.17 inches. A set of eggs taken from this pair of birds in 1926 is similar in size, shape and coloration and measures: 2.93 x 2.24 and 2.87 x 2.24 inches.

In 1917, while on a collecting trip with that most venerable of ornithologists, A. M. Ingersoll, of San Diego, we had the good fortune to gaze upon a set of four eggs of the Golden Eagle which Nelson Carpenter and his brother had removed from a nest that day. Undoubtedly one of them was an infertile egg, however, which may have been in the nest since the preceding year, although this hardly seems possible.

In 1925, in Santa Clara County, not far from Stanford University, I had the unusual good fortune to gaze into the nest of a White-tailed Kite (*Elanus leucurus*). This nest was unusual for two reasons: first, it was placed 75 feet up in the very tip-top branches of a Monterey pine; and second, it contained a most beautiful set of six eggs. According to Mr. Chase Littlejohn this pair of birds has nested in the same locality for the past thirty or more years; and in spite of the fact that houses are being built up all about them of late years, they continue to raise their young in the same location.

This past spring, in conjunction with Lawrence Stevens, who received his early field training under William Leon Dawson, I spent considerable time investigating the nests of our common Western Red-tailed Hawk (*Buteo borealis calurus*). We found them plentiful in Santa Barbara County, and particularly so in the Las Cruces, Santa Ynez and Lompoc districts. We located some thirty-eight occupied nests in the limited amount of time we had available. Of this number ten contained incomplete sets of eggs, eight contained complete sets of two, two contained four each, sixteen three each and two contained five each. One of these sets was quite plainly marked, while the other was uniformly and beautifully marked. These two sets of five were collected, and one of them now rests in my collection. All five eggs of the set I collected were fertile, incubation about a week along. Both sets were collected on the one day, March 4, 1928, near the Santa Ynez river in Santa Barbara County, California. Last year Stevens located no less than four nests containing four eggs each, which in itself constitutes a record of note.—DUDLEY S. DEGROOT, *Menlo Junior College, Menlo Park, California, July 25, 1928.*

Additional Notes on the Birds of the Gold Lake Region, Northern Sierra Nevada.—Miss Margaret W. Wythe has published (CONDOR, XXIX, 1927, p. 61) an interesting record of "Some Birds of the Gold Lake District of the Sierra Nevada, California." It was my privilege to spend a week (July 27 to August 3) in the same region at the close of this past summer's nesting season, when families probably reared at a lower elevation were numerous. Only one nest was found, that of a Mountain Chickadee which was feeding young in a safe retreat above the ceiling of the shower-bath building at Gold Lake Lodge. Most of the birds were flying freely, associated in family groups; but on August 1, small flocks of Pine Siskins and Chipping Sparrows were seen.

Owing to the light snow-fall of 1927-28, water was less abundant than usual. This fact may account for the crowding of birds into the meadow association where there was still a trickle of water and plenty of cover for young birds.

Of the birds listed by Miss Wythe, I failed to find the Sierra Grouse, Modoc Woodpecker, Sierra Red-breasted Sapsucker, California Evening Grosbeak, California Pine Grosbeak, Townsend Solitaire, American Dipper, and Russet-backed Thrush. On the other hand, Calliope Hummingbirds, White-headed Woodpeckers, Western Wood Pewees, Cassin Purple Finches, Pine Siskins, Chipping Sparrows, Sierra Juncos, Fox Sparrows, White-crowned Sparrows, Green-tailed Towhees, Western Tanagers, Calaveras, Pileolated, Tolmie, Audubon and Lutescent warblers, Sierra Creepers, Canada Nuthatches, and Western Robins were abundant. Warbling Vireos were numerous and still in song, but Cassin Vireos were silent and difficult to find. Several families of Lincoln Sparrows were seen and the song was heard once. Each evening