

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

a Pacific Nighthawk circled over the camp, and at dawn on July 31 and August 1 a Great-horned Owl called repeatedly. The Sierra Hermit Thrush sang the first two days in the forest near the camp and was seen on August 2 feeding upon the fallen buds of red firs. A family of Blue-fronted Jays kept close watch of each camp group and Spotted Sandpipers and Mountain Quail were found on the shore of Gold Lake.

Slender-billed Nuthatches were seen but once (near Lake Center Camp). Red-crowned Kinglets and Hermit Warblers were identified only by the songs which were heard on July 30. The chattering call of the kinglet which is such a common note in the bay region in the winter season was not heard; which raises the question whether this note is used in summer territory.

My record of birds seen during the week included the following species which were not listed by Miss Wythe during her June and July visits:

Western Red-tailed Hawk (*Buteo borealis calurus*), found on the summit divide between the Feather and Yuba rivers.

Sparrow Hawk (*Falco sparverius*), on the same divide and also near the shore of Gold Lake.

Vaux Swift (*Chaetura vauxi*), on the north shore of Gold Lake associated with Violet-green Swallows.

Traill Flycatcher (*Empidonax traillii*). One silent bird was seen in the top of a willow on the edge of a meadow; another near the shore of Gold Lake gave call note.

Hammond Flycatcher (*Empidonax hammondii*), a family found first in young red firs soon disappeared in the thick branches of a tall tree.

Wright Flycatcher (*Empidonax wrightii*). A large group of these flycatchers was encountered on the edge of a dry slope on the divide between Frazier and Bear creeks. The shrubs in which they were perched were thrifty at the tops but had many dead branches which ran out almost horizontally a few inches above the ground. From these low branches the birds flew out or dropped to the ground to pick up insects in the grass.

Violet-green Swallow (*Tachycineta thalassina lepida*). A flock of white-bellied swallows was seen in the distance over Bear Creek on July 28. On Gold Lake next day violet-greens were identified.

Clark Nutcracker (*Nucifraga columbiana*). A few came into the top of a fir near camp on August 1 and 2.

Western House Wren (*Troglodytes aëdon parkmanii*). The scolding chatter of a wren was heard in meadow or riparian brush on four different occasions. The bird was seen but once.

Golden-crowned Kinglet (*Regulus satrapa olivaceus*). A family of these kinglets was associated with the Hammond Flycatchers seen on August 1 and was high up in the firs on other dates.

Lutescent Warbler (*Vermivora celata lutescens*). A Lutescent Warbler came to bathe in a pool at my feet on July 30. They were abundant in the meadows.

Yellow Warbler (*Dendroica aestiva*). On August 1 several Yellow Warblers were singing near the shore of Gold Lake.

Tolmie Warbler (*Oporornis tolmiei*). Both old and young Tolmies were abundant in the willows and a few were seen in the chaparral above Bear Lake. One family of smaller young was being fed in a group of small lodge-pole pines near Lake Center Camp. The male was still singing.

Sierra Crossbill (*Loxia curvirostra bendirei*). The loud calls of these birds directed my attention to a small flock which alighted among the cones at the tip of a large red fir. They were seen on August 1 and 2.—AMELIA S. ALLEN, Berkeley, California, August 12, 1928.

**Observations on the Feeding Habits of Some Common Birds.**—As published accounts of observations upon the feeding habits of our native birds are none too plentiful, the following may be of interest. On the morning of March 25, 1927, in Balboa Park, San Diego, California, I watched a flock of Cedar Waxwings (*Bombycilla cedrorum*) and several male Arizona Hooded and Bullock orioles (*Icterus cucullatus nelsoni* and *I. bullocki*) feeding from the very heart of the flowers of the blue gum (*Eucalyptus globulus*). These birds were all feeding alike, thrusting the bill deep