

It is certainly true, as Professor Rowan remarks, that the number of trees containing hawks' nests that are climbed is only a small percentage of the total number climbed by bears. It could not be otherwise, as the percentage of trees in the woods containing hawks' nests is infinitesimal as compared with those which do not contain them and the bears climb many trees for the purpose of feeding on the young leaves of the poplars. The trees Professor Rowan mentions as being heavily scarred, as if particularly popular, though they did not contain nests, were most likely those climbed many times by the cubs in play.

The chief argument in favor of the theory that the bears do climb trees containing hawks' nests in search of eggs or young birds seems to have escaped Professor Rowan's observation; that is, that while the percentage of trees climbed by bears is infinitesimal compared with the total number of trees in the woods, and the percentage containing hawks' nests is a still smaller number, yet the number of trees containing nests which are climbed by bears is a large and very noticeable percentage of the nest-carrying trees, far too many in proportion to be a "fortuitous combination and mere coincidence."

I regret now that I did not make an actual count of the trees with nests, and the number of these which showed scars of climbing, which I observed in the Peace River country. I may say that I have observed the same condition in the vicinity of Belvedere; but as bears are much scarcer here the percentage of nest-carrying trees climbed is much less noticeable than in the Peace River country where the black bear is still plentiful.

The mere fact that trees containing hawks' nests, and bearing scars showing them to have been climbed by bears, have been observed at such widely separated points as the Buffalo Park near Slave River, at Battle Prairie, and at Belvedere, would go to show that tree-climbing is no accidental occurrence but probably a regular habit of the black bear. However, for conclusive proof we will have to wait until some observer is fortunate enough to surprise our friend "Muskwa" in the act.—A. D. HENDERSON, *Belvedere, Alberta, December 15, 1928.*

Vermilion Flycatcher Breeding in Coachella, California.—It gives me exceptional pleasure to record the breeding of the Vermilion Flycatcher (*Pyrocephalus rubinus mexicanus*) in Coachella, Riverside County, California, as it is, I believe, the most westerly breeding station that has been noted.

While in company with Mr. Fred Frazer on April 15, 1928, he called my attention to the nest which was twelve feet from the ground in a mesquite tree in a rather open thicket. It was on top of a horizontal branch at the fork of two limbs, each being over an inch in diameter, and could be seen from only one spot on the ground. If the female had not flushed from the nest it would have been overlooked. The nest contained three slightly incubated eggs of typical shape, size, and markings, and the weights in grams were 1.70, 1.69, and 1.64.

We flushed the female from time to time to see if we could attract the male, and after fifteen minutes we were rewarded by getting a glimpse of him 100 feet distant. We kept up the flushing of the female which, by this time, could almost be touched while upon the nest. Finally the male came within five or ten feet of us and we were able to enjoy seeing this beauty of the bird world in different positions. The female's chief anxiety seemed to be to get back on the nest as soon as possible, and she was seemingly urged to do this by the male who divided his scoldings between us and the female. Shortly after the male arrived on the scene, copulation took place in a nearby tree.—WILSON C. HANNA, *Colton, California, December 2, 1928.*

Male Tree Swallow Feeding Nestling Robins.—Under the eaves of my house at Okanagan Landing a flat-roofed bird house has been occupied by Tree Swallows (*Iridoprocne bicolor*) for many years. Directly in front of the site, shading it from direct sunlight, stands an apple tree, its trunk a scant two feet from the house wall. The bird box is within reach of a person standing on the veranda rail and is in plain view; consequently the domestic duties performed by its occupants may be studied at a convenient distance by any one interested enough to watch from the veranda.