

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.

In May, 1928, a pair of Western Robins (*Turdus migratorius propinquus*) built their nest on top of the bird house, the interior, as usual, being occupied by Tree Swallows. On June 1 the Robin's nest contained three fledglings about eight days old while the female Tree Swallow, a few inches below, was brooding newly hatched young. On the afternoon of this date my five-year-old son insisted that I go into the garden because the swallow was hurting the little robins and something should be done about it. On investigating this complaint the male swallow was found to be feeding the young robins. During five minutes he visited the nest three times, on each trip carrying food in his bill. At his approach the young birds stretched their heads up so far that the swallow, perched on the rim of the nest, barely could reach their open mouths.

The nest was carefully watched on this evening by an interested audience. From 6:30 to 7:00 P. M., the male swallow fed the robins six times; the female robin fed twice and the male robin—a stub-tailed bird easily recognized in any light—fed once, just at 7:00 P. M. Upon this visit he brooded for a half-minute, not very carefully, for the stretched necks of two nestlings could be seen against his breast.

The swallow was more assiduous than either of the robins, and on one occasion as he flew to the nest the female robin happened to be feeding, whereupon he circled about close in, making sudden swoops towards the nest and chattering continuously.

In approaching the nest the Tree Swallow usually flew directly to the horizontal perch of the bird house and from there to the nest rim. The female robin, on the other hand, was more circumspect, approaching in a roundabout way, with a preliminary survey perhaps from the top of a nearby lawn sprinkler or from the adjacent apple tree. From these points, after giving a low call note, she would fly straight for the nest and stand usually inside the cup.

From 7:00 to 7:20 the swallow fed three times, the female robin five times, and the male robin did not appear. Meanwhile the female swallow flew in and out of the box several times. The male swallow during all this period did not enter the nest box.

On June 2 observations were not continued, but the two swallows were seen mobbing the female robin. The latter crouched low on the limb of an apple tree while with snapping bills they swooped from either side uttering excited cries.

Subsequently the Robin and Tree Swallow menage was not kept under close observation, but at 8:00 A. M. on June 5 the male swallow again was feeding the robins. On the following day the half-grown robins had left the nest and for several days afterwards remained in the garden where they were fed by their parents only.

For robins to take advantage of these sheltered and convenient nesting sites is not unusual; for in the summer of 1928 another box, below the eaves of my garage, was dually occupied by the two species mentioned. So also was the site under the veranda eaves in 1917 and 1918. On this later occasion it was thought necessary to destroy the robins as the female had been caught in the act of destroying the eggs of a Western Wood Pewee whose nest was saddled on the branch of a plum tree a few yards distant.—J. A. MUNRO, *Okanagan Landing, British Columbia, December 3, 1928.*

Some Winter Birds at Tucson, Arizona.—Messrs. Miller and Swarth, homeward bound to California from the A. O. U. meeting at Charleston in November, 1928, stopped over at Tucson, Arizona, where, in the company of W. P. Taylor, they made sundry trips into the surrounding country. Swarth remained but one day (November 28), but Miller lingered until the evening of December 1. Taking the road toward San Xavier Mission (November 28), a stop was made near the outskirts of Tucson to investigate a likely-looking row of mesquites along a ditch. Some large, dark-colored birds flying in the distance attracted attention, first as, presumably, Turkey Buzzards, then doubtfully, as perhaps ravens. Discharge of a gun a few moments later startled others from the ground in the vicinity of a nearby slaughter-house, hidden by the trees, and they were then plainly seen to be Black Vultures (*Catharista urubu*). There were fifteen or twenty in sight at once, circling about together with a few Turkey Buzzards. The Black Vulture has been recorded just once before from Arizona, by W. W. Cooke, who states: "Several seen, May, 1890, by Dr. A. K. Fisher in the Tonto Basin" (Auk, xxxi, 1914, p. 403). It is a species that should be looked out for in future in southeastern California.