

tsip. I retired under an oak to give them a chance to quiet down, but to no purpose, for as soon as I reappeared, the male was at it again: *tau tau tau chreeeeeeeee*. In one minute he uttered 64 *taus* and 56 *tsips*. It was impossible to get any idea of the location of the nest, for the bird made a great commotion over widely different places.

Wishing to make sure that it was the male that had the extensive vocabulary, I made a wide circuit and came up on top of the hill where I could see a dead tree on the territory of this particular pair. After some wait, the bird with the tail appeared on this tree and gave two songs.

Early the next morning I visited the hill top again, but, although two neighboring males sang fairly steadily from 5:30 till 6:30, the bird observed previously did not sing at all. When I came down to bid them goodby, I found both parents carrying insects; my greeting from the male consisted in 137 *taus* in the space of one minute.—MARGARET MORSE NICE, *Amherst, Massachusetts, August 18, 1929.*



Fig. 75. NESTING SITE OF ASH-THROATED FLYCATCHER IN INSULATION BOX IN MORAGA VALLEY, CONTRA COSTA COUNTY.

Unusual Nesting Site of Ash-throated Flycatcher.—There is a station on the Sacramento Short Line in Moraga Valley, Contra Costa County, called Valle Vista. The line is on the side of a hill and a small station house is in place for patrons. The County road parallels the line and at this point is about fifty feet distant and twenty feet lower in grade. There are numerous poles along the right of way and adjacent thereto, and owing to the numerous changes in alignment it has been found necessary to use guy wires to make the line safe. The surrounding territory is fairly open in character having been subdivided into small acreages. Several houses are in the vicinity. A small creek flows through the flat fields and is lined with heavy brush, willows, and other trees.

On May 16, 1929, the writer was attracted to a lone Ash-throated Flycatcher (*Myiarchus cinerascens cinerascens*) sitting on a telephone wire alongside the road. Having stopped the auto so as to watch, it was but a short time before another flycatcher, the female, was seen to fly up from the creek carrying nesting material in her bill. In a short space of time she flew to the top of an insulation box such as surrounds a guy wire of the power line. This particular insulation box, within fifty feet of the station building, is about five feet long and is built with an opening about four inches square surrounding the guy wire. The bird disappeared within the box and her nesting site was revealed.

On May 18 the nest was again visited. Mr. Charles Bryant took several pictures of the female as she was leaving or was about to enter the nesting site. At times he approached within ten feet and I was somewhat afraid that the birds would desert the location for some other. The nest of this species is difficult to locate at any time and the birds are careful not to reveal the site of their home.

On May 29 the nest was again visited and the parent birds were nowhere in evidence. After waiting some time a light was thrown into the opening with a flashlight and the nest was seen close to eighteen inches below the entrance. Four fresh eggs were taken, which were later donated to the University of California. The nest was left undisturbed but the birds never returned to lay another set. How the birds ever obtained the initial support is a mystery, as the opening was



Fig. 76. FEMALE ASH-THROATED FLYCATCHER PERCHED WITH NESTING MATERIAL AT ENTRANCE TO NESTING CAVITY.

not obstructed in any way below the nest. Just try to place straw in an opening so that it will stay in place and gradually build up a nest above it piece by piece! You will find that patience is lost very easily.

Two pictures are reproduced herewith (figs. 75 and 76) to show the structure in which the nest was built and the female with nesting material.—L. PH. BOLANDER, *Oakland, California, September 10, 1929.*

Notes on the Food and Feeding Habits of Certain Birds.—California Gulls (*Larus californicus*) are common in San Diego throughout the fall, winter and spring months, visiting the public schools to feed on the scraps from the lunches of the pupils. They are often joined by Western Gulls (*Larus occidentalis*) and by an occasional Bonaparte Gull (*Larus philadelphia*) and Glaucous-winged Gull (*Larus glaucescens*). On clear mornings after rainy nights, the California Gulls may be seen in numbers stalking along the paved streets of the residential sections, picking up and devouring the numerous earth worms which have become stranded there.

While previous observations (Condor, xxx, 1928, pp. 362-363) have shown me that flower nectar is taken by several species of birds besides the hummingbirds I have been rather surprised to find through additional observations that it is probably a daily item in the diet of two species, the Arizona Hooded Oriole (*Icterus cucullatus nelsoni*) and the Audubon Warbler (*Dendroica auduboni*). The former species may