

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

now be observed making daily visits to a cluster of tree tobacco (*Nicotiana glauca*) near my home and methodically probing all of the tubular yellow flowers. Frequent examinations of the blossoms have disclosed no insects. I have often seen these orioles about my cultivated flowers and have been told by Mrs. I. G. Silver, of National City, California, that the orioles tear open the blossoms of her morning-glory vines to secure the nectar and that they utterly ruined the appearance of a row of Easter lilies in the yard of a neighbor by splitting open the flowers for this purpose. I have also seen this species on numerous occasions sipping nectar from the blossoms of several species of *Eucalyptus* in Balboa Park. The gaudy color of the male is well suited to a prober of bright blossoms.

On January 30, 1929, and on many subsequent occasions, I watched a banded Audubon Warbler feeding from the flowers of the sugar gums (*Eucalyptus corynocalyx*) of a certain area. The bird would fly to a cluster of blossoms, carefully probe each one and then flit to another cluster. On February 7, two unbanded Audubons were observed feeding from the flowers of the same trees. On April 19 a full-plumaged male House Finch (*Carpodacus mexicanus frontalis*) was seen feeding from these blossoms and after sipping from several of them it carefully wiped its beak on a branch before taking flight.

Black Phoebes (*Sayornis nigricans*) are common residents in Balboa Park, and on May 24, 1929, I was surprised to see one of these flycatchers kill and eat a Jerusalem cricket (*Stenopelmatus longispina*). I did not see how the phoebe secured this subterranean form. Black Phoebes have often been seen to alight on a lawn and pull out gray lepidopterous larvae from deep in the grass. On October 31, 1928, I watched a Black Phoebe extract from the pod and swallow one of the dry hairy seeds of the bottle tree (*Sterculia diversifolia*).

Pine Siskins (*Spinus pinus*) are frequently seen in Balboa Park during the winter and spring months and at such times their food apparently consists almost entirely of the seeds of the various species of *Eucalyptus*. They not only obtain the seed from the pods of the trees but also hunt among the fallen leaves on the ground. At such times they may often be approached to within five feet or less. Green-backed and Willow goldfinches (*Astragalinus psaltria hesperophilus* and *A. tristis salicamans*) also feed freely on the seeds of these trees.

On June 2, 1929, a male Black-headed Grosbeak (*Hedymeles melanocephalus*) was seen perched on an electric light wire in East San Diego and from this perch it would make short flycatcher-like flights, presumably after insects. While the insects were not actually seen, the actions were so typically those of flycatching birds that no doubt as to the purpose of the flights was left in the mind of the observer. On June 5, a female Arizona Hooded Oriole was seen flycatching from a perch on these same wires. Her catch was fed to a well-grown young and the insects could be plainly seen in the beaks of the two birds. The writer has found this habit to be common to many species of birds besides true flycatchers.—FRANK F. GANDER, *O'Rourke Zoological Institute, Balboa Park, San Diego, California, June 5, 1929.*

**Additional Bird Records from the Pleistocene of Rancho La Brea.**—Since the last general report on the Pleistocene birds of Rancho La Brea (Miller, L., Carnegie Inst. Wash., Publ. 349, 1925, pp. 63-106) several thousand specimens in the collections of the Los Angeles Museum have been examined, first by Miss Rachel Husband, and later by the present writer.

The writer wishes now to record two species which have come to light as a result of these surveys; neither species has heretofore been reported from the Rancho La Brea deposits. Both species are of the family Ardeidae. It is highly probable that when the Anseriformes and Charadriiformes from these deposits are restudied in detail, there will be still further additions to the avian record from the asphalt pits.

*Florida caerulea* (Linnaeus)? A complete left tarsometatarsus from Pit 61; Los Angeles Museum specimen no. K1136. Comparison has been made with tarsometatarsi of modern *Florida caerulea* and *Egretta thula*. The identification is questioned, in spite of the similarity of the fossil to *Florida caerulea*, because of the absence of a specimen of *Hydranassa tricolor* for comparison. The fossil tarsus corresponds