

## FROM FIELD AND STUDY

**Nesting of the Piñon Jay in Oregon.**—During the early spring months of the past few years, I had become interested in the great number of Piñon Jays (*Cyanocephalus cyanocephalus*) that occur in the juniper forests of western Deschutes County in central Oregon, but it was not until early April, 1930, that an opportunity presented itself to search for their nests.

Arrangements were then made to have an assistant with me on the ground by April 1. After going over the territory, we found the jays in considerable numbers and on April 5 located the first nest, then under construction, in a small yellow pine close to a road. During the same day, seven other nests, all in course of construction, were located in pine or juniper trees in the near vicinity of nest no. 1. These nests were all visited again on April 10, when they contained from one to three eggs each.

On April 9, a veritable colony of nests was found near the town of Grandview in the adjoining county of Jefferson. These nests were all in small junipers from three to seven feet above the ground. During our investigations we found over fifty nests of these birds, the great majority in juniper trees from three to eighteen feet up, while a few nests were found in yellow pine trees up to eighty-five feet. Nests were built on horizontal limbs or in thick twig growths and composed for the most part of dry twigs and coarse grasses and were lined with fine, dry grass, sheeps' wool and horse hair. The following notes taken verbatim from our notebook throws some light on the habits of these jays.

"Some of the Piñon Jay females, on being flushed from their sets of eggs, got clear out of the country and they did not come back under twenty minutes to half an hour. Two females were lifted off their eggs by me and these eggs were only slightly incubated. Still others came back into the nest tree and stayed close around, calling continually. At no time, did the male bird come in when the female called. The males usually fed in a large flock one-fourth to three-fourths of a mile distant, sometimes in one direction and again in another, from the nests. On coming in with food, a male usually perched on the top of a tree forty to fifty feet distant from the nest and called the female off to be fed. While being fed, she made a screeching series of calls similar to those of a young bird and continually fluttered her wings, and if the male flew to another tree, she followed, begging for more food. Having finished feeding, the male flew back to the feeding ground and the female flew directly to the nest, making it very easy to find. The feeding was closely observed and was solely by regurgitation, an unusual procedure for any of the crow or jay family. The female has a call given when near her nest, that closely resembles *krook, krook*. The male has a peculiar whistle-like note when one is near a completed nest and a very jay-like note when the female is disturbed from her nest."

To sum up, full sets contained three, four or five eggs each. Eggs collected April 10 to 14 were in full sets and were fresh. The Piñon Jay colonizes during the nesting season; sometimes three occupied nests were found in one tree.—J. C. BRALY, Portland, Oregon, September 24, 1930.

**Wood Ibises Summering in San Diego County, California.**—Appearances of the Wood Ibis (*Mycteria americana*) in the coastal region of southern California are sufficiently uncertain and irregular to warrant their being recorded. During the present summer (1930) these birds have been continuously present in Mission Valley, San Diego County, for several months. A flock of fourteen individuals was first observed there, feeding in a gravel pit in the bed of the San Diego River, in "late May" by R. E. Officer, a resident of Mission Valley, and reported to the Zoological Society of San Diego. The birds did not come to my notice until June 24, when I saw what was presumably the same flock of fourteen flying down the valley toward Mission Bay. On June 25, I observed several of the ibises circling over the houses in Old Town (North San Diego), apparently unconcerned by human population and the stream of automobile traffic. The same afternoon the entire flock settled at the edge of a small pool in Mission Valley plainly visible from my home. Here all fourteen remained at least until June 29, when I went away for several