

FROM FIELD AND STUDY

Upland Plover Apparently Established in Oregon.—On the afternoon of May 16, 1931, while driving along a country road about four miles east of Ukiah, Umatilla County, Oregon, I saw an Upland Plover (*Bartramia longicauda*) perched on the topmost wooden stake used as a support in a rail fence. After stopping the car to view the bird better, I saw a second plover on the ground not ten feet away. The pair was collected and, upon dissection, was found to be in active breeding condition. On the following Saturday afternoon, May 23, 1931, while in Logan Valley, Grant County, Oregon, I walked across some wild hay meadows about a mile from the ranch houses and within an hour saw five Upland Plovers. At least one pair showed every evidence of having a nest nearby, as they circled about me, calling loudly a number of times. I feel quite confident that, had I had a little time to search the meadow, a nest could have been located. On the next day, May 24, 1931, while driving along a road in Bear Valley, Grant County, I saw a lone Upland Plover at a distance of about thirty feet as it stood on the top of an upright post in an old rail fence.

All three of these localities are on large stock ranches in mountain valleys at approximately 5000 feet altitude, and the most striking native vegetation in each one of them is the white Wyethia (*Wyethia angustifolia*) which during the time of my visits was in full bloom.

The fact that eight individuals of the Upland Plover were seen during such a brief and hasty survey of the region would indicate the presence of a considerable number of this species hitherto considered rare in eastern Oregon.—STANLEY G. JEWETT, *Portland, Oregon, July 24, 1931.*

"Office Aids" in Nest Building.—Early last spring the men in the general office of the Southern California Edison Company at Big Creek, Fresno County, wondered where all their clips, pins and such were disappearing to, when they discovered a pair of Cañon Wrens (*Catherpes mexicanus punctulatus*) were utilizing them in the building of their nest. By the time the roads opened, this eight-inch castle was completed and on my first trip out my attention was called to it. It was placed on a beam, ten inches beneath the ceiling at a place where another beam crossed it. Thus the nest stood against two solid sides, with a roof (ceiling) but two inches above the top of the nest.

Into the foundation had gone every small "office aid" that the birds' bright eyes had spied. They raised a family of four, two of the eggs not hatching. After the wrens deserted this unique home the men helped me to take it down. We had a few hilarious moments picking casually at the heterogeneous materials that had gone into its making. Not until I brought it home and carefully sorted and counted the various "makings" did we realize the stupendous effort the birds had expended upon it.

The foundation, four and one-half inches in height and five inches square at the base, contained the following items: 152 twigs and slivers of wood ranging in length from $\frac{3}{4}$ to $8\frac{3}{4}$ inches, with a diameter or breadth of from $\frac{1}{8}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ inch; 15 lengths of straw, $1\frac{1}{4}$ to $8\frac{1}{4}$ inches long; 43 pine catkins; 4 pieces of wire insulation material, $\frac{1}{2}$ to $2\frac{1}{4}$ inches long; 14 Supreme paper clips; 1 Ideal paper clip, 3 inches in length; 628 Gem paper clips; 14 T pins; 1 two-inch safety pin; 582 common pins; 28 rubber bands; 1 three-coil spring; 1 screw top from LePage's glue container; 11 steel pen points; 19 thumb tacks; 2 small screws; 11 galvanized cup-head tacks; 1 carpet tack; 2 insulation tacks; 67 rusty nails; 2 small pieces of rawhide shoe lace; 1 three-inch darning needle; 69 Star paper fasteners; 3 small pieces of insulated wire; 27 pieces of wire (5 copper), all short; 1 steel tape tip; 87 matches (three unburnt); 4 toothpicks.

This grand total of 1791 countable things, while haphazardly placed, was held firmly by a filling of one-half pound of the following: Cobwebs, lint, dust, thread, sawdust, wood shavings, bits of paper, broom straw, twine, rope, plaster board, pine needles, splinters, shreds and pieces of pine bark, and asbestos, shells and gauzy wings of insects, an air-mail label, horsehair, small piece of walnut shell, triangle of glass ($\frac{1}{4}$ inch base and 1 inch in length), and an Eversharp pencil lead.

The nest proper was so firmly fastened to the foundation that it was not easy to dislodge. It was 4 x 5½ inches with an outside depth of 3½ inches. It was composed of very small pieces of straw, pine needles, string, rope, thread, and twigs. It was a solid mat made by clever filling of dust, lint, and dog and horse hairs. The upper two inches were very soft, made entirely of padding filched from mattresses. Into this was hollowed the cup for the eggs, 2½ inches across at the rim and 1¾ at the bottom, the depth being ¾ of an inch.

The nest proper weighed only an ounce, while that of the entire structure was two and seven-sixteenths pounds.

At the time I obtained this nest another was being built in a similar situation nearer to the opened transom through which the birds may enter or leave at will.

This bird was soon brooding, so we made no attempt to climb up to look at the nest closely. However it was not more than half the height of the one described above. This pair also had used "office aids" in the making of the foundation.—LILA M. LOFBERG, *Florence Lake, Big Creek, California, August 22, 1931.*

As to the Earliest Taking of Eggs of Townsend Solitaire.—In the July number of Yosemite Nature Notes the observations of Ranger-Naturalist B. A. Thaxter, upon the nesting of the Townsend Solitaire (*Myadestes townsendi*) in the Yosemite Valley, recall an incident of similar nature that may be of interest.

Early one morning of the first week in July, 1873, not far behind the guide, I was riding with a small touring party up the steep and narrow trail from the floor of Yosemite Valley, past Agassiz Column and Sentinel Dome, to Glacier Point. As we were rounding a precipitous mountain side a bird, strange to me, flushed from the steeply cut bank of the trail and fluttered past the head of my horse. A glance at the bank that my stirrup almost touched revealed four handsome eggs in a nest that was placed in a slight cavity of the rock, at about the level of my knee.

In my excitement over the discovery, surroundings were forgotten. I slipped from the saddle and squeezed down beside the nest, while the horse, fortunately a gentle one, went on with the procession. Suddenly realizing that I would "catch fits" for disturbing and delaying my companions and that there was nothing at hand in which the eggs could safely be carried, I grabbed a single egg, wrapped it carefully in my handkerchief and started up the grade to overtake the party, which was wrathfully awaiting my appearance at the first safe stopping place on the trail. That egg was carefully guarded all of that day and finally became the prize of the small collection that was turned over to my brother upon my entering college the following year, but which later on, well systematized and vastly increased in size, was again shared with him. Had I been able to bring home the whole set it would still be in the Mailliard Collection; but in June, 1880, Mr. F. C. Holman, a friend from boyhood's days and for seventeen years past a member of the Cooper Club, sent us a fine set of five eggs that he had found in the mountains of Trinity County, California, and the single egg, somewhat damaged, if I remember aright, was discarded.

It was a fortunate circumstance for me to be just beside the nest when the sitting bird's fear, aroused by the passing of the first two or three horsemen of the cavalcade, caused it to leave the nest and in its excitement to flutter past me almost within arm's length, in this way leaving upon my mind such a vivid impression of its markings as to lead to correct identification when home was reached and authorities were consulted.

In the several editions of Davie's Nests and Eggs of North American Birds that are in our library, including the fifth edition (1898), appears the following statement: "So far as I am aware, Mr. Wilbur F. Lamb took the first known eggs of Townsend's Flycatching Thrush [in later editions, Townsend's Solitaire]. This was in Summit County, Colorado, July, 1876, . . .". In the Geological Survey of California publication of 1870, entitled Ornithology, Vol. I, Land Birds, under Townsend's Flycatcher, on page 135, is the statement that the nest and eggs of this bird still remain to be described. Mr. Robert Ridgway, in one of his reports, recorded the finding, in July, 1867, of a nest ". . . on the western slope of the Sierras, at an altitude of five thousand feet. . . It contained four young."