Nov., 1931

Nesting of the Bohemian Waxwing in British Columbia.—While in the Atlin District. northwestern British Columbia, Canada, during July, 1931, it was my good fortune to find several nests of the Bohemian Waxwing (*Bombycilla garrula pallidiceps*). The account given by Mr. H. S. Swarth (in Univ. Calif. Publ. Zool., vol. 24, 1922, pp. 266-285) is so complete that but little can be added except that I secured both larger and smaller eggs than any reported by him or in any other records that



Fig. 61. TYPICAL NEST AND EGGS OF THE BOHEMIAN WAXWING ON TOP OF DOWNWARD DROOPING BRANCH OF SMALL BALSAM FIR; UP 8 FEET AND OUT 20 INCHES FROM TRUNK. COLLECTED AT ATLIN LAKE, BRITISH COLUMBIA, JULY 14, 1931.

I have noticed. The set containing the largest eggs measured, in millimeters, as follows: 27.5×19.1 , 27.2×19.4 , 27.1×19.1 , 26.8×18.6 , 26.6×19.1 , while the set containing the smallest eggs measured 22.8×17.7 , 22.1×17.7 , 21.9×16.9 , 21.4×17.6 . The average dimensions of the eggs I collected were only 24.1×17.7 , while those reported by Mr. Swarth were 25.5×17.7 . Dawson in his "Birds of California" reports the average size of eggs as 24.9×17.5 .

I failed to find a mass of nest material hanging below the nests (see fig. 61), this feature being conspicuous in the nests found by Mr. Swarth in the Stikine region.

Nests contained from three to five incubated eggs or young and I judge that four is the average complement. Usually the sitting bird could almost be touched on the nest, and in most cases after being disturbed it would be joined by the mate in making a fuss and would soon return to its nest while I was at the base of the tree. Bonaparte Gulls, Short-billed Gulls, and Spotted Sandpipers had been nesting in close proximity to all of the nesting sites of the waxwings, and their concern over their young was so great that their calls almost drowned out the faint notes of the waxwings.—WILSON C. HANNA, Colton, California, August 29, 1931.

Another Example of Frailty in Mourning Dove Nest Construction.—For a Mourning Dove to build a very scanty nest, from which one or both eggs may roll, is a characteristic of this bird's nesting habits; but when I observed a case where both eggs were pushed straight through the bottom of the nest by the sitting bird when suddenly flushed, I considered that this was "the limit".

This nest was not especially lacking in volume considering the small quantity of material used in nest construction by these birds, but it was so carelessly put together among some shoots on a willow limb that the bottom of the nest offered insufficient resistance when the bird sprang into flight from her nest.

Both eggs lit in the fine sand of the river bank below, one remaining in perfect shape after a seven foot drop and the other receiving a fracture of the shell. I endeavored to return them after shifting a few of the weed stems composing the nest, doing this while on tiptoe; but I found I was as poor a nest constructor as the birds, one of the eggs again falling through and the other remaining in a precarious position among this small handful of weed stems which the doves had passed upon as being a satisfactory domicile.

The above note refers to the Western Mourning Dove (Zenaidura macroura marginella), the nest being found in southern Merced County, California, on May 24, 1931.—EMERSON A. STONER, Benicia, California, September 3, 1931.

Another Record of the Rose-breasted Grosbeak from California.—My story commences at Soquel, Santa Cruz County, California. Here, on July 29, 1931, I called upon Mr. Henry Francis Lorquin at his "taxidermy and fur-dressing" shop on the highway half a mile or so east of the center of that town. The name Lorquin is well known to old-timers in western natural history circles; for the present Lorquin (born in San Francisco, December 11, 1862) is the son of Ernest Frederick Lorquin (died 1909) who maintained a taxidermy shop in San Francisco a great many years, until destroyed by the fire of 1906. Many specimens of birds were prepared and sent out to various persons and institutions from this establishment. H. F.'s grandfather was Joseph Lorquin, famous as an entomological collector, who came to San Francisco in 1851. (See also Essig, "A History of Entomology", Macmillan, 1931, p. 694.)

In course of conversation, Mr. H. F. Lorquin remarked that he had known Edward Garner, the one-time taxidermist of Quincy, California. An account of Garner and his collections has been put on record by Dr. Harold C. Bryant (Condor, 22, 1920, pp. 32-33). Mr. Lorquin stated to me that he and his father originally taught Garner how to make bird-skins, and this proves to be in fair agreement with what Bryant records.

It further developed that Mr. Lorquin had a small collection of bird-skins given him by Garner some time prior to the latter's death, which occurred "about five years ago". I went over these bird-skins with some interest and finally selected three which Mr. Lorquin allowed me to take away. These I have turned in to the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, so that there might be represented here some of Garner's collecting. There is only one of these specimens of much more than this personal and historical interest, and this one gives main excuse for the present note.

The bird in question is a Rose-breasted Grosbeak (Hedymeles ludovicianus) bearing a label inscribed in Edward Garner's handwriting. This label indicates that