

The Snowy Egret in Marin County, California.—According to "Bird-life of the San Francisco Bay Region" (Pacific Coast Avifauna, no. 18, 1927, p. 61), the only occurrences of the Snowy Egret (*Egretta thula thula*) within the bay region are three individuals seen in spring or early summer on the Farallon Islands; it has been found in San Mateo County, but the dates are not known.

On March 5, 1932, as I was walking across the new Richardson Bay bridge between Manzanita and San Rafael, I saw a small white object at the end of a sand spit near the south side of the structure. At first I presumed it to be a gull; then as I drew closer, and was able to see the heron shape, I believed it to be a night heron; and at last, on close approach, it dawned on me that it was a Snowy Egret. I had seen the birds several times before on their breeding grounds in the lower San Joaquin Valley, and am positive of the identification. The bird did not even notice the constantly passing automobiles; but as I drew closer, it became more and more alarmed, and finally, on snowy wings, flew up, circled around and crossed over the bridge, flying northward. At all times in flight the black legs and yellow feet were evident.

Another record, undoubtedly the same bird, was obtained on February 28, when it was seen near the same bridge from the train, by Edwin McClintock.—HAROLD SWANTON, *Oakland, California, March 29, 1932.*

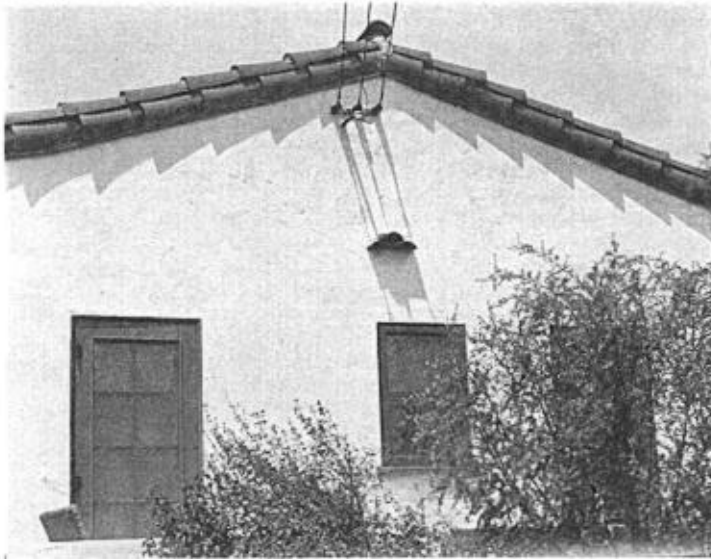


Fig. 16. NESTING SITE OF WESTERN BLUEBIRD, IN ORNAMENTAL TILE ON STUCCO WALL; SAN MARINO, CALIFORNIA.

Western Bluebird Nesting in Wall Tile.—The nesting of the Western Bluebird (*Sialia mexicana occidentalis*) in the lowlands of southern California is infrequent enough to justify the following notice. In the spring of 1931, Mrs. Beatrice Sisk advised me of nesting bluebirds at her San Marino home. Early in May, 1932, she again called and upon our visit showed us the adults and two of the three juveniles successfully launched on May 1.

The nesting site is shown in the cut (fig. 16), being within the lower left cavity beneath an ornamental tile projecting from a stucco wall. The environment is partly modern urban with spacious grassland studded with oak groves coming within half a block. The elevation is 500 feet. The open grove effect of the whole San Marino district probably accounts for the summer presence of the Western Bluebird; the

subdivisions and "improvements", including complete tree surgery, have probably produced sufficient nesting cavity shortage to force stucco and tile upon the bluebird's attention.—ROLAND CASE ROSS, *Los Angeles City Schools, Los Angeles, California, December 7, 1932.*

The Bridled Titmouse near Tucson, Arizona.—In view of the scarcity of published records of the occurrence of the Bridled Titmouse (*Baeolophus wollweberi annexus*) below the oak belt in Arizona, the following may be of interest. On October 2, 1932, at 11:25 a. m., two of these birds were seen in my front lot, three miles west of Old Fort Lowell and about a quarter of a mile south of Rillito Creek, elevation approximately 2400 feet, Pima County, Arizona. They were traveling west and were observed in a mesquite tree at a distance of thirty feet through 8x binoculars.

The surrounding district consists chiefly of small scattered farms interspersed with areas of creosote bush and a few mesquite and catclaw trees. Close by is the dry Rillito Creek bed with its border of mesquite and a few cottonwoods and desert broom in the bottoms. A mile to the north is the wide alluvial fringe of the Santa Catalina Mountains with giant sahuaro, palo verde and cholla.—A. H. ANDERSON, *Tucson, Arizona, November 19, 1932.*

The Gila Woodpecker in the Imperial Valley of California.¹—On March 21, 1932, I saw what I was certain were two Gila Woodpeckers (*Centurus uropygialis uropygialis*) in a row of cottonwoods near the town of Calipatria near the south end of Salton Sea, but there was no opportunity for certain identification; while the circumstance was noted as "probable" there was the chance that flickers might have been what actually were seen. However, on June 14, while en route to Arizona in company with Mr. Robert T. Moore, several of these woodpeckers were seen on fence posts at various places along the highway between Brawley and El Centro. They were tame enough to permit us to stop the car and examine them at leisure. Again, on the return trip, early in July, I saw occasional birds in cottonwoods and on roadside fence posts near Holtville, El Centro and Brawley. Mr. A. B. Howell, to whom I mentioned the presence of Gila Woodpeckers in the Valley, tells me that he first noticed them in the vicinity of his ranch near Calexico in 1931.

These birds, until now, were known as residents of California only through their occupancy of the narrow strip of riparian growth along the Colorado River. Their spread into the Imperial Valley to points as far west as the southern end of Salton Sea is unquestionably due to the planting of cottonwoods and other trees in the locality, one which was formerly unsuited to their requirements. The route of ingress has most probably been along the International Canal rather than over the inhospitable desert to the east.

Inquiry at several date farms in the Coachella Valley at the north end of the sea has, to date, indicated that Gila Woodpeckers have not invaded the groves there. It would seem to be only a question of time, though, before such is the case, an invasion which will probably not be hailed with enthusiasm by date growers.—A. J. VAN ROSSEM, *Pasadena, California, December 7, 1932.*

Early Nesting of the Leconte Thrasher.—Many years ago M. French Gilman of Banning and I, while wandering over the desert in Coachella Valley, California, found a nest containing young of Leconte Thrasher (*Toxostoma lecontei lecontei*). We judged that the nest must have contained eggs during late January and we then decided that we would some time find a set of eggs in that month and establish an early record.

For a number of years after this we made numerous trips to the desert in late January in our quest but with absolutely no results, and finally discontinued them. Late January of this year was cold and an acquaintance remarked to me that it would be a long time before I would be collecting eggs. This discouraging remark proved to be a spark that made me reply, "No, I will start on a trip tomorrow morning at five." True to my remark I started in the cold with Fred Frazer and Rex Parker for helpers in the renewed quest.

¹ Contribution from the California Institute of Technology, Pasadena.