

at it and, to my amazement, carried it into the oak far above my head, where it caught, was relinquished, and hung like a captured battle-flag for several days. That evening I saw, against the faintly-lit sky, several movements of what were probably the young, higher in the branches of the same tree.

A series of attacks by owls on human beings was described in a sequence of letters to *Science*, beginning in the issue of November 1, 1929, page 429. The old belief, which I now remember hearing as a child in New England, that the owl mistakes human hair or a fur cap for the back of some smaller "fur-bearer" crops up again and again.

Was the tendency to attack sufficiently hair-triggered only in the earlier period, or did the bird learn that human skulls are too thick for its offensive equipment, and only strike again when an object, apparently alive, of attackable size was substituted?—THOMAS T. MCCABE, *Berkeley, California, August 8, 1933.*

Late Nesting of the Olive-sided Flycatcher in the San Gabriel Mountains, California.—Mr. W. D. LaNiece of San Bernardino, brought to me on July 8, 1933, a fresh set of three eggs, together with the nest, of the Olive-sided Flycatcher (*Nuttallornis mesoleucus*). He had collected this on the previous day in the San Gabriel Mountains, near Wrightwood, about 6000 feet elevation, San Bernardino County, California.

The nest was far out on a downward sloping branch of a large yellow pine and about forty feet from the ground. The location had been discovered twelve days earlier by watching the birds go to the nesting site, but even the completed structure could not be seen from the ground. One of the eggs was perforated in removing it from the nest, the weights, in grams, of the other two were 3.93 and 3.69. This is the latest nesting date which I have ever seen recorded.—WILSON C. HANNA, *Colton, California, July 16, 1933.*

White-throated Swifts at San Juan Capistrano.—To me, it is always interesting to learn of the persistence, or otherwise, of bird colonies. In the *Condor* (9, 1907, pp. 169-172) Mrs. Bailey published an article on the "White-throated Swifts at Capistrano." Recently I found that this colony of *Aëronautes saxatilis* was still nesting in the same places in the same old ruin of this wonderful old mission. On May 14, 1933, I found about ten pairs still living there, flying in and out over the visitors' heads.

The part of the ruin where the swifts are, is considered unsafe; it is roped off so that the visitors do not get to the part where the birds are. Naturally, this adds much to the sense of security on the part of the birds. But the birds can readily be seen by everyone as they pass in and out of the old church. There are a few eave swallows with them, usually.—M. P. SKINNER, *Long Beach, California, May 23, 1933.*

An Unusual Nesting of the Black-chinned Hummingbird.—Early in April, 1925, a female hummingbird was noticed flying in and out of our garage in Buena Park, California, when the door was left open. On April 11, investigation showed that she was starting a nest in a loop of small rope that hung from a small board that rested across the wall plates of the building. It was located about the center of the garage, and the loop hung about a foot above the top of the car. The sliding door of the garage was left open the greater part of each day, and on April 11 there was a small amount of plant down held in the bottom of the loop by spider web.

On April 12 and 13, I watched the bird at work on the nest and decided that she was a Black-chinned Hummingbird (*Archilochus alexandri*), a common breeding bird in our vicinity, that usually nests in the large eucalyptus trees at elevations of thirty feet, or more, from the ground. Progress on the nest was slow, as the bird would not come to it when the car was in the garage, and it was not until April 24 that the first egg was laid. We were away from home during the next two days, leaving the garage door open, and on our return April 27, there were two eggs in the nest, but the bird refused to return to them while the car was in. By the evening of April 28, she had overcome her fear of the car and returned to the nest after it was in