

for the night. She seemed to be all set to raise a brood, but, on the night of April 30, disaster overtook her, and something, probably a cat, knocked the eggs from the nest to the car top below, where they were broken. There was no indication that the bird was killed, but she was not seen about the garage again.

The nest was added to my collection (see fig. 49). The rope is the single strand that is commonly used in lumber yards to tie bundles of light pieces together. It hung over a small board with the knot at the lowest point of the loop, giving a slightly broader foundation for the nest. The nest is composed for the most part of



Fig. 49. NEST OF BLACK-CHINNED HUMMINGBIRD IN LOOP OF ROPE.

plant down, and the outside is covered with the stamens of eucalyptus blossoms. These stamens have turned brown with age and give the nest a brown tint that it did not have when new. Other objects to be seen in it are several tiny bits of eucalyptus bark, a scrap of dry leaf, several long human hairs, a small feather that is probably from a Linnet, a pair of bracts from a plant that furnished down, and a seed of alfilaria.

The rope supports the nest on opposite sides like the handle of a basket, and is well tied into the structure with spider web which covers the whole outside of the nest. It is not as large as the nest usually constructed by this species, but it probably would have been added to, as incubation progressed. However, it is an interesting example of avian architecture.—JOHN McB. ROBERTSON, *Buena Park, California*, April 13, 1932.

Notes on the Ages of a Few Florence Lake Birds.—In posting my "repeat and return" card file I found that eight of our birds have been in the trap sufficient times to show that they have reached the age of five years or more. This is but a small percentage of the birds I have trapped in the past seven years, but I feel they may be of interest anyway.

Each bird eligible for this list was an adult when banded; hence it was a year, perhaps more, old at that time. Whether the younger generations seek homes elsewhere, or why it is that they form only a small percentage of my returns, I cannot say. At any rate, the numerous returns below the five year age include few birds banded when young. The reverse is true of "repeats." During their first season they try to live in the trap.

A large flock of Brewer Blackbirds (*Euphagus cyanocephalus*) is with us from late March until mid-October. Fully half the flock are wearing bands when they first come in, but these birds are not prone to go into the trap more than once. So I am never sure whether they have been banded here or elsewhere. In looking over the few cards listing their repeats and returns I was surprised to find that one male had evidently returned to us for five seasons. It was banded September 19, 1926, and entered the trap again on September 5, 1931. Incidentally, "reports" on my Brewers signify that they spend the winters in the San Joaquin Valley.

On April 6, 1926, I banded a Western Robin (*Turdus migratorius propinquis*). On its breast was a spot about the size of a dollar, of a golden hue rather than the deep orange which surrounded it. From this we could instantly identify the bird upon its return each March. And to doubly prove that it was the same bird, it entered the trap on April 10, 1927, June 15, 1928, May 11, 1929, and May 22, 1930. It did not leave as usual the autumn of 1930 but was in the yard daily until February, 1931. At this time I found many robin feathers beneath its home tree. No tracks showed, nor was there sign of a struggle as there undoubtedly would have been had some creature killed it during the daytime, when it might have been on the sun-softened snow. I felt it more likely that the bird had dropped dead of old age and some animal found it during the night when the snow was crusted.

The Sierra Juncos (*Junco oreganus thurberi*) are year-round inhabitants of this vicinity. During the winter months they come to the tables in greater numbers. Many of them return year after year, but only two, I can be positive, have survived at least five of our rather severe winters. Number 96421 banded April 12, 1929, returned April 7, 1932, and again April 11, 1933. Number 187056, banded April 14, 1928, returned April 8, 1933.

Clark Nutcrackers (*Nucifraga columbiana*) are also with us all year. Their return average for less than five years is highest of all of our birds, but only two have topped that age. Number 373893, banded April 6, 1926, returned July 18, 1930. Number 373897, banded April 27, 1926, returned June 3, 1930.

To us the most interesting of all has been our lone pair of Cabanis Woodpeckers (*Dryobates villosus hyloscopus*). This pair has come to the tables and suet posts ever since we have lived here. Others of this species are farther away, but only these have been our guests. The female was banded, April 15, 1926, and came almost daily until early last winter (1932-33). Since then we have not seen her and presume that she died. The male was banded, January 5, 1927, and has been a constant boarder. Not only do we know something of their ages, but they were mates all those years.—LILA M. LOFBERG, *Florence Lake, Big Creek, California, May 4, 1933.*

The Phainopepla on the Marysville Buttes.—On April 26, 1931, while exploring the Marysville Buttes, Sutter County, California, I observed a number of Phainopeplas (*Phainopepla nitens*) at an altitude of approximately 800 feet (aneroid barometer reading) on the northwest side of South Butte. There were at least six birds in the rather loose flock, apparently feeding upon berries of the common mistletoe (*Phoradendron villosum*) which is there parasitic upon both the blue oak (*Quercus douglasii*) and the interior live oak (*Q. wislizenii*).

Both males and females were present in the flock, but were quite wary, usually flushing from the bunches of mistletoe when approached within thirty or forty yards.—W. I. FOLLETT, *Oakland, California, July 24, 1933.*

The Savannah Sparrows of Northwestern North America.—In a study of *Passerculus sandwichensis* by Oberholser, one of the most recent to which the group has been subjected (Scientific Publications, Cleveland Mus. Nat. Hist., vol. 1, no. 4, 1930, pp. 109-111), certain northwestern forms of this species are allotted definitions and