

Killdeer Nests on Roof of Building.—On March 26, 1936, I was informed by the building inspector at Benicia Arsenal, Benicia, California, that a Killdeer (*Oxyechus vociferus*) was sitting on four eggs on the roof of the Artillery Storehouse, a one-story building housing various pieces of field artillery, tanks, tractors, cannon, and howitzers. The skylights on the roof of this building were being repaired, and the attention of the workmen had been drawn to the sitting bird which, after having become accustomed to their presence, sat closely while the work progressed.

On March 31, the inspector, Mr. O. Mendler, advised me that the eggs had hatched, three

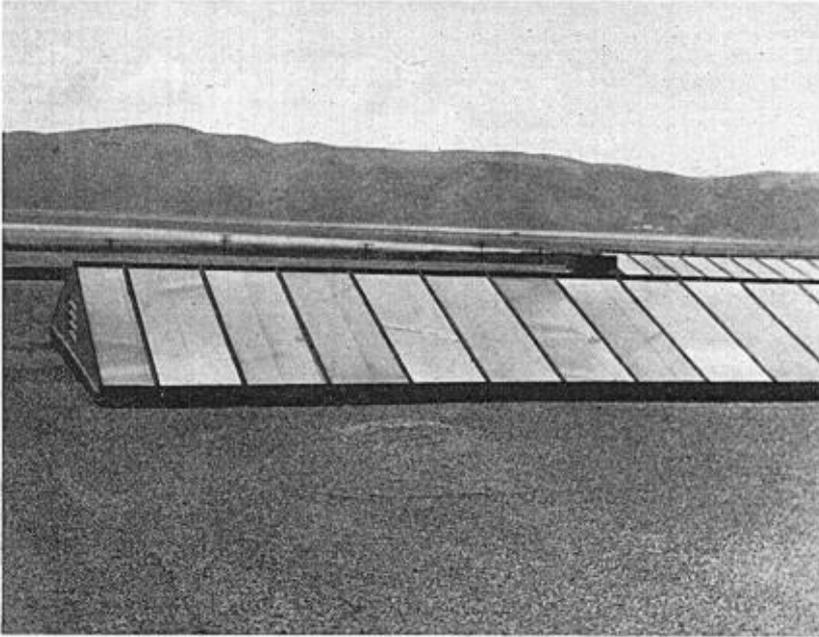


Fig. 37. Section of roof at Benicia, California, showing nesting site of Killdeer (in front of skylight).

young had left and one still remained in the nest. On the following day I took my camera, climbed the ladder to the roof and took the accompanying picture (fig. 37) showing the location of the nesting site of this pair of Killdeers, about three feet from the skylight in the center of the photo. The birds had made a slight depression in a small accumulation of gravel which had apparently been left by the roofers who had gravelled or regavelled the roof in a previous year.

I requested Mr. Mendler to keep an eye on these birds to see if they would lay a second set. On April 28, he informed me that a Killdeer was on the roof and sitting on four eggs. This second set was on another section of the same roof about ten feet from another skylight (see fig. 38). There was no depression in this case, as practically all of the gravel was imbedded in the tar which had been applied prior to the spreading of the gravel. This second set also hatched successfully.

The building was about two hundred yards from the shore of the Carquinez Straits. The location was favorable to the birds, at least in that it was out of reach of prowling mammals.—EMERSON A. STONER, Benicia, California, August 24, 1936.



Fig. 38. Second set laid by Killdeer on gravel roof of storehouse at Benicia Arsenal.