

morning the female bird was observed approaching the nest and behaving in a peculiar manner. Instead of slinking onto the nest and settling down quietly, she walked back and forth and around the nest in a listless manner for 50 minutes, passing within a few inches of her eggs half a dozen times. Finally, she stopped and for ten minutes squatted over the nest with head erect and eyes alert. Then suddenly she flew off to join her mate at the creek 100 yards away.

Upon examination, the entire nest was found to be swarming with *Solenopsis xyloni*. One egg was nearly hatched and the chick, half out of the shell, had already succumbed; a large part of its head had been eaten away. Another egg was pipped and a dozen ants had gained access through the hole, barely two millimeters in diameter. The chick within was still alive but had been so injured by ant bites and stings around the eye and mouth that it failed to recover in an incubator to which it was removed. The remaining nine eggs were unpipped and unharmed.

After carefully clearing away all organic waste, a ring of ant powder (sodium fluoride and pyrethrum) was sprinkled in the dust around the nest to prevent further invasion. The treatment was successful, but the bird failed to return until 7:15 that evening. One of the remaining eggs hatched successfully on July 28; the other embryos had evidently died at an early stage of incubation.—JOHN T. EMLEN, JR., *Division of Zoology, University of California, Davis, California, November 23, 1937.*

**Creepers Nesting in Solano County, California.**—On May 29, 1937, while making a "breeding-bird census" for Bird-Lore along Green Valley Creek, about five miles northwest of Cordelia, Solano County, California, I was surprised to locate a nesting Sierra Creeper (*Certhia familiaris zelotes*).



Fig. 29. Nesting site of Sierra Creeper in a dead laurel stub (center) near Cordelia, Solano County, California.

Looking into the end of a badly decayed laurel stub, four feet high and five inches in diameter, J. D. Graham of Benicia, who accompanied me, found four young birds. They did not seem to be Western House Wrens, which were nesting commonly here, so I waited for a few minutes and was rewarded by seeing a creeper, with a spider in its bill, light on the trunk of an adjacent laurel tree three or four feet away. As soon as it saw me at the nest, it commenced to utter a *tsip-tsee* note, and several times flew toward my head as though attempting to drive me away, returning each time to the near-by tree trunk. It entered the nesting cavity only after I had withdrawn a little distance.

The nest was open to the sky in the hollow tip of the decayed stub about six inches down in the hole, the inside measurement of the cavity being approximately three inches in diameter. The nest was of fine, thread-like bark strips, matted with feathers and decaying wood dust. I recognized one of the feathers as that of a Steller Jay, and several were from a Horned Owl. The nesting stub was so badly decayed that it would have snapped off with very little pressure.

I visited the nest again on June 6 at which time the four young birds were still in the nest, though evidently about ready to leave. On that date I took the accompanying photograph (fig. 29) and noted that there was one addled egg in

the nest which I withdrew and prepared for my collection.—EMERSON A. STONER, *Benicia, California, September 22, 1937.*

**The Timberline Sparrow in Arizona.**—While collecting birds near Springerville, Apache County, Arizona, in October, 1937, I noticed flocks of Vesper and Brewer sparrows foraging in a wheat field along the Little Colorado River, 4 miles west of town. An immature male Brewer Sparrow, taken on October 8, has since been identified as *Spizella breweri taverneri* by Dr. H. C. Oberholser