

dozen nests were in a small patch of tules at an elevation of about 7000 feet. The nests were about a foot above the surface of the water and on June 2, 1940, they contained from two to six eggs, or newly hatched young.—WILSON C. HANNA, *Colton, California, June 3, 1940.*

The Spotted Owl Nesting in the Sequoia Belt.—About 4:30 p.m. on June 10, 1940, an owl and her young were reported from the Wilsonia Road about one-eighth mile south of headquarters at General Grant Grove Section of Kings Canyon National Park, Tulare County, California. Upon visiting the spot two young owls in juvenal plumage were seen perched on the roots of a large fallen log; the parent owl perched on a limb of a white fir two hundred feet away. The size, lack of ear tufts, and blackish eyes, helped identify the birds as California Spotted Owls, *Strix occidentalis occidentalis*.

A number of Kodachrome photographs were taken of the young birds, which could be approached closely. Examination of the down log revealed a hollow about two feet in diameter which looked as if it might have been the nesting site.

Nearly two weeks later one of the young owls, still unable to fly well, was captured by a camper. It was returned to the log where the other young one was found in the hollow. Mrs. Beatrice B. Nielsen watched the parent feed the young owl a small bird. In doing this she pulled off strips of flesh for the young. The last date on which the owls were seen was June 25, 1940.

This nesting of the Spotted Owl in Kings Canyon National Park at an elevation of 6600 feet in the sequoia belt, we believe is the first definite breeding record for this area. Marshall (Condor, vol. 41, 1939, p. 77) has mentioned its occurrence in summer at Whitaker's Forest, Tulare County.—HAROLD C. BRYANT, *Kings Canyon National Park, California, September 11, 1940.*

The Lark Bunting in Southern Nevada.—The only definite record that I can find of the Lark Bunting (*Calamospiza melanocorys*) in Clark County, Nevada, is that by Linsdale (Pac. Coast Avif. No. 23, 1936, p. 123) of a male (U. S. N. M. no. 138050) shot April 29, 1891, in Pahrump Valley. From an experience of my own in Clark County, in February, 1940, it seems strange to me that only one of several previous workers has recorded this species, which occurs more or less regularly during the winter south to Imperial County, California.

On February 4, 1940, in the yard at Corn Creek Ranch, some 36 miles north of Las Vegas, my attention was drawn to several dull-colored sparrow-like birds foraging among the fallen leaves and dry grass in an adjoining orchard. With the aid of binoculars I recognized them as lark buntings. While driving from Las Vegas to Boulder City on February 7, I saw about a hundred of these birds on the dry plains just west of Boulder City. The next morning they were still present in large numbers. A male of this species was picked up dead on the road on February 8, evidently killed by a passing automobile. On February 9 five lark buntings were seen in the orchard at Corn Creek Ranch; these had increased to eight by February 11. While driving through the town of Searchlight, some 37 miles south of Las Vegas, on February 12, 1940, I observed a hundred or more of the birds feeding among the sparse, dry vegetation in the southern outskirts of the town. The last one seen, a lone male, was on the dry creosote-bush covered plain near the southern tip of Nevada along the highway, just before it crosses the state boundary line into San Bernardino County, California.

These observations would indicate that at least in some years the lark bunting is a common migrant or winter resident in Clark County, Nevada.—STANLEY G. JEWETT, *Portland, Oregon, March 5, 1940.*

Comment on a Californian Record of the Western Tree Sparrow.—In Hellmayr's catalogue of the Fringillidae (Field Mus. Nat. Hist., Zool. Ser., vol. 13, pt. 11, 1938, p. 556), two birds are listed from "California (Butte County, 1; Hayward, 1)" under *Spizella arborea ochracea*. The late Dr. Joseph Grinnell upon seeing this, asked to examine the specimens. The following is from a letter from him to Mr. Rudyerd Boulton, dated April 5, 1939.

"No. 40049, Field Mus., bears on face of original label these data: '566. Western Tree Sparrow. Enterprise, | Butte Co., Cpl. [Cal. or Col.?] 2/5/1896. ♂.'

"There is no collector named on this tag. After a great deal of comparing of the handwriting with signatures and correspondence I have from California collectors of the 1890's, I can find none to match. The little round label, with only the collector's number on it, and the violet silk thread are not duplicated in the output of any collector represented in this museum, and we have samples of the work of most of the oldtimers.

"Both the skins reached your museum, evidently, as part of the collection of Ned Hollister, once of Delavan, Wisconsin. The numbers and initials on the backs of the labels are definitely in Hollister's

handwriting, which I know well. I used to trade specimens with him myself. He knew Western literature, and no 'good' record like that of Tree Sparrow from *California* would have escaped him. He would have recorded it!

"The original number on the tree sparrow label proves not to be of the check lists of the AOU, of Baird, of Coues, or of Ridgway. Clearly it was a private number and betokens a collector of considerable attainment. Again, I cannot guess who it might have been among members of the Cooper Ornithological Club along about 1896.

"True, there is an Enterprise in Butte County, California, but—there are also *two* Enterprises in Colorado, though I find no 'Butte County' on any current map of that state. There *might* have been, however, when mining was more active back in the '90's. Tree sparrows are, of course, common winter visitants to Colorado.

"Under the circumstances set forth above you will see why I hesitate to accept the Hellmayr records of *Spizella arborea* for California. A correction should be made. Will you do it?"

I have been unable to find another specimen in the collection of the Field Museum with a label similar to that on the Tree Sparrow. From comparison of the letters of the word "sparrow" on the original label, the state abbreviation given seems to be definitely Cal. rather than Col.; and there is no Butte County for Colorado in the postal guide of 1891, or on a map of that state dated 1897, that I have consulted. The fact remains that Hollister wrote his initials and number on the back of a label saying "Western Tree Sparrow. Enterprise, Butte Co., Cal." without indicating that he questioned the data.

The skin from Hayward listed as *Spizella arborea ochracea* is that of an immature *Zonotrichia leucophrys pugetensis*. When the Field Museum label was attached in 1911 at the time the collection was acquired, the bird received this name, but this was a *lapsus calami*, for on the original tag it was properly identified. It is well to mention here, as Hellmayr did in the prefaces to parts eight and eleven of the Catalogue of Birds of the Americas, that in the parts prepared since 1931 when he returned to Austria, Dr. Hellmayr never examined many of the specimens recorded. Often the persons preparing the list of specimens for him took the identifications directly from the labels with no attempt to check them. It is much better to speak of "specimens listed in Hellmayr's catalogue" than of "specimens recorded by Hellmayr."—SIDNEY CAMRAS, 1418 S. Karlov Avenue, Chicago, Illinois, August 2, 1940.

A Bird's Nest Made of Paper.—While at the Green Valley Falls picnic grounds, Solano County, California, on May 19, 1940, Mr. J. D. Graham of Benicia and I found a nest that was built almost entirely of paper (fig. 82). It was situated six feet from the ground in the lower limb of a laurel tree along Green Valley Creek. The major portion of the material with which it was constructed was found to be "Kleenex," as certified by the manufacturer of that product to whom a sample was sent for examination. In addition to this paper, a few vegetable fibers were employed about the rim and for lining.

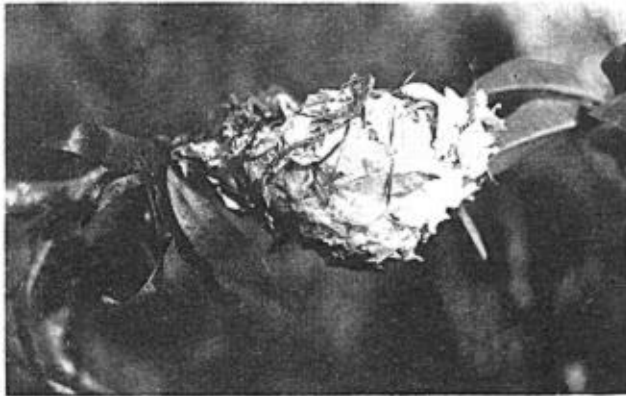


Fig. 82. A vireo's nest constructed primarily of paper; Solano County, California.

The nest was not occupied and no bird was about. However, both Warbling and Cassin vireos nest in this valley, and the nest was that of one of these two species. I have placed the nest in my collection.—EMERSON A. STONER, *Benicia, California, June 11, 1940.*