

FROM FIELD AND STUDY

A Unique Nesting Site of the Western Wood Pewee.—In my garden at Okanagan Landing, British Columbia, in July, 1940, a pair of Western Wood Pewees (*Myiochanes richardsonii richardsonii*) selected a nesting site that was thought to be unique. This was a double wrap of burlap placed around a young quince tree and its supporting stake three feet above the ground. It happened that the material had been tied in such a manner as to form a hammock-like structure open at the top, closed at the bottom, and about three inches in diameter. The bottom of the nest filled this space.



Fig. 30. Nest of Western Wood Pewee on burlap support.

In this locality the Western Wood Pewee commonly builds a compact, sometimes lichen-covered, nest on a horizontal branch. Usually cottonwood down and horsehair are important constituents and often the outside is well coated with cobweb. This particular nest was loosely made of fine, dry grass to which had been added one small piece of string, three pheasant feathers and a very small amount of cobweb.—J. A. MUNRO, *Okanagan Landing, British Columbia, December 30, 1940.*

A Winter Record of the Bullock Oriole for Butte County, California.—Bullock Orioles (*Icterus bullockii*) are common summer visitors in Butte County, California, but usually the only reminders of them in the winter are the many gracefully swinging, cup-shaped nests to be counted by the dozens when the leaves have fallen. On January 29, 1939, a male of this species was observed at Durham, Butte County, whereupon the writer learned the value of a "bird in the hand" in reporting unusual observations. On December 24, 1940, a male was seen again; it was watched from a distance of fifteen feet for ten minutes while it fed on persimmons. The bird was seen repeatedly during the next four days, both near the persimmon tree, and upon a hawthorn tree two blocks away, where it ate the hawthorn berries. It was collected on December 29, 1940, and the skin was placed in the collection of Chico State College. No other orioles have been seen since in this vicinity; however, another of the species has been reported on the Walker ranch, three miles east of Durham. The orioles regularly arrive in this locality in the second week of April. Even then they are almost never seen in the town, but are common in the surrounding country.—E. G. ENGLAND, *Durham, California, January 12, 1941.*

Leconte Sparrow in Utah.—In studying a collection of Utah birds, I am reminded of collecting a Leconte Sparrow (*Passerherbulus caudacutus*) near Utah Lake south of Provo, Utah, on December 24, 1927. The specimen is now no. 416 in the collection of Brigham Young University, and I

believe is the only specimen of the species taken in Utah.—CLARENCE COTTAM, *Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington, D. C., December 2, 1940.*

Western Ruby-crowned Kinglet Nesting in the San Bernardino Mountains.—A nest of the Western Ruby-crowned Kinglet (*Corthylio calendula cineraceus*) was discovered on May 19, 1940, by seeing a bird take nesting material to it. The location was nineteen feet from the ground and near the end of a downward-sloping branch of a large silver fir tree on a hillside south of Big Bear Lake, San Bernardino Mountains, California, at an elevation close to eight thousand feet. On June 2, 1940, the nest contained eight fresh eggs. The weights of these in grams were (1) 0.71, (1) 0.68, and (6) 0.66. This is possibly only the second actual nesting record for this species in the San Bernardino Mountains.—WILSON C. HANNA, *Colton, California, June 4, 1940.*

Arboreal Nests of the Gambel Quail in Arizona.—That a Gambel Quail (*Lophortyx gambelii*) would build a nest high up in the top of a large tree seemed to the writer almost unbelievable until one was actually seen and photographed. Referring to the published literature, it is found that Bent (U. S. Nat. Mus. Bull. No. 162, 1932:76) in summarizing the nesting of the species mentions records of three nests at heights of five feet above the ground. Harry L. Crockett and Ruth Crockett (Condor, 38, 1936:97-99) wrote of tree-nesting quail studied and photographed on the Stannard ranch near Phoenix, Arizona, during the summer of 1935.

After the writer had drafted a manuscript covering the recent observations reported here, it was discovered that the Crocketts had done likewise; they have generously deferred to the writer and made their notes available to him.



Fig. 31. Tamarisk tree in which Gambel Quail nested. Black cross slightly to right and above center of tree marks site.

Glynn and Carlos Stannard, brothers, operate adjoining citrus groves about nine miles northeast of Phoenix, Arizona, near Camelback Mountain; Carlos Stannard is an alert bird student and active bird bander. Overhanging the Glynn Stannard ranch home is a handsome evergreen tamarisk tree, probably *Tamarix articulata*. In 1938 this tree had grown so tall and top-heavy that it was topped back severely; limbs that were fully 12 inches in diameter were sawed through. By the summer of 1940 new growth from about the margins of the old cuts had reached heights up to 20 feet, and the entire rim of the old cut surfaces was built up by scar growth until in the center a perfect basin resulted.

On May 18, 1940, a pair of White-winged Doves (*Melopelia asiatica*) had for some time worked actively at nest building in this tree and Carlos Stannard climbed the tree to search for their nest. To his surprise a nest of Gambel Quail containing 12 eggs was found in one of the old cuts high up in the tree; the nest consisted of one of the basin-like depressions already described, with a thick lining of dead leaflets of the tamarisk and numerous quail feathers. On discussing the nest with members of his brother's household, he found that only a few days before an adult quail had been taken away from the family cat at the foot of this tree and that the quail had flown away, apparently not seriously harmed.

The quail never returned to the nest, and it was inferred that the owner of the nest had been the same quail rescued from the cat. When the writer photographed the nest several days later, it was necessary to reverse the eggs, since cactus wrens or other birds had pierced each one. Figure 31 shows the tree, the approximate location of the nest being marked with an "x"; figure 32 is of the nest and eggs, taken from directly above. By actual tape-line measurement, the nest was twenty-seven feet, six inches, above the ground.

Other moderately high quail nests have occurred in and adjacent to the Stannard groves since 1935. In June, 1936, on an adjoining property, a nest seven feet high in an umbrella tree was reported