

## FROM FIELD AND STUDY

**Notes on a Water Ouzel.**—On May 29, 1944, an adult Water Ouzel (*Cinclus mexicanus*) was caught under a bridge about 10 miles northeast of Alturas, Modoc County, California. The bird's feet were fixed in a small puddle of tar which had seeped through onto a rafter from the highway above. The tar was washed off its feet with xylol and the bird was banded (34-136528) and released about 100 feet from the stream. Subsequent examination of a blood smear made at the time revealed no parasites.

The bird appeared very weak and showed no inclination to fly. It was recaptured and placed on a small rock at the edge of the stream where it immediately proceeded to drink. A rock containing numerous larvae and pupae of the black fly (Simuliidae) was overturned and the bird placed upon it. It fed voraciously on both the larvae and pupae. The bird then left this rock and swam to another completely submerged rock and fed further on the fly larvae and pupae. It seemed to regain strength rapidly and within half an hour flew to join several other Water Ouzels resting on a sand bar under the bridge about 100 feet away. Although there were numerous black flies swarming under and near the bridge, we did not observe any of the birds feeding on the adults.—CARLTON M. HERMAN, *California Division of Fish and Game*, and PEDRO GALINDO, *University of California*, August 1, 1944.

**Grasshopper Sparrow Nesting at Oakland, California.**—On June 16, 1944, Mrs. Enid Austin and I found the nest of a Western Grasshopper Sparrow (*Ammodramus savannarum bimaculatus*) on a southwest-facing hillside in the Oakland Hills near the junction of Joaquin Miller and Redwood roads. The nest consisted of a small cup fashioned of fine grass stems situated at the base and on the lee side of a clump of perennial grass. The prevailing wind had arched the stems of the grass over the nest. There were four eggs wreathed with reddish brown dots about the larger end.

Although the soil on this hill is rather poor, being formed from decomposing serpentine, a large variety of native flowers grow here and their blossoming season extends from early spring through summer. In August several species of eriogonum and of composites were at their height. These plants together with the grasses should insure an ample food supply. A few yards from the nest were some low plants of *Artemisia californica*.

On June 25 there were only three eggs in the nest. On June 29 the young had hatched. At no time did we hear a bird of the species sing and the incubating bird was the only adult seen. The bird allowed us to approach within a few feet and on the first two dates flushed quickly and disappeared. On June 29 when it was disturbed, it fluttered over the ground, dragging its wings. On August 11 we collected the nest but neither heard nor saw a Grasshopper Sparrow.—JUNEA W. KELLY, *Alameda, California*, August 22, 1944.

**Nesting Habits of the Hooded Oriole.**—The recent note by Ewan (*Condor*, 46, 1944:205) recording the nesting of a Hooded Oriole (*Icterus cucullatus*) in a banana plant at Beverly Hills, California, as "anomalous" would indicate that he is not very familiar with this bird in southern California. In San Diego the angled leaves of the banana have been among the most favored nesting sites of Hooded Orioles as long as the present writer can recall. In fact, among his boyhood egg-collecting companions, a common name for the bird was "Banana Oriole." An early report is that of Bendire (*Life Histories N. Amer. Birds*, 2, 1895:478), who states that R. H. Lawrence sent him a nest, attached to the under side of a banana leaf, which was taken at Monrovia, California, on May 19, 1893. Even today, with the more extensive use of ornamental palms in the cities of southern California, the banana is chosen by these orioles with great frequency. Dawson (*Birds Calif.*, 1, 1923:92) writes of two "trial, or decoy, nests" in a single banana tree at Santa Barbara.

That palms are the number one choice of this species is unquestionable. However, trees of more than a dozen varieties are known to have been used, including Monterey cypress, fan palm, feather palm, banana, tree yucca, cottonwood, walnut, fig, sycamore, mesquite, pepper, eucalyptus, olive and ash. Similarly, although palm fiber is the favorite building material, Bendire records the use of "green wire grass" and yucca fibers, and in palmless Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument, Arizona, the writer collected a nest composed entirely of horsehair. In view of the well known association of this oriole with fan palms—they are always to be found in the proximity of the wild fan palms in the desert sections of both southern California and Lower California—the question naturally arises as to whether the Hooded Oriole has followed man's introduction of palms to the coastal regions or has always occurred there, formerly using nesting sites and nesting material not connected with palms.—LAURENCE M. HUEY, *Natural History Museum, Balboa Park, San Diego, California*, August 21, 1944.