

lected at what is known as Mud Springs. This is a small meadow of about eight acres, with a southwestern exposure at an elevation of about forty-five hundred feet. It is in a dense stand of the white fir (*Abies concolor*). The meadow is centered by a small brush-covered swamp. Several small clumps of fir are scattered about the meadow, one edging the swamp. It was in this clump of firs, between the actual foliage of the trees and the brush that the nest was located.

The nest was saddled on a small dead twig that jutted at a slight angle below one of the lower branches. The nest was six feet above the ground, ten feet out on the limb, and two feet from the tip of the limb. The small structure was composed of a brownish moss, with three lichens tied on by cobwebs. The cobwebs are quite conspicuous, as they are a light gray, contrasting with the brown of the rest of the nest. The nest is lined with willow down. The measurements are maximum diameter 45 millimeters, maximum height 30 millimeters. There is nothing special about the nest or eggs to set it apart from others of the same genus of birds.

With the information that the writer has gained, it may be assumed that the Rufous Hummingbird is a sparse nesting species at the higher elevations in the interior Trinity Mountains. The breeding hummers from the lower elevations along the Trinity River have all turned out to be the Allens. Alden H. Miller (letter) states that he took this species at a nest at Hyampom on the South Fork of the Trinity.—ROBERT R. TALMADGE, *Willow Creek, California*, September 15, 1952.

Additional Notes on the Birds of Santa Rosa Island, California.—Through the kindness of Mr. Ed Vail the writer together with Waldo Abbott was permitted to do some ornithological work on Santa Rosa Island, California. The period of March 15 to 28, 1951, was spent on the island, a total of 14 days. We worked the canyons and uplands from Skunk Point to Carrington Point, and inland for approximately four miles.

A special search was made for Rufous-crowned Sparrows (*Aimophila ruficeps*), but none was seen nor heard. The same type of habitat on Santa Cruz Island would have produced a number of this species. We concluded, therefore, as did A. H. Miller (Condor, 53, 1951:122), that breeding *Aimophila* are non-existent on Santa Rosa Island.

The following species were seen on different occasions, none of which has been specifically reported from Santa Rosa Island heretofore: Sharp-shinned Hawk, Marsh Hawk, Pigeon Hawk, Spotted Sandpiper, Sanderling, Black-bellied Plover and Herring Gull.

The following species were observed or collected; the specimens are now in the collection of the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History.

Oreoscoptes montanus. Sage Thrasher. One was taken near Skunk Point. This bird was found in a patch of prickly pear cactus (*Opuntia*); when dissected it was found to have been feeding on small grasshoppers.

Regulus calendula cineraceus. Ruby-crowned Kinglet. Two female kinglets were taken by Abbott on March 18 and 21, respectively.

Vireo gilvus swainsoni. Warbling Vireo. Abbott collected this vireo in the canyon near the ranch house.

Dendroica coronata. Myrtle Warbler. One was shot but not retrieved on March 24.

Agelaius phoeniceus. Red-winged Blackbird. Three female Red-wings were seen in the corrals at the ranch house.

Molothrus ater obscurus. Cowbird. A female was taken by Abbott on March 27 at the ranch house. It was with some Red-winged Blackbirds.

Carpodacus purpureus californicus. Purple Finch. An immature male was taken near the ranch house. I saw an adult male in ranch house canyon.

Passerculus sandwichensis. Savannah Sparrow. Four were collected. Two proved to be *P. s. alaudinus* and two were *P. s. brooksi*. Thanks are due A. H. Miller for the racial identification of these birds.

All records have been evaluated by reference to Howell (Pac. Coast Avif. No. 12, 1917:1-127), Pemberton (Condor, 30, 1928:146-148), Willett (Pac. Coast Avif. No. 21, 1933:1-204), Grinnell and Miller (Pac. Coast Avif. No. 27, 1944:1-608).—EGMONT Z. RETT, *Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History, Santa Barbara, California, July 15, 1952*.

Unrecorded Specimens of *Neochloe brevipennis* Taken in Oaxaca.—Ninety-five years ago Sclater described *Neochloe brevipennis* from Orizaba, Veracruz, and until just recently only six

specimens were known. Stresemann (Condor, 49, 1947:210) reported a seventh, and Loetscher (Condor, 54, 1952:204) an eighth. All were collected in Veracruz. A subspecies of this vireo, *Neochloe brevipennis browni*, was described by Miller and Ray (Condor, 46, 1944:41) from the region near Chilpancingo, Guerrero. According to the authors there are no significant differences in the wing, tail, or foot measurements, the length, depth, and width of the bill being the only varying dimensions. There are also differences in the plumage, especially on the lower back. This form is known from a single specimen.

It would seem worth while then to report eleven additional specimens of *Neochloe brevipennis brevipennis* in the University of Florida collection. These skins were taken by Mario del Toro Avilés from April 1 to May 26, 1949, at Amatepec, Oaxaca. Amatepec is located in the region of Mixe, which is part of the same cordillera forming the Nudo de Zempoaltepec. It is in the cold zone at an altitude of 2100 meters. Previously recorded altitudes for *brevipennis* are 4400 and 4500 feet; for *browni*, 4000 feet. The birds from Amatepec were taken at a much higher altitude therefore.

Bill measurements of these specimens vary considerably from those listed by Miller and Ray, although this is probably due in part to a difference in method. The discrepancy is especially clear in comparing the measurement of the middle toe, which is listed by Miller and Ray as 7.2-7.5 and by Ridgway as 11 mm. In regard to the plumage of the Oaxaca birds, the rump and the scapular region are slate gray with only a faint suggestion of olive green in some specimens. The white of the belly seems to vary greatly with the care used in preparing the skins. Two of my specimens show the extremes from extensive whiteness on the venter and sides to very little whiteness. The iris was recorded as white in all cases. The females of both forms were previously unknown. One of my birds is sexed as a female and does not differ in plumage from the males, as is true of most vireos.

The mean measurements with extremes of the ten males are: wing 56-60.3 (58.3), tail 53-56.5 (54.9), culmen from base 13.5-14 (13.8), length of bill from edge of nostril 7-7.7 (7.3), maximum depth of bill 4-4.9 (4.4), width of bill at nostril 3.9-4.7 (4.3), tarsus 19-21.5 (20.5), middle toe without claw 10-11 (10.5). One female measures: wing 57, tail 54.5, maximum depth of bill 4.4, width of bill at nostril 4.1, tarsus 20, middle toe without claw 10.3. Culmen from base and length of bill from edge of nostril could not be taken because of defects.—MARJORIE A. BRIGGS, *Department of Biology, University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida, August 25, 1952.*

Three Cases of Twin Embryos in Passerine Birds.—During the course of field work at Ann Arbor, Michigan, from 1946 through 1951, I made observations on 96 nests of the Goldfinch (*Spinus tristis*) and 93 nests of the Song Sparrow (*Melospiza melodia*). From the data presented below it appears to me that one must conclude that in two of the former and one of the latter nests, two birds hatched from single eggs.

On April 27, 1946, I found a Song Sparrow nest containing four eggs. There were still four eggs on May 5, but the next day the nest contained two eggs, two nestlings (about the same size), and about one-half of an intact egg (the pointed end) containing a fully-formed, but dead, embryo. This embryo was about the same size as each of the two nestlings. On May 7, the nest still contained two eggs (which did not hatch) and two nestlings, but one of the latter was nearly twice the size of the other. The smaller nestling disappeared between 6:00 p.m., May 8, and 7:45 a.m., May 9. The larger nestling fledged on May 16. It seems likely that the smaller nestling was one of the twins. It is interesting to note that when I inspected the nest on the day that the eggs hatched (May 6), all egg shell had been removed from the nest except for the half containing the dead embryo.

P. B. Hofslund called my attention to a female Goldfinch constructing a nest on July 11, 1949. The nest contained two eggs on July 21; five eggs on July 25 and 28, and August 3. When I inspected the nest on August 4, I found four young birds and two eggs. There were six young in the nest on August 6, but on August 15, there were only four. These fledged on August 20.

On August 11, 1949, I found a Goldfinch nest with five heavily incubated eggs. Two days later there were four young (down still wet on one) and two eggs. Unfortunately, this nest was later destroyed (before August 15).

For passerine birds, I know of only one previous reference to twin embryos reaching the stage of hatching. Cartwright (Canad. Field Nat., 53, 1939:122) reported an egg of the Brown Thrasher (*Toxostoma rufum*) which was found on the ground below the nest. Cartwright stated that: "The embryos had reached the point of hatching, but had apparently been unable to break their way out