

FROM FIELD AND STUDY

Clark Nutcrackers Preying on Ground Squirrels and Chipmunks.—On April 19, 1935, a nest of the Clark Nutcracker (*Nucifraga columbiana*) was found in the lower branches of a juniper tree on a warm south slope near the shore line of Gull Lake, Mono County, California. After waiting two and a half hours the parent nutcrackers arrived and proceeded to brood the three shivering youngsters in the nest. Following a few minutes of brooding, a parent bird began regurgitating square-shaped chunks of fresh meat and fed each young until it refused any further food. We were puzzled as to where the parent bird could have obtained this fresh meat.

As we left the nest we heard a commotion on a slope beyond a slight rise in the ground. Hurrying there to see what was going on, we found an adult nutcracker battling with a Belding ground squirrel (*Citellus beldingi*). The nutcracker soon won the battle. We stood within 25 feet of the bird and watched it skin back the hide from the carcass of the squirrel and proceed to tear off the fresh meat in square chunks. In a very short time the nutcracker had finished the job of tearing off the meat from the squirrel. It then flew away in the direction of the nest we had found.

Our field notes show that on this same trip we saw two instances of the nutcrackers attacking chipmunks. In one case the nutcracker killed the chipmunk and ate it. In the other case the chipmunk escaped. This is the only season in which we have ever observed such action on the part of the nutcrackers in the twenty-six years we have spent in the area. In 1935 there was an unusually large number of nesting nutcrackers in this part of Mono County.—JAMES B. DIXON, *Escondido, California, May 6, 1956.*

A Collection of Panamanian Nests and Eggs.—A small collection of Panamanian nests and eggs acquired by the Chicago Natural History Museum several years ago contains a number of specimens that are noteworthy, either by virtue of their uniqueness or because there is need for further information relating to the breeding habits of the species represented. The specimens described here were collected approximately 5400 feet above sea level on the slopes of Volcán de Chiriquí, a classic collecting locality, by Señor T. B. Mönniche, proprietor of Finca Lerida, Boquete. A report on some 1600 bird skins collected in the same region by Señor Mönniche approaches completion and will be published later by the Chicago museum.

Oreopeleia linearis chiriquensis. White-faced Quail-Dove. A nest collected on August 24, 1950, is constructed of twigs from a coffee tree and coarse roots loosely arranged in the form of a very crude platform lined medially with somewhat finer roots; the diameter is 14 inches. This nest, located eight feet above the ground on a bent primary branch of a coffee tree, was partly supported by a mass of smaller branches. The nest material is surprisingly coarse. One twig is 30 inches long and has a maximum diameter of $\frac{1}{4}$ inch. The two eggs are deep creamy white, with a slight gloss, and measure 33.7×24.9 and 32.4×25.1 mm. Incubation was advanced. It is noteworthy that two Costa Rican nests mentioned by Carriker (*Annals Carnegie Museum*, 6, 1910:408) contained fresh eggs as late as September 16.

Phaethornis guy coruscus. Green Hermit. A nest collected on May 9, 1932, is cone-shaped and slightly flattened on one side where attached to a palm leaf. It is made almost wholly of very fine plant fibres and grass intermixed with moss near the rim of the cup. The inside of the cup is lined with feathery seeds of a vine. Dimensions of the nest are 3×8 inches, the cup being $1\frac{1}{4}$ inches in diameter and $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches deep. The nest was firmly attached by means of a thin network of exceedingly fine fibres to the underside of the tip of a palm leaf which served as a roof to the cup. The two dull white eggs, accidentally destroyed, measured 17×11 and 18×11 mm. Incubation was advanced (Mönniche notes).

According to Mönniche, a large number of Chiriqui hummingbirds adopt a nesting site similar to the one described here and Worth (*Auk*, 59, 1942:367) has previously reported a Green Hermit nest of this type.

Selasphorus scintilla. Scintillant Hummingbird. Three nests with incubated eggs were collected on November 4 and December 12, 1932. These nests are similar in general appearance—compact, cup-shaped structures of moss, more or less covered with lichens; but their respective bowls are lined with