

the sexes, a point which apparently has not previously been noticed. Males have the pileum and hind neck darker and more slaty; females are browner in this respect, and with the dark area less extensive. These differences are rather noticeable in *gossii* and *hendersoni*, less so in *flaviventer* and *bangsi*.

Material is gratefully acknowledged from the Museum of Comparative Zoology and the United States National Museum. It is distributed as follows: *flaviventer*, Surinam, 2; *bangsi*, Colombia, 2; *gossii*, Cuba, 5, Jamaica, 8; *hendersoni*, Haiti, 3 including the type, Porto Rico, 1.—A. J. VAN ROSSEM, *California Institute of Technology, Pasadena, California, June 30, 1934.*

Nests of the Townsend Solitaire.—While doing intensive field work for the U. S. Department of Agriculture in 1931, I experienced the good fortune of finding four nests of the Townsend Solitaire (*Myadestes townsendi*). These nests were all located on the headwaters of Guernsey Creek, sixteen miles east of Mineral, California.

As I walked slowly up a gradual slope on a ridge covered with both sugar and yellow pine, a solitaire flushed from almost beneath my feet. It fluttered on the ground for about twenty-five feet and then slipped off without uttering any noise. I found the nest near-by on the ground and within an open "catface" or fire scar of a small yellow pine. It was protected by the tree on three sides. The nest was made of grass, with a diameter of about four inches. Three young birds in the nest were without feathers. This was on June 29. As we were passing over a large territory that day I was forced to leave the site without making further observations. The elevation was approximately 5100 feet.

The next day while climbing a cliff about 200 feet lower than the above-mentioned elevation I discovered a solitaire's nest in the crevice in the cliff. The nest was almost inaccessible without ropes. The crevice was about thirty feet above a steep talus slope that gradually tapered off, until it was replaced by a mixed conifer forest that was separated in the center of the valley by the main highway. The crevice was so difficult to reach that I could not ascertain whether there were eggs or young in the nest.

On July 17 I again found a solitaire's nest in a niche in a cliff that rose fifteen feet vertically from a talus slope that headed a small dry draw. The elevation was approximately 4650 feet. The bird slipped off the nest without a sound and flew, rather nervously but silently, from one tree branch to another. These perches always commanded a view of the face of the cliff and the nest.

My fourth solitaire's nest was in a very picturesque location. It was located on the ground under a boulder that formed a roof over it, the boulder being partly exposed on a steep slope. The nesting site was surrounded by firs and pines that towered silently above a spring which made the small canyon, surrounded by cliffs, a sight that would make the most calloused mountaineer want to linger a moment.

The nest was three and one-half inches in diameter, and constructed of pine needles. There were two young birds in the nest. They had brownish down and red bodies with a black stripe down the back. It took many hours of patient watching to locate this fourth nest. The silent solitaires, flying from branch to branch, watching me, an intruder, made the silence of the woods more silent, and left an impression that will long be remembered.—ARTHUR F. HALLORAN, *Berkeley, California, January 9, 1934.*

The American Knot in the San Francisco Bay Region.—The American Knot (*Calidris canutus rufus*) is a rather uncommon migrant in the San Francisco Bay area, particularly in the spring months. In general, it occurs in limited numbers or singly. It was a distinct surprise, therefore, to find Knots in numbers, this May, along the bay shore of Alameda and Contra Costa counties, California. Groups of from six to thirty individuals, aggregating about one hundred birds, were found along a mile of mud flat between Fleming and Isabel Points, from May 4 to 11, 1934. This region lies within the city limits of Albany, Alameda County, and El Cerrito, Contra Costa County.

The Knots flocked mainly in the company of Western Sandpipers (*Ereunetes mauri*), Red-backed Sandpipers (*Pelidna alpina sakhalina*), and Sanderlings (*Croce-*