

**Cyanocitta stelleri frontalis Nesting in Holes in Trees.**—While collecting birds and their eggs in company with my brother, Capt. B. F. Goss, in the spring of 1884, in the vicinity of Julian, California, we found quite a number of the nests of the Blue-fronted Jay, and in all cases but one in holes and trough-like cavities in trees and stubs, ranging from four to fifty feet from the ground, generally ten to twenty feet up. The nest found outside was built upon a large horizontal limb of an oak close beside a gnarl, the sprout-like limbs of which thickly covered the nest overhead, and almost hid it from view below.

From our knowledge of the breeding habits of the family we looked for their nests on trees and bushes, and spent days in climbing over and up and down the hills and mountain-sides, carefully examining every spot that seemed to us a natural nesting place, but without success, though often finding nests of the California Jay (*Aphelocoma californica*); and I am inclined to think we should have returned without their eggs had I not, in suddenly coming to the top of a hill, discovered a pair of the birds hopping over the ground and picking up bits of sticks, which they dropped on seeing me, and flew away. Here was a pointer, and to remove any suspicion that their actions had been observed, I did not halt for a moment or change my course, but walked leisurely on until well out of sight, then swung back around the hill, and cautiously approached a ledge of rocks over-looking the ground and concealed myself behind them. On peeping out I saw the birds busily hopping about picking up material for a nest; they soon flew with it, both together or nearly so, directly to, or rather into, an opening or hollow near the base of a large tree. After watching them make a few trips I stole away and hastened to inform my brother of the lucky find. It was a surprise to us both.

The nests are quite bulky, made loosely of sticks, stems of weeds, and lined with fibrous rootlets and grasses, and as they are all built at or near the opening, the tell-tale sticks project and make the finding of their nests an easy matter. Measurements of the first two sets of eggs taken, viz., May 19: 1.20 × .87, 1.20 × .88, 1.21 × .88; May 21: 1.22 × .88, 1.15 × .86, 1.19 × .86, 1.16 × .85. Color light blue, speckled and spotted with dark brown, rather thickest at large end. — N. S. Goss, *Topeka, Kansas.*

**The First Nest and Eggs of Eremophila alpestris found in Niagara County, N. Y.**—If there is one nest which I have looked for more than for another, it is the nest of the Horned Lark. From early in March till late in May, for the past five years, I have searched in vain. On the 17th of June, 1884, while collecting in the town of Porter, Niagara County, I was fortunate in securing the coveted prize. I was in company with a young farmer, and, as we were returning from our forenoon's tramp, he asked what bird it was, with a black throat, which he saw early in the morning and late in the afternoon, running in the road, and which breeds three times a year. I asked him if it ran or hopped, and how he knew

it bred three times a year. He answered that it always ran, and that he had seen young birds in April, June, and August. I told him that it undoubtedly was the Horned Lark, which was getting to be quite common in this vicinity, and also added, "Have you ever found its nest?" He did not know with certainty, but thought he knew where there was one, and took me to it. The nest was built in the side of a manure heap in the field, and contained four fresh eggs. I secured the male bird only, not having time to secure the female. But I was content to get what I did; and I know that I am safe in saying it is the first nest and eggs of *E. alpestris* secured in Niagara County, and think I might also include Orleans County. A week later the young man sent me a young bird alive, just from a nest, which I killed and sent to Dr. A. K. Fisher, who pronounced it 'a jewel.' I secured a number of young birds in July, but did not succeed in finding any August broods; and but for the assertion of my young friend that he had seen them in that month, I should not have expected to find them; but I am quite certain that I saw birds after the 5th of July that were breeding.—J. L. DAVISON, *Lockport, N. Y.*

**The Swallow-tailed Flycatcher in Manitoba and at York Factory.**—The Swallow-tailed Flycatcher (*Milvulus forficatus*) is such a characteristically southern bird, that its accidental occurrence in Manitoba is worthy of note. Last January I was shown a splendid specimen taken at Portage la Prairie by Mr. Nash. He found it lying dead on the prairie in the October of 1884. In addition to this record I quote the following rather startling statement from the 'Report' on the Hudson's Bay by Professor Bell of the Canadian Geological Survey, 1882. "But the most singular discovery in regard to geographical distribution is the finding of the Scissors-tail or Swallow-tailed Flycatcher (*Milvulus forficatus* Sw.) at York Factory . . . The specimen in the Government Museum was shot at York Factory in the summer of 1880 and I have learned since that these remarkable birds were occasionally seen at the posts of the Hudson's Bay Company, all the way west to the Valley of the Mackenzie River."

The once surprising New Jersey record is now somewhat eclipsed.—ERNEST E. T. SETON, *Toronto, Canada.*

**Food of the Hummingbird (*Trochilus colubris*).**—Somewhere it has been stated, that the Hummingbird derives the most of its nourishment from the minute insects which adhere to the nectar of flowers, and which are taken with the honey. Undoubtedly many insects are thus secured, and furnish their share of nutriment to the species, but in the following account of a Hummer in confinement, kindly furnished to me by Miss Hattie Brubaker, it will be seen that insects are not wholly essential to the maintenance of life, in *Trochiluscolubris* at least.

The bird, she writes, was taken September 1, near De Pere, Wis., and thrived nicely until October 28, when it met an untimely death. After