

an advertisement in a local paper, offering to pay a good cash price for several sets of eggs of the Sage Grouse. In a few days a small country lad stood in Mr. Forrer's presence offering a set of nine eggs of the desired species. Mr. Forrer accepted these, paid the stipulated price and the lad returned to his country home. The next day the lad brought two more sets which were also taken. Two days later more sets were brought! Mr. Forrer's suspicions were then aroused and after a critical examination it was decided that the eggs were frauds and they were thereupon destroyed. Mr. Forrer gained in experience, while the boy was richer by several dollars as the result of a clever imitation which could not have been done so neatly except by one who knew the bird and its eggs well. I had the pleasure of examining one of these eggs which Mr. Forrer saved for future reference. I concluded it was the egg of a small breed of chicken, carefully wrapped in cloth having small, irreg-

ular markings, and by applying vinegar the print was left on the shell of the egg.

Mr. Forrer was widely known in Europe as well as in the United States among the older naturalists, but less so with the younger generation, since in his later years active field work was abandoned, excepting, perhaps, in shells, star-fish and sea mosses. The seashore about Santa Cruz offered many advantages in these branches. I have seen Mr. Forrer, accompanied by his wife, collecting the beauties that lurked among the rocks as the tide went out, on many occasions. In the death of Alfonso Forrer we lose a noted naturalist, one who has been a friend to many a struggling youth in helping him along the difficult path to a better knowledge of avian life, the beauties of the sea and the freedom that can be enjoyed in nature study.

GEO. F. BRENINGER.

Phoenix, Arizona, May 21, 1899.

Some Summer Birds of Palamar Mountains, from the Notes of J. Maurice Hatch.

BY RICHARD C. MCGREGOR.

THIS list of birds, observed by Mr. Hatch on the Palamar Mountains, between June 16 and 21, 1897, has been arranged from notes which he sent me for use in the state list. The mountains have an altitude of 5000 to 6000 feet and are covered with firs, oaks and cedars. Ferns and underbrush of various kinds abound. Numerous small streams of water are present.

- 1 *Oreortyx pictus plumiferus*.—Fairly common. A nest found June 19, contained five well incubated eggs.
- 2 *Lophortyx californica vallicola*.—Common at western base of the mountains. A female taken June 16 had an egg in the oviduct.
- 3 *Columba fasciata*.—About 100 birds seen near western base of mountains on June 15.
- 4 *Zenaidura macroura*.—Common at western base of mountains. One young in the nest found June 15.
- 5 *Pseudogryphus californianus*.—Breeds. One seen on the 16th and four more two days later.
- 6 *Cathartes aura*.—Quite common both

at the base and on the summit.

- 7 *Buteo borealis calurus*.—One pair seen on the summit.
- 8 *Falco sparverius deserticolus*.—Fairly common on the summit of the mountains where it probably breeds.
- 9 *Melanerpes formicivorus bairdi*.—Very common at this time of the year. Some young birds and adult males were collected, the latter having the testes very large.
- 10 *Colaptes cafer*.—Fairly common summer resident.
- 11 *Calypte costæ*.—A few pairs seen.
- 12 *Calypte anna*.—A few pairs seen.
- 13 *Myiarchus cinerascens*.—A few seen. One taken on the 19th.
- 14 *Contopus richardsonii*.—Common. Nests from 25 to 50 feet from the ground. Two nests collected contained two and three eggs respectively.
- 15 *Otocoris alpestris chrysolæma*.—A few pairs seen on the western slope of the mountains.
- 16 *Cyanocitta stelleri frontalis*.—Common. Both young of the year and new nest

- found.
- 17 *Corvus americanus*.—A few seen at west side and 18 five miles east of the summit, feeding on the myriads of grasshoppers that were present.
 - 18 *Sturnella magna neglecta*.—Common in the mountain meadows.
 - 19 *Iterus cucullatus nelsoni*.—Common at western base and on the top of the mountains.
 - 20 *Scolecophagus cyanocephalus*.—A few young of the year seen.
 - 21 *Carpodacus purpureus californicus*.—Scarce. Very shy and difficult to approach.
 - 22 *Carpodacus mexicanus frontalis*.—A small flock and a few pairs seen near an orchard. Four fresh eggs taken on the 19th.
 - 23 *Chondestes grammacus strigatus*.—Fairly common.
 - 24 *Spizella socialis arizonæ*.—A few pairs seen.
 - 25 *Junco hyemalis thurberi*.—Abundant. Nestlings and new nests observed on the 19th.
 - 26 *Pipilo maculatus megalonyx*.—Common. Fresh eggs collected.
 - 27 *Zamelodia melanocephala*.—Fairly common. Young were seen, just able to fly.
 - 28 *Cyanospiza amena*.—Common. Probably breeds.
 - 29 *Piranga ludoviciana*.—Few seen. A male was taken in breeding plumage and with greatly enlarged testes.
 - 30 *Petrochelidon lunifrons*.—A few pair.
 - 31 *Tachycineta thalassina*.—Common. Breeding in natural cavity of trees.
 - 32 *Phainopepla nitens*.—Common at western base of mountains where they were eating alder berries. One nest in course of construction was found.
 - 33 *Vireo gilvus*.—Common at summit.
 - 34 *Dendroica æstiva*.—Fairly common.
 - 35 *Troglodytes aedon aztecus*.—Very abundant, more than twenty nests containing young being observed.
 - 36 *Certhia familiaris occidentalis*.—Rare.
 - 37 *Sitta carolinensis aculeata*.—Common.
 - 38 *Parus inornatus*.—A large flock noted on the mountain side.
 - 39 *Parus gambeli*.—Common.
 - 40 *Sialia mexicana occidentalis*.—Common. Set of four eggs taken on the 17th.

Observations on the American Raven in Southern California.

BY C. B. LINTON, WHITTIER, CAL.

DURING my collecting experience I have found the American Raven (*Corvus corax sinuatus*) nesting in almost every range of foot-hills in Los Angeles and neighboring counties. Although it is being continually driven deeper into the wildest and most inaccessible portions of its former haunts by the encroachment of civilization, it is still abundant in certain localities. In the Puente hills of Los Angeles County I have taken numerous sets of eggs of the American Raven in the past four years. A tramp of a day or two through this range will reveal to the collector dozens of large, compact nests now unused excepting by an occasional Great Horned Owl or Western Redtail, whereas they were formerly occupied by ravens.

In February, 1895, I found my first pair of ravens putting the finishing touches to a huge nest built on a ledge of rock about fifty feet from the bottom of a ninety foot cliff. I was greatly discouraged at first as this nest seemed

inaccessible, but on March 14 I persuaded a friend to climb to it, and he being experienced in the art, reached the nest without difficulty and secured a handsome set of five fresh eggs, which measured 2.09x1.37; 2.06x1.37; 2.04x1.35; 1.88x1.31 and 1.79x1.28. In color they were bluish-green, heavily covered with blotches of dark brown and quite similar to eggs of the American Crow. A set of four slightly incubated eggs was taken from this nest on March 28 and I procured another set of six eggs from a neighboring cliff on April 20, evidently from the same pair of birds. The eggs of this set vary greatly in size and coloration, one being very small and slightly marked.

I have noticed quite an oddity in three sets of eggs taken from a pair of birds in 1897. Each egg has a "knob" on the larger end, making the series quite a curiosity, and I have noticed the same deformity in a set taken this season (1899) from a new nest near the