

Nesting Notes from Los Angeles, Cal. SNOWY PLOVER (*Aegialitis nivosa*), Redondo, Los Angeles Co., Cal., Apr. 25, 1899. Set of three taken. Incubation so far advanced that the set could not be saved. The earliest nesting date noted in Mr. Grinnell's "List of the Birds of Los Angeles Co.," is May 1, 1897.

AMERICAN BITTERN (*Botaurus lentiginosus*). Alamitos, Los Angeles Co., Cal., May 14, 1899. While tramping through the marsh at the north-east end of Alamitos Bay an American Bittern was flushed and upon search a nest containing three eggs was found. The nest was composed of dry marsh grass and lined with finer grass of the same variety; it was nearly flat on top with only a slight depression in the center to hold the eggs in place. The eggs were fresh. This is the first instance on record of this bird breeding in Los Angeles Co.

MARSH HAWK (*Circus hudsonius*). Alamitos, May 14, 1899. A nest containing five young was found by Mr. H. J. Leland in a bunch of weeds and nettles, surrounded by marsh grass which had recently been cut with a mowing machine, the operator being kind enough to leave the nest and young birds alone. A few of the weeds had been broken down to a height of about eight inches, on which a nest of coarse sticks and straw was placed. The nest was flat on top and measured fourteen inches across. The young ranged in size from a little downy fellow to one nearly quarter-grown.

COMMON TURNSTONE (*Arenaria interpres*). I have an immature bird of this species taken at Long Beach on Aug. 24, 1897. Mr. Grinnell in his list does not note the occurrence of this bird in Los Angeles Co.

HOWARD ROBERTSON, Sta. A. Los Angeles, Cal.

Notes on the Black Swift in Monterey Co., Cal. While spending a few days in Monterey Co. on a fishing trip last June I secured several skins of the Black Swift and noted one or two things in their actions that might prove of interest. The birds were seen principally on the tops of the high ridges in company with Western Martins. The rapidity with which they flew caused many exclamations of astonishment from our party and made our necks tired from continual twisting to keep two birds in sight at once. My companion, Mr. F. H. Holmes, remarked that a "rubber neck" would be a great convenience to any one watching the swifts. One moment a bird would be directly over us and in a few seconds perhaps be a half mile away. Judging from the company they kept I am inclined to think they nest in trees with the martins rather than in the cliffs with the White-throated Swifts.

The latter species seemed to keep more in the canons, flying and circling about near the cliffs. I climbed up and had the pleasure of looking into the crack of a cliff where one or two of their nests were hidden, but could not possibly see or obtain the eggs which were probably in several feet. Three or four Audubon's? Hermit Thrushes were heard singing, usually about dark, high up in the thick redwoods. A lonely Cal. Vulture was seen two or three times sailing about near the summit of the range. While coming home along the sea coast a flock of 40 or 50 Heermann's Gulls was noted flying north close to shore.

R. H. BECK, Berryessa, Cal., Aug. 14, '99.

Notes from Los Angeles, Cal. *Spizella breweri*. On May 2, 1899, a great many Brewer's Sparrows were observed in the San Fernando Valley. The majority of those seen were in pairs, and the males were generally sitting on the tops of the bushes, singing. On May 24 we revisited the place and while they were not as numerous as before, quite a number were seen. One nest was found containing three young. It was built in a candle cactus near the main stem and about one foot from the ground, and was composed mainly of small rootlets and was not apparently lined with any finer material. The young were only a day or two old.

*Zonotrichia leucophrys*. Although this bird has not been recorded from Los Angeles County before, I believe that it is of regular occurrence here, though probably not in any great numbers. On April 22, 1898, I shot an adult female from a