

Nesting Notes from Los Angeles, Cal. SNOWY PLOVER (*Aegialitis nivos*a), 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 lentiginos*us). 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

flock of Intermediate Sparrows. On April 26, 1899, I secured another, also a female, and on March 29, 1899, I saw one which I did not shoot. It was feeding in the yard with the chickens and as I was within ten feet of it I could easily distinguish it from the Intermediate Sparrows about.

Junco hyemalis. On Nov. 3, 1898, I shot two Slate-colored Juncos, both males. These two birds were by themselves, though I saw a large flock of Thurber's Juncos but a short distance from where I secured them.

Coccothraustes vespertinus montanus. On Oct. 30, 1898, on the summit of Mt. Wilson, I secured two adult female Western Evening Grosbeaks. No others were seen during the two days we remained in the locality.

Sitta canadensis. In the fall of 1898 I found the Canada Nuthatch comparatively abundant in the vicinity of Los Angeles. I shot the first on Sept. 16 and was very much surprised at finding this species so far from the mountains. A few days later I secured another and from then on they were seen almost daily until about the middle of October when they disappeared. Mr. Robertson informs me that he saw one in a pepper tree at the extreme end of Point Firmin on Sept. 8, 1898.

ALBINOS. *Zonotrichia leucophrys intermedia*. I shot a partial albino Intermediate Sparrow on Feb. 5, 1899. This bird is normal except for the tail, which is white with a dusky bar across it near the tip. One tail feather is normal in color and is about $\frac{1}{8}$ inch longer than the others.

Agelaius phoeniceus. On May 7, 1899, I saw a male Redwinged Blackbird, with almost all the primaries and secondaries of each wing, pure white. I did not shoot it and have seen it several times since in the same place, where there is a colony breeding.
H. S. SWARTH, Bradbury Blk., Los Angeles, Cal.

Nesting of the California Cuckoo. Six o'clock in the evening of June 17, 1899, found me trudging wearily along the bank of a running stream about ten miles north of San Jose. I had been out all day and having had poor luck had given up collecting and was walking back the wagon road along the creek bank to my horse. Between the stream and the road is a growth of young willow and maple trees into which I cast occasional glances. Hearing a rustle, and seeing a bird leave a clump of willows I stopped, and noticed a nest near the top of one of the trees, and took it to be a nest of the Black-headed Grosbeak. One of the boys who was with me climbed to the nest and reported three plain blue eggs, which I at once concluded were eggs of the California Cuckoo.

The bird left the vicinity and did not return, but the glance I had of her as she left the trees was enough to assure me that my identification was correct. The nest was at the top of a small willow, in a fork, nine feet from the ground and was a very frail structure, composed of twigs, straw and rootlets, well hollowed, and sparingly lined with fine grasses. The eggs are three in number, greenish-blue in color and very much resemble eggs of the Yellow-billed Cuckoo in my collection. One of them was fresh, the others slightly incubated. The same day I found a shell of an egg of this species on the ground, which had evidently been hatched, but a half hour's search failed to reveal the nest. At another place a bird was seen so I conclude that they breed sparingly in the locality every year.
WM. L. ATKINSON, Santa Clara, Cal. Aug. 13, '99.

Notes from Alameda, Cal. Oct. 6, 1898, I took a Western Winter Wren, the third I ever noted in this district. Shot a ♀ Californian Thrasher that was singing, perched on top of a bush. Like many others of its kind it was covered with vermin, especially on the neck and breast. Perhaps the bird's bill is so long as to prevent it reaching these parts. Does the ♀ usually sing?

American Pipits were noted sparingly on the Coast Range Mts. along the boundary of Alameda and Contra Costa counties on April 1. These were late to migrate or were possibly about to breed there. Long-tailed Chats were common as usual in localities visited this season, but the birds were seldom seen on account