

When the Jays are actually destroying a crop of peas or corn, I have learned to poison a good many by coating some of the grain with a thin solution of glue into which strychnine has been stirred and scattering this on the surface of the field. They will pick up a grain or two now and then, and it does not take many to prove fatal. This can only be done with large grains like peas or corn, as otherwise a great many other birds would suffer also. Even then a number of coons, skunks etc., eat the dead jays and pay the penalty. However this system of poisoning is only resorted to when a matter of absolute necessity to save a crop.

It is worthy of note that the Blue-fronted Jays, in the instance of robbing the pea fields, are as numerous as the California Jays, while two or three weeks later, or in the middle of April, the former will have nearly all disappeared, while the latter remain numerous all through the breeding season. The Blue-fronted Jays apparently scatter widely among the heavily timbered hills and breed in the thick clumps of bay, or in the tall firs and redwoods, returning with their young to the bottom lands, however, in ample time to destroy as much fruit in our small family orchards as they possibly can.

JOSEPH MAILLIARD.

San Geronimo, Marin Co., Cal.



### Nest and Eggs of the California Creeper.

Having noticed but little definite information concerning the nesting of the California Creeper (*Certhia f. occidentalis*), I submit the following notes on a nest and five eggs which were collected for me by Mr. Loren E. Taylor of Fyffe, Cal. The California Creeper is a summer resident of the redwood belt of the Coast Range of California, as also of the great pine region of the Sierra Nevada Mountains, in both of which localities it is to be classed as common. Nevertheless, the eggs have remained scarce

in collections for years, owing to the fact that the nest is a difficult one to locate in the forest, and as with many other species, it is most successfully found by watching the bird carrying building material.

On April 16, 1898, Mr. Taylor observed a pair of Creepers building in a crack of a dead pine stub about three feet from the ground and six inches back from the surface. The nest with its five eggs were collected on April 30 by Mr. Taylor who kindly presented them to me. The nest was simply a mat of fine cedar bark with which was mixed a few feathers, and measures about five inches long by two inches across and a depth of one and one-half inches.

The eggs have a white ground color and are liberally spotted with flakes and confluent blotches of reddish-brown, nearest the large ends, with underlying shell markings of lavender. The eggs measure .60x.48, .58x.47, .58x.46, .57x.46 and .57x.45 inches. This set is now in the possession of Miss Jean Bell of Ridley Park, Penn. C. BARLOW.



To those of our readers who appreciate a "thing of beauty" in typographical art, we recommend *Sunset*, a beautifully printed and illustrated magazine issued by the Southern Pacific Company monthly. *Sunset* is probably the finest printed magazine on the Pacific Coast, each number being replete with half-tones of California's resources which are entertainingly embellished by the pens of gifted contributors. *Sunset* is a pleasure to look at and to read, and those interested should address E. H. Woodman, Editor, 4 Montgomery St., San Francisco.

MR. CHAS. A. MOODY of the Southern Division has two delightful essays on the wild flowers of California in the February and March numbers of the *Land of Sunshine*, both of which reflect Mr. Moody's intimate knowledge of botany.