

their nesting habits, so I nearly wrecked my first set which I came upon by chance. We were walking along slowly and upon passing a decayed stump I struck idly at a rough opening in the side with my machete. It was a rude hole which looked as if it might have served a woodpecker sometime in the remote past, so my surprise may be imagined. The whole front of the excavation crumbled away under the blow revealing the two pearly white eggs on the verge of the nest.

The bird had not been seen to leave the nest, so I replaced the eggs carefully and fitted back the pieces which had been struck from the front of the nest, holding them in place by a piece of vine which I wrapped about the stump several times. A few days later by approaching the nest cautiously the bird flushed, proving to be *Trogon caligatus*. She had again settled down in her wrecked home as though nothing had happened. This was April 25, 1898; eggs fresh.

Another set of two eggs was found May 29, 1898 with embryos begun, near the edge of the woods in a decayed stump fifteen feet up. Another set of two eggs on May 12, 1899, incubation fresh; opening to nest, eight feet up. The nest is always a rough hollow in the most decayed or crumbling, punky stumps. The hollow is usually six or eight inches in diameter and is but a few inches lower than the opening, with no lining.

The Mexican name of the trogon is *Cabo*, which sounds a little like his call, consisting of two notes, the first a little higher than the second. It may be imitated by a low whistle, and sounds but little lower when one is 150 yards from the bird than when under the tree from which the sound proceeds.

When one is near to the bird, the sound seems to come first from one direction and then another, and the bird may readily be thought to be fifty feet away instead of at hand. The trogon's nest was the last find of the day, and at

about 2 o'clock the inevitable thunderstorm came up, sending us back to the plantation, a water-soaked party of collectors.



### Song of *Zonotrichia coronata*.

IN REPLY to Mr. Lyman Belding's query in THE CONDOR (Vol. 3, No. 2.), I can state positively that the Golden-crowned Sparrow (*Zonotrichia coronata*) is not an altogether silent bird in this neighborhood during its winter residence. Its song, if it may be dignified by such a title, consists of three notes given in a descending scale with intervals of thirds, or to express it differently *sol, mi, do*. The sound is that of a very high whistle, in fact so high that in imitating the bird it is necessary for me to make it with the tongue against the roof of the mouth, the lips apart. The notes are given very softly and yet are penetrating.

I have been accustomed to hearing this song since my boyhood, and yet until quite recently ascribed it to Gambel's Sparrow (*Z. leucophrys gambeli*). One evening at the California Academy of Sciences Mr. Chas. A. Keeler imitated this song and claimed that it was that of *Z. coronata*. A discussion on this point led me to observe these two species very closely during the past winter, and I now acknowledge that Mr. Keeler was right and I wrong.

The song is given when the bird is either on the top of a low bush or within the bush near the outside. As the two species invariably flock together during their residence in this neighborhood, and as it very difficult to distinguish the immature *gambeli* from *coronata* at any distance, when both kinds are banded together, especially when partially hidden by foliage, a great deal of watching was necessary to enable me to establish the identity of the songster. Many an attempt failed through my not being able even to discover which individual of the flock was

singing; as any near approach would not only mean the cessation of the song, but the disappearance of the birds into the bushes.

At last, however, perseverance conquered, and on two or three occasions I managed, with the aid of good field glasses, to discover the individual and to identify it with absolute certainty. This song only seems to be given in certain states of the weather, notably before or after a rain, and is repeated again and again, often being taken up by other birds of the same species with-in call. People living in country towns often call this the rain-bird, and have asked me what bird it was that made these sounds. They were familiar with the song and associated it with rain, but had never discovered the author of it.

JOSEPH MAILLIARD.

*San Geronimo, Marin Co., Cal.*

In reply to Mr. Belding's query in the March CONDOR (p. 44) concerning the song of *Zonotrichia coronata* in California, I would state that the species sings regularly and frequently about Palo Alto. This spring I have noticed the song particularly, and on April 14 Mr. Barlow and myself heard the characteristic notes at Sargent, Santa Clara Co. Mr. Grinnell tells me the song is indistinguishable from that used during the breeding season in the Kowak Valley, Alaska. The bird says, it is suggested, "Oh dear—me!"

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The captive Californian Condor owned by Frank H. Holmes of Berryessa, Cal. and known familiarly as 'Ben Butler' died recently from some undetermined cause. This condor had been in captivity for several years, having been secured when a nestling, and many Coast ornithologists had journeyed to Mr. Holmes' aviary at various times to watch the great bird, which captivity had subdued into a confiding pet.

## Summer School of Zoology at Pacific Grove.

The tenth session of the Hopkins Seaside Laboratory will begin Monday, June 10, at Pacific Grove, Cal, the course of instruction continuing six weeks and closing July 20. The following courses will be offered during the term: 1. A Course in General Zoology by Prof. Geo. C. Price of Stanford University; 2. An Elementary Course in Botany by Prof. Geo. J. Pierce; 3. An Advanced Course on the Structure and Physiology of the Algae by Prof. Pierce; 4. A Course in Embryology by Prof. Price; 5. A Course in Comparative Morphology and Histology of the Nervous System and Sense Organs by Prof. Frank M. McFarland; 6. An Advanced Course in Zoology by Prof. McFarland; 7. General Ornithology by Joseph Grinnell.

Ornithologist of the coast will be particularly interested in the last-named course, and the announcement that Mr. Grinnell will act as instructor carries with it the assurance that ornithology will be presented in its most interesting phases, together with a keen appreciation of its salient points, such as has always characterized Mr. Grinnell's work. Laboratory work will consist of practice in the identification of specimens and preparation of study-skins; study of plumage structures; and dissections to demonstrate the gross anatomy of a typical bird.

Field excursions will be undertaken to acquaint students with the notes and habits of the more common California species. Lectures will be given on distribution, migration, moult classification, and economic relations of birds. The endeavor will thus be to conduct a practical course of especial value to teachers in Nature Study. Pacific Grove is a seaside resort on the southern shore of Monterey Bay, two miles west of Monterey. It is reached by the Coast Division of the Southern Pacific Railway, and is about four hours distant from San Francisco. The coast line at this point offers every variety of rocky and sandy shores, and the variety and abundance of marine life is exceptionally great. The Laboratory is located on a low bluff immediately overlooking the beach. In its immediate vicinity are exceptionally fine collecting grounds.

We earnestly commend the course to Club members, as well as others interested in general zoology.



Wm. Steinbeck and A. W. Johnson on an outing into San Benito County during March, collected an interesting series of eggs of the Golden Eagle, their take consisting of  $\frac{2}{3}$  and 6-2.