

thorough washing and I thought "like Naaman, it must dip seven times." But no. It returned again and again until at the fifteenth it considered itself completely cleansed. Then the long, elaborate toilet had to be made.

On slowly descending through the crack in our broken bowl, I discovered a flock of Plumed Quail dusting in the dry earth below me. One was walking about, plume erect, keeping guard while the others enjoyed *their* bath. What beautiful birds, and how seldom we see them so low in the mountains, but here at the foot of Santiago Peak they over-lap the range of the Valley Quail. The Canyon Wren is again peering among the rocks for its dinner, and the bushes are alive with other feathered forms. But it is the season when arbor days are past and four walls must be endured, that bird pans are placed before the window and a

feed board spread with corn meal, brings all the members of the sparrow family. Townsends, the Gambel's and Golden-crowned Sparrows, California and Spurred Towhees and juncos are all here. The first rain brought a pair of Varied Thrushes. In the midst of the downpour the male was seen taking a bath in a pool near the house.

In December come flocks of Band-tailed Pigeons and juncos are more plentiful. But this, like Tennyson's song of the brook, might go on forever. But the winter sun *will* set and the Gambel's and Golden-crowned Sparrows open their evening concert. The Valley Quail come whirring into the trees above the arbor for a safe retreat, and the night is ushered in by the clear sweet warble of the Lark Sparrow, that in the quiet spot seems to add a benediction to these days of bird study.



## Echoes From the Field.

**Western Evening Grosbeak Again.** On April 29 at Angwin's Hotel near Saint Helena, Cal. I saw a flock of about thirty Western Evening Grosbeaks (*Coccothraustes v. montanus.*) They were observed the day following also. A Cassin's Vireo had built a nest in a walnut tree in front of the hotel. On April 20 I found a nest of the White-tailed Kite containing four eggs, incubation advanced. The nest was situated in a small live oak tree in a marsh, fourteen feet up.

F. C. CLARK, Napa, Cal.

**Early Nesting of the Red-bellied Hawk.** On March 22, 1901 I took a set of three finely-marked eggs of *Buteo lineatus elegans* from a nest in a blue-gum tree at 43 feet elevation. A set of two eggs had been taken from the same nest last year on April 15. The nest was made of small sticks and lined with willow twigs to which were attached the green leaves and blossoms. The nest also contained a few feathers from the parent bird. This, I believe is a very early nesting date for this species.

NELSON CARPENTER, Escondido, Cal.

**Parasites in Birds.** Judging from my experience, the Valley Partridge (*Lophortyx californicus vallicola*) is singularly free from parasites. I have taken the entrails from at least ten thousand of these birds which I have shot in many parts of California and Lower California without finding a worm of any kind in them. Hawks, owls and fish-eating birds are seldom free from worms. Of the latter the terns of the coast are more likely to be free from them than most other water birds, many of which are killed by worms, especially the Brown Pelican (*P. californicus.*) When preparing specimens I have often admired the wise discrimination of Moses in specifying the things that are clean and those that are unclean, though I could not see the necessity of prohibiting the eating of that which

died, nor why the Jew was authorized to sell the same to the stranger who was within his gates.

L. BELDING, Stockton, Cal.

**Curious Nest of Anna's Hummingbird.** On Feb. 23 I collected a nest of Anna's Hummingbird (*Calypte anna*) 60 feet up in the very top of a tall gum tree. The hummingbird had used one side of an old goldfinch's nest, and there she had a soft nest of feathers. This bird evidently had an eye for business, as the goldfinch's nest, cosy in itself only required a little lining. Unfortunately the one egg which the nest contained was broken in getting it down; the nest I regard as a "freak," as I have never heard of a hummingbird using any old nest except its own.

On April 5 a friend brought me two eggs of the Killdeer (*Ægialitis vocifera*) taken in the middle of a railroad track, directly between the ties. This track is the main one on the Santa Fe between Santa Monica and Los Angeles and at this place runs through the Ballona swamp. W. LEE CHAMBERS, Santa Monica, Cal.

**Breeding of the Western Robin in Lake Co., Cal.** From time to time I have been informed that the Western Robin (*Merula m. propinqua*) nested in Lake Co., at about the same elevation as Clear Lake, which is between 1400 and 1500 feet. I have long been anxious to verify this statement but until June 12 of this year had been unable to do so. On that date I was walking in the lower foothills when an old robin with food in its bill flew past me into a white-oak tree, when observing me, it began to screech most vociferously. Looking the tree over carefully I discovered a nearly fully-fledged young bird sitting upon one of the branches, and further search in near-by trees revealed another young robin. Neither flew well or willingly and were apparently not long out of the nest. Since the beginning of May I have noticed four distinct pairs of Western Robins; one pair on the ranch here whose two young I observed; another pair on the road to Upper Lake, whilst the two remaining pairs have frequented an orchard at Upper Lake. I have had the pleasure every Saturday since early in May of seeing one or more birds there, but have failed to discover a nest or other sign of their having bred.

A. W. JOHNSON, Upper Lake, Cal.

**Notes on the Loon, Evening Grosbeak and Broad-tailed Hummingbird.** While at the Hatchery on Battle Creek, California, in the fall of 1898, I secured a loon which came ashore entangled in the salmon seine. The specimen was taken alive and uninjured. Similar catches have been reported previously from the eastern United States. Dr. C. W. Richmond, who kindly identified the bird, pronounced it *Gavia imber*.

On February 24, 1901, Mr. Walter E. Bryant secured two specimens of *Coccythraustes v. montanus* at Santa Rosa, Cal., and tells me there were several others in the trees near his house.

Some time ago (*Auk*, XIV p. 91) I recorded the Broad-tailed Hummingbird (*Selasphorus platycercus*) from Oakland. While the record was correct, it had been reported previously for the state. Dr. J. G. Cooper took a female at Lake Tahoe many years ago (*Proc. Cal. Acad. Sci.* 1st ser, IV, p. 7). It is also reported from the Sequoia National Park and as common on the western slope of the Sierra Nevada in California opposite the head of Owen's River (*N. A. Fauna*, No. 7, p. 59).

R. C. MCGREGOR U. S. S. Pathfinder.



CHAS. W. BOWLES of Waldo, Oregon, writes of taking four sets of Black-throated Gray Warbler's eggs and a set  $\frac{1}{3}$  Pileated Woodpecker, thus confirming the suspicion that the Northwest is the oologist's paradise.