

unknown cause it was deserted and being exposed to the wind and weather soon decreased in size until now it is a mere platform of sticks, but still a relic of former days. Probably some day it will be repaired and made use of.

The nest is usually placed in the upright branches of an elm or oak, eight to fifty feet above the ground. Of the thirty-five nests that I have so far found, two-thirds are yearly reoccupied, but whether by the same pair of birds, I am unable to say. The birds are always careful in selecting a position where they are enabled to view the entire surrounding country with ease. When an intruder approaches, the parent immediately leaves without the slightest noise and is lost to view for a time. After a short while it returns with its mate and both alight on some nearby tree and watch the proceedings with much interest. Sometimes they will even alight on the same tree that contains the nest, while the intruder is examining the same. Again I have seen both birds flying about overhead, constantly uttering a loud guttural sound. Of the thirty-five nests that have come under my observation, thirty were composed solely of broomweed and without a lining, two were built of broomweeds and small briars, while the remaining three were built of various substances, such as corn husks, small sticks, broomweed, mesquite twigs and the like. Sometimes old nests of hawks are appropriated, and to these are added a few broomstraws, or weeds. Two and three eggs are laid, two being the usual complement. Surely few hawk, eagle, or vulture eggs present a greater diversity in coloration. The usual color is a light brown, which is marbled and clouded with various shades of darker brown. Some eggs are solid brown, some have a light chocolate ground, spotted and clouded with various shades of darker brown, and again I have seen eggs of a rich reddish brown. If washed in water when fresh they will readily lose color, and become a dirty white. On one occasion I found a nest containing two eggs of this species which were almost white. They had been exposed to much rain for the entire coloring was washed off. Incubation was well advanced and on this account I was unable to preserve them. Three eggs in my cabinet collected March 1, 1902, have a light brown ground color spotted, streaked and clouded with a darker shade of brown. They measure respectively 2.19 by 1.74; 2.23 by 1.82; 2.12 by 1.82 inches. The picture accompanying this article was taken by the writer in April 1902 in Caldwell county. The nest contained one fresh egg, which was left undisturbed and after two days a full set was secured.

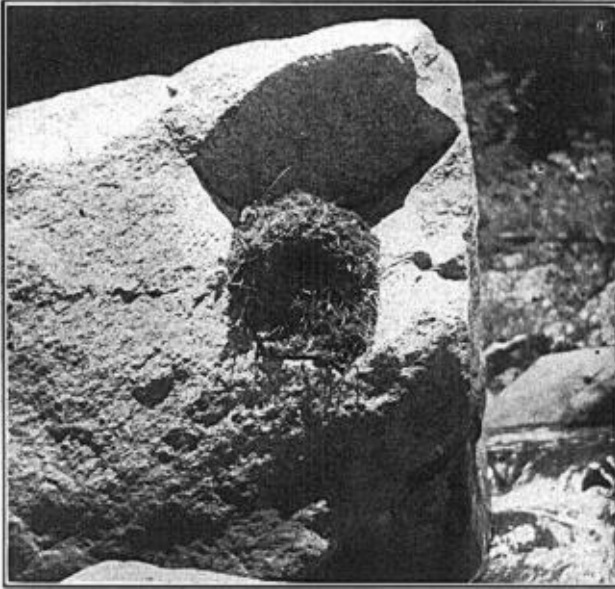
These birds do not thrive in captivity. I saw two in San Pedro Park, in San Antonio, last summer. They were in a very small cage and though full grown were much smaller than the birds which are at liberty. They were very active, and watched with much interest the people that were passing by.

FROM FIELD AND STUDY

Two Unusual Birds at Stanford University, Cal.—At the May meeting of the Cooper Club, Prof. John O. Snyder of Stanford University, exhibited a specimen and nest and eggs of the Sierra junco (*Junco h. thurberi*) which he had secured in the Stanford Arboretum. The nest was built between the loose bark and the trunk of an eucalyptus, several feet from the ground, a quite unusual position for a junco. One would naturally expect to find the Point Pinos junco, if any; but this specimen, compared with the type of the latter species turns out to be the inland bird. The other junco of the pair, or perhaps there is a little colony, was seen by the writer all through the spring, and as late as July 11, when it was observed perched head downward, drinking from a hydrant.

In the last issue of this magazine a little note was inserted stating that an olive-sided flycatcher (*Contopus borealis*) had taken up residence in the Stanford Arboretum. This bird, or

some other individual, was last seen June 26, perched on the topmost branch of a tall eucalyptus, where its loud call rang forth as in the coniferous forests of its usual summer home, the Transition and Canadian zones.—WALTER K. FISHER.



A WATER OUSEL'S NEST

A Water Ouzel's Nest.—The accompanying photograph of a water ouzel's nest (*Cinclus mexicanus*) was secured on the San Lorenzo, in Santa Cruz County, California. The nest was beautifully situated on the down-stream side of a big rock in the middle of rapids, where the water was boiling all around it. Although taken in 1897, the nest was so round and compactly built that it is in perfect shape to-day, and the moss has a green, fresh look. The inside of the nest is lined with twigs, strips of redwood bark, and bay leaves.—GEORGE S. TOWNE, *Palo Alto, Cal.*

Bell Sparrow (*Amphispiza belli*) in Santa Clara Co., California—On March 31, 1904, I took two specimens of Bell sparrow near the San Antonio Creek (locally known as Adobe Creek) in the foothills of Black Mountain (Monte Bello)

Santa Clara Co., California. At least two others of the same species were seen, and since the specimens secured proved to be male and female adults, with sex organs well developed and enlarged, it is very probable that the species breeds here.—HUBERT O. JENKINS, *Stanford Univ., Cal.*

Nesting Habits of the Rock Wren.—Noting Mrs. Bailey's most interesting article on the rock wren (*Salpinctes obsoletus*) permit me herewith to quote a few lines on this interesting wren from my note book.

During the years of 1898 and 1899, while sojourning in San Antonio, Texas, it was my good fortune to run across a colony of eight or ten pairs of rock wrens. Near the head of the San Antonio River in the northern suburbs of the city where the land is broken, of a limestone formation with almost no surface soil and covered with prickly pear and laurel, is quite an extensive lime-stone quarry. This, with its immediate environs, is the home of the colony of rock wrens, and was where I located and examined thirteen nests as follows: *Nest 1*, April 2, 1898; building in crevice in wall of quarry 20 feet up, the male assisting in its construction. This nest now before me, and which is typical of this colony, is composed outwardly of weed stalks and dead grasses with a heavy layer of fine rootlets, the inner nest being fairly well cupped and heavily lined with grayish goat hair. Inside diameter of this nest is $2\frac{3}{4}$ inches with a depth of $1\frac{1}{8}$ inches, the whole being placed in and upon a cup-shaped foundation or rim composed of numerous and various sized flat stones deposited by the birds, the interstices and uneven places on bottom of crevice being filled with these stones, forming a walk to the nest which was placed 8 inches in from face of wall. There must have been at least a half pint of these lime-stone chips, and it seems incredible how so small a bird with so slender a bill can carry stones of such a size and weight to such a height. Measurements of three of the larger stones before me are as follows: $2\frac{1}{8}$ by $\frac{3}{4}$ by $\frac{1}{4}$; $1\frac{1}{2}$ by 1 by $\frac{3}{8}$; $1\frac{3}{4}$ by $\frac{3}{4}$ by 3-16. In weight they each run something over one-fourth of an ounce. On April 15th this nest contained 6 eggs.

Nest 2, April 2, building. This nest was placed in a small cavity in a pile of loose refuse rock and debris 3 feet up, the material being practically identical with that of No. 1. This nest rested in a cup-shaped foundation of flat stones. No signs of a walk existed, possibly owing to lack of space. On April 26th nest contained 6 newly hatched young. During incubation the male was quite wary but very attentive to his mate, taking her all the most choice morsels in the way of small beetles. On April 7th I was rewarded by locating three nests. *Nest 3* con-