

The first case is a set of Green-backed Goldfinch (*Astragalinus psaltria hesperophilus*) taken near Escondido, San Diego County, California. There are three eggs in the set. Two are normal but the third is larger and thickly spotted about the broader end with many fine peppery spots. I found another set of three eggs of this species in 1905 in which every egg of the set was marked; but owing to the very advanced stage of incubation they were not collected.

In 1906 I found a nest of Lazuli Bunting (*Cyanospiza amoena*) in the midst of a patch of iron weed. It was only about a foot high from the ground and fastened to very slender stems. I flushed the bird but could not identify her as she darted thru the weeds. Upon looking into the nest I found four well-marked eggs. Altho I had collected for a number of years in this same locality I had never met with anything of this style before. I thought it must be something new, so quietly hid in some nearby willows to await the return of my bird. In about half an hour I saw her slipping thru the weeds and onto her nest, while her mate lit in a bush near by. To make sure of my own eyes I collected both birds, for I could hardly believe that they were Bunting eggs altho the birds were before me. The eggs were normal in every way except for the spots.

Last spring I discovered a Plain Titmouse's nest on the University campus. There were eight eggs in the cavity and all were more or less speckled with these same brown spots. They resemble very much the markings on a Black Phoebe egg.

Whether this subspecies of Titmouse, namely *Bæolophus inornatus inornatus* is in the habit of laying spotted eggs I cannot tell, for I have collected but one other set, and this was plain white. I doubt that the majority are anything but plain white. However, I shall watch with interest to see if this pair of birds return to last year's nesting site and lay spotted eggs.

It seems to me that here is a question for students of evolution: Are some of our birds which lay in the open going to lay spotted eggs in the distant future, or are these spots a remnant of the distant past. It would seem that spots on the eggs of birds which lay in cavities were of little benefit, hence the spotted Titmouse eggs may be remnants of the past; but who can tell?—NELSON K. CARPENTER, *Stanford University, California.*

Gray-headed Junco in the Cuyamaca Mountains, California.—On November 18, 1906, following a heavy snow-storm, at Julian, San Diego County, California, altitude 4100 feet, great numbers of Juncos appeared, altho one species, *Junco h. thurberi* was found in small numbers, since the early part of September. These flocks were made up of the species just named, and *Junco caniceps*, the last in the minority, but still in sufficient numbers to be noted in every flock. I left the mountains on December 3, and up to that time observed *Junco caniceps* almost daily.—AUSTIN PAUL SMITH, *Benson, Arizona.*

Passer domesticus.—In going thru a colony of Cliff Swallows two years ago, I found two sets of eggs of the English Sparrow. The sparrows had taken possession of the nests of the swallows when the outside walls were finished and furnished the interior to suit their own taste—a lining of a few straws, on which were laid, in one, a set of five eggs, in the other a set of six eggs.

A half block from my house in Santa Rosa, on Lincoln street, is a row of small maples at the edge of the sidewalk. On the third tree from the corner of Morgan street, there is a rotten stub two feet long with a woodpecker hole at the top end. In passing by on my way to work, last month, I several times flushed a bird from this stub, and was about ready to make a night attack on same, when one morning in passing by, I again flushed the bird. It stopped this time and perched in the tree close to the nest so that I got a good look at her. My desire to make the climb up the tree and cut off the stub for something rare was chilled. It was a female *Passer domesticus*.—H. F. DUPREY, *Santa Rosa, California.*

Correction.—In THE CONDOR for July, 1907, page 110, I recorded the "Mew Gull" as having been taken by me at Alamitos Bay, Los Angeles County, California, April 14, 1907. After careful comparison with examples in the collection of Mr. Grinnell, the specimen in question is now determined to be the Pacific Kittiwake (*Rissa tridactyla pollicaris*). In making the original erroneous record I was too hasty in forming an opinion.—C. B. LINTON, *Los Angeles, California.*