

gestive of some human gratitude. The old birds were shy and we had quite a little difficulty in getting photos of them. We arranged it, however, by setting the camera on a nest with a rock to keep it down and pulling the shutter with a long thread. The picture in this article, in which there are several old pelicans, was taken in this way. We spent several days with this interesting colony of cormorants and pelicans, collecting and taking notes and photos, all of which was done with difficulty, as the hillside on which the colony was situated was very steep and slippery from the ice-plant.

**Ardea herodias.** Great Blue Heron. Several seen but none taken.

**Heteractitis incanus.** Wandering Tattler. Several seen on South and Middle Islands.

**Arenaria melanocephala.** Black Turnstone. Several seen on South Island; none taken.

**Hæmatopus bachmani.** Black Oyster-catcher. Four seen on Middle Island; only one taken.

**Lophortyx californicus vallicola.** Valley Quail. I went out on the first day and took two before I discovered that there were only about forty on South Island. These specimens are very faded and worn. These birds ought not be disturbed at all.

**Falco peregrinus anatum.** Duck Hawk. There were three pairs on South and Middle Island, but none taken.

**Aeronantes melanoleucus.** White-throated Swift. Quite a number on South Island.

**Selasphorus alleni.** Allen Hummingbird. A hummer which I took to be of this species, I found on South Island quite common.

**Corvus corax sinuatus.** American Raven. Several seen on South Island.

**Melospiza coronatorum.** Coronado Song Sparrow. For some reason these birds are very rare and exceedingly shy. I took none, as they kept out of range. We saw a few and heard some singing.

**Carpodacus mexicanus clementis.** San Clemente House Finch. Very common on all three islands. Their plumage is very light, the head of the males being pale yellow instead of red.

**Helminthophila celata sordida.** Dusky Warbler. Several old and young seen on South Island. I found one on the ground which was too young to fly; the parent birds were flying around evidently taking care of it.

**Salpinctes obsoletus.** Rock Wren. Very abundant on South Island, on the hill sides. One old nest found with an addled egg. It was near camp in a natural cavity in the cliff. The wren, for some reason, was going in and out of the cavity when we discovered the nest.

*Pasadena, California.*

## FROM FIELD AND STUDY

**Nest of the Western Meadowlark.**—The nest of the Western Meadowlark (*Sturnella neglecta*) shown on the next page was discovered, one morning in May as I was riding the range on the Rancho San Geronimo, by my horse nearly stepping on it, frightening the poor owner so that she "looked not upon the order of her going" but fluttered away in great haste. It happened that her temporary domicile was so placed that a slight parting of the grass in front of it would allow the rays of the early morning sun to shine directly upon the eggs. This seemed

such a good opportunity to show the structure of the nest and the customary half-hood over it that the next day found me at the right hour on the spot with a camera, with the accompanying more or less unsatisfactory result. This nest was built in a cow track, faced toward the east, and was on a hillside in such a way that the opening was up hill. In consequence of this the camera had to be more inclined even than if the ground were level, thus distorting the relative positions. But the structure and hood show fairly well. The photo was taken May 25, 1908, and the eggs were about fresh.—JOSEPH MAILLIARD, *San Francisco, California*.



NEST OF WESTERN MEADOWLARK, SAN GERONIMO,

MARIN COUNTY

Photo by J. Mailliard

**Condors in a Flock**—On October 1, 1908, about noon, I saw 18 Condors (*Gymnogyps californianus*) at one time at a point about 3 miles southwest of McKittrick, Kern County. In all of my work along the southeastern side of the Diablo and Temblor ranges during the last two years I have seen but two or three Condors, and this flock of 18 certainly were a surprise to me. As soon as I saw them I laid down on top of a hill and while eating my lunch had an excellent opportunity of observing them. I had my no. 8 binoculars and was able to bring some of them in very close as they circled over me. It was a great sight and one that I will never forget, as the greatest number I ever saw at any one time before was a flock of four which I saw in 1896, I think it was, on my way to Bear Valley, above San Bernardino.—RALPH ARNOLD, *Washington, D. C.*

**Scolecophagus carolinus in Colorado**.—While returning from a short trip up the South Fork of the Platt River, from Littleton, Colorado, February 20, 1909, I had the good fortune of meeting with a small flock of blackbirds, resembling the Brewer. There were about eight in the flock, males and females. I shot one and attempted to secure more, but they were very wild and escaped. They were in thick cottonwood growth near the river. The weather was mild with no snow on the ground.

Later, the bird taken (a male) was identified by Mr. Horace G. Smith, as a Rusty Blackbird, *Scolecophagus carolinus*, a rare bird for Colorado. The skin is now in my collection.

According to Prof. W. W. Cooke (*Birds of Colorado*, page 95) there are but two other records for Colorado: a pair collected near Denver, December 17, 1883, by H. G. Smith, and one taken by Prof. Wm. Osborn at Loveland, in November, 1889. Note that all these are winter records.—GEORGE RICHARDS, *Littleton, Colorado*.

**The Swamp Sparrow on the Lower Rio Grande**.—From rush grass growing along the banks of the Rio Grande, near Brownsville, Texas, I flushed three or four birds of this species (*Melospiza georgiana*) on December 23, 1908. One bird being secured proved to be an adult male.

Whether or not the species has been taken previously this far south, I cannot say positively; but the most extreme record I find (for Texas) prior to this note, is near San Antonio.—AUSTIN PAUL SMITH, *Brownsville, Texas*.