

The latter remained to breed, but the oats vanished. A cleaner sweep could hardly be imagined. As fast as an oat sprout would reach the surface there was a black-bird—some with such beautiful crimson epaulettes—waiting for it, until the last one was gone. And yet this was early in March when there was apparently a great abundance of food for even these rapacious appetites. In this work crows and meadowlarks assisted to the best of their ability, but they were few and the black-birds were many.

Now what has happened to my point of view? Well, it is a little bent, and somewhat wobbly, but probably will straighten out again when I see these same birds carrying thousands of fat green worms and other destructive but luscious insects away from the alfalfa fields to feed their clamorous young. Still I *did* hate to see a hundred tons or so (to be) of fine oat hay most brazenly stolen in this way—and by a supposed friend!!

*San Francisco, California.*



NEST OF THE BI-COLORED BLACKBIRD: SAN GERONIMO, CALIFORNIA

## THE LITTLE BROWN CRANE IN CALIFORNIA

By J. GRINNELL

**I**N the year 1903 I saw, mounted, in the taxidermy shop of Roth Reynolds in Los Angeles, a specimen of the Little Brown (*Grus canadensis*). I was told that it had been secured in the vicinity; but I failed to follow up the matter at the time.

I wrote Mr. Reynolds lately in regard to the bird I saw in his shop, and under date of December 27, 1908, he writes me as follows: "I sold the Little Brown

Crane a year ago. I think it was about ten or twelve years ago that I killed the bird out of a flock of possibly 25 or 30 at Newport not far from Santa Ana [Orange County]. I saw another big flock at the time, probably 100 birds. I can not give you any measurements; but you and I both know it was much smaller than the ordinary Sandhill in all measurements."

I recently mentioned the subject to Harry S. Swarth, who tells me that he used to see small cranes in the Los Angeles markets. They were said to have been shot on the Centinela ranch, southwest of Los Angeles some twelve miles. Mr. Swarth bought two of these market birds and made them into skins. These were subsequently disposed of to Mr. Outram Bangs.

I wrote to Mr. Bangs early this year, as to the whereabouts of the Swarth specimens. Under date of February 9, 1909, I received the following reply: "The two cranes you speak of are in my collection, and are as follows: No. 11,441, Bangs Coll.; bought in Los Angeles market, fresh, March 21, 1904; ♀ im.; wing, 470 mm.; tarsus, 178; culmen, 94. No. 11,440, Bangs Coll.; bought in Los Angeles market, fresh, March 21, 1904; ♂ ad.; wing, 505; tarsus, 201; culmen, 91. The bills are just about the same length in both, but the roughnesses of the forehead in the older bird come down a little more onto the base of the culmen, making this measurement a little shorter." As the above measurements conclusively prove, the birds in question were *Grus canadensis*.

Altho the present seems to be the first definite record of the species for the State, there is little doubt but that many of the sight records of the "Sandhill Crane" really apply to the Little Brown Crane. In 1902 (Pac. Coast Avifauna no. 3, p. 76) I stated that, "altho it is almost certain that this species (*Grus canadensis*) is a common spring and fall migrant thru the State, specimens seem to be as yet lacking." Now that specimens have been identified it seems all the more probable that this Crane is of regular occurrence during the migrations, and perhaps also during the winter, in the southern part of the State.

The Sandhill Crane (*Grus mexicana*) is undoubtedly the species—as correctly recorded in many places—which summers in various parts of California. The Little Brown Crane summers far to the northward of us.

*Berkeley, California.*

## NESTING OF THE ARIZONA JUNCO

By FRANK C. WILLARD

WITH ONE PHOTO BY THE AUTHOR

OF the several Juncos which visit the Huachuca Mountains, Arizona, during migration, but one, *Junco phæonotus palliatus*, remains to breed. From the summit of the mountains down to an altitude of 6000 feet on both slopes, the Arizona Junco may be found nesting. As early as May 8, I have seen fully fledged young following their parents and being fed by them. From the middle of May till the last of July fresh eggs of the second brood may be found.

The nest is placed on the ground, and under a stone so often that the natives speak of it as "that little bird which builds under a stone". I have also found its nest under a loose piece of pine bark lying on the ground, under an exposed root overhung by dry grass, under a bunch of weeds, a pile of brush, a clump of ferns, etc. The photo shown herewith is of a nest taken May 25, 1907. It was located