

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

a few feet from the trail in Miller Canyon at an altitude of 8000 feet, and was placed under a bunch of ferns and grass. The female sat close and was very tame after being flushed, coming within a few feet of me. These are common characteristics of the species, particularly when the eggs are incubated, as in this instance.

Both birds come around when a nest is disturbed and are very noisy. Their outcries frequently bring other species to their assistance. On one occasion a pair each of Plumbeous and Western Warbling Vireos, Red-faced and Black-throated Gray Warblers, Bridled Titmouse, Western House Wren and a small female hummer responded and added their voices to the clamor.

The Juncos build their nests very fast, gathering the material nearby and carrying it in huge mouthfuls to the nest. The female alone does the nest building and, as far as I have observed, assumes all the duties of incubation. The nest is



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always well concealed, no hint of its presence showing from the outside.

In feeding on the ground they usually go in couples, hopping around under logs, stones and brush, uttering an occasional contented "chip". They also feed warbler-like in the trees, usually singly. They possess a very pretty little song, the strongest part of which closely resembles the song of the Olive Warbler. This is most noticeable when heard at such a distance as to lose the softer passage. When singing they frequently sit motionless on a lower branch of a pine or fir, uttering their short song from time to time with such ventriloquistic effect as to completely deceive the listener as regards their position and distance.

The birds are quite fearless and will come right up to a person who remains still. Their confiding ways make them great favorites with the prospectors who frequently feed several pairs around their camps. The Juncos get along well with the other birds but are quite quarrelsome among themselves.

The eggs, three or four in number, are usually plain white with a tinge of blue which seems to get darker as incubation advances. Frequently one or more of the eggs have some small brown spots scattered over their surfaces. The birds do not readily desert a nest and seem to return to the same locality year after year.

*Tombstone, Arizona.*

## NESTING HABITS OF THE RUFOUS-CROWNED SPARROW

By HARRIET WILLIAMS MYERS

WITH TWO PHOTOS BY THE AUTHOR

ON the afternoon of April 10 a friend stopt to tell me about a bird that she did not know which was nesting on the side hill of their property. Being anxious to see the nest I visited the place with her and found the bird to be a Rufous-crowned Sparrow (*Aimophila ruficeps*), a species which I had never before seen.

The hill where the nest was situated is an uncultivated one just outside the Los Angeles city limits, overlooking the Arroyo Seco, and is overgrown with the usual vegetation—clumps of sage brush, wild oats, clover, grasses, and many varieties of wild flowers. The nest was placed directly on the ground under a clump of grass over which white convolvulus was twining; owl clover, brodiaeas, and lupines were blooming in the same clump. The nest itself resembled in shape and size the Song Sparrow's nest, being made of brown grasses, lined with finer fibers and a few horse hairs. It contained three large pure white eggs. The noticeable thing about them was their size, they more nearly comparing with a Towhee's egg than with that of a Song Sparrow. The female was brooding and allowed me to come within three feet of her in my inspection before she flew off the nest. Then she stationed herself on a weed nearby and scolded me in a most musical way. One note that she used sounded like "dear, dear", and reminded me of one note of the Wren-tit tho it was more plaintive. This I found to be the common call note of these sparrows. But the note which exprest the greatest disapproval of my presence was a short, sharp one given as rapidly as possible. As soon as we stept back from the nest the bird was quiet and flew to a bush farther up the hill where she preened herself before returning to the nest.

The next morning I was at the nest at ten o'clock. The bird was not brooding and was nowhere in sight. At 10:23 she came to the top of a stake that stood just above the nest. From there, or a nearby bush, she gave me a vigorous scolding, using the single high-pitcht note given rapidly, varying it once or twice with the slower, more plaintive, "dear, dear, dear". In ten minutes she ceased her scolding and flew about below me until 10:49, twenty-three minutes after her coming, when she slipt thru the grass and onto the nest. Ten minutes later I saw and heard another bird of this species way up on the hillside. He did not attempt to come down to the nest, but gave the single call note which the female on the nest answered with a low "sit". In a few minutes the bird on the hillside flew away. This was the only time during incubation that I saw other than the brooding bird about.

At 11:33 the brooding bird left the nest and went to a nearby bush where she