

dred feet of a house in the outskirts of Los Angeles. I believe this is the earliest recorded date of the occurrence of this species in this section in the spring.

*Zonotrichia leucophrys gambeli*. Gambel Sparrow. Guy C. Rich saw an adult bird of this species at Hollywood, Los Angeles County, May 14.

*Piranga ludoviciana*. Western Tanager. This bird, always more or less irregular in its movements in this locality, has appeared in the coast district of southern California this spring in unusual numbers and remained considerably later than usual. Antonin Jay noted them daily in his garden in Los Angeles from early April until May 17 and saw a single adult male in the same locality as late as May 21. J. E. Law found them plentiful at Hollywood until May 14 and Guy C. Rich saw a pair in the same vicinity May 19. In a Los Angeles daily paper dated May 13, the correspondent from Ventura notes the abundance of the species in Ventura and vicinity.

*Dendroica townsendi*. Townsend Warbler. Unusually plentiful in migration this spring. I found it common near Newport, Orange County, May 12, and Antonin Jay found it plentiful in the willow regions near El Monte, Los Angeles County, as late as May 18.—G. WILLETT.



Fig. 79. NEST AND EGGS OF SCOTT SPARROW; HUACHUCA MOUNTAINS, ARIZONA

**Breeding of the Scott Sparrow.**—The mountains of Cochise County, Arizona, are inhabited by very few species of the sparrow family. The fingers of one hand would number them all.

The Scott Sparrow (*Aimophila ruficeps scotti*) is the most common one found really up in the mountains, aside from the Arizona Junco (*Junco phaeonotus palliatus*). These birds are rarely found above 6800 feet altitude, overlapping the zone occupied by the junco, which extends down to about 5800 feet; and are most common on the scantily covered lower ridges and foothills, where scattering oaks, madrona, and scrubby mountain mahogany are the only trees, together with plenty of bear grass and mesal plants. They much prefer slopes with a southerly exposure.

During May, their scolding notes and poor little song are to be heard constantly, when one is in the right localities. The birds keep pretty well out of sight, but if the observer will sit down and keep quiet, he will hear the leaves rustle and, by watching, presently see one hopping along, in and out among the bunches of grass and dead brush. At such times they may be seen chasing one another about like a pair of Canyon Towhees, uttering a similar chattering note.

Fresh eggs may be looked for after the 20th of May though some pairs breed much earlier. I found one nest containing three newly hatched young May 25. The young did not appear to be over a day or two old, yet I heard them cheeping at a distance of about a rod, and by following the sound, located the nest.

No amount of watching on my part has ever enabled me to locate a nest being built. I have found a number of occupied nests, but it has always been by flushing the bird as I passed close by. The first week of June is the height of the nesting season. The male sings quite continuously in the vicinity of the nest. The latter is built of grass and lined with fine grass, closely resembling the nest of the Arizona Junco, but better built. The eggs are pure white, usually three in number. They are slightly smaller than the eggs of the Junco, and can be distinguished from immaculate specimens of the latter by this difference in size, and by the fact that they show no trace of a blue shading as Juncos' eggs always do.

When flushed from the nest the bird flies silently away, close to the ground, until the shelter of a bush is reached. Then she begins to scold vigorously but does not come back near the nest. When the young begin to fly, both parents are kept busy supplying them with food, which they demand most vociferously. At this time both the adults are very solicitous and set up a terrible scolding if the young are approached at all closely. The nest is carefully concealed under a rock overhung with dead grass, or under the leaves of a mesal plant. The nest, of which a photograph accompanies this article (see fig. 79), was found May 24, 1907, and is typical in every respect. Incubation was advanced.—F. C. WILLARD.

**White-winged Dove in the San Diegan District.**—I have recently examined a mounted specimen of the White-winged Dove (*Melopelia asiatica trudeaui*) in the possession of Mr. John Johnson, Jr., of Escondido. The bird was shot at a point not over five miles from the Pacific Ocean, at an elevation of about 200 feet. The locality is about ten miles due west from Escondido in an air line.

I am inclined to think that the specimen is a bird-of-the-year, as there is a rusty tinge at the tips of the feathers. It was in company with Mourning Doves, but seemed to feel out of place.

As to the date of capture, Mr. Johnson said it was three weeks before the quail season opened last year (1911). That would bring it about September 25.—JOSEPH DIXON.

**Paroquet Auklet in Humboldt County.**—Buzz-z-z-z-z—Bang! Was the way one Andy Aiton described the first appearance of this little auklet. It was about 8 o'clock in the evening of February 7, 1909, near the corner of First and E Streets, Eureka, California. Mr. Aiton was standing on the street in front of his barber-shop, when a whirl of wings and a sharp crack, was followed by the dropping of a Paroquet Auklet (*Cyclorhynchus psittaculus*) to the street from above.

It was a dark stormy night; the drizzling rain growing into a dense fog, with a strong wind blowing, turned the night into a dreary haze. The auklet was evidently lost, and, probably attracted by the street lights, flew blindly against an overhead telephone wire, thereby stunning itself and causing it to fall to the street below. On picking it up, Mr. Aiton found the bird alive.

He gave the bird to a local taxidermist, who after skinning it, failed to ascertain the sex. I secured the skin in its fresh state and afterwards turned it over to Mr. F. J. Smith, in whose mounted collection it was placed.

This is probably the second record and the sixth specimen, of the rare little Paroquet Auklet for the state of California.—C. I. CLAY.

**An Elevated Camp.**—Last spring I wanted to lead the simple life close to nature by camping out, and built the usual camp on the ground, but hogs and cattle, besides skunks and rattlesnakes, run free about here. The accompanying photo shows the alternative chosen in preference to building a fence around the tent; and such a camp has several advantages over the ground camp. The platform, if anything, is easier built than a "hog-tight" fence, as is usually done here; I never heard of a "skunk-tight" fence being attempted. Possibly the yarns about skunks are stretched, as they never bothered me. If food is not dropped on the ground, rats and mice are much less troublesome, as they apparently do not climb oak trees in search of food; and ants are entirely eliminated by painting a ring of kerosene, or smearing pitch around the main poles between tent and points of support. The platform is about eight by sixteen feet.

The available dry space is more than doubled, and I have shelves and a punching bag on the "first floor", and considerable chemical apparatus to occupy my time profitably dur-