

At the time these photographs were taken there were eleven of the Lesser Yellowlegs present on our Estero, and they were to be found in varying numbers for about two weeks thereafter. They proved to be rather timorous on all occasions but especially so when incited to flight by the Killdeers, which were always bossing them about. In moving to and fro across the Estero they usually paid little attention to their own kind and were as ready to join a bevy of Long-billed Dowitchers or Northern Phalaropes or the solitary Greater Yellowlegs



Fig. 58. LESSER YELLOW-LEGS IN COMPANY WITH NORTHERN PHALAROPE (AT LEFT) AND WESTERN SANDPIPER (THE SMALLEST BIRD OF THE THREE); PHOTOGRAPH TAKEN ON THE ESTERO NEAR SANTA BARBARA, CALIFORNIA, AUGUST 16, 1913.

shown herewith, as to hunt up their proper fellows. The duet recorded in this critical picture lasted but a moment, for upon the instant of discovery I swung upon them with the Graflex as one would level a gun and at the "report" of the shutter they were off like rockets. And as they flew they made outcry in two different keys of Totanine indignation, the notes of these two species being even more distinct as a measure of difference than the relative size of their bodies.

SOME CURIOUS NESTING PLACES OF THE ALLEN HUMMINGBIRD ON THE RANCHO SAN GERONIMO

By JOSEPH MAILLIARD

WITH ONE PHOTOGRAPH BY THE AUTHOR

THE THREE nests of Allen Hummingbird (*Selasphorus alleni*) shown in the accompanying photograph are of especial interest on account of the peculiar choice of location, all three being inside of buildings more or less in use. As it was impossible to photograph them *in situ*, on account of want of light and, in two cases, because of their inaccessibility as far as a camera was con-

cerned, they were hung against a screen after being removed from their natural sites for this purpose.

The two outer nests were on the inside and just under the rafters of a wagon shed, the lower part of the north side of which was open, used to protect farm wagons and implements from the deteriorating effects of the weather. The pulley on the left of the picture was used to haul up the successful results of the numerous deer hunts that took place on our ranch, the nest having been built upon it before the opening of the deer hunting season in that year (1911). In this case the nest was finished and a brood successfully reared before the pulley was put to use.

The rope sling on the right had been used to sling some tackle in order to lift up a heavy piece of farm machinery at some time and left there after the

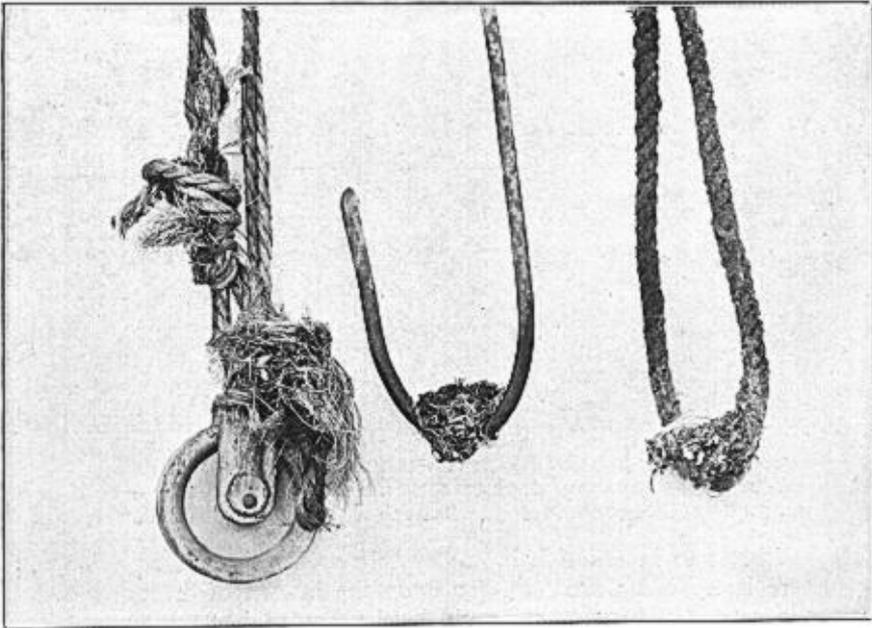


Fig. 59. EXTRAORDINARY NESTING SITES OF THE ALLEN HUMMINGBIRD AT MAILLIARD, MARIN COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

tackle was removed. The bird which discovered this site evidently thought it a fine safe place in which to rear a brood, and in this the bird was right, as it was not disturbed. This nest was built in 1912, and as it was only a few feet from the one on the pulley of the year before, it is very likely the same bird that constructed it. While this shed had been a favorite nesting place for Western Flycatchers it seemed altogether too dark to have been selected by hummingbirds, which generally build in more or less open places.

The nest in the center was in a carriage house but a few steps away from this wagon shed, and was built on a hook, made from an iron rod, suspended from a wooden bar and about five feet from the ground, which with several adjacent, was used for hanging up harness in the process of cleaning. This nest was discovered in an unfinished state by the stableman when he went to clean some harness. He reported his discovery and was admonished to use temporarily

some other contrivance, but the passing of men, horses and carriages in and out of the room was too much for the nerves of the builder and it was abandoned when about two-thirds finished.

THE BIRDS OF SAN MARTIN ISLAND, LOWER CALIFORNIA

By HOWARD W. WRIGHT

WITH SIX PHOTOS BY THE AUTHOR

ON THE EVENING of July 5, 1913, the sloop "Siwash", with Messrs. J. R. Maclintock, W. S. Wright, E. W. Roche, F. E. McClure and the writer aboard, slipped quietly into a little bay, known as Hassler's Cove, located in the island of San Martin, Lower California. This island is situated about two hundred and forty miles south of San Diego, lies about four miles off-shore, and is ten or twelve miles to the northwest of San Quentin Bay. It is the result of a volcano that has shoved its peak above the sea, forming a round

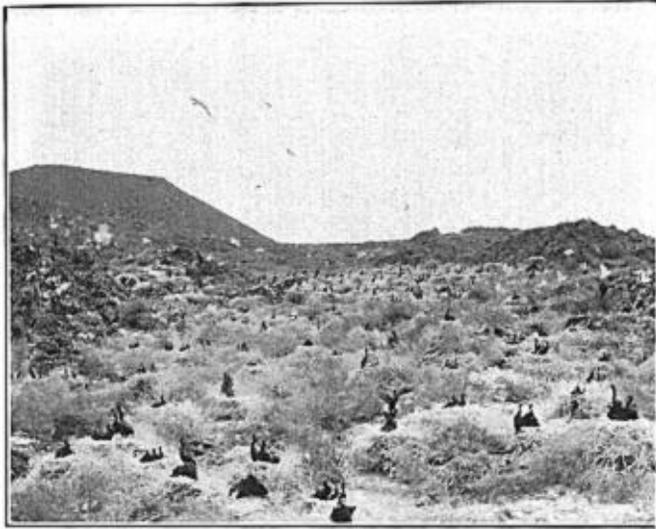


Fig. 60. PORTION OF FARALLON CORMORANT ROOKERY ON SAN MARTIN ISLAND, LOWER CALIFORNIA

island about a mile and a half in diameter, with a small bay situated on the northeast side. There is a well-formed cone in the center, which rises to a height of about five hundred feet.

On the night of our arrival we were greeted with a strong stench of guano, which gave promise of large bird colonies; for the other islands we had visited did not smell badly until we were actually among the birds. We anchored too close to shore and as a consequence were awakened about three-thirty A. M. by the keel scraping on the ground. We were well repaid for the trouble of arising at this hour, however, for we heard the swish of many wings long before daylight, and with the first streaks of dawn we beheld a sight that will long be remembered. From the hills there poured a steady stream of cormorants, flying