

Nesting of the Band-tailed Pigeon.—On August 11, 1913, while on a fishing trip to Bear Creek, the stream that empties out of Big Bear Lake in the San Bernardino Mountains, I accidentally discovered a nest of the Band-tailed Pigeon (*Columba fasciata fasciata*). The bird was flushed from the nest which was found to contain one nearly fresh egg. I waited for some time but the bird did not return to her nest. The nest was situated about ten feet up in a small oak tree, growing among pines on a very rugged mountain side at probably 5,000 feet altitude. The nest was a very flimsy affair, similar to the nest of the Mourning Dove but a trifle larger, and was composed of dry oak twigs. As this date of nesting seemed to me to be unusual I thought it of especial interest. The egg was collected and is now in my possession.

On this trip I only noted two other individuals of this species, one near the mouth of the Santa Ana Canyon and the other at the In-take in the same canyon.

During the summer of 1912 these birds were very common at Glenn Ranch Resort, Lytle Creek Canyon, San Gabriel Mountains, elevation about 3,500 feet. They were most common during August and the early part of September and were found feeding on the elder and coffee berries. This summer the birds were there only in limited numbers, although the feed was apparently more plentiful than in 1912.—WRIGHT M. PIERCE, *Claremont, California*.

Late Nesting of Certain Birds in Arizona.—I believe we collectors of eggs are inclined to stop active field work too early in the season, and thereby we miss a good many interesting and valuable finds. Last year I noted in the columns of THE CONDOR several late nestings and have several more to report for the season of 1913. My work this year has kept me in the Huachuca Mountains since the middle of July and I have made the following "finds":

Mearns Quail (*Cyrtonyx montezumae mearnsi*) were found nesting regularly during August. Several nests were shown to me by Mexicans. Fresh eggs were found as late as August 22, when I collected a set of eleven. Newly hatched young were found August 17, when a nest was visited which the preceding day held thirteen eggs. About 8:30 A. M. on the 17th we made a very careful approach and were rewarded by a beautiful sight. The male sat in the entrance of the nest with his head ducked down, while from between one wing and his back a little striped head protruded. Stooping I looked into the nest and there sat the female with one small chick on her back and a row of them poking their heads out all around her. This picture lasted but a moment for both parents fluttered away and the young crawled off into the grass and among the rocks. They were too small to walk, but crawled along with their chins on the ground. In a few moments they were well hidden and the nest held but the remains of thirteen broken egg shells. The last nest with eggs was found September 5 and held seven eggs on the point of hatching.

Another species nesting regularly during August was the Scott Sparrow (*Aimophila ruficeps scotti*). The last set was taken August 15 and the eggs were nearly fresh. A set of three Arizona Hooded Oriole (*Icterus cucullatus nelsoni*) was taken July 29. Incubation had proceeded about one-half. On September 2 a set of seventeen Scaled Quail (*Callipepla squamata*) was brought to me with eggs in varying stages of incubation, from about fresh up to some far advanced. As these were laid during a rainy period I am inclined to think that the bird began to sit as soon as the first few eggs were laid, which would account for the great variation in incubation.

On August 25 I noted a family of three Arizona Jays (*Aphelocoma sieberi arizonae*) as yet unable to fly. April is the regular month for the nesting of this species. On July 4, while looking for Sulphur-bellied Flycatchers' nests, I found a set of four almost fresh eggs of the Ant-eating Woodpecker (*Melanerpes formicivorus formicivorus*). Other nests of this species held young large enough to fly, or had already been deserted by the young. On August 11, I collected a set of three eggs of the Canyon Towhee (*Pipilo fuscus mesoleucus*) with incubation well begun. I have taken this species as late as October, however.

The late nesting of the Mearns Quail and Scott Sparrow may be accounted for by the fact that our rainy season begins about July 10, and the weed and grass seeds become more plentiful thereafter. Mearns Quail shot in September had pieces of acorn kernels in their crops. The late nests of the other species must be considered as individual eccentricities.—FRANK C. WILLARD, *Tombstone, Arizona*.

The Sabine Gull in the Santa Barbara Channel.—On August 11, 1912, I saw a flock of eight or ten Sabine Gulls (*Xema sabini*) in the Santa Barbara Channel, about ten miles from Santa Cruz Island. On August 1, 1913, I saw another flock between Santa Cruz Island and Santa Barbara; and again on August 4 and 7 a flock was sighted. On the last

date the birds were seen about five miles from Santa Barbara. This would indicate that this species is quite a common late summer transient through these waters.—HOWARD W. WRIGHT, *Stanford University, California.*

Nesting Notes from San Diego County.—On March 27, 1913, a pair of Pacific Horned Owls were found nesting about two miles down the Sweetwater River from Dehesa and upon rapping upon the tree the female was flushed. The three young were rather large and partly feathered. As the old bird left the nest a pair of Red-bellied Hawks set out in pursuit. One continued to chase the old owl, while the other hawk returned and robbed the nest of one of the young owls. This was torn to pieces and eaten in a nearby tree. The day before I had robbed the Red-bellied Hawk's nest of three eggs. This was located about a quarter of a mile up the river. On returning to the locality a week later there was only one young owl left.

On July 21, 1913, at Lemon Grove, while picking some fruit in a nearby orchard, I was surprised to hear the "purt, purt" of an Arizona Hooded Oriole in an adjoining palm tree. I was still more surprised on finding a partially completed nest swung to the underside of a lower leaf of the same palm. July 30 the nest contained one egg, with the female sitting. On August 4 I took the nest and 3 eggs, the latter varying considerably in incubation. This is the best marked set I have ever seen.

August 7, 1913, at Lemon Grove, a neighbor called my attention to a nest of Western Mockingbird not over twelve feet from his kitchen door and right over the sidewalk. It was in a cypress tree ten feet above the ground and contained four fresh eggs which I took. This was the fourth laying of this year known to me. The first, of four eggs too far advanced to blow, was handed to me by the same man April 9. It was taken from an ornamental pine tree near the front door. The middle of May I saw the old birds feeding young, and again the second week in July I saw them feeding young; but I think a pet cat caught this brood.—LAURENCE M. HUEY, *San Diego, California.*

Dry Season Notes.—In this year of unusual drought the fish-eating birds are having a lean time of it in the interior and are often hard pushed to make a living. Wild ducks are to be seen frequenting shallow, alkaline ponds that they would turn up their noses at in ordinary years, and dabbling in the foul mud for what insect life there may be there. Farallon Cormorants (*Phalacrocorax auritus albociliatus*) and White Pelicans (*Pelecanus erythrorhynchos*) cruise about in a restless manner, endeavoring to "fill up their beak with food for a week" in the most unpromising places; while the herons scatter far and wide in hopes of picking up a stray minnow or frog here and there.

Ordinarily our rivers overflow their lower banks in the spring time, and the carp, minnows, etc., spread out into the submerged lowlands to spawn. The result of this is that as the waters recede in summertime the young fish collect in the small sloughs and depressions. The areas of the water surfaces shrink from day to day until finally there are left only small, evil-smelling pools so shallow that one can see the backs of the small fry sticking above the surface. The fishes are so numerous that they may be said to actually swarm. During this period the heron families grow fat in such spots, with no exertion whatever! But this year there has been no overflow, and those fish that spawned did so only in deep water; so the poor herons have to get out and "hustle" for a living, taking a chance at catching a few stray fish that are foolish enough to come into the shallow water near the banks of the rivers.

I was much astonished a few days ago, on September 19, 1913, to be exact, to see three California Brown Pelicans (*Pelecanus californicus*) come sailing over our house and light on the lake a few yards away. This is the first time I have ever seen this species in the interior, as it seems to stick to the seacoast almost exclusively. The birds were so near that there was no possible chance of making a mistake as to their identity.

Where the water-loving species of blackbirds nested this year I do not know, but certainly they have not been with us in their usual numbers, doubtless because there were no tule ponds or overflow lands for them to nest in. The Bicolored Blackbird (*Agelaius phoeniceus californicus*) did breed to some extent in the dry weeds and small willows, but were not at all numerous at nesting time.—JOSEPH MAILLIARD, *Rancho Dos Rios, Stanislaus County, California.*

Note on the Guadalupe Caracara.—During the past summer Captain Charles E. Davis, of Los Angeles, has made several trips to Guadalupe Island, off the coast of Lower California, for the purpose of taking moving pictures of the sea elephants found around the island, and also to capture alive some of the younger animals. In a conversation with the