was open prairie from horizon to horizon and the blooming white floor and the uplifted song of the Meadowlark had put us in tune, we had a characteristic prairie cloud effect. We were encircled at first by low white cloud flecks in the blue and then as they grew and grew, by encompassing white clouds that seemed to travel with us, till, after crossing a gulch we came up on the other side, seemingly right up into the clouds when, as forest trees rise in a fog, the white host loomed up, white challenging spirits before our path.

Washington, D. C., April 6, 1916.

NESTING OF THE LECONTE THRASHER

By J. R. PEMBERTON

WITH TWO PHOTOS BY THE AUTHOR

IN THE CONDOR (Vol. VI, 1904, pp. 95-98) M. French Gilman has given us a rarely good and complete account of the nesting habits of the Leconte Thrasher (*Toxostoma lecontei*). It was with much pleasure that I was able during the spring of 1916 to observe the many interesting characteristics attrib-

Fig. 53. NEST OF LECONTE THRASHER. HALF OF THE CHOLLA CACTUS HAS BEEN TORN AWAY TO EXPOSE THE STRUCTURE.

uted to this rare bird, and while I have nothing new to record it is hoped that the photographs here presented will help towards an understanding of Mr. Gilman's article. The region in which I found this bird was the same in which Mr. Gilman worked, Cabezon and Whitewater, Riverside County, California. This is in the extreme northwestern end of the Salton Sea desert.

Three nests were examined. The first was found on April 20, 1916, by H.

Fig. 54. NEST AND EGGS OF LECONTE THRASHER. THE FELT-LIKE LINING, AS HERE SHOWN, APPEARS TO BE CHARACTERISTIC OF NESTS OF THIS SPECIES.

W. Carriger, with whom I was working at the time. This nest contained three small young and one addled egg, which latter was taken as being the first ever seen by either of us. This nest was located in the center of a cholla cactus and about two and a half feet above the ground. On May 13, 1916, two nests were found. One was located five feet above the ground in a Spanish bayonet or, as sometimes called, yucca. The second was in the center of a cholla cactus bush,

the one photographed (fig. 53), and may be regarded as being typical of those described by Mr. Gilman. Both nests contained three incubated eggs.

The skeleton or framework of the photographed nest is bulky, strong and well anchored amid the many ramifications of the spiny cactus. The lining is made entirely of a fine, gray, woolly plant which grows in abundance in the locality and is pulled up entire by the bird. This material is firmly pressed together and forms a remarkably felt-like padding about one-half inch in thickness. The light gray color of this lining contrasts well with the brown framework and the light blue of the eggs. (See fig. 54.)

At Cabezon the Pasadena Thrasher (*Toxostoma redivivum pasadenense*) occurs also. Nests of this bird were found to differ radically from those of the Leconte Thrasher in not having the felt-like lining.

Colton, California, August 24, 1916.

THE SAN DOMINGO GREBE IN BEXAR COUNTY, TEXAS

By ROY W. QUILLIN and RIDLEY HOLLEMAN

ABOUT TEN miles south of San Antonio, there is a large marshy lake which covers something like a thousand or twelve hundred acres. Being the only body of water of this size in this part of Texas, and having exceptional surroundings, it is the mecca of the water birds of this county. Practically the entire lake is surrounded by a barrier of cat-tail reeds, tules and marsh grass, which in some portions is one hundred or more yards in width.

While searching for nests of the American Eared Grebe in a secluded inlet of this lake we located our first nest with eggs of the San Domingo Grebe (*Colymbus dominicus brachypterus*). Both cat-tails and tules were growing at this point, but not so thickly as they are generally found. In one of the small patches of open water, which break the monotony of these reed jungles, the nest was anchored. In general appearance the nests examined by us average somewhat smaller than nests of the American Eared Grebe, this being especially true of the hollow in which the eggs are deposited. The nests were composed of decayed reeds of every description, heaped into a cone-shaped mass measuring from four to six inches in height, and from fourteen to twenty-four inches in diameter at the base, tapering to six or eight inches at the top, and they were liberally plastered with mud, especially the depression which held the eggs. The area of this depression, the depth of which is about one inch, is determined by the number of eggs in the clutch, as they fit snugly into it.

Of five nests located from June 25 to July 9, two contained four eggs and three, three eggs. All these sets were from slight to heavily incubated. The eggs were badly stained, and the majority retained a rich brown cast even after the most vigorous scrubbing. In all cases the eggs were covered by a thin layer of damp, decayed reeds.

We were unable to flush the bird from any of these nests, and were able to identify them only by patient and lengthy waiting. These Grebes are very hard to see on this lake, as they keep close to the reeds, and if found a short distance from them they immediately slip under the water and disappear. However,