



Fig. 56. DRAIN PIPE USED AS A NESTING SITE BY A PAIR OF ASH-THROATED FLYCATCHERS.

Peculiar Nesting Site of Ash-throated Flycatcher.—We had just discovered a *Phainopepla*'s nest in a pepper tree along side of a road in Linda Vista, four miles west of Pasadena, California, when a woman appeared and asked us what we were doing. After explaining, to her satisfaction, that we did not intend to disturb any of the nests in her vicinity she gained sufficient confidence in us to ask the identity of a bird nesting in her yard. Investigation disclosed an Ash-throated Flycatcher (*Myiarchus cinerascens cinerascens*) carrying food in its bill to a peculiarly situated nest. At the northeast corner of the house a four-inch galvanized pipe about three feet long had been soldered to the outlet of the eaves trough in order to prevent rain water from falling against the house. In the elbow of this three-foot length of pipe a pair of Ash-throated Flycatchers had built their nest (see fig. 56).

We were told that in building the nest the birds first entered the open end of the pipe, but later used the entrance through the eave trough, which was little more than two and one-half inches in diameter. At the time of our visit, June 23, 1916, the nest contained young, which, by their calls, must have been partly feathered. Although the Crested Flycatcher of the East (*Myiarchus crinitus*) is known to nest occasionally in an artificial environment this is the first instance that has come to our notice of the Ash-throated Flycatcher, with its notably retiring disposition, taking kindly enough to civilization to nest in a door yard.—HAROLD C. BRYANT and AMY M. BRYANT, Berkeley, California.

Bird Notes from Palo Verde, Imperial County, California.—*Querquedula cyanoptera*. Cinnamon Teal. On June 30, 1916, I was out in the flooded country when I found a duck's nest with seven creamy white eggs. No bird was on the nest but there were lots of duck tracks in the mud close by. The nest was under a small bush on the top of a levee about three feet from the water's edge. It was not very well lined but contained some grass and a few feathers. On July 2 I was back, but the young had hatched; on looking around I saw six young, with the mother teal trying to get them away. The old male was on hand and tried to lead me away with the broken-wing game. The young were seen often after that but would always be in the brush.

Porzana carolina. Sora Rail. One pair was seen all summer in a large bunch of tules on the lagoon about half a mile south of Palo Verde; no nest found.

Plegadis guaraua. White-faced Glossy Ibis.

Himantopus mexicanus. Black-necked Stilt. Both these were seen all summer from May 12, till the fall migration, but no nests were found, though some young birds were seen flying around.

Oxyechus vociferus. Killdeer. Several nests were found and lots of young seen in the flooded country during high water.

Melopelia asiatica. White-winged Dove. No nests were found this year, but several seen in 1915. This year the birds were mostly back on the mesa or along the edge of the valley. They may have moved back on account of the flood.

Chaemepelia passerina pallescens. Mexican Ground Dove. Two nests found in 1915. Only one pair of birds seen regularly this summer. Several seen in August and September in the grass flats where the overflow had been.

Parabuteo unicinctus harrisi. Harris Hawk. July 25, 1916, I saw four full-grown young, not able to fly. They were in a cottonwood in a small marsh about two miles south of Palo Verde.

Pyrocephalus rubinus mexicanus. Vermilion Flycatcher. On April 7, 1916, I found a nest north of the store in a screw-bean over-hanging the water. There were two eggs in it about ready to hatch. The young grew up and left the nest. I also found a nest back of the schoolhouse on April 16 with fairly fresh eggs. The birds were ready to fly on May 12. On passing the nest north of the store on June 1 I looked in and was surprised to see three more young birds in the nest, and on looking into the nest back of the schoolhouse found it to contain three eggs. In both cases the nest was twice used in the same season.—LEO WILEY, *Palo Verde, California*.

Another Record of the Wood Ibis in California.—On Sunday morning, August 13, 1916, while returning north on the Santa Fé from San Diego, I was surprised and delighted to see a flock of about twenty Wood Ibises (*Mycteria americana*). I was sitting on the rear platform of the observation car and saw the flock just after our train had crossed the broad delta of a small stream near Oceanside. The birds were flying from the ocean, inland up the rather broad valley of the practically dry stream. Although I had not seen a live Wood Ibis since August, 1888, when I saw seven on the lower Wabash, I at once recognized these birds. Their heavy wing-flaps, their white bodies and black wings could not be mistaken. Messrs. Grinnell and Daggett saw a flock in the same place August 5, 1902 (see CONDOE, v, 1903, p. 18).—BARTON WARREN EVERMANN, *San Francisco, California*.

The Alaska Water-thrush in Marin County, California.—August 13, 1916, I took a trip to Muir Woods in company with several friends. While hiking along what is known as the Bootjack Trail, I suddenly came upon an Alaska Water-thrush (*Seiurus noveboracensis notabilis*) perched on a large boulder near a stream. At this point there was a great deal of underbrush and ferns along the banks, and several small cataracts in the stream. Upon catching sight of me the bird uttered small chirps, and continually teetered and dipped from side to side. I was able to approach within a few feet of it, and noted that the general color was brownish, with black streakings on the breast, and a whitish line through the eye. After a few minutes another one appeared, and the two flew into the underbrush. The white stripe through the eye, and the teetering motion like that of the American Dipper, to my mind makes the identification of this bird unmistakable. As there seem to be only four other records of the occurrence of this species within the State, I thought that my finding it in Marin County might be of some interest.—HAROLD E. HANSEN, *San Francisco, California*.

The Dwarf Screech Owl in the State of Washington.—Unless it be for an occasional "sight record", I believe the Dwarf Screech Owl (*Otus flammeolus idahoensis*) has seldom been recorded in Washington. It gives me great pleasure, therefore, to report the capture of an adult female at Kiona, Benton County, Washington, by Mr. F. R. Decker of that place. An examination showed it to be beyond much doubt a breeding bird. The only possible nesting sites in the vicinity were numerous holes made by Bank Swallows, etc., in a large sandy cliff, so it is possible that this bird may use something besides holes in trees as a place for raising its young. The specimen was taken on May 29, 1916, and is now in the collection of Mr. D. E. Brown, at Seattle, Washington.—J. H. BOWLES, *Tacoma, Washington*.

Cleaning Skulls and Skeletons: a Supplementary Note.—Since the publication of the description of the process of cleaning skulls and disarticulated skeletons two years ago (CONDOE, xvi, 1914, pp. 239-241), different re-agents have been tested to replace in whole or in part the solutions described. These experiments have resulted in one change, only. In place of the Carbolic Acid, substitute Cresylic Acid (Cresol, $C_6H_4CH_3OH$): one part Cresol in place of twenty-five to fifty parts of Carbolic Acid. One-half ounce of Cresylic Acid has been found to be sufficient for a solution containing two quarts of ammonia and six gallons of water. No harmful effects have been caused by the use of a very concentrated solution of Cresol. Cresol costs about thirty-five cents a pound, thus making its use more economical than that of Carbolic Acid.—F. HARVEY HOLDEN, *Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, University of California, Berkeley*.