

Chapman, F. M.

1897. Preliminary Descriptions of New Birds from Mexico and Arizona. *Auk*, xiv, pp. 310-311.

Brief diagnosis (p. 311) of "*Coccothraustes vespertinus mexicanus*", from Las Vigas, Vera Cruz, Mexico.

Ridgway, R.

1901. Birds of North and Middle America. *Bull. U. S. Nat. Mus.* no. 50, part 1, pp. xxx+715, pls. xx.

Diagnoses (pp. 38-39), of three races of *Hesperiphona*—*vespertina*, *montana*, and *mexicana*—and descriptions and synonymies of same (pp. 39-44).

Berkeley, California, December 5, 1916.

FROM FIELD AND STUDY

Western Belted Kingfisher Breeding in San Diego County, California.—it is not an uncommon occurrence to meet with an occasional Kingfisher (*Ceryle alcyon caurina*) near some river, slough or lake in this county; but not until this year have I succeeded in locating a nest. This was quite accidental.

On the 20th of April, 1916, while driving along a road bordering a lagoon near Oceanside my curiosity was aroused by noting some dirt bluffs which formed the walls of a steep narrow canyon. It at once suggested to me an ideal home for a Duck Hawk. Without waiting to debate the question with myself I at once tied the horse and made my way to the canyon. A few shots I knew would bring forth the falcons if present. Imagine my surprise, however, as the echo from the report died away to hear the cackling screeches of a Kingfisher. In a few moments it was joined by its mate coming in from the lagoon.

I dropped behind a bunch of brush and in a few moments one of the birds flew directly to a small hole in the bluff and disappeared, while the mate returned to the lagoon.

The nesting cavity proved to be ten feet below the top of the bank and twenty feet from the bottom. I soon secured a pick and shovel from a ranch a few miles distant and started what proved to be a real task. Two hours of hard digging and a warm sun on my back helped me to decide that it was too early anyway for a full set, so I left it for a couple of weeks.

On May 6 I returned resolved to reach the nest. After four hours of manual labor I at last reached the soft stratum of sand in which the nest cavity was located. I had dug my pit so that it would be to one side of the nest chamber, for by so doing I hoped to reach the nest from the side, but I had not calculated on a winding tunnel and when about a foot above the entrance my pick broke into the extreme end of the passage. I cleaned away the loose sand and soon exposed a nest full of young fully feathered and nearly ready to leave for the lagoon. There were six in all. They were very quiet and made no remonstrance when removed from the nest and examined. They were all returned to their underground passage which was carefully closed with a resolve that if I ever found another Kingfisher's nest in San Diego County I would not wait until May before investigating.—N. K. CARPENTER, *Escondido, California.*

Another Alaska Record for the Mourning Dove.—On September 1, 1916, while standing on the dock at Hydaburg, Prince of Wales Island, Alaska, a Mourning Dove (*Zenaidura macroura*) flew by within twenty-five feet. This is the first time that I have met with the species in the region.—GEORGE WILLETT, *Elephant Butte, New Mexico, November 24, 1916.*

The Florida Gallinule in San Francisco County.—On October 12, 1916, it was reported to me that a Rail had appeared on Middle Lake, one of the Chain-of-Lakes, Golden Gate Park, which did not resemble any of those most commonly seen. Accordingly I

made a trip to the park on October 15; and on approaching the lake, I saw, swimming near some lily pads, a waterbird which appeared to be a very nervous Coot, but on second sight proved to be something different, although there was a similarity in size and shape.

The field description is as follows: Head, neck, and throat, sooty gray; wings, rich brownish color, the outer primaries being edged with white; the under parts of the tail were also white, like that of the coot. The bill and shield were of a yellowish color, as were the legs, which were very long.

This bird, evidently a Florida Gallinule (*Gallinula galeata*) was seen up to and including November 13, either walking over the lily pads, feeding on the banks, or swimming on the lake, which it did in true Coot fashion.

Judging from skins seen at the University of California, the Gallinule seen at the park is an immature specimen. Mrs. Morton Gibbons also saw the Gallinule, and identified it as such before knowing my views. This record should be of interest to San Francisco ornithologists as this is but the second time this species has been reported for this county, although it has been found breeding around Los Baños.—HAROLD E. HANSEN, *San Francisco, California, November 23, 1916.*

The Valley Quail Occupying Nests of the Road-runner.—On the afternoon of April 10, 1915, near San Diego, in company with Mr. A. M. Ingersoll, a female Valley Quail (*Lophortyx c. vallicola*) was discovered by the latter sitting close, and apparently incubating, upon what proved to be a deserted nest of the Road-runner (*Geococcyx californianus*). This nest had been built, well in toward the center and about two feet above the ground, in a large lemonade berry (*Rhus integrifolia*) bush. Investigation showed the nest to contain three eggs, warm to the touch, and the fragments of a fourth, all of the Road-runner; two eggs were rotten, and one was cracked, discolored, with contents dried.

Another instance of the Valley Quail occupying a nest of the Road-runner came under my observation this past season (1916), and is particularly noteworthy for the fact that the nest was eight and one-half feet above a dry wash. During the forepart of April the nest received finishing touches and was evidently ready for the depositing of eggs, when it was deserted by the Road-runners; it had been built among the terminal branches of a drooping sycamore limb, and was about five feet from, and almost on a level with, the top of an abrupt bank skirting the wash at this point. In passing under the nest on April 30 I was quite surprised to flush a Valley Quail from it, and to find that four eggs



Fig. 6. VALLEY QUAIL OCCUPYING NEST OF ROADRUNNER, 8½ FEET ABOVE GROUND IN A SYCAMORE.