

nest-building material and flew with this to a neighboring clump of pine trees. I went with her the next day to the spot, but saw neither the birds nor any evidence of a nest, which, however, does not in any way cast aspersion upon her word. While the bird may not have been actually building, the instinct may have been strong and the nesting season was at hand.

As late as the last week in April the Nutcrackers were still in Carmel and Pacific Grove, as reported to me by Mr. F. C. Holman, a member of the C. O. C., and with whom I was collecting during this stay. Dr. Fisher thought they might possibly change their habits and nest somewhere in the vicinity, and promised to watch them as far as lay in his power.

It was my good fortune during the fortnight spent in Carmel to come across two specimens of the Slate-colored Junco (*Junco hyemalis hyemalis*) to add to the comparatively few records for this state. One of these was taken at Carmel on March 12, and the other in Pine Canyon, near Salinas, Monterey County, on March 19.—JOSEPH MAILLIARD, *California Academy of Sciences, San Francisco, May 6, 1920.*

Western Tanager in Santa Cruz Mountains in Summer.—While on a visit at Alma, Santa Clara County, California, from June 16 to 23, 1917, I heard and saw a number of Western Tanagers (*Piranga ludoviciana*). From perches well up in the coniferous trees the males were droning out their monotonous songs, and to all appearances the species was established for the summer.—TRACY I. STORER, *Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, Berkeley, California, May 14, 1920.*

EDITORIAL NOTES AND NEWS

Perhaps the most important ornithological happening announced in recent months is the resumption of activity on the part of the American Ornithologists' Union Committee on Nomenclature. According to the April *Auk* a two-day meeting was held in Washington, D. C., in February. As lately reconstituted the committee consists of Witmer Stone, Jonathan Dwight, H. C. Oberholser, T. S. Palmer, and Charles W. Richmond. It seems to us that this is a well-balanced representation of our ornithologists, as regards the varying views entertained currently in systematic ornithology. Probably no one question is more pressing than that of the constitution of the genus. In this connection we wish to call attention to the valuable article by the Chairman of the committee, Dr. Stone, in *Science* (vol. LI, April 30, 1920), entitled "The Use and Abuse of the Genus". This article sets forth precisely the dangers which threaten as a result of unlimited splitting, and, in our mind, makes the sanest sort of recommendations as to the course of action which should be followed henceforth by working systematists. It is fortunate that a man of Dr. Stone's views is at the head of the committee which will determine the names employed in the next official check-list of North American birds.

Mr. C. M. Goethe, of the California Nature Study League, Sacramento, gives a good pointer for bird students. He writes under date of June 2: Again I have been impressed with the advantages of the sleeping bag in bird study. On a trip last week-end into Cache Creek Canyon, Yolo County, dawn brought several thrilling experiences scarcely to be obtained otherwise. Quail with their young came almost within arm's reach. An oriole sang from a perch in a redbud immediately above the sleeping bag. Titmouses, flycatchers and grosbeaks were watched at similarly close range.

Dr. Edward W. Nelson, Chief of the Bureau of Biological Survey, is spending the summer in northwestern Alaska, where he is looking after the reindeer problem which was assigned to the Survey for attention. Dr. Nelson, it will be recalled, spent four years, 1877-1881, in Alaska, chiefly in the vicinity of Saint Michael. His report upon the birds observed by him during that period remains the most important ornithological publication ever issued relative to Alaska.

Miss Ellen Scripps, of La Jolla, California, is giving the San Diego Society of Natural History two thousand dollars per month, to be continued for two years, to enable the Society to move into larger quarters and to