

when I tried to cut it out of the tree. The nest contained *six* eggs, this being the largest set of which I have ever heard. The eggs are very uniform in size, the weight in grams being 9.98, 9.96, 9.48, 9.44, 9.15, 8.37. In color three eggs are of slightly lighter shade of greenish blue than the others. Only one bird was noticed, and the incubation was slight in all the eggs. My experience leads me to believe that the usual number of eggs in a set is three, while sets of two and four are not rare. In two instances I have seen sets of five eggs.

Anthony Brown Towhee (*Pipilo crissalis senicula*); Colton, California, May 11, 1923. Nest in center of black sage, 2.5 feet from ground, was of usual construction; the bird was flushed from the nest by shaking the bush. The *six* eggs in this set were very uniform as to size, shape, color, and markings. The weights in grams were 4.18, 4.14, 4.05, 4.05, 3.98, 3.90. Only one bird was noticed and it made much fuss. I have never observed more than four eggs in a set and three is common.—WILSON C. HANNA, Colton, California, October 21, 1923.

Two New Sandpiper Records for California.—I took a young male of the Buff-breasted Sandpiper (*Tryngites subruficollis*) at Morro, San Luis Obispo County, on September 14, 1923. It was feeding close to the surf on the outer beach about one quarter of a mile south of the well-known Morro Rock, in company with a Black-bellied Plover and two Least Sandpipers. The specimen is now no. 43994, in the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology.

In the hope of establishing a proper conception of the range and appearance in life of this sandpiper it may be as well to once more point out one or two general misconceptions in regard to it. First, it is not "casual" on the Pacific Coast, as given in the latest A. O. U. Check-List; for I have noted it during every year that I have spent on the British Columbian coast. As with several others of the Limicolae, it has so far only been recorded there in the fall, and its flight line is obviously along the coast-line or only a short distance inland. Some British Columbia record stations are Sumas and Chilliwack, regular fall migrant (Brooks); Sidney, Vancouver Island (C. B. Lindley); Comox, Vancouver Island (P. A. Taverner). Although a close lookout has been kept for it in the interior of the province for many years, no trace of it has been found.

The Buff-breasted Sandpiper is of regular occurrence east of the Rockies in the prairie provinces, and I have several recent specimens taken in both spring and fall at different points in Alberta. This indicates two distinct lines of migration, one through the Mississippi Valley, and the other down the Pacific coast-line.

One of the possible explanations of the infrequency of the records for this species is the almost universal custom of comparing it together with the Baird Sandpiper, in appearance, with the Pectoral Sandpiper. Few sandpipers look more unlike than these two species in comparison with the Pectoral; contour, carriage, markings, and actions are all entirely dissimilar. The pronounced pattern on the back of the Pectoral Sandpiper seen in the fall is entirely absent in the Buff-breast, which has a sandy-colored "scaly" back, almost exactly as in the Baird Sandpiper. The last named species is extraordinarily like a Buff-breast, especially when the birds are wading in mud or water; the colors are almost identical and the greater amount of white on the lower surface of the Baird does not show in most lights owing to the principle of counter-shading; the best point of distinction is the white throat of the Baird. Both have the same short black bill and light brownish rump.

I have seen Baird Sandpipers climbing about in tall grass with all the actions of a Buff-breast, and conversely I have seen a Buff-breast pitch among a small flock of Baird Sandpipers which were feeding up to their bellies in shallow water and become practically indistinguishable from them. In the last instance I went over the flock of thirteen birds three times with a $\times 8$ binocular in a perfect light at 40 yards without being able to pick out the rarer species—and I knew well what to look for. On going closer I had to con the birds over very carefully before being able to collect the Buff-breast.

So I would advise all observers on the Pacific Coast to look out for a Baird Sandpiper which shows no white on the eyebrow or chin, and with yellow instead of black legs—and to take the bird if possible. In one feature the Buff-breast resembles the Pectoral Sandpiper, in that the male is a good deal larger than the female, a noteworthy exception in the general rule with the Limicolae.

Although the Eastern Solitary Sandpiper (*Tringa solitaria solitaria*) is of common occurrence throughout British Columbia, so far there have been no records for the Pacific slope farther to the south. In the collection of the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology there is a specimen, no. 30731, of an adult male in winter plumage, taken by Leo Wiley at Palo Verde, Imperial County, which in measurements and entire lack of freckling on the inner web of the first primary, I would certainly class as typical *solitaria*. There is no indication of buffy spotting as in *cinnamomea*, although in adults in summer plumage this character is absent in both subspecies.—ALLAN BROOKS, *Okanagan Landing, British Columbia, November 12, 1923.*

EDITORIAL NOTES AND NEWS

Dr. Casey A. Wood, recently returned from an extended ornithological reconnaissance among the South Sea Islands, is established with headquarters at the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, Berkeley, while he writes up the general results of his explorations. His collections are ultimately to be donated in part to the United States National Museum and in part to the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, University of California. These include some of the rare species from the Fiji Islands and the Tongan Group, as well as specimens from New Zealand and Australia.

The editors of THE CONDOR are again indebted to Walter K. Fisher,—this time for the drawing of the new cover design which appears in our present issue. While the general idea followed out in the design remains the same, changes toward improvement of details will be noted. We decided that permanence in general external appearance of our magazine is of greater importance than any plan of changing the theme of the cover from issue to issue. Anyway, permanency of cover means economy!

We wish to declare our unqualified approval of the Game Refuge Bill which will be re-submitted to the present Congress. In our understanding of the biological laws in the case, species can only be perpetuated under conditions of favorable food supply, adequate shelter, and appropriate breeding places. With the rapid increase in population of the United States and consequent taking over of more and more of our territory for settlement, the only hope for preserving our native fauna and flora will depend upon the preservation of suitable tracts here and there for their support. The Game Refuge Bill, known in Congress as the Anthony Bill, involves the only reasonable and comprehensive move we know of toward consummation of the aims in

question. A similar bill came up before the last Congress and failed of passing, not because of valid arguments against the provisions of the bill itself, but because of purely political reasons. Let us hope that no such factors will oppose themselves to the passage of this important conservation measure this session.

THE CONDOR will henceforth, beginning with the present issue, be published by a new firm of printers. We take this opportunity of acknowledging innumerable courtesies from our preceding printer, Mr. Chas. A. Nace, of San Jose, California, a life member of the Cooper Ornithological Club. Mr. Nace printed volume 1, number 1, of THE CONDOR, under the editorship of Chester Barlow; and he printed every issue up to and including number 6 of volume 25, a total of 150 separate issues of our magazine. Incidentally, be it noted, there has never been a "double number" of this magazine!

COMMUNICATION

CONCERNING ADOLPHE BOUCARD

MR. CHARLES A. KOFOID,
Berkeley, California.

My Dear Sir:

I owe to the kindness of my friend, the well-known ornithologist, Mr. J. H. Fleming, of Toronto, a copy of THE CONDOR for May-June of this year, containing your article on the "Humming-Bird," published by the late Adolphe Boucard. During the earlier years of the issue of that publication, 1891-1894, I was in the employ of Mr. Boucard, my love of Natural History having drawn me to take up the business as a means of livelihood. You may judge, therefore, of the intense interest and delight with which I read your able article.

No words of mine can express adequately the affectionate gratitude with which I re-