

for the salted anchovies and sardines used for bait. Before a fisherman could jerk his hook out of the way the bird would seize it and, although usually detaching the bait from the hook, would sometimes be snagged about the head. In one such case a bird was brought up on deck and taken from the hook which had caught in the loose skin under the mandible. A small boy, much interested in the catch, offered the Sooty Shearwater some fresh sardines, and these, much to my surprise, it quickly snapped up. We both fed it, and during this procedure it stood calmly; but tiring of this it began to waddle along the deck and I tossed it back into the water.

Afterward, I saw many shearwaters caught thus and usually their necks were promptly wrung. They would also dive after a snag sinker which I drew in front of them. In swimming under water they used both wings and feet. They would also swim fearlessly to the side of the barge and dive for small fish hiding under it, which they would usually be successful in capturing. Some fishermen brought guns along with them and apparently took great pleasure in shooting these birds, which could in but an insignificant manner harm the fishing. The dead birds on the beach were thus traced. I wondered that these birds, which have doubtless been persecuted for many years, had not learned more fear of man. We can but hope that enforced protection may be given them before they are exterminated.—JOSEPH H. WALES, *Pasadena, California, November 19, 1926.*

The Olive-sided Flycatcher and Coniferous Trees.—The associating of *Nuttallornis borealis* with cone-bearing trees has been such a definite concept with me that it has never occurred to me to look for their nests elsewhere. The species has been noted frequently, in the Santa Cruz Mountains, during the past three seasons; but each time a bird has been observed, I have merely glanced around to look for a large redwood or spruce, wondering if this or that might be the nesting tree. My time was always deemed too precious to waste looking for such impossible treasures, impossible because of course beyond my reach and luck. Indeed, Barlow's photo (*Osprey*, II, 1897, p. 13) of "Price after the flycatcher's nest" usually comes to my mind when I meet this bird.

That collectors, generally, have not been taking generous series of sets of our boreal "Contopus" is evidenced by the fact that I locate just one record of such a "find" in the first fifteen volumes of *The Oologist*. This record accounts for a nest on the horizontal limb of a lone spruce, about twenty feet from the ground. This was at Westbrook, Maine (*Oologist*, VII, 1890, p. 224). H. B. Kaeding (*Nidologist*, IV, 1896, p. 20) records a nest on the horizontal limb of a small white fir, fifty feet above the ground, building on June 1, holding three eggs on June 20; Sierras at 4600 feet altitude. Chester Barlow (*Osprey*, II, 1897, p. 47) reports two nests; one seventy-one feet up, in a silver fir, June 9, the other seventy feet up, on drooping limb of a spruce, June 14; these in the Sierras. Anna Head (*Bird-Lore*, V, 1903, p. 153) records two nests; one only twenty feet up, in a fir, containing well-feathered young on July 22, the other judged by her to be nearly two hundred feet up, also in a fir; Lake Tahoe. And Joseph Dixon's recent record (*Condor*, XXII, 1920, p. 200) concerns a nest in a Monterey cypress, placed fifty-seven feet above the ground, June 12; Berkeley; the first record for the Bay Region and almost at sea level.

F. M. Chapman (*Birds of Eastern North America*, 1899, p. 247) says that the nest is placed in coniferous trees, about twenty-five feet up. Major Bendire (*Life Histories of North American Birds*, II, 1895, p. 284) says that nest building rarely begins anywhere throughout their range before June 1, usually not before June 10, and in some seasons not before July. Oliver Davie (*Nest and Eggs of North American Birds*, 5th ed., 1898, p. 245) states that the nest is usually built in evergreen trees. Elliott Coues (*Key to North American Birds*, 5th ed., I, 1903, p. 524) notes the nest as usually high, thirty to forty feet, on a horizontal bough of a tree (generally coniferous). And Robert Ridgway (*Birds of North and Middle America*, IV, 1907, p. 505) writes: nest on horizontal branch (usually of a coniferous tree).

The above gleanings from the literature at my elbow make me wonder why certain writers imply that *Nuttallornis* sometimes leaves the conifers to build its nest in other kinds of trees; but I have no time to investigate the case now. Enough to say that I was very much surprised when, about the middle of last May, Miss Emily Smith, of Los Gatos, a member of the Cooper Club, reported to me her finding of a pair of Olive-sided Flycatchers nest-building on May 8, the site a drooping limb of an alder, *Alnus rhombifolia*, the distance from the ground about fifty feet, the locality a canyon

floor at the eastern base of Black Mountain (Monte Bello Ridge), Santa Clara County, elevation probably about 200 feet. I visited this nest on June 5, and saw the parents feeding their young. Coast redwoods were available in the canyon, but these birds evidently used the alder by pure choice.

Meanwhile, on May 23, while resting in the shade after a long, unsuccessful scouting for nests of Wren-tit and Bell Sparrow, an excited pair of "Olive-sideds" arrested our attention. This was near the head of a ravine, a branch of the Los Gatos Canyon, elevation, perhaps, 1800 feet. One large Douglas spruce (*Pseudotsuga*) was some distance down the slope and I remarked that their nest was probably far up in that tree. All about us were oaks, laurel-bays, madrones, etc.; but while our eyes followed one of the noisy birds as he nervously changed his position, I recognized the fact that the other bird seemed to be "having its say" from a more constant location. Thereupon scanning the tree-tops in the direction from which this bird's calls seemed to emanate, I soon spied the moving head of the bird, which was looking at us with first one eye, then the other. I accordingly imagined that this bird was sitting on her nest, and such was clearly seen to be the case as soon as the glasses were focused upon her. A cautious climb of some sixty feet, into the top of a gold-leaved oak (*Quercus chrysolepis*) secured the nest and three well-incubated eggs.

Thus I am able to report two nests of the Olive-sided Flycatcher built in May and in trees totally different from the conifers supposed to be their favorites, although cone-bearing trees were nearby, available, had the birds cared to patronize them. It should be remembered, however, that the season of 1926 was an unusually early one, many birds nesting two to four weeks prior to their usual time.—CHARLES PIPER SMITH, *San Jose, California, November 18, 1926.*

A Hybrid Flicker.—On the morning of October 7, 1925, I was climbing up the side of a hill which was covered with scrub oak trees intermixed with manzanita, poison oak, madrone and other brush. Suddenly I heard a flicker, then a second one. I located them on a nearby ridge and shot one of them. To my surprise, on picking it up, I noted that this bird was not of the species common to this locality. Mr. H. S. Swarth has since informed me that it is a hybrid between *Colaptes cafer* and *C. auratus*. The two birds appeared to be alike, and they are the only ones of the sort that I have noticed in this locality. Have bird observers seen any of these flicker hybrids in this region the last few years?—JAMES L. ORTEGA, *Yountville, Napa County, California, December 6, 1926.*

Notes on the Nesting of the Band-tailed Pigeon.—Albert E. Stillman, a member of the San Diego Society of Natural History, has lived for several summers in a cabin at about 4000 feet elevation near Mesa Grande, San Diego County, California, where he has had unusual opportunity to secure information on the nesting of the Band-tailed Pigeon (*Columba fasciata fasciata*). As the literature on this subject is meager, he has, at my request, been good enough to supply me with his notes, from which I have made the following condensed transcription:

"The summer of 1922, the first year I occupied the cabin, a pair of pigeons often visited the oak trees across the ravine from me. For two weeks I explored the woods in an unsuccessful attempt to locate their nest, and then, on August 25, it was discovered by a mere chance. George Smith, a boy who was visiting me, was collecting pine cones and climbed a tree about twenty feet high whose branches were loaded with cones. It happened that his belt caught on a dead limb and, as he gave the branch a shake, a Band-tailed Pigeon left her nest on the horizontal branch of a black oak, within a few feet of the boy. She alighted in the top of a pine tree about twenty-five feet away. The nest, which was about fifteen feet from the ground, contained one egg.

"I visited the spot frequently during the next two weeks and, by a system of gradual approach, was finally able to place my camp chair within three feet of the oak tree without causing the incubating bird any uneasiness. September 8 the baby pigeon was in the nest. While it was small the mother bird stayed near the nest, sometimes sheltering the baby with her wings during the mid-day heat; but when it was about ten days old she remained away from the nest for hours at a time. On September 17 the nest was photographed by Clinton G. Abbott, Director of the Natural