

of the Tolmie Warbler attracted a Yellow Warbler, a Robin and a pair of Sierra Juncos. These birds scolded the owl but did not attempt to strike him. The owl apparently gave no heed to his tormentors and soon flew again to the nest-hole in the dead oak. Now, he managed to cling to the rim of the hole and going head first he did contrive to drag the dead woodpecker after him.

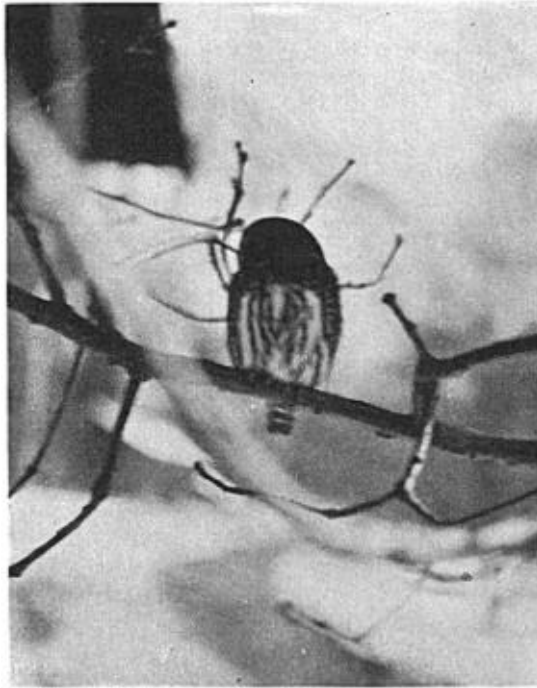


Fig. 55. PIGMY OWL IN YOSEMITE VALLEY.

Having had a good look at the victim, I am inclined to believe that it was a young male Willow Woodpecker, full-feathered and about ready to leave the nest. So far as I could tell, the parent woodpecker on returning did not discover his loss, at least he made no outcry. The Pigmy Owl's nest was in a deserted Hairy Woodpecker hole twelve feet above the ground. This hole was drilled and used by a pair of Hairy Woodpeckers last spring.—CHARLES W. MICHAEL, *Yosemite, California, January 31, 1927.*

**The Gila Woodpecker at Holtville, Imperial County, California.**—On March 21, 1926, I observed a pair of Gila Woodpeckers (*Centurus uropygialis*) about a mile north of Holtville. Both birds were busy, part of the time, carrying black mulberries to fence posts where they thrust them into crevices before eating them. As far as I can learn there is no published record of the occurrence of this species west of the immediate vicinity of the Colorado River.—RALPH HOFFMANN, *Carpinteria, California, January 1, 1927.*

**An English Sparrow Deceived.**—Much might be written in evidence of the power of sight discrimination in birds, but on November 22, 1923, I saw an English Sparrow make a mistake which was surprising to say the least. On a large billboard, in Ashland, Oregon, there was a picture of a rowboat (advertising a moving picture show), and I saw this sparrow actually attempt to alight on the edge of the boat, evidently not

perceiving the difference between the picture and the real thing. It practically, if not actually, hit the billboard before discovering its mistake, then flew to a nearby perch, a surprised and enlightened bird.—WM. E. SHERWOOD, *Trail, Oregon, February 7, 1927.*

**Western Robin Nesting at Napa.**—I was very much interested in Mr. Storer's article in the November *Condor* on "Range Extensions by the Western Robin in California", and his accurate deductions as to robins seen at Napa on August 27, 1922. Robins have nested on my two-acre residence in the heart of Napa for at least twelve years. I find entry in my notes of a brood hatching on my place on May 22, 1916. This date agrees with the known dates of nesting in San Francisco.

Mr. Frank A. Leach, a pioneer resident of Napa Valley, and a member of the Cooper Club, tells me that there were no robins in Napa Valley in the old days. The Western Martin, now non-resident, was, however, very common, and nearly every settler put up a box or a keg on a pole as an invitation to nest.—E. L. BICKFORD, *Napa, California, March 17, 1927.*

**Most Southerly Breeding Record of Wilson Snipe in California.**—My friend the late Judge Edward Wall reported the Wilson Snipe (*Gallinago delicata*) as being a breeding bird of San Bernardino, California (*Condor*, XXI, 1919, p. 207). I talked with him concerning this record and was told of the pasture where he found the eggs mentioned in the article. While I did not question the identification, I could not understand why I had not, in about thirty years of collecting, found any nests of Wilson Snipe or seen any eggs claimed to have been taken by other collectors in the San Bernardino Valley. I had come to the conclusion that the Wilson Snipe had either stopped nesting here or was a rare and erratic breeding bird. It is thus with considerable pleasure that I am now able to confirm the report that the Wilson Snipe does nest in the San Bernardino Valley.

My friend, Mr. George M. Archibald, a well known hunter of Colton, flushed a Wilson Snipe while walking across a damp pasture in East Colton on April 26, 1926. After a short search he found the nest, containing three eggs, in the deep grass. The pasture was similar to the one where Judge Wall did his collecting, and, as it is several miles farther south, this set must now be considered as providing the most southerly breeding record for the Wilson Snipe in California. I found these eggs to be fresh, and it is possible that the set was not complete. They are typical and the weights in grams were 15.40, 15.13, and 15.00. The set is now no. 2370 in my oological collection.—WILSON C. HANNA, *Colton, California, January 20, 1927.*

**The Ancient Murrelet at San Diego, with a Note on the Behavior of Brown Pelicans.**—Since the only reference I can find of the Ancient Murrelet (*Synthliboramphus antiquus*) in the vicinity of San Diego is that of a dead bird washed up at Pacific Beach on April 25, 1904 (*Bishop, Condor*, VII, 1905, p. 141), it may be well to record that on the morning of November 11, 1926, I secured three of these birds, which are now in the collection of the San Diego Society of Natural History. They were taken at sea a short distance from Point Loma.

At the time, the ocean was calm and immense schools of young smelts, evidently driven to the surface by larger fish that were feeding upon them, were attracting a great number of birds, both in the air and on the water in the immediate vicinity. Upon investigation, I found California Brown Pelicans, Western, California and Heermann gulls, Black-vented Shearwaters, and Brandt and Farallon cormorants, all in a wild scramble feeding upon the fish as they neared the surface or broke water. So intent were the birds upon their feeding, that I was able to drive my boat in among the crowd until the wash from the bow would heave them to one side before they would fly.

The most interesting feature of the situation was the action of the California Brown Pelicans (*Pelecanus californicus*) in safeguarding their catch from the Heermann Gulls (*Larus heermanni*). The gulls and shearwaters seemed to be the only birds that deliberately took advantage of the better fishing equipment of the pelicans. When a half dozen pelicans had their pouches full of fish, they would form a close