

The plan of drillings would seem to indicate the workings of an abnormal bird. With so many tiers of holes one above another it would be quite impossible for a bird to drain the sap pockets without getting his whole underbody smeared with pitch. No single sapsucker could manage to keep such a vast number of holes open. At the time of our examination there was an excessive flow of sap from the main workings. All of the holes were bleeding and the lower tiers of pockets were overflowing. More sap was flowing than could be stored or consumed.—CHARLES W. MICHAEL, *Yosemite, California, December 1, 1929.*

**Winter Nesting of the California Linnet.**—On the afternoon of November 24, 1929, I found a nest of the California Linnet (*Carpodacus mexicanus frontalis*) in the neighborhood of Walnut Creek, Contra Costa County, California. I was attracted first to the nest by the male, in full breeding plumage, which showed concern about my presence near the corner of a house. Then the female linnet flew out from a climbing rose as I approached. In the nest were four eggs still warm from incubation. The nest was empty when examined on December 5, eleven days after it was found.—PHILBRICK SMITH, *Oakland, California, December 11, 1929.*

**California Spotted Owl in San Diego County, California.**—In these days, when ever-increasing numbers of campers and hunters leave practically no areas secure from human intrusion, with its possible effect upon natural life, it may be well from time to time to record the continued existence of bird species in localities where there is danger of their extermination. In this connection it is a pleasure to note that the California Spotted Owl (*Strix occidentalis occidentalis*) still persists in the limited wooded area on Palomar Mountain, San Diego County, California, in spite of changing conditions due to "cabin-site" and other "resort" activities. On August 17, 1929, Tennant Brooks, a young naturalist camping on Palomar Mountain, collected a Spotted Owl (evidently a bird of the year), which he attempted to mount. He later presented it to the San Diego Society of Natural History. It has been remounted and placed on exhibition in the Society's museum, as part of the "Identification Series of San Diego County Birds." To the writer's knowledge, no other record of a Spotted Owl from San Diego County has come to the notice of the San Diego Society of Natural History in at least ten years.—CLINTON G. ABBOTT, *San Diego Society of Natural History, San Diego, California, December 11, 1929.*

**Vermilion Flycatcher on the Pacific Slope of Southern California.**—The occurrence of the Vermilion Flycatcher (*Pyrocephalus rubinus mexicanus*) in the vicinity of El Monte, Los Angeles County, California, where willow association predominates, appears to be more frequent than is supposed. On January 27, 1923, I collected an adult male which was darting from the top of a half-dead willow and feeding on insects over water.

Again, on October 11, 1924, an immature male was collected. This individual was the only one which was readily approached, the others, being quite "nervous", and would fly for some distance, constantly out of gun range.

An adult male was observed on October 20, 1927, but it remained at too great a distance from the observer and was not procured. In the first week of December of the same year, a female was seen but was unfortunately lost in thick undergrowth after having been shot. The fifth bird of this species noted, an adult male, was shot on December 19, 1929, after a hot chase among the willows and surrounding fields.

It is my belief that the Vermilion Flycatcher is a rare but annual fall and winter visitant in this locality, as all five birds were observed within a radius of about a quarter of a mile. Two of the specimens obtained are now in my collection and the third was given to the late O. W. Howard.—J. STUART ROWLEY, *Alhambra, California, January 3, 1930.*

**Notes on the Golden Eagle in Southern California.**—The Golden Eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*), has always received much attention from bird students who have been fortunate enough to have the opportunity to observe it. There is thus a great mass of published data concerning its nests and life history. In going through my notes

I have found a few items of interest which are new or at least not frequently recorded. The observations were made in southern California and most of them pertain to a single pair of birds or to the birds in different years around one nest on a shelf of rock.

When I was a small boy, over forty years ago, I was living in Banning and was thrilled by accounts of a nest reported to be far back in the mountains. It was thus a real pleasure often to visit this nest in later years and get an account of its history. Absolutely authentic reports given to me show that the nest was in use for at least half a century. At first, sets of eggs were taken by different collectors without bothering the birds and the final end to its history came when either an earthquake or a heavy snowfall caused the nest and shelf of rock to fall to the cañon below. This has been the fate of a number of other nests that I have had under observation, but I feel sure that none of these others was in use for fifty years.

On March 10, 1919, I was able to watch a bird turn the eggs in the nest. This was done with her beak while standing up with both eggs between her feet. The nest at this time had no green twigs in it such as it usually had.

The birds started to make repairs to the nest in January, 1922, and I timed nest building operations as follows: 10:47 a. m., bird went to nest without material; 10:49, left nest; 10:50, swooped to green bush, apparently to get green twigs but seemed to miss; 10:51, to nest with dry twigs from the hillside; 10:53, left nest and swooped at same green bush but seemed again to miss; 10:54, to nest but seemed to be without material and after working there until 11:07 finally pushed rock or other substance from it; 11:08, left nest, sailed away, and disappeared in the distance.

On February 16, the birds were soaring over the hills near the nest and at 11:33 a. m. one went to hillside, secured some brush, and took it to the nest in its talons, arriving there at 11:34; after working for ten minutes it left and then after three minutes returned again but seemed to be without material; then made several minute trips back and forth from nest to hillside before settling down in nest. A man told me that bird was still carrying material on March 3, the day before I found an egg in the nest.

Although the nesting site was visited a number of times in January and February of 1923, only a single bird was observed. There was, however, a set of two eggs in the nest on February 24, when I flushed a bird from the nest. This bird could work pretty fast at nest building, as the following record indicates: 4:16 p. m., bird observed going to nest with stick in beak; 4:17, left nest; 4:19, returned to nest; 4:19½, left nest; 4:22, sailed by nest but did not go to it; 4:23, returned from the south with such a large piece of brush that it was hard to manage; 4:23½, left nest; 4:24½, returned to nest, descending from high above it; 4:26, left nest; 4:27, returned with stick; 4:29, left nest; 4:30, returned to nest from the north with stick; 4:31, left nest; 4:33, returned from the south over the nest and descended to it from the north; 4:37, left nest; 4:47, sailed over nest and then on out of sight in the distance.

Both birds were working at the nest on February 19, 1924, female on nest working material; 12:03 p. m., male arrived at nest with paper in talons; 12:04, male left nest, soared high overhead, made sweeping dive at green bush (12:06) and then into nest; 12:07, male left nest and returned again at 12:10 with something in beak; male left nest and perched on cliff 100 yards from nest; 12:28, female left nest where she had been working continuously and perched on rocks 20 feet from male; 12:29, male flew over to a perch beside female and then copulation took place much the same as with domestic chickens; male then perched beside female; 12:33, female left perch, soared overhead, and then into the distance and out of sight by 12:40; five minutes later male left and sailed away in same direction.

I found both birds present on February 23; male going toward nest and then swooping down toward same; 12:49 p. m., female came from cliff, or possibly nest; 12:50, both soaring clockwise high overhead and mounting higher and higher, the male being the higher of the two; 12:52, female started off toward the west and male followed, soon both out of sight; 12:53, both soaring in distance; 12:55, both soaring high overhead, anti-clockwise; 12:57, both out of sight. Such soaring is

sometimes done with one bird going clockwise and the other anti-clockwise and at this season of the year followed by copulation, the female making a dive to a perch on rocks near the nest, followed by the male at full speed. At this season the birds sometimes conduct flight antics over the nest such as swooping toward it from high elevations and making loop-the-loop flights. March 6, the birds were still at work and on March 13 the nest contained two eggs.

Both birds were noticed perched on rocks above the nest on January 2, 1929. This was the first time that they had been seen since May of 1928. The first material was taken to the nest on January 6, and the nest building and flying antics continued through the balance of the month and most of February.

No birds seemed to be around on February 23, so I visited the nest and was surprised to flush one from it. The nest seemed to be ready for eggs; cup of fine twigs and good inner lining of fresh green twigs. The bird flew away and was seen no more that day. On March 2, I again flushed the bird and found a single egg, and on March 7 it flushed again from the same egg. I removed this with the idea of seeing how long it would be before another set would be deposited.

The time between the two sets seems to have been about a month for on April 8, I flushed the bird from a set of two eggs. The bird was joined by its mate in soaring around near-by, which was an unusual action. The cup of the nest had a new lining of fresh green grass and green twigs. The birds were seen about the nesting site in April, May, and June, but they have not been seen since then.

A friend saw a bird sitting on a nest in May one year and, being anxious to get some photographs of some young eagles, I visited the site shortly afterwards. When I got within ten feet of the nest and on a level with it I was surprised to see that the bird was still "sitting tight". I was afraid the bird would knock me off the cliff if I went any closer, so I yelled, waved my hat, and studied her at close range. She ruffled her feathers, opened her beak, and acted much the same as a sitting chicken that is disturbed. When she finally flew away I was amazed to find an empty nest. A visit a couple of weeks later showed the nest still empty but no birds in evidence.

Nests with complete sets of eggs that I have personally examined in southern California have had only one egg in 35 percent of the cases, two eggs in 60 percent and three eggs in 5 percent. The average weight of 31 eggs which I was able to weigh was 141.4 grams; the largest egg, 176.59 grams, and the smallest, 113.87 grams; both extremes were sets of single eggs. I have a set of a single egg which I collected in 1914, that is smaller than any of the eggs that I have weighed.

It is my opinion that the Golden Eagle is a decidedly beneficial bird. Remains of food in their nests would indicate that the ground squirrel is the chief food and rabbits second. I have never seen any first-hand evidence that would indicate that eagles destroy birds, poultry, or domestic animals. This fine bird should receive our full protection; too many are being caught in traps, or shot as "large chicken hawks."—WILSON C. HANNA, *Colton, California, January 4, 1930.*

**Notes on the Dowell Bird Collection.**—On August 26, 1929, during a brief visit at the home of Overton Dowell, Jr., in western Lane County, Oregon, I took the opportunity to look over his private collection of local bird skins collected mainly in the vicinity of his home. Among the 700 or more beautifully prepared specimens, there were a few of unusual interest, especially in view of the collecting locality, which is in the pure coast Humid Transition Zone. Those of special interest are as follows.

**Horned Puffin (*Fratercula corniculata*).** In view of the few records of the occurrence of this northern migrant in Oregon, it was interesting to find two beautiful adult skins, male and female, found dead on the ocean beach near Mercer, Lane County, Oregon, on March 15, 1919, by Mr. Dowell, who states that their plumage was oil-soaked when he found them.

**Marbeled Murrelet (*Brachyramphus marmoratus*).** A small immature male just out of the downy stage, with a wing measurement of 108 millimeters. This specimen was picked up dead in the road along the upper North Fork of the Siuslaw River about six miles inland from the Heceta Head Lighthouse on the coast of Lane County, Oregon, on September 8, 1918, by a Mr. A. B. Johnson, who gave the bird in the flesh to Mr. Dowell. So far as known by the writer, and to Dr. H. C. Oberholser