

The nest proper was so firmly fastened to the foundation that it was not easy to dislodge. It was 4 x 5½ inches with an outside depth of 3½ inches. It was composed of very small pieces of straw, pine needles, string, rope, thread, and twigs. It was a solid mat made by clever filling of dust, lint, and dog and horse hairs. The upper two inches were very soft, made entirely of padding filched from mattresses. Into this was hollowed the cup for the eggs, 2½ inches across at the rim and 1¼ at the bottom, the depth being ¾ of an inch.

The nest proper weighed only an ounce, while that of the entire structure was two and seven-sixteenths pounds.

At the time I obtained this nest another was being built in a similar situation nearer to the opened transom through which the birds may enter or leave at will.

This bird was soon brooding, so we made no attempt to climb up to look at the nest closely. However it was not more than half the height of the one described above. This pair also had used "office aids" in the making of the foundation.—LILA M. LOFBERG, *Florence Lake, Big Creek, California, August 22, 1931.*

**As to the Earliest Taking of Eggs of Townsend Solitaire.**—In the July number of *Yosemite Nature Notes* the observations of Ranger-Naturalist B. A. Thaxter, upon the nesting of the Townsend Solitaire (*Myadestes townsendi*) in the Yosemite Valley, recall an incident of similar nature that may be of interest.

Early one morning of the first week in July, 1873, not far behind the guide, I was riding with a small touring party up the steep and narrow trail from the floor of Yosemite Valley, past Agassiz Column and Sentinel Dome, to Glacier Point. As we were rounding a precipitous mountain side a bird, strange to me, flushed from the steeply cut bank of the trail and fluttered past the head of my horse. A glance at the bank that my stirrup almost touched revealed four handsome eggs in a nest that was placed in a slight cavity of the rock, at about the level of my knee.

In my excitement over the discovery, surroundings were forgotten. I slipped from the saddle and squeezed down beside the nest, while the horse, fortunately a gentle one, went on with the procession. Suddenly realizing that I would "catch fits" for disturbing and delaying my companions and that there was nothing at hand in which the eggs could safely be carried, I grabbed a single egg, wrapped it carefully in my handkerchief and started up the grade to overtake the party, which was wrathfully awaiting my appearance at the first safe stopping place on the trail. That egg was carefully guarded all of that day and finally became the prize of the small collection that was turned over to my brother upon my entering college the following year, but which later on, well systematized and vastly increased in size, was again shared with him. Had I been able to bring home the whole set it would still be in the Mailliard Collection; but in June, 1880, Mr. F. C. Holman, a friend from boyhood's days and for seventeen years past a member of the Cooper Club, sent us a fine set of five eggs that he had found in the mountains of Trinity County, California, and the single egg, somewhat damaged, if I remember aright, was discarded.

It was a fortunate circumstance for me to be just beside the nest when the sitting bird's fear, aroused by the passing of the first two or three horsemen of the cavalcade, caused it to leave the nest and in its excitement to flutter past me almost within arm's length, in this way leaving upon my mind such a vivid impression of its markings as to lead to correct identification when home was reached and authorities were consulted.

In the several editions of *Davie's Nests and Eggs of North American Birds* that are in our library, including the fifth edition (1898), appears the following statement: "So far as I am aware, Mr. Wilbur F. Lamb took the first known eggs of Townsend's Flycatching Thrush [in later editions, Townsend's Solitaire]. This was in Summit County, Colorado, July, 1876, . . .". In the Geological Survey of California publication of 1870, entitled *Ornithology, Vol. I, Land Birds*, under Townsend's Flycatcher, on page 135, is the statement that the nest and eggs of this bird still remain to be described. Mr. Robert Ridgway, in one of his reports, recorded the finding, in July, 1867, of a nest ". . . on the western slope of the Sierras, at an altitude of five thousand feet. . . It contained four young."

In view of the statements above quoted, it seems most probable that I, a boy of fifteen at the time, was the first collector to have the good fortune to come across a nest containing the eggs of the Townsend Solitaire.—JOSEPH MAILLIARD, *California Academy of Sciences, San Francisco, California, September 1, 1931.*

**The Status of the Blue-winged Teal in California.**—Grinnell, Bryant and Storer (The Game Birds of California, Berkeley, 1918, p. 121) considered the Blue-winged Teal (*Querquedula discors*) a rare transient and winter visitant on fresh water in California. These authors list twenty records distributed as follows: 3 in January, 1 in February, 8 from March to May, and 8 from August to October. Most of these occurrences were from south of the Tehachapi. Note the absence of records for the summer months of June and July.

Lamb (Condor, xxiv, 1922, p. 28) recorded the first Blue-winged Teal suspected of breeding in the state. He secured the male of a pair noted on Buena Vista Lake, Kern County, May 21, 1921. Dissection of the specimen revealed fully developed testes, indicating the probability that the birds were nesting there.

Dawson (Birds of California, De Luxe Edition, iv, 1923, p. 1770) records a pair of these birds observed at Laws, northern Inyo County, May 21, 1919, and states they were "unquestionably breeding."

Phillips (A Natural History of the Ducks, II, 1923, p. 376) considers this species an extremely rare breeder west of the Rocky Mountains and records but one breeding record for Washington and three for eastern Oregon. He states, "there is no evidence of its ever having nested in California, although it has been seen there in summer."

It is gratifying now to be able to add a number of summer records of the Blue-winged Teal's occurrence in California as a result of my field work in 1931 for the Division of Fish and Game. Although no nests were found or females with young positively identified, the circumstances and dates upon which the birds were seen seem to leave no doubt that the species breeds in the state.

June 12, 1931, a male and female of this species were observed through 8X binoculars, 75 yards distant on a small artificial pond, 4 miles northeast of Lancaster, Los Angeles County. A pair of Cinnamon Teal (*Querquedula cyanoptera*) was close by and afforded an excellent opportunity to contrast the species. Both pairs of birds were apparently nesting near this pond, as they would not leave it although driven to flight several times. Later the same day, three adult male Blue-winged Teal were noted on a small pond 7 miles north of Lancaster. One of them was collected and dissection disclosed well developed testes measuring 29 x 10 millimeters. Molt into eclipse plumage was just commencing on the neck and chest of this specimen.

June 22, 1931, two adult male Blue-winged Teal were noted on a small overflowed area at the northern edge of Honey Lake, Lassen County, 7 miles southwest of Wendel.

Eight adult male Blue-winged Teal were found on a small tule bordered pond three-quarters of a mile west of Amedee, Lassen County, June 24, 1931. It is possible some females of this species were also present, for in addition to the male blue-wings, four male Cinnamon Teal, four females of one or the other species and a single male Green-winged Teal made up a flock. It was indeed a rare sight to see all three species of North American teal on a pond less than an acre in extent.

July 1, 1931, a three-hour census was made of the waterfowl at the southwestern end of Tule Lake, Siskiyou County. Four pairs and two lone male Blue-winged Teal were definitely recorded, and a lone female examined through glasses at short range was judged to be this species on account of her small bill. One pair of these teal was collected. The female appeared to be a breeding bird, as down and feathers had evidently been plucked from her breast. However, her small ova, the largest measuring 7 mm. in diameter, and the fact that she was consorting with a male, made it somewhat doubtful if she was actually incubating. Perhaps she had an earlier nest destroyed and was preparing to lay again. The male was in breeding condition. His testes measured 21 x 9 mm. and molt had barely commenced on the neck and breast. During this census, 119 Cinnamon Teal were counted, including three broods of 11, 9 and 3 young.