

FROM FIELD AND STUDY

The American Golden-eye in Arizona.—To judge from published reports the American Golden-eye (*Glaucionetta clangula americana*) is rare in Arizona. Swarth, in "A Distributional List of the Birds of Arizona" (Pacific Coast Avifauna No. 10, 1914, p. 13) cites only one record for the state, referring to a report published by J. L. Sloanaker in 1912, which records the taking of two specimens near Tucson, April 1 and February 1, respectively.

On several occasions during the past few years the occurrence of this species has come to my attention. In November, 1922, I shot a lone female on Salt River below Roosevelt Dam, but being unfamiliar with the status of Arizona birds the value of the record was not realized at that time. In the early fall of 1930, I was informed by Dr. Floyd M. Murphy of Flagstaff that he had seen the Golden-eye near that town, and a few weeks later, on November 11, he gave me the head of a female which he had shot that day at Ashurst Lake, about 25 miles south of Flagstaff. A drake traveling with this duck was also killed. I met with this species again on November 29, 1931, at Stewart Mountain Dam, on Salt River, north of Mesa, Arizona, where I examined several ducks just shot by Mr. James J. Lane. Among the lot was a female American Golden-eye. Mr. Lane gave me this specimen, which is now number 2662 in the collection of the Museum of Northern Arizona at Flagstaff. The skin has been recently examined by Mr. T. T. McCabe of the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, Berkeley, California, and definitely identified as *Glaucionetta clangula americana*.

Swarth (*loc. cit.*, p. 90) lists this bird as of casual occurrence, but this additional information would seem to indicate a scarcity of qualified observers rather than a casual occurrence of the species, and, further, that the American Golden-eye may now be entitled to a place in the list of winter visitants to Arizona.—LYNDON L. HARGRAVE, *Museum of Northern Arizona, Flagstaff, June 15, 1932.*

Notes on the Nest-robber Tyrant in Costa Rica.—The Nest-robber Tyrant (*Legatus l. leucophaeus*) was observed daily at El General, Costa Rica, during the month of April, 1932. Eggs were found after April 11. All eggs uncovered were placed in the pouched nests of two species of tyrants, *Myiozetetes g. granadensis* and *Myiozetetes s. columbianus*, although during this period several hundred nests with eggs, representing more than fifty species of birds, were located. All nests occupied by *Legatus* apparently were taken over as soon as construction was completed, as no eggs of *Myiozetetes* were found with those of *Legatus*. Just how change of ownership is effected was not solved. It may be remarked here that the genus *Myiozetetes* contains some of the most aggressive species of small birds inhabiting the American tropics. At El General, *M. granadensis* and *M. s. columbianus* were forever chasing hawks, and pestering toucans, parrots and lesser sized birds, including members of their own family, such as *Megarhynchus p. mexicanus* and *Tyrannus m. chloronotus*. By contrast, *Legatus* is a much more dispirited species and, of course, smaller in size.

The call notes of *Legatus* are high pitched and distinctive. Most individuals were located by hearing them, which led subsequently to the discovery of the nest, although the bulky nests of the species of *Myiozetetes* require no genius to find.

Eggs of *Legatus* are noticeably small for a species of its size. In color they are normally dark chocolate-brown, relieved by one or more pen-like, black, scrawled lines about the middle of the egg. The shell is thick, decidedly more so than in any other species of bird of similar size that I can recall. Also the albumen lining is exceedingly tenacious. Sets of one, two and three eggs were found incubated. In most, if not all, of the nests examined dried leaves were found in sufficient quantity to entirely cover the eggs.

On one occasion, I found two nests of *Myiozetetes granadensis* placed side by side on a tree limb; from one flushed *M. granadensis*; the other disclosed a brooding *Legatus leucophaeus*.

Legatus broods rather closely, but when flushed it is less demonstrative than the species of *Myiozetetes*. Nevertheless, it generally remains in the immediate vicinity

when its nest is molested. *Legatus* has been recorded from Panama as entering nests of an *Oropendola* (*Zarhynchus wagleri*). This species is absent from the vicinity of El General.—AUSTIN SMITH, *San José, Costa Rica, June 10, 1932.*

Sanderlings and Turnstones at Salton Sea, California.—On a visit to Salton Sea, Imperial County, California, May 17, 1930, Sanderlings (*Crocethia alba*) were found to be fairly common on sandy beaches; one specimen was taken. On some small rocky islets in the sea, one Black Turnstone (*Arenaria melanocephala*) and four or five Ruddy Turnstones (*Arenaria interpres morinella*) were seen.—G. WILLET, *Los Angeles Museum, Los Angeles, California, May 17, 1932.*

Nesting of the Black-chinned Hummingbird in Santa Clara County, California.—There appear to be but three records for the Black-chinned Hummingbird (*Archilochus alexandri*) for the Bay counties of west-central California (Grinnell and Wythe, *Pacific Coast Avifauna* No. 18, 1927, p. 94) and no record at all of its nesting in that region. Some twenty years ago the writer gave about one hundred sets of locally taken eggs to a young friend. After being packed away for nearly that length of time they were recently returned. Among them were three sets with nests of the Black-chinned Hummingbird. One set was still in perfect condition but unfortunately the other two were broken.

Set number 1 was taken on May 5, 1907. The nest was placed eight feet up on the end of a sycamore limb and contained two fresh eggs. Nest number 2 was taken on May 12, 1907, and was placed about fifteen feet up in a small white oak; two fresh eggs. Nest number 3 was taken May 14, 1907, and was only two feet up on the tip of a low-hanging sycamore limb. It held two fresh eggs. These sets were taken by the writer about four miles west of Gilroy.

The nests are all typical of this species and are composed entirely of down taken from the underside of sycamore leaves, and cobwebs. One pair of birds was under close observation during nest building and the female apparently gleaned most of the material from dried leaves which were frozen earlier in the spring. It would be interesting to know if this bird ever uses any other down in the construction of these sponge-like nests. This may not be the northern breeding limit of this bird along our coast. A search should be made along the sycamore-bordered streams of northern Santa Clara and Alameda counties. Male birds were noted July 15, 1926, and April 1, 1928, at the writer's home, feeding among potted plants on the porch.—W. E. UNGLISH, *Gilroy, California, May 16, 1932.*

Titmouse Menu.—In the course of the several years during which food of various kinds has been offered to birds in my back yard on the Tunnel Road in Berkeley, I have never seen a Titmouse come to eat until recently. These birds are mainly insect eaters and it was quite surprising to discover one taking bread and eating it. This I have witnessed daily for the last week.

Yesterday a Plain Titmouse (*Baeolophus inornatus inornatus*) picked up a piece of bread too large to carry away, but managed to carry it to a clothes line and there feed from the bread exactly as a jay would. The bread was held on the line with the feet and particles broken loose by repeated pecking and then eaten. When the meal was finished, the bird released the bread, which immediately fell to the ground, and departed, leaving no doubt as to the bread being held by the bird's feet.—CLAUDE GIGNOUX, *Berkeley, California, May 23, 1932.*

Notes on the Western Burrowing Owl.—While digging out a few nests of the Western Burrowing Owl (*Speotyto cunicularia hypugaea*) which were in excavations of Douglas Ground Squirrels (*Citellus douglasii*) near Benicia, Solano County, California, on April 23, 1932, with Henry W. Carriger, we found several examples of the food of these birds other than the usual segments of Jerusalem crickets (*Stenopelmatus*), ground beetles, and such.

From one of the cavities, before the eggs were reached, Carriger withdrew three Pacific Coast Newts (*Triturus torosus*), the heads missing from each of these salamanders.