

When a cat or dog would come into the house she would fly down, give it a vicious peck and dash away to safety. She would repeat this until the animal left or she was put out.

Of the three birds, Maggie and Jiggs are the only ones that talk. Maggie has quite a record vocabulary. She imitates all the parrots and the neighbors, and once in a while she sings. There are many amusing sayings accredited to her.

In April of this year we put all of the birds together to see if they would breed. They did not breed, but we had the good fortune of seeing them build a nest. Maggie and Jiggs were the ones that worked on it. The nest was made in an old nail keg, first a layer of sticks was put in the bottom. When we thought they had finished with this part we gave them a pan of mud. They went to work immediately, using their bills as trowels to work the mud. Then they swallowed as much mud as their bills would hold, waited for a few minutes and then went to the nest and disgorged it in the shape of a ring. Then they worked the mud into a cup shape with their bodies. After a thin layer of mud was laid they got some fine twigs and straws, and after working them in the mud they would put a layer of this in the nest, then another of mud. After two days of this they were such a sight, black couldn't be told from white. The birds then ceased work for a day and cleaned up. The following day they began again and lined the nest with a large amount of horsehair.

The most peculiar thing about it all is that as soon as the nest was completed they began to fight fiercely for possession of it. Because of this we have come to the conclusion that all of the birds are females.—GLEN VARGAS, *Route 3, Jensen Road, Hayward, California, July 27, 1933.*

**Nesting of the Western Robin in Solano County, California.**—The Western Robin (*Turdus migratorius propinquus*) has nested for several years in suitable parts of Napa County, which adjoins Solano County on the west, and I have been expecting to find this species nesting in the latter county for some time. Heretofore, the only evidences I have had of robins nesting in Solano County are: an adult on the lawn of the Vacaville High School in the early summer, date not recorded (about 1929); a pair of birds on the lawn of the Benicia City Park, several times in June, 1932; a young bird with spotted breast in my front yard at Benicia on July 31, 1932; an adult robin filling its beak with earthworms on my lawn many times in May and June, 1933; and an adult male on the lawn surrounding the Benicia Arsenal office building, on June 1, 1933.

My first actual sight of a nest, however, in this county was on June 15, 1933, when a typical mud structure of the robin was found by two boys and taken to the home of one of them where it was shown to me. One of the lads took me to the site where the nest was found—a crotch of a eucalyptus tree in our city park. The nest had been placed ten feet up and was well hidden by the bushy growth where the tree had been "topped." The young had left the nest when found.

The increase in the area devoted to green lawns has, I think, been the deciding factor in inducing some of the robins to stay here to nest.—EMERSON A. STONER, *Benicia, Solano County, California, July 19, 1933.*

**Problems in the Classification of Northwestern Horned Owls.**—Dr. L. B. Bishop has recently described a form of Great Horned Owl, *Bubo virginianus leucomelas*, based upon winter-taken specimens from the vicinity of Victoria, British Columbia (see Proc. Biol. Soc. Wash., 44, June 29, 1931, p. 93). Having occasion to refer to this account, it struck me as desirable to make comparisons with other specimens that were available, and in response to my request Dr. Bishop kindly forwarded the type of *leucomelas* and one other skin of the same sort. Comparison with my own material sufficed to show that the new name applied to the breeding Horned Owl of the Atlin region, British Columbia. It should be a source of satisfaction to Dr. Bishop that his published description contains the following statement: "These facts would indicate that *leucomelas* is a form of very limited distribution, and probably breeds east of the coast range in northern British Columbia, near where the ranges of *lagophonus* and *subarcticus* approximate."

This is all right so far as it goes, but I feel very strongly that we are still a long way from a proper understanding of the Horned Owl variants of the northwest,