

## FROM FIELD AND STUDY

**A Hummingbird Entangled in a Spider's Web.**—In accounts of tropical explorations we read of spiders' webs capable of ensnaring small birds, but one hardly expects to happen upon anything of that sort right at home. Recently encountering an object hanging by two strands of a nearly demolished web, I did not at once recognize its nature, but closer inspection showed it to be a hummingbird, evidently a female or immature male Costa (*Calypte costae*), suspended head downward with folded wings. The bird looked dead, but when taken in hand it opened its bill and struggled feebly, so I undertook to remove the web, which was well wrapped around its wings. The strands were so tough and viscid that this was accomplished only with difficulty and, apparently, at some risk of pulling out the feathers. When released, the bird was too exhausted to fly, so it was placed inside a room. A few minutes later it was found clinging to the window screen, and when taken to the doorway it flew away with fully restored strength.

The web in question was that of our largest common orb weaver, a dull-colored, heavy-bodied, sluggish spider which spins a particularly coarse thread and often spans a space of ten feet or more. Doubtless a hummingbird in full flight would break through the web without harm, but if it should blunder into it while hovering, the beating of its wings might easily wrap about it a large portion of the web; and such is the strength of the fabric that it seems capable of holding a bird of considerably larger size. Evidently the rarity of such occurrences is due to the vigilance of the hummingbirds in avoiding the snares rather than to any lack of potential danger.—ROBERT S. WOODS, *Azusa, California, July 31, 1934.*

**Nesting of the Orange-crowned Warbler in Oregon.**—During the summer months this rather elusive species is sparingly distributed over some of the higher mountains of eastern Oregon. It can not be called common in this State but summer records of its occurrence have been noted on Hart Mountain in Lake County, the Steins Mountains in Harney County, on Lookout Mountain in Baker County, and in the Wallowa Mountains of northeastern Oregon. I have found these birds in groves of aspen, willow, and alder, in preference to other cover, usually above 5,000 feet altitude. Unless the males are heard singing they can be overlooked easily in any locality. The series in my collection from Oregon is typical of the Rocky Mountain form, *Vermivora celata orestera* Oberholser, but this form is not recognized as a valid race in the A. O. U. Check-list of 1931.

On June 18, 1934, a nest of this species was found at 6,600 feet altitude on Hart Mountain, Lake County, Oregon. The location was a rather dense mixed grove of aspen, alder, willow, and yellow pine. The female was on the nest, which was placed on the ground well under a small leaning willow stump, about five inches in diameter, that had been cut off about a foot above the ground, leaving the stump leaning at an angle of about 45 degrees. Weeds had grown over the stump forming a loose canopy of vegetation which protected the nest and sitting bird from being easily seen. The nest was composed of coarse dry strips of willow bark, lined with porcupine hairs. It measured, inside, 50 mm. in width and 33 mm. in depth. It held four eggs, resembling the eggs of *V. c. lutescens* in markings and color, but distinctly smaller. Incubation was well advanced. On flushing the female, she protested with low chirps, and was soon joined by the male. Both parents were very shy and kept well under cover while I was near the nest.—STANLEY G. JEWETT, *Portland, Oregon, July 19, 1934.*

**Pelagic Birds near Shore.**—My fondness for boating carries me frequently to the ocean near San Diego, but never before have I seen so many pelagic birds close to shore as were recently observed en route to and from the regatta at Santa Monica. On August 3, between San Diego and San Clemente Island, I definitely counted fourteen Black-footed Albatrosses (*Diomedea nigripes*) and there may have been more. Five individuals were counted in one group and three in another, in both cases resting on the water. On August 12, between Catalina and San Clemente islands, I saw petrels in flocks "thick as blackbirds." There were three separate flocks which I estimated as containing from 200 to 500 birds each. They would be seen resting on