

Mockingbird Nesting at Benicia, California.—Definite records of Western Mockingbirds (*Mimus polyglottos leucopterus*) being seen here are rather few. A neighbor has informed me that she has seen them about her house occasionally in the fall or winter, and I have driven on two occasions past a bird which I was quite certain was of this species, but upon stopping and driving back to verify the record, the bird had flown away. On December 19, 1933, I made a positive observation of one on a telephone wire, whence it flew to a nearby tree on the Benicia Arsenal grounds.

On April 23, 1934, Mrs. Art Artus, who lives in Benicia, sent word for me to stop and see a nest with young birds in her yard, which nest she thought was that of a mockingbird, as the bird sang sweetly and resembled a picture in the single bird book which she had. Scout Naturalist Brighton C. Cain and Eagle Scout Dana Sperr, being my guests that day, we all dropped in at the location, and after examining the nest, one parent appeared with food, then the other, verifying the record which, so far as I know, is the first nesting record of the Mockingbird for the immediate north shores of the San Francisco Bay region. The nest was six feet up in the center of a small quince tree and was made of twigs, weed stems and several pieces and strips of cloth. The four young were probably a week old and were quite lively when removed from the nest, banded and photographed, the adult birds becoming quite excited over this procedure.

About noon on April 25, Mr. Artus found two of the young birds dead in the nest and the other two missing. I stopped in on the following day and found both parents in the yard, one with a red pepper berry in its bill, and we had hopes that the other two young were somewhere in the vicinity, possibly in the tall dry grass on the side of the house where they nested. [These hopes were verified when the parents were seen feeding both young in the trees near the house during several days afterwards.]

Mrs. Artus stated that she had fed strawberries to the adults and that she had seen them eating the fruit of the cactus in her yard.—EMERSON A. STONER, *Benicia, California, April 30, 1934.*

NOTES AND NEWS

The fourth "Ten Year Index to The Auk" appeared in August (our copy arrived on the 15th), 1934; it covers volumes 38 to 47, inclusive—1921 to 1930—and is paged i-xxiv, 1-328; typography and organization practically identical with those of the preceding Indexes. The Editor, Mr. Harry S. Swarth, was assisted by an able corps of collaborators, mostly Californians. Dr. T. S. Palmer, Dr. Herbert Friedmann, and Mr. Frank Bond, of Washington, D. C., also contributed importantly at certain stages toward the end of the tedious course of preparation. The useful "Biographical Index," in itself constituting 12 pages, was entirely the work of Dr. Palmer. The meticulous care for detail in literary matters, for which Mr. Swarth is so well known, ensured that high plane of accuracy which is in evidence throughout the book; and such accuracy is, of course, essential to the working value of any index. The fourth Auk index was published by the American Ornithologists' Union and copies may be had from the Union's Treasurer, W. L.

McAtee, at 200 Cedar Street, Cherrydale, Virginia; price \$3.00 paper, \$4.00 bound.—J. G.

We wish to call special attention of persons interested in conservation to the valuable article in the June, 1934, issue of the *Wilson Bulletin* (vol. XLVI, pp. 73-90), by Mr. E. R. Kalmbach. The title, "Field Observation in Economic Ornithology," indicates the theme of the article, which is to emphasize the essential value of the observational method as supplementary to the stomach-content-analysis method in determining the economic status of birds. Indeed, the point is made that the latter alone may not, for certain problems, suffice at all. Incidentally, Mr. Kalmbach, who is a member of the staff of the U. S. Biological Survey, makes some pertinent statements, well worthy of quotation far and wide, as follows: "Already there is a real and appealing need for extensive study in methods of preventing or reducing bird damage through means less drastic than wholesale destruction. There is missionary and experimental