



Fig. 11. Terra cotta chimney used by Sparrow Hawk as nesting site.

Sparrow Hawk Nests in Chimney.—A student of the Benicia High School, Vernon Ray, brought to me on April 14, 1936, a female Sparrow Hawk (*Falco sparverius*) and four eggs which he informed me were taken from a chimney in a small building at Paddy's Dam, four miles northeast of Benicia, Solano County, California. I banded and released the bird, and he offered to show me the location of this odd nesting site. I found it to be in a small building used as a tool shed on the edge of the reservoir. The chimney in which the eggs had been laid consisted of two sections of terra cotta pipe, as shown in the accompanying illustration (fig. 11). No stove was connected with the chimney at this time, and the hole was open through the pipe from the interior of the building to the exterior. The eggs had been laid in the bottom of the vertical piece of pipe, and were exposed to the sky. They were of the customary type, though darkened or blackened to some extent by the soot in which they lay.

When approached from the exterior, the sitting bird, in leaving the eggs, entered the building through the horizontal section and was there caught by the boy who located this unusual nesting site. The feathers of the parent bird were, of course, also darkened by soot.—EMERSON A. STONER, *Benicia, California, August 24, 1936.*

Summer Tanager at Wilmington, Los Angeles County.—A male *Piranga rubra rubra* was found dead in Banning Park, Wilmington, California, by Mrs. Edith J. Dietrich, March 14, 1936. It was brought to the Los Angeles Museum by Dr. Adele Grant and is now no. 18655 of our collection. I believe this is the fourth record of the subspecies in Los Angeles County and the fifth in southern California.—G. WILLETT, *Los Angeles, California, November 6, 1936.*

A Few Unusual Records from Central California.—Florida Gallinule (*Gallinula chloropus cackinmans*). This species was found breeding at Soap Lake, near Gilroy, on May 27, 1935, when a set of eight heavily incubated eggs was collected. Another set of six was found on May 28, 1936, which was left. This appears to be the first breeding record for the San Francisco Bay Region. (See Grinnell and Wythe, *Pac. Coast Avif.* No. 18, 1927, p. 64.)

Southern Bald Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus leucocephalus*). One record. An adult of this species flushed from the ground in the foothills east of Gilroy and crossed the road not more than twenty feet in front of the writer's car on March 26, 1928. The bird carried a ground squirrel (*Citellus beecheyi*) and lit in the top of an oak not far from the road where it continued its meal.

Osprey (*Pandion haliaëtus carolinensis*). One record. A bird was noted about four miles west of Gilroy on Uvas Creek, May 10, 1935. The bird was sitting on a dead sycamore about 75 yards from the road and was carefully observed for about twenty minutes with 8-power glasses. It then flew west. At this time a pair had a nest on the top of a redwood tree in Green Valley which is about eight miles northeast of Watsonville. That would be about eight miles in a straight line from the point of record. The bird headed toward the nesting site. The writer is familiar with this species, having noted it many times on the Atlantic Coast.

American Rough-leg (*Buteo lagopus s. johannis*). A few of these birds winter with us. One noted at Soap Lake, December 12, 1934, and another on December 3, 1935. A fine male was collected at the lake on December 26, 1935.

Ferruginous Rough-leg (*Buteo regalis*). Noted every winter on the Bolsa Plains between Gilroy and Hollister. Two birds collected about twelve miles east of Gilroy in Pacheco Pass on January 11, 1932. During the winter of 1933 and 1934 these birds were noted every day in the field. Six birds were noted on January 24, 1934, and five on December 20, 1933.

Clark Nutcracker (*Nucifraga columbiana*). A bird of this species shot by some boys at the Bear Valley School near Pinnacles, San Benito County, September 10, 1935, had been around

for several days. The head being nearly shot away it was impossible for the writer to do anything with it.

Dotted Wren (*Catherpes mexicanus punctulatus*). Since 1922 the writer has been taking notes at Big Sur, Monterey County, and this species has been recorded once. On May 14, 1927, a friend showed me a nest built over the door of a small cabin at Big Sur. This turned out to be a nest of this species with young just-hatched. This nest was visited every day for a week and the birds and their song checked many times. The deep redwood canyon and the rushing stream is not the association where one would expect to find this species.

Harris Sparrow (*Zonotrichia querula*). A male in juvenile plumage in the writer's collection was taken by H. R. Eschenberg at his feeding station on January 20, 1936.

White-throated Sparrow (*Zonotrichia albicollis*). An adult male also taken by Eschenberg at his feeding station in Gilroy, December 17, 1935.

Townsend Solitaire (*Myadestes townsendi*). A female in the writer's collection taken by H. R. Eschenberg at his home in Gilroy, January 21, 1932. Another bird was collected the day previously, and on January 23, 1932, two more birds appeared and stayed several days.

Least Vireo (*Vireo bellii pusillus*). A set of four eggs with nest in the writer's collection was taken near Sargent, Santa Clara County, on April 19, 1932. The nest was in the crotch of a small willow about 18 inches above the ground in a dark thicket. The bird almost allowed itself to be touched before flushing and would return immediately even under the hand. This appears to be the first breeding record for the San Francisco Bay region. (See Grinnell and Wythe, *Pac. Coast Avif.* No. 18, 1927, p. 131).—W. E. ENGLISH, *Gilroy, California, August 27, 1936.*

The Eared Grebe and other Birds from the Pliocene of Kansas.—Through Mr. Claude W. Hibbard of the University of Kansas I have had opportunity recently to examine some fragmentary bird bones collected in the Edson Beds in Sherman County, Kansas, from the type locality of *Grus nannodes* Wetmore and Martin. According to Mr. Hibbard (*Trans. Kansas Acad. Sci.*, vol. 37, 1934, p. 239) the material is middle Pliocene in age, with the possibility of somewhat greater antiquity that would range it in the upper portion of the lower Pliocene. While fragmentary, some interesting information is available and it is hoped that other bird remains may be secured from these deposits.

Colymbus nigricollis.—A right metatarsus (no. 3834, Univ. Kans. Mus. Vert. Pal.), with the head and the internal trochlea missing, was collected by Dr. E. H. Taylor at Easter time in 1935. The specimen though fully grown comes from an immature individual. With a series of six *Colymbus nigricollis*, including specimens from Germany, China, and the United States, and nine *Colymbus auritus* available, I find that these two species are distinguished on careful comparison by the size of the middle trochlea. This is decidedly heavier in *auritus* and more slender in *nigricollis*. The fossil agrees so definitely with *nigricollis* that after some consideration it appears that it must be identified as that species. Its occurrence in Kansas during the middle Pliocene is highly interesting, as this carries the history of this grebe back far beyond its previously known record for the Pleistocene of Fossil Lake, Oregon.

Scolopacidae, indeterminate.—The proximal end of a left metatarsus collected by Dr. E. H. Taylor during the Easter vacation in 1935 represents a sandpiper, apparently of the subfamily Erolinae. The bird was about the size of the Pectoral Sandpiper, *Pisobia melanotos*. The specimen is too fragmentary to allow more definite determination.

The distal end of a right metatarsus obtained by David Dunkle on August 20, 1935, is from a species slightly smaller than *P. melanotos*. It is peculiar in the broadening of the base on which the outer trochlea rests, in this being similar to *Arenaria*. In form it is slender, having the proportions of *Pisobia*.

Corvidae, indeterminate.—The proximal end of a right coracoid collected by Dr. E. H. Taylor during the Easter period, 1935, is from a bird of this family that seems closer to the genus *Pica* than to any others that I have seen. It represents a distinct genus that is apparently unknown, differing from modern magpies (*Pica pica* and *P. nuttallii*) in having the inner margin of the head less expanded and rounded, more nearly straight. It is slightly smaller than the smallest *Pica* seen. Though it seems certain that the species represented is quite distinct from any now known it is hardly practicable to diagnose it from this fragmentary bit.—ALEXANDER WETMORE, *United States National Museum, Washington, D. C., August 29, 1936.*

Northern Arizona Bird Notes.—The following bird notes were obtained by the authors during the course of collecting activities in the San Francisco Mountain region and vicinity, Arizona, in 1934. Specimens collected are in the Randolph Jenks Collection at the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, University of California.