

observations is now in preparation.—JOHN T. EMLÉN, JR., *Division of Zoology, University of California, Davis*, and BEN GLADING, *San Joaquin Experimental Range (U. S. Forest Service), O'Neals, California, October 5, 1937.*

An Early Spring Migration Record for Calliope Hummingbird.—Prior to this year the migrating Calliope Hummingbirds (*Stellula calliope*) have not been observed to arrive in the San Gabriel Valley (Los Angeles County, California) until some time in April, my earliest record being April 8, 1926. Willett states (*Pacific Coast Avifauna* no. 21, 1933, p. 99) that an adult male was taken by L. H. Miller at Riverside in late March, 1892. This was probably the only published occurrence earlier than April in the United States, as the Arizona and New Mexico records almost entirely pertain to the southward migration.

At mid-afternoon on March 6, 1937, only a minute or two after noting the first Rufous Hummingbird (*Selasphorus rufus*) of the season, I saw in the same flowering quince bush a male Calliope Hummingbird. The Calliope was tame and unhurried, and alternately fed and rested in the quince for the remainder of the afternoon, but it did not reappear on the following day or thereafter. The maximum temperatures on March 6 and the several preceding days were slightly above 80 degrees.—ROBERT S. WOODS, *Azusa, California, October 26, 1937.*

Calliope Hummingbird at Zion National Park.—At the request of Mr. Clifford C. Presnall, Park Naturalist, Zion National Park, Utah, I am recording the observation of a Calliope Hummingbird (*Stellula calliope*) made by Mr. Stephens and myself, April 22, 1937. A bird of this species was seen several times on the mountain slope just back of the Museum. We noted its small size, greenish back, the white tips of the tail, and the bill black above and yellowish below. Mr. Presnall states that it migrates through that part of the country, since it has been seen at Bryce; but this is a new observation for Zion.—LAURA A. STEPHENS (Mrs. Albert B.), *San Francisco, California, October 6, 1937.*

A Black Phoebe's Nest with Eggs of Three Species.—One and one-half miles north of Manka, Solano County, California, I stopped my car at a concrete bridge, on June 26, 1937, a very hot day, and looked underneath for a nesting Black Phoebe. A nest of phoebe construction, plastered into the angle formed by a concrete pillar and the under-surface of the bridge, was about twelve feet over the small stream. The first egg I withdrew from this nest was a Dwarf Cowbird's (*Molothrus ater obscurus*), then three of the Western Flycatcher (*Empidonax difficilis*), and finally, under a scanty lining of fine hairs, three eggs of the Black Phoebe (*Sayornis nigricans*).

A Western Flycatcher, intermittently perching on a fence post near-by and flying back and forth beneath the bridge, with its beak open because of the heat, was the present caretaker of this domicile. The flycatcher had added to the lining of grasses and weed stems installed by the phoebe, a few hairs, bark strips, weed stems, grasses, a feather, and cobwebs matted about the rim, these additions reducing somewhat the size of the nesting cup.

Subsequent preparation of the eggs showed that the phoebe's eggs had not started to incubate and were very slightly "caked." Incubation in the cowbird's and flycatcher's eggs were at about the same stage, some three or four days. There was nothing to indicate whether the phoebes had met with an accident, or had been driven away by the flycatchers.—EMERSON A. STONER, *Benicia, California, September 23, 1937.*

Safe Packing of Dry Study-skins of Birds for Shipment.—Packing dry study-skins of birds is a matter of considerable importance on account of the hazards to which specimens are subjected during transit. Care and time expended upon details will save valuable specimens from damage. Individual skins should be placed in containers in such a way that neither bills, tails, nor feet shall be in contact with sides or ends of the packing box, and so that they will not be crowded against one another or subjected to excessive pressure. Therefore, containers must be large enough to allow for sufficient padding on all sides, top and bottom, and each skin must receive special attention as to wrapping and placing within the well-padded box. Cotton, of a cheap grade, is the best packing material for all bird-skins, with the exception of very large specimens such as geese and eagles. For large birds, shredded tissue paper, newspaper, or excelsior is satisfactory for padding. Containers must be firm; light-weight wood is preferable to cartons; ordinary cardboard boxes are entirely unsuitable unless reinforced with corrugated cardboard.

Several satisfactory methods are in current use. By one method specimens are placed directly upon layers of cotton, with cotton pads over and between heads, tails, and feet. This insures safety in transit but is open to the objection that shreds of cotton catch on claws and bills and adhere to feathers, and must be plucked off when specimens are removed from container. Another method