

## FROM FIELD AND STUDY

**Hutton Vireo Nesting in February.**—It was my good fortune as well as surprise to collect a nest with four eggs of the Hutton Vireo (*Vireo huttoni huttoni*) on February 22, 1938. This is, I believe, the earliest breeding record for this vireo. The nest was well obscured in a large oak tree, among other oaks, up about 20 feet from the ground and out 36 feet from the trunk at a fork of twigs at the end of a branch. The locality was near El Casco, San Timoteo Canyon, Riverside County, California, and about sixteen miles southeast of Colton.

The nest was first seen on February 20 when I, in company with W. F. Moore and Oscar F. Clarke, saw a bird go to it. At that time the nest had but two eggs. On the 22nd, one bird flushed from the branch near the nest, while the incubating mate was actually touched as it sat on the nest. The nest is of the usual vireo type made of fine fiber covered over with light green moss and with a good lining of shredded fiber. The outside measurements are 3 inches in diameter as well as depth, while the inside diameter is 1.7 inches and the inside depth 1.5 inches.

The eggs are typical, white with but few markings, and the weight in grams was 1.71, 1.67, and 1.65. The other egg had a defective shell and no weight was secured. My records show the average weight of ten eggs to be 1.74 grams, with a maximum of 2.16 grams and minimum of 1.51 grams.

Both the earliest and latest records for nesting which I had previously were of nests in the Santa Ana River bottom, the former being March 25, 1923, and the latter May 21, 1926. This last nest held two eggs of the Dwarf Cowbird.—WILSON C. HANNA, Colton, California, February 22, 1938.

**Notes on a Young Golden Eagle in Colorado.**—Late in the summer of 1936 we noticed, on a ledge projecting from the face of a sandstone butte, a rather large eyrie. While the construction seemed somewhat too heavy for a Rough-legged Hawk, we were reluctant to consider any other possibility because of the extraordinary accessibility of the location. The butte in question is only a few miles east of Colorado Springs, near a road, and on one side it blends without a perceptible break into the open prairie. The ledge itself is only three and a half feet below the flat table top of the butte. We were sufficiently intrigued to visit the place again the past spring (1937), not once as it turned out, but many times.

The first of these visits was on May 30. Not knowing what awaited us, we approached the eyrie rather carelessly and a female Golden Eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*) sprang from it when we were about ten feet away. In the nest there was one young of estimated age of one week. One sterile egg was discovered on the top of the butte about twenty-five feet from the eyrie. At intervals of two or three days the visits were continued, until June 24. On eight of the eleven visits one or both of the old birds were present, the female usually protecting the young bird from the brilliant sunlight. Numerous photographs were taken of the young and old birds, some at a distance as short as 3½ feet. Once the female nearly knocked the camera from the photographer's hands in her effort to depart.

As we approached the eyrie on our last visit, we saw several boys in the neighborhood of the butte. To our disappointment we observed that their objective was the same as ours, and we overtook them as they were marching away with the young eagle in their possession. It would not have been difficult to have persuaded them to return the bird to the eyrie, but after conversing with them for a half hour and pointing out the responsibility which they were undertaking, we decided that if we did, it was quite likely that the young eagle could fall into the hands of less humane captors. The boy who had possession of the bird had had an eagle once before which, according to him, he had kept in good condition. As that bird finally escaped, it can be hoped that this one will also regain its freedom.

It ought to be mentioned that not once did we find remains of food at the eyrie other than cottontails and jack-rabbits. Apparently food was brought at irregular intervals. Sometimes we found two freshly killed animals in the eyrie and on other occasions it was obvious that the food supply was two or three days old. The owner of the ranch on which the butte is located did what he could to protect the eagles. He had numerous chickens but they were never touched. Incidentally, we have noticed that the farmers and ranchers in this neighborhood are well aware of the economic value of birds of prey.

Considering the tactics of other raptors in the defense of their nests, we were a little disappointed that this pair of eagles made no effort to defend theirs. After not more than one lazy circle they always disappeared beyond the range of vision of six-power binoculars.—T. H. RAWLES and L. W. RAWLES, Colorado College, Colorado Springs, Colorado, March 3, 1938.