



Fig. 53. A small table mountain near Madera, California, photographed at a distance of about 300 yards in June, 1945; Lark Sparrows were present on all sides of this mountain.

These nests have been found built at heights of five to ten feet above the ground. Each fits the bottom of the crevice snugly. The material in all nests studied has consisted of grasses in the outer part and horsehair in the center; all have been round in shape (figs. 51 and 52). In all but one nest the eggs numbered four; in the excepted nest, the fifth egg was outside the nest.

This nesting site of the Lark Sparrow was first found in 1941. That year I found five nests, and all were on a small table mountain at the edge of the foothills east of Madera (fig. 53). The next year I found four at the same location and two on the side of another small table mountain about a quarter mile away. In 1943 I found three nests at the first location and one at the second. In 1944 three nests were found. In 1945 four nests were located, and this year four were found at the first small table mountain. At the time I found the first nests, I did not notice that Dawson and Hoffmann were unaware of this nesting site of the Lark Sparrow. I am interested in knowing if others have seen nests in cliffs, and if so, where?—JESS M. MARKLE, *Madera, California, May 27, 1946.*

Late Nesting of the Pyrrhuloxia at Tucson, Arizona.—For several years Pyrrhuloxias (*Pyrrhuloxia sinuata*) have visited our feeding table at our home on Kleindale Road in the Rillito Valley, six miles northeast of Tucson, Arizona. On September 9, 1945, a female appeared with a partly grown young bird that followed her about, begging vociferously until it was fed. This begging note was heard frequently around our house during the following days and, usually when we looked outside, we found the female feeding the young bird. This dependence continued into the period of molt of the female. She appeared ragged on October 1. On October 12 she was last seen feeding her offspring which, at that time, was acquiring the male plumage. If we assume that the incubation period is approximately two weeks, and that the nestlings remain in the nest about ten days, then the eggs were probably laid around the middle of August.

Other dates when adults were seen feeding young birds out of the nest are June 14, 1939, August 16, 1944, and July 3, 1945. Apparently, nesting does not begin very early. A nest with three eggs was found on April 30, 1944, although courtship feeding was observed as early as February 28. Courtship feeding was again observed on April 11. On April 7, 1946, a female began building a nest in a clump of dead mistletoe in a catclaw bush near the bank of the dry Rillito Creek, about 200 yards north of our house. For some reason work was discontinued the same day. On April 20, we found the female incubating three eggs in a new nest a short distance from the first location.—ANDERS H. ANDERSON and ANNE ANDERSON, *Tucson, Arizona, May 2, 1946.*

A Mountain Plover from Utah.—On March 25, 1946, a female Mountain Plover (*Eupoda montana*) was picked up along a roadside fifteen miles southwest of Brigham City, Boxelder County, Utah. Although still living, one wing was broken, probably from collision with nearby wires. The bird was taken to headquarters of the Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge where it subsequently died and was prepared as a study skin. This species is not listed in Behle's Check-list (Condor, 46, 1944: 67-87) as occurring in the state and thus appears to be a new state record.—JOHN B. VAN DEN AKKER, *Bear River Refuge, Brigham City, Utah, April 25, 1946.*

Another Record of the Skua from the State of Washington.—In my study of the Skuas of the state of Washington (Condor, 44, 1942:218-221), reference was made in the summary to the

fact that up to that date a total of nine of these birds had been taken in the Northwest. On August 20, 1945, I was able to secure another specimen which, by general appearance and measurements, I believe, should be referred to *Catharacta skua lönnerbergi*. The bird was taken ten miles offshore, opposite Cape Elizabeth in Grays Harbor County, Washington. Two skuas flew by our boat together, but I was able to secure only one specimen. It was an easy matter to tell the birds at a considerable distance because of what I suspect is a very characteristic flight. There is a rapid beating of the wings, not at all like the slower wing beat of gulls, and then a setting of the wings for a short distance of sailing.

The specimen is an immature female, and unlike the other skuas collected here, it has retained the upper bill plate (fig. 54). Also, the back and flanks are distinctly mottled in appearance and do not possess the uniform coloring that our other specimens have. There are several secondaries about one-half grown while all other feathers seem to be fully matured.

It is probable that the skua is a regular but not common migrant off the northwestern coast in late summer.

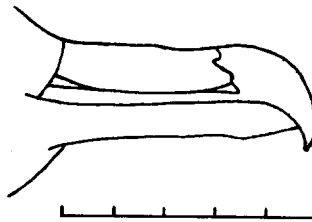


Fig. 54. Bill of *Catharacta skua lönnerbergi*, a female taken off Cape Elizabeth, Washington, on August 20, 1945; scale marked in centimeters.

A brief color description, based on Ridgway (Color Standards and Color Nomenclature, 1912), and the measurements of the recently taken immature female specimen follow: Chin, throat and neck, Hair Brown with feather edges tipped with Pale Olive-Buff giving the appearance of light gold; breast and abdomen, solid, unbroken Hair Brown; crown, like the chin but with more Olive-Buff so that the entire crown and nape appear very light; back, Hair Brown with the edges of the feathers margined with Olive-Buff and grading backward into black at the upper tail coverts; tail, black, faintly tipped with buff; middle of primaries white; primaries and secondaries black. Wing, 380 mm.; tail, 180 mm.; exposed culmen, 51 mm.; middle toe with claw, 72 mm.; tarsus, 61 mm.—GORDON D. ALCORN, *Aberdeen, Washington, February 15, 1946.*

An Isolated Colony of the Arizona Cardinal in Arizona and California.—In the course of our recent field work in the desert regions of the Southwest, Dr. Loye Miller and I have had occasion several times to visit the Williams (or Bill Williams) River which marks the boundary between Yuma and Mohave counties in extreme western Arizona. This desert stream is formed by the confluence of the Big Sandy and the Santa Maria rivers and has a course only of some seventy miles before it in turn joins the Colorado River just above Parker Dam. In the vicinity of Alamo Crossing, the locality in which most of our collecting has been done, the Williams is almost literally the fabled "mile wide and an inch deep." Both banks are luxuriantly fringed by cottonwood and willow groves, mesquite thickets, and areas of arrow-weed. At intervals in the intermittently dry stream bed are slightly higher spots which form narrow, timbered islands which range up to half a mile in length.

This great ribbon of vegetation in the midst of a notoriously arid desert is quite naturally a resort for numerous birds, both resident and migratory, and only the time limitations imposed by other work has prevented a more thorough exploration than we have been able to give it so far. From the standpoint of taxonomic interest, it is the type locality of the Gila Woodpecker, and one of the primary objects of our several visits has been to collect seasonally representative specimens of that bird. Among the many other interesting species encountered was the Arizona Cardinal (*Richmondia cardinalis superba*). Although not uncommon, the extreme shyness of these birds made collecting of them difficult. We saw or heard from one to eight individuals daily during our visits and collected a total of nine specimens on September 26 and 27, 1945, November 16, 1945, and April 14 and 15, 1946. On the latest occasion of collecting, the Cardinals were paired and males were in full song. A nest with eggs was