

## FROM FIELD AND STUDY

**Adaptability of Bewick Wrens to Nest Molestation.**—By March 18, 1947, a Bewick Wren (*Thryomanes bewickii*) had succeeded in completing a clutch of five eggs in her nest constructed in the glove compartment of a truck at our ranch in northern San Diego County, California, although the truck was gone most of the day from its place part way into an open double garage. At 6:15 a.m. of March 18, I frightened the bird from the nest and transferred the nest into a large oatmeal carton. This I placed on a keg. Over all I draped an old carpet, letting its edge extend over the box opening, trying to effect a cave situation which might be acceptable to the wrens. The keg I placed on the garage floor in the same relative position as the nest had been when in the truck, but some four feet lower.

At 9:40 p.m. the day of the transfer the bird was on the nest in the new situation. After submitting to much close observation and much coming and going of cars and people, the wrens successfully brought off the nestlings at 10:00 a.m. on April 18. I believe all five were raised as I found no eggs left in the nest, although I did not get a count of the nestlings.

Two earlier attempts to move nests of this species were not successful. The first, in April, 1945, involved a nest built in a rubber boot reclining in an orange picking box. The nest had to be lifted out when the boot was needed and put in the dark corner of the same box. This nest was completed and two eggs added before the birds abandoned it.

In 1946 a nest was built in an empty carton, the sixth and top of a stack of empty cartons containing lengths of garden hose. When the hoses were needed, empty cartons were substituted for the ones removed, so the nest carton kept its same relative position and the nest was untouched. Three birds, hatched from the clutch of four eggs, were being fed regularly when, during one change of cartons in the stack, the lid of the nest carton was jarred too nearly closed to permit the adults to enter. Their commotion attracted attention, the lid was adjusted, and they were seen to continue feeding and sanitary work. The length of time the birds could not enter was not known but was of short, day-time duration. The following day the birds were not seen at the nest and the unfeathered nestlings died. Human molestation was least in this instance and may not have been the factor which caused abandonment of nest and young.—ELEANOR GUYER BEEMER, *Pala, California, April 22, 1947.*

**Starling in Southern California.**—The Starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*), although previously recorded from California at Tule Lake, Siskiyou County (Jewett, Condor, 44, 1942:79) and at Death Valley (Bolander, Condor, 49, 1947:85), has not heretofore been reported in southern California. On December 5, 1946, Harold Willberg, an employee at the State Game Farm at Chino, San Bernardino County, fired into a flock of Brewer Blackbirds (*Euphagus cyanocephalus*) which was feeding near the bird pens at the game farm. Upon examining the dead blackbirds, Willberg noted that one individual differed from the rest and called it to the attention of a fellow employee, Edwin Miller, who recognized the bird as a Starling. The specimen, an adult male (L. A. Museum no. 20584), was turned over to the museum by state game warden A. L. Stager and thus constitutes the first record of this introduced genus for southern California.—KENNETH E. STAGER, *Los Angeles Museum, Los Angeles, California, April 22, 1947.*

**The Bufflehead Nesting in Oregon.**—In a recent communication from Stanley G. Jewett, I learned that the Bufflehead (*Charitonetta albeola*) had not yet been recorded nesting in Oregon. Therefore, it might be of interest to know that on August 9, 1946, I observed a pair of Buffleheads with four young on Red Butte Lake, Linn County, Oregon. Red Butte Lake is at an elevation of 5160 feet between Mount Jefferson and Mount Washington. It is at the east base of a north-south ridge a few miles west of the summit of the Cascades, about 4 air-line miles south of Marion Lake. In the immediate vicinity of the lake there is no tree cover, although within a few hundred yards are a number of tall snags, remnants of a fire of some 15 to 20 years ago. Just three-eighths of a mile south, at 5400 feet, is a smaller, unnamed lake, which is heavily timbered around the shore, where nesting could have taken place.

The Bufflehead young were blackish and white and appeared about one-third grown, for they were just developing their primaries. As our party approached them, all they could do was run on the water and then dive. The adults were in dull plumage, probably approaching the partial eclipse stage, and they made no attempt to escape, other than by running and diving with the young.—FRED G. EVENDEN, JR., *Oregon State College, Corvallis, Oregon, March 12, 1947.*