

hillside sloping into a dry arroyo and was in a rather open situation where only a few other trees were growing. The nesting site was first located April 13, 1953, when it held one fresh egg. The male was shot and crippled but was not secured. When the shot was fired the female flushed from the hollow, circled a few times and lit in the nesting tree. She was also shot at but apparently missed. On April 16 we returned to the nest and found it deserted but the egg was taken." This egg, shown on the accompanying plate, measures 58.0×44.6 mm. The ground color is entirely concealed with a thick

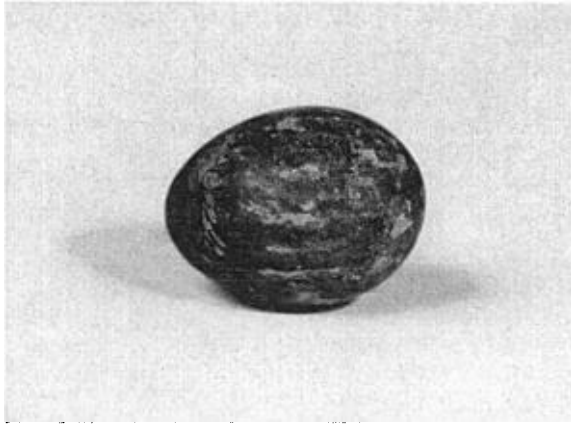


Fig. 1. Egg of *Herpetotheres cachinnans chapmani*, taken near Valles, San Luis Potosí, México, April 16, 1953.

wash of dark chocolate brown and a few splashes of burnt umber, but there are a few streaks of lighter yellowish brown where the pigment is thinner and appears to have been rubbed off when the shell was wet. In general appearance it can be matched with some types of eggs of the Caracara (*Caracara cheriway*).

Sheffler and van Rossem raise the question of the choice of nesting sites and the type of nest construction employed by this species in forested areas where cliffs are nonexistent. This question is answered by the two nesting sites in trees here described and by the nest from which Dr. Meitzen took an egg. It is well known that occasionally the Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus*), which is normally a cliff nester, will use a natural cavity in a tree when cliffs are not available. Likewise the Sparrow Hawk (*Falco sparverius*) normally uses a natural cavity but will occasionally resort to a nest in a cliff if no tree cavities are available. In view of this adaptability to different nesting sites in allied species and the presently available information, it can now be assumed that the Laughing Falcon may nest either in a hole in a cliff or in a natural cavity of a tree, and that no nesting material is added in either case. I think that the use of a natural cavity in a tree constitutes the normal nesting site and that the use of a hole in a cliff would be an unusual occurrence. This is based on the fact that this species is resident and breeds over a greater part of its range where no suitable cliffs are available, but where natural cavities in trees are more or less common.—COL. L. R. WOLFE, *Kerrville, Texas, December 28, 1953.*

Body Temperatures of Botulistic Pintails.—An experiment to determine the effects of botulism on the body temperature of the Pintail (*Anas acuta*) was conducted at Tule Lake National Wildlife Refuge, California, during the months of August and September, 1952. The data for this experiment were obtained from temperatures taken before treatment and after recovery of 118 pintail ducks suffering from botulism (*Clostridium botulinum* type C). A five and one-half inch, rapid-recording, binoc, etched-stem Taylor thermometer no. 21418 was inserted approximately two inches into the cloaca for a period of about two minutes to obtain the body temperature. The birds were sexed, aged, and after treatment with antitoxin and fresh water, marked with colored leg bands and placed in holding pens until they had recovered or succumbed.

The results of this work, as shown in the table, indicate a markedly lower temperature in the birds affected by botulism. The mean temperature for the pintails before treatment was 101.8 degrees Fahrenheit and after recovery it was 106.6. Observations indicated that as the severity of the infection

A Comparison of Body Temperatures of Botulistic Pintail Ducks before Treatment and after Recovery

Group	Number	Mortality	Before treatment Mean temp. (°F.)	After recovery Mean temp. (°F.)
Adult	46	8	102.3	106.9
Immature	72	16	101.6	106.4
	118	24		
Male	69	10	101.8	106.6
Female	49	14	102.0	106.5
	118	24		

increased, as determined by the external physical condition of the bird, there was an accompanying decrease in the body temperature. This relationship seemed to be substantiated when it was found that there were only three recoveries in the ten cases in which the body temperatures had fallen below 100 degrees plus the fact that the pintails most seriously affected had the lowest temperatures.—C. V. OGLESBY, *Nevada Game Commission, Reno, Nevada*, and FRED A. GLOVER, *United States Fish and Wildlife Service, Patuxent Research Refuge, Laurel, Maryland, November 15, 1953*.

The Gray-cheeked Thrush at Point Barrow, Alaska.—Bailey (Colorado Mus. Nat. Hist., Pop. Ser., 8, 1948:279-280) reported that the Gray-cheeked Thrush (*Hylocichla minima minima*) is very common throughout the Kotzebue Sound region of Alaska and inland among willows in the foothills bordering the arctic slope. Its normal breeding range extends along these foothills to the delta of the Mackenzie River, thence southeasterly to the Anderson River region and northern Newfoundland. However, he is able to list four vagrants to the northward as far as Point Barrow on June 8 and 10, August 29, and September 19. A fifth specimen can now be reported from Point Barrow. On September 19, 1952, I found a dead bird on the ground directly under the radar target located on the edge of the low bluff that constitutes the northernmost tip of Alaska. The bird apparently had flown into the heavy woven wire grid of the target's vanes. A ragged wound found along the throat and a hemorrhagic area over the top of the skull indicated the violence with which the bird struck the screen. The specimen was a male, weighed 25.23 grams, and the gonads were 1.5 and 2 mm. long.

Bent (Bull. U. S. Nat. Mus. Bull. No. 196, 1949:199) gives September 8 and 9 as late dates for departure of the Gray-cheeked Thrush from Nome and St. Paul Island, respectively. It is reasonably certain that my specimen from Point Barrow had lingered in the arctic considerably past the dates quoted by Bent, for although the bird was cold when picked up, there had been no appreciable desiccation of the tissues and it could scarcely have been dead more than twenty-four hours.

The recently collected specimen is now No. SU 12159 in the Zoological Collections of the Natural History Museum at Stanford University.—IRA L. WIGGINS, *Natural History Museum, Stanford University, California, March 23, 1953*.

Scott Oriole Wintering at Palm Springs, California.—On December 30, 1953, a male Scott Oriole (*Icterus parisorum*) was seen by me in Palm Canyon near Palm Springs, Riverside County, California. This bird, in fine male plumage, was observed through 8-power glasses, although at times he was so close that these were unnecessary. A search of the literature reveals very few instances of wintering birds of this species in California.—EARLE R. GREENE, *Los Angeles, California, January 1, 1954*.

Leaf Bathing of the Mockingbird.—While at breakfast on November 28, 1953, I was amused and very much surprised by the antics of a Mockingbird (*Mimus polyglottos*) in an avocado tree