

On May 4, 1954, near the town of Blanca, Costilla County, Colorado, a female Say's Phoebe (*Sayornis saya*) was found dead on her nest. The nest was under the eaves of a shed and had been under observation since nest construction began. The bird had laid three eggs and dissection revealed a well-formed egg in the lower oviduct ready to be laid. Cause of death could not be determined because of the decomposed condition of the specimen, but speculation indicated that the bird may have died due to insecticidal toxicants used on ingested insects. Possibly, also, some malfunction occurred which prevented normal passage of the egg.—JOHN H. BRANDT, *Truk, East Caroline Islands, May 11, 1958.*

Vermilion Flycatchers Nesting in San Diego County, California.—The A.O.U. Check-list, fifth edition (1957) regards the Vermilion Flycatcher (*Pyrocephalus rubinus*) as wintering "sparingly in California (Santa Barbara, San Diego) . . ." On February 18, 1958, at Santee, San Diego County, California, a female Vermilion Flycatcher was observed starting a nest. Mr. Kerry Muller who has studied birds in this area for several years said that a male Vermilion Flycatcher had been seen for about a year. This nest was completed and the eggs were laid on March 4, 5, and 6, respectively. On March 22 one egg had hatched but on March 23 one egg and the young bird were gone and one egg remained in the nest. The nest was deserted but the same pair built another nest about 50 yards to the west. This nest was also completed and two eggs were laid which disappeared from the nest and the birds again deserted. They returned to the same tree in which they had built their first nest and here were successful in raising a brood of three which left the nest on May 18-19. At this writing the female has another nest with three eggs.

Another male Vermilion Flycatcher had been observed during the winter months on the grounds of the United States Naval Hospital in Balboa Park, San Diego, California. Dr. Leon L. Gardner undertook the observation of this bird. On February 23 he saw a female and on March 22 nest building was observed. On April 6 three eggs were in the nest and on April 24 the young were leaving the nest. This pair is now in the process of raising a second brood. A second male Vermilion Flycatcher was seen in the company of this pair on the hospital grounds but it apparently had no mate.

As far as I am able to ascertain, these are the first nesting records of this species in western California.—JAMES E. CROUCH, *San Diego State College, San Diego, California, June 9, 1958.*

European Starling Nesting in the San Joaquin Valley, California.—On May 12, 1958, I found a nest of a European Starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*) in Micke Grove Park, San Joaquin County, approximately four miles due south of Lodi, California. This nest was located in a small live oak (*Quercus wislizenii*) about 17 feet above the ground in a cavity in the tree. The tree is located in a grove of live oaks and white oaks (*Quercus lobata*) which is much used as a picnic area. Both parents were seen making many trips to and from the nest bringing insects to the young, the exact number being unknown as the cavity was too deep to allow the young to be counted. However, from a distance several young birds were seen as they appeared at the nest opening to receive food. Mr. John Roumasset, a warden with the California Department of Fish and Game, and Zerifa Kroll both saw the parents bringing food to the young on May 14. On May 17 the nest was empty and presumably the young had left. This species has been observed in flocks in this immediate area during the winter of 1956-57 and in the past winter, but it is believed that this is the first nesting record in the San Joaquin Valley.—RONALD T. REUTHER, *Micke Grove Zoological Garden, Lodi, California, May 19, 1958.*

Breeding of the Starling in Southern California.—Starlings (*Sturnus vulgaris*) were first reported in California in 1942 (Jewett, *Condor*, 44, 1942:79). Since that date they have been seen in various localities in steadily increasing numbers, but these were usually winter observations. To our knowledge, the records of breeding herein reported are the first for southern California.

On March 28, 1958, Tramontano observed an adult Starling on electrical wires in Artesia, Los Angeles County, California. The heavily traveled street was in a residential area with numerous dairies in the vicinity. A row of palm trees (*Washingtonia filifera*) lined each side of the street. A single adult was observed in the same area on April 5, 17, 29, and May 2, 1958, and a nesting site was discovered