

The first nest taken (B. P. B. Mus. No. 1659, Fig. 3) I found on January 29 in the top of a bush, eight feet from the ground, where it was loosely, though daintily, attached to the small twigs and leaves surrounding it. The outside measurements are 3 in. across by 3.50 in. deep; inside it is 2 in. across by 1.50 in. deep. Externally it is composed of fine dry club moss and pulu fibre, which is bound together and in place by spider webs; inside there are a few leaf skeletons and fine rootlets. The nest when taken was not quite complete, but as it was on a steep mountain side in a tangle of scrub, vines and ferns, I decided to take no chances and accordingly collected it, as well as the bird, which was near at hand. The following day (January 30) Mr. Seale secured a nest (B. P. B. Mus. No. 1660, Fig. 3) which contained two fresh eggs, from a Kukui tree, some twenty feet from the ground. With it he collected both parent birds, making the record most complete and satisfactory. The nest, like the one just described, was loosely attached to the surrounding leaves. It is composed of roots and moss, and lined inside with fine rootlets. The eggs have a creamy white ground color, into which is worked the pale brown under markings. Over these are sprinkled the redder brown spots which form an ill-defined wreath about the larger end, though they are thinly scattered all over the surface. Carefully measured they are  $.80 \times .58$  in. and  $.78 \times .60$  in. respectively. This nest and eggs are plainly one of the best finds of the trip.

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## Additional Notes on the Nesting Habits of the Hawaiian Owl.

BY WM. ALANSON BRYAN.

IN *The Auk* (vol. xix, 1902, p. 299) I recorded our first information concerning the nesting habits of the Pueo (*Asio accipitrinus sandvicensis*). The note was based on a nest from Kalihi Valley, Oahu, that was brought to my attention November 20, 1901. When found it contained four young birds still "in the first downy plumage, the wing quills not having burst the capsules." I here



add to the record cited an account of a second nest secured at Kalauwai, on the island of Molokai, March 6, 1905, by Mr. A. F. Judd of Honolulu.

The nest, which was a simple structure resembling the one previously described, was hidden in the Pili grass in a mountain pasture having a western exposure, at an elevation of between eight and nine hundred feet. It contained three young birds and one infertile egg. All were brought to Honolulu and presented to the Museum by Mr. Judd. The little owls were kept alive for some time by Dr. Brigham at his residence. They grew rapidly from the first on a diet of raw beef, to which a mouse was occasionally added. When secured they were little more than fluffy balls of buff-colored down, from which peered bright, staring, yellow eyes. Within a few days the down disappeared, to be followed by the plumage of the young with the characteristic colorings of the adult. However, their development was too rapid, for on the slightest provocation—perhaps while simply flapping about as they gave voice to their tremulous screech in joyous expectation at the prospect of food—the long bones of the wing would, without apparent cause, bend and break. As a result they were, of necessity, prepared as museum specimens, and when compared with the young from the Oahu nest exhibited no differences worthy of note.

The egg (B. P. B. Mus. No. 3163) of this species, which is here described for the first time, is a thick oval, slightly pointed in form; pure white and lustreless in color, with no shell markings other than nest stains. It measures  $1.51 \times 1.22$  in. The interesting feature connected with this nest is that we now have two widely differing dates (November 20 and March 6) as nesting periods for the Hawaiian owl. As the American short-eared owl—the nearest relative of our Pueo—nests regularly in the early spring and does not rear a second brood we are led, for the present, to conclude that the equable climate of the islands has encouraged this species to become exceedingly lax in fixing a nesting season; or else that both the spring and the fall are taken advantage of for the purposes of nidification.



Bryan, William Alanson. 1905. "Additional notes on the nesting habits of the Hawaiian owl." *Occasional Papers of the Bernice Pauahi Bishop Museum of Polynesian Ethnology and Natural History* 2(3), 241–242.

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