

## Two Undescribed Nests and an Egg of a Hawaiian Bird.

BY WM. ALANSON BRYAN.

I HAVE had some hesitancy in publishing the half-tone cut here given, for though unmistakably nests of Hawaiian birds, their specific identification cannot as yet be definitely made. However, since both the nests and the egg seem never to have been described (at least from specimens actually in hand) I append a brief account of them, believing that the uncertain features in connection with them will be eventually cleared up by farther field work.

3009

3010



NESTS AND EGG OF *LOXIOIDES BAILLEUI* OUST.

The nest on the branch (B. P. B. Mus. No. 3009) was secured by the writer in October, 1902, while driving through the Kona district of Hawaii. It was built in a Mamani tree (*Sophora chrysophylla*) growing close beside the road at an elevation of about 1000 feet. The nest was about eight feet from the ground, and was evidently a year or more old. It was substantially built of grass and weed stems, with a few chance bits of lichens added in the lining. It measures a trifle over 4.00 in. across by 2.50 in. in depth; is bowl-shaped, and taken all in all is well preserved.

The second nest (B. P. B. Mus. No. 3010) was secured from Mr. C. E. Blacow, who found it placed about seven feet from the



ground in a dead Mamani tree on Horner's Ranch, Hamakua, at about 7300 feet elevation. The tree in which the nest was built was standing in an open space surrounded by live Mamani, the whole clump being sheltered from the winds by a ridge close by. This nest, when compared with the one just described, is like it in form, size and materials, except that a lining of horse hair (a material not available for the Kona nest) has been added in the Hamakua nest in place of lichens. When found, in October, 1903, this nest, which was then apparently deserted, contained one rotten egg that measures .93 X .67 in. It is a creamy white color with pale lilac under markings. Over the surface brown blotches and freckles are distributed, but they are somewhat crowded together about the large end.

Mr. Blacow, who has collected extensively in the district and is well acquainted with the birds of the island, was fairly convinced that the egg is that of the Palila (*Loxioides bailleui* Oust.), since it was not only a fairly common bird in the locality, but one found usually frequenting the Mamani. At the time the nest was collected, in addition to securing the globular nests and white eggs of the introduced *Carpodacus mexicanus obscurus*, he saw *C. virens*, *O. mana*, *H. wilsoni* and *L. bailleui* in the bushes round about, but did not see *V. coccinea* or *H. sanguinea*.

Wilson (Aves Hawaiiensis), writing on the Palila, states that "On June 14 I found a nest from which I saw the bird fly; it was placed in the topmost branches of a Naio tree (*Myoporum santa-linum*) [*sic*], about 35 feet from the ground, but contained no eggs, and when I subsequently revisited it we found it deserted. It may be briefly described as cup-shaped, 4 inches in diameter, and very loosely constructed of dry grass, among which are interwoven a considerable quantity of grey lichens, the inside being composed of the same lichen with a few slender rootlets added."

The two nests here shown differ from each other slightly in the material used in the lining. No. 3009 is very similar to the nest described by Wilson, except in the amount of lichens used. The egg here described is out of proportion to the size of any bird other than the Palila, which has been secured in the locality; hence, by exclusion I conclude that this is the first description of the egg of *Loxioides bailleui*.



Bryan, William Alanson. 1905. "Two undescribed nests and an egg of a Hawaiian bird." *Occasional Papers of the Bernice Pauahi Bishop Museum of Polynesian Ethnology and Natural History* 2(3), 251–252.

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