

XIX. SOME MATERIALS USED IN NEST CONSTRUCTION BY CERTAIN BIRDS OF THE OKLAHOMA PANHANDLE

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During the past seventeen years I have made it a practice to devote something like ten days each spring and summer to the study of bird's nests in the Oklahoma Panhandle. Their form, location, size, and the kind of material used in their construction were the features to which I paid particular attention. It is the purpose of this paper to give a list of the materials found to have been the most extensively used in nest construction by fourteen of the one hundred and thirty species and sub-species of birds studied in the region mentioned and are as follows:

1 *Ardea herodias treganzi*: Treganza's Heron. Cottonwood and willow sticks ranging in length from three inches to a foot or more in length, sunflower stalks, and cat-tails.

2 *Callipepla squamata pallida*: Arizona Scaled Quail. Short, fine stems and the blades of mesquite grass, and fine stems of tickle-grass, blue-stem, wild oats, and Johnson grass.

3 *Zenaidura macroura marginella*: Western Mourning Dove. Fine willow twigs and the stems of ragweeds and Russian thistles. The twigs of wild plum trees and cottonwoods are also used extensively by the doves.

4 *Haliaeetus leucocephalus leucocephalus*: Bald Eagle. Large cedar, pinyon, scrub oak and hackberry sticks sometimes over two feet in length. Sunflower stalks, three and four foot sections of grapevines, sometimes with leaves still attached, are also used as are chunks of sod and lengths of Virginia creeper.

5 *Selasphorus platycercus*: Broad-tailed Hummingbird. Rock-moss, lint from cottonwoods and willows, fine willows, fine shreds of thin inner bark from cottonwoods, and fine rootlets of blue-stem and gama grass.

6 *Tyrannus verticalis*: Arkansas Kingbird. Seven and eight inch pieces of the thin inner bark from dead cottonwood trees, rags, string, sandbur rootlets, horse-hair, wool from old sheep carcasses, and cotton from discarded quilts. Pieces of dried snake-skin are frequently made use of also.

7 *Pica pica hudsonia*: American Magpie. Pinyon, cedar

and scrub oak sticks are used to construct the outer part of the nest, which surrounds a mud cup lined with the roots of mesquite grass, roots of milkweeds, sagebrush and mahogany bush.

8 *Icterus spurius*: Orchard Oriole: Fresh blades of Mesquite grass and gramma grass, yucca fibres, fibers from tree cactus and prickly pears.

9 *Icterus bullocki*: Bullock's Oriole. Horsehair, cord, fibers from tree cactus, yucca, prickly pear and the fibers from the inner bark of cottonwoods.

10 *Carpodacus mexicanus frontalis*: House Finch. Stems of Mesquite grass and fibers of decaying sunflowers, yuccas and fine leaf twigs of black locust.

11 *Chondestes grammacus strigatus*: Western Lark Sparrow. Stems of Rosin weeds, bank mallow, evening primrose, Mexican sandbur, and ragweeds, and blades of mesquite grass.

12 *Mimus polyglottos leucopterus*. Western Mockingbird. Cottonwood twigs, moss, cotton from old quilts and from cottonwoods, string, and wool.

13 *Galeoscoptes carolinesis*: Rootlets of blue-stem, wild oats, and Johnson grass, and pieces of grapevine bark, hackberry leaves, scraps of paper, cloth, and occasionally pieces of snake-skin.

14 *Sialia currucoides*: Mountain Bluebird. Stems of wild oats, rosin weeds, goldenrod, sticktights and milkweeds, and rootlets of prickly pears, stinking sumac, scrub oak and tickgrass.