

NEST STUDY

1. OVEN BIRD - *Seiurus aurocapillus*

The nest was found by Mr. Haines as he accidentally flushed the bird while walking along the inland path at Grape Vine Point. The following day he turned the nest over to me.

Visit No. 1. was made at 7:30 P.M., June 27th. We viewed the nest from a distance of about 3' and stayed about a minute. There was no indication that the mother bird was in the vicinity. The nest was oven-shaped, made of dried grasses with some leaf trimming. It was in a bed of luxuriant poison ivy about 1' high which made a good screen; and it was about 4' back from the rise of the bank directly in the path of any passerby who wished to avoid the water.

Visit No. 2, June 28th, 7:30 P.M. Knowing of the extreme quickness with which oven birds abandon their nests, and fearing to leave a trail for marauding animals, I placed a piece of canvas so a 5' approach could be made without touching the ground. Three eggs were gone with no signs of shells. The remaining eggs were measured: 20 mm x 16 mm

19 mm x 15.9 mm

They were white with fine brown specklings evenly distributed. There was no sign of the parents. I returned 15 minutes and 45 minutes later but still there was no sign of the adults.

At 9 P.M. I placed two traps of the drop-door type about one foot on either side of the nest and baited them with fish and cornbread. One trap was meant for birds and a small mammal might work his way out. The traps were left for three days but neither they nor the remaining eggs were touched. The eggs were cold. In removing the nest finally, one of the missing eggs was found under the floor of the nest.

5 eggs?