

NOTES

NESTING OF THE PHAINOPEPLA ON SANTA CRUZ ISLAND, CALIFORNIA

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The Phainopepla (*Phainopepla nitens*) is reported to breed on only one island off the coast of southern California: Santa Catalina (Diamond and Jones 1980). Recently, however, I discovered Phainopeplas nesting on Santa Cruz Island, over 100 km away. My discovery shows that the insular breeding distribution of this erratic species is more extensive than previously thought.

On 10 June 1984, I found a pair of Phainopeplas nesting in the Central Valley of Santa Cruz Island. Their nest was located between the Nature Conservancy facility and Cascada Canyon, 1.8 km west (by road) of the University of California Field Station. The nest was situated in an oak tree (*Quercus* sp.) that overlooked a dry wash, in a small oak woodland at the base of a north-facing mountain slope. The nest was placed in dense foliage near the distal end of a long branch, approximately 4 m above the ground.

During my visits to the nest from 10 to 18 June, the adult Phainopeplas were incubating eggs. During my visits to the nest from 29 June to 9 July, they were feeding nestlings. On 9 July, when I left the island, the young appeared to be almost ready to leave the nest.

I did not collect the nest and its contents because the population of breeding Phainopeplas on Santa Cruz Island appeared to be small. However, I did show the active nest to both Lyndal Laughrin and Tony Calig, and they can vouch for the validity of this record.

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LITERATURE CITED

- Diamond, J.M. & H.L. Jones. 1980. Breeding landbirds of the Channel Islands. Pp. 597-612 in D.M. Power, ed. The California Islands: proceedings of a multidisciplinary symposium, Santa Barbara Mus. Nat. Hist., Santa Barbara.

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