



VOLUME 21

SAN FRANCISCO, SEPTEMBER, 1939

NUMBER 9

Arizona Hooded Orioles

Under date of August 8, 1939, Miss Helen L. Gilliam of Berkeley writes: "Regarding Mr. Webb's article on the Arizona Hooded Oriole in the August Gull, the enclosed observation may be of interest:

"On June 17, 1939, the nest of an Arizona Hooded Oriole, Icterus cucullatus nelsoni, was seen in San Leandro, California. The nest, with one egg, was located about thirty-five feet from the ground and was attached to a frond of a Washington palm. The nesting tree is about five feet from a delapidated building which is used as a machine shop. Although the nest was observed from about 10 a.m. until 1 p.m., the female was not seen. The male, in excellent plumage, appeared intermittently on a telephone pole and wire directly across the street; however, he did not come any closer. I have since been informed by people living in the vicinity that the pair of birds built a new nest in another palm tree and started incubating. I have not learned any further details.

"The late Mr. Ernest I. Dyer first discovered the Arizona Hooded Oriole nesting in this vicinity about two years ago. However, to my knowledge, he only

mentioned it to two individuals and did not report it elsewhere.'

At the Cooper Club's 1936 annual meeting in Los Angeles, Mr. Clark P. Streater told of the nesting of an Arizona Hooded Oriole in the residential district of Santa Cruz. There does not appear to be any published record of this, however. On May 3, 1938, he reported to Mrs. Junea W. Kelly that the bird was again nesting at the same place and on May 10, she and the writer saw the nest and also the male and female birds.

This species is not listed in the "Directory to the Bird-Life of the San Francisco Bay Region," by Grinnell and Wythe, published in 1927. The following

records since 1927 to date are taken from The Condor:

At the May meeting of the Cooper Club in 1930, Leslie Hawkins told of a possible record of an Arizona Hooded Oriole in Reliez Valley, and Gordon Bolander reported the same species on an Oakland lawn. In the minutes recorded in the September-October 1930 issue, the statement is made that this suggests an invasion by this bird, hitherto unlisted for the Bay region.

In the January, 1932, issue, Dr. Gayle Pickwell of the State College, San Jose, has an article referring to the above observations and states that he saw a

bird of this species on July 21, 1930, near his home in San Jose. At the January, 1933, meeting, Dr. Pickwell stated that on August 15, 1932, at his home he saw an immature and a female bird of this species. These were also seen by Dr. Loye Miller on the 17th in a nearby garden, doubtless the same birds.

At the July meeting of the Cooper Club, Elmer Aldrich reported observing one at San Leandro, and at the August meeting, Mr. Ernest I. Dyer reported being present in Mr. Brock's store in Oakland when an immature individual, accidently trapped, was brought in. Observations reported in this vicinity at the time revealed five or six Arizona Hooded Orioles, both adults and juveniles.

In August, 1935, Mr. Dyer stated that Donald Brock had seen this species and also Bullock Orioles along San Pablo Creek, near Wildcat Canyon, during

the first week of August,

In August, 1937, at the Cooper Club meeting, three caged Arizona Hooded Orioles were exhibited by Mr. Brock, two being immature birds trapped on Wildcat Creek August 1 and 8, and a young male in the dull first breeding plumage secured in San Leandro on May 15. At this time it was recorded that "observations given by other members would indicate that this species is becoming more common in the Bay region."

In "The Season," July-August, 1939, issue of Bird-Lore, it was reported a male Arizona Hooded Oriole was seen in Maxwell Park, East Oakland, June 16, 1939, by M. L. Seibert.—L. A. S.

--*

Robin's Nest in a Motorcar

"One day, in May, 1939, I found the cubby hole in front of the driver's seat in my car, filled with leaves. These I promptly cleared out, wondering where they had come from. Going to the car somewhat later I was surprised to see a Robin with an old oak leaf in its beak, fluttering at the closed window, trying to get in. I gently lowered the window, and in came the bird, first perching on the steering wheel, then hopping into the cubby hole. That evening I left the car just outside the garage with the window open about an inch. During the next four days a complete nest was made; then an egg was laid each morning before breakfast for the next five days.

"One morning when I got into the car I noticed the bird sitting on the nest. I started the engine, expecting her to fly off, but nothing of the sort; she only looked at me rather hard, and we were soon moving along the road. She sat on the eggs for 13 days, during which time she travelled some 600 miles with me, quite unconcerned in the busiest street.

"During this period the cock bird had to stay at home, and normally he would be employed feeding the hen bird on the nest, but with only a blank space where the nest should have been, he could be seen all day in the garden with his beak full of flies, looking rather puzzled, patiently waiting the return, and he used to get very excited when the car drove up the path.

"The eggs having hatched out, I was faced with the feeding problem, but it was quite simple,—the hen bird came out with me, feeding the young from a larder in the opposite pocket.

"In spite of all this, she was a wild and untamed creature, and I had to run the gauntlet, turning the switch key, beside her nest, as she invariably attacked my hand, jealously guarding her young. She occupied the locker for a month, travelling altogether 1,200 miles, and when the little birds got their wing feathers I could not keep them in the nest, so I let them go out into the garden, where they can still (June 5th) be seen, being fed by their parents.

"I was sorry to see them go; the hen bird has been an object in patience, and perfect faith in the man at the wheel. Crowds always gathered to have a peep, and there is no doubt about the saying, a little touch of nature makes the whole world kin."

O. A. Dod (Coedmor, Deganwy). Reprinted from "Bird Notes and News," The Journal of the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, Volume XVIII, Number 6, Summer Number, 1939.

--*

Sapsuckers, Hummingbirds and Warblers

As I was watching Rufous Hummingbirds working in and about a clump of willows at Lake Phoebe, near Brighton, Salt Lake County, Utah, I noted a Rednaped Sapsucker also moving from willow to willow and several warblers. Upon examining this area I found the sapsucker had cut oblong patches in the bark, one by one-third inch wide, at a number of places, and it was for the sap and insects that the hummingbirds and warblers had come as well as the sapsucker.

Though the smaller birds moved away from the immediate presence of the sapsucker, the latter made no attempt to drive them from the thicket and in fact, seemed oblivious of their presence.

C. W. Lockerbie, Salt Lake City, Utah. $^{\$\xi}-^{\$\xi}-^{\$\xi}$

Correction: In the August, 1939, issue of The Gull, in the article, "A Stranger in Strawberry Canyon," by Junea W. Kelly, the date should be June 24 instead of July 1st.

&- &- &

August Field Trip

The August field trip was taken on Sunday, the 13th, to Muir Woods, Marin Jounty. The day was sunny and the temporature perfect for welling

County. The day was sunny and the temperature perfect for walking.

Along one part of the creek in Muir Woods the ladybird beetles were assembling in countless numbers attaching themselves to the branches of azaleas and to the stems of the equisetum as well as completely covering dead pieces of wood. Among our guests was Miss Flora McIntyre, President of the Pasadena Audu-

bon Society.

The following thirty species were identified in Muir Woods and along the way:

Brown Pelican
Ruddy Duck
Turkey Vulture
Sharp-shinned Hawk
California Quail
Sanderling
Western Gull
California Gull
Anna Hummingbird

California Woodpecker
Red-shatted Flicker
Barn Swallow
Coast Jay
Nicasio Jay
Plain Titmouse
Nicasio Chickadee
Coast Bush-tit
California Creeper
Ruddy Wren-tit

Western Gnatcatcher
Warbling Vireo
Brewer Blackbird
English Sparrow
Purple Finch
House Finch
Green-backed Goldfinch
San Francisco Towhee
S. F. Brown Towhee
Junco

Allen Hummingbird Ruddy Wren-tit Junco Seven members attended: Mrs. Kelly; Misses Berg, Gilliam, Sterne; Messrs. Greenhood, Johnson, Power; and eight guests: Messrs. and Mesdames Canham, Knox; Mrs. Hanson; Misses Browning, McIntyre, Mercado.

Junea W. Kelly, Leader and Historian.

--*

Increasing Population Must Find New Territory

Since July, 1911, I have kept a list of birds in the country around the San Antonio Public School, near Stevens Creek, in Santa Clara County. The school house and an old barn nearby are situated on the bank of a small stream in a narrow gully heavily covered with small oaks, wild cherry, elderberry, poison oak and baccharis. During the first ten years I have no records of Thrashers or Wren-tits upstream from the buildings. The birds were fairly numerous near these buildings and downstream.

In 1928 I saw first a Thrasher upstream and then a Wren-tit. There was no evidence that man had made any changes below to drive the birds up. The gully is wider above and less densely wooded, reasons enough to my mind for their original choice of location. A few months later I added a Thrasher and Wren-tit

to my list of birds on Stevens Creek about a half mile south.

About two years ago a Thrasher came to live in our garden which is situated between the gully and Stevens Creek. My observation had been that where one species went the other followed. In the case of our garden my theory didn't seem to hold. However, this morning, August 23, 1938, the wren-tits were calling to each other as happily as any old residents. One came to eat elderberries from the branches overhanging the porch.

Pheasants have been introduced and have taken to the vineyards adjoining the area below the buildings. Thrashers and Wren-tits still remain there. Until I collect evidence to the contrary I shall believe the spreading out is due to over-

population and a seeking of new territory.

Cornelia C. Pringle, San Francisco, California.

Audubon Notes

September Meeting: The regular meeting will be held on Thursday, the 14th, at 8 p.m., in Room 19, Ferry Building.

The speaker will be Mrs. Junea W. Kelly, whose subject will be "Birding at Pyramid and Mono Lakes."

Members may bring guests.

September Field Trip will be taken on Sunday, the 24th, to Alameda. Please note change in date. San Francisco members take the 9:41 Alameda train to Park Street Sonth, meeting at Encinal Avenue and High Street, at 10:20 a.m. Bring luncheon, Leader, Mrs. Kelly.

August Meeting: The 264th regular meeting was held on the 3rd, in Room 19, Ferry Building, with sixty members and guests present. Mrs. Junea W. Kelly presided.

The following observations were reported:

Commander Parmenter: 3000± Shearwaters from Cliff House to Fleishhacker's, July 14th; 15 American Egrets, Sears Point road, July 18th, and 13, July 31st; 2 Snowy Egrets, 51 Pintail Ducks in eclipse plumage, July 31st; 1 Semipalmated Plover, 15 Blackbellied Plovers, Mountain View marshes, 1 Black Turnstone, Land's End, July 27th; 1 Ruddy Turnstone, Cliff House rocks, August 1st; 140± Heermann Gulls, Cliff House rocks and Devil's Slide, California Murre still nesting Devil's Slide rocks, July 27th; Pigeon Guillemots nesting Land's End, August 3rd.

The speaker of the evening was Dr. A. A. Allen of Cornell University, who told us of his experiences in photographing birds with kodachrome. He showed about fifty very beautiful and artistic slides of birds and bird nests.

Anhinga: The last time the Anhinga was observed at Lake Merced was on July 16th, having been seen by Mesdames Courtright and Deuprey; Miss Blake, and Messrs. Stephens and Webb.

Observations sent in by Mrs. Ensign, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Slender-billed Nuthatch, August 31st; Red-breasted Nuthatch, August 30th, San Rafael,

Mr. Jencks: A pair of Bullock Orioles nested in Mosswood Park in the spring of 1938. They were around for at least six weeks the year before but it wasn't until last June that a male oriole appeared in my yard feeding a young one.

Tanagers stayed in the yard until October 16, 1938, chiefly, I believe, because of a late crop of figs.

On June 13 and 14, 1939, a young Cowbird was seen in Mosswood Park being fed by Song Sparrows.

Recent Publications:

Bent, Arthur Cleveland. Life Histories of North American Woodpeckers. U. S. National Museum Bulletin 174. Washington, D. C. Superintendent of Documents. 50 cents.

Lincoln, Dr. Frederick C. The Migration of American Birds, illustrated with twenty-two maps and twelve full-color paintings by Louis Agassiz Fuertes. Doubleday, Doran and Company, Inc., New York, N. Y. \$4.00.

Audubon Association of the Pacific

Organized January 25, 1917

For the Study and the Protection of Birds

Monthly meeting second Thursday, 8 P. M., Room 19, Ferry Building.

Address Bulletin correspondence to Mrs. A B. Stephens, Editor, 1695 Filbert St., San Francisco.

Membership dues, payable January 1st, \$3.00 per year.

Student memberships, \$1.50 per year.

Life memberships, \$50.00.

Members are responsible for dues until written notice of resignation is received by Treasurer.