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Some Interesting Water Ouzel Nests

About twenty miles from Logan, Utah, in Logan Canyon is Rick's Spring where the crystal pure water gushes bounteously from the floor of a rock grotto. Here while Mr. Lockerbie was searching for bats in some adjoining crevices, I saw a Water Ouzel, carrying a large black bug in its beak, alight upon a rock just above the water, teeter a few times, fly to a ledge in the highest point of the ceiling, and then disappear within the crevice. Upon inspection, we discovered the front and opening of a mossy nest in this dark niche directly over the center of the spring.

The other parent bird joined in the feeding while we were near. The larger bird, presumably the male, flew each time directly to the nest; the smaller one each time rested and teetered on the rock before ascending to the nest. There must have been a hungry family inside, for the parents averaged one feeding per minute while we were present.

At another spring which forms Swan Creek on the west side of Bear Lake, Utah, another Ouzel nested. This spring gushes out at the bottom of a cliff. A dam had been constructed only a few feet away to divert part of the stream to a power house. The balance splashes over a six-foot fall and continues down a beautiful cascade fifteen to twenty feet wide.

While Mr. Lockerbie was standing on the dam, an Ouzel came up the cascade with food in its mouth and alighted upon a log brace below him. Up the log it walked to a proper position, where it paused a moment or two and sprang under the falls. It watched the pulse of the stream where a sharp rock separated the fall a few inches, and when the space was widest it darted between the streams to its nest in the moss-covered, dripping wet rocks behind the falls.

To the knowledge of Canyon Patrolman L. D. Alcock, a pair of Water Ouzels have nested for fifteen consecutive years between two heavy timbers that rest on an oblong pillar of a water weir in City Creek Canyon, on top of which is a foot bridge and machinery for handling water gates. Man has robbed these birds of more than half the stream below the dam, and consequently of the protection it afforded, yet they readily adjusted themselves to the new condition, even taking advantage of it. In this retreat, safe from all enemies save man, may they continue to prosper, and man please leave them alone.

Mrs. C. W. Lockerbie, Salt Lake City, Utah. October 15, 1933.

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Mexican Ground Dove in Tuolumne County

On August 5, 1934, while driving from Sonora to Columbia about seven o'clock in the morning, a small bird was seen feeding in the road. My first thought was, "A Mexican Ground Dove!" I stopped the car within a few feet of the bird, which proved to be a Mexican Ground Dove. I could plainly see the yellow bill with a

black tip and the yellow feet. He (I assumed it to be a male from the darker coloration) looked at the car a moment or two and then flew into the chaparral, showing the reddish brown on the underside of the outstretched wings.

Later in the day I mentioned to one of the residents of Columbia the number of interesting birds I had noticed about town while photographing some of the old landmarks. He told me that last summer an ornithologist had spent some time in Columbia and had collected a bird that had never before been found so far north. It would be interesting to know whether or not he collected a Mexican Ground Dove.

Phainopeplas were common in the neighborhood. While I was photographing the old fire house, a Canyon Wren appeared and sang with all his might; I could hardly believe either my eyes or my ears.

It is rather unusual when one can pursue two hobbies at the same time, but in Columbia one can photograph and bird with equal satisfaction.

Chas. A. Bryant, San Francisco, California. August 15, 1934.

The July week-day field trip was taken Friday, the 20th, to Manzanita Station and up the Tennessee Cove road in Marin County. It was anything but a summer day. The wind was raw and chilly.

At Manzanita the salicornia marsh was searched for Rails, without success. There was a drift of white against the mud flats that proved to be an early return of California Gulls. Eight Hudsonian Curlew were feeding along the water's edge.

We finally took to the cemetery for shelter and there heard the fall whisper song of the Bewick Wren, a rare delight. Birds were easily located where the human being took shelter from the weather; there were found the birds and the bugs, too.

Barn Swallows were flying low up and down the road catching insects on the wing to carry to their young, three of which sat on a bare twig snuggled close to resist the cold. There were many Cliff Swallows flying low over the meadows near the dairy.

Although we were four fog-seasoned San Franciscans, when we came to the fork of the road we retreated before the thickening fog and turned up the canyon road. The birds were there ahead of us. At the water trough were quantities of Bluebirds, Linnets, Juncos and Lark Sparrows.

The following is the list for the day, thirty-seven in number, including those

seen from the Ferry:
Brown Pelican
Farallon Cormorant
Turkey Vulture
Red-tailed Hawk
Desert Sparrow Hawk
California Quail
Hudsonian Curlew
Western Gull
California Gull
California Murre
Anna Hummingbird
Red-shafted Flicker
Barn Swallow

Cliff Swallow
Nicasio Jay
Western Crow
Nicasio Chickadee
Plain Titmouse
Coast, Bush-tit
Ruddy Wren-tit
Nicasio Wren
Russet-backed Thrush
Western Bluebird
Warbling Vireo
Meadowlark

Brewer Blackbird
English Sparrow
House Finch
Pine Siskin
Willow Goldfinch
Green-backed Goldfinch
San Francisco Towhee
San Francisco Brown Towhee
Bryant Sparrow
Lark Sparrow
Point Pinos Junco
Marin Song Sparrow

Members attending: Mesdames Mexia, Stephens; Misses Cohen, Pringle. Cornelia C. Pringle, Leader and Historian.

The August field trip was taken on Sunday, the 12th, to Tennessee Cove, Marin County, with seventeen members and four guests.

The day was overcast with a strong west wind and high feg. We made our customary visit to the marsh near Manzanita, and were successful in finding the

Clapper Rail. We had an excellent view of this bird, and then lost sight of him, but tracked him into the side of a bank, where he remained under cover until forced out. Among the land birds the Pine Siskins were very numerous, generally feeding on the open hillsides.

Three species were recorded for the first time on this trip, the Shrike, Tricolored Red-wing and two female Ring-necked Pheasants, making a total of one hundred for this region.

For the trip a total of fifty-five species was recorded, as follows:

Brown Pelican Farallon Cormorant California Heron American Pintail Ruddy Duck Turkey Vulture Cooper Hawk Red-tailed Hawk Desert Sparrow Hawk California Quail Ring-necked Pheasant Clapper Rail Killdeer Western Gull California Gull Caspian Tern Band-tailed Pigeon Mourning Dove Barn Owl

Anna Hummingbird Red-shafted Flicker Black Phoebe Western Flycatcher Barn Swallow Cliff Swallow Coast Jay Nicasio Jay Western Crow Nicasio Chicakdee Plain Titmouse Coast Bush-tit Rudy Wren-tit Nicasio Wren Western Bluebird Western Gnatcatcher California Shrike Hutton Vireo

Warbling Vireo Golden Pileolated Warbler English Sparrow San Francisco Red-wing Tricolored Red-wing Brewer Blackbird Purple Finch Common House Finch Northern Pine Siskin Willow Goldfinch Green-barked Goldfinch San Francisco Towhee San Francisco Brown Towhee Bryant Sparrow Western Lark Sparrow Oregon Junco Nuttall Sparrow Marin Song Sparrow

Members attending: Messrs. and Mesdames Millard and Stephens; Mesdames Bello, Collins, Conrtright, Otis H. Smith, H. A. Thomas; Misses Berg, Cohen, Danz; Messrs. Bremer, Bryant, Myer, Power and Webb. Guests: Mr. and Mrs. Gilman; Scouts Gerwick and Newman.

Joseph J. Webb, Leader and Historian.

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August Lecture: After hearing Mr. T. T. McCabe at the regular monthly meeting of the Audubon Association on August 9, no one can doubt that he loves his British Columbia. He brought the physical aspect of it home to us by saying that it resembled our California coast only if the coastal portion were dropped and the Pacific Ocean washed the foothills of the Sierra. He sketched a map of that portion of the province from the head waters of the Columbia River, the North Thompson and Fraser Rivers, out to the coast, adding Vancouver and the Queen Charlotte Islands.

He described it as an area of tremendous mountain ranges, deep river bottoms, forests of Douglas fir and cedar, semi-arid Lodgepole pine belts, and the arid region east of the Fraser River, and always the Pleistocene glaciers waiting.

In a few words, Mr. McCabe placed the region back in the ice age. The subsequent repopulation may have come through passes in the Rockies, up the Great Basin, along the coast,—maybe by all three means. The great ridges were not barriers but avenues of travel. The largest component is made up of the intrusion of eastern birds, fewer from the Great Basin and least from the coast.

The Gray Jay comes absolutely unchanged from the Atlantic coast to salt water; the Gray-cheeked Thrush to within thirty miles of it. The Yellow Warbler is, in the mass, slightly modified—all Dendroicas come clear through. Eastern forms of the Crossbill, Robin, and Shufeldt Junco do also. Think of eastern birds pressing through, enduring all possible changes of climate. Think of the Rufous Hummer, the Raven, Townsend Warbler and Olive-sided Flycatcher passing through the Rockies to salt water quite unchanged.

Have any of these races evolved new forms? Very, very few, but some have. In Central British Columbia, a distinguishable form has come into being genetically fixed and morphologically changed—the Water Thrush. The Blue Grouse is a highly differentiated form. On a high table land of about 20,000 acres, with a soil too poor for Lodgepole pines to grow, producing grass only two to three inches high, is a species of Horned Lark that is different. Different in what way is still in question.

To what causes can we tie down these changes? Figures of the temperature range are essentially alike way across from Quebec; but out, half way out, on the islands, the climate does change and the temperature of the precipitation.—Cornelia C. Pringle.

Audubon Notes

September Meeting: The regular meeting will be held on Thursday, the 13th, at 8 p. m., room 19, Ferry Building.

The speaker of the evening will be Gordon Bolander, who will tell us of "The Birds Around Tomales Bay."

Directors' Meeting: There will be a meeting of the Directors at 7:45 p. m. in the Ferry Building.

September Field Trip will be taken on Sunday, the 16th, to the bay shore at Lincoln Park, Alameda. San Francisco members will take Southern Pacific Alameda Ferry at 7:45 a. m. and train to Lincoln Park Station. East Bay members may take bus in Oakland at Fourteenth and Broadway, walking through the park to the station opposite the tennis courts. Bring luncheon. If there are enough automobiles, a visit will be made to Bay Farm Island.

August Meeting: The 205th regular meeting was held on August 9 at 8 p. m.,

room 19, Ferry Building, with twenty-three members present.

Mr. Robert R. Chase of San Francisco was elected to membership.

The following observations were reported:

Mrs. Courtright: July 28, over Larkspur marshes, White-tailed Kite; August 4, Healdsburg, Road-runner.

Mr. Millard: August 4 and 5, San Francisco, Western Tanager.

Vincent Mowbray: June 23, Morgan Hill, Golden Eagle: July 5, Rufouscrowned Sparrow and Swainson Hawk.

Commander Parmenter: July 21, Cliff House, Black Turnstones; 23, Ruddy Turnstones and Surf Birds; 21. Wandering Tattler; 28, at Bridges, Forster and Least Terns.

Mrs. Stephens: July 14, Marina; 28, Presidio, Caspian Terns.

Mrs. H. A. Thomas: August 7, Los Gatos, Western Tanager.

Mr. Webb: June 29, San Francisco. Black-headed Grosbeak.

Audubon Association of the Pacific

Organized January 25, 1917

For the Study and the Protection of Birds

President Joseph J. Webb 519 California St., San Francisco Corresponding Secretary C, B. Lastreto 260 Colifornia St., San Francisco Treasurer Mrs. A. B. Stephens 1695 Filbert St., San Francisco

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

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