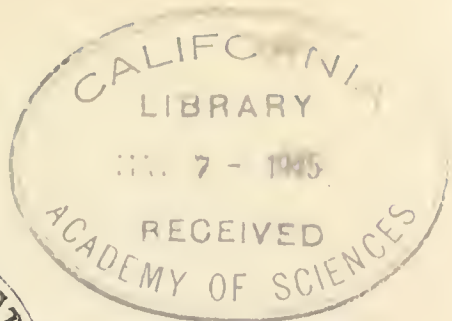


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VOLUME 27

SAN FRANCISCO, CALIF., MAY, 1945

NUMBER 5

Back-yard Observations at Grand Canyon, Arizona

Much can be said for back-yard observation of birds. One does not have to cover extensive areas to find birds. I find myself in Grand Canyon National Park containing an area of 1009 square miles. Wartime travel is restricted. Yet during the past year, one bird new to the park and a second new to the South Rim of the Canyon were found in my back-yard!

The Nevada Redwing (*Agelaius phoeniceus nevadensis*) loves marshes and fields but is seldom seen in typical desert country. The only record for Grand Canyon National Park is from the North Rim, a female having been collected on September 15, 1928 near the old checking station, in a meadow. On December 13, 1943, two Redwings were found feeding in my back-yard among the straw covering of a small garden. One was an adult male, the other a streaked female. A Sharp-shinned Hawk struck the male and made the feathers fly but it was seen to escape. The female was busy feeding in the same place the following day and then disappeared. These birds in a pinyon-juniper forest with snow on the ground were quite evidently out of their normal habitat even for winter.

In spite of Canadian Zone forests on the North Rim, I have never seen or heard the Western Winter Wren (*Nannus hiemalis pacificus*), nor have others recorded it. On the afternoon of October 30, 1944, I found one feeding in my back-yard. There could be no mistake about this little brown wren (like a quid of tobacco as Dr. Grinnell used to say) with a stub tail working industriously among rocks and ground cover. It could be approached within three feet and its every color and motion studied. Yes, it was a brand new bird for the park list!

Mrs. Bryant is now a good bird student and spends some time on spring bird walks, hunting nests and rarities. Last spring she had two nests of the Western Gnatcatcher under observation and located a Virginia Warbler in full song. The

play of the American Raven when flocks gather to soar on uprising air currents over the Canyon also received study. This winter a Red-naped Sapsucker has received attention.

—Harold C. Bryant, Grand Canyon, Arizona.

NOTE: The back-yard where the above observations were made is in the village of Grand Canyon which is inside Grand Canyon National Park. Dr. Bryant explains how the National Park, comprised of 1009 square miles cannot be visited often in these days of restricted travel so that observations must be made close at home rather than in the vast and distant portions of the Park. He tells of the vertical contrast from 2500 feet elevation down at the River to 9000 feet elevation up at the Checking Station on the North Rim.

April Field Trip

The April field trip was taken on Sunday, April 15th, to Mills College and vicinity. The weather was clear and warm, which made the day very pleasant for birding. Several close observations were made during the trip. One was of a flock of Cedar Waxwings, a member of which was noted to have red spots on the wings.

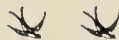
While eating our lunch we noticed in the tree over head a pair of Green-backed Goldfinches building a nest. In a tree near by we saw a Bush-Tit enter and leave its nest. After lunch the party dispersed.

Members attending were: Mesdames Bozant, Goen, Zinke, Anable; Misses Fay, Myer, Sterne, Young, Rinehart, Papina; Messrs. Leffler, Harbey, Brock, Myer, Matthews, Altrocchi. We were also pleased to have seven guests with us on the trip.

The following thirty species were observed:

| | | |
|---------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| Sharp-shinned Hawk | Bush-Tit | Pileolated Warbler |
| Red-tailed Hawk | Wren-Tit | Purple Finch |
| Desert Sparrow Hawk | Western Robin | House Finch |
| California Quail | Hermit Thrush | Pine Siskin |
| Anna Hummingbird | Cedar Waxwing | Green-backed Goldfinch |
| Red-shafted Flicker | Cassin Vireo | Spotted Towhee |
| Western Flycatcher | Western Warbling Vireo | Brown Towhee |
| Crested Jay | Lutescent Warbler | Junco |
| California Jay | Yellow Warbler | Golden-crowned Sparrow |
| Plain Titmouse | Audubon Warbler | Song Sparrow |

—Donald Brock.



Napa Field Trip

On April 22, a number of members of the Audubon Association of the Pacific and their guests joined the Napa Audubon Club on a field trip to Circle H Game Farm on Mt. Veeder, west of Napa.

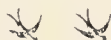
Claude Hooke, game bird authority and operator of the game bird farm, showed the visitors 45 species of pheasants, among them the Great Malay Argus pheasant, the male being the first raised in captivity; 12 species of quail; many species of waterfowl, and a collection of foreign doves and pigeons. Among the last group was the Victoria Crown pigeon, valued at \$500 per pair.

Although the main event of the day was the tour through the game bird farm, the following 24 species of wild birds were listed by the party:

| | | |
|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| Turkey Vulture | Bewick's Wren | Black-headed Grosbeak |
| Mountain Quail | Western Bluebird | Cal. Purple Finch |
| Black Phoebe | Western Warbling Vireo | Housefinch |
| Western Flycatcher | Lutescent Warbler | Willow Goldfinch |
| Western Wood Pewee | Yellow Warbler | Green-backed Goldfinch |
| Olive-sided Flycatcher | Pileolated Warbler | Spotted Towhee |
| Cliff Swallow | Red-winged Blackbird | Brown Towhee |
| House Wren | Western Tanager | Oregon Junco |

Members attending were: Mesdames Anable, Bozant, Myer, Zinke; Misses Faye, Davidson, Papina, Myer, Sterne; Messrs. Altrocchi, Harbey, Heyneman, Martenstein, Myer, Talbot; guests Miss J. Myer, Miss Love, Mrs. Puig, Mr. Martenstein.

—Esther Sym Henrie, Secretary, Napa Audubon Club.



Observations

Edited by Junea W. Kelly

The following observations have been reported:

Red-throated Loon, April 7, Herman V. Leffler; Western Willet, April 19, Leffler and B. C. Cain; Lake Merritt.

Western Flycatcher, April 2; Warbling Vireo and Pileolated Warbler, April 3. Mrs. Ward Austin. Larkspur.

Warbling Vireo, March 18, Mrs. Otis H. Smith, Larkspur.

Cliff Swallows, March 30, Larkspur and Ignacio, Mrs. Mary L. Courtright.

Rough-winged Swallow, March 24, Lake Temescal; Western Tanager, March 27-31, 11000 Broadway Terrace; April 1, Rufous Hummer, Lake Temescal; Mrs. Vee Curtis.

Western Gnatcatcher, March 31, Mt. Tamalpais, Mrs. Clear and Ruth Elwonger.

Male Arizona Hooded Oriole, April 7 and 9, Seminary Court, Oakland, a pair of Cow Birds five miles east of Hayward, April 12, Donald Brock.

Black-headed Grosbeak, April 4, Alameda; Purple Martins, Common Loon, pair of Ring-necked Ducks, April 21, Phoenix Lake, Marin County; Russet-backed Thrush and Yellow Warbler, April 21, Ross; Olive-sided Flycatcher, April 18, Lake Temescal; Knots, April 8, Alameda, Junea W. Kelly.

Copies of Old Gulls Needed

Members, who are not maintaining a file of the "Gull", may be willing to return their copies to Miss Ivander MacIver, 2414 Telegraph Avenue, Berkeley 4, for stock copies. There are not many left each month after the needs of the organization are met. One member in the service writes: "I hope duplicate copies are being filed. I had a complete set-up until I went into service and shall want to pick up the numbers gone astray."

May Field Trip

The May Field Trip will be taken on the 13th, leaving San Francisco from 7th and Mission, on the 8:40 a.m. Greyhound bus. Buy round-trip ticket to Fairfax, Marin County. Get ticket ahead if possible.

The party will start from Ross, thence in a half circle ending at Fairfax, where we take the return bus. Bring binoculars and lunch.

The N. S. Section of the Sierra Club will join us for this tour and all those

who wish can bring extra food for supper at Deer Park where there are fire-places.

Leaders: Mrs. Otis Smith and co-leader.

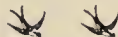
New Members

The following new members have joined our organization the past month: Mrs. E. C. Stowell, a member of the National Audubon Association.

Miss Joan Davidson and Miss Barbara M. Myer, junior members.

May Meeting

The 332nd meeting of the Audubon Association of the Pacific will be held Thursday evening, May 10, 1945 at 7:30 p.m., in the Assembly Room of the San Francisco Library, Larkin and McAllister Streets. The speaker is to be Miss Alice Mulford, Supervisor of Junior Activities of the California Academy of Sciences, San Francisco. The talk will be illustrated by a colored film and slides. She will present the story and scenes of the National Audubon Society's Nature Camp on Hog Island, Maine, in which she has participated.



Audubon Association of the Pacific

Organized January 25, 1917

For the Study and the Protection of Birds

| | | |
|------------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| President..... | Mr. Arthur H. Myer..... | 25 El Camino Real, Berkeley 5 |
| Corresponding Secretary..... | Mr. Joseph J. Webb..... | 519 California St., San Francisco 4 |
| Treasurer..... | Miss Ivander MacIver..... | 2414 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley 4 |
| Editor | Miss Clelia A. Paroni..... | 575 Vincente Avenue, Berkeley 6 |

Monthly meetings second Thursday, 7:30 p.m.

Assembly Room, San Francisco Public Library, Larkin and McAllister Streets, 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.