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Creepers Nesting in Golden Gate Park

On May 30, 1944, at the Chain of Lakes, Golden Gate Park, San Francisco, I was surprised to see a California Creeper (*Certhia familiaris occidentalis*) feeding a young one.

On June 19, 1944, at this same place I saw a creeper alight on the trunk of a eucalytus tree nearby and enter a cavity formed by a bulge of the bark. The voices of baby birds were plainly heard. Presently another adult creeper appeared on the scene with food. The nest was about eight or ten feet above the ground. Mr. Stephens and I watched both parents feeding for sometime. They brought food at intervals of every minute and a half to two minutes. One parent obtained food from a nearby tree, while the other one invariably flew across the road and a considerable distance beyond. One interesting thing noted was the different manner of approach to the nest used by the adult birds. It was not possible to identify the sexes but one flew directly into the nest without hesitating for an instant on its threshold while the other one always alighted on the trunk of the tree two or three feet below the nest, started up and then almost too quick for the human eye entered the nest. Our observation was interfered with by the arrival of a group of persons who occupied a bench near the nesting tree.

I can find in the literature but one nesting record for San Francisco: Gordon Bolander observed two adult creepers feeding young in the nest in a cypress tree at Lake Merced, May 17, 1938 (Gull 20, 1938:22).

As there are so few records for this species in Golden Gate Park during the spring and summer months it may be well to note them here: 4-24-41 (2) and 5-7-41 (1) seen by Robert Provoo; 3-25-28 (1), 6-3-39 (2), 7-14-40 (2) and 7-5-41 (1) seen by Mr. Stephens and myself.

—Laura A. Stephens, San Francisco, July 16, 1944

More News from John Roush

A letter from Pfc. JOHN H. ROUSH from Camp Swift, Texas, mentions that 4 members of our Association are now located there. Besides John the others are DON HEYNEMAN, HAROLD KIRKER, and GERALD SEDGEWICK.

"One night we planned a little trip to Galveston to see the Gulf and any birds which would be so accommodating as to fly our way. Last Saturday we drove down; and got up early the next morning to look over the feathered friends. The first bit of interest was raised by the Terns and the Black Skimmers flitting along the bay shore.

"I should have written about this before, but you can imagine the controversy that this observation will arouse. On April 21, 1944 I saw 15 Gannets at Camp Swift (39 miles from Austin, Texas) in a most graceful formation as they silently winged their way to the Gulf. This Post is approximately two hundred miles from the sea. I thought this observation most unusual.

"BIRDS OBSERVED ON JULY 8 AND 9, 1944: On highway from Camp Swift to Galveston Texas—Snowy Egret, Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, Mockingbird, Red-winged Blackbird, Turkey Vulture, Meadowlark, English Sparrow, Cardinal, Morning Dove, Tree Swallow, Bronzed Grackle, Loggerhead Shrike, Eastern Kingbird, Nighthawk, Painted Bunting.

"VICINITY OF GALVESTON TEXAS: Laughing Gull, Sanderling, White Pelican, Black Skimmer, Common Tern, Least Tern, Willet, Great-tailed Grackle, American Egret, Cowbird, Caspian Tern, Double-crested Cormorant, Long-billed Curlew, Louisiana Heron, Gull-billed Tern, Wilson's Plover, Herring Gull, Avocet, Marsh Hawk, Rough-winged Swallow, Killdeer, White-faced Glossy Ibis, Black-necked Stilt, and Brown Pelican.

John H. Roush"

Titmouse Hanged Gathering Nest Material

One of the less common perils of a bird's life is entanglement in the threads and hairs used in the construction of a nest. On the Audubon trip to Lafayette on May 14 one of the members noted a dead bird hanging beside a nest on a terminal, drooping branch of a large Valley Oak. With some difficulty the branch, about twenty feet from the ground, was removed.

The bird was a Plain Titmouse (*Baeolophus inornatus inornatus*). A thread and a horsehair, twisted into a strand, ran from the nest, around a twig, and about the bird's neck. It was a last year's nest, somewhat pulled apart, of a Bullock Oriole (*Icterus bullocki*). The extreme desiccation of the titmouse indicated that it had been hanging in this manner for more than a month.

The material was turned into the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, University of California.

—Ruth Elwonger, Berkeley

Junior Field Trip

The July Field trip for Juniors was held on the 15th and was taken to the East Bay Regional Park with Mrs. E. Richardson and Miss C. A. Paroni as leaders.

Ten Juniors and three Girl Scout leaders, Mrs. P. Higley, Mrs. H. A. Berry, and Mrs. L. Logan were present to enjoy the birding.

Birds identified were: Red-tailed Hawk, Cooper Hawk, California Quail, Mourning Dove, Anna Hummingbird, Allen Hummingbird, Western Flycatcher,



Crested Jay, California Jay, Plain Tit-mouse, Bush-Tit, Wren-Tit, House Wren, Russet-backed Thrush, Hutton Vireo, Yellow Warbler, Red-winged Blackbird, House Finch, Green-backed Goldfinch, Spotted Towhee, Brown Towhee, Junco, and Song Sparrow. A total of twenty-three species.

July Field Trip

The weather was pleasantly cool for the July Field Trip, Sunday the sixteenth.

The trip started at 10th and Fulton, and then in the Golden Gate Park, going in the general direction of Stow Lake, from there along the Chain Lakes where we stopped for lunch. Only three continued after lunch, going out to the beach and Cliff House.

This trip is not outstanding for the number of birds seen, but there were some excellent close-ups of: Pine Siskins feeding low on weed seeds; an immature Olive-Sided Flycatcher preening himself in an acacia tree; a Red-Breasted Nuthatch foraging for insects on a pine tree.

The high-spot of the trip came at lunch time when a Belted Kingfisher dived for and caught fish several times as we watched at our leisure. He sat at times with his back to us, at times facing us; he was a most obliging fellow. But that is not all. We were beautifully entertained by a family of coots, which consisted of the parents and one youngster, half-grown. Someone threw some bread crusts to them; each parent got a piece about two inches long and both went straight to the youngster. Can you guess? The youngster was fed both pieces. Earlier on the trip we had seen several young coots in the fluffy gold and red stage.

On the way to the beach a most accommodating Brown Creeper was seen close enough to observe the fine dark line at the throat and to see that the wing bars were buff yellow. He crept methodically up the tree, and then flew down and started all over, a perfect exhibition of creeper behavior.

Twenty-eight species were observed: Pied-billed Grebe, Mallard, California Quail, Coot, Killdeer, Mourning Dove, Anna Hummingbird, Allen Hummingbird, Belted Kingfisher, Downy Woodpecker, Black Phoebe, Olive-sided Flycatcher, Rough-winged Swallow, Barn Swallow, Chestnut-backed Chickadee, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Russet-backed Thrush, Western Robin, Yellow Warbler, Pileolated Warbler, House Sparrow, Brewer Blackbird, House Finch, Pine Siskin, Spotted Towhee, Oregon Junco, Nuttall Sparrow, Song Sparrow.

On the way to the beach from the Chain Lakes the following species were observed: Willow Woodpecker, Brown Creeper.

From Cliff House one could see Farallon Cormorants and Brown Pelicans on the rocks off-shore, and on the beach nearby, some Western Gulls.

Eight members and two guests were present. Members attending were: Mr. and Mrs. Myer, Mesdames Bozant, Curtis; Misses Chandler, Barry, Kirk; Mr. Bill McGuckin. Guests present were Messrs. Phil Baukol, Dick Stoff.

—Vee K. Curtis, Leader and Historian

Observations

Edited by Junea W. Kelly

July 10, 1944: two White-tailed Kites at Yacht Harbor and Marin Golf Course, east of San Rafael by Mrs. Mary L. Courtright.

Audubon Notes

Junior Field Trip for Saturday, August 12, 1944.

To Alameda Beach to see shore birds which are now beginning to appear in good numbers.

The leaders will be Mrs. E. E. Richardson and Miss Clelia A. Paroni. The group will meet at 9:00 a.m. at the South-east corner of Shattuck and University Avenues, Berkeley. Bring lunches and note books.

The party will take car No. 5 and transfer to bus No. 51 or No. 58 at Broadway and 16th Street, Oakland, getting off at Liberty Avenue and Ferndale Boulevard, Alameda, where the trip begins at 10:30 a.m.

It is with sorrow that we have learned of the death of Miss Selma Werner on June 16th. She was one of our very interested and active members and will be greatly missed.

The resignation of Miss Ruth Elwonger as Editor of "The Gull" was accepted and Miss Clelia A. Paroni was appointed as Editor.

August Meeting: The regular meeting will be held on Thursday, the 10th, at 7:30 p.m. in the Assembly Room, San Francisco Public Library, Larkin and McAllister Streets, San Francisco.

One of our well-known members, Captain T. Eric Reynolds, U.S.N.R., is to speak on "Observing Birds in the South Pacific". This will be based on his recent interesting experiences while stationed in New Zealand, Australia, New Guinea, New Hebrides, The Solomons, and Lord Howe Island.

It will be a great pleasure to again see Captain Reynolds and to hear about the strange birds found in one of our principal battle areas.

August Field Trip will be on Sun-

day, the 13th, to Dimond Park, Oakland. From San Francisco take the 8:22 "N" bus at the Terminal and get off at Fruitvale Avenue, where the party will meet at 9:00 a.m. East Bay people transfer to the No. 57 (MacArthur) bus. Bring field glasses and lunch. The leader will be Miss Joan Kirk.

July Meeting: The 322nd meeting was held on the 13th in the Assembly Room of the San Francisco Public Library with President Arthur H. Myer in the chair. First Vice President Charles A. Bryant led the informal question and answer program on "I Would Like to Know". The audience enjoyed this novel type of program and wanted it repeated in the near future.

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
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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.