



VOLUME 18

SAN FRANCISCO, OCTOBER, 1936

Number 10

# Pennsylvania Utility Helps to Set Up Eagle Sanctuary

Through co-operation of the Philadelphia Electric Power Company the nesting site of the last pair of Bald or American Eagles in eastern Pennsylvania, Mount Johnson Island, has been set aside as a sanctuary, according to announcement made by the National Association of Audubon Societies.

"This pair of Eagles now has two young birds on the wing," said Mr. Richard Pough, of the National Association. "Thus a small group of these magnificent birds may be re-established along the Susquehanna River, where they were once abundant. Early settlers often wrote of the interesting sight afforded by these Eagles as they fished.

"The Bald Eagle, with its gleaming white head and tail, was so much admired by the early inhabitants of this country that it became the emblem of our free nation; yet it has been persecuted throughout the succeeding 150 years, so that today there are many Americans who have actually never seen one alive outside a zoo.

"The Young Eagles will not have white head and tail, nor be ready to nest, for from three to four years. In the meantime they appear to be just very large dark brown birds, and are frequently mistaken for Golden Eagles or for various kinds of hawks.

"In setting up this Eagle sanctuary the National Association of Audubon Societies, with the aid of the Philadelphia Electric Power Company, has done what it can to help the people of Pennsylvania save one of their most beautiful and picturesque forms of native wildlife. Whether the great nest, used year after year, and located in the upper branches of a dead tree, on the rocky heights of the island, will continue to harbor a family of Bald Eagles is up to Pennsylvanians. Will Pennsylvania newspapers continue to make heroes of killers of this noble bird, or denounce them as robbers of one of our priceless wildlife heritages?"

\*--\*--\*

## Food of a Brood of Young Horned Owls

About six miles northeast of Benicia, California, there is a cliff on which Pacific Horned Owls have nested annually for many years.

Though there are several locations on the cliff which are satisfactory to them as home sites, they do not always choose the same site each year. In 1935 a pair of these birds again used a ledge some fifteen feet below the top of the cliff. When they use this ledge for nesting I have a vantage point immediately above them from which I can watch household activities unobserved.

On January 26, 1936, I visited this cliff, and though it seemed a little early for eggs, I looked down over the ledge and found one egg had been laid. On February 9, my next visit, it was necessary to drop a pebble toward the drowsy setting bird in order to ascertain that there were then three eggs in the slight hollow in the earth on the ledge.

I wasn't in the vicinity again until March 8, at which time there were two downy young not many days old and one unhatched egg. There were also the rear quarters of three young jack rabbits in the nest at that time.

A little over three weeks later I dropped by again, and on this occasion the nest held three whole jack rabbits, the rear halves of two others, the hind half of a ground squirrel and the rear three-quarters of a brown weazel. Again on April 16 I found in the nest one medium-sized jack rabbit and the legs of several other rabbits.

Each visit disclosed a strictly mammal diet. Though I searched carefully each time, there was not a sign or feather of other birds in evidence in or near the nest.

Emerson A. Stoner, Benecia, California. August 26, 1936.

## California Birds and Fruits

California is noted the world over for its beautiful and remarkable variety of fruits and of all of these the citrus fruits are about the only ones that the birds cannot injure. Our oranges, lemons, grapefruits and other citrus fruits have such thick and solid coverings that birds can do no damage to the ripening globes.

Here in Redlands, and, I suppose all over Southern California in the orange groves, I have noted an unusual condition. The orange pickers do not see all the golden spheres as some are hidden among the leaves. These ripen until they drop off the trees and being so ripe they split open on striking the ground. The birds then come and enjoy a royal feast of orange juice and pulp; some of them gorge so they can hardly fly.

The principal birds I have noted feeding on these fruits are flickers, blue jays and the beautiful Arizona Hooded Orioles. Alongside our house we have a row of orange trees and a few mornings ago I went out about daylight—4 a. m.—and there were three Red-shafted Flickers, Colaptes cafer, so busily devouring the orange pulp that they hardly noticed my presence, and they had hard work getting on the wing, they were so full of orange.

The orioles were also most interesting as they nested in a nearby tree and fed their young on oranges.

M. Hall McAllister, Redlands, California. June 17, 1936.

Dr. Carl P. Russell: Annoucement of the appointment of Dr. Carl P. Russell, of California, formerly chief of the Museum Division of the National Park Service, to the position of Chief of the Wildlife Divison, left vacant last February through the death of George M. Wright, who was killed in an automobile accident, was made by A. E. Demaray, Acting Director of the National Park Service.

Although his energies in recent years have been focused upon the development of a museum program for the National Park Service, Dr. Russell's early interests were in naturalist work, and his contributions to the cause of wildlife conservation have been many and substantial. It was, in fact, with his encouragement that the late Mr. Wright undertook the recofinaissance of the wildlife problems of the national parks and monuments, a project financed at Mr. Wright's own expense.

For the past thirteen years Dr. Russell has been one of the most valued consultants in the National Park Service, and has demonstrated that his views on conservation, ecology, and the integration of policies of wildlife management are well balanced and practical.

September Field Trip was taken on Sunday, the 13th, along the shore of Bay Farm Island as far as the United States Department of Commerce Radio Station, the mud flats here being one of the loafing grounds of the shore birds when the

tide is high. When the birds left this spot we went to Fernside Beach, where many Godwits and Willets were feeding, and then to the Monarch Box Factory in East Oakland. At this location many Pintails were at rest and large numbers of Northern Phalaropes were feeding in the sloughs. Finally we stopped at the foot of Mound Street, the beach here being the last place exposed as the tide recedes.

The outlook for shore birds seems very encouraging, especially for the small waders, judging from the great numbers seen. Among the larger species, Curlews and Dowitchers were missing.

One week later on the 20th in the same territory Mrs. Kelly found only one Hudsonian Curlew and six Long-billed Dowitchers. She states from her observations in this region, the Curlews pass through carlier in the season. Twenty species noted for the day were as follows:

American Pintail Sparrow Hawk Clapper Rail Killdeer Black-bellied Plover Western Willet Greater Yellow-legs

Least Sandpiper
Western Sandpiper
Marbled Godwit
Sanderling
Northern Phalarope
Western Gull
California Gull

Ring-billed Gull Forster Tern Caspian Tern Meadowlark Brewer Blackbird Bryant Sparrow

Twenty members attended: Messrs. and Mesdames Millard, Myer, Stephens; Mesdames Andrews, Cummings, Kelly; Misses Berg, Cohen, Danz, Griffin, McConnell, Papina, Rinehart, Stanton; Messrs. Power, C. R. Thomas; Harold Kirker. Six guests: Mr. and Mrs. Strock; Mrs. Collins; Misses Andrews, Zetzlaff; Mr. Andrews.

Laura A. Stephens, Historian.

## Audubon Notes

October Meeting: The regular meeting will be held on Thursday, the 8th, at 8 p. m., in the Auditorium of the Pacific Gas and Electric Company's Building, 245 Market Street.

The speaker will be Mr. Roger Tory Peterson, Educational Director of the National Association of Audubon Societies, and author of "A Field Guide to the Birds," whose subject will be "The Sport of Bird Study." The lecture will be illustrated with slides and motion pictures.

October Field Trip. The usual trip to Lake Merced will not be taken due to the further cutting down of trees and shrubbery in the process of highway building, which has greatly disturbed and diminished the bird population in that region.

As a substitute trip we will go again to Alameda to study the movements, mannerisms and feeding methods of shore birds. While we do not have migration waves of land birds comparable to those observed in the eastern states, these great gatherings of shore birds in Alameda are equally spectacular, and offer many interesting problems for bird students.

Take the 8:45 Alameda boat and train to Lincoln Station, where party will be met by the leader, Mrs. Kelly. The group will be divided in order to cover several rather distant points.

The tide at Fernside Beach will not be right for viewing birds close at hand until 1 o'clock. Those desiring to view birds here only should come on the 11:45 boat.

September Meeting: The 229th regular meeting was held on Thursday, the 10th, in room 19, Ferry Building, with forty-eight members and guests present. President Junea W. Kelly presiding.

Misses Lucy R. Knox of San Francisco and Florence B. Stanton of Mill Valley were elected to membership.

The following observations were reported:

Elmer Aldrich: University of California campus, Audubon Warblers, August 25th, a very early date; also same place and date by Edwin McClintock.

Brighton C. Cain: Oakland, Townsend Warbler, September 9th, an early date. He also told of the reported shooting of a Black-crowned Night Heron in Mexico in 1936, which he had banded at Los Banos in 1932.

Mrs. Bracelin: Berkeley, Audubon Warbler, September 10th.

G. L. Ensign: On the marsh one-half mile from Alto Junction on the Tiburon road, Marin County, three American Egrets. They have been there since August 17th.

Mrs. Kelly: At the Mt. Eden end of the San Mateo Bridge, thousands of Northern Phalaropes on August 26th On the Dumbarton approach hundreds of Northern Phalaropes on September 1st and several small flocks of Pintails. Many Least Sandpipers feeding on the roadway. A few Western Sandpipers together with 100+ Willets, six Caspian Terns and 200 White Pelicans were also seen.

At the Leslie salt ponds, Alvarado, 50 White Pelicans, 100+ Avocets, 50+ Yellow-legs on September 1st.

Bay Farm Island, Alameda: Thousands of Sandpipers, a few Hudsonian Curlew, 24 Killdeer, Willets, Godwits Dowitchers, Forster Terns, Ring-billed Gulls, one Burrowing Owl and Sander lings on the 6th.

Mrs. O. D. Miller of the Presidio, San Francisco, has observed numerous co veys of Quail this year, due, no doubt to the fact that the grass and brush were not burned until very late in the season. She also found a young Burrowing Owl, August 19th.

Commander Parmenter: Alvarado, 6 American Egrets, 100± Shovellers; Mt. View marshes, 12 Long-billed Curlew; San Mateo Bridge, 5 Knots, 4 Longbilled Dowitchers, 200± Avocets; Presidio, Red-bellied Hawk; Cliff House, 15 Surf-birds, 4 Ruddy Turnstones, and 106 Black Turnstones; all the above species observed on September 4th.

Mrs. Stephens: Chain of Lakes, Golden Gate Park, San Francisco, 3 Ruby-crowned Kinglets, 2 Pileolated Warblers, Russet-backed Thrush, September 20th, the Russet-backed Thrush being the first one observed since May 5th. Where have they been spending the summer? Allen Hummingbirds, Western Flycatchers, Yellow Warblers still present on September 20th. The Yellow-throats are returning to the Chain of Lakes now that the tules have been allowed to grow again.

The highlight of the evening was a talk by former President Brighton C. Cain, whose subject was "Random Bird Notes." He gave an interesting account of a trip to Florida.

His experiences at Avery Island, La., were especially interesting. From here he traveled westward to southern California and then northward to Oakland.

Mr. Cain illustrated his talk with several reels of excellent motion pictures.

## 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.

Subscription to monthly Bulletin, \$1.00 per year. Single copies, 15c.

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

Student memberships, \$1.50 per year.

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