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Western Tanager Summer Resident in Marin County

Doubt has persisted that Western Tanagers remain to nest in the forests of Marin County, California. In 1944, we (Grinnell and Miller, *Pac. Coast Avif.* No. 27:43) were unable to cite records clearly indicative of summer residence. Observations reported by Junea W. Kelly (*Linsdale, Audubon Mag.*, 46, Oct., Sect. II, 1944: 12) for Ross Valley on June 11 and 17 seemed inconclusive since migrants may occur in the first half of June; there was strong likelihood, however, that the birds Mrs. Kelly noted were nesting. Possibly observers in Marin County have since settled the question to their own satisfaction. Nevertheless, definite evidence of breeding may now be made a matter of record. On July 7, 1945, in a tract of Douglas-firs on the extreme headwaters of Lagunitas Creek, 2000 feet, 1-1/2 miles southwest of the West Peak of Mount Tamalpais, I noted two pairs of tanagers. There was occasional singing, and one pair periodically showed alarm, evidently because of the presence of young, for they were carrying food.

—Alden H. Miller, *Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, Berkeley, California*

White-headed Woodpecker and Other Yosemite Valley Birds

Any natural history observation made in the Yosemite Valley seems to carry glamour with it, probably because of the beautiful setting in which the observation takes place. So, although the following observations which I made in the Yosemite on June 17 and 18, 1946 are not what would be considered important field notes, I considered them interesting.

As I approached the Old Village on the road from Camp Curry I saw a White-headed Woodpecker (*Dryobates albolarvatus*) enter a hole only four feet up in a willow tree along the footpath which skirted the Merced River at that point. I stopped the car in which my family and I were riding and looked into the hole. A young woodpecker, almost ready to leave the nest, looked out at us calling with what seemed to be its hunger call. The parent birds, both male and female, came to the nest several times. I took a couple of pictures of an adult bird at the nesting hole from a distance of only five feet. My impression had been that the White-headed Woodpecker was a rather wary species. However, this pair of birds had chosen a nesting site at low elevation immediately alongside a very frequently used path. There were few passing pedestrians who failed to peek into the hole to see what was causing the commotion made by the youngster inside.

It was interesting to watch the Blue-fronted Jays (*Cyanocitta stelleri*) which had learned to stand on the slender pipe leading to the porcelain heads of the automatic drinking fountains, and with their bills held perpendicularly downward sip the water from the little reservoir that remained in the fountain head, just as though they had been installed for that purpose.

A Western Robin seated on her nest in a Nuttall's Dogwood seemed in a romantic setting even though it was directly over a wash-room behind the Camp Curry Office.

A Western Tanager chasing at top speed a Brewer Blackbird at Mirror Lake, a baby vireo just out of the nest scrambling up the steep bank alongside the footpath to Vernal Falls—trying to follow its parent and peeping continually, the Sierra Junco which scolded me so vociferously as I studied the Lodgepole Pines along Bridal-veil Creek, and many other natural history observations made my visit to the valley doubly interesting.— Emerson A. Stoner, *Benicia, Calif.*

A Glimpse of El Sobrante

Down from the chaparral covered hillsides wild birds come in a constant procession to the fountain and well-stocked feeding trays which Mr. Walter W. Bradley maintains at his charming woodside cottage at El Sobrante. Spotted Towhee, Golden-crowned Sparrow, California Quail and many other seed-eating birds gather at the banquet table. Of great appeal to all types of birds is the inviting fountain where, among others, the Allen Hummingbird, Arkansas Goldfinch and Lazuli Bunting take their turns at bathing, sometimes individually, but often sharing in this rite with others.

The dense growth of natural cover surrounding the bath and feeding trays has judiciously been left to allow the necessary protection and quick escape should danger arise. By retaining the native plants for food and nesting sites, and by supplementing these with seed and water, Mr. Bradley has encouraged many different kinds of birds to come to his grounds. Some, such as the House Wrens, have remained to build in the bird houses which he has provided.

For several years Mr. Bradley has kept a detailed account of the birds which accept his hospitality and through this study has obtained records of arrival and departure of non-resident species. To see this conservation project in action and to study wild birds at close range will be the privilege of members and guests of the Audubon Society on the October Field Trip when Mr. Bradley will be host to the group.

New Members

Miss Viola S. Denning, Mr. Edward Goldberger, Mrs. Bess M. McCarthy and Miss Vera Mae Slaughter have recently joined the organization and two former members, Mr. and Mrs. Albert B. Stephens, have rejoined.

August Field Trip

Twenty-eight members and guests met at 9:50 a. m. on Sunday, August 11, for the bird trip on the Campus of the University of California. The usual

morning fog gave way early in the day to warm sunshine with clear blue skies. Our capable leader, Donald Brock, lead the group from Oxford at University Avenue through the lower campus, following the northern branch of Strawberry Creek past the Life Sciences and Agricultural Buildings, past Haviland Hall northward across new roads in the course of construction near the Greek Theatre to the main branch of the creek leading to the Botanical Gardens.

Twenty-four species of birds were observed as follows:

Red-tailed Hawk	Plain Titmouse	Pine Siskin
Sparrow Hawk	Bush-tit	American Goldfinch
Mourning Dove	Red-breasted Nuthatch	Arkansas Goldfinch
Anna Hummingbird	Wren-tit	Spotted Towhee
Downy Woodpecker	Robin	Brown Towhee
Western Flycatcher	Swainson Thrush	Junco
Steller Jay	Orange-crowned Warbler	White-crowned Sparrow
California Jay	House Finch	Song Sparrow

Twenty members on the trip were the Mrs. A. B. Baer, Sadie Bozant, Vee Curtis, Bess McCarthy, Edith Preston, Olga Wesely; the Misses Jean B. Fay, Victoria Johnsen, Camilla Paroni, Clelia Paroni, Vera Slaughter, Florence Stanton, Marie Sterne, and Minnie Young; the Messrs. Donald Brock, Edward Goldberger, Ralph Griswold, John Keating, Arthur H. Myer, and Randall Pinckert.

Visitors were Mrs. Katie Goldberger and Mrs. R. Pinckert; the Misses Alfreda Berg, Elizabeth Jones of Stockton, Dorothy Sloman; Major John Dern; and four of Mr. Arthur Myer's boy scouts of Troops 11 and 17.

Historian—*Clelia A. Paroni*

OBSERVATIONS

Edited by JUNE A. KELLY

Hooded Oriole, May 30, and a pair with two young, August 3, Alameda, Henry B. Armstrong.

Scoty Shearwaters, 100,000+, July 25, Stinson Beach, Marin County, Enid Austin.

White-tailed Kite, May 14, about 12 mi. N. of Santa Barbara on Highway 101; Hooded Oriole (male), June 3, in yard; pair of Cowbirds, June 4, at feeding station, 5840 Seminary Court, Oakland, Donald Brock.

Hooded Oriole, a pair, June 22; young Cowbird being fed by a Song Sparrow, June 7, Alameda, Dora Hinckley.

Ruddy Turnstone, Avocets, Northern Phalaropes, August 8, Alameda; four Phainopeplas, Arroyo Mocho; four Purple Martins, Arroyo del Valle (both arroyos are near Livermore), August 8, Junea W. Kelly.

Lazuli Bunting, May 4 to June 12; Warbling Vireo, May 6 to 23; Linnets feeding young; Wood Pewee, Western Tanager, May 26, 217 Upper Terrace, San Francisco, Mrs. Oliver Millard.

Flocks of Shearwaters, mostly Sooty, May 11, Seal Rocks, San Francisco, Frank A. Scott.

August Meeting

The regular meeting of the Audubon Association of the Pacific was held in the San Francisco Public Library on August 8, 1946 at 8:00 p. m. with the president, Miss Jean Bradford Fay, presiding.

Fields observations were given by Mrs. Bozant and Mr. Bradley.

The program was presented by Dr. Robert C. Miller, Director of the California Academy of Sciences, who spoke on "The Flight of Albatrosses and Other Sea Birds".

Forty members and guests were present. — Monica Goen, *Recording Secretary*

September Meeting

The 348th meeting of the Audubon Association of the Pacific will be held on Thursday, September 12, 1946 at 8:00 p. m. in the Assembly Room of the San Francisco Public Library at Larkin and McAllister Streets. Mr. Charles A. Bryant and Mr. L. Ph. Bolander will show colored films of Arizona wildflowers. A ten minute period will be devoted to vacation observations by other members. Meet at the Lotus Bowl, 626 Grant Ave., at 6:00 p. m. for a no-host dinner preceding the meeting.

September Field Trip

On Sunday, September 15, members and guests will meet at noon at the corner of Santa Clara and High Streets, Alameda, to study shore birds at Bay Farm Island under the leadership of Mr. Charles A. Bryant. San Francisco members take the "O" bus leaving the Key System Terminal at 11:07 a. m. and arriving at the meeting place at 11:48 a. m. East Bay members take the Alameda bus at Broadway and Sixteenth Street in Oakland and get off at Santa Clara and High Streets. Bring lunch and binoculars.

Audubon Association of the Pacific

Organized January 25, 1917

For the Study and the Protection of Birds

- President.....Miss Jean Bradford Fay.....2312 Leavenworth St.,
 San Francisco 11
- Corresponding Secretary.....Mr. Joseph J. Webb.....519 California St., San Francisco 4
- Treasurer.....Miss Ivander MacIver.....2414 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley 4
- Editor.....Miss Grace Irene Crowe.....1420 Henry St., Berkeley 7
- Monthly meetings second Thursday, 8:00 p. m.
- Assembly Room, San Francisco Public Library, Larkin and McAllister Sts., San Francisco
- Membership dues, payable January 1st, \$3.00 per year
- Student memberships, \$1.50 per year
 Life memberships, \$50.00