

that I may sit among them while they are going through their strange antics—it should not be difficult during another season to substantiate my presumption, or otherwise. Certainly an ant is held in the bill for only a short time and another is taken in its place. The whole procedure seems to be so exciting to the birds and so intense that even enmity is forgotten. I have seen as many as twenty or more birds of a number of species, going through the performance on a space of only about six square feet. Not only is it a most comical sight which will nearly bring tears of laughter to the eyes, but a most beautiful sight, as such birds as those which are highly colored under the wings like the Rose-breasted Grosbeaks show these generally hidden colors to great advantage.

Although all the ground thrushes which I have had, perform, I have not seen the Bluebird (*Sialia sialis*) do so. They, so far, have been interested only in the ants or larvae as food. I keep very few exotics, therefore have not been in a position to determine whether or not they too 'ant,' with the exception of the Pekin Robin whose actions are the same as those of our songbirds.

The only birds which I have seen use any other material than ants are the Bronzed Grackles. They went through the identical performance with choke-cherries. Curiously enough, although I feed large quantities of this fruit in season, none of the other birds has used them for this purpose so far as I know.

In a review of this subject, W. L. McAtee (Auk, 55: 98-105, 1938) lists sixteen species and six passerine families in which this behavior has been noted. M. M. Nice and J. ter Pelkwyk in " 'Anting' by the Song Sparrow" (Auk, 57: 520-522, 1940) add one species and one family. I am able to report this behavior in three more families and sixteen additional species. New records are indicated by asterisks.

The following is a list of the birds I have seen 'anting' in the aviaries:

CORVIDAE: Blue Jay (*Cyanocitta cristata*)

*MIMIDAE: *Catbird (*Dumetella carolinensis*)

TURDIDAE: *Robin (*Turdus migratorius*), *Wood Thrush (*Hylocichla mustelina*), *Hermit Thrush (*Hylocichla guttata*), *Veery (*Hylocichla fuscescens*)

*BOMBYCILLIDAE: *Cedar Waxwing (*Bombycilla cedrorum*)

TIMELIIDAE: Pekin Robin (*Leiothrix lutea*)

*ICTERIDAE: *Baltimore Oriole (*Icterus galbula*); *Bronzed Grackle (*Quiscalus quiscula aeneus*) (choke-cherries only)

FRINGILLIDAE: *Cardinal (*Richmondia cardinalis*), *Rose-breasted Grosbeak (*Hedymeles ludovicianus*), *Indigo Bunting (*Passerina cyanea*), *Evening Grosbeak (*Hesperiphona vespertina*), *Fox Sparrow (*Passerella iliaca*), *Slate-colored Junco (*Junco hyemalis*), *Harris's Sparrow (*Zonotrichia querula*), *White-throated Sparrow (*Zonotrichia albicollis*), Song Sparrow (*Melospiza melodia*).—H. R. IVOR, *Erindale, Ontario*.

Observations at Guaymas, Sonora, Mexico.—The brief period from April 12 to 16, 1940, was spent by the writer at Miramar Beach, near Guaymas, Sonora, Mexico. It was purely a vacation trip and only superficial notes on the bird life were kept. However, it appears that Sonora records are so comparatively limited that the following observations may be worthy of publication. No specimens were taken and subspecific designations are assumed.

Ornithological highlight of the visit was a three-hour boat trip from Miramar Beach to Guaymas and return in the late afternoon of April 14. Every member of the party was greatly impressed with the untold numbers of waterbirds which the rich waters of the Gulf of California support. It was literally "a parade of the sea

birds." Platoons of California Brown Pelicans (*Pelecanus occidentalis californicus*), in perfect formation, aggregating thousands of individuals, skimmed close to the boat in both directions. Amusing were the seeming efforts of occasional cormorants, which had aligned themselves with the pelicans, to keep time with the alternate sailing and flapping of their larger companions. Both Farallon Cormorants (*Phalacrocorax auritus albociliatus*) and Brandt's Cormorants (*Phalacrocorax penicillatus*) were observed, sometimes in such numbers that the sound of their beating wings was very noticeable.

The gull family was represented by the Yellow-footed Gull (*Larus occidentalis livens*), whose yellow legs were plainly visible to the naked eye, Heermann's Gull (*Larus heermanni*), which nests on many islands in the Gulf, and Bonaparte's Gull (*Larus philadelphia*), which, though far from its nesting grounds, was the most abundant gull seen. Great flocks of them contained individuals in all stages of plumage, from the winter phase to the full black head of the breeding season. We also saw pearly-backed gulls that were either California Gulls (*Larus californicus*) or Ring-billed Gulls (*Larus delawarensis*)—or both, but our notes make no mention of terns.

This boat ride marked the writer's first acquaintance with the Man-o'-war-bird (*Fregata magnificens rothschildi*), whose graceful silhouette against the sky was much admired. Its ease and skill in flight were marvelous, even though used for robbing other birds of their catch. Parasitic Jaegers (*Stercorarius parasiticus*) were seen engaged in the same banditry. We scanned the islands that we passed for possible Man-o'-war-birds' nests, not then knowing that the nearest-known breeding ground of this bird is some 250 miles distant, at Santa Margarita Island on the Pacific coast of Lower California. The only species that we saw actually sitting on its nest was the Treganza's Blue Heron (*Ardea herodias treganzai*), which here builds its bulky home of sticks on the precipitous cliffs of the offshore islands. Hundreds of boobies of two kinds, Brewster's Booby (*Sula brewsteri*) and Blue-footed Booby (*Sula nebouxi*), were also to be seen on the ledges of the islands, but we could not actually detect any eggs through our 8-power binoculars, though it was the proper season. Our boatmen informed us that on San Pedro Nolasco Island, visible about 25 miles away, many seabirds nested, but that the whitewashed cliffs we were passing were used chiefly as roosts. The long lines of boobies in flight, like those of the pelicans, provided perfect examples of bird formation. When fishing, both pelicans and boobies plunge headlong from a height, a truly inspiring sight when scores are thus engaged simultaneously.

The commonest duck was the Lesser Scaup (*Nyroca affinis*); large flocks were seen in the quiet bays at the base of the towering cliffs, where, with both cliff and duck reflected in the smooth water, they gave almost the appearance of floating in mid-air. In Bocohibampo Bay, which was the starting and ending point of the trip, was a large and closely massed flock of Red-breasted Mergansers (*Mergus serrator*). The waterbird list is completed by the Pacific Loon (*Gavia arctica pacifica*), a few swimming individuals of which were seen—at least they were believed to be of this species.

Two landbirds were observed on the boat ride, Turkey Vultures (*Cathartes aura septentrionalis*) and Audubon's Caracaras (*Polyborus cheriway auduboni*), both of which were seeking or eating the fish heads and other offal discarded on the beaches at the entrance to Guaymas Harbor. Near the fish and oyster plants in the city of Guaymas we saw, on other occasions, a number of Black Vultures (*Coragyps atratus atratus*); and this is the only place where we saw them.

Our notes on landbirds seen in the vicinity of Guaymas reveal nothing worthy of record, unless mention be made of the Sonoran Parrots (*Amazona albifrons saltuensis*) which we found in the 'cactus forest' between San José de Guaymas and Empalmé. Here, in a close stand of giant cactus, which was about the last place where we should ordinarily have looked for parrots, we encountered several of these noisy, handsome birds. Our attention was divided between them and a pair of solicitous Harris's Hawks (*Parabuteo unicinctus harrisi*), which either were nesting, or about to nest, in the cactus grove.

These rambling remarks may close with the mention of a Dickey's Egret (*Di-chromanassa rufescens dickeyi*) observed from the bridge which connects Empalmé with Guaymas, and of a Frazar's Oyster-catcher (*Haematopus palliatus frazari*) seen in the estuary behind Miramar Beach. There it shared the company of several Brewster's Egrets (*Egretta thula brewsteri*) throughout our stay.—CLINTON G. ABBOTT, *San Diego Society of Natural History, San Diego, California.*

FIFTY-NINTH STATED MEETING OF THE A. O. U.

THE Fifty-ninth Stated Meeting of the Union will be held in Denver, Colorado, on September 1-4, 1941, followed by two field trips: to the top of Mt. Evans (14,000 feet) on Friday; and on the prairies all day Saturday. There is a good road to the top of Mt. Evans, which is the highest place in the United States that one can reach by automobile.

Headquarters will be at the Cosmopolitan Hotel, Broadway and 18th St., Denver, where the annual banquet will be held on Wednesday night, September 3. All meetings will be held in the new Phipps Auditorium of the Colorado Museum, beginning Tuesday morning, September 2. The Local Committee is: Dr. Alfred M. Bailey, *Chairman*, Fred G. Brandenburg, E. R. Kalmbach, R. J. Niedrach, and C. C. Sperry, to whom further inquiries may be addressed.