

I have looked carefully to find nests before and after these dates but have failed. Thus I would define their breeding time as the month of June, as most of my sets were found during that month and the majority during the first three weeks. During the six years of my observing this species I have collected forty-four sets of which eleven had two eggs each and thirty-three three eggs. The greater part of the sets of two were found at the end of the season, indicating a second set although I have been unable to prove this. A peculiarity was noticed in 1901, as the eight sets I collected all contained three eggs each. In all the above cases where only two eggs were collected the nests were always left long enough to complete the set; thus I am positive that the sets of two were complete. Several plover's nests were found before the eggs had been deposited and the nests carefully watched. The eggs are laid about three days apart.

The nesting ground is a white sandy cape or narrow strip of land between Ballona Swamp and the ocean about two miles long and two hundred yards wide. This place during the fall high tides is completely flooded and deposits of small rocks and broken shells are left there. Among these the plovers place their nests. On approaching it one may be attracted by noticing the little fellows running about on the sand in front of him, or occasionally flying in low wide circles uttering a pleading whistle so characteristic of this species. This whistle I have learned is a danger signal that I am near their nests, and on looking over the ground carefully I may be able to notice fine bird tracks in the white sand or in the patches of white sand between the shells and rocks.

In going over the ground carefully where the tracks are the thickest a nest will generally be found. Sometimes the birds will build among the small rocks where the tracks cannot be seen and here the eggs are safe as their coloration protects them, for they look exactly like small rocks. The nests are, as a rule, found by a mark of some kind, a bone of some animal, a small dead weed, or a bit of drift-wood and are slight depressions in the sand. Some are completely lined with broken shells or fish bones with the eggs pointed towards the center, very close together and about half buried in the nest lining. A pair of birds will build several nests during a season and only use one; for I have found nests all fixed up and completely surrounded with tracks. This I noticed especially in 1901 for I found about three times as many unused nests as used ones. During this season I visited Ballona about three times a week and gave the birds careful study.—W. LEE CHAMBERS, *Santa Monica, California.*

## NOTES AND NEWS

On November 8, the following amendment to Article IX of the Constitution of California is to be voted upon by the people. "Section 12. All property now or hereafter belonging to the 'California Academy of Sciences,' an institution for the advancement of science and maintenance of a free museum, and chiefly endowed by the late James Lick, and incorporated under the laws of the State of California, January sixteenth, eighteen hundred and seventy-one, having its buildings located in the city and county of San Francisco, shall be exempt from taxation. The trustees of said institution must annually report their proceedings and financial accounts to the governor. The legislature may modify, suspend, and revive at will the exemption from taxation herein given."

The California Academy of Sciences is a museum similar in scope to the United States National Museum in Washington and the American Museum in New York City; it maintains collections for popular instruction, which are open six days of the week and are free to the public; it maintains scientific collections and a scientific library, which are free to students; it publishes scientific papers without pecuniary profit; it sends out expeditions in search of new facts and new specimens; it gives free public lectures every month in the year; its staff answers inquiries relating to scientific matters, free of charge. The property of the academy consists chiefly of a building, fronting on Market Street, San Francisco, rented for stores and offices, and a building back of this front building used for the library and the collections of animals, plants, and minerals. The income from the front building supports the back building; without this income the work of the Academy could not be carried on. The Academy pays over \$7000 a year in taxes, of this amount less than one-third goes to the state at large, the rest to the city and county of San Francisco. This tax impoverishes the Academy, the balance of its income being insufficient to do its work. Similar institutions in other states, such as the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia and the Boston Society of Natural History are exempt from taxation. The attention of all Cooper Club members, who may reside in California, is called to the amendment. Everyone who is interested in the advancement of science in California should do his or her little toward influencing a favorable vote. It is suggested that those who receive printed

matter concerning this amendment, post the same near the polling place or on their post-office bulletin board a few days before election.

### California Audubon Society

The California Audubon Society was organized at Pasadena on March 25, 1904. The officers elected to serve during the first year are: President, Dr. Garrett Newkirk; Vice-president, Mrs. Elizabeth Grinnell; Secretary and Treasurer, W. Scott Way. A local society was soon afterwards formed at Garvanza, with Mrs. Harriet W. Myers as President, and Miss Foneta Chase Secretary, and another at El Monte, with M. F. Quinn as President and Miss Lula Mays Secretary. Junior sections for persons under eighteen years of age are connected with these societies, each having its local secretary.

The Ladies Songbird Protective Association, Mrs. J. C. McCracken, President, of Santa Cruz county, has affiliated with the Audubon Societies giving a total membership at the last report of about six hundred.

It is intended by those having special interest in the movement that the local societies shall federate as a State society when several local branches now forming have completed their organization. Mr. Charles Keeler is interested in the work and has informed the Pasadena society of his intention to take an active interest in the organization of a local society at Berkeley.

The purposes of the Audubon Society, as set forth in the by-laws are: (1) To discourage the purchase or use of the feathers of wild birds for ornamentation. (2) To discourage the destruction of birds and their eggs, and to aid in the enforcement of the laws made for the protection of the same. (3) To spread information of the value of birds in their relation to agriculture. (4) To aid in establishing Bird Day exercises in the schools. (5) To distribute educational literature in the interest of bird protection, and to encourage the study of Natural History. (6) To assist in the protection of game and game birds by enforcing the laws provided therefor, and, in co-operation with game protective associations, in efforts to obtain additional game protective legislation.

The society is making a special effort in the interest of the mourning dove, the destruction of which, under existing laws, forebodes the early extermination of the species. The legislature will be urged to take this bird from the game list and protect it at all seasons. In efforts to obtain continuous protection for the dove and a general law for protection of wild birds other than game birds, barring harmful species. A number of Granges and other organizations of farmers and fruit-growers have promised the society their influence and co-operation.

The society has already secured the enactment of local ordinances protecting some thirty species of non-game birds and prohibiting all shooting on the public road in both Los Angeles and Santa Cruz counties, and also, in the latter county, an ordinance protecting the mourning dove at all times until 1909.

Several thousand cards and posters containing summary of the bird and game laws have been issued and circulated by the Pasadena society, and 2000 leaflets in the interest of dove protection are now being distributed throughout the State. Several thousand of the educational leaflets issued by the National Committee of Audubon Societies have also been circulated, chiefly among farmers and in the schools.

W. SCOTT WAY, Secretary.

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF CAMERA HUNTERS.—A national association of wild animal photographers is being formed for the purpose of promoting the new form of sport popularly known as "camera hunting." The main object of this organization will be to bring about the renunciation of the gun for the camera; and it is hoped that it will be an effective means of discouraging the unnecessary slaughter of the birds and other wild animals of America. All interested should communicate with Le Roy Melville Tufts, "Thrushwood," Farmington, Maine.

During the week beginning September 4, an extensive forest fire has been raging in the Santa Cruz mountains, California. The State Park, known as the Big Basin, containing probably the finest stand of redwoods (*Sequoia sempervirens*), has been threatened with total destruction, but press despatches state that some of it will be saved. It is impossible at present to ascertain the amount of damage done. Dr. Ralph Arnold, a club member, viewed a portion of the fire from a high ridge, and tells us that the upper Pescadero was like a roaring furnace, the redwoods going along with the drier underbrush. In this connection it is well to note what a destruction of animal life such a fire entails, although this is one of the least serious aspects of the matter. The forest of the Big Basin was one of surpassing grandeur and beauty, and if it is destroyed, the loss is national, as well as local.

Now that the collecting and outing season is about over, members should send in their notes while experiences are fresh in mind. The more that members co-operate the more readable and representative will be the magazine.

## THE CONDOR

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### NOTES AND NEWS

(Continued)

In THE CONDOR for May, 1901, Messrs. Joseph and J. W. Mailliard presented some excellent suggestions for the establishment of an information column in this magazine. The proposition met with the hearty endorsement of the editor, but for some reason did not gain the cooperation which it deserved. The scheme was so well worthy of the support of all club members that we have deemed it desirable to bring the matter again to the attention of our readers. There are doubtless many who desire information on some especial subject, or to fill out gaps in their observations, and are not able to find aid in their reference libraries. We invite everyone to send in their questions, which will be published, and probably answers to the majority will be forthcoming.

In this connection it seems well to publish the names of a Special Information Committee which has been appointed, by the president, especially to aid beginners in bird-study. This committee constitutes a sort of Advisory Council and is willing, in so far as it is able, to aid anyone who may wish to undertake bird study, or who may desire some special information. The West is divided into districts with a committeeman to each. If you are uncertain to whom to write, send the question to the chairman who will refer it to the proper person. A stamped and addressed envelope should always be included for reply.

#### COOPER CLUB'S ADVISORY COMMITTEE.

Walter K. Fisher, Chairman, Palo Alto, Cal.; Northern California.

W. W. Price, Alta, Placer Co., Cal.; Interior valleys and Sierra Nevada Mts.

W. Otto Emerson, Haywards, Cal., San Francisco Bay region.

Joseph Grinnell, Pasadena, Cal.; Pacific slope of Southern California.

Herbert Brown, Yuma, Arizona; Arizona and southeastern California.

William L. Finley, 264 Madison St., Portland, Ore.; Oregon.

J. H. Bowles, 401 South G. St., Tacoma, Wash.; Washington.

Mr. M. P. Anderson is now collecting in Japan for the British Museum. He expects to be there about a year.

Mr. W. Scott Way, Secretary of the California Audubon Society, gave an address at the University Farmers' Institute, Long Beach, August 27, on the "Passing of the Mourning Dove."

Mr. Lyman Belding was recently at Deer Park, Placer county.

Messrs. William R. Dudley, E. G. Dudley, and W. K. Fisher made a hasty trip into the country south of Kings River canyon during the last two weeks of August. The trail was taken at Millwood, Fresno Co. Some work was done in the extensive sequoia cuttings of the Converse Basin, where a deplorably wasteful system of lumbering is being carried on.

Mr. Joseph Grinnell spent the latter part of August and the first two weeks of September collecting in the Santa Cruz mountains and in the vicinity of Palo Alto.

We are able to announce, unofficially, that the third volume of Mr. Ridgway's "Birds of North and Middle America" will soon be ready for distribution, and that the manuscript of the fourth volume is nearly completed.

Rev. S. H. Goodwin has become a staff contributor in economic ornithology for the *Deseret Farmer*, of Provo, Utah.

One of our club members, now in the far east, Richard C. McGregor, writes us very vividly of his collecting experiences there. Judging from his valuable papers which are issued regularly from the Philippine Museum, Mr. McGregor has not given up in the least to the evervating influences of that tropical climate. He says: "I hope to get away on another good trip before long. The highlands of Mindoro need more attention and there are plenty of other good points to visit. Luzon itself has plenty of virgin ground, but I am not yet anxious to be collected by a lot of Ladrone who are still making things interesting at several points."

A recent issue of the *Sierra Club Bulletin* (Vol. V, No. 2) contains an entertaining article by our fellow member, Dr. William Frederic Bade. He relates his experiences with "The Water Ouzel at Home" on the headwaters of the Kern River in the southern Sierras. Four excellent photographs supplement the already vivid word-portrayal.

Mr. R. E. Snodgrass spent the summer travelling through the eastern states.

Mr. H. W. Henshaw, who has been residing in Hilo, Hawaii, for the past ten years is stopping temporarily at Fruitvale, California.

Mr. E. W. Nelson and Dr. C. Hart Merriam are expected to arrive on the Coast about September 15.