

the second set of that number that I had ever found, they were added to my collection. Going on to where the first nest had been located I expected to see the tree deserted, but was surprised to find that while the nest had never been completed another had been built on a different branch, but a few feet away and a little higher up. The bird was on in this case also, and I climbed up about fifteen feet to find seven eggs in the deeply cupped nest. Less than a quarter of a mile away in a thick bush, four feet from the ground, was another nest of this species with four fresh eggs. Surely this must have been a very attractive place for grasshoppers, small lizards, beetles and horned toads, for I had never before known three pairs of shrikes to nest in such a small area.

***Planesticus migratorius propinquus*. Western Robin.**

Having read from time to time of several sets of five eggs of the robin having been found, I thought it might be of interest to record a set of that number which I came across four years ago. On May 22, 1908, while driving along a mountain road near Ockenden, Fresno County, California, I noticed a nearly completed robin's nest situated nine feet from the ground, in a niche in an old burnt stub standing not four feet from the edge of the narrow road. The nest was composed largely of gray-green tree moss, and the mud cup was lined with fine, dry grass stems. Coming down the mountain seven days later, I had forgotten the nest on the stub until I happened to see the tail of a sitting bird on the nest. She had already begun to incubate a set of five eggs that were altogether normal in size, shape, and coloration.

During the week that was spent in the mountains I examined about thirty nests of this species, containing either eggs or young, and sets of three were more common than four; so that five eggs in one nest was quite exceptional, for that year at least.

BIRD NOTES FROM THE COAST OF NORTHERN  
LOWER CALIFORNIA

By GEORGE WILLETT

**A**PRIL 4, 1912, the writer left San Diego on the launch "Flier," George H. Child, captain, for a short cruise along the coast of Northern Lower California and to some of the adjacent islands. Among those composing the party were W. J. McCloskey of the Los Angeles County Museum of History, Science and Art, C. B. Linton of the Cooper Club, and H. C. Lowe, conchologist. We reached Ensenada April 5, and, after procuring the necessary papers from the authorities there, started down the coast. Our trip lasted twenty-two days, ending at San Diego, April 26. We were very unfortunate as to weather, only one or two days of the entire time being pleasant. The inclemency of the elements, of course, retarded us to a great extent in our ornithological pursuits. We managed, however, to secure quite a number of specimens and notes.

More or less collecting was done at each of the following points on the dates given. Todos Santos Island, sixty-five miles south of San Diego, five hours on April 25; Hole in the Wall, ten miles southeast of Todos Santos, afternoon of April 5; Santo Tomas Anchorage, eighty miles south of San Diego, April 6; Colnett Bay, one hundred and thirty miles south of San Diego, April 7 and 8; San Quentin Bay, one hundred and seventy-five miles south of San

Diego, April 12; San Martin Island, one hundred and sixty-five miles south of San Diego, April 9, 10, 11 and 23; San Geronimo Island, two hundred and twenty miles south of San Diego, April 13 and 14; and Cerros Island (south end), three hundred and sixty miles south of San Diego, April 15 to 21, inclusive.

The following is a list of species noted on the trip. All notes and records of specimens taken are provided by the writer personally unless otherwise stated.

***Aechmophorus occidentalis***. Western Grebe, Common in flocks at Colnett Bay, April 7 and 8. None observed there on our return April 24.

***Colymbus nigricollis californicus***. Eared Grebe. Several seen and one taken at Colnett, April 8.

***Gavia immer***. Loon. One bird in fine spring plumage noted in San Diego Bay April 4; another seen in the same locality April 26.

***Gavia pacifica***. Pacific Loon. Common at all points south to San Quentin Bay. Many seen migrating northward. Much less plentiful on our return journey.

***Ptychoramphus aleuticus***. Cassin Auklet. Breeding in small numbers on Todos Santos and Cerros, and in an immense colony on San Geronimo. It was hardly possible to walk anywhere on the latter island without sinking knee deep into auklet burrows. In rocky portions of the island the birds were nesting in crevices in the rocks. Most of the nests contained incubated eggs on April 14, but a few fresh eggs and two downy young were found. Of thirty incubating birds taken on the afternoon of the 14th, eighteen were females and twelve were males.

***Brachyramphus hypoleucus***. Xantus Murrelet. Fairly common on the ocean, but not found breeding although particularly sought for.

***Larus occidentalis***. Western Gull. Abundant everywhere we went. Not yet nesting.

***Larus argentatus***. Herring Gull. ***Larus californicus***. California Gull. One bird of each species seen in San Diego Bay April 4.

***Larus heermanni***. Heermann Gull. One seen at Santo Tomas April 7, and another at San Martin Island, April 9. Several seen in San Quentin Bay April 12, and at San Geronimo Island April 14. Not plentiful, the majority evidently having passed southward to the breeding grounds previous to this date.

***Larus philadelphia***. Bonaparte Gull. Seen in San Diego Bay April 4.

***Sterna maxima***. Royal Tern. Abundant everywhere we went. Adult birds in fine plumage. Although we took specimens in several different localities, hoping to find *Sterna elegans*, we were unsuccessful.

***Fulmarus glacialis glupischa***. Pacific Fulmar. One bird in light plumage seen outside the entrance to San Diego Bay April 26; one found dead on the beach at San Geronimo Island April 14.

***Puffinus opisthomelas***. Black-vented Shearwater. Abundant on the ocean until about April 15; much less plentiful after that date, probably having passed southward to their breeding grounds.

***Puffinus griseus***. Sooty Shearwater. Common on the ocean during the entire trip.

***Phalacrocorax dilophus albociliatus***. Farallon Cormorant. Common as far south as we went. Nest-building on Todos Santos Island April 25. A great part of San Martin Island was covered with nests of this species. They were built on the tops of low bushes and none were occupied April 10-11.

***Phalacrocorax penicillatus***. Brandt Cormorant. Abundant on all the islands

visited. Not so plentiful as the last on Todos Santos and San Martin, but much more plentiful on San Geronimo and Cerros. A few fresh eggs noted on San Geronimo April 13.

**Phalacrocorax pelagicus resplendens.** Baird Cormorant. Fairly common on the ocean as far south as Cape Colnett, where several were seen April 7.

**Pelecanus californicus.** California Brown Pelican. Plentiful everywhere we went. Apparently not yet nesting. Old nests were seen on Todos Santos and San Martin islands. On the former island last year's egg shells were scattered everywhere, evidently the work of rats, with which the island is infested.

**Mergus serrator.** Red-breasted Merganser. Fairly common at San Geronimo Island April 14; one adult male in high plumage taken. One bird seen at the south end of Cerros Island April 17.

**Chaulelasmus streperus.** Gadwall. Adult female taken at Colnett April 8.

**Mareca americana.** Baldpate. One taken at Colnett April 8.

**Querquedula cyanoptera.** Cinnamon Teal. Common at Colnett April 7-8. One taken at Santo Tomas April 6.

**Spatula clypeata.** Shoveller. Common at Colnett April 7-8. On the morning of April 13, thousands of ducks were seen flying from the San Quentin marshes out to sea. They were so far away, however, that it was impossible to identify the different species.

**Marila affinis.** Lesser Scaup Duck. Common at San Diego Bay April 4, and at San Martin Island April 10 to 12, and 23.

**Oidemia perspicillata.** Surf Scoter. Common at all times on the ocean; adult males predominating.

**Erismatura jamaicensis.** Ruddy Duck. One taken at Colnett April 8.

**Branta nigricans.** Black Brant. Common in small flocks at Colnett Bay April 7; at San Geronimo Island April 13-14, and at Cerros Island April 16-17. An immature bird taken at the southern end of Cerros April 17 was much emaciated, and upon dissection was found to be literally alive with large tape worms.

**Dendrocygna bicolor.** Fulvous Tree-duck. Several seen at Colnett April 7-8.

**Ardea herodias.** Great Blue Heron. Seen occasionally during the entire trip. A small nesting colony noted on San Martin Island. April 9 the birds were at the nests but no eggs had been laid.

**Porzana carolina.** Sora. One taken and several others seen at Colnett April 8.

**Fulica americana.** Coot. Noted at Colnett April 8.

**Phalaropus fulicarius.** Red Phalarope. One bird seen near Todos Santos Island April 25.

**Gallinago delicata.** Wilson Snipe. Noted by McCloskey at Colnett April 8.

**Pisobia minutilla.** Least Sandpiper. Common at Colnett, and on San Martin and San Geronimo islands.

**Limosa fedoa.** Marbled Godwit. One taken by Linton at San Martin Island April 10.

**Totanus melanoleucus.** Greater Yellow-legs. One taken by Child at Colnett April 7.

**Heteractitis incanus.** Wandering Tattler. Fairly plentiful everywhere on rocky shores. Several specimens taken at Cerros Island April 17-18 were in fine spring plumage.

**Actitis macularius.** Spotted Sandpiper. Seen occasionally on rocky shores. One specimen taken at Cerros Island April 18.

**Numenius hudsonicus.** Hudsonian Curlew. Common at San Geronimo Island April 13-14, and at China Point (about thirty miles south of Todos Santos Island), April 25.

**Squatarola squatarola.** Black-bellied Plover. Common at San Geronimo Island April 13-14.

**AEgialitis nivosa.** Snowy Plover. Common at San Geronimo Island April 13-14.

**Aphriza virgata.** Surf-bird. Female taken by Linton at San Geronimo Island April 13; another female taken by Child the same day.

**Arenaria interpres morinella.** Ruddy Turnstone. Common at San Geronimo Island April 13-14. Several specimens taken.

**Arenaria melanocephala.** Black Turnstone. Abundant everywhere on rocky shores. Many in almost full summer plumage.

**Haematopus frazari.** Frazar Oyster-catcher. Fairly common on Cerros Island; one taken by Linton on San Geronimo.

**Haematopus bachmani.** Black Oyster-catcher. Common on all the islands visited; also seen on the rocky shores of the mainland. On Cerros Island there are very few oyster-catchers typical of either this or the last species, most of them showing hybridization between the two forms. A male and female, evidently paired, were taken April 16. The male was almost typical *frazari* and the female almost typical *bachmani*.

**Lophortyx californica vallicola.** Valley Quail. Common on the mainland.

**Zenaidura macroura marginella.** Western Mourning Dove. Seen at Colnett.

**Cathartes aura septentrionalis.** Turkey Vulture. Common on the mainland, and on San Martin and Cerros islands.

**Circus hudsonius.** Marsh Hawk. A pair seen at Colnett, and another pair on San Martin Island.

**Haliaeetus leucocephalus leucocephalus.** Bald Eagle. One or two birds seen at north end of Cerros Island.

**Falco peregrinus anatum.** Duck Hawk. Male taken on San Martin Island April 10. Male, female and three badly incubated eggs taken on San Geronimo Island April 13. Several birds seen on Cerros Island.

**Falco sparverius phalaena.** Desert Sparrow Hawk. Seen on the mainland.

**Pandion haliaetus carolinensis.** American Osprey. One pair seen on San Geronimo; breeding abundantly on San Martin and Cerros. A few sets were secured, but nearly all the nests examined contained young. Some young birds found April 9 were at least six weeks old, so the eggs must have been laid in January. An addled egg, taken from a nest which also contained two young, measures 2.86 x 1.93, by far the largest Osprey's egg I have ever seen. At the time of our visit the Ospreys seemed to be feeding almost altogether on flying fish, which were very plentiful around the islands.

**Aluco pratincola.** Barn Owl. Seen by McCloskey at Colnett, and by Child on San Martin Island.

**Speotyto cunicularia hypogaea.** Burrowing Owl. One seen by Lowe on San Geronimo Island April 14.

**Ceryle alcyon.** Belted Kingfisher. Male taken by Child at Santo Tomas, and female of a pair seen, taken by the writer at San Martin Island April 23. One bird seen at San Geronimo Island April 14, and another at the south end of Cerros Island April 17.

**Aeronautes melanoleucus.** White-throated Swift. Several seen at Todos Santos Island April 25.

**Calypte costae.** Costa Hummingbird. Common on the mainland; fairly common on Todos Santos and Cerros islands.

**Calypte anna.** Anna Hummingbird. Common on the mainland.

**Tyrannus vociferans.** Cassin Kingbird. Common on the mainland.

**Sayornis sayus.** Say Phoebe. Common on the mainland; also seen on San Geronimo and Cerros islands.

**Sayornis nigricans.** Black Phoebe. Seen at Colnett.

**Myiochanes richardsoni richardsoni.** Western Wood Pewee. One seen at Colnett April 8.

**Empidonax difficilis difficilis.** Western Flycatcher. One taken at Hole in the Wall April 5.

**Corvus corax sinuatus.** American Raven. Common on the mainland and on all the islands visited. A nest examined on San Geronimo Island April 14 contained newly hatched young. An adult bird taken on Cerros Island measures: length, 25.38 inches; wing, 17.38 inches.

**Agelaius phoeniceus neutralis.** San Diego Red-wing. Common at Colnett.

**Sturnella neglecta.** Western Meadowlark. Common at Colnett.

**Carpodacus mexicanus frontalis.** House Finch. Common on the mainland.

**Carpodacus mexicanus elementis.** San Clemente House Finch. Common on Todos Santos Island. No specimens taken. I have placed the Todos Santos Island bird under this form on the authority of the A. O. U. *Check-List*, I found no house finches on any of the other islands visited.

**Astragalinus psaltria hesperophilus.** Green-backed Goldfinch. Fairly common on Todos Santos Island April 25.

**Passerculus beldingi.** Belding Sparrow. Abundant in Colnett marshes.

**Zonotrichia leucophrys gambeli.** Gambel Sparrow. Abundant at Colnett April 7-8; common on San Martin Island April 9-11, and on Todos Santos Island April 25.

**Spizella passerina arizonae.** Western Chipping Sparrow. Fairly common on north end of Cerros Island.

**Amphispiza bilineata deserticola.** Desert Sparrow. Rather common in low bushes on north end of Cerros Island. An adult male taken April 21 proved to be a breeding bird.

**Amphispiza belli.** Bell Sparrow. Abundant on San Martin Island. Beginning to breed April 23.

**Aimophila ruficeps ruficeps.** Rufous-crowned Sparrow. This bird was more plentiful in the hills near Point Banda, below Ensenada, than I have ever seen it anywhere else. It was not noted in any other locality.

**Melospiza melodia cooperi.** San Diego Song Sparrow. Common at Colnett.

**Pipilo crissalis senicula.** Anthony Towhee. Common at Colnett.

**Passerina amoena.** Lazuli Bunting. One seen on Todos Santos Island April 25; male found dead by McCloskey at Colnett April 8.

**Piranga ludoviciana.** Western Tanager. Several tanagers seen on Cerros Island were probably of this species. They were very wild and no specimens were obtained.

**Petrochelidon lunifrons lunifrons.** Cliff Swallow. Common at Colnett.

**Hirundo erythrogastra.** Barn Swallow. Several seen at San Martin Island April 23.

**Iridoprocne bicolor.** Tree Swallow. One seen at Colnett April 8.

**Tachycineta thalassina lepida.** Northern Violet-green Swallow. Common at Colnett April 8.

**Vermivora celata celata.** Orange-crowned Warbler. Male taken at Hole in the Wall April 5. Others, apparently of the same species, were seen at the same time and place.

**Vermivora celata lutescens.** Lutescent Warbler. Fairly common at Colnett April 8. One specimen taken.

**Vermivora celata sordida.** Dusky Warbler. Fairly common on Todos Santos Island April 25.

**Dendroica auduboni.** Audubon Warbler. Common at Colnett April 7-8.

**Geothlypis trichas arizela.** Pacific Yellow-throat. Common at Colnett April 7-8.

**Anthus rubescens.** Pipit. Fairly common at Colnett April 8.

**Mimus polyglottos leucopterus.** Western Mockingbird. Common at Colnett, and fairly common at the north end of Cerros Island. In the latter locality they were very wild and we were unable to secure any specimens.

**Toxostoma redivivum.** California Thrasher. Common at Colnett.

**Salpinctes obsoletus obsoletus.** Rock Wren. Common on the mainland and on all the islands except San Geronimo. Not noted on the latter island.

**Psaltriparus minimus californicus.** California Bush-Tit.

**Chamaea fasciata henshawi.** Pallid Wren-Tit.

**Polioptila caerulea obscura.** Western Gnatcatcher. The above three species were common on the mainland.

**Polioptila californica.** Black-tailed Gnatcatcher. Abundant on the mainland.