

they appear at all pugnacious, as do baby Squawks, but drew away timidly at the approach of the hand, and for the rest divided their time between panting lustily and scrambling about in search of shade.

The parent birds on all occasions were perfectly silent, and they maintained a discreet aloofness—sad commentary on the fiery furnace of affliction through which this gentle race has passed.—WILLIAM LEON DAWSON, *Santa Barbara, California*.

Additional Records of the California Clapper Rail and Red Phalarope in California.—On November 22, 1914, Mr. L. P. Bolander, Jr., secured at Tomales Bay, near Point Reyes Station, Marin County, California, the following two specimens which have been donated by him to the California Museum of Vertebrate Zoology.

Rallus obsoletus, California Clapper Rail (no. 24915, Mus. Vert. Zool.), immature male. This is the first record of the species on the ocean side of the Marin peninsula.

Phalaropus fulicarius, Red Phalarope (no. 24916, Mus. Vert. Zool.), immature female, in full winter plumage. The present record is the latest for the season for the north-western coast of California. Beck (Proc. Calif. Acad. Sci., 4th ser., 1910, vol. 3, p. 70) states that there are fifteen specimens of this species in the collection of the California Academy taken near Monterey during December and January.

Early in January, 1915, Mr. F. J. Smith submitted two specimens of Clapper Rail taken on Humboldt Bay, to the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology for determination. The specimens are typical *Rallus obsoletus* (California Clapper Rail). One of these birds was taken by Mr. Fiebig and is at present in the library of the Eureka School. The other is the property of Dr. F. J. Ottmer. These specimens substantiate the Humboldt Bay record made by Cooper and Suckley (Natural History of Washington Territory, 1859, p. 246) and, together with the Tomales Bay specimen, extend the area of occurrence of the species beyond that given by Cooke (U. S. Dept. Agric., bull. 128, 1914, pp. 18, 19).—TRACY I. STORER, *California Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, Berkeley, California*.

Red Phalarope in the San Diegan District.—In view of the scarcity of records of the Red Phalarope (*Phalaropus fulicarius*) from inland points in southern California, it seems worth while to publish a statement relative to specimens recently collected by myself at Nigger Slough, Los Angeles County, California. A female in full breeding plumage was secured May 25, 1914. On November 8, 1914, a male and a female in winter plumage were taken from a flock of about fifty of the same species. The next day, covering the same ground, just three of the birds were observed, and I have seen none since.

A large flock of Avocets (*Recurvirostra americana*) was seen, and a pair secured, at the same place, November 15, 1914; and a pair of Marbled Godwits (*Limosa fedoa*) were also taken at this time.—I. D. NOKES, *Los Angeles, California*.

A Two Hours' Acquaintance With a Family of Water Ouzels.—On August 5, 1914, we were following down Rattlesnake Creek, near Cisco, Placer County, when our attention was drawn to the screaming of some nestling birds. Water Ouzels (*Cinclus mexicanus unicolor*) had been seen in the vicinity, and the locality seemed to be ideal as a nesting site for this species. A waterfall about fifteen feet in height tumbled over a rocky ledge at this point into a fine large pool of clear water which was surrounded, on all but one side, by perpendicular walls of rock. We were not surprised, therefore, to find, on investigation, a Water Ouzel's nest built in a cleft of the rock about two feet from the falling stream of water. The moss of which the nest was built had formerly been kept green by trickling water, but at this date had begun to turn brown. White excrement below the entrance to the nest led to its discovery.

On approaching the nest, one of the occupants, a well-fledged Water Ouzel, fluttered from the entrance and dropped down into the pool of water below. Here it immediately dove and swam for a distance of six feet or more and at a depth of about two feet below the surface of the water. Quick, short strokes of the wings enabled the bird to swim rapidly in this medium.

A moment later a second bird flew from the nest. This one, unlike the first, did not dive, but swam about on top of the water, using its wings in the same manner, however. Still another young bird remained in the nest, but repeated attempts to dislodge it failed.

An adult with food in its mouth soon appeared, jumping from rock to rock and "bobbing" continuously. Its call was answered by the birds in the water and the one in

the nest. The food brought appeared to consist of a worm of some sort. After feeding one of the birds, which by this time had taken refuge on a small ledge near the water's edge, the adult flew off down the creek evidently in search of more food. A few moments later it again appeared with food in its mouth and fed the same nestling. The method of feeding was typical of most passerine birds, the young bird fluttering its wings and calling as the food was placed in its mouth. The recipient of all of the parent's attention, after prolonged attempts, succeeded in climbing higher out of the water onto a ledge of rock where the sun soon dried its plumage. It was surprising to see how quickly this little bird gained strength. It would huddle up, sitting perfectly still for a few minutes. Then, appearing rested, it would attempt to climb the almost perpendicular wall. The call of the parent was always a signal for a succession of "bobs", exactly similar to those so characteristic of the adults. Within an hour after leaving the nest this little Ouzel was walking around on a small ledge of rock searching in the crevices and pecking at the lichens and moss growing there.

Six times the adult bird appeared with food, and each time fed but one of the young birds in spite of the persistent calls of the other fledgeling which had taken refuge beneath a rock farther down stream. Finally the calls of the bird still in the nest attracted the parent's attention and it was rewarded with a mouthful.

An excellent opportunity was afforded to see the parent bird dive to the bottom of the large pool for food. With a motion too quick for any observance of detail, the bird started head-first for the bottom. The water was clear enough to show that a perpendicular path was taken; on rising to the surface the bird was not more than two feet away from the place where it first dove. The time actually spent under water, observed by means of a watch, proved to be ten seconds. The water was about ten feet deep. Preference seemed to be shown for the swirling water just beneath the fall. On arriving at the surface the oily feathers seemed to shed the water like magic. In swimming, the bird paddled with its feet, using them alternately. The body seemed very buoyant and the unwebbed feet appeared to furnish plenty of power.

Our interest in seeing the fledgeling birds dive and swim led us to again attempt to frighten the remaining bird from the nest. A long stick and a number of pokes at last drove it to take to water. Instead of diving and swimming, this one fluttered along the surface of the water to the rocky wall on the north side of the canyon and then started to climb up the rock. Within ten minutes it had climbed to a height of twelve feet. By approaching slowly, crawling close along the rocky wall, we almost succeeded in catching it. At one time one of us was within arm's length of it.

The above account is interesting as showing the actions and instincts of young birds the first few hours after leaving the nest. The fact that the observations relate to so unique a bird as the Water Ouzel lends added interest.—HAROLD C. BRYANT and AMY M. BRYANT, *Berkeley, California*.

Notes from the Sea-coast of Southern California.—On July 15, 1914, while hunting along the beach at Corona del Mar (opposite Balboa beach) I noticed a Barn Swallow (*Hirundo erythrogastra*) flying through the air with a feather in its mouth. The swallow entered a small cave which at low tide is partially filled with water. On entering I found, on a small projection, a nest containing two fresh eggs. The parent bird was apparently still building the nest. This appears to be a late nesting record for this bird.

July 6 this year (1914) I collected a Long-billed Dowitcher (*Macrorhamphus griseus scolopaceus*) on a sand-spit in Balboa bay. As Mr. Willett does not record these birds as occurring in the summer time I consider this an early fall migrant.

While collecting at Laguna Beach the same summer I found a small grassy glade at the top of the hills surrounding the town of Laguna, where the Western Yellow-winged Sparrow (*Ammodramus savannarum bimaculatus*) was extremely common. With the exception of two birds I saw at Laguna lakes, one of which I collected, I did not find these birds at any other place. Young birds predominated in number, over two-thirds of the specimens I collected being young of the year. In speaking of this Mr. Swarth says: "The Western Yellow-winged Sparrow is a good take. The species has been recently ascertained to breed in this region, but it is not at all common, and there are not many records. The capture of a young bird at the date on which you took your specimen [June 27, 1914] is pretty good evidence of breeding, and I think the fact is worth recording."—LEON LLOYD GARDNER, *Claremont, California*.