

they were seen feeding in the company of American Eared Grebes, Florida Gallinules and American Coots.

While these tiny Grebes are very timid and therefore hard to observe with much satisfaction, they are to us the most interesting of our local water birds, and have afforded us a great deal of pleasure, not to mention the sets which repose in our cabinets.

San Antonio, Texas, October 4, 1916.

MORE SUMMER BIRDS FOR SAN FRANCISCO COUNTY

By MILTON S. RAY

WITH PHOTO BY O. J. HEINEMANN

MY LIST of San Francisco County birds in the CONDOR of March, 1906 (pp. 42-44) was based almost entirely on observations in Golden Gate Park and the Presidio Reservation, these localities having furnished 41 of the 44 listed. Later field work in the Merced Lakes region, in the southeastern corner of the county, has yielded so many species new to the list that I have considered it advisable to publish the present paper. While covering, principally, the notes of Henry W. Carriger, J. Roy Pemberton and the writer, a number of records made by others have also been incorporated. Although the Farallon Islands form a part of our county, it was deemed, on account of their distance from the mainland, inadvisable to include the avifauna of those sea islands in the list. There is little doubt also that considered geographically the islands properly belong to Marin County, being a continuation of the Point Reyes peninsula. Unless otherwise specified all Lake Merced notes refer to the southern lake. "Summer", in the title, is intended to cover the nesting period and hence must necessarily cover a large part of spring as well. Several records, including that of the Nighthawk and of the Hermit Thrush, have been omitted owing to the subspecific rank having not been definitely determined.

45. *Aechmophorus occidentalis*. Western Grebe. While noted by Carriger and myself on Lake Merced at various dates in spring and summer we have no nesting record for this species. A very interesting record is A. M. Ingersoll's, who collected a set of eggs, incubation advanced, on Lake Merced, June 1, 1885.

46. *Colymbus nigricollis californicus*. American Eared Grebe. Noted on various occasions on Lake Merced.

47. *Podilymbus podiceps*. Pied-billed Grebe. A common nester at Lake Merced through a long season. On August 6, 1911, I collected a typical nest, of decayed vegetation, floating just off the tule-fringed lake-shore with six eggs in which incubation was well along. Mr. A. M. Ingersoll also has eggs of this grebe taken at Lake Merced.

48. *Gavia immer*. Common Loon. Noted on Lake Merced July 4, 1911, and other dates.

49. *Lunda cirrhata*. Tufted Puffin. Noted on San Francisco Bay near Sausalito in spring.

50. *Cephus columba*. Pigeon Guillemot. Found nesting on the rocky shores near the Golden Gate by Geo. W. Schussler, June 5, 1912. Eggs, two, fresh. (See CONDOR, XVIII, p. 35.)

51. *Uria troille californica*. California Murre. Noted on San Francisco Bay near the Golden Gate during the spring months.

52. *Larus occidentalis*. Western Gull.

53. *Larus californicus*. California Gull. Great flocks of gulls were common on Lake Merced on every visit. Most of the birds were immatures.

54. *Phalacrocorax auritus albociliatus*. Farallon Cormorant. A colony of 500 nesting on Seal Rocks off the Golden Gate noted by William Leon Dawson, July 21, 1912 (CONDOR, XVII, p. 19). We have seen this bird on Lake Merced during the spring, but never in abundance.

55. *Anas platyrhynchos*. Mallard. We noted young of the year on Lake Merced July 4, 1911, and Carriger also saw parent with small young at Chain of Lakes in Golden Gate Park, May 22, 1910.

56. *Mareca americana*. Baldpate. Recorded at Stow Lake June 5, 1915, by W. A. Squires (CONDOR, XVII, p. 234).

57. *Marila affinis*. Lesser Scaup Duck. Female with three young noted on Stow Lake in early July, 1913, by George W. Schussler (CONDOR, XVIII, p. 35).

58. *Oidemia deglandi*. White-winged Scoter. Seen April 23, 1911, and July 4, 1911, on Lake Merced by Carriger and the writer. Like the following, the birds seen were evidently non-breeders.

59. *Oidemia perspicillata*. Surf Scoter. Noted on April 23, 1911, and on other dates. On one occasion Carriger and I captured a crippled bird and it apparently expired in our hands. Laid shortly afterwards in the bow of the boat, we were astonished to see it leap overboard and splashingly paddle away.

60. *Erismatura jamaicensis*. Ruddy Duck. While Carriger and I have found this a common bird on the Merced Lakes a careful search revealed no nests. Pemberton however, located one May 21, 1902, with two eggs, hidden beneath a canopy of tules on the shore of Lake Merced.

61. *Botaurus lentiginosus*. American Bittern. Noted on Lake Merced April 23, 1910, and on various other dates.

62. *Ardea herodias hyperonca*. California Great Blue Heron. Noted at Lake Merced April 23, 1910, July 4, 1911, etc. Carriger also found what he believed to be previously occupied nests of these birds in a grove of tall eucalyptus on the west shore of the lake.

63. *Butorides virescens anthonyi*. Anthony Green Heron. I noted this bird April 23, 1910, at Lake Merced.

64. *Nycticorax nycticorax naevius*. Black-crowned Night Heron. Noted at Lake Merced April 23, 1910, and on other dates.

65. *Rallus virginianus*. Virginia Rail. I noted this bird near the north lake and found an old nest with scattered egg-shells on April 30, 1911.

66. *Porzana carolina*. Sora Rail. Carriger noted a number of these birds on the edge of the tules on the western shore of Lake Merced.

67. *Lobipes lobatus*. Northern Phalarope.

68. *Phalaropus fulicarius*. Red Phalarope.

69. *Catoptrophorus semipalmatus inornatus*. Western Willet.

70. *Actitis macularia*. Spotted Sandpiper. Carriger noted the above four species during the spring at Lake Merced.

71. *Oxyechus vociferus vociferus*. Killdeer. I have noted this species on the Recreation Grounds in Golden Gate Park, and Carriger also records it as being seen in the Park Stadium. Both dates in late spring. Jesse Klapp, the park game warden, informs me that he found two nests of this bird in the Park Buffalo Paddock, one with three young and one two young during the spring of 1916, and that Killdeer also nested there in 1915 though he did not locate the nests.

72. *Accipiter velox*. Sharp-shinned Hawk. I noted this bird in the Sutro Forest, April 30, 1916.

73. *Pandion haliaetus carolinensis*. American Osprey. Carriger noted one of these birds in May flying over the Sutro Forest. The nearest breeding point I know of is near Hilton, Sonoma County, where Chase Littlejohn found it nesting in August, 1916. The nest, about 100 feet up at the top of a giant redwood, was at a bend of the Russian River known as Cape Horn and contained large young. The parents were often noted at the nest or fishing along the river.

74. *Aluco pratincola*. American Barn Owl. Carriger and I found this owl a common nester in the high sandy cliffs in the Merced Lakes region. April 23, 1910, a nest

was noted with large young. On April 15, 1911, one of several nests found, held six eggs slightly incubated. The photograph shows the writer suspended at the nest with Carriger at the top of the cliff.

75. *Speotyto cunicularia hypogaea*. Burrowing Owl. Dudley S. De Groot noted three of these birds on the hillside just south of Visitacion Avenue, February 24, 1915. Each took flight from the ground at the entrance of a burrow. The latter appeared as having been used, as excrement and pellets were in evidence. De Groot also informed me that he noted several other burrows on the hillside but did not return to make any later investigations.

76. *Tyrannus verticalis*. Western Kingbird. Jesse Klapp informs me that he found three nests in Golden Gate Park during June of the present year (1916), one with eggs and two with young.



Fig. 55. SHOWING RAY SUSPENDED AT NEST OF AMERICAN BARN OWL IN SANDY CLIFF FACING LAKE MERCED. CARRIGER AT TOP LOWERING ROPE.

77. *Corvus corax sinuatus*. Western Raven. Pair seen at Lake Merced July 23, 1911, by Carriger. There are unconfirmed records of its having bred there formerly.

78. *Agelaius phoeniceus californicus*. Bi-colored Red-winged Blackbird. Rather common at the Merced Lakes where Carriger found it nesting. On one occasion there I saw an unusual flock consisting of nineteen females and one male. On May 6, 1908, I noted a number of pairs nesting in the tules at Mountain Lake, in the Presidio Reservation.

79. *Loxia curvirostra minor*. American Crossbill. A number collected several years ago by Dudley Brown and John Carroll on 19th Avenue near Golden Gate Park; skins still preserved.

80. *Carpodacus purpureus californicus*. California Purple Finch. Abundant in

western half of the County, and undoubtedly nests there as I have found it breeding in similar localities just south of the line. Through an oversight I omitted this bird from my original list.

81. *Astragalinus lawrencei*. Lawrence Goldfinch. While I have found nests of this species just south of the County line my only record for our County is of a male seen March 19, 1916, near the Sutro Forest.

82. *Spinus pinus pinus*. Pine Siskin. An erratic breeder in various portions of the County. In 1892 a school chum lowered down a set of eggs from a nest, in the "Panhandle" District of Golden Gate Park, which for years I was unable to identify. A few years ago I found a sparsely marked set of Siskin eggs which are in every way identical. On March 16, 1916, south of the Park on a city street I noted a Siskin gathering material for a nest.

83. *Passerculus sandwichensis bryanti*. Bryant Marsh Sparrow. While neither Carriger nor I ever succeeded in finding a nest of this bird north of the County line there is a set of four eggs in the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology (no. 1463) taken by L. P. Bolander in a field near Lake Merced May 8, 1905, which I believe constitutes the only actual record of this bird's nesting in our County.

84. *Spizella passerina arizonae*. Western Chipping Sparrow. While not an uncommon breeder close up to the County line my only record here is April 20, 1908, when I noted a bird at Bosworth and Milton streets, in the Mission District.

85. *Junco oreganus pinosus*. Point Pinos Junco. This rather common resident species is unquestionably to be found nesting, as I have noted it at all seasons. Just across the County line I have collected several sets of eggs, and Pemberton also secured skins which proved typical *pinosus*. In view of this, the occurrence of *thurberi* on June 5, as recorded by W. A. Squires (CONDOR, XVIII, p. 202), would be all the more remarkable; but Carriger and I feel we must question that record unless specimens were taken to substantiate it. Jesse Klapp tells me that he found a Junco's nest (no doubt referable to this species, i. e., *pinosus*) with two nearly full grown young in Golden Gate Park during the spring of 1916.

86. *Pipilo crissalis crissalis*. California Brown Towhee. Jesse Klapp found a nest of this bird in Golden Gate Park in the spring of 1916, with four eggs. Neither Carriger nor I have seen it north of the County line. The California Brown Towhee is really such an abundant species in San Mateo County, in exactly similar country, that its rarity here is more remarkable than its abundance would be.

87. *Passerina amoena*. Lazuli Bunting. Pemberton noted a pair carrying nesting material near Ashbury Heights a number of times between June 1 and June 10, 1915, but did not succeed in locating the nest.

88. *Piranga ludoviciana*. Western Tanager. Recorded as being seen in Lafayette Square, May 6, 1908, by Clark C. Van Fleet (CONDOR, x, p. 181).

89. *Progne subis hesperia*. Western Martin. Carriger saw several at Lake Merced, April 28, 1912.

90. *Riparia riparia*. Bank Swallow. A very common nester in the sand banks at Lake Merced. A colony was noted nesting April 23, 1910. The only nest Carriger and I excavated contained a single fresh egg.

91. *Vireo huttoni huttoni*. Hutton Vireo. While rather common and undoubtedly breeding within the County neither Carriger nor I have a definite nesting record. A pair noted in Golden Gate Park, March 5, 1910 (Carriger); noted at Lake Merced April 23, 1910 (Carriger and Ray).

92. *Vermivora celata lutescens*. Lutescent Warbler. Carriger noted two of these birds near the Hayes Street entrance to Golden Gate Park, March 5, 1910. He also noted birds feeding young on Strawberry Hill; the exact date however is unavailable, as his records before 1906 were destroyed in the great fire of that year.

93. *Dendroica auduboni auduboni*. Audubon Warbler. This is a county that provides a proper summer environment for the Pine Siskin, so the Western Robin (recently recorded) may yet be found to have this warbler as a summer companion. The nearest breeding station I believe is Sonoma County (Grinnell, Pac. Coast Avifauna no. 11, p. 148). My latest dates here are March 25, 1906, April 1, 1906, March 31, 1907, March 19, 1911, March 27, 1915, and March 24, 1916.

94. *Geothlypis trichas sinuosa*. San Francisco Yellowthroat. A common breeder in the Lake Merced region. I found three typical nests April 22, 1911; two with four

eggs, advanced incubation, and one with three fresh eggs. All were about two feet up in wire grass and made of coarse flat weed stems and lined with fine light-colored grasses, loosely put together.

The name "Salt Marsh" Yellowthroat given this species appears rather misleading in that one might infer it inhabited the salt marshes exclusively, while on the contrary Carriger and I have found it most abundant along fresh-water lakes and streams and in wet meadow land. In fact we have no spring or summer record of it in the salt marshes of San Mateo County, while we found it a rather common nester in certain localities about fresh water a mile or so west of them. Chase Littlejohn writes: "This yellowthroat is found commonly about the marsh here (Redwood City, San Mateo County) during the fall, and less commonly during the winter. In the spring a few are about but soon disappear. They do not nest on the salt marsh, but at one place where the ground is springy and covered with willows they nest among the weeds and tules that are half fresh and half salt water plants, as very high tides reach quite a distance into the willows where they grow at the very edge of the salt marsh. All other nesting sites that I know of are some distance inland about moist or swampy ground."

Our single exception to this is Carriger's finding a nest of this bird with four eggs in a salt marsh north of San Rafael, April 12, 1914. This, however, was high ground and scarcely subject to overflow. In view of the fact that a bird is seldom given a vernacular term referring to the locality it inhabits unless it be its summer home, Carriger and I suggest that the term "San Francisco", referring to the San Francisco Bay region which it inhabits, be used instead of "Salt Marsh".

95. *Anthus rubescens*. American Pipit. Carriger and I have noted this bird in the late spring.

96. *Mimus polyglottos leucopterus*. Western Mockingbird. A Mockingbird remained in the gardens about San Jose Avenue and 25th Street, in the Mission district, during the late spring in 1906. It was possibly a released cage bird. (See CONDOR, VIII, p. 76.)

97. *Thryomanes bewicki spilurus*. Vigors Wren. Rather common, but nests found have been few. April 15, 1911, at Lake Merced, Carriger located a nest in a hole in a sand bank with five eggs in an advanced stage of incubation. Jesse Klapp also notes finding a nest in Golden Gate Park.

98. *Telmatodytes palustris paludicola*. Tule Wren. Rather common at Merced Lakes. On April 30, 1911, Carriger and I opened two nests, one holding three fresh eggs and the other five eggs with incubation advanced. On July 23 of the same year we noted another nest with three eggs, incubation advanced; also a nest with four eggs in like condition, July 4, 1912.

99. *Penthestes rufescens barlowi*. Santa Cruz Chickadee. While the Barlow Chickadee is quite a common resident, neither Carriger nor I have located a nest north of the San Mateo County line. Dudley S. De Groot writes of three nests found in Golden Gate Park as follows: "A nest found April 7, 1916, which contained six badly incubated eggs lying in a thick bed of rabbit fur, was located eight feet up in a hole in the side of a log cabin. Another was in a small cavity fifteen feet up in a eucalyptus and contained young almost ready to fly. The third nest was remarkable for its situation, being placed in a pipe leaning against an out-building. The nest was about one and a half feet down the pipe, which was only three inches in diameter, and contained, in very cramped quarters, young birds about half grown." Jesse Klapp also notes it as nesting in the park.

100. *Planesticus migratorius propinquus*. Western Robin. Dudley S. De Groot found a nest of the Robin in Golden Gate Park fifteen feet up in a patch of bushy young bamboos. It was the usual structure of grasses and mud mixed with considerable string. When found, May 21, 1916, it contained two full-fledged young. Jesse Klapp is, however, I am quite sure, entitled to the credit of being the first to find this bird nesting in our County. I noted at least 3000 Robins one spring evening of the present year on the grassy lawns in the Park Buffalo Paddock near the beach.

The following notes refer to birds previously recorded by me in the list published in the CONDOR of March, 1906.

1. *Fulica americana*. American Coot. Carriger and I can record some unusually late nests. July 4, 1911, one egg, piped; July 23, 1911, four nests, three with seven eggs and one with eight, all apparently fresh and incomplete. These were all at Lake Merced.

10. *Geococcyx californianus*. Roadrunner. A second record for the County, Lake Merced, March 19, 1911 (Carriger and Ray).

11. *Ceryle alcyon*. Belted Kingfisher. We located a freshly-dug nesting burrow March 19, 1911, and an old one, July 4, 1912; both in sandy cliffs at Lake Merced.

12. *Colaptes cafer collaris*. Red-shafted Flicker. De Groot found a nest in a fence-post cavity in Golden Gate Park, May 21, 1916, with five well-incubated eggs.

13. *Calypte anna*. Anna Hummingbird. An early nesting date is that of a set of two fresh eggs noted by De Groot at Lake Merced, February 23, 1915. He notes that this and other early nests were thickly lined with feathers, perhaps for the reason he gives, that plant down and "willow cotton" were not procurable. He states that all late nests had the latter lining.

15. *Selasphorus alleni*. Allen Hummingbird. I have since found this hummer to be a common nester through a long season in our County. Carriger found a very beautiful nest in an acacia tree near North Lake, April 18, 1915. It was exceptionally high walled, very light colored and daintily decorated. Incubation had made a slight start in one of the two eggs it held. In sharp contrast to the actions of *Calypte anna*, this hummingbird usually whizzes off its nest and does not return to debate the question of ownership. This, a very striking difference in temperament, I do not remember having seen noted by other writers.

17. *Empidonax difficilis*. Western Flycatcher. A second breeding record for the County is De Groot's nest found in the Lake Merced region, May 26, 1916. It was placed fifteen feet up in a cypress crotch and held four eggs, dark with incubation.

18. *Otocoris alpestris actia*. California Horned Lark. On April 22, 1911, Carriger collected a set of four well-incubated eggs in a very open situation on the Ingleside Golf Links. The bird flushed at our feet it being almost dusk at the time. De Groot also found a nest of this bird, May 24, 1915, on the top of Twin Peaks about ten feet from the reservoir. The nest, a slight hollow, grass lined, contained three eggs well along in incubation.

19. *Sturnella neglecta*. Western Meadowlark.

23. *Euphagus cyanocephalus*. Brewer Blackbird. Carriger and I have noted both these species breeding in the Lake Merced district.

24. *Carpodacus mexicanus frontalis*. House Finch. I saw a veritable cloud of these birds, at least 5000, settle on the telegraph wires and nearby trees near Lake Merced, April 23, 1911. From the thousands of feathered throats came a great chorus that was indescribably beautiful.

27. *Passer domesticus*. European House Sparrow. I can record two very late nesting dates: August 30, 1914, birds building in the Mission district; October 10, 1914, four fresh eggs noted in a nest above a door step, where I then lived, no. 299 San Jose Avenue.

34. *Petrochelidon lunifrons*. Cliff Swallow. Carriger and I noted an unusual departure in the nesting of this bird, in the sandy cliffs at Lake Merced. The sand was evidently too soft to hold a plastered nest, so the birds were using burrows like the Bank Swallows, with a very small arch of mud plastered over the entrance.

43. *Hylocichla ustulata ustulata*. Russet-backed Thrush. My only nests of this bird were several found years ago. De Groot located one May 21, 1916, in Golden Gate Park, with four fresh eggs. It was situated in a patch of bamboo bushes close to the nest of the Western Robin, previously noted.

San Francisco, California, October 9, 1916.

FROM FIELD AND STUDY

Grammatical Errors in Vernacular Names.—Many times we see earnest recommendations in these columns from ardent ornithologists advocating changes in the vernacular names of birds, the present names of which seem to be misleading or erroneous. Two apparently glaring grammatical errors seem to have escaped notice up to now but here we have them.

Most birds have qualifying names which tend to point out some peculiarity in the