

Large Set of Eggs of the Canada Goose.—While on a collecting trip through northern California and southern Oregon in June and July, 1918, Summer Lake, Oregon, was visited June 21. Out in the lake about a quarter of a mile from the west shore is a small, low island, perhaps 300 feet long, 50 feet wide, rock at one end, sandy in most places, and with a maximum height above the water of only six or seven feet. There being no boat available, we decided to wade out to the island, if possible, through the alkali water and the very soft and very foul-smelling mud. Fortunately the water was only about three feet deep at its worst and the mud was at its worst where the water was at its best, albeit both were very, very bad everywhere and all the time.

We found the little island taken over almost or quite entirely by a colony of 150 to 200 pairs of California Gulls and the nesting season was at its height. The nests were thickly placed among the small lava rocks and more scatteringly over the sandy area. Many of the nests contained young of various sizes, from those just hatched to lusty youngsters that scrambled away and into the water at our near approach. Many nests contained eggs, usually two or three in number, and in all stages of incubation excepting that stage which the oologist regards as most satisfactory.

Two or three Caspian Terns were seen as we approached the islet but no nest was found. The only nest not a Gull's that we found was one of a Canada Goose. It was between two considerable chunks of lava on the end of the islet where the Gulls were least numerous. The eggs were *10 in number; and stâle!* Evidently the old Goose (and a *real goose* she was, to build in a place like that!) had selected the site, built the nest, and laid her eggs; then the Gulls came. And when 300 to 400 noisy, pestiferous gulls go to house-keeping (such as it is) in your small back yard, it is time to vacate. At least so thought old Mrs. *Branta canadensis*. In the language of the street, "she beat it"; for which she has my sincere thanks, else I would not now possess the biggest set of Canada Goose eggs ever, if we may believe the records. The usual set is much fewer. Samuels says "about six"; Ridgway (*Birds of Illinois*), four to seven; Baird, Brewer, and Ridgway, five or six, rarely nine; Coues's Key, five to nine, usually five or six; Mrs. Bailey, six to [or] seven; and Grinnell, Bryant, and Storer, five to seven.

One of my oological friends suggests that two different birds laid in the same nest, an explanation which I utterly reject, because I can not believe there were *four* geese that were "such a goose" as to attempt to raise a family under such surroundings.

The measurements of these ten eggs in inches are as follows: 3.43x2.26; 3.33x2.35; 3.35x2.30; 3.48x2.36; 3.45x2.38; 3.40x2.45; 3.25x2.27; 3.41x2.28; 3.40x2.25; and 3.25x2.25. Except for a few slight stains they are all beautiful specimens; but the blowin' of them was no joke!—BARTON WARREN EVERMANN, *Museum, California Academy of Sciences, San Francisco, February 10, 1919.*

The Whistling Swan in Arizona.—About the middle of last December, there appeared on Howard Lake, a few miles from Williams, Arizona, a flock of eleven swans. Howard Lake is more of a mud pond than anything else, and in a very dry season there would be very little, if any, water there, I imagine. However, there has been plenty of water the last few years, so much so that perch were planted and I understand they have grown and increased.

Two of these swans were killed, one mounted and the other saved as a skin, and are still at Williams, where I saw the mounted one last week. I sent the measurements and particulars to my friend Ruthven Deane, and he confirms what I was practically sure of, that it is the Whistling Swan (*Olor columbianus*).

Is not this occurrence in Arizona, a rare one? It seems to me these birds must have been away off of their course.—W. B. MERSHON, *Saginaw, Michigan, March 22, 1919.*

Some Notes from San Diego County, California.—Whistling Swan (*Olor columbianus*). Though Stephens, in his "List of Birds of San Diego County" (Trans. San Diego Soc. Nat. Hist., vol. 3, no. 2, February 15, 1919), page 8, records the Whistling Swan as a rare winter visitant, I have seen no definite published records for that county. The following, therefore, may be of interest. In late December, 1917, O. W. Howard noted a flock of about thirty swans on lakes at Warner Springs, San Diego County. In November, 1918, while on a visit to this locality with Mr. Howard, I received from Mr. H. C. Gordon, of San Diego, considerable information on the birds of the region. Mr. Gordon

has resided in San Diego County for many years past, and regularly spends a portion of each winter hunting at Warner Springs. He stated that the Whistling Swan is a regular winter visitant to that section, though less plentiful than formerly. In a letter written from Warner Springs, December 21, 1918, Mr. Gordon states further: "A flock of over seventy-five swans came in a few days ago. All left in a day or two except six, two old birds and four cygnets."

Wood Duck (*Aix sponsa*). On November 29, 1918, while at Warner Springs, Mr. Gordon showed me the head and breast of a male Wood Duck that was killed a few days previous to this date. The hunter who killed it was not aware of its identity, a fact easily understood when its infrequent occurrence in the region is considered.

American Merganser (*Mergus americanus*). In the parlor of the Warner Springs Hotel is a mounted specimen of a drake American Merganser which, Mr. Gordon states, was killed in that locality three or four years since.—G. WILLETT, *Los Angeles, California, April 2, 1919.*

A Recent Record of *Mycteria americana* in the San Joaquin Valley.—So far as I have been able to learn, the Wood Ibis has been ascribed to the San Joaquin Valley principally upon the statement of Dr. J. G. Cooper (*Auk*, iv, 1887, p. 90) to the effect that it had formerly occurred in this region. There seemed little reason to doubt that the species still occurred sparingly, and occasional unfamiliar birds seen in flight, but not positively identified, further strengthened this belief.

I am now able to report that only recently I have had the pleasure of examining a mounted specimen of this bird, taken by Mr. Adrey E. Borell at his home four miles west of Fresno, on July 28, 1918. This Ibis, in company with two others, was seen flying over his home and was collected when the trio alighted in a tall eucalyptus tree. The bird was a female and evidently not fully adult, as a number of bluish feathers appear in certain parts of the plumage.—JOHN G. TYLER, *Turlock, California, March 8, 1919.*

California Gulls Eat Earthworms.—Although late in the spring, gulls have many times been seen towering above the University campus at Berkeley, ostensibly to gain sufficient height to cross the hills towards their breeding grounds in the interior somewhere, no opportunity to determine the species so as to add it to the campus list of birds has presented itself until this past winter. On December 8, 1918, a gull seen feeding on the parade grounds was positively identified as a California Gull. The appearance of gulls in the same place was reported several times during January. On February 9, 1919, two gulls of this species were seen in the same place. At first they seemed to be picking up pebbles; but when watched closely they appeared to spy some item of food and running quickly to it, to swallow it whole. Closer investigation showed that they were feeding upon earthworms which had been drawn to the surface by a recent rain. On retrospection it was remembered that the bird seen in December was feeding similarly just after a rain.—HAROLD C. BRYANT, *Berkeley, California, April 2, 1919.*

Miscellaneous Stomach Examinations.—The following bird stomachs were examined by Dr. H. C. Bryant. The results seem worthy of note.

No. 1. *Buteo lineatus elegans*, Red-bellied Hawk, taken near Corona, California, on February 27, 1916. The stomach contained: parts 5 Jerusalem crickets, *Stenopelmatus* sp.; 5 beetles, *Citones californicus?*; 1 beetle, Chrysomelidae.

No. 2. *Buteo lineatus elegans*, Red-bellied Hawk, taken near Corona, California, on February 27, 1916. Stomach contained one Pocket Gopher, *Thomomys bottae pallescens*.

No. 3. *Asio wilsonianus*, Long-eared Owl, taken February 27, 1916, near Corona, California. Stomach contained bones and hair of one Meadow Mouse, *Microtus californicus*.

No. 4. *Archibuteo ferrugineus*, Ferruginous Rough-leg, taken February 22, 1916, near Corona, Riverside County, California. The nearly empty stomach contained parts of one Skink, *Eumeces skiltonianus*. I have collected several of these hawks in the last few years and it is interesting to note that in nearly every instance the stomach was empty.—WRIGHT M. PIERCE, *Claremont, California, March 12, 1919.*