

**Some Nesting Habits of the Pied-billed Grebe.**—There seems to be some uncertainty among authorities as to the sitting habits of the Pied-billed Grebe (*Podilymbus podiceps*). I was fortunate enough, on June 9, 1920, to surprise one of these birds on its nest in such a way as to prove, to my own satisfaction at least, that it was incubating its eggs in normal fashion.

I was driving along the county road from Firebaugh to Merced, California, watching the bordering tule patches closely, when I saw one of these grebes sitting. I stopped my machine and immediately the bird became suspicious, but did not move. Undoubtedly she had become used to automobiles passing. There was a small pond in the ditch by the roadside and in this the nest was floating. It was not more than twelve or fifteen feet from me and the black band across the bird's bill was easily noticeable.

My son and I watched her for several minutes, all of us remaining motionless. Then the boy left the car on the farther side without the grebe having seen him. When he came around the end of the auto and she could see him she immediately slipped into the water.

As she half rose preparatory to leaving, I could see her eggs, very clearly and distinctly. But the most interesting thing was to watch her cover them. Her body moved without a pause, yet the bird contrived to take three quick pecks at the sides of her nest, pulling the material in her bill under her body. The time consumed was about twice what a chicken would take to peck three mouthfuls from a feed bin; approximately two seconds, I estimate. In any event there was no perceptible time lost. She seemed to leave the nest as easily and as quickly as any other bird. But when we reached it, not a speck of any part of her six eggs was visible.

Mr. Bent (page 42 of his "Life Histories of North American Diving Birds") states that the young "cling tenaciously to the parent bird while she dives and brings them up again." On June 25, 1919, I saw a Pied-billed Grebe with three young that could hardly have been more than 24 hours old. When I first noticed them the babies were sitting on the mother's back, a very pretty sight. At my approach she dove and left them bobbing on the surface of the water like so many corks. She came up a few yards away and at once they all swam to her and climbed aboard. This process was repeated several times and not once was one of the babies dragged under at all.

I must apologize for my use of the pronoun "she". Of course I had no means of knowing the sex of the parent bird in either of the above cases.—GRIFFING BANCROFT, *San Diego, California, September 12, 1920.*

**The Orange-crowned Warbler a Possible Winter Resident at Seattle, Washington.**—Although until the past winter, 1919-20, there were only a few spring and fall records for the Orange-crowned Warbler (*Vermivora celata*) on the Puget Sound, it seems now as if the status of this species about Seattle may have to be decidedly changed. It was on December 26 that I secured the first specimen and in the next two months five others were seen, three of which were collected. All were invariably found feeding singly with restless wandering flocks of Kinglets and Chickadees, and being quiet and inconspicuous more were probably overlooked than were actually recorded. The dates on which they were seen were December 26, one bird, January 31, one bird, February 9, one bird, February 13, two birds, and February 27, one bird. Whether this species has merely been overlooked, or whether this winter saw an unusual invasion of these birds, remains for the future to decide. Of the four birds taken, one was sent to the Biological Survey for identification and was returned marked as a separate subspecies of the Orange-crowned Warbler that as yet has not been recognized by the A. O. U., for which reason I have used the specific name. All of them are now in the collection of Mr. D. E. Brown of Seattle.—THOS. D. BURLEIGH, *Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, September 6, 1920.*

**Notes on the Calliope Hummingbird.**—The writer spent the week from June 18 to 25 at Seven Oaks, in the San Bernardino Mountains, elevation 5200 feet. This proved to be just at the height of the mating season of the Calliope Hummers (*Stellula calliope*), which were feeding abundantly on a species of "paint-brush" that grew rankly in a small hillside cienega just above the cabins.

While the birds were shy when I moved about openly, they were quite otherwise when I stood or sat quietly beside a clump of willow or an oak-scrub that grew in the locality. From these screens I watched the birds by the hour, at all distances from thirty yards to four feet or less. Dozens of times individuals appeared from nowhere, apparently, and disappeared in like manner, their flight so bullet-like that the eye could hardly follow them. Numerous times I watched females preening on a twig less than six feet distant, but did not see a male thus engaged.

Ordinarily the Black-chins, of which a few haunted the same locality, would drive the Calliopes unmercifully. Once, however, a male Calliope shot close beside me up the hillside, just grazing the grass-tips, driving at a Black-chin that was quietly feeding. Within two feet of the latter he mounted vertically about thirty feet, then dropped like a plummet on the feeding bird, and both flashed down the hill-side with Calliope doing the chasing.

The courting antics of the species likewise received close attention. On one occasion an angry buzzing, almost terrifying in volume, resolved itself into a pair of these birds holding to each other's beaks and revolving like a horizontal pinwheel, *less than four feet from my eyes*. Around they went, a half-dozen times, then parted, the female perching and preening on a twig of the oak-scrub just beyond arm's reach, with the male two feet farther away and giving vent at three-second intervals to an explosive, metallic *zing*. This was, of course, made with the wings, but the bird was sufficiently screened so that I could not see it clearly.

On another occasion a female sat preening on a horizontal dead weed, when a male shot up the hill-side close to the ground, passed the female, mounted about twenty-five feet and darted down again in a long, narrow, vertical ellipse that flattened where it touched the hill-side. As he passed the female she fluttered and swung head downward on her perch. The male alighted above her, with vibrating wings, and coition took place in this position.

Of seven females taken, one secured on June 19 held a half-developed ovum; two others, taken on this date and two days later, showed slightly developed ova, and the others were still farther from the laying stage. Other females were observed on June 23 and 24 gathering spider-webs about the cabins.—L. E. WYMAN, *Museum of History, Science and Art, Los Angeles, October 2, 1920.*

## EDITORIAL NOTES AND NEWS

Honorary membership in the Cooper Ornithological Club has, by action of both Divisions, been conferred upon Florence Merriam Bailey (Mrs. Vernon Bailey). This recognition is based upon Mrs. Bailey's record as an accurate observer of living birds, and upon her marked literary ability in putting into permanent and pleasing form much of high value relative to the life histories of the birds of the western United States. She became an Active member of the Club in 1910 and a Life member in 1919. She has always been a loyal supporter of the purposes of the Club, for instance as evidenced by the numerous articles contributed by her to *THE CONDOR*.

The present Honorary membership roll of the Cooper Club contains seven names: Robert Ridgway, elected in 1905; Henry W. Henshaw, 1909; C. Hart Merriam, 1909; J. A. Allen, 1910; Frank Stephens, 1912; Edward W. Nelson, 1917; and Florence Merriam Bailey, 1920. Each of these ornithologists has been identified importantly with the development of the ornithology of western North America.

The W. Otto Emerson collection of bird skins, numbering about 5500, has been purchased for the California Academy of Sciences by two public-spirited members of that body, Messrs. John W. Mailliard and W. H. Crocker. This collection consists largely of birds gathered by Mr. Emerson himself during the past forty years in Alameda County, California. Its local value is therefore great, and it is gratifying that its permanent preservation is now assured in a place to which bird students in the San Francisco Bay region can have easy access. A number of rarities are included, such as "record specimens" of species which have been obtained but once or twice on the Pacific Coast or in California. There also goes into the possession of the Academy of Sciences the original manuscript of Cooper's *Ornithology of California* (1870), and that of Cooper's *Birds of Washington Territory* (1860). These had been salvaged from the effects of Dr. Cooper by Mr. Emerson many years ago, shortly after the former's death.

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