

did not, at the time, know the rarity of the object of my vision. However, there is no question in my mind as to its identity. It crept up and around the trunk of one tree and then did the same on another tree, in full view from the window.—MRS. T. F. JOHNSON, *National City, California, March 27, 1922.*

Ring-necked Ducks in Golden Gate Park, San Francisco, California*.—On the morning of March 6, 1922, Mr. C. R. Thomas, of the Audubon Association of the Pacific, kindly telephoned to Dr. Barton Warren Evermann, of the California Academy of Sciences, that he had the day before seen some Ring-necked Ducks (*Marila collaris*) on one of the Chain of Lakes in Golden Gate Park. Acting upon this information, Dr. Evermann and I repaired to the scene and found the ducks still there. We found Mr. A. S. Kibbe, president of the Audubon Association, also on the ground for the same purpose as ourselves. At the time of this visit the ducks were asleep on the water with their heads laid on their backs, and, as the light was not good, it was difficult to distinguish the female of this species from the Ruddy Duck (*Erismatura jamaicensis*).

As the light was better in the afternoon I took Mr. Chase Littlejohn with me and found matters much improved on the lake. The light was just right and the birds were moving around. As a result of this we succeeded in counting seven males and twenty females in the flock. On this occasion we met Mrs. Jane Schlesinger close to the lake and had the pleasure of showing the ducks to her. Mr. Littlejohn states that this species of duck used to be quite common on the southern part of San Francisco Bay, and that he had seen many flocks of them, as well as many of the birds brought in to Redwood City by hunters. But this was the first time I, myself, had ever had the opportunity to see a flock of these ducks. Mr. Kibbe has already made a brief report of the event in the *Gull* (vol. 4, no. 3), but it seemed of sufficient importance to warrant enlarging upon and presenting to the readers of the CONDOR.—JOSEPH MAILLIARD, *San Francisco, March 23, 1922.*

Field Notes from Riverside and Imperial Counties, California.—On March 27, 1922, I took a nest with one egg of the Mexican Ground Dove (*Chaemepelia passerina pallescens*) at Winterhaven, Imperial County, across the Colorado River from Yuma, Arizona. The female was incubating. I had been observing the pair for some moments. When first seen they were perched side by side on a slender branch near the nest. They then flew to the ground and copulated. The nest was in a slender willow on the edge of an irrigation ditch, about eight feet from the ground, wedged between the main trunk and one slender branch. I saw two other pairs of Ground Doves in the same general region, one of which was evidently also nesting, as the female returned persistently to the same clump of bushes.

The only other published record of the nesting of this species in California of which I am aware is that of Leo Wiley for Palo Verde, Imperial County (*Condor*, vol. 18, 1916, p. 230). The time of nesting is not mentioned in his note. Gilman (*Condor*, vol. 13, 1911, p. 54) says that the earliest nest found at Pima, Arizona, was on July 7.

Lark Buntings (*Calamospiza melanocorys*) were seen in small flocks at four different points between Banning and Yuma, feeding in washes or in open fields. One flock of about thirty birds was noted at the head of San Gorgonio Pass about a mile below Banning. On January 3, 1922, a flock of about twenty was noted at Thermal.

About a mile below Banning the last Cactus Woodpecker (*Dryobates scalaris cactophilus*) was noted. A single Lesser Yellow-legs (*Totanus flavipes*) was seen near Brawley on March 28, feeding with a flock of about twenty Greater Yellow-legs.—RALPH HOFFMANN, *Carpinteria, California, April 4, 1922.*

Some Water Birds Seen in San Gorgonio Pass.—Several species are seen regularly passing overhead during the migrations. Large flocks of White Pelicans (*Pelecanus erythrorhynchos*) go over in spring and fall. They usually fly at a great height, in V-shaped flocks, occasionally circling about for a while before going on. Wild Geese of several species appear in the spring, and Cranes (*Grus canadensis* or *G. mexicana*) go over occasionally.

The reservoir at Banning attracts many water birds. Cormorants (*Phalacrocorax auritus albociliatus*) are frequently seen there, and Mallards (*Anas platyrhynchos*) and

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other ducks drop in from time to time. Of rarer species I have seen one Black Tern (*Hydrochelidon nigra surinamensis*), a young bird in first year plumage, the Wilson Phalarope (*Steganopus tricolor*) and Northern Phalarope (*Lobipes lobatus*), and one Least Sandpiper (*Pisobia minutilla*). The Spotted Sandpiper (*Actitis macularia*) is often seen about the edge of the reservoir. The Killdeer (*Oxyechus vociferus*) is common in the ploughed fields. I have seen both the Anthony Green Heron (*Butorides virescens anthonyi*) and the Black-crowned Night Heron (*Nycticorax nycticorax naevius*) hereabouts.—R. A. BRAMKAMP, Banning, California, December 21, 1921.

EDITORIAL NOTES AND NEWS

Many years ago one of our foremost ornithologists claimed a certain species of bird as "his own", because, while it had been named by another man, he, himself, was first able to give a satisfactory description of the species. We can smile at the "claim", perhaps; today we disallow it. Of the valid credit he acquired by information given out regarding this species and many others, there is no question. The incident seems amusing now, in the general acceptance of uniform nomenclatural rules, but the lesson conveyed may still be read. To claim "credit" or "priority" will not secure it; it comes unsought if it is deserved. It is a matter of congratulation that ornithology today is practically free from bickering and jealousy between individuals, and that as a rule a spirit of mutual helpfulness prevails.

An immensely useful feature of our contemporary magazine *Bird-Lore* is the School Department which is conducted under the auspices of the National Association of Audubon Societies. Dr. Arthur A. Allen of Cornell University is editor of this department. As is to be expected under Dr. Allen's editorship, the material presented is well chosen, rigidly authentic, and couched in sober language. The educational function of the Audubon Societies, thus performed, is an exceedingly worthy one.

In *The Ibis* for April, 1922, Mr. J. H. Gurney writes "on the sense of smell possessed by birds", an article that is well worth reading. Details of observations made far and wide, on various species of birds, by many different people, are brought together, as well as arguments, for and against, in the disputed question of whether or not the sense of smell is used by birds in their search for food, or for other ends. While it is well for any ornithologist to have a grasp of what has been done in this field, still an elaborate resume of opinions and controversies (perhaps the major part of the literature on this subject) together with such obviously inadequate, frequently accidental, "experiments" as compose most of the recorded observations, should be no more than a preliminary to studies of a more conclusive nature.

Here, again, is a field for those who, disliking to kill birds, still wish to make some substantial contribution to ornithology. To carry on the discussion on the basis of the disputed observations so far placed on record, is to put ornithologists in the same class as certain clerical disputants of the Middle Ages, whose serious activities are now an untailing subject of humor, discussing heatedly, for example, the number of legs possessed by a fly, without descending to the vulgar expedient of counting them. To carry on a series of experiments here in California, and experiments that should be conclusive, would seem to be a simple matter for anyone with a little time to devote to the subject. The Turkey Vulture, an obvious subject for such experimentation, is abundant throughout most of California. It would take but little ingenuity to devise and carry out a series of observations upon the habits of this species, based perhaps upon baits, concealed and otherwise, the results of which would explain at least the method by which this bird discovers its food. Furthermore, such experiments could be conducted without offending even the most rabid bird protectionist or anti-animal-experimentalist—without the need even of such official permits as are called for in the banding of birds.

The ornithologists of Washington, D. C., met at the home of Mr. B. H. Swales, 2921 Albemarle St., Chevy Chase, D. C., on March 14, 1922, and organized an ornithological club to be known as the Baird Club, in honor of Prof. Spencer F. Baird. Dr. A. K. Fisher was elected President, Mr. Robert Ridgway, Honorary President, Mr. Ned Hollister, Vice President, and Mr. B. H. Swales, Secretary. The membership of the club is restricted to those primarily interested in birds. Meetings will be held monthly at the members' homes, for more or less informal social intercourse.

The Cooper Prize in Ornithology (\$50.00), offered at the University of California for the best essay on any topic concerned with birds, has been won by Mr. Robert C. Miller. His thesis, "A Study of the Flight of Sea Gulls", was unanimously chosen by the