

smaller, perhaps unfinished, but of identical construction although unlined. Other available nesting sites on the cliff were occupied by nesting Pelagic Cormorants and a few Glaucous-winged Gulls.

It was not considered desirable to collect one of the birds hence subspecific identification was impossible. The race *cincinatus* is seen at all seasons along the British Columbia coast and the probabilities are that to this race belong the Bare Island birds. On the other hand there is a possibility of this being a northern outpost of *albociliatus*.—J. A. MUNRO, *Okanagan Landing, B. C., July 10, 1928.*

Further Notes on Lowland Nesting of the Western Robin in California.—Since publishing the account of range extensions by the Western Robin (*Turdus migratorius propinquus*) in California two years ago (CONDOR, XXVIII, 1926, pp. 264-267), a number of additional lowland nesting records have come to attention and it seems desirable to place these on record. In several cases they apparently represent first nestings in the localities in question.

At Porterville, Tulare County, Mr. S. Halbert reports (under date of July 3, 1926) that the Robin nested in that city as early as 1916 or 1917 when a nest was seen 50 feet above the ground in a tall tree on Hockett Street. The first summer appearance at the Halbert ranch, 6 miles south of the city, was in August, 1924. It is not certain whether the birds nested that year, but in 1925 more than 20 nests were seen in a peach orchard. The orchards in that region are irrigated at intervals throughout the summer and the Robins follow the irrigation in seeking their food. In my previous account a typographical error assigns my records for Tulare and Fresno to 1916. The observations were made on May 30, 1926.

At Mills College, in the eastern part of Oakland, I saw Robins carrying food as if for young on June 17, 1926.

Mr. E. L. Bickford of Napa confirms my previous surmises concerning the breeding of the Robin at Napa. Under date of March 4, 1927, he wrote that "Robins have nested on my two-acre residence property in the heart of Napa for at least twelve years. I find entry in my notes of a brood hatching on my place on May 22, 1916. This date agrees with the known [first] dates of nesting in San Francisco." The same correspondent states that he believes from collateral evidence that the birds actually nested there before the date cited, but he has no positive record to that effect. Subsequently (on June 20, 1927) Mr. Bickford wrote that a farmer in Pope Valley, Napa County, had record of Robins nesting there in 1904. Mr. Emerson A. Stoner has furnished records of Robin's nests in Napa in 1923 on May 13 and June 10 and in 1924 on April 19. He also reports nesting at the base of Mount Saint Helena on the Lake County side on May 18, 1922, when a speckle-breasted young bird was seen—a rather early date for young out of the nest.

A pair of Robins nested this year (1928) in Davis, a nest and two adult birds having been seen by me at 4th and E streets on May 30, 1928. On June 10 I saw a pair of adults in attendance on two fully-fledged speckle-breasted young on a lawn opposite the nest site. Earthworms, in quantity, were being fed to one of the juvenal birds. Mr. Ernest D. Clabaugh reports having seen Robins on the University Farm quadrangle on two occasions in the latter half of June, 1928, and adults have been seen in town during July.

Near Winters, Mr. Chester Sackett reports that Robins were first noted as remaining through the summer in 1927, and that this year he found two nests, one with fledged young. In my own notes, I recently found record of a Robin seen near Knights Landing on May 21, 1912. At Marysville, Mrs. Ruth Risdon Storer reports having seen Robins on April 27, 1927, presumptive evidence for nesting, and this year Mr. Donald H. Graham advises me that adult Robins were seen feeding young about July first, near his residence on Seventh Street in that city.

These additional records but serve to strengthen the thesis put forth in my previous paper, that the "change" in nesting range is due to alteration by man of the original lowland habitat. It seems, however, that lawns (artificial damp grassland) are not a *sine qua non* for summer occurrence of the Robin in the lowlands, but that a second acceptable substitute is available in orchard lands subject to frequent irrigation.

A subject of interest in connection with the establishment of the Robin in the lowlands is the source of the breeding stock, a query which could have been answered by complete banding records had such been obtainable. In all probability birds passing through *en route* to some more northern location have stopped off. That such is the case rather than that local winter visiting Robins have merely remained over seems likely from observations of this past winter. It was a matter of comment among ornithologists in California that neither Robins nor Bluebirds appeared as they usually do in the foothill and plains regions. The extremely abundant crop of berries on the toyon (*Photinia arbutifolia*) in the foothill districts has been a current explanation for the failure of the birds to appear in their accustomed winter haunts. Whatever the actual reason for the scarcity there were no Robins at Davis this winter where normally they are abundant (see Clabaugh, CONDOR, xxx, 1928, p. 126). The first and only Robin which I noted at Davis this year (from December 28, 1927, to May 29, 1928) was seen on April 4 within the "territory" subsequently occupied by the pair with the nest mentioned. I am advised that a similar dearth of winter Robins was experienced at Berkeley but that subsequently the breeding population of the species appeared in accustomed numbers in that city. These observations go to confirm the supposition that the breeding population is not composed of the same individuals as are present in winter but that the two are mutually exclusive in any given locality.—TRACY I. STORER, *Division of Zoology, University of California, Davis, July 28, 1928.*

EDITORIAL NOTES AND NEWS

Dr. T. S. Palmer's extensive article in this issue will, we believe, go down in history as one of the outstanding contributions of human interest which THE CONDOR has had an opportunity to print. In some respects it is similar to Henshaw's and Townsend's autobiographies and to Harris's biography of Ridgway, yet it is unique in many other respects. Dr. Palmer gives us here the results of an enormous amount of searching enquiry, in the Library of Congress, in archives of unpublished materials, and through correspondence. We have a feeling of genuine satisfaction that he should have chosen our magazine as his vehicle of publication.

A movement is on foot in the Cooper Ornithological Club to establish an annual prize for the best life study each year, of any North American bird west of the 100th meridian. Judgment as to merit would be based upon originality of observations (in other words, newness of facts), thoroughness of treatment of some one selected problem, and upon clearness of interpretations. Some phase of a bird's life history would be concerned; subjects primarily of a systematic or faunal nature would be excluded from the contest. A candidate would thus not need to work at any museum or to go on any extensive field trip; he might develop the makings

of a prize-winning essay right in his own back-yard. The winning essay would, of course, be printed in THE CONDOR. We hope to be able to announce definitely the amount of the coming year's prize and other details in our coming January issue.

Mr. Milton P. Skinner, who has written so extensively and valuably concerning the natural history of Yellowstone National Park, is visiting in California. He appeared before the Southern Division Cooper Club meeting in September, giving a most instructive as well as enjoyable lecture on the bird-life of the Yellowstone.

In the preface to Dr. W. H. Bergtold's recently issued booklet, "Guide to Colorado Birds", we note the following wise comments. "The writer has little confidence in the value of *sight* identifications of species rare or previously unknown in the state, and his experience leads him to view such identifications as worthless. They are too hazardous, too uncertain, and too impossible of verification to justify anyone in adding, by them, species to the state list."

Mr. W. E. C. Todd has lately sponsored a "List of Types of Birds in the Collection of the Carnegie Museum" (Annals Carnegie Mus., xviii, 1928, pp. 335-364).