

Notes from the Vicinity of San Francisco Mountain, Arizona.—It was the privilege of the writer, through the invitation of, and in company with, Joseph W. Sefton, Jr., President of the San Diego Society of Natural History, to spend a fortnight collecting in the higher mountains of northern Arizona during June, 1929. Headquarters were established in Flagstaff, whence points of interest were visited each day, after an early start by automobile. The greater part of our time was spent at Little Spring, on the north base of San Francisco Mountain.

This spot has historic interest to naturalists, by reason of the records made there by Dr. C. Hart Merriam in 1889. It was as a result of his field work on this mountain that he first announced the modern conception of Life Zones. Many new forms of mammals were described from the region about San Francisco Mountain by this now venerable naturalist, and owing to the character and remoteness of the place little change has occurred since he drove his tent pegs "in a grove of aspens and pines on a knoll just northwest of the spring," for his base camp forty years ago. (See *North American Fauna*, No. 3, 1890, p. 3.) Too little is the consideration given by present day zoologists to these notable areas where early workers combated adverse conditions of both supplies and transportation.

While the time spent by the writer at Little Spring was decidedly limited, being only five days, much of the summer bird life recorded by Merriam was found. The only specimen of exceptional interest was an Arizona Spotted Owl (*Strix occidentalis lucida*) collected by Mr. Sefton on June 20. This bird was perched in an aspen tree, where the limbs of near-by firs were closely interlocked, making a dense tangle. The specimen, prepared by the writer, proved to be an adult female and is now number 12397, collection of the San Diego Society of Natural History. The crop and stomach were both empty. This record apparently extends the range of *S. o. lucida* considerably to the northward.

Another place visited during our short stay in the region was Oak Creek. This locality lies some 18 miles south-southwest of Flagstaff and is in the lower limits of the yellow pine belt. While yellow pines were the conspicuous trees on the cañon sides, alders and junipers were prominent along the cañon floor and creek bed. Here, at an altitude of approximately 5250 feet, we collected, on June 24, breeding specimens of both Red-faced Warblers (*Cardellina rubrifrons*) and Painted Redstarts (*Setophaga picta*). Mearns reported these birds from the Mogollon Mountains (Auk, VII, 1890, p. 261), and our record adds another, and somewhat more northerly, locality. —LAURENCE M. HUEY, *San Diego Society of Natural History, San Diego, California, December 10, 1929.*

Say Phoebe Nesting in Western Montana.—On April 12, 1929, it was reported to me that an unidentified flycatcher which had been seen in Missoula in the spring of 1928, had returned. May 11, it and its mate were definitely identified as Say Phoebes (*Sayornis saya*). On that date one or both birds were seen carrying nesting material and the nest was discovered. It was a high, bulky affair placed on a horizontal beam under the eaves of a dwelling in the outskirts of the town. On June 7 both parents were seen carrying food to the nest.

In "A Distributional List of the Birds of Montana" by Aretas A. Saunders, this bird is reported as unknown west of the continental divide. In the *Condor* (XXIX, 1927, p. 159), Winton Weydemeyer of Libby, Montana, reports having observed for several minutes a Say Phoebe in the outskirts of Libby on July 20, 1924.

This present report from Missoula seems, then, to be the first record of a Say Phoebe nesting in Montana west of the continental divide.—CAROLINE WELLS, *Missoula, Montana, December 27, 1929.*

A Second Nesting Record of the Pacific Harlequin Duck in Oregon.—In the *Condor* (XXVII, 1925, p. 241) the writer published what is believed to be the first recorded instance of the nesting of the Pacific Harlequin Duck (*Histrionicus histrionicus pacificus*) in the state of Oregon. Nothing more was learned regarding the breeding range of this species until July 29, 1929. On that day, while I was riding along the trail near the source of the Imnaha River in the Wallowa National Forest at

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an altitude of about 8,000 feet, my attention was drawn to a number of small ducklings bobbing and bouncing along the course of the clear, swift and icy-cold stream below the trail. (See fig. 47.)

Hastily dismounting, I headed the birds off on their swift, down-stream course and found that the brood consisted of an adult female and her family of five large downy young. Even when the family was approached to within twelve or fifteen feet, the mother refused to fly off and leave her young, but always tried to escape by swimming swiftly up or down stream. The young were equally adept at breasting

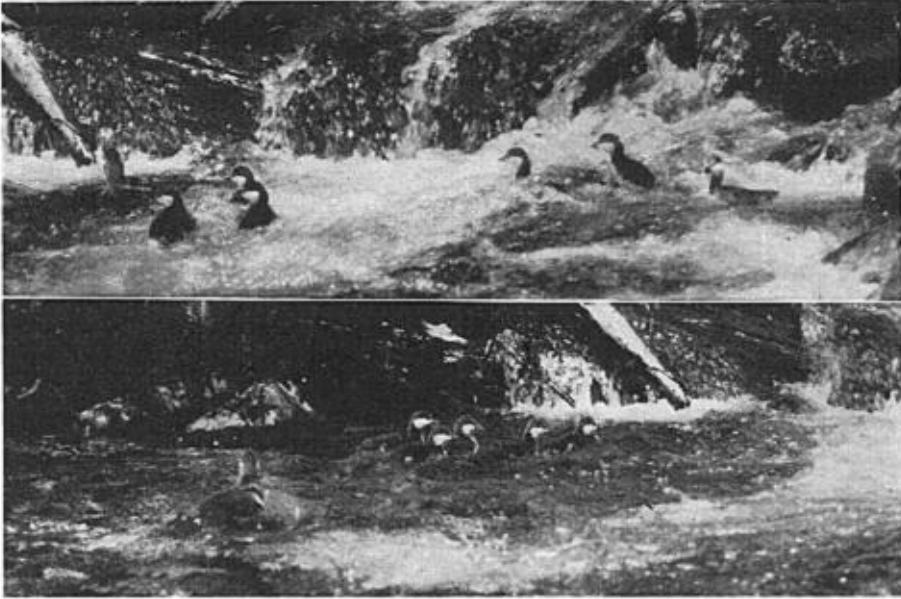


Fig. 47. PACIFIC HARLEQUIN DUCKS (TWO VIEWS); PARENT WITH FIVE YOUNG. IMNAHA RIVER, WALLOWA NATIONAL FOREST, WALLOWA MOUNTAINS, OREGON; JULY 29, 1929.

Photographed by Major John D. Guthrie.

the swift current. After photographing the family, I left them in peace on their rushing torrent amid the towering peaks of the Wallowa Mountains.—STANLEY G. JEWETT, *Portland, Oregon, October 11, 1929.*

Wasp Eaten by a Mockingbird.—The common yellow-and-brown wasp (*Polistes*) has, in addition to its formidable sting, a hard, tough armor which makes it difficult to kill. Having previously noticed the discreet attitude assumed by the California Thrasher (*Toxostoma redivivum*) upon encountering this insect at a drinking-place, it was with some surprise that, on the morning of October 21, I saw that a Mockingbird (*Mimus polyglottos leucopterus*) had captured a good-sized individual, which was still buzzing angrily. The Mockingbird dealt with the wasp vigorously, though with circumspection, and finally swallowed it piecemeal.—ROBERT S. WOODS, *Azusa, California, December 3, 1929.*

Wire-perching Woodpeckers.—The ease with which certain woodpeckers can perch on wires has been observed only lately by me, in spite of a lifetime of "bird-watching." I recently recorded this ability on the part of a Lewis Woodpecker (Condor, xxxi, 1929, p. 252) in the belief that it was perhaps something unusual. In the early part of September, 1929, I was staying at "The Willows," a resort about 35 miles east of San Diego, where a grove of live-oaks is passed by the pole-bordered highway to El Centro. Here the California Woodpeckers (*Balanosphyra formicivora bairdi*) daily used the electric wires as perches both for resting and as a vantage