

meaning when compared with the tables for *dominica* and *fulva*, respectively, in Ridgway (Birds N. and Mid. Amer., vol. 8, 1919, pp. 84, 89).—J. GRINNELL, *Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, Berkeley, California, May 28, 1936.*

California Thrasher Nesting on the Mohave Desert.—A nest of the California Thrasher (*Toxostoma redivivum redivivum*) was found May 3, 1936, on the Mohave Desert about half way between Summit and Hesperia in San Bernardino County, California. The nest, containing three almost fresh eggs, was placed two feet above the ground in *Artemisia tridentata* and was of normal construction. In other years I had seen both California and Leconte thrashers in this vicinity and had seen nests of the latter about two miles farther out on the desert, but this was my first breeding record for the California Thrasher on the desert side of the San Bernardino Mountains. The brooding bird was observed at close range, both while on the nest and while making a fuss. The eggs were normal for shape, color, and markings, but the weights in grams were only 5.63, 5.27, and 5.11. For a close neighbor the thrasher had a Scott Oriole with a nest in a Joshua tree a few feet distant.

The average weight of 103 eggs of this thrasher from nests on the Pacific side of the mountains, mostly in the San Bernardino Valley, is 6.58 grams; maximum, 8.06 grams, and minimum, 4.90 grams. Fifty-nine nests with complete sets of eggs observed in the San Bernardino Valley contained from two to four eggs each. The average number of eggs per set was found to be 3.07, and 83.1 per cent of the nests had three eggs.—WILSON C. HANNA, *Colton, California, June 16, 1936.*

The Present Status of the Great Salt Lake Bird Colonies.—A changing environment continues to affect the birds nesting on the islands of Great Salt Lake. This is shown by recent data gathered by Mr. Milton T. Rees, of Salt Lake City, and members of the Utah State Fish and Game Department. The information presented here applies to the 1935 and 1936 nesting seasons, thus bringing our meager knowledge of the fluctuations of the local populations down to date. As compared with his counts of 57 occupied cormorant nests and 11 heron nests on Egg Island, April 10, 1935, Mr. Rees found but 39 cormorant nests and 7 heron nests occupied at the same island on April 18, 1936. On this date there were eggs only, in the cormorants' nests. Six of the heron nests contained eggs; the seventh had three young. However, on May 9, 1936, when the island was next visited, the number of occupied cormorant nests had increased to 59. Many had large young, while others had eggs. The herons also had increased on the island since his earlier visit, for 15 occupied nests were counted. Certain herons that had been disturbed at Hat Island earlier in the season may have come over to Egg Island for a late nesting. At the nearby White Rock colony in the spring of 1935 Mr. Rees found one heron nest amid all the gulls. This was abandoned in 1936. The gulls had not yet commenced to lay on either Egg Island or White Rock by April 18, 1936, but there were hundreds of eggs on May 9, at Egg Island. Many adult cormorants were noted with nuptial plumes on April 18, 1936, all of which were coal black. These plumes were all gone by May 9, 1936.

The situation on Hat Island is somewhat discouraging. When Mr. Rees visited this island on June 1, 1935, he saw about 400 pelicans loafing on a sand bar, but not a pelican nest was to be found. Many herons were nesting, but the exact number was not determined. However, the observation was made on this date that about half of the heron nests contained eggs, the other half young. As usual, thousands of gulls were present and it was estimated that about a third of their eggs had hatched. This island also was visited in 1935 on June 4 by members of the Fish and Game Department, who also found the island deserted as a nesting site by the pelicans. Members of this last party counted 17 nests of the Treganza Blue Heron. This year, on May 3, 1936, Mr. Rees again visited Hat Island. For a second year no pelicans were found nesting there. Not a heron was seen, nor were there any eggs in the heron nests. However, in one nest were some broken shells, undoubtedly remnants of eggs laid earlier in the season. Gulls were as numerous as ever. A few gull eggs were seen but most of them were broken. A crow or raven was seen to leave the island as the boat approached. More significant was the finding of coyote tracks on the island; also automobile tracks approaching from the southwest, thus indicating that man had disturbed the colony some time earlier in the season.

In this connection it should be recalled that the level of the lake, although fluctuating a little each year, has nevertheless been dropping steadily for several years and reached a new low last year. As early as the summer of 1933 one could have walked to Hat Island on sand bars by way of Carrington and Stansbury islands. Since then there has been dry lake bed between all these "islands" and the mainland. Even this year, with a 26-inch rise in the lake level, the island is still connected with the land. The lowering of the lake waters has removed the isolation and protection from the Hat Island colony by allowing easy access to predators, both man and beast. Thus is nature adding to man's toll on the herons and pelicans.

No one knows as yet what has become of the thousands of pelicans that once nested on Hat Island. They might still be present in the region but not as nesting birds. The Gunnison Island colony did not seem to have been augmented in 1935, for A. M. Bailey (*Bird-Lore*, vol. 37, 1935, p. 331)

after a visit there June 19, 1935, found that the breeding birds were not as numerous as they were when I visited the island on June 29, 1932. Gunnison Island is extremely remote and has not to my knowledge been visited this year. Certainly the numbers of pelicans must be decreasing in the region, if for two or three years now no young have been reared on Hat Island where once one of the largest colonies of breeding pelicans was located. It is in critical times such as now exist that the White Pelican population throughout the country is most likely to be permanently reduced. Now, if ever, the White Pelican in other places as well as in the Great Salt Lake region needs all the protection that can be given.—WILLIAM H. BEHLE, *Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, Berkeley, California, May 20, 1936.*

An Albinistic Arizona Hooded Oriole.—Among the two or three broods of Arizona Hooded Orioles (*Icterus cucullatus nelsoni*) which left their nests near my home in Azusa during June, 1936, was one individual which was decidedly lighter in color than normal. Its body and tail were uniform pale yellow, much lighter and clearer than in other members of the brood, while its wings were silvery white and unmarked. The bill was flesh colored and the eyes dark. Far from appearing freakish, like many partly albino birds, this one was more attractive than its ordinary companions, especially in

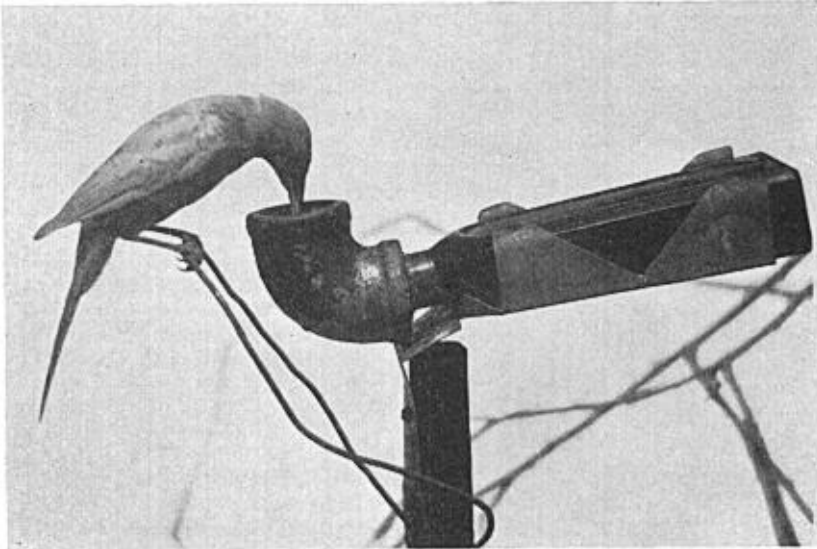


Fig. 40. Albinistic immature Arizona Hooded Oriole; body and tail pale yellow, wings silvery white. Azusa, California, June 27, 1936.

flight, when its silvery wings flashed conspicuously. It was normal in its actions, and possibly a little more aggressive than most of the others.

The photograph (fig. 40) shows this bird drinking at a bottle of sugar syrup which it visited many times a day until the brood dispersed. It is to be hoped that it will survive and return in succeeding years, in order that the nature of its adult plumage may be learned.—ROBERT S. WOODS, *Azusa, California, July 9, 1936.*

NOTES AND NEWS

Frank Hands, member of the Cooper Club since 1920, passed away June 19, 1936, at the age of 74. Most of his life was spent in the Chiricahua Mountain district of southeastern Arizona where he was a pioneer in the frontier

days of that country. He was a naturalist at heart and an accurate observer of nature during his constant travels in the mountains and desert. Early interest in animals was fostered by experience as a game keeper in England. The