

FROM FIELD AND STUDY

Double-crested Cormorant Nesting on the Bear River Refuge in Utah.—A new nesting record of the Double-crested Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax auritus auritus*) on the Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge, Utah, may prove of interest. Eight nests of this species were found on September 2, 1936, by CCC workers, and checked the following day by Superintendent George E. Mushbach and myself. Four of the nests contained three, two, two, and one immature birds, respectively; no birds were in the other four, but several eggs and broken eggshells indicated that the birds had attempted to rear young in them.

All the nests were on four mounds of earth that had been built up and covered with rocks that varied in size from one-fourth to one cubic foot, and which had been hauled in from nearby mountains to encourage nesting of this bird. These are the only rock piles on the entire refuge of sixty-four thousand acres, except for certain retaining walls along the dikes. The nests were made of sticks about half an inch in diameter and one to two feet in length. These were interlaced to form a bowl about eight inches across and three inches deep. Primary feathers of various birds were used to line the nests. Each nest was on a high point of the irregular mound.

At the time of examination the young were downy, except for the primaries which were still in the quill stage. Two of them were able to leave the nest but could not fly. The young were banded, and they left the nests during the following two weeks.—WILLIAM H. MARSHALL, *Bureau of Biological Survey, Brigham City, Utah, November 5, 1936.*



Fig. 9. Redwood attacked by Red-breasted Sapsucker; Van Duzen River, Humboldt County, California. Leaning tree in center, 48 inches in diameter, shows evidence of heavy drilling.

Sapsuckers on Redwood.—On several occasions, the writer has come across redwood trees that have been singled out by Red-breasted Sapsuckers (*Sphyrapicus varius daggetti*) for their operations. In each instance the individual tree was "peppered" with holes in horizontal rows, from the base to the top. In virgin timber, it is only an occasional tree that is attacked, and one searches in vain for another victim in the general vicinity. Such attacked trees are infrequent. Figure 9 pictures a tree 48 inches in diameter in the virgin forest on a flat near Grizzly Creek on the Van Duzen River in Humboldt County, California. The tree is made conspicuous by the characteristic sapsucker punctures.

During the present year, the writer came upon his first example of sapsucker work on so-called second-growth redwood. This young timber originated from sprouts after logging that was conducted about sixty years ago. The sapsuckers attacked every tree in two groups, or families, of sprouts. One sprout clump had six sprout trees, and the other, about twenty-five feet distant, had four sprouts. In figure 10 the parent stump is shown in the center of a clump. These sprouts, or suckers, were from 10 inches to 19 inches in diameter, and 90 feet high. They stood on the edge of the old cutting on Two-log Creek about eighteen miles from Fort Bragg on the Fort Bragg-Willits road. The heavily punctured trees made a striking display and could not but attract immediate attention. For so many trees in one clump to be attacked is not necessarily inconsistent with the statement made above that only widely separated trees are attacked, because the trees in a sprout clump are not individuals physiologically, having arisen from a single parent stump. Nevertheless, in this case the two clumps, each from a separate parent tree, were not far apart.

It might be deduced that the sapsucker is highly selective in choosing trees, or, put in a better way perhaps, it is only the rare redwood tree that is attractive to the sapsucker. In the case of a clump of stump sprouts, each sprout seems to possess this attractiveness or palatability. Were a record available of the parent tree, it is not unlikely that it, too, would have been found to have been a host for the sapsucker. This relationship between parent tree and sprouts is manifested also in other ways.



Fig. 10. Exaggerated case of drilling by Red-breasted Sapsuckers, showing workings on all members of a family of stump sprouts. Drillings extended from near ground line to the upper crowns.

A sample of bark removed from one of the trees indicates that the birds worked on the trees but a few years before. The holes extended nearly to the inner bark, but the inner face of this living bark layer showed no marks or effects of the drilling. This is to be expected, since new bark, as it is formed, pushes outward from the cambium layer and there is no tendency to fill wounds, as would be the case on the surface of the woody portion of the stem.—EMANUEL FRITZ, *Division of Forestry, University of California, Berkeley, October 20, 1936.*

Vermilion Flycatcher near Los Angeles.—As a matter of interest I record seeing today, between Los Angeles and South Pasadena, a female Vermilion Flycatcher (*Pyrocephalus rubinus mexicanus*). The bird was on a weed-covered hillside in company with a Black Phoebe; a Sharp-shinned Hawk was foraging for birds in the same field.—WILSON C. HANNA, *Colton, California, October 22, 1936.*

Bald Eagle Pellets in Kansas Show Rabbits as Principal Food.—Many Bald Eagles (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) winter in western Kansas and roost in the tall cottonwoods along the shallow streams. In this habitat, surrounded by grassland and cultivated fields, the principal food is the Black-tailed Jack Rabbit. In the winter of 1935-36 the writer collected 105 pellets under a roost