

FROM FIELD AND STUDY

Barnacles on Birds.—On the morning of August 7, 1938, about 15 miles south of the Farallon Islands, off San Francisco Bay, California, the writer collected two female Pacific Fulmars (*Fulmarus glacialis rodgersii*). The birds were shot on the wing while circling the Allan Hancock Foundation cruiser, Velero III, as she lay hove-to, dredging for marine life. After a bit of unique maneuvering of the Velero by Captain Hancock, the birds were picked up and immediately inspected for ectoparasites by the staff parasitologist, Gus Augustson. A peculiar condition of the belly became apparent. Small clusters of young peduncled barnacles of the genus *Lepas* were attached to the outer barbs of the belly feathers. There were several dozen clusters, each composed of three or four individuals of different sizes, with a few solitary individuals between. This illustrates the gregarious instinct of the free-swimming larva at the time of attachment.

Upon returning to the laboratory with several of the barnacles preserved in alcohol, the specific identity of the cirriped was established as *Lepas hillii* Leack, a species that is distinguished with difficulty from the cosmopolitan goose-necked barnacle (*Lepas anatifera* Linnaeus). The smallest specimens were barely distinguishable as to species, but the larger ones had well-calcified capitular valves and distinct peduncles. One specimen had a capitulum 3.0 mm. long with a peduncular length of 1.1 mm.

We can look upon this condition as accidental and occurring only during a period of the year when the fulmars are consistently roosting on the water. Certain species of littoral sessile barnacles are able to withstand considerable desiccation between the tides, but members of the genus *Lepas* regularly attach themselves to floating materials or permanently submerged objects, as described in Hoek's report on the cirripedia of the Challenger Expedition (Challenger Reports, Zoology, vol. 8, 1883). Thus we must assume that in order for these barnacles to have developed to the aforementioned size, the fulmars must have been on the water most of the time.

Accounts of barnacles on birds seem to be rather scarce in the literature; at least, the writer has found it so in the reports on cirripedians. However, I might quote from Hoek's review of the literature the following (*op. cit.*, p. 7): "A new genus (*Ornitholepas*) was proposed (1874) by Targioni-Tozzetti for a species of Cirripedia inhabiting the tail feathers of *Priofinus cinereus*, a bird of the Southern Atlantic and the Indian Ocean. Gerstäker supposes that the *Ornitholepas australis*, Targioni-Tozzetti, is only a larva of a Cirriped in its *Cypris*-stage."

Since this observation the writer has had opportunity to collect a considerable number of oceanic birds, some of which were confined to the surface by molting primaries, but no other occurrence of barnacles on the feathers has been noted.—GRANVILLE ASHCRAFT, *Allan Hancock Foundation, University of Southern California, April 8, 1940.*

The Vermilion Flycatcher at Santa Barbara.—On April 7, 1940, a Vermilion Flycatcher (*Pyrocephalus rubinus mexicanus*) was taken near Santa Barbara. The exact locality is what is called Pendola Flats and is situated on the Santa Ynez River midway between Gibraltar and Juncal reservoirs about 10 miles in an air line northeast of the city. The bird was first seen darting after flies from its perch on a wire fence. It is an immature male with a white throat and the red on the under parts is mixed with white. The specimen is now no. 3778 in the collection of the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History.—EGMONT Z. RETT, *Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History, Santa Barbara, California, May 8, 1940.*

Desert Sparrow Hawk and Pasadena Screech Owl in the Same Nest.—A Pasadena Screech Owl (*Otus asio quercinus*) was found in an old hole up ten feet in a dead Joshua tree stump on the Mohave Desert north of the San Bernardino Mountains. Ten inches down from the opening, on dead wood chips, there were two fresh eggs of the owl. A week later, on April 16, 1939, a Desert Sparrow Hawk (*Falco sparverius phalaena*) was flushed from this hole and investigation disclosed that the nest contained the two owl eggs and three eggs of the hawk, one being a runt of about one-third normal size. An owl, probably the owner of the two eggs, was in another hole about one hundred feet away, incubating a single egg of her own. On April 23 the original hole was still in the possession of the hawk and contained an additional egg of the hawk; the owl had deserted her egg. The hawk must have believed "a turn about is fair play" for in 1935 (Condor, vol. 38, 1936, p. 250) I found in this same vicinity an owl in possession of a mixed set.—WILSON C. HANNA, *Colton, California, February 24, 1940.*

More Notes on Salt-feeding of Red Crossbills.—An interesting corroboration of Aldrich's "Notes on the salt-feeding habits of the Red Crossbill" (Condor, vol. 41, 1939, pp. 172-173) came