

Dendroica nigrescens. Black-throated Gray Warbler. Two birds were attracted by "squeaking" on August 29, 1942, on the Lily Pond trail near Reflection Lake, at about 6000 feet. They appeared in a lodgepole pine. One was clearly an adult male, the other either a female or a juvenal bird.

Manzanita Lake is situated in an area which exhibits a remarkable intermingling of plant types of the Canadian and Transition zones. For example, along the Lily Pond trail near Reflection Lake, it is possible for one to see ten different kinds of cone-bearing trees within the short space of a quarter of a mile. This diverse array of conifers is composed of the following species: incense cedar, yellow pine, Jeffrey pine, sugar pine, lodgepole pine, white pine, white fir, red fir, false hemlock, and mountain hemlock—a surprising mixture of plant "indicators" of the two life zones mentioned. In addition there are large areas in the vicinity of the lake that have been burned over and now exhibit a thick growth consisting principally of manzanita and ceanothus.

Along with these peculiarities in the vegetative cover of the Manzanita Lake region, it is not surprising to encounter a wide variety of birds. Thus one finds such birds as the Bush-tit, Black-throated Gray Warbler, and Clark Nutcracker mingling in the same general area.—ROBERT C. STEBBINS, *Department of Zoology, University of California at Los Angeles, July 15, 1943.*

White-throated Swift Nesting in Active Quarry.—In June, 1941, I located a small colony of White-throated Swifts (*Aëronautus saxatilis*) breeding on the face of an abandoned rock quarry at Rockaway Beach, 15 miles south of San Francisco, San Mateo County. The fateful day of December 7, 1941, also had an effect on the swifts, as the quarry was re-opened. Upon returning there this year on June 27, I was surprised to find approximately eight pairs of swifts still there. I located six nesting sites of swifts along with those of a Barn Owl (*Tyto alba*) and two Rock Wrens (*Salpinctes obsoletus*). The birds have withstood the constant blasting and roar of caterpillar bulldozers and compressors. The noise of war has also entered the bird world and the birds appear to be taking it in stride!—C. ANDRESEN, *San Rafael, California, July 2, 1943.*

Some Unusual Nesting Habits.—A unique nesting place for Pigeon Guillemots (*Cepphus columba*) is provided by the timbers beneath the flooring of San Simeon wharf, San Luis Obispo County, California. "Kelly" Truesdail of Paso Robles in 1933 said that nesting had occurred there for a number of years. Since then I have observed eggs, chicks and brooding adults several times through spaces in the flooring planks. Small orange-colored eels are the only food I have seen given to the chicks. On August 16, 1940, similar food was given to young at Point Buchon, thirty miles to the south.

About 1930, in the summer months, I found the nest of a Water Ouzel (*Cinclus mexicanus*) in a yew tree by the Sacramento River, south of Castella, Shasta County. The tree, which was less than ten feet high, grew on the river's edge with some limbs extending out over the water. The nest was about four feet above the water; the dried moss of the nest was easily seen, but when fresh the nest was no doubt well camouflaged by the dense outer foliage in which it was built.

On June 25, 1939, I found the nest of a Sora (*Porzana carolina*) at the edge of Mono Lake, Mono County. It contained twenty-two eggs; seventeen eggs were in the nest-cup, and two were built into the side and three into the bottom of the structure. The bottom of the nest rested in the water, suggesting that after construction the water level had risen or the supporting sedge stems had sagged. This perhaps stimulated the building of the added layer after three eggs had been laid; in the course of rebuilding, two more were laid and built into the side of the nest.—DALE T. WOOD, *Lompoc, California, March 29, 1943.*

Mallophaga on Young White Pelicans.—Mallophaga or biting bird lice are known to eat feathers, hair, dry skin, and dried blood, and occasionally to cause some irritation by rasping the skin surface. As far as I know, however, they have not been recorded as congregating to form large open sores. Observations which I had opportunity to make on young White Pelicans (*Pelecanus erythrorhynchos*) on Anaho Island, Pyramid Lake, Nevada, June 14, 1942, therefore seem of decided interest. The naked young pelicans up to about two weeks of age were found to be heavily infested with the large bird louse *Tetrophthalmus* sp. The lice were kindly identified by Professor G. F. Ferris of Stanford University. The species, or possibly two species, cannot be named for certain until further work has been done on the group. Probably synonymous with one or both of these species is *Menopon perale*, described by Leidy (Proc. Acad. Nat. Sci. Phila., 1878:100-101) and mentioned by Hall (Condor, 27, 1925:152).



Fig. 52. Young White Pelican, about 1½ weeks old, infested with bird lice; Anaho Island, Pyramid Lake, Nevada, June 14, 1942.

The bird louse of the young pelicans is the same as that commonly found on the inner surfaces of the pouches of adults. In the very young birds, however, the bird lice were almost entirely confined to certain external regions, namely the skin fold at the lower back of the neck and the axillae. They were clumped there in almost solid masses around deep open sores (fig. 52).

It seemed clear that the mallophaga were actually making these wounds. All degrees of concentration and of injury were found, from a few insects in a barely started sore to dozens in a large sore. No bleeding was observed, apparently because the bird lice were eating all blood that exuded. The effect of the parasites on the pelicans could not be ascertained. Many small young pelicans, most often the younger of two in a nest, die but perhaps primarily because of their inability to protect themselves from the pecking of the older young or their inability to obtain adequate food. It seems likely, nevertheless, that large numbers of mallophaga could significantly weaken and irritate the young.

The majority of the small young, in fact 77 per cent of 50 birds chosen at random, were heavily infested with bird lice. In contrast, the young of several weeks' age or older did not have any external concentrations of the parasites. Several factors may explain this, the most important one perhaps being that down and contour feathers later afford food and protection so that the mallophaga can scatter over the body. Also, the pouches of the young become increasingly large, providing the normal adult environment for the bird lice.—FRANK RICHARDSON, *University of Nevada, Reno, Nevada, June 15, 1943.*