

FROM FIELD AND STUDY

American Pintail on Palmyra Island.—"On or about November 5th, 1942, a flock of wild ducks, consisting of two species, arrived on this island at approximately 6 a.m. This flock was in a very exhausted condition, and without much effort were all picked up and placed behind a wire fence, properly fed, and allowed to rest and to recover. One bird had a leg tag with the following numbers stamped into same, '40-693910.' It was interesting to note that these birds had flown a considerable distance, and if it is permissible, I would like very much to know where this particular bird was tagged, and its migration habits."

The foregoing letter, signed by Ensign Arthur R. Murphy, U.S.N., was duly received by the Fish and Wildlife Service. Investigation revealed a remarkable flight by an American Pintail, *Dafila acuta izitzihoa*. This bird, a drake, was one of the many victims of botulism at the Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge in northeastern Utah. Successfully treated at the refuge hospital, it made a complete recovery and was banded and liberated on August 15, 1942, by the refuge superintendent, Vanez T. Wilson. The elapsed time between banding and recapture was 82 days.

While Palmyra Island is administratively a part of the Territory of Hawaii, it is about five degrees north of the equator in the Line Island group, nearly 1100 miles south of Honolulu. A case of this kind promotes speculation and since Ensign Murphy reports that this bird and its companions were so totally exhausted that they were readily captured, it seems reasonable to assume that Palmyra was the first "land fall" the birds had made since leaving the coast of North America. The over-water flight was in excess of 3000 miles and the total flight from the Bear River marshes must have been about 3600 miles.—FREDERICK C. LINCOLN, *Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington, D.C., August 28, 1943.*

Occurrence of the Magnolia Warbler Off the Coast of California.—On the morning of June 8, 1943, the men of a small ship operating about 10 miles west of Halfmoon Bay, California, were surprised to discover a small yellow bird perched low in the rigging. I recognized it as a warbler but could not place it as to species. Later, when compared with skins in the collection of the California Academy of Sciences, it was found to be a male Magnolia Warbler (*Dendroica magnolia*). Grinnell and Wythe (*Pac. Coast Avif.*, 18, 1927:134) list this eastern species as a transient of rare occurrence in the San Francisco Bay region and mention two specimens taken on the Farallon Islands on May 29 and June 2, 1911. Grinnell (*Pac. Coast Avif.*, 11, 1915:148) lists three other records for California: one taken on Santa Barbara Island on May 15, 1897; one in Los Angeles, October 21, 1897, and one on October 5, 1901.

The occurrence in 1943 was about 20 miles south and east of the Farallon Islands. When first observed, the bird seemed in good condition and flew from one part of the ship to another. It took no interest in the crumbs, suet or meat offered by the ship's crew, but made an extensive search about the deck. Fresh water was put out for it but the bird passed close by without partaking. It was seen to sample a puddle of water that must have been salt or brackish.

Three attempts were made by the bird to leave the ship, but when 50 to 100 yards away with no other solid object in sight, it returned. In its search, it hopped about at the feet of men on watch and across my lap when I sat on the deck locker to watch. It seemed to take comfort in the shelter that my outstretched overcoat made from the cold strong wind. Timidity was lost in preoccupation. The bird could have been taken in the hand numerous times without difficulty.

After an hour or more of unusual intimacy, it retired to a remote perch, and I did not see it again until in the afternoon when it was brought to the bridge in the hands of a seaman. I had hoped the creature would last until land was reached, but it already was so weakened that it hardly moved, and in a few moments it expired in my hand. The change from moderate exhaustion to collapse took place in about 5½ hours, as the bird was first observed at about 10:30 a.m. and lasted until 4. I suggest that the bird died of thirst.

This specimen, now no. 58350 in the collection of the California Academy of Sciences, had a weight of 6.5 grams when prepared by Dr. Robert T. Orr.—RICHARD G. MILLER, *U.S.N.R., Miami Beach, Florida, August 27, 1943.*

Birds of Unusual Occurrence in Prospect Park, Redlands, California.—Although my brother, Donald, and I have resided in Prospect Park nearly twelve years, it has been during the past six years only that we have devoted our attention to the distribution of birds there. During this period we have observed one hundred and twenty-three species within the boundaries of the park.

Prospect Park is, in reality, a combination of orange grove and park. The total area is thirty-

nine and sixty-four one hundredths acres, twenty-six of which is in orange grove, and the rest in ornamental trees and shrubs. The prevailing cover is a species of myrtle, forming mats or carpets under the tall trees. A reservoir, two hundred feet in length and one hundred feet in width, supplies the park and grove with irrigation water. Near the house is a small fish pond, bordered on one side by cane thickets. The reservoir and the fish pond form the sole attractions that lure occasional shore and water birds within the confines of the park.

The following report constitutes a summary of the more significant observations made within Prospect Park from the month of April, 1937, until the present time. While many of the birds listed are common within their respective life-zones or habitats in neighboring parts of California, they are not generally to be found within an environment such as the park provides.

Phalacrocorax auritus. Double-crested Cormorant. One adult of this species was seen by my brother and me at the reservoir on March 18, 1940.

Actitis macularia. Spotted Sandpiper. The Spotted Sandpiper is an irregular migrant, present some years, and absent others. One was seen at the reservoir on May 3, 1938. Another was seen there from September 11 to 19, 1938. I saw this species again on April 26, 1940. On October 1, 1942, one was present at the reservoir. My last record is for May 19, 1943.

Columba fasciata. Band-tailed Pigeon. On January 4, 1942, I was surprised to see a flock of about one hundred Band-tailed Pigeons alight in a eucalyptus tree near the house. The birds were restless, however, and were soon on their way.

Spilopelia chinensis. Chinese Spotted Dove. This bird was unknown here until the spring of 1941, but since that time it has become established in the park.

Buteo swainsoni. Swainson Hawk. A flock of over one hundred was seen by Donald Moore. This hawk has been recorded by me on October 20, 1940, and April 2, 1941. On the latter date eight individuals were noted.

Buteo lineatus elegans. Red-bellied Hawk. This buteo is occasionally seen soaring over the park in late winter and early spring. One was seen on March 4, 1940. Another was present from March 15 to 19, 1941.

Dryobates villosus. Hairy Woodpecker. This woodpecker is occasionally seen in late summer, in the fall, and in early spring. In 1938, it was noted in the park from August 28 to October 27. It was next seen from September 4, 1940, to April 28, 1941. My last record is for September 19 to 26, 1942.

Dryobates albolarvatus. White-headed Woodpecker. On October 27, 1940, a steady tapping in a pine tree revealed the presence of an adult male White-headed Woodpecker.

Sphyrapicus varius nuchalis. Red-naped Sapsucker. One was seen by Donald Moore several winters ago in a pepper tree. On January 16, 1941, I was fortunate enough to see one of these rare birds in a pine tree on Fountain Avenue. The bird resembled quite closely the Yellow-bellied Sapsucker of the East.

Aeronautes saxatalis. White-throated Swift. A small flock was seen by Donald and me on December 22, 1938.

Selasphorus alleni. Allen Hummingbird. On March 18, 1939, I observed an adult male feeding on myrtle blossoms near the house. The bird was seen in the vicinity until March 21. Another male was seen on February 23, 1941.

Stellula calliope. Calliope Hummingbird. An adult male was seen feeding on orange blossoms on April 30 and again on May 1, 1938.

Nuttallornis borealis. Olive-sided Flycatcher. This flycatcher was first observed in the park from September 21 to October 1, 1940. Another was seen from May 15 to May 21, 1941. The bird was noted again on June 27, and finally on July 31, 1941. In the year 1942, it was seen on April 21 and from September 3 to September 11. The presence of this flycatcher in the park during June and July seems especially noteworthy, because at this season it is supposed to be found in the mountains only.

Cyanocitta stelleri. Steller Jay. On September 18, 1940, Herbert Hill and I were fortunate enough to locate one of these birds in a peach tree near the house. Later the bird showed a marked preference for the pecan trees about one hundred yards from the house, and on a few occasions I observed it feeding on the nuts. The jay was last seen on June 10, 1941.

Oberholseria chlorura. Green-tailed Towhee. On May 7, 1938, a mewing note similar to that of a kitten called our attention to one of these birds in an orange tree near the house.

Vireo solitarius. Solitary Vireo. The characteristic song of this vireo was heard in a deodar near the house on May 1, 1941. I was later able to locate the bird, and establish its identity with certainty. The species again made its presence known on June 9, 1941, and on April 28, 1942.

Dendroica coronata. Myrtle Warbler. Seen at Fountain Avenue on November 12, 1940. The species was noted at the same place until November 26, 1940. In 1941, it was seen from December 15 to December 21, in 1942 from November 3 to December 6, and in 1943 from January 11 to February 19.

Catherpes mexicanus. Canyon Wren. On June 27, 1941, Donald and I heard the note of a Canyon Wren sounding from somewhere in the rafters of the barn. We soon located the bird; it remained for the rest of the day.

Certhia familiaris. Creeper. On October 4, 1942, I saw two creepers in a group of pecan trees near the house. Later a single bird only was observed. This bird was generally to be found in the pecan trees, in one of several deodars, or in a cedar of Lebanon near the house. A creeper was last seen in the park on March 21, 1943.

Sitta canadensis. Red-breasted Nuthatch. Noted in Monterey cypress trees on August 20, 1940, and on October 6, 1940. Heard at various times from September 21, 1942, to January 15, 1943.

Sitta carolinensis. White-breasted Nuthatch. In the late summer and fall of 1940, this nuthatch was present in the park in limited numbers. It seemed to be partial to the Canary Island pine, the pecan trees, and the Monterey cypress. The birds were present from August 27 until November 20.

Ixoreus naevius. Varied Thrush. This thrush was common in the park in the winter and spring of 1938 from February 17 to March 23. Occasionally as many as fifteen were noted at one time. In the winter of 1940-41 it was present from November 21 to April 3, and was noted more regularly but in smaller numbers than in 1938. In the park these birds seemed to favor the camphor and Catalina cherry trees. I have observed them feeding upon the berries of camphor trees, pepper trees, and toyon, and on persimmons.—MILTON MOORE, *Redlands, California, April 17, 1943.*

Catbirds Nesting on the Malheur Refuge in Southeastern Oregon.—On the morning of May 31, 1942, while observing birds along the banks of the Donner Und Blitzen River in the south end of the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge, about two miles east of Frenchglen and only a short distance up river from the old "P" ranch headquarters buildings, a familiar bird song was heard. Locating the bird, it was easily and quickly identified as a Catbird (*Dumetella carolinensis*) with which the writer was well acquainted in the mid-western states. Again on June 6 a Catbird was heard singing by the river just opposite the "P" ranch buildings; it allowed the observer to approach within a few feet before flying. Subsequently the song of this bird was heard frequently in this vicinity. On July 13 three different pairs of Catbirds were flushed from thickets of dogwood and alder along the bank of the river. These birds all appeared nervous and apparently they were nesting. On July 21 two pairs again were noted along the river in these same thickets.

The catbird was first seen in 1943 on June 10 at the "P" ranch. However, one or two birds had been heard singing at intervals a few days previously. On July 15 one pair was noted using the thickets in the vicinity of the orchard and another pair in the vicinity of the granary at the "P" ranch. Repeated search for nests was unsuccessful. On August 6 Mr. Matt. Morgan reported seeing a Catbird carrying a worm in its beak. Late in the afternoon of August 11 the writer heard a Catbird and "squeaked" it to within a few feet. Noting that it was carrying an insect in its beak, it was quietly watched. Two young, evidently just out of the nest, were found in a thicket of willows, roses and currants.

Gabrielson and Jewett (*Birds of Oregon, 1940:462*) recorded the Catbird as a regular summer resident of Oregon and give its range as the northeastern corner of the state. They also state that it "Undoubtedly breeds, although there are no actual breeding records."

From the evidence herein presented it would appear that the Catbird has extended its range in Oregon and must be regarded as a breeding summer resident of the Donner Und Blitzen Valley.—CLARENCE A. SOOTER, *United States Fish and Wildlife Service, Frenchglen, Oregon, September 24, 1943.*

A Deformed Redhead Duckling.—Few deformed and crippled wild ducklings are observed because death of such birds in one form or another quickly erases the evidence. However, a juvenile Redhead (*Nyroca americana*) was found on August 12, 1940, while the writer was observing the nesting of the Redhead in Iowa.

The nest in which the duckling was found had been discovered 10 days earlier in a patch of hardstem bulrush (*Scirpus acutus*) and bur-reed (*Sparganium eurycarpum*) growing in a 15-acre marsh. The clutch contained only four eggs, one of which had hatched. The other three eggs were undeveloped, probably infertile. The small clutch size, coupled with the late date of hatching, indicated that the nest was a re-nesting attempt by the female after one or more nesting failures. A larger percentage of the eggs was undeveloped in the other re-nesting attempts found during the same study than was undeveloped in earlier nests, a fact which adds emphasis to the importance of early nesting successes in the production of duck crops.

At the time of the last observation, the duckling was between 24 and 36 hours old. Although it seemed energetic and struggled to escape, it was unable to move from the nest.

Dissection showed that the legs were attached higher on the back than in a normal duckling.