

Avifauna of a 100-Acre Ranch.

BY H. S. SWARTH, LOS ANGELES.

[Read before the Southern Division of the Cooper Orn. Club.]

The following notes were taken in a territory of about one hundred acres, situated in the north-western part of the city of Los Angeles, Cal., about a mile north-west of Westlake Park. Included in this land is a pond of about an acre in extent, which adds materially to the number of species recorded. The observations extend over a period of about seven years.

1 PIED-BILLED GREBE. *Podilymbus podiceps*. Resident throughout the year, but most common during the fall and winter. In the spring of 1895 a pair built a nest and laid their set, but the water rose and forced them to desert. In the spring of 1896 a pair laid their set and raised their brood successfully.

2 WESTERN GULL. *Larus occidentalis*.

3 AMERICAN HERRING GULL. *Larus argentatus smithsonianus*. In the winter these two species are often seen flying over; they light occasionally but not often.

4 FARALLONE CORMORANT. *Phalacrocorax dilophus albociliatus*. Have occasionally lit in the pond, but as there are no fish in it, they never remain long.

5 RED-BREASTED MERGANSER. *Merganser serrator*. On Dec. 27, 1894, I shot a female of this species out of a flock of seven. On several other occasions I have seen single birds which I did not secure and which may have been either of the two other species of Merganser.

6 MALLARD. *Anas boschas*.

7 BALDPATE. *Anas americana*.

8 GREEN-WINGED TEAL. *Anas carolinensis*. These species drop in occasionally at any time between the first of October and the end of March.

9 BLUE-WINGED TEAL. *Anas discors*. Mr. W. B. Judson shot a female on Oct. 31, 1896, but did not save it as a specimen. On Oct. 3, 1898, I secured one, also a female, which I now have in my collection.

10 CINNAMON TEAL. *Anas cyanoptera*. This species is seen more often than almost any of the others, and would undoubtedly breed if they were not disturbed. In the spring of 1896 a pair remained until very late and in all probability had part of their set laid, but as they were very tame they were shot by some wandering sportsman, so-called. In the spring of 1898 a pair remained and laid part of their set, but the nest was found and the eggs taken by some small boys. The birds then left. Cinnamon Teal occasionally drop in in July and August.

11 SHOVELLER. *Spatula clypeata*.

12 PINTAIL. *Dafila acuta*.

13 REDHEAD. *Aythya americana*.

14 CANVASBACK. *Aythya vallisneria*.

15 LESSER SCAUP DUCK. *Aythya affinis*. These species are occasionally seen any time between the first of October and the end of March.

16 RING-NECKED DUCK. *Aythya collaris*. On October 15 I saw a flock of one male and three females, all of which I secured. I have seen two or three others, single birds, but they do not drop in often.

17 GOLDEN-EYE. *Glauconetta clangula americana*. I have several times seen single birds, but never managed to shoot any.

18 BUFFLE-HEAD. *Charitonetta albeola*. Seen occasionally.

19 RUDDY DUCK. *Erismatura rubida*. The Ruddy Ducks arrive earlier and stay later than any of the others, excepting the Cinnamon Teal. They become very tame if not molested and sometimes stay for weeks at a time. One year a flock of about a dozen remained nearly all winter.

20 AMERICAN WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE. *Anser albifrons gambeli*. On Feb. 3, 1897, I flushed a White-fronted Goose out of some weeds at the edge of the lake. I was within fifty feet of it before I saw it, but had no means of shooting it.

21 FULVOUS TREE DUCK. *Dendrocygna fulva*. On April 18, 1898, I saw a pair of this species. They were not very wild and I secured them both with very little trouble.

22 AMERICAN BITTERN. *Botaurus lentiginosus*. A regular and rather common migrant. Occasionally seen during the winter.

23 LEAST BITTERN. *Botaurus exilis*. On July 5, 1897, I flushed two Least Bitterns out of some tules. They probably bred in the vicinity, although I had not seen them before.

24 AMERICAN EGRET. *Ardea egretta*. A very rare migrant. I have only seen them twice in the vicinity.

25 ANTHONY'S GREEN HERON. *Ardea virescens anthonyi*. A common migrant, but rather more numerous in the fall than in the spring.

26 BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT HERON. *Nycticorax nycticorax navius*. A common migrant, and to some extent a resident. On April 14, 1897, I counted nineteen in sight at once on the shores of the lake, and there were many more in a grove of eucalyptus trees close by. Usually they do not pass through here in any such large flocks. Almost every year a few remain through the summer and undoubtedly do not breed.

27 GREAT BLUE HERON. *Ardea herodias*. A common migrant and winter resident, though usually not more than one is seen at a time.

28 VIRGINIA RAIL. *Rallus virginianus*. A very common resident. I have never found a nest in the vicinity, but as I have seen the birds during every month of the year, they undoubtedly breed. Seen usually in the grass and reeds along the shallow creeks.

29 SORA RAIL. *Porzana carolina*. A common resident, though not as abundant as the former. They stay usually around the lake and are seldom seen along the creeks, where the Virginia Rail is found. Probably breeds, as they can be seen at any time during the year.

30 FLORIDA GALLINULE. *Gallinula galeata*. A pair or two nest in the tules around the pond every year. The young remain until late in the fall, when they nearly all disappear. Usually one or two remain through the winter.

31 AMERICAN COOT. *Fulica americana*. A common winter, and more rarely, a summer resident. During the winter, there are always from 10 to 20 Coots in the lake, and sometimes 80 to 100 or more. They nearly all disappear in the spring, but usually three or four remain to breed.

32 NORTHERN PHALAROPE. *Phalaropus lobatus*. A fall migrant, but very irregular. Some years a dozen or more may be seen during the migration and on others, not any. I have never seen any here in the spring.

33 AMERICAN AVOCET. *Recurvirostra americana*. On Oct. 4, 1896, I saw the only avocet that I have ever seen in the vicinity.

34 BLACK-NECKED STILT. *Himantopus mexicanus*. A regular and rather common spring migrant, appearing about the middle of April, sometimes in flocks, and sometimes singly.

35 WILSON'S SNIPE. *Gallinago delicata*. A regular spring and fall migrant and occasionally seen during the winter. They are usually more common in the fall than in the spring.

36 LEAST SANDPIPER. *Tringa minutilla*.

37 WESTERN SANDPIPER. *Ereunetes occidentalis*. Migrant, but never very numerous, and of very irregular occurrence.

38 GREATER YELLOWLEGS. *Totanus melanoleucus*. A regular but not common migrant.

39 WESTERN SOLITARY SANDPIPER. *Totanus solitarius cinnamomeus*. A regular and rather common migrant, more common in the fall than in the spring, as in fact all the waders are.

40 WESTERN WILLET. *Symphemia semipalmata inornata*. On one occasion a single bird was seen.

41 SPOTTED SANDPIPER. *Actitis macularia*. A rather common migrant, generally at the same time and in the same numbers as the Solitary Sandpiper.

42 KILLDEER. *Egialitis vocifera*. Quite common almost every month in the year. A pair or two usually breed in the vicinity.

43 VALLEY PARTRIDGE. *Callipepla californica vallicola*. Once or twice Valley Partridges have strayed down as far as this from the foothills, but it is of rare occurrence as there is no cover for them.

44 GAMBEL'S PARTRIDGE. *Callipepla gambeli*. On Sept. 16, 1896, I shot an adult male of this species. Whether it was an escaped cage bird or not, I cannot say, but I know of no place in the vicinity whence it could have escaped.

45 BAND-TAILED PIGEON. *Columba fasciata*. On Nov. 2, 1896, I shot an immature Band-tailed Pigeon with yellow down still attached to the feathers on the head and neck.

46 MOURNING DOVE. *Zenaidura macroura*. A resident, common during the breeding season, but quite rare through the winter.

47 TURKEY VULTURE. *Cathartes aura*. Can be seen circling overhead almost any time, but seldom alights unless there is some special attraction.

48 WHITE-TAILED KITE. *Elanus leucurus*. An irregular migrant, generally seen in the fall but never at all numerous.

49 MARSH HAWK. *Circus hudsonius*. A common migrant, occasionally seen in the winter.

50 SHARP-SHINNED HAWK. *Accipiter velox*. Common in the fall migration and through the winter; more rare in the spring.

51 COOPER'S HAWK. *Accipiter cooperi*. A regular migrant, most common in the fall.

52 WESTERN REDTAIL. *Buteo borealis calurus*. A fairly common migrant, often seen in the winter.

53 RED-BELLIED HAWK. *Buteo lineatus elegans*. Of very rare occurrence.

54 SWAINSON'S HAWK. *Buteo swainsoni*. A regular and rather common fall migrant. I have never seen any but the dark plumaged birds.

55 FERRUGINOUS ROUGHLEG. *Archibuteo ferrugineus*. A rare migrant. All the hawks are much more common in the fall than in the spring. While usually only single birds are seen, during the fall migration, I have sometimes seen quite large flocks of different species of hawks migrating together. On Oct. 16, 1897, I counted over a dozen hawks in a flock directly over me, while there were as many more in sight further away. The majority were Swainson's, but I could also distinguish Redtails and Ferruginous Roughlegs, besides others that I could not identify.

56 GOLDEN EAGLE. *Aquila chrysaetos*. Frequently seen flying over during the fall and winter, but I have only known one to alight in this vicinity.

57 PRAIRIE FALCON. *Falco mexicanus*.

58 DUCK HAWK. *Falco peregrinus anatum*. Both of these species are often seen during the migrations and through the winter.

59 PIGEON HAWK. *Falco columbaris*. Seen occasionally in the fall and winter.

60 DESERT SPARROW HAWK. *Falco sparverius deserticolus*. A migrant and winter resident, but while quite common during some winters, in others it is hardly seen at all.

61 AMERICAN BARN OWL. *Strix pratincola*. There are some Barn Owls in the vicinity nearly all through the year. One year a pair laid their set in an opening in the roof of the house. As the set was taken, they went to the house next door where they raised their brood successfully.

62 CALIFORNIA SCREECH OWL. *Megascops asio bendirei*. Of very rare occurrence.

63 PACIFIC HORNED OWL. *Bubo virginianus pacificus*. On Oct. 2, 1898, Mr. G. F. Morcom shot a female. I have seen one or two others.

64 BURROWING OWL. *Speotyto cunicularia hypogæa*. Several pairs of Burrowing Owls breed in the fields in the vicinity, but they can hardly be called common.

65 CALIFORNIA CUCKOO. *Coccyzus americanus occidentalis*. A very rare migrant. I have not seen more than three or four in as many years.

Concluded in next issue.