

a flock of sea-pigeons, while I continued along the rocky back-bone to the extreme western point, but without finding any occupied nests and encountering but few birds. The day of the Pedro Rookery was past! The birds had dwindled in numbers so they could be actually counted, and what a meager list the colony gave!

1. *Phalacrocorax pelagicus resplendens* (Baird Cormorant) 24
2. *Phalacrocorax penicillatus* (Brandt Cormorant) 24
3. *Uria troile californica* (California Murre) 20
4. *Pelecanus californicus* (California Brown Pelican) 14
5. *Cephus columba* (Pigeon Guillemot) 15
6. *Larus occidentalis* (Western Gull) 10
7. *Lunda cirrhata* (Tufted Puffin) 6
8. *Larus heermanni* (Heermann Gull) 6

While we were dwelling on this serious decrease in Pedro bird statistics, Snow at the foot of the bluff was, from all appearances, making serious inroads on the supply of eatables, and from a distance we could hear, between the roar of the battering waves, the cry of our angry boatman whose idea of two hours and ours materially differed. The reader will acknowledge, with this situation before us, it would have been unwise to extend our investigations further.

After "sliding" down the bluff and taking a hurried lunch, we joined our impatient boatman who told direful tales of what might have happened had we delayed our coming any longer. With the stiff breeze that had come up, he declared, it would have been impossible for him to take us off and we would have been left on the isle with our scanty supply of provisions. But even the boatman did not know how grave a matter this would have been; for he could scarce dream what lusty appetites were possessed by our commissariat and official photographer.

Ornithologically and oologically considered our trip was a failure, and photographically partly so. Newcomers to the isle will no doubt find fewer birds than were noted by our party, for now, with the coming of the railroad and the attendant population along its line, the number of feathered dwellers on these sea-rocks will be less than ever.

San Francisco, California.

AN ORNITHOLOGICAL TRIP TO LOS CORONADOS ISLANDS, MEXICO

By HOWARD W. WRIGHT

WITH THREE PHOTOS BY THE AUTHOR

ON June 20, 1908, with three friends, Mr. J. R. Maclintock, Mr. Frank H. Long and Henry Wetherby, I left San Pedro for Los Coronados Islands, Mexico. It was the longest trip I had ever taken in my sail boat, the "Sea Bird", which is about thirty feet over all.

The trip down was uneventful save for a sixteen-hour calm, during which the swells were rolling mountain high, and which caused a falling off of appetite on the part of my friends, to say nothing of myself. Finally a brisk, stern wind sprang up, and we started at a rapid pace for San Diego, making before dark about eighty miles.

All spirits rose with the rising of the wind and on Sunday night, the 21st, we

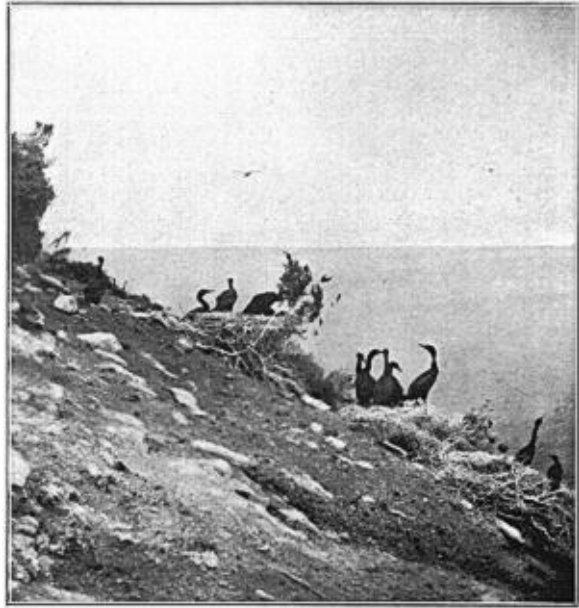
reacht San Diego. The bay being reacht only by a very narrow and winding channel we did not enter until the following morning.

There we left Mr. Long to return by rail, and that evening at 8 P. M. we arrived off the South Island of the Coronados group. We sounded and anchored in twenty-eight feet of water. Bright and early the next morning we were up and made for the bay which lay about a half mile from us. We noticed along the cliff facing us quite an area of guano, and many pelicans, cormorants and gulls flying about, indicating a colony.

Arriving in the harbor we were at once struck by the beauty of the little bay, at the back of which rose a sheer cliff 300 feet high. On the right was a small cliff, above which was a steep cactus-covered slope to the summit. On the left was a low cliff, above which was another steep slope. The bay was as clear as crystal and very deep. Having anchored about the middle of this cozy little bay we took the punt and landed on a ledge underneath the cliff, there being no beach on which to land. This was no easy task; we had to watch our chance and go in on top of a wave, jump out, and lift the boat bodily from this ledge to one above. It was still more difficult to launch the skiff, our clothes being drenched both coming in and going out.

These islands are located about fifteen miles south of San Diego. There are three main islands: North, Middle and South. Their names indicate their position. They are very high and rugged, the highest being 672 feet and about a mile long. The only good harbor, and that only suitable for small craft, is the little bay on the northeast side of South Island in which we anchored. There is no water on these islands. Consequently there is little vegetation—cactus and ice plant being the most abundant, tho there was some kind of a scraggly bush scattered thruout.

The first day was spent in making camp and looking around a bit on South Island. The next day we went to North Island, which is about two miles to the northwest. But when one rows to it, it is about forty. We could not sail on account of the kelp. We stopt at Middle Island to examine a small gull colony,—eight nests with eggs. There were a few cormorants roosting on rocks, and a pair of oyster-catchers circled around us. One of the latter, which we shot, led us a merry chase thru the surf. We then continued our row to North Island on which we found large colonies of auklets with young, and colonies of gulls with young. The young gulls ran all over the island like chickens. There was a large colony of pelicans with almost full-grown young. The number of these we could



PORTION OF COLONY OF FARALLONE CORMORANTS ON
SOUTH ISLAND

not estimate, the island being too rocky. Scattered thru this colony of pelicans were a good number of Farallone Cormorants' nests with fresh eggs. We spent the day on North Island and returned at dark. We spent the rest of our time on South Island and Middle Island collecting, shooting, and taking notes. We did not consider North Island worth visiting again.

Following is a list of birds seen on this trip, with a few notes:

Ptychoramphus aleuticus. Cassin Auklet. A few were seen on the way down, and several colonies were found on North Island containing nearly full grown young. On the return trip I shot into a flock of fulmars, and to my surprise one of the birds which I shot for a fulmar, proved to be an auklet. They were most into a compact flock with the auklet in its center.

Brachyramphus hypoleucus. Xantus Murrelet. Only two seen—a female with a downy young, about two miles from shore. Several old nests were found with broken eggs, and two of them contained dead birds, killed probably by the cat which inhabits South Island.



PORTION OF COLONY OF CALIFORNIA BROWN PELICANS
ON SOUTH ISLAND

Larus occidentalis. Western Gull. Very common; they are very destructive to the colonies of the other birds, eating eggs and small young. They were a great nuisance around camp, as they were so bold that we had to box everything that was not canned, or they would make short work of it. In a recent Geographical Magazine I read an interesting article about a colony of Brown Pelicans in Florida, in which the writer says that he noticed that the young pelicans in each nest were of different sizes and ages. He could not find any reason for this. I think I can explain

it. Down at the Coronados I found the same thing. The young pelicans and cormorants were of different sizes and ages in one nest. The reason was that when the pelican or cormorant laid an egg it had to sit on it to guard it from the gulls which were always on the look-out for a nest left unguarded. In this way the egg was incubated, so consequently the young birds were hatched on different dates.

Sterna forsteri. Forster Tern. Several seen on the trip down.

Diomedea nigripes. Black-footed Albatross. A bird which I took to be of this species followed us for some time going down.

Fulmarus glacialis glupischa. Pacific Fulmar. Many seen on the trip; they were very shy.

Oceanodroma. Petrel, sp. ? We observed many petrels, but as we took none we

could not positively identify them. There were none breeding on the islands at that time.

Phalacrocorax auritus albociliatus. Farallone Cormorant. Very abundant on all three islands, tho breeding only on North and South Islands. The Farallone Cormorant colony on South Island was rather scattered in the pelican colony, and contained from fresh eggs to full grown young. They were very noisy, emitting a peculiar croak which sounded like the grunting of a pig. As they made this sound their cheeks swelled up very large, growing smaller as they prolonged the cry. The young were very much inclined to fight and we could not handle them without receiving on our hands scratches and bites.

Phalacrocorax penicillatus. Brandt Cormorant. Common on all three islands, tho the only colony we found was on the southwestern extremity of South Island, containing twenty-two nests, three of which contained eggs; the others contained very small young. The cormorants were very tame and would not flush until we were right among them, but were rather shy about returning.

Pelecanus californicus. California Brown Pelican. During our stay we called on what we had supposed, the first morning at South Island, to be a colony of pelicans; it proved to be better than we expected, being a large colony of pelicans and cormorants combined. It was impossible to estimate the number of nests on the island, as they were very scattered and the island was steep and rugged. Several nests were found in which the eggs were so incubated that the young cried out from within their shells as they were handled, and a portion of the little bill protruded from the shell. The young are white when first hatch, but change to grey as soon as their feathers grow. However, until nearly full grown, much of their nest down remains. We noted that their colors were somewhat nest stained. They were very noisy and attempted to bite us as we passed, shooting their long bills out at us in a very comical fashion, their bills clicking like castanets. After the young are about half grown they gather in flocks and keep close together, probably for protection from their enemies. A queer action was that whenever they were hungry or frightened they disgorged their latest meals, which the gulls were not slow in putting away. For this reason the odor of this colony was frightful.



TYPICAL NEST AND YOUNG OF CALIFORNIA
BROWN PELICAN

We found interesting novelties every minute. The most unusual was a young pelican whose wings were lockt behind its back so it could not possibly fly and had great difficulty in getting around at all. I undid the lock and was rewarded with a sharp blow from the bird's bill which it shot out very swiftly—almost sug-

gestive of some human gratitude. The old birds were shy and we had quite a little difficulty in getting photos of them. We arranged it, however, by setting the camera on a nest with a rock to keep it down and pulling the shutter with a long thread. The picture in this article, in which there are several old pelicans, was taken in this way. We spent several days with this interesting colony of cormorants and pelicans, collecting and taking notes and photos, all of which was done with difficulty, as the hillside on which the colony was situated was very steep and slippery from the ice-plant.

Ardea herodias. Great Blue Heron. Several seen but none taken.

Heteractitis incanus. Wandering Tattler. Several seen on South and Middle Islands.

Arenaria melanocephala. Black Turnstone. Several seen on South Island; none taken.

Hæmatopus bachmani. Black Oyster-catcher. Four seen on Middle Island; only one taken.

Lophortyx californicus vallicola. Valley Quail. I went out on the first day and took two before I discovered that there were only about forty on South Island. These specimens are very faded and worn. These birds ought not be disturbed at all.

Falco peregrinus anatum. Duck Hawk. There were three pairs on South and Middle Island, but none taken.

Aeronantes melanoleucus. White-throated Swift. Quite a number on South Island.

Selasphorus alleni. Allen Hummingbird. A hummer which I took to be of this species, I found on South Island quite common.

Corvus corax sinuatus. American Raven. Several seen on South Island.

Melospiza coronatorum. Coronado Song Sparrow. For some reason these birds are very rare and exceedingly shy. I took none, as they kept out of range. We saw a few and heard some singing.

Carpodacus mexicanus clementis. San Clemente House Finch. Very common on all three islands. Their plumage is very light, the head of the males being pale yellow instead of red.

Helminthophila celata sordida. Dusky Warbler. Several old and young seen on South Island. I found one on the ground which was too young to fly; the parent birds were flying around evidently taking care of it.

Salpinctes obsoletus. Rock Wren. Very abundant on South Island, on the hill sides. One old nest found with an addled egg. It was near camp in a natural cavity in the cliff. The wren, for some reason, was going in and out of the cavity when we discovered the nest.

Pasadena, California.

FROM FIELD AND STUDY

Nest of the Western Meadowlark.—The nest of the Western Meadowlark (*Sturnella neglecta*) shown on the next page was discovered, one morning in May as I was riding the range on the Rancho San Geronimo, by my horse nearly stepping on it, frightening the poor owner so that she "looked not upon the order of her going" but fluttered away in great haste. It happened that her temporary domicile was so placed that a slight parting of the grass in front of it would allow the rays of the early morning sun to shine directly upon the eggs. This seemed