

chance," she exclaimed, for to her, her old work would always be, as she expressed it, "the most delightful work in the world—studying bird life."

Washington, D. C., January 27, 1919.

BIRD RECORDS FROM THE SACRAMENTO VALLEY, CALIFORNIA

By ALEXANDER WETMORE

FOR MOST of the period between August 17 and October 17, 1918, I was occupied in field work in the Sacramento Valley, California, between Marysville, Maxwell and Tehama, and, though not engaged primarily in the collecting of specimens, had daily opportunity for observation of birds. Considerable areas in this region are now utilized for the culture of rice, and the heavy irrigation necessary for this crop has made a condition favorable to water haunting birds over considerable tracts that formerly were entirely dry during the summer months. Small fishes brought down in the large irrigation canals were abundant in the flooded rice fields, and attracted many Great Blue Herons, Terns, Kingfishers and others, while water boatmen and aquatic insects of similar habit drew other smaller birds. The following brief notes of occurrence are those that seem unusual or of interest. For general information on the occurrence or range of birds in this area I have referred to J. Grinnell's list of California birds (Pacific Coast Avifauna, no. 11, 1915).

Dendrocygna bicolor. Fulvous Tree-Duck. A flock of 18 observed October 12 on the property of the Sacramento Outing Club, west of Live Oak.

Sterna caspia. Caspian Tern. Individuals of this species were observed near Maxwell on August 21, and September 6, 7 and 8. On September 7 a bird, in juvenal plumage, that was resting on a levee near a road, allowed me to approach within fifteen feet without becoming alarmed. Later I heard it giving the high-pitched whistled call characteristic of young individuals of this species, a note entirely different from the harsh, raucous screams of adults.

Ixobrychus exilis exilis. Least Bittern. One was flushed from a growth of cattails in a rice field near Butte Creek, west of Gridley, on September 14.

Herodias egretta. American Egret. This species was of common occurrence in suitable localities in the rice fields and adjacent flooded areas. These herons were observed first near Maxwell on August 18. On the following day seven were seen in one flock and four in another, while solitary individuals were observed elsewhere. A flock of seven frequented one area here for two weeks. Near Butte Creek, west of Gridley, fifty were seen in one place scattered about over a rice field or in pools of water near by, the clear white of their plumage standing out in pleasing contrast against the green of the grain. Near Maxwell thirty were observed in one flock on September 8. Others were seen on Butte Creek, west of Live Oak, on September 10, and farther north in the same region, on September 15 and 17. From this time on they were less numerous. Two were noted near Maxwell on September 25, and two others seen in the same region on September 29 were the last that were observed. It would seem from these records that the Egret is increasing in number in this region. E. D. Ricketts, State Deputy Game Warden, stated that white herons breed in a rookery on the Butte Creek sloughs, so that it seems possible that these may be Egrets. Adult birds were observed on several occasions, on extensive mudflats, driving immature individuals about, harrying them with vicous thrusts of their bills, and harsh squawks, as these herons do when they have abandoned their young to their own resources in securing food: an observation, however, of uncertain value as an indication that these young had been reared in the vicinity, as all were fully grown and strong on the wing.

Egretta candidissima candidissima. Snowy Heron. One was seen in a rice field four miles east of Maxwell on August 21, and another west of Live Oak, on Butte Creek, August 24. A third bird was observed near Maxwell on September 8. In all of these cases these herons were in company with the larger Egrets.

Lobipes lobatus. Northern Phalarope. On August 18 these birds were abundant in the region east of Maxwell, and remained fairly common in pools in the rice fields in the area between Maxwell and Willows until September 8.

Ereunetes mauri. Western Sandpiper. Common near Maxwell from August 19 to October 3.

Limosa fedoa. Marbled Godwit. Seen in small numbers east of Maxwell from September 5 to 8.

Aluco pratincola. Barn Owl. A dead Barn Owl was found in a road near Maxwell on August 21, and another on October 2. Both had been killed by striking wires, rather an unusual accident with such night prowlers as these. Another Barn Owl was flushed from an oak west of Live Oak on August 24. On September 15, west of Gridley, one was seen circling low over a rice field in bright sunshine, about three in the afternoon, and another was shot in a grove. The birds were apparently fairly common in occurrence here. Grinnell (*Pac. Coast Avifauna*, no. 11, 1915, p. 69) has recorded them in the Sacramento Valley only as far north as Woodland.

Chordeiles virginianus hesperis. Pacific Nighthawk. One observed near Live Oak on August 26.

Sayornis sayus. Say Phoebe. One seen near Stonyford on October 5.

Pica nuttalli. Yellow-billed Magpie. This interesting species was common among the oaks in a narrow area near the center of the Sacramento Valley between Marysville and Tehama. It was not unusual to find them in flocks of a dozen or more. Several were taken.

Biological Survey, Washington, D. C., January 15, 1919.

NOTES FROM THE FEATHER RIVER COUNTRY AND SIERRA VALLEY, CALIFORNIA

By JOSEPH MAILLIARD

CASTING around for a profitable locality in which to pass a good portion of the spring months of 1918, the region around Blairsden, on the Feather River, Plumas County, California, seemed to combine many desirable qualities together with the additional attraction of having been little, if ever, worked over from an ornithological standpoint. On this basis of reasoning several weeks were passed in this vicinity, between Mohawk, just across the river from Blairsden, at an elevation of 4300 feet, and Johnsville, farther up in the mountains, at 5200 feet altitude. As the summer approached, the base of operations was shifted to the Sierra Valley, Sierra County, altitude 5000 feet, where stays were made at Loyalton and Campbell's Hot Springs (about a mile from Sierraville). These two places are at the edge of the open Sierra Valley, where sagebrush and pine forest meet, and not more than fifteen or twenty miles from the Nevada state line.

Nothing startling was expected from this trip, and the results were mostly only corroborative of what one would naturally anticipate finding in such localities as those visited. Yet there are a few items in my notebook that appear to be worthy of recording.

Chaetura vauxi. Vaux Swift. Noted at Campbell's Hot Springs, one and a half