

Robin Carrying Water to Young.—On July 15, 1926, I noticed a Western Robin (*Planesticus migratorius propinquus*) standing on a water pan which was placed beneath a dripping faucet. The bird's mouth was held wide open, for the day was over 100 degrees in the shade. It took a few swallows of water, then suddenly dipped its beak in the water and flew up into an acacia tree nearby. There its nest was situated, containing young robins. It didn't pause in its flight but flew straight to the nest, and I believe that it was carrying water to its young. It made repeated trips from the nest to the water pan, always flying rapidly and straight to the nest. However, on returning to the water it flew more slowly.—JAMES L. ORTEGA, Yountville, California, July 17, 1926.

Exhaustion of Migrating Sea Birds.—The hazardous life to which pelagic birds are subjected in their great flights over the high seas has been brought forcibly to my attention in recent observations of Pacific Fulmars (*Fulmarus glacialis glupischa*) and Pacific Loons (*Gavia pacifica*). On a number of occasions last fall and winter, while collecting sea birds off Point Loma for the Natural History Museum, I saw fulmars scattered over the water sound asleep. They were so very sluggish and dull that I could run up alongside of them in the motor boat, and it was only after being disturbed several times that they would fly to any distance. My first thought was that the birds were gorged with food, but specimens of both light and dark color phases taken November 29, 1925, December 6, 1925, and January 1, 1926, proved to be exceedingly thin and emaciated. When skinned at the Museum, the usual layer of fat was found to be absent and the stomachs were absolutely empty. On March 22, 1926, two fulmars were observed ravenously attacking the body of a dead Rhinoceros Auklet (*Cerorhinca monocerata*) floating on the water. On the same day, to prove the closeness of approach that the birds would permit, two sleeping fulmars were captured alive in a dip net. They were very thin and eagerly ate some fragments of fish pressed from the crops of cormorants I had collected. These two birds were given to the San Diego Zoo, but they did not live.

Later in the season, a similar exhaustion was observed in the case of Pacific Loons on their northward migration. Specimens taken between April 22 and May 11 were altogether free of the fatness one ordinarily associates with sea birds. During this period Pacific Loons were more abundant in San Diego Harbor than I have ever seen them; they also entered Mission Bay in numbers. About the dock of the San Diego Yacht Club at Roseville, on April 25, some of the swimming loons were apparently without strength to hold up their heads. Their necks would droop forward until their bills were submerged, only to be feebly raised from time to time. Individuals that had died were floating on the water. For a distance of about three miles on the Coronado Strand, along which I walked on April 22, dead Pacific Loons were lying on the beach at intervals of only a few yards. Other loons were still alive at the edge of the surf, but were so feeble that they could be picked up in the hands.—JOSEPH W. SEFTON, JR., San Diego Society of Natural History, San Diego, California, June 21, 1926.

Some Notes on the Cliff Swallow.—On May 22 and 24, 1926, Mr. James A. Calder and myself banded a number of nestling Cliff Swallows (*Petrochelidon lunifrons lunifrons*) in a colony that had their nests about the top of an empty wooden silo on the Cady ranch west of Buena Park. Some of these birds were ready to leave the nest, and, when replaced after banding, would scramble out again and launch themselves into the air for their first flight. Their powers of flight are really remarkable; a little uncertain at first, they seemed to gain strength and confidence as they went, and, followed and encouraged by a small group of adults, they stayed in the air a long time before seeking rest on a barn roof or some other broad surface. On the 24th, when I returned home, I observed one of these young birds, still in the air, with flight that was scarcely to be distinguished from that of the adults that flew about it, although it was at least an hour since it had left the nest, and it was about half a mile away from the colony. The next morning early, one of these birds was on the ground in an open shed at my place, where it had evidently spent the night. When I approached, it flew up and away, apparently well able to take care of itself.

On May 27, I was banding nestlings in another colony, on the McNeil place about half a mile away from the Cady colony. I had banded four well grown young from one nest, and was about to put them back, when I saw that there was another one in

the nest. On taking the fifth bird out, I found that it was no. A52737 that we had banded at the Cady colony on the 22nd. It seemed to be none the worse for its change of residence and when released flew out of the barn and away. A few minutes later a bird with a band flew in and lit on a timber nearby. Thinking it might be the same bird, I caught it and found that it was no. A52734, also banded at the Cady colony on the 22nd.

Are such interchanges of birds between colonies a common thing with Cliff Swallows?—JOHN MCB. ROBERTSON, *Buena Park, California, June 9, 1926.*

Has the Cowbird Come to Stay?—The advent of the Cowbird (*Molothrus ater obscurus*) into the Bay Region of western middle California was recently announced by La Jeunesse (Condor, xxv, 1923, p. 31). Having been, years ago in Indiana, much interested in the Cowbird's relations to the nesting of other birds, I decided to seek out the locality of La Jeunesse's finds, with the hope of paralleling his experiences. Acting upon this decision, I visited Irvington on June 16, 1923, and, presumably, located the "bird haunt" of his Cowbirds. My enthusiasm ran high as I approached this avian rendezvous and I saw Cowbirds galore in the numerous young Brewer and Bi-colored Blackbirds that were noisily aggregated into flocks at this date. Plunging into the brush, I soon had listed thirty-three nests, twelve of which were those of the Willow Goldfinch; but not one "vagabond" egg was found by me, nor a nestling that I felt free to call a Cowbird. Also my flocks of young and adult blackbirds, observed more carefully, failed to produce a real *Molothrus*.

This locality was not visited by me in 1924; but in 1925 visits were made on April 11 and June 26—and what a change cattle and axes can quickly make in a once delightful bird haunt! Results: few birds, few nests, no Cowbirds.

June 13, 1925, was spent along Coyote Creek, near San Jose. Twenty-one nests (not including Cliff Swallows') were noted, the third found being a nest of the Pileolated Warbler with two young, one fully twice as large as the other; suggesting, at once, "those early days" in Indiana. On my way home from Irvington, June 26, I dropped in to take another look at the occupants of this San Jose nest; but same was empty and deserted. However, just across the creek was found another warbler nest containing an egg which the builder had not placed there. I promptly retreated, returning on June 29, and then collected my first Cowbird egg in California, no warbler eggs having been added.

The present season, 1926, has now yielded its returns. These, briefly summed up, are as follows: Nest 290, Yellow-throat (*Geothlypis trichas*, subsp.?), two eggs of owner plus one of Cowbird, female flushed, one foot up in bur-reed (*Sparganium*, sp.), June 25, Guadalupe Creek; nest 367, Pileolated Warbler, two eggs of owner plus one of Cowbird, deserted, as indicated by eggs concealed by fallen leaves, three feet up in dead elderberry bush in box elder thicket, June 30, Coyote Creek; nest 369, Russet-backed Thrush, female sitting on two of her own eggs and one of Cowbird, six feet up in box elder, June 30, Coyote Creek; nest 375, Traill Flycatcher, one egg each of builder and parasite, deserted, fourteen feet up in box elder, July 3, Guadalupe Creek.

The two eggs from the Coyote are very much alike and one might surmise that one female Cowbird laid both. Likewise the two eggs from the Guadalupe are nearly "twins", but very different from the two from the Coyote. Surely a different female was responsible for their origin. Although on the watch for adult male and female Cowbirds, I have yet to see the first one.—CHARLES PIPER SMITH, *San Jose, California, July 5, 1926.*

The Ferruginous Rough-leg Nesting in Oregon.—Although the beautiful Ferruginous Rough-leg (*Archibuteo ferrugineus*) has long been known as a fairly frequent fall and spring migrant, it was not until the spring of 1926 that the species was definitely found to nest within this state. The first nest was located late in March by R. T. Jackson while engaged in running a coyote trap-line in central Morrow County about fifteen miles south of the town of Boardman. This is all an open, sandy, sage-brush country, mostly level and covered with a sparse growth of sage-brush, kunzia brush, and other desert plants, with here and there isolated junipers of small to medium size.

This nest was visited by the writer on April 9, 1926, when it contained four beautifully marked eggs. The bulky nest was built on the top of a lone juniper, about seven feet above the ground, and could plainly be seen from a considerable distance. Both