

perceiving the difference between the picture and the real thing. It practically, if not actually, hit the billboard before discovering its mistake, then flew to a nearby perch, a surprised and enlightened bird.—WM. E. SHERWOOD, *Trail, Oregon, February 7, 1927.*

Western Robin Nesting at Napa.—I was very much interested in Mr. Storer's article in the November *Condor* on "Range Extensions by the Western Robin in California", and his accurate deductions as to robins seen at Napa on August 27, 1922. Robins have nested on my two-acre residence in the heart of Napa for at least twelve years. I find entry in my notes of a brood hatching on my place on May 22, 1916. This date agrees with the known dates of nesting in San Francisco.

Mr. Frank A. Leach, a pioneer resident of Napa Valley, and a member of the Cooper Club, tells me that there were no robins in Napa Valley in the old days. The Western Martin, now non-resident, was, however, very common, and nearly every settler put up a box or a keg on a pole as an invitation to nest.—E. L. BICKFORD, *Napa, California, March 17, 1927.*

Most Southerly Breeding Record of Wilson Snipe in California.—My friend the late Judge Edward Wall reported the Wilson Snipe (*Gallinago delicata*) as being a breeding bird of San Bernardino, California (*Condor*, XXI, 1919, p. 207). I talked with him concerning this record and was told of the pasture where he found the eggs mentioned in the article. While I did not question the identification, I could not understand why I had not, in about thirty years of collecting, found any nests of Wilson Snipe or seen any eggs claimed to have been taken by other collectors in the San Bernardino Valley. I had come to the conclusion that the Wilson Snipe had either stopped nesting here or was a rare and erratic breeding bird. It is thus with considerable pleasure that I am now able to confirm the report that the Wilson Snipe does nest in the San Bernardino Valley.

My friend, Mr. George M. Archibald, a well known hunter of Colton, flushed a Wilson Snipe while walking across a damp pasture in East Colton on April 26, 1926. After a short search he found the nest, containing three eggs, in the deep grass. The pasture was similar to the one where Judge Wall did his collecting, and, as it is several miles farther south, this set must now be considered as providing the most southerly breeding record for the Wilson Snipe in California. I found these eggs to be fresh, and it is possible that the set was not complete. They are typical and the weights in grams were 15.40, 15.13, and 15.00. The set is now no. 2370 in my oological collection.—WILSON C. HANNA, *Colton, California, January 20, 1927.*

The Ancient Murrelet at San Diego, with a Note on the Behavior of Brown Pelicans.—Since the only reference I can find of the Ancient Murrelet (*Synthliboramphus antiquus*) in the vicinity of San Diego is that of a dead bird washed up at Pacific Beach on April 25, 1904 (*Bishop, Condor*, VII, 1905, p. 141), it may be well to record that on the morning of November 11, 1926, I secured three of these birds, which are now in the collection of the San Diego Society of Natural History. They were taken at sea a short distance from Point Loma.

At the time, the ocean was calm and immense schools of young smelts, evidently driven to the surface by larger fish that were feeding upon them, were attracting a great number of birds, both in the air and on the water in the immediate vicinity. Upon investigation, I found California Brown Pelicans, Western, California and Heermann gulls, Black-vented Shearwaters, and Brandt and Farallon cormorants, all in a wild scramble feeding upon the fish as they neared the surface or broke water. So intent were the birds upon their feeding, that I was able to drive my boat in among the crowd until the wash from the bow would heave them to one side before they would fly.

The most interesting feature of the situation was the action of the California Brown Pelicans (*Pelecanus californicus*) in safeguarding their catch from the Heermann Gulls (*Larus heermanni*). The gulls and shearwaters seemed to be the only birds that deliberately took advantage of the better fishing equipment of the pelicans. When a half dozen pelicans had their pouches full of fish, they would form a close

circle, with their heads almost touching in the center. The gulls and shearwaters, with excited cries and much flapping of wings, would fly over, crawl over and dive under the stolid pelicans. Whenever a pelican wished to swallow his catch, he would suddenly stick his head under water, leaving only the afterpart of his body and legs above the surface, and would, apparently, swallow the fish in that position. The moment a pelican upended, the excitement among the other birds doubled and trebled, while they fought among themselves to get the fish that evidently slipped from the pelican's pouch the moment he opened his bill. The pelicans, however, seemed able to retain the bulk of their catch, for, after a while, apparently satisfied, they would rise slowly and go to fishing again. When they had collected another pouch full, the same performance would be repeated. The whole thing was most amusing, and the excitement of the birds was so great that I was able to lie within fifteen or twenty feet of them during the entire performance.—J. W. SEFTON, JR., *San Diego Society of Natural History, Balboa Park, San Diego, California, January 21, 1927.*

Valley Quail Imported from Chile.—Perhaps no other American game bird has been so successfully acclimatized in other countries as has the California Valley Quail (*Lophortyx californica*). For many years it has been known that this bird had been successfully introduced in such remote regions as British Columbia, Chile, and New Zealand, and now there has come to hand some interesting information as to the magnitude of the success attained in one of these places. Mr. F. E. Booth, of San Francisco, while on a visit to Santiago, Chile, noted Valley Quail for sale in the market there. On inquiry he learned that they were abundant enough to be obtained in quantity, and as a consequence he has begun the importation of stock from Chile for introduction into coverts on a game preserve in Sonoma County. The first shipment arrived during the early part of January, 1927, consisting of 134 birds, which reached their destination in good condition. Thus, depleted game coverts in California are being re-stocked with Chilean-raised California Quail.

Mr. Booth's importation of birds received newspaper publicity, and as an outcome of this there resulted some information regarding the early exportation of quail from California to Chile that seems worth placing upon record. The newspaper item was seen by Mr. E. F. Greenwood, of San Francisco, who wrote to me, giving information substantially as follows:

"My wife, a Chilean, is a grand-daughter of one William Govers, formerly of California and before that of Holland, who had a ranch near San Jose. He decided to migrate to Chile about 1864. Being a thrifty Hollander he took many things with him, including a brace of quail which he had captured on his ranch. When he arrived in Chile there were no quail in that country, and his birds, exhibited in a store window, were quite a novelty. He bought a ranch at Limache, near Valparaiso, and had his birds there for some time. Then, while feeding them one day, their cage tipped over and they escaped. This is the reason for the abundance of quail in Chile."

A second letter, from Mr. Henry J. Besant, Sonora, California, received by one of the daily papers and forwarded to me, reads thus: "I was in Chile with Mr. C. J. Lambert, who had a copper mine and smelter at La Compania, near Serena, Province of Coquimbo. In the park in which he had his residence at La Compania he released a lot of quail which he had had sent down from San Francisco. The climate and other conditions evidently being favorable, they increased in numbers rapidly and spread out over the country. I cannot now remember the exact date when this was done, but I think it must have been in 1881 or 1882."

It is possible, of course, that these were not the only importations of quail into Chile, but here, at any rate, is definite information as to the exact subspecies first introduced there, information to be taken into account in any study of the characters now exhibited by Chilean Valley Quail.—H. S. SWARTH, *Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, Berkeley, California, February 9, 1927.*

Status of the Yellow-legs in Arizona.¹—Recently, while occupied with the preparation of the distribution and migration sections for A. C. Bent's forthcoming volume on the Life Histories of North American Shorebirds, I was surprised to learn that there was available no authentic published record of the occurrence of the Yellow-legs (*Totanus flavipes*) in the State of Arizona.

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