

FROM FIELD AND STUDY

Maggie Spends Winter at Florence Lake.—It was in October of 1931 that I saw, for the first time, an American Magpie (*Pica pica hudsonia*). For three days a bird stayed in a grove of trees just back of our home, here at Florence Lake, Big Creek, California. Often during the spring and autumn months I see birds that one does not expect to see in this vicinity. I list them as "migrants", for future reference, but do not become unduly excited over their visits. So, when this same fellow, or another of its kind, appeared on October 1, 1932, it never occurred to me that it would remain for any length of time. But all during that month I would no more than write down, "date last seen," than the bird would reappear. During the latter part of October and fore part of November there was a period of about two weeks that we did not see the magpie at all. Some of its longer tail feathers were missing so that we were able to know it was the same individual that was here, off and on.

At this time our coyotes, that had become partially tame the previous winter, began coming irregularly for our hand-outs. By the middle of November they again came daily. And with them came Skäta (Swedish for magpie). The moment the "pups" came running in response to our call, Skäta came winging from the same direction. As we tossed the food, the bird would land near and try to pick it up before the coyotes reached it.

Sometimes Skäta succeeded and it was amusing to watch the bird doing its best to fly with a piece that was all but too large for it to handle. Often the piece of food proved too unwieldy and before the bird could again pick it up one of the pups would grab it. Other times Skäta managed to flounder with the food to a tree, there to eat in peace.

All winter it was nip and tuck between the coyotes and the magpie. If the former were the winners, Skäta would follow one or the other to their favorite feeding spots. There the bird would alight on the snow a few feet away and await its chance to make a dash for a bite. More often it followed Tom and frequently was less than a foot from this coyote's nose.

None of the coyotes offered to harm the magpie, though Dick and Nelly would chase it away if it came too close, while Tom did not seem to mind in the least sharing his food with his feathered friend.

Incidentally, after observing our coyotes these two years, we have serious doubts that they are enemies, to any great extent, of bird life. Our nutcrackers, Blue-fronted Jays, juncos, Brewer and Red-winged blackbirds settle on the coyotes' feeding ground to pick up crumbs. Not yet has a coyote shown the least intention or desire of killing them. The birds feed all about and among them quite unconcernedly. Surely coyotes never had a better chance to dine off birds than ours have on their feeding ground here. I am sure a dog would be more apt to harm the birds if they attempted to take its food away.

For some reason or other the magpie preferred dining with the coyotes rather than its own feathered folk. The bird tables and suet posts, provided with about the same kind of food given pups, are on the opposite side of the house from the space where we have trained the coyotes to come for their food. The coyotes never come to the birds' side. Less than a dozen times did Skäta come there for food, and then only on the mornings when it was storming so hard that the pups did not move about.

When the coyotes finished and went off over the hill, Skäta would fly after them. We wondered if the bird also got a share of the natural food which they obtained.

March third we saw the magpie for the last time and we feel certain that it then returned to its true home. Because of its being near the house when the coyotes were, we were unable to trap and band it.—LILA M. LOFBERG, *Florence Lake, Big Creek, California, April 20, 1933.*

Records of some Birds New to the Mexican State of Sonora.—In 1931 Mr. J. T. Wright made a small collection of about three hundred skins while traveling through Sonora, most of which were later purchased by Dr. L. B. Bishop, although a few were otherwise disposed of. The present writer worked at several mainland points between Guaymas and Tepopa Bay in late December, 1931, and early January, 1932, and finally Mr. Chester Lamb took a few specimens in the central part of the state in the winter of 1932-1933. These collections contain many valuable data on distribution and have