

## FROM FIELD AND STUDY

**Avocets Nesting on San Pablo Bay Marsh.**—On May 12, 1934, I took a "nature study hike" with Rev. E. W. Houlding of Benicia, California, driving to the western end of Island No. 1, which lies northwest of Mare Island, where a friend, Chester Curtis, is keeper of a gun club. The club grounds, partly in Solano County and partly in Napa County, lie between the Sears-Point highway, which traverses this island for its eight miles of length, and the Napa Slough.

Mr. Curtis had spoken to me on several occasions, when he visited and shopped in Benicia, regarding a flock of some ten or twelve "white pelicans" which he was of the opinion were nesting just outside of his grounds. He advised that he had seen "young pelicans flying over," and that the flock always returned to, and settled down on, a certain portion of the marsh adjoining his club on the east.

Though we found no evidence that the pelicans were nesting, or had nested, we observed while we waded in the marsh a couple of pairs of American Avocets (*Recurvirostra americana*). As we approached one of the small, grassy islands in the marsh, these avocets vociferously resented our trespassing. I had had experience in the Los Baños marshes with nesting avocets, and a little search disclosed two nests on this island of not over two square rods in extent. Parts of egg shells showed that the eggs had already hatched. Some six feet from one of the nests I located one avocet chick which I estimated was not over two or three days old. It made little or no attempt to get away from us, and I had no trouble in taking the accompanying photo (fig. 50). We noted that the legs seemed rather large for the size of the bird, but when I placed it in the water, the little fellow put these large legs to good use and swam rapidly to the edge of another small island (fig. 51).



Fig. 50. Avocet chick on San Pablo Bay marsh, May 12, 1934.

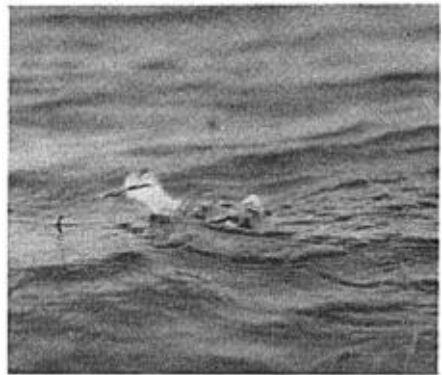


Fig. 51. Avocet chick swimming. San Pablo Bay marsh, May 12, 1934.

I looked for nesting avocets again in this section in April of 1935 and 1936 without success, there being no birds about except migrants in flocks. Mr. Curtis lets water into his grounds at certain periods and is of the opinion that the land was not flooded early enough to attract them to breed there during these years. They are common during migrations in this area. The "Directory to the Bird-life of the San Francisco Bay Region" by Grinnell and Wythe does not record that the avocet has been found nesting in the San Francisco Bay region.—EMERSON A. STONER, *Benicia, California, September 2, 1936.*

**The Black Vulture in Colorado—a Correction.**—The collecting of a Black Vulture, *Coryvus atratus atratus*, near Boulder, Colorado, was reported in the Condor in 1922 (vol. 24, p. 26). A recent study of Boulder County specimens in the University of Colorado Museum by Mrs. Charles Moore, then a student in the University, suggested to her that the specimen, which is no. 1426 in the bird series, is a juvenal Turkey Vulture rather than a Black Vulture. Further examination by the undersigned bears out this view. With the endorsement of Professor Junius Henderson, who published the original report, I am, therefore, making this correction. The record should be disregarded, and the species removed from the list of Colorado birds, as its presence on the list was