

## FROM FIELD AND STUDY

**The Emperor Goose on Carmel Bay, California.**—On December 29, 1945, I saw an Emperor Goose (*Philacte canagica*) standing on a low rock (a part of Pescadero Rock of the U.S.G.S. maps) at the north end of Carmel Bay, California. The bird was squatting and preening and, although at long range, it afforded an excellent opportunity in good light to observe, with the aid of a prismatic telescope, the white head and hind-neck, the black throat, the "scaled" upperparts, and the yellow legs.

The presence of this bird in the region was first brought to my attention by Mrs. Wilma Cook, of Carmel, who first saw it on the beach at Carmel on December 28. At that time it was standing among some Heermann Gulls (*Larus heermanni*) and allowed Mrs. Cook to approach closely. The bird was noted by the members of the Monterey Peninsula Audubon Society, including the writer, at the time of the Christmas bird count for Audubon Magazine on December 30.

On January 8, 1946, the goose was seen again, but this time on the water. It was observed pecking vigorously at the tubes and heads of slimy kelp floating on the water. After half an hour it took off, flew low over the water for 300 yards with rapid beats of its somewhat short wings and re- alighted among other growing kelp heads.

On January 11 the goose was once more located on Pescadero Rock. This time there were five Brant (*Branta bernicla*) on the rock also. The Brant were nibbling at marine vegetation exposed by the low tide, but the goose remained in a sleeping posture. Soon the Brant took flight to the water and browsed at kelp heads as the Emperor Goose had on January 8. I could see the Brant pulling off stringy bits of the growth. After a while the Emperor Goose walked down the rock among some Glaucous-winged Gulls (*Larus glaucescens*) which gave way at its approach. The goose disappeared behind a rise of rock and was rediscovered 22 minutes later preening on another part of the rock while the Brant continued to feed, not far away.

In "The Distributional List of the Birds of California" (Pac. Coast Avif. No. 27, 1944:69), Grinnell and Miller give the geographic range of the Emperor Goose in California as "Northwest coastline and great valleys south to Merced County" and cite a record by Bryant for December, 1912, at Ingomar. The present record would then seem to be the most southerly definite occurrence for the species in the state. The salt water habitat in which I found the bird is of interest also as Grinnell and Miller state (*op. cit.*:70): "Occurrences here [in the state] chiefly in fresh-water areas, and where also winter most of our other geese, those which are non-maritime. This is surprising, because the Emperor Goose in its main wintering area far to the northwest appears to be restricted almost exclusively to the salt-water littoral. However, a fair number has been reported from maritime habitat at Humboldt Bay." —LIDLAW WILLIAMS, *Carmel, California, February 20, 1946.*

**Indigo Buntings Breeding in Arizona.**—Although there have been several records of the Indigo Bunting (*Passerina cyanea*) in Arizona, the birds have generally been considered to be casual visitors. The normal range is, of course, far to the east. At the western edge of this range, on the plains, occasional hybrids with the Lazuli Bunting (*Passerina amoena*) have been reported. It was thus quite unexpected to find evidence that the Indigo Bunting was breeding, apparently in pure strain, in north-central Arizona.

We observed Indigo Buntings at Manzanita Forestry Camp in Oak Creek Canyon, 26 miles south of Flagstaff on U. S. highway alternate 89, from July 4 to August 8, 1944. They were found in an apple orchard on one side of the road and in native trees and shrubs along the road. The trees here are yellow and piñon pines, four species of oaks, smooth cypress, three species of juniper, and an alder; a hundred feet below, along the creek, are willows and aspens. The shrubs include *Ceanothus*, scrub oak, sumac, and two species of manzanita.

We first saw an Indigo Bunting on July 4, when a male was noted singing from a juniper, at a bench mark elevation of 4875 feet. Later we saw this bird whenever we were in that vicinity; usually it sang from a conspicuous bough of an apple tree near the road. With field glasses we easily made out the purplish blue head and throat, lighter blue body, black lores and tail, and solidly dark wings, without wing bars. There was a Lazuli Bunting a short distance upstream, and the two could not be confused. We are also familiar with the Blue Grosbeak (*Guiraca caerulea*), which we saw daily near Prescott, Arizona, from May 11 to 22, 1944.

The female Indigo Bunting was not seen until July 23, when the young came off the nest. The nest was not seen, but the fuzzy brownish fledglings appeared that morning, and both parents were much excited about them. The male hopped excitedly about one of the fledglings on a low branch of a walnut tree near us. The female fed a second fledgling in a near-by shrub. Another was discovered low in an apple tree. We watched it sit perfectly still for more than twenty minutes, and we wondered