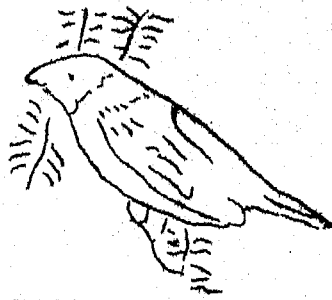


THE WESTERN



TANAGER

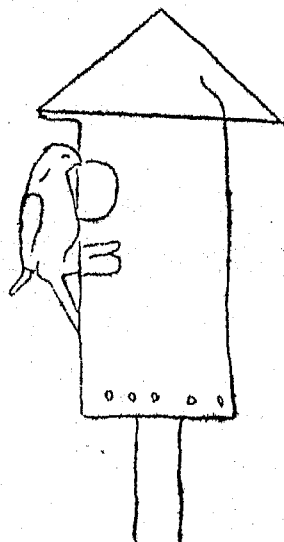
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NEST ARCHITECTURE

-Grace S. Hall-



Nest building usually takes place from March through June or July, with two broods.

The materials used and the location of the nests vary greatly with the individuals and the surroundings. Young birds build poorer homes and lack judgment in placing them--sometimes choosing exposed locations--but they soon benefit from their mistakes. An amusing incident was observed when two Arkansas Kingbirds worked vigorously to make some light sticks, string and a piece of cotton stay on the top of a tall pole, instead of selecting the usual Eucalyptus or Cottonwood habitat. The wind was blowing, but these stupid tyrants replaced the articles several times.

Nests are of many styles. There are palaces and shanties, gourd-shaped and hanging baskets, eggs in burrows or tunnels, a few shells in a foot-print or no nest at all.

The Plain Titmouse, Woodpecker, Bluebirds, and a few others, hide themselves in the hole of a tree and lay their eggs on twigs or some soft material.

Dainty nests decorated with flowers and bright-colored leaves may belong to Willow Goldfinches.

Poorly made nests, sometimes so thin that one may stand underneath and count the eggs, may be the nests of Doves or Black-headed Grosbeaks.

In the mountains we find the Western Robins nesting in conifers in shapely bowls made of mud, grasses, string and leaves.

Meadowlarks nest in pastures in thick grass or weeds, the nest overarched with dried grasses for protection from Hawks.

Quail, Horned Larks, and many Sparrows, are ground-nesters.

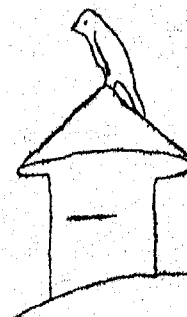
The green moss houses of Ouzels may be found fastened to rock-ledges close to water-falls.

The Arizona Hooded Orioles are expert tailors. They collect threads from the Washington Filifera and sew a pocket nest on the underside of a palm leaf, while the Bullock Oriole, in contrast to the other, builds a pup-shaped, or "pendant pouch" of "elaborately interwoven" grasses, string, etc., hung high on outer limbs of Sycanores or Cottonwoods.

As dainty as the bird itself is the nest of the Anna Hummingbird, which has been found during every month in the year. A firm little cup, less than an inch across, it is constructed of plant-down and held together by spider webs and saliva. Heavily covered with lichens, it is so well disguised that it may easily be overlooked even within a few feet.

The Coast Bushtit is a real "artist, architect and decorator." Its "pendulous pouch" is nearly a foot in length (or less), and about five inches in diameter at the widest point, with a small hole on the side near the top. It is hung in oak, elder or pepper trees, and sometimes in bushes. This feathered midget

(Cont. on page 23)



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QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

If you can answer any of the following questions, let us hear from you. Or maybe you would like to know something. If so, perhaps another Audubonite can tell you. Let us make this column a real source of information:

Q. What is the correct plural for "titmouse?" "Titmouses," though grammatically correct, sounds silly. I have heard many use "titmice," which sounds wrong as it is not the "mouse" that is plural. Why not "titmouse," just as the plural of "deer" and "sheep" is the same as the singular form?

Q. Is there an authorized distinction between a dove and a pigeon?

Q. Where do birds go to die? Do they have a secret happy hunting ground? Whenever we see a dead bird it is usually one that has met with an accident.

Q. Which birds travel the farthest from season to season?

Q. What bird is the most prolific?

LOS ANGELES AUDUBON SOCIETY

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- Librarian.....Miss Jennie Winchester
- Auditor.....Miss Ruth Spencler

The Los Angeles Audubon Society has regular meetings on the first and third Thursday of each month--the first being a field trip, and the next a program meeting which is held in the State Building at Exposition Park at two o'clock in the afternoon.

Dues for annual membership in the Society are \$1 per year, with life membership \$10, and Patron \$100.

If you are interested in studying and protecting your feathered friends, won't you identify yourself with us?

CAL - N - DAR

March 7 - Field trip. Meet at the land end of the pier at Playa Del Rey at 9:30 a. m. Bring your field glasses, a notebook and a pocket lunch. Let's study the water birds.

14 - Board meeting. At Mrs. Fargo's. 1 p. m.

21 - Program meeting in the State Building at Exposition Park at 2:00 p. m. Mrs. P. R. Shearer, member of the California Audubon Society, Nature Club, etc., will be the speaker. She will give a talk on "Bird Architecture," bringing with her the

exhibit used at Bullock's during the month of January. Mrs. Shearer will give her interesting experiences and study of the birds of the San Jacinto mountains, telling of their migratory habits in this locality. Says Mrs. E. E. Cobb, Chairman of the day, "Mrs. Shearer is a woman of very fine personality and an interesting speaker. She will give us a very interesting and educational talk." Mrs. Ruby Fruth will whistle.

MARCH						
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3	4	5	6	(7)	8	9
10	11	12	13	(14)	15	16
17	18	19	20	(21)	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

DID YOU KNOW THAT

A female Arizona hooded oriole was seen at 617 North June Street, Hollywood, by Mrs. Edwards, on February 17, 1935.

On the rivers of China, flocks of ducks--sometimes as many as a hundred--often take their owner to market. He sits in his sizable rowboat while the ducks, tied to the craft, tow him up the stream. (From Reader's Digest, quoting Colliers)

THE BIRD CENSUS



The National Association of Audubon Societies, in its January-February issue of Bird Lore, printed 171 Census lists, 6 of which were from Canadian provinces, with the remaining 165 from different districts in 44 of our states.

Bird Lore says: "Southern California again shows that it has superior attractions for bird students by sending a list of 170 species, 20,325 individuals, from Santa Monica." This was the work of the Los Angeles Audubon Society in the Santa Monica Bay District.

Mrs. James H. Brennan, Chairman of the Census work in the Los Angeles Society, when commenting upon the Census reports, had the following to say: "San Diego listed 118 species, among which were the following 13 that the Los Angeles Audubon Society did not list: White Pelican, Louisiana Heron, Western Pigeon Hawk, Golden Eagle, Sora Rail, Ruddy Turnstone, Vermillion Flycatcher, Sage Thrasher, Mountain Bluebird, Cedar Waxwing, Phainopepla, Dwarf Cowbird and Bell Sparrow. Santa Barbara listed 133 species, among which were the following 12 that Los Angeles did not list: White Pelican, Baird's Cormorant, Red-bellied Hawk, Western Pigeon Hawk, Sora Rail, Mountain Quail, Band-tailed Pigeon, Cabanas' Woodpecker, Cedar Waxwing, Northern Pine Siskin, Nuttall's Sparrow and Thick-billed Fox Sparrow." "Now notice," says Mrs. Brennan, "that San Diego listed 9 that Santa Barbara did not; that Santa Barbara listed 8 that San Diego did not; and that the two together listed 17 that the Los Angeles Audubon Society did not list. Therefore, there is a potential list of 17 more birds for the Los Angeles Audubon Society for another year."

THE FLOWERS OF HONOLULU

By Mrs. James W. Mabb

The most striking of all the flowers in Honolulu are the gorgeous flowering trees. Pink and golden shower Cassia, scarlet, flame-colored Poinciana, and lavender colored Jakaranda meet the eye everywhere.

Then there are the numberless colored Hibiscus that are found in every garden. I saw one growing to the second story of a stately mansion. These are prized by every one as we adore our state flower. The cream-colored, sweet-scented Ginger Bloom supplies many of the flowers for the leis which the Hawaiians weave to greet us with, as do, also, the delicate lavender "Crown Flowers," and many fragrant blossoms that can be strung on cords.

The Croton, a beautiful varicolored shrub, that has leaves not unlike our Begonia, lines the streets with low thick hedges. Poinsettia grows in great profusion.

One of the wonders of the island is the night blooming Cereus, which blooms several times a year, filling the air with its perfume. The starry flowered Jasmine is another very fragrant flower.

Most conspicuous among the trees are the Monkeypod and the Banyan. One very large tree of the latter variety is in the patio of the Moana Hotel. Some of the branches have reached down and taken root, thus supporting the immense tree under which several hundred sit on Sunday evenings to hear Hawaiian music. We were of that number twice. Also, there are Royal Palms, Coconut, Banana, Mango, and many kinds of native fruit trees.

Honolulu has a very salubrious climate, with showers nearly every day. These the Hawaiians call liquid sunshine, as the sun usually shines during the short rain. We witnessed several double-tiered rainbows at sunset. Gorgeous!

NEST ARCHITECTURE, Cont.

uses a greater variety of materials and builds the largest nest of any of our small birds. Mosses, plant-down and soft vegetable fibers are bound together by cobwebs and ornamented with lichen, dead leaves, petals, spider-egg cases, bits of tissue-paper, string, acacia and pearly-everlasting blossoms. The lining is a marvelous collection of feathers of all sizes, plant-down and cotton. The birds are always busy strengthening their beautiful home and bringing decorations or feathers even after the eggs are hatched.

GULL QUERIES

--Charlotte McK. Edwards--

It was a clear summer's day. I was alone on the upper deck of the steamer enroute from Los Angeles to San Diego. The dance music was wafted up to me as I watched our great retinue of gulls. I found myself soliloquizing, which may account for my becoming a juvenile interrogation mark.

Where have all the gulls come from? Hundreds are following and nearly all are the Californian. Gulls do not breed here along the main coastline. Why have these not gone off to the breeding grounds as a dozen or so other species have done? It is easy to distinguish the immature from the old ones. Can it be that perhaps these are the non-breeders?

Where do the gulls get their marvelous motive power? A few graceful strokes of the wings and they pass the pulsating steamer, then, turning with one grand circling sweep, they nonchalantly meet it.

How do they manage to fly against a stiff breeze with almost no wing strokes? Surely they are stream-lined to the unquestionable point of perfection.

Do they ever collide? Sweeping, swirling, ascending, diving, they accomplish every air-stunt except the "tail-spin," and yet, apparently, wing never touches wing.

Do they use telepathy to control their mass maneuvers? Only that can account for the instantaneous change of course of so many.

Who taught them to tuck their feet in their feathers so snugly? They seem to be legless until they drop them down when about to alight.

Do they see in all directions at once? Scores dive after a single fish with seemingly one impulse, although flying in all directions at that instant.

Do they ever catch a flying fish? In each instance noted, only one gull dived and pursued the fish fifty feet or more. Did those silvery wings surprise it? The pursuit flight had more the appearance of an investigation, as if impelled by --"What do you think of that!" Then the retarded upward flight, following the splash of the bird-fish, seemed to imply --"I did not want you anyway."

Why did not a single gull investigate the whale that came up to "blow?"

Does the same intermingling mass follow the steamer all the way to San Diego? If so, they must travel several times the mileage of the vessel.

Do they ever rest? Only an occasional one alights on the top of the mast pole.

Do they drink the salt water? If not, where do they get fresh water?

Is that peevish call induced by hunger or the realization of getting left every time? There seems so little food for so many voracious appetites. They literally steal out of each other's mouths. How the pelican must hate them as he sees his dinner, which he dived for and caught, carried off in the air.

Is there a single kind of food the gull will not devour? I have not seen any.

Will the swarm of graceful followers travel back to Los Angeles on the morrow?

I think we must confess, despite all "book-learning," a person must indeed be very gullible if convinced he really knows much of anything about the genus LARUS. They are truly sea-birds of mystery.

Write to THE WESTERN Tanager any personal observations which may answer some of these "Gull Queries."

LET'S HAVE THE NEWS

During the months of March and April Ye Editress will be at the Park-Mansions Apts. in Sacramento. She would like to hear from some of you who have not yet sent in material or articles for THE WESTERN Tanager. Remember, this is your bulletin. LET'S HAVE THE NEWS. Material for the April issue should be in not later than March 20.