

On the beach I found three nests containing one egg each; two nests containing two eggs each; three nests containing three eggs each; total thirty-five nests, two empty, one containing a chick, six containing one egg each, nine containing two eggs each, fifteen containing three eggs each, and one containing four eggs, and one dropped egg, — seventy-four eggs all told.

The nests on the uplands were in almost every case placed near or at the base of the scattered boulders, and on the beach on the sea weed. The colony consisted of perhaps two hundred Terns, the majority Roseates; but as the Terns on the three islands all gathered over one when walking about the island, and others are off fishing, a correct estimate is impossible. As far as I could ascertain there were no Arctics (*Sterna paradisæa*) breeding on the islands.

The whole Weepecket colony, including the three islands, had therefore forty-two nests and eighty-nine eggs on them.

In 'The Auk,' Vol. IX, 1892, page 226, in an article entitled 'Habits of the American Herring Gull (*Larus argentatus smithsonianus*) in New England,' by Mr. George H. Mackay, there is an account of a nest of the Herring Gull having been found on the middle Weepecket Island, though I believe this record may be questioned.

Through the kindness of Mr. Edward Sturtevant I was enabled to land on these islands. — REGINALD HEBER HOWE, JR., *Longwood, Mass.*

**The Nostrils of Young Cormorants.** — Acting upon a suggestion recently made by Mr. Frederic A. Lucas (*Auk*, XIII, p. 172), I examined on July 16 a very large colony of Farallone Cormorants nesting on San Martin Island, Lower California, to ascertain, if possible, at what age the nostril becomes closed.

This colony had been so often disturbed by the guano schooners that even at this late date many nests contained fresh eggs; while young birds, ranging from those but just hatched to nearly full grown, were found by thousands.

In the newly hatched young, which were blind, the nostril was a mere slit, scarcely noticeable, but those a few days old showed a well developed orifice, which exhibited no sign of closing in the largest young I could find, nearly as large as their parents, but not half fledged.

As the Cormorants were driven from their nests a horde of screaming Western Gulls, which followed us all about the island, swooped down upon the nests carrying off eggs or young, as they might happen to contain. A preference was shown for squabs but a few days old, which were instantly swallowed whole.

So great was the destruction caused by our presence that I withdrew from the nesting ground sooner than I otherwise would have done.

At some distance from the Cormorant rookery I found a three-quarters grown Western Gull endeavoring to swallow a young Cormorant that had doubtless been brought by the old Gulls from some of the nests I had but just visited. — A. W. ANTHONY, *San Diego, Cal.*



Anthony, A. W. 1897. "The Nostrils of Young Cormorants." *The Auk* 14, 205–205. <https://doi.org/10.2307/4068888>.

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