

Press Bulletin No. 7 (Aug. 8, 1922)  
For release Morning Papers Aug. 10, 1922.  
" " Evening " Aug. 10, 1922.

## SEQUOIA NATURE GUIDE SERVICE

### "VICTORY OF THE MOUNTAIN BLUEBIRD"

The MOUNTAIN BLUEBIRD stands first in the hearts of those who love the wild things of our glorious mountains.

The Bird Beauty Contest of the Sequoia National Park has come to a close. Ornithologists as well as mere bird-lovers voted in large numbers for their favorite birds, and the Nature Guide Service at Giant Forest has been overwhelmed by correspondence as well as by congratulations on this original way of determining the relative popularity of our mountain birds.

Those who voted ranged from naturalists of prominence like Dr. J. Grinnell, in charge of Museum of Vertebrate Zoology at Berkeley, and Francis Farquhar, Naturalist, San Francisco, to little children at Giant Forest whose almost illegible scrawls made it difficult to decipher their favorites.

A total of 178 votes were cast in this contest.

The Mountain Bluebird (*Sialia Arctica*) stood first with 58 votes, but was crowded close by the Tanager with 55 votes.

The order in which contesting birds were placed when votes were cast is as follows:

|                   |   |                                                                                                     |
|-------------------|---|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| MOUNTAIN BLUEBIRD | - | 58                                                                                                  |
| WESTERN TANAGER   | - | 55                                                                                                  |
| BULLOCK ORIOLE    | - | 26                                                                                                  |
| CEDAR WAXWING     | - | 21                                                                                                  |
| Miscellaneous     | - | 18 (including the Piliated Woodpecker,<br>the Robin, Evening Grosbeak,<br>Townsend Solitaire, etc.) |

The following is description of the coloring of plumage and size of the Mountain Bluebird:

ADULT MALE: Upper parts light purplish or greenish blue; under parts pale greenish blue. In winter color dulled by brownish tips to feathers above and below. ADULT FEMALE: Upper parts brownish gray; wings and tail bright blue; under parts fawn color with blue showing through. MALE: length (inches) 6.51 - 7.91; wing 4.61 - 4.81; tail 3.0 - 3.15. FEMALE: length 7.0 - 7.21; wing 4.21 - 4.31; tail 2.75 - 2.91.

The Mountain Bluebird inhabits mainly the Boreal and Arctic zones throughout the Sierras, from the Great Slave Lakes south to New Mexico, and from the western part of the plains to the Pacific.

Their food for this vicinity consists principally of pine weevil, moths, crickets, grasshoppers, ants, pine beetles, wild cherries, mistletoe and wild grapes.

This contest has stimulated enthusiasm among the amateur naturalists and has brought to the attention of the smaller children the beauties of the birds within the park.

Of course, all National Parks are sanctuaries for birds and other wild life. But, owing to the location of the Sequoia National Park and the fact that here the High Sierras approach nearest to the Imperial Valley, this park is in a specially favored situation for ornithological study. Within a mile or two of Giant Forest every life zone - 174 species - is represented, from the ~~Lower~~ Austral at 1100 feet near Alder Creek Ranger Station on the Middle Fork of the Kaweah River, to the Arctic zone on Mt. Alta (11200 feet) 9 miles from Giant Forest.

So watch for the bird with its exquisite coloring of blue which seems to blend in harmony with the skies of the heaven.

Walter Fry, In Charge  
Nature Guide Service,