

bird only in the breeding season and that the birds nest in colonies, have enabled the plume hunters to make big hauls wherever the birds nest, and they have never ceased their slaughter as long as a bird is left.

4 \*

From the best information we could get, we knew the white heron was a resident of the Klamath country and in former years had been abundant.

out

all together

In the latter part of May 1905, we set out from Portland, Oregon, to see if we could find the white heron nesting in the Klamath country. Leaving the railroad at Ashland with pack and saddle we crossed the Cascade Range through sixty miles of forest and entered the great lake district. Abandoning our horses, we took to a staunch row boat, loaded in our supply of provisions, and set out down Lost River for Tule Lake. This is a body of water about thirty miles long. After spending several days photographing and hunting through the great tule swamps on the northern border, we found no signs of herons. ///

5  
\*  
Taking photo of nest of 7 terns on old planks

We naturally didn't, <sup>find herons</sup> for later we discovered this had been the most profitable field for the market hunter in winter and for the plume hunter in summer. /

back

We were told by several hunters that this section had contained the most extensive colony of western grebe in existence. At one time there were twelve hunters' camps along the northern border and thousands of dollars worth of plumage had been shipped out each summer. The region showed it, for we saw but few grebe or terns about that locality.

6  
\*  
3

Then we set out straight across the Lake for the

peninsula, where we found <sup>this</sup> an island occupied by Farallone Cormorants. We were in hopes of finding the remnants of the colony of white herons that formerly lived in the scrub willow at the southern end of the Lake.

7\*

We had to unload at the neck of the peninsula and after an hour's hard work, portaged our boat and supplies across. We paddled on past Rattlesnake Island to Bloody Point. Here we found a large butte of red lava, burning hot in the summer sun, yet for all its dryness, a veritable garden of California poppies. (Pause)

8\*

That afternoon we made camp across from a large colony of cormorants and white pelicans. After cruising for two weeks on Tule Lake, we returned to the small town of Merrill on Lost River, loaded our boat into a wagon and hauled it to White Lake, a small body of water that empties into the Lower Klamath at the southern end.

9\*

Although we had not seen a white heron on Tule Lake, we hoped to find a few left on the Lower Klamath. The Lower Klamath is very different from the south end of Tule Lake. We struck a veritable jungle, tules growing in an impenetrable mass from ten to fifteen feet high, and after one enters the mass he cannot get to where he can look out above the tops of the reeds to see where he is going.

out

Extending for several miles out from the main shore is a seemingly endless area of floating tule islands between which flows a network of channels. Some of these islands have

fairly firm floating foundations, but it is like walking on the crust of the snow, for you never know when you will break through. These precarious footholds were the only camping spots we had during the two weeks we cruised the Lower Klamath.

10 x

These were days full of hardship. The Lake is about twenty miles long by twelve miles wide, and a great mass of tules about the edge prevent one from reaching the shore. The water of the Lake is unfit to drink because it is full of sediment and strong with alkali. The only fuel we had was the little we could carry in the boat.

11 x

We found many large bird colonies such as this one composed of young pelicans. These are all young almost full grown birds, but unable to fly. All the old birds left the colony at our approach.

12 x

The next morning Bohlman and I went down to the lower end of the pelican colony and started a photograph gallery. It took like wild fire among the natives, for they seemed greatly pleased, that is, the young pelicans seemed to enjoy the novelty, but the parents refused to come around. Of course, we had chances on a thousand different subjects, but only selected the very brightest and best looking of the children to photograph.

13 x

In order to study wild birds at home, it is necessary to have some way of concealment. This is often accomplished by hiding the camera and concealing it carefully with leaves or green branches, and by attaching a long thread to the shutter which may be released at quite a distance. In other places we must have a method of concealing camera and photographer. To overcome this difficulty, we had a blind

14 x