

Bird Cities on Islands of Great Salt Lake

Visit to Some of the Places Yachting and Launch Parties May Find Delight in Stopping at When Water Traffic Increases—Where Gulls and Pelicans Make Their Homes.

A LIVELY sense of beauty is one of the first evidences that a person is rising above his bread and butter state and beginning to live in the broader world of kinship with nature and nature's creations.

For communities the rule still holds, and it is not until an awakening public sentiment speaks for the protection of such natural advantages for the enjoyment of recreation as are found near a community, that it can be classed as beyond its pioneer state.

Near Salt Lake there is much of natural beauty that goes begging for recognition, so busy has the city been establishing itself, and its people learning to do the work before them rather than find the pleasures of rest that abound. What is out in Great Salt Lake to love and to enjoy is a secret locked in the breast of a few adventurous poets and artists of whom Alfred Lambourne naturally takes rank as leader. What impression the great salt waves lifting their heavy heads over Stansbury reefs, and the beautiful White Rock bay lying serene through every storm, made upon the veteran Utah artist has been recorded both on canvas and in prose, and is expected soon to be available from the printer's.

SAILING ON THE LAKE.

But what Salt Lakeers can practically make of the lake, as a place of recreation, is still to be determined. This year a new steam launch caters to traffic seeking an hour's ride westward from Saltair, and an occasional launch trip has been successful in reaching White Rock bay for a pleasant luncheon. And here it should be said that the little sailing yacht, yawl rigged, of A. O. Troganiza, seems a pioneer in a field that could stand many competitors. Sailing on the lake has been magnified in its list of terrors because of the fact that landsmen, who seek the earth in a storm, instead of seamen who head away from lee shores, have had most of the navigating to do, and the fighting of bad weather.

PORTS IN A STORM.

There is hardly a position on the lake from which a speedy run to cover cannot be made if a storm threatens. While the great waves pitch their wind-combed heads north of Stansbury in the deep lake channel, there is always absolute safety in a 15-minute run even under reefed canvas, to the Antelope breakwater, for a great reef runs south from this island, and while the waves sometimes dash 60 and 70 feet high on striking it, they have no force to the eastward and as the island itself breaks the northwest wind, there is refuge here for every brand of bad weather. What the pioneers in sailing the lake have to do is to overcome the natural fear of landsmen from what is strange to them and unknown, and then small craft may be expected to be one of the regular attractions dotting the horizon westward from the pavilion.

ANCIENT INHABITANTS.

It was the writer's privilege to be one of a company which this spring made four attempts to cross the lake, armed with kodaks, to secure photographs of the birds that make their homes there, and are known nowhere else in the west, inland sea birds that perhaps have clung to their island rookeries since the days Lake Bonneville made feeding grounds many miles farther away to the east and west.

On each trip great storms arose, but on none was there any more discomfort or danger than comes from anchoring behind a protecting reef, and watching the waves roll past in the channel. Some of the results of the

kodakery are given with this article, for the island birds are accommodating about posing and do not mind it. And there are some rare specimens of the bird family to be found at the remote spots of the lake.

In the first place they are particularly where they nest. Antelope island has scarcely any nests except of the meadow lark, rock wren, sage thrasher, the brewer's black bird, the golden eagle, the magpie, and the vesper sparrow. All of these birds build in the Wasatch hills or in the valley land, so that their Antelope island home has no significance to them except that it has allowed them to propagate their species without so much molestation, and consequently live in larger numbers.

A SIGNAL STATION.

That the gulls use Antelope's peaks as signal stations in their flight from the plowed land of Farmington and Bountiful, where they gather in the day time to work for worms, is suggested by the fact that while camped among the southeast shore cliffs, the party counted hundreds of them, coming over one at a time from the east, just to the left of the highest peak, and flying very low, no doubt to get the benefit of the windbreak offered by the

island, for a stiff gale was then blowing from Bear river. The first nests we found at White Rock, the beautiful quartz ledge pro-

truding out of the sea west of Antelope. FIRST COLONY ENCOUNTERED. Here were found seven families of

gulls established, and a half dozen heron, a fish eating bird not so unclean as the cormorant, which keeps the filthy-

lest home of any of the island residents. Cormorants and heron live by fishing, and it would seem that their fishing village is far away from a supply, but in the morning when they take their flight to the day's working grounds, they head for Bear river and for the mouth of the Jordan. All along the one small beach on this island were found the pickled remains of fish, bearing tribute that the water has little use for those that stray in from the rivers, past their limit to breathe without strangulation.

To get to White Rock you head northwest from Saltair, squarely between Stansbury and Antelope, and then swing northward along Antelope's west shore. The trip is easy, and through deep water, and the island will no doubt be a popular picnicing station for launch parties, once the vogue starts on the lake.

WHERE THE BIRDS NEST.

Away to the west of White Rock lay Carrington and Hat, two islands that show up from Saltair best at sunset. Hat carries little vegetation but is

just a low, rocky ledge where birds nest so thick that it is difficult to step among their nests without breaking their eggs. The run is 55 miles from Saltair, across the lake, and to undertake it one should be prepared to stay where a calm overtakes him, or run for cover in case of a storm, for the course lies directly across the deep lake channel where the wind has its freest sweep. There is no water of any depth west of Hat, or south of Stansbury for that matter, and two years ago these almost ceased to be islands, and instead became part of the shore line.

PUGNACIOUS LOOTERS.

The bird families of Hat island do not dwell in peace, for you find the pelican protecting his nest constantly from the gulls, like the frontiersman would protect his cabin from Indian raids. Gulls are as fond of eggs as the pelican is of fish, and during the nesting season it is a constant fight between these two classes of inhabitants, the pelicans seeking to hide up their nests, and then remaining close by in case of a fight to protect them, and the gulls seeking a chance to steal from the pelican pantry, a delicious morsel of a meal, instead of having to fly away over to Farmington in search of worms. On Hat the population census develops about 1,000 families of gulls, 200 of pelicans and 50 of the herons. Utah gulls by the way, would know the title if you called them Californians, for the city never knows of their comings and goings with the seasons. This is because they journey westward in the fall, over the Sierras, and hold winter conferences like their migrating human relatives, along the ocean shore, and at the big bays where water fowl love to sun themselves through the winter months. The Utah gulls are a sub-species of the California gulls and are unlike any others found in the world's waters.

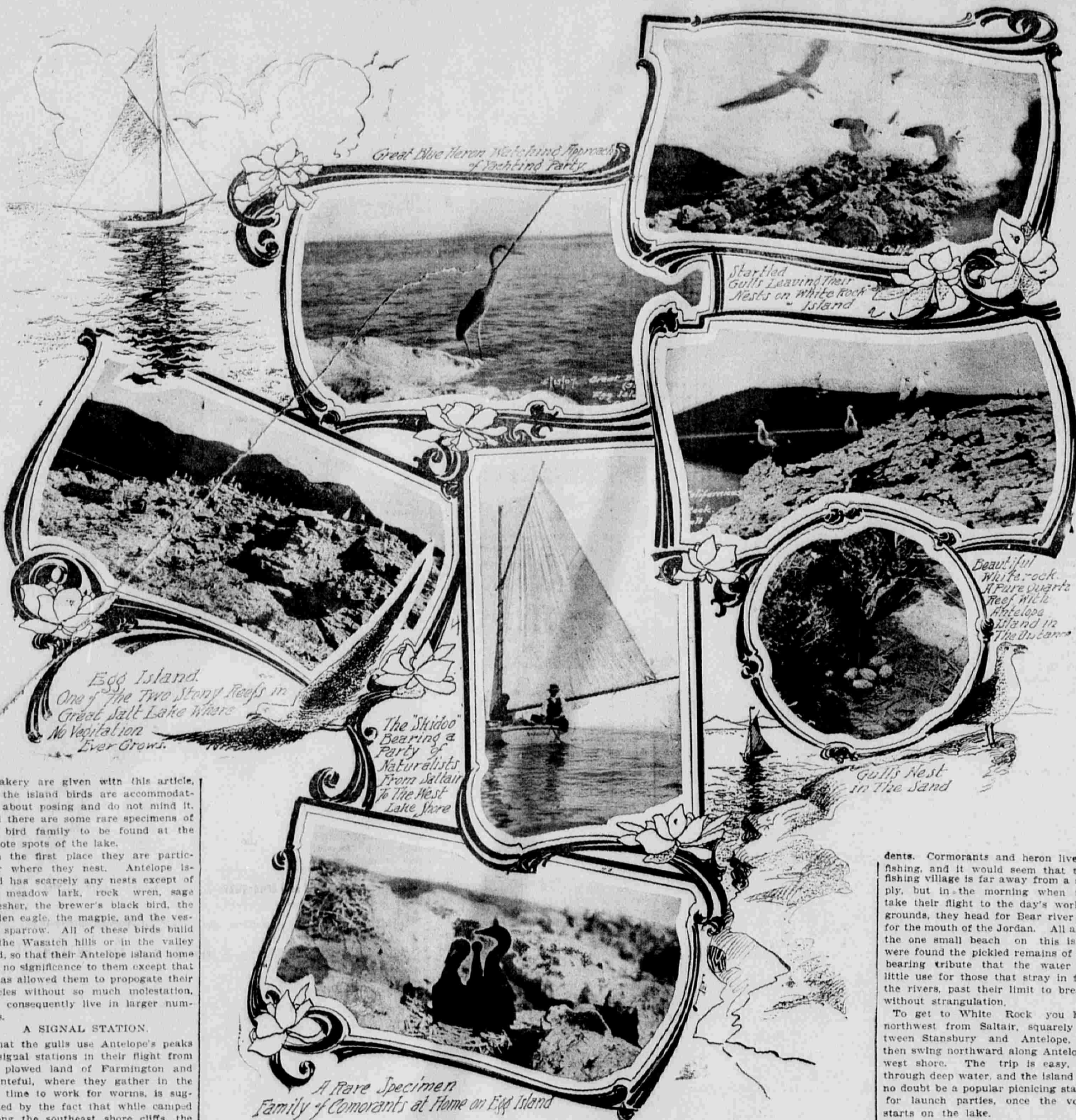
GREAT BIRD CITY.

Gunnison island is the largest rookery. Here is where the great bird city is established, and where the main body makes its resting place, and heads when in flight, but on Egg island, lying away to the north there is another city, off Ogden, that is of some importance. The island is a reef of rocks off Antelope and the great blue heron find it a favorite nesting place from the fact that it is near to the river mouths where fishing is attractive. Here, too, lives the other fish eater, the cormorant, the most of all birds except perhaps the vulture and the buzzard. As a mother bird left her nest the eggs could not be seen for insect life that swarmed over them, and when the young first appear they look like little balls of tar rolled up and left to melt. There is not a trace of feathering, but just close black hair which make them anything but bird-like in appearance.

BIRD POPULATION.

Out in the lake, then, the bird population is made up of four varieties, the great blue heron, long legged fisherman, and poor flier, the pelican with a fish basket for a mouth, the gulls which are near cousins to the California gulls, and are not an ocean going bird, the double crested song birds that have found a refuge on Antelope from the small boy and the advancing march of civilization.

That lake traffic will ever be heavy enough to molest them over there is very doubtful, but in the great stretch of water lying south of Promontory, from Bear River bay to Saltair, via White Rock, there are sailing possibilities that have never been developed in the slightest, and that offer great attractions to the yacht builders who may be expected to develop within the next decade.



DOUBLE SKIRT BATHING SUIT.

For the girl who is not particularly anxious about bathing, this double skirt bathing suit is satisfactory. The two skirts are of about equal length and cut circular with slight tucking to fit about the hips. The bodice portion is tucked into an oddly shaped yoke and there is a vest and a collar of white trimmed with rows of soutache braid.

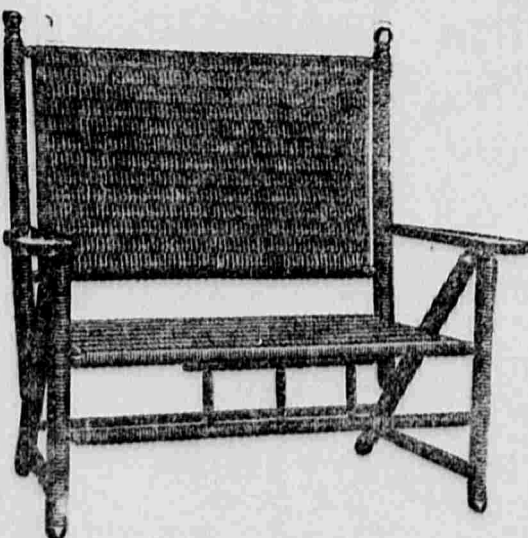
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