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In Appreciation of Birds

"The love and appreciation of living birds, and the observation of their habits and faculties, is surely something fresher and brighter than the second-hand and artificial interests and conventional amusements in which so many people try to live. The real love of birds is a gift which I regard as on the same level with the love of books and music and other things that are exquisite and rare. I believe the pleasure of seeing and listening to them to be purer and more lasting than any pleasure of excitement, and, in the long run, happier than personal success."—The Right Honorable Viscount Grey of Fallodon, K. G., Vice-President of the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds.



Egrets and Kite at Benicia

I felt that nature was giving me a treat on the afternoon of November 5, 1933, when with one sweep of my field glasses I could watch at my leisure two species of our majestic white birds,—seven American Egrets, *Casmerodius albus egretta*, and a White-tailed Kite, *Elanus leucurus majusculus*. This observation was made from my car on the highway between Benicia and Cordelia, California. Although Egrets have become common, even in much larger groups, it is always interesting to watch their usually graceful but at times quite awkward positions and movements.

The Kite is less commonly observed. He was perched, hawk-like, on a blackened and partially burned post in the marsh, with his back toward me, his white tail outlined by the black post, his white head against the brown marsh vegetation in the background, and his gray back and black shoulders absorbing the warm afternoon sunshine. I watched him for half an hour, during which time he maintained almost the same position, intermittently preening his feathers and watching with interest his surroundings and casually the Egrets, two California Herons and several Coots which were in the marsh about him. I left after the half hour for a drive through the fruit district of our county, and returning an hour and a half later, found the Egrets still present in the same location though not in so compact a group, while the Kite still maintained the same position on the same post with his back reflecting the 4 o'clock sun. I was inclined to think that he was competing in a fence-post-sitting contest, though, more likely, he had a good dinner "under his belt" and was enjoying life and the sunshine.

Emerson A. Stoner, Benicia, California. November 8, 1933.



Census of Birds' Nests in the Music Concourse, Golden Gate Park

The first census of nests in the concourse was taken by the late Dr. Barton Warren Evermann and was published in volume 2, number 1 of "The Gull," January, 1920. With the exception of the year 1932, when illness prevented, this work has been continued by the present writer. The first census resulted in a count of

57 nests; the second, for 1921, 89 nests, and so on. Recently the nests have been sadly dwindling in numbers and only five nests were found in the 1931 count, which was very disheartening. The count for 1933 was worse yet, even with conditions ideal for discovering them, the trees being absolutely bare of leaves, only two nests were found and one of these had not been completed! Evidently the birds, if still present in numbers, are no longer attracted to the concourse as a nesting place. Unless matters improve, this will be the last census of the series.

Joseph Mailliard, San Francisco, California. January 11, 1934.



Dead Birds on Other Beaches

In "The Gull" of June, 1930, Herman de Fremery, in an article entitled "Those Deads Birds" (which pertains to the San Francisco Beach), relates his failure to find any dead birds on several other beaches north and south of San Francisco. On September 4, 1933, Chas. A. Bryant and Gordon Bolander on a walk along the beach at Moss Landing, Monterey County, from the inlet to the wharf found the following:

Dark-bodied Shearwater	21	Heermann Gull.....	1
Pink-footed Shearwater	2	Murre	8
Pacific Fulmar	2	Pigeon Guillemot	3
Brandt Cormorant	4	Cassin Auklet	14
Surf Scoter	2	Rhinoceros Auklet	1
Western Gull	3		—
		Total.....	61



Dead Birds

The Oakland Ornithological Club took a trip on August 6, 1933, along the San Francisco beach from the Cliff House to Mussel Rock, finding a greater number of dead birds there than on any previous occasion as reported in "The Gull." The Ashy Petrel, Green-winged Teal, Red Phalarope and Heermann Gull were recorded for the first time.

The complete list is as follows:

Common Loon	1	White-winged Scoter	2
Sooty Shearwater	24	Red Phalarope	5
Pink-footed Shearwater	1	Glaucous-winged Gull	4
Pacific Fulmar	2	Western Gull	17
Fork-tailed Petrel	1	California Gull	1
Ashy Petrel	1	Heermann Gull.....	1
Brown Pelican	1	Murre	44
Farallon Cormorant	1	Cassin Auklet	65
Brandt Cormorant	18	Rhinoceros Auklet	4
Green-winged Teal	1	Unidentified Cormorant	4
Surf Scoter	4		—
		Total.....	202

For other accounts of dead birds found on this beach see "The Gull," October 1929, December 1930, April 1933, and December 1933.—Editor.



Some Strange Robin Nests

For three consecutive years I have found a Robin's nest of the year built in sagebrush growing along a fence near an irrigation ditch just outside the little city of Rexburg, Idaho. These nests were from eighteen to thirty inches from the ground. The choice of the site seemed strange, owing to the fact that not over a hundred feet away is a clump of Carolina poplars, and only a block or so to the north are many of the city's trees, while close by, to the west, are orchards and farm trees. To the south and east on a rising lava hill is a large tract of unbroken sage.

Except for one older nest near these, I have not found other robin nests in this tract of sage, though I followed the canal a considerable distance and tramped much about the hill where some stands of sage are much higher, and, one might think, more suitable sites for robin homes.

On a sheep pelt that came to our warehouse was a robin's nest intact that had withstood all the rough usage of several handlings incident to transportation. The pelt had evidently been lying in an exposed position in some farm yard shed and Mrs. Robin had pre-empted it for a homesite. Yet, as soft and warm as wool is, she had worked out her architectural design of mud as more suitable for her family than a bed of finest wool.

Another Robin, which didn't mind having company, selected a cross beam of a foot bridge over a spillway at the Blackfoot Idaho reservoir for her nest, where a large colony of Cliff Swallows had appropriated the stringers for their nesting site.

C. W. Lockerbie, Salt Lake City, Utah. October 15, 1933.



A Pleasant, Interesting and Eventful Field Trip

Members of the Audubon Association, ten in number, and one guest, who visited with their feathered friends at Burlingame on Sunday, February 11, 1934, were amply repaid for their efforts, which were confined to the town limits.

A delightful warm day made all cheerful. Mrs. Phillip N. Lilienthal graciously permitted us to take possession of her picturesque garden and enjoy a pleasant hour in her delightful out-door dining room. An excellent and unusual opportunity was afforded all to watch and study that beautifully marked Townsend Warbler with his "black throat and rich yellow cheeks." This is one of the handsomest of our Western species. Never before had we seen one so gentle and accommodating, and so willing to display his beauty. Not satisfied with our first visit, we returned in the afternoon to the place where we had seen him in the morning, and again we found this exquisite bird, this time feeding upon the ground.

We visioned his photograph (taken in the morning by Mr. B. K. Dunshee) as the first to be made into a colored slide and marked "number one" of our future Audubon Association set, although as stated by Dawson, "It is impossible, moreover, for any color 'process' to do justice to the luster of the shining black in *townsendi's* panoply, or to the purity of the lemon chrome with which it alternates."

The Varied Thrushes were very plentiful and unusually gentle and not shy, as we usually find them. We had about given up hope of showing the Cedar Waxwings to some of our members who were eager to add this bird to their life lists, but when we were preparing for our return journey, two of these interesting birds conveniently perched for several minutes on the top of a nearby tree, so that all had an excellent view of them.

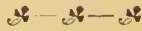
On our return along the Bayshore we had a splendid view of an American Egret, which walked along the shore line in that leisurely, dignified manner as only a member of this family can.

The following species, thirty-one in number, were noted along Easton Drive:

Sharp-shinned Hawk	Varied Thrush	House Finch
Desert Sparrow Hawk	Dwarf Hermit Thrush	Pine Siskin
Anna Hummingbird	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	Green-backed Goldfinch
Red-shafted Flicker	Cedar Waxwing	Spotted Towhee
California Jay	Audubon Warbler	Brown Towhee
Chestnut-backed Chickadee	Townsend Warbler	Fox Sparrow
Plain Titmouse	Meadowlark	Juncos
Bush-tit	Brewer Blackbird	Golden-crowned Sparrow
Wren-tit	English Sparrow	Nuttall Sparrow
Bewick Wren	Purple Finch	Song Sparrow
Western Robin		

Birds seen along the Bayshore Highway: American Egret; Canvas-back Duck; Killdeer; Long-billed Dowitcher; Western Sandpiper; Western Gull; California Gull.

Joseph J. Webb, Historian.



Audubon Notes

March Meeting: The regular meeting will be held on Thursday, the 8th, at 8 p. m., room 19, Ferry Building.

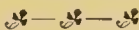
The speaker of the evening, Mrs. G. Earle Kelly, will take for her subject "Bird-Migration Experiences in the Middle West."



March Field Trip will be taken on Sunday, the 11th, to Point Bonita. Bring luncheon. Buy round-trip ticket to Sausalito, 25 cents, and take 8:15 ferry. Leader, Joseph J. Webb.



Week Day Trip will be taken on Wednesday, the 14th, to Tiburon. Take 8:45 Sausalito Ferry and Tiburon bus to Post Office, where party will meet. Fare 45 cents round trip. Bring luncheon. Mrs. L. W. Cummings, leader.



February Meeting: The 199th regular meeting was held on February 8th, room 19, Ferry Building; with two hundred members and guests present.

This meeting was the largest ever held by the Association. It had been broadcast over KGO that Bert Harwell would talk at the Audubon Meeting and his many friends flocked to greet him. He reminded his audience that Nature is news. His moving pictures would prove it and also point to the pleasure and interest of small things. Some of these were lady-bird beetles that mass themselves in winter on the Happy Isles. Seventeen sacks of them were taken away at one time to be introduced into the citrus groves of South-

ern California to combat the scale. This practice has now been stopped, as it was deemed unwise to deprive the flora of Yosemite Park of the protection rendered by these valuable lady-birds. Other unusual pictures showed the water-ouzel building its nest, a wild cat and kitten venturing out on the snow in broad daylight to procure tempting morsels of raw meat; deer in the snow, and a Sawwhet owl taken captive for a time until it had been thoroughly photographed.



Week Day Trip: The first of our week day trips was taken on Friday, the 16th, by four members to Fort Mason, along the Marina and Fine Arts Pool and through the Presidio. The day was clear and sunny. A total of twenty-four species was noted as follows: Mallard, Baldpate, and Ring-necked Ducks; Coot; Glaucous-winged, Western, California and Ring-billed Gulls; Anna Hummingbird; Red-shafted Flicker; Chickadee; Vigors Wren; Robin; Cedar Waxwing; Audubon Warbler; Brewer Blackbird; English Sparrow; Linnet; Spotted Towhee; Fox Sparrow; Junco; Golden-crowned, Nuttall and Song Sparrows.



Dues for 1934. The annual dues for the year are now payable and the Treasurer would like to receive your remittances as soon as possible. It is requested that all checks be made in the name of the Audubon Association of the Pacific.

Audubon Association of the Pacific

Organized January 25, 1917

For the Study and the Protection of Birds

President.....Joseph J. Webb.....519 California St., San Francisco
Corresponding Secretary.....C. B. Lastreto.....260 California St., San Francisco
Treasurer.....rs. A. B. Stephens.....1695 Filbert St., San Francisco

Monthly meeting second Thursday, 8 P. M., Room 19, Ferry Building.

Address Bulletin correspondence to Mrs. A. B. Stephens, Editor, 1695 Filbert St., San Francisco.

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Student memberships, \$1.50 per year.

Life memberships, \$50.00

Members are responsible for dues until written notice of resignation is received by Treasurer.