

M&O
Serials
QL 671
.G84

THE
MONTHLY



VOLUME 17

SAN FRANCISCO, JANUARY, 1935

NUMBER 1

Christmas Bird Census at Benicia

Benicia, California. December 24, 1934, from 8 a. m. to 4:30 p. m. Low fog in the morning lifting in afternoon, but obscuring sun throughout the day; light east wind changing to north; temperature 38° at start, 36° at return. Observers traveling together by automobile with frequent stops to canvass the marsh and hills along highway between Benicia and Cordelia, these towns being fourteen miles apart.

Pied-billed Grebe, 1; California Heron, 1; American Egret, 11; Black-crowned Night Heron, 6; Canada Goose, 2; Lesser Snow Goose, 3,000; Mallard, 12; Pintail, 250; Green-winged Teal, 2; Shoveller, 200; Ruddy Duck, 8; Western Red-tailed Hawk, 8; Marsh Hawk, 12; Prairie Falcon, 1; Desert Sparrow Hawk, 26; Valley Quail, 17; Coot, 2,200; Killdeer, 3; Long-billed Dowitcher, 8; Western Sandpiper, 73; Western Gull, 5; California Gull, 7; Burrowing Owl, 4; Short-eared Owl, 6; Red-shafted Flicker, 78; Hairy Woodpecker, 1; Willow Woodpecker, 1; Nuttall Woodpecker, 1; Say Phoebe, 2; California Jay, 36; Plain Titmouse, 3; Bush-tit, 80; Rock Wren, 3; Western Robin, 93; Dwarf Hermit Thrush, 3; Tree Swallow, 250; Western Bluebird, 85; Mountain Bluebird, 4; Ruby-crowned Kinglet, 20; Pipit, 54; Shrike, 41; Audubon Warbler, 8; Western Meadowlark, 375; San Francisco Red-wing, 200; Tricolored Red-wing, 100; Brewer Blackbird, 12,000; Purple Finch, 2; House Finch, 18; Green-backed Goldfinch, 16; Willow Goldfinch, 110; Brown Towhee, 2; Savannah Sparrow, 60; Junco, 115; Nuttall Sparrow, 156; Golden-crowned Sparrow, 52; Suisun Song Sparrow, 1.

Total 56 species, about 19,833 individuals.

The large number of Tree Swallows skimming over the marsh was unusual for this season of the year. A gun-club keeper advised us that Whistling Swans, observed on some of the former Christmas censuses, were present in the marsh, but were wintering further to the east.

Emerson A. Stoner and James M. Barkley, Benicia, California.



Annual Bird Census in Yosemite Valley

Yosemite Valley, Yosemite National Park, California. (Mirror Lake, 4,000 feet elevation, to El Portal, 2,000 feet elevation.) 8 a. m. to 5 p. m. Slightly overcast; snow, none; wind, none; temperature at start 38°; maximum temperature, Yosemite Valley, 54°; El Portal, 70°. Fourteen observers working in pairs. Total 38 species, 813 (est.) individuals, as follows: Eared Grebe, 1; Great Blue Heron, 4; American Merganser, 2; Red-tailed Hawk, 4; Golden Eagle, 2; Kingfisher, 3; Red-shafted Flicker, 12; Pileated Woodpecker, 1; California Woodpecker, 65; Modoc Woodpecker, 11; Willow Woodpecker, 3; Northern White-headed Woodpecker, 8; Black Phoebe, 1; Blue-fronted Jay, 101+; California Jay, 17; Short-tailed Mountain Chickadee, 162+; Plain Titmouse, 3; Slender-billed Nuthatch, 2; Red-breasted Nuthatch, 23; Sierra Creeper, 41; Pallid Wren-tit, 4; Dipper (Water

Ouzel), 4; Winter Wren, 3; Dotted Canyon Wren, 3; Rock Wren, 2; Western Robin, 10; Western Bluebird, 49; Golden-crowned Kinglet, 82+; Ruby-crowned Kinglet, 23; Audubon Warbler, 3; Sacramento Spotted Towhee, 4; Sacramento Brown Towhee, 43; Rufous-crowned Sparrow, 1; (Slate-colored ?) Junco, 5; Thurber (Sierra) Junco, 104+; (Gambel or Intermediate ?) Sparrow, 4; Fox Sparrow, 1; Song Sparrow, 2.

Observers: Mesdames Mary Tresidder, Della Hoss, Grace Ewing, Ruth Knowles, D. A. Miller, William Nelson, Ethel Beatty; Miss Lou Foster; Messrs. Everett Harwell, Herbert Ewing, Calvin R. Willette, C. A. Wagner Jr., Park Naturalist; M. E. Beatty, Assistant Park Naturalist, and C. A. Harwell, Park Naturalist.



Christmas Bird Census for San Francisco

The Christmas census for San Francisco, embracing Fort Mason, the Marina, the Presidio, the ocean beach, Golden Gate Park, Lake Merced and Sunset Boulevard from Golden Gate Park to Lake Merced, was taken on Sunday, December 23, 1934, from 8:30 a. m. to 5:30 p. m. An ideal day, quite warm in the sun, with an average temperature of 50°.

	Marina to Beach	Golden Gate Park	Sunset Boulevard	Lake Merced
Western Grebe	7	---	---	5
Pied-billed Grebe	3	18	---	61
Brown Pelican	23	---	---	1
Black-crowned Night Heron.....	1	---	---	1
Mallard	14	504	---	4
Baldpate.....	21	2	---	1
Pintail	1	21	---	---
Canvas-back Duck	20	264	---	271+
Scaup Duck	---	36	---	5
Ring-necked Duck	40	2	---	---
Ruddy Duck	6	185	---	3
Red-tailed Hawk	---	1	---	1
Sparrow Hawk	1	---	1	---
Quail	7	190	---	---
Coot	99	363	---	253
Glaucous-winged Gull	355+	178	---	655
Western Gull	855+	---	---	175
Herring Gull	---	1	---	1
California Gull	1356+	156	---	175
Anna Hummingbird	18	24	1	10
Red-shafted Flicker	10	6	---	2
Willow Downy Woodpecker.....	1	1	---	---
Say Phoebe	1	---	1	---
Black Phoebe	7	5	---	4
Chestnut-backed Chickadee	9	50	---	13
Bush-tit	21	157	---	46
Winter Wren	1	1	---	---
Bewick Wren	2	4	---	2
Western Robin	18	66	---	---
Hermit Thrush	24	22	---	4
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	7	26	---	5
Pipit	9	16	14	---
Shrike	1	---	2	---
Audubon Warbler	101	31	2	55
Townsend Warbler	15	7	---	---
Yellow-throat	---	5	---	14
Brewer Blackbird	210	---	1	---
House Sparrow	70	53	---	---
House Finch	21	2	---	5

Pine Siskin	2	9	---	---
Spotted Towhee	6	6	---	2
Fox Sparrow	25	12	---	3
Junco	18	30	---	---
Golden-crowned Sparrow	20	1	4	---
Nuttall Sparrow	315+	77	2	55
Song Sparrow	135+	16	---	58

In addition to the above, the following birds were observed only along the Marina and at the Beach: Farallon Cormorant, 40; Surf Scoter, 14; Sharp-shinned Hawk, 2; Killdeer, 2; Surf-bird, 28; Ruddy Turnstone, 1; Black Turnstone, 35; Sanderling, 120+; Ring-billed Gull, 45; Short-billed Gull, 68; Bonaparte Gull, 18; Horned Lark, 37; California Jay, 1; Meadowlark, 10; Purple Finch, 3.

Golden Gate Park only: Hutchins Goose, 1; Green-winged Teal, 4; Red-head, 4; Buffle-head female, 1; Cooper Hawk, 2; Band-tailed Pigeon, a flock of about 200 flying over the park; Slender-billed Nuthatch, 2; Varied Thrush, 5; Hutton Vireo, 1.

Lake Merced only: Eared Grebe, 65; Great Blue Heron, 4; Red-breasted Merganser, 6; Sora Rail, 1; Wren-tit, 1; Tule Wren, 9; Green-backed Goldfinch, 3.

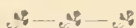
Black-crowned Night Heron and Pine Siskins found at Fort Mason, Willow Downy Woodpecker found at Mountain Lake, and Winter Wren found in the Presidio were new species added to the territory covered by Mr. and Mrs. Albert B. Stephens and Miss Cornelia C. Pringle. A flock of fifteen Townsend Warblers found in Sutro Gardens by Messrs. B. C. Bremer and Carl R. Smith brings the total number of species observed at Christmas time in this section of the city to 80 species.

The Herring Gull and Hutchins Goose observed by Commander and Mrs. Henry E. Parmenter are new species for Golden Gate Park at Christmas time, making a total of 72 species for the combined Christmas censuses. The Hutchins Goose was seen on South Lake and is a new species on the Association's life-list. Other observers in the park were Mrs. L. W. Cummings, Miss Christine Danz, Messrs. Chas. A. Bryant, Frank A. Roberts, Joseph J. Webb, and Master Fritz Lippmann.

The Lake Merced district yielded the smallest list of both species (37) and individuals (1979) ever obtained by us on any of our visits there. The total number of species observed on Christmas censuses is 90. The observers this year were Mr. and Mrs. Oliver J. Millard, Mrs. G. Earle Kelly, Mr. B. K. Dunshee, Master Harold Kirker.

A few lines from an article written December 20, 1916, by Harold E. Hansen and Walter A. Squires, in "The Condor," vol. XIX, March, 1917, entitled "List of Birds Breeding in San Francisco County," may be of interest: "The Lake Merced region is a natural bird refuge, and it would be the part of wisdom to make it such in fact. If the waterfowl and other species of birds found there were given adequate protection the bird life of the region would in a few years be such as to surpass the expectations of the most sanguine—an unending source of pride, pleasure, and profit to all right thinking people of this generation and to all the generations that are to come."

It is to be regretted that the above suggestion made many years ago was not taken and acted upon.



Audubon Notes

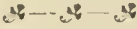
January Meeting: The 18th annual meeting will be held on Thursday evening, the 10th, at 8 o'clock, room 19, 2nd floor, Ferry Building.

Annual reports will be presented and officers and directors will be elected for the ensuing year.

The speaker of the evening will be Mr. Rodney Ellsworth, whose subject will be "The Early History of the Big Tree." Mr. Ellsworth has been doing some research work on this subject and will have something of interest to tell us.

January Field Trip will be taken to the wild waterfowl sanctuary at Lake Merritt, Oakland, on Sunday, the 13th. San Francisco members will take Key Route boat at 9:20 a. m. and the Grand Avenue car on the Twenty-second Street train, leaving the car at Grand Avenue and Perkins Street, where party will meet.

East Bay members will transfer from any traction main line to Grand Avenue or Lakeshore Avenue cars. Bring luncheon. Leader, Mrs. A. B. Stephens.



A check list of the birds of Lake Merritt, issued by the Oakland Ornithological Club, may be obtained from any of our Junior members, price five cents per copy.



1935 Dues. The annual dues for the year of 1935 are now payable and all members are asked to make their remittances as early as possible to the Treasurer. It is requested that all checks be made in the name of the Audubon Association of the Pacific.



December Meeting: The 209th regular meeting was held on December 13th, at 8 p. m., room 19, Ferry Building, with twenty-nine members and guests present. President Webb presiding.

The nominating committee, composed of Commander Parmenter, Mr. Carl R. Smith and Miss Christine Danz, has proposed the following for officers for the year 1935:

President—Mrs. G. Earle Kelly.
 First Vice-President—B. K. Dunshee.
 Second Vice-President—Mrs. Otis H. Smith.

Treasurer—Mrs. A. B. Stephens.
 Corresponding Secretary—C. B. Lastreto.

Recording Secretary—Miss Cornelia C. Pringle.

Directors—Mrs. H. P. Bracelin,
 Mr. Frank A. Roberts,
 Mr. Albert B. Stephens.

The following observations were reported: Wood Ducks on Chain of Lakes from November 17th to December 10th, reported by Miss Werner, Mrs. Stephens and Commander Parmenter; also three male and one immature on Phoenix Lake, December 4th, reported by Mrs. Stone.

Gordon Bolander: December 9th, three American Egrets, Manzanita.

Mrs. Kelly: December 8th, 40 or 45 Buffle-heads on Lake Merritt.

Mr. Webb: December 7th, Shrike, San Francisco.

Dr. George Haley spoke of his summer in Spitzbergen, where he was sent by Prof. E. D. Merrill, Director of the Bronx Botanical Gardens. He was sent to collect type locality species. There are 146 species in the country, eighty-eight of which Dr. Haley collected, a total of 2500 specimens.

Dr. Haley stopped at Iceland, where many Eider Ducks were seen. A visit was made to Tromsø, where the French government has erected a monument to commemorate the death of Andre, who went to the help of the aviator Nobile. Dr. Haley gave a vivid picture of Spitzbergen as a land, in summer, of white poppies and purple saxifrage, cultivated vegetables and English Sparrows, although it is three degrees north of the Arctic Circle. In the bays he saw Sea Gulls, Jaegers and Arctic Terns.

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.....	Mrs. 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.

Subscription to monthly Bulletin, \$1.00 per year. Single copies, 15c.

Membership dues, payable January 1st, \$3.00 per year.

Student memberships, \$1.50 per year.

Life memberships, \$50.00

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