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THE
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GULL
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JUNE MEETING: The next regular meeting of the Association will be held on Thursday evening, 10th inst., at eight o'clock sharp, in the Lecture Hall of the California Development Board, Ferry Building.

Mr. A. P. Smiley, President of the Pacific Homing Pigeon Club, will address the Association on the subject of "The Homing Pigeon in Peace and War," and specimens of famous fliers will be on exhibition. The part played by the homers in the world war furnishes a most interesting story which our members cannot afford to miss.

The Board of Directors will hold a meeting at 7:45 p. m., prior to the meeting of the Association.

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JUNE FIELD TRIP will be taken on Sunday, June 13, to Fairfax and the Cascades, Marin County. Purchase round-trip tickets to Fairfax, 54c. Take Sausalito Ferry leaving 8:45 a. m. Bring lunch and canteens.

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PROCEEDINGS OF THE MAY MEETING: The fortieth regular meeting of the Association was held on May 13 in the Ferry Building, with President D'Evelyn in the chair; Mrs. C. R. Smith, Secretary; twenty-nine members and eight guests in attendance. The President spoke at some length regarding the Children's Bird Diary Competition and reported registrations in excess of three hundred.

Mr. Tracy I. Storer delivered a most interesting address on the subject of "The Study of Individuality in Birds," explaining in detail the experiments of Mr. S. P. Baldwin in bird banding and the fertile field thereby opened for the determination of a multitude of mooted questions concerning the migratory habits, individual characteristics and life histories of our bird visitors. Whereas banding in the past has largely been confined to nestlings, the Government sparrow trap offers a means of banding adults and thus greatly extending the possible scope of observations.

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Prior to the meeting of the Association, the Board of Directors elected to membership Miss May G. Chapin, Miss Blanche R. Cheeseman, Mrs. M. Neugass and Mr. J. S. Van Dorn.

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The next Audubon "At Home" is planned for the August meeting, at which Mr. Joseph J. Webb will officiate as host of the occasion. At this meeting, report will be made of the awards in the Children's Bird Diary Competition.

HUTCHINS GOOSE BREEDS IN CAPTIVITY

On May 27 our Vice-President, George T. Marsh, and the writer were invited by Mr. John McLaren, Superintendent of Golden Gate Park, San Francisco, to make a special visit to Stowe Lake to see "the wild goose and goslings." After we had circled the lake the group was ultimately located on one of the islets probably 150 yards from where we were standing, close to the location of a feed box. Whether in appreciation of the "distinguished visitors" or the psychic influence of the Master of the Domain, after repeated calling by the Superintendent the entire group, which had been sunning itself on the grassy slope, took to the water and the fleet set sail bravely and grandly. It was indeed a novel sight; three white-checked adult wild geese, stately and dignified, escorting a flotilla of eight husky month-old goslings, swimming under orders towards a group of humans, demonstrating, as Hornaday would say, "that the most interesting phase of a wild animal is the revelation of its mental processes in its actions and daily life." The mental action or something equally significant brought the group to anchor within a few feet of where we were anxiously awaiting its arrival. Whether the extra adult was an affinity or merely a relative, was only lightly debated. The Superintendent, as a lifelong friend of wild life, graciously favored the latter; the "keen" business man had his doubts, while the more intimately associated professional man concluded it was "wiser to forget." The ornithological point of interest is that these birds, *Branta canadensis hutchensi*, had been on the lake for nearly twenty years during which time no evidence of mating or incubation had been recorded until this eminently satisfactory effort. The goslings were in excellent condition and may possibly be the first brood of wild geese normally hatched in captivity. The Hutchins Goose, while formerly a very common species in California is now tabulated "on the decrease." This fact adds still more interest to the future of the goslings of Stowe Lake and offers the possibility of at least a remnant being thus preserved.

FREDERICK W. D'EVELYN.



A PIPIT MONOLOGUE

One sunny day in December, I was feeding in a vacant lot, in company with several others of my family. A man frightened us and as we took the air showing the white edges in our tails, he paused to watch us climb high in the air, wheel and return to our feeding as there seemed to be no danger from him. It then occurred to me that some people were interested in us and might like to know our history and habits, but where and how to make them known was more than I could tell. I questioned others of the feathered tribe, but the best that they could do was to refer me to a California Gull, a bird of knowledge, who passed much of his time at Meiggs' wharf.

The gull was not hard to find, for his great age had left him nearly as white as a Glaucous of the Arctic. He heard my story and told me of a society in San Francisco that did him the honor of using his portrait as their emblem, placing it with his name at the head of their monthly publication, and he ventured the suggestion that they would make known whatever of interest I had to communicate about my relations and myself.

My family is a small one, but old and select, originating with the Wagtails and Pipits and embracing less than one hundred forms, plain dressers for the most part, who are distributed over nearly the whole world. We Pipits are often mistaken for horned larks, but if one will note

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the military dignity of our walk, he cannot confuse us with birds who are compelled to hobble about.

The distant English relatives consist of the members of the Pied Wagtail family and they are mostly city or town folks living in gardens, and with typical British insularity holding aloof from others of the family.

The Japanese Pied Wagtails reside in eastern Siberia and Japan; the White-face Wagtails in eastern Siberia, the Himalayas and China, and the White Wagtails in the land of the Orangeman and, to some extent, in Greenland.

The most pretentiously dressed of us all is the Yellow Wagtail, whose upper parts are olive green, with a white stripe over the eye and with under parts a rich sulphur yellow. He is found largely in Great Britain. A close relative of his lives in Madagascar, sporting a yellow vest which is separated by a black crescent from his white shirt front.

Another branch of the Wagtail family is known as the Forest Wagtail, living in summer in Siberia and Northern China. These birds are great travelers, going to India and Ceylon to winter.

We Pipits do not go in for ostentatious dressing. We differ from our cousins, the Wagtails, not only in our military walk and shorter tails, but also in our streaked plumage, darker above and buffy below. Our males and females are much alike, with little change of coloration after molting.

We have some twenty branches of the family distributed throughout Europe. I will mention the Water Pipit, the Tree Pipit, the Rock Lark and the Meadow Pipit, or European Titlark, which is one of the most fashionable families of the British Isles.

In North America there are two families of us, and south of the Rio Grande some six other species, and we have close relatives in Africa. Above all others, I am proud of the Sprague Pipits, who are also known as Missouri Skylarks, Prairie Skylarks or Sky Pipits. They reside on the interior plains, nesting from the upper Missouri to the Saskatchewan district and spending their winters on the tablelands of Mexico. I only wish that my friends in California might hear them sing during the breeding season. A great ornithologist searched for them for many months and thus he wrote of their music: "No other bird-music heard in our land compares with the wonderful strains of this songster; there is something not of earth in the melody, coming from above, yet from no visible source. The notes are simply indescribable, but once heard, they can never be forgotten. Their volume and penetration are truly wonderful; they are neither loud nor strong, yet the whole air seems filled with the tender strains, and delightful melody continues long unbroken. The song is heard only for a brief period in the summer, ceasing when the inspiration of the love season is over, and it is uttered only when the birds are soaring."

My immediate family, the American Titlarks or Pipits, loves the high mountains and there we spend every minute that we can. We nest at altitudes of 11,000 to 13,000 feet from Colorado northward and all through the summer we frolic in the land of snow, well above timberline, and far from the haunts of man. In the early Fall, when the new snow commences to cover our feed, we close our summer homes and form into small flocks, migrating southward, feeding in the open fields, city blocks or wherever meal time overtakes us, simply awaiting the time when the sun will have melted a portion of the snow, that we may return to our beloved Alpine-Arctic region.

CARL R. SMITH.

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MAY FIELD TRIP was taken on Sunday, May 16, to Lafayette. "And what is so rare as a day in"—May! This does not rhyme with tune, of course, but in all other respects it is a heap more satisfactory than June. It does not necessitate any distracted searchings for burs, grass seeds or mosquito bites; in fact, it is still Spring, and when you add to it the magic word Lafayette, you have a combination with which to conjure. Lafayette in May! Just masses of glowing sunshine, relieved by patches of checkered shadows under the most wonderful oak trees!

I am sure the birds were delighted with their home town, for they shouted their joy from every available perch. Mesdames Bluebird, Titmouse, House-Wren, Flycatcher and Goldfinch had moved into their new houses, while Mrs. Bush-tit was trying to finish hers, with the aid of friend husband. We wondered what bad luck had delayed them. The Grosbeaks had shown their individuality by choosing a new construction material, namely, brome-grass. The House-Wrens were seen issuing from a hole in the creek bank, which was evidently the street leading to their house. Mr. Woodpecker was getting meat for the family dinner at the Free Air Market.

Birds seen on the water and shore were: Western grebe; western, California and Bonaparte gulls; surf-scooters, great blue heron, coot and western sandpipers. The land birds seen were: California quail, mourning dove, turkey vulture and red-tailed hawk; kingfisher; willow, Nuttall and California woodpeckers; Anna and Allen hummers; black phoebe, western wood pewee, western and ashy-throated flycatchers; California jays, bi-colored blackbirds, meadow larks, Bullock oriole and Brewer blackbird; linnets; willow, green-backed and Lawrence goldfinches; chipping and song sparrows; California towhees, black-headed grosbeaks and lazuli buntings; cliff swallows, cedar waxwings and warbling vireos; lutescent, yellow and pileolated warblers; long tailed chats, western house wrens and slender-billed nuthatches; plain titmice, bush-tits, russet-backed thrushes and western bluebirds. Fifty species in all.

Guests present were: Misses Branch, Brease, Rosemont, Ruhl and Walters; Mrs. Mitchell. Members in attendance were: Misses Applegarth, Ames, Ayer, Cassiday, Chapin, Cheeseman, Flynn, Griffin, Gunn, Johnson, King, Potter, Schroder and Wilson; Mesdames Kelly, E. D. Roe, G. T. Roe, Rosemont and Smith; Messrs. Bell, Cahn, Kelly, Smith, Thomas, Webb and George Wright. Twenty-six members and six guests.

ISABEL AMES.

AUDUBON ASSOCIATION OF THE PACIFIC

FOR THE STUDY AND THE PROTECTION OF BIRDS

President	F. W. D'Evelyn.....	314 Phelan Building, San Francisco
Recording Secretary	Mrs. Carl R. Smith.....	563 42d Avenue, San Francisco
Corresponding Secretary	C. B. Lastreto.....	260 California St., San Francisco
Treasurer	A. S. Kibbc.....	1534 Grove St., Berkeley

Headquarters, 312-314 Phelan Building, San Francisco. Phone. Kearny 943

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