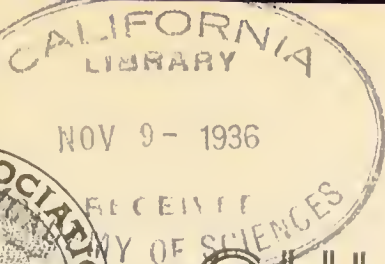


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SAN FRANCISCO, NOVEMBER, 1936

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Lake Merced

Saturday afternoon, October 10, 1936, seven members visited Lake Merced to view the areas which have recently been cleared of trees and other growth and to see to what extent the bird life there had been affected by the disturbance to their habitats.

We obtained a fairly good list as to the number of species but it was noticeable that there was a considerable decrease in the number of individuals. The explanation was quite evident: along the entire western end of north lake virtually all the trees, eucalypti, pines, etc., were gone or lying on the ground. Allen and Anna Hummingbirds had made that location one of their favorite haunts and in the early spring many of them nested there.

We did not flush a Bittern, a Black-crowned Night Heron, or a Rail from the tules of either lake as we had done on many of our former visits. We were, however, pleased to find the Western Grebes doing well in south lake in spite of the skeet field on its shore. There were several adults, one pair having two young, the latter being easily distinguished by their size and the absence of black on their crown.

Twenty-five species were noted as follows:

Eared Grebe 99	California Gull 100±	Tule Wren 2
Western Grebe 8	Anna Hummingbird, 5	Ruby-crowned Kinglet 3
Pied-billed Grebe 19	Kingfisher 2	Audubon Warbler 2
California Heron 1	Flicker 1	Yellow-throat 1 female
Mallard 3	Black Phoebe 2	Red-winged Blackbird 20
Scaup 1 female	Chickadee 2	House Finch 8
Ruddy Duck 4	Bush-tit 5	Nuttall Sparrow 8
Coot 58	Vigors Wren 1	Song Sparrow 3
Western Gull 2		

Members attending: Commander and Mrs. Parmenter; Mr. and Mrs. Stephens; Miss Danz; Mr. B. C. Bremer and Harold Kirker.



Clapper Rail

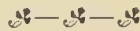
In "The Condor," volume XXXVIII, number 6, page 216, there appears an interesting article on the "Occurrence of the California Clapper Rail away from Marshes," by Jean M. Linsdale.

Dr. Linsdale tells of the finding of two Clapper Rail dead, one in Berkeley and one in Oakland, evidently having been killed by striking fences while flying low over dry land, and at a distance from water.

On September 20, 1936, Harold Kirker, who lives at Eleventh Avenue and Balboa Street, San Francisco, heard a commotion in his garden at 6:30 a. m. Upon investigation he discovered a cat in pursuit of a Clapper Rail. He scared the cat away, and the Rail walked around beneath the shrubbery for several hours. Finally it hopped upon a horizontal timber of the fence and then flew into a tree, resting on a branch about four feet above the ground. Here it remained

until about 11:30 a. m., when it disappeared unobserved. When first seen, the wing of the bird was drooping as though injured.

A residential district in San Francisco miles from any salicornia marsh is indeed a strange place to find a Clapper Rail. It is evident, however, that this species does at times fly long distances from its natural habitat.



Shore Birds

On Sunday, October 11, 1936, ten members and one guest visited the shores of Alameda County to study the movements of the several species of shore birds and to discover where they loaf during the high tide, and which start feeding first. Time and height of tide as of Fort Point were respectively 9:07 a. m., 5.3 feet high and low 3:10 p. m., 1.6 feet.

The morning was overcast at first but later the sun came out and it was a perfect day, being, in fact, quite warm.

Our party divided into three smaller groups, one going on Bay Farm Island to a position near the small building of the U. S. Department of Commerce, another to the sandy beach of San Leandro Bay and still another to the mud flats in East Oakland adjoining the property of the Monarch Box Factory.

At high tide we saw large numbers of Sandpipers in small grassy areas exposed above the water along the shore of Bay Farm Island, and groups of Sanderlings, massed together with their heads tucked under, all facing the water, on the sandy beach of San Leandro Bay.

When the tide began to recede the birds started coming, first a few Killdeer, then Sandpipers in good sized flocks and finally the larger species, Godwits and Willets.

After luncheon the whole group visited Fernside beach and then went to the Monarch Box Factory, where the greatest numbers of birds were found. There at 2:30 the mud flats were covered with literally thousands of shore birds and beyond in the water were at least 5,000 Pintail Ducks with a few Baldpates and a considerable number of Godwits among them feeding. The Sandpipers, Sanderlings, Willets, Dowitchers and Godwits on the mud flats formed one great mass; it was impossible even to estimate their approximate numbers.

Eastern visitors who have recently viewed these great flocks of shore birds in Alameda tell us that nowhere in the United States can anything like them be seen.

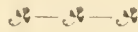
Two American Egrets were seen near the Monarch Box Factory and two more opposite the Golf Course on Bay Farm Island. We had not previously recorded this species at these locations.

Eight Clapper Rail were seen on Bay Farm Island, some swimming across the sloughs and others on the mud close to the salicornia, while several times others were heard but not seen.

Thirty-eight different species were observed as follows. (The totals given are those in most cases actually counted and in others conservatively estimated, but do not include the great masses of birds so closely packed together that even estimating their numbers was impossible.)

Eared Grebe 38	Black Turnstone 1	Burrowing Owl 1
Brown Pelican 1	Willet 102+	Flicker 1
California Heron 5	Greater Yellowlegs 8	Pipit 4
American Egret 4	Least Sandpiper	Shrike 3
Baldpate 12+	Red-backed Sandpiper 42+	Audubon Warbler 1
Pintail 5,000±	Dowitcher 7+	Meadowlark 9
Marsh Hawk 2	Western Sandpiper 810+	English Sparrow 3
Duck Hawk 1	Marbled Godwit 125+	S. F. Redwing 1
Sparrow Hawk 4	Sanderling 973+	Brewer Blackbird 6
Clapper Rail 8	Western Gull 3	House Finch 200+
Coot 24	Ring-billed Gull 277+	Bryant Sparrow 23
Killdeer 150±	Bonaparte Gull 2	Alameda Song Sparrow 3
Black-bellied Plover 5	Forster Tern 2	

Members attending: Mr. and Mrs. Stephens; Mrs. Kelly; Misses Cockefair, Cohen, Danz, Perdue; Messrs. Chase, C. R. Thomas and Harold Kirker. Guest: Mr. F. M. Jencks.



Observations

Mr. Guy Emerson, Vice-President of the Bankers Trust Company, New York, a keen bird student for many years, and Mr. Roger Tory Peterson, Educational Director of the National Association of Audubon Societies, were both in San Francisco recently. During their visit they were taken on several intensive birding trips by members of our Association and other friends. Some of the outstanding observations made and the localities visited were as follows:

September 25th, on the Sears Point cut-off, at Vallejo, just before the approach to the bridge, Long-billed Curlew were seen, and farther along where the land had been flooded by the gun clubs, birds were seen in large numbers. Besides the usual shore birds there were 1,000+ Avocets, 3,000+ Pintails, 1,000+ Pied-billed Grebes, a few Caspian Terns, White Pelicans and Northern Phalaropes, and two Brewster Egrets. At Hamilton Field, Marin County, on the same day two White-tailed Kites were seen.

September 27th, on Bay Farm Island near the Bureau of Air Commerce, 1,000+ Western Sandpipers were massed together on the warm side of the earth dike and at the Mountain View marshes 250 Long-billed Curlews were seen.

September 29th, at Bay Farm Island near the Golf Course on a moonlight night Mr. Peterson called attention to seven Barn Owls perched on a wire.

October 4th, on the Sears Point cut-off, four White-tailed Kites and on the same day a pair of Gadwalls on Lake Merritt, Oakland, were noted.

October 9th, on Bay Farm Island, five short-eared Owls and three Marsh Hawks were seen. Five Common Terns (a rare migrant to the Bay region) were also noted. Three of this species were observed October 2nd, at the Estero, Monterey.

October 5th, Commander Parmenter and Mr. Peterson found at Bolinas 4 Killdeer, 20± Black-bellied Plovers, 1 Willet, 30± Least Sandpipers; Olema, 3 Killdeer, 3 Wilson Snipe; Bodega, 2 Semipalmated Plovers, 25+ Black-bellied Plovers, 2 Long-billed Curlew, 50+ Willets, 100± each Least, Red-backed and Western Sandpipers, 75± Marbled Godwits; Bodega Cliffs, 1 Black Turnstone, 4 Sanderlings; Tomales, 5 Black-bellied Plovers, 1 Greater Yellow-leg, 25± Least, Red-backed and Western Sandpipers; Bolinas-Olema road, 1 Arkansas Kingbird; Olema, 15± Cedar Waxwings; Bodega, one Yellow Warbler.

Other recent observations by members:

September 7th, Mrs. Kelly observed in Muir Woods two Townsend Warblers. This is a very early date for the arrival of this warbler. Dr. Grinnell in "Bird-life of San Francisco Bay Region," gives the arrival as of "the first week in October" and, the "extreme date September 13th." Six of these Warblers and Ruby-crowned Kinglets, also arriving early, were seen on the campus of the University of California, Berkeley, September 20th.

September 22nd, Mrs. Courtright saw the first Golden-crowned Sparrow in Larkspur, another was seen on the 23rd, and by the 25th, they were quite numerous.

September 24th, Mr. Webb had a Hermit Thrush in his yard in San Francisco and one was seen in Golden Gate Park, October 8th, by Mrs. Stephens.

October 3rd, Chain of Lakes, Golden Gate Park, Mrs. Kelly saw a Red-breasted Sapsucker. The Hermit Thrush and Golden-crowned Sparrows were noted in Alameda, October 4th, and Red-backed Sandpipers on the 7th.

October 4th, on the beach in San Francisco between Cliff House and Fleishhacker pool, Mr. Thomas saw Snowy Plovers in groups of 10, 5 and 60.



November Meeting: The regular meeting will be held on Thursday, the 12th, at 8 p.m., room 19, Ferry Building.

Mrs. Junea W. Kelly will be the speaker of the evening, taking for her subject "Birding Extraordinary." Motion pictures showing bird-life at the Audubon Nature Camp in Muscongus Bay, Maine, in the spruce forest as well as on outlying rocks.

Members may bring guests.



November field trip will be taken on Sunday, the 15th, starting from Ross, Marin County. Buy round-trip ticket 65c and take 8:45 a. m. Sausalito Ferry. In case of heavy rain, trip will be taken the following Sunday. Bring luncheon. Leader, Mrs. Mary L. Courtright.



Wildlife Federation: Our Association has joined the Alameda County General Wildlife Federation. Dr. George E. Walton of Piedmont has been elected Chairman and Mrs. Junea W. Kelly, Vice-Chairman.

The object of this Federation is to keep its members informed of all proposed measures which would affect wildlife conservation.



October Meeting: The 230th regular

meeting was held on Thursday evening, October 8th, in the Pacific Gas and Electric Auditorium with 400 members and guests present.

The speaker of the evening was Mr. Roger Tory Peterson, Educational Director of the National Association of Audubon Societies and author of "A Field Guide to the Birds." His subject was "The Sport of Bird Study."

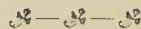
Mr. Peterson drew his hearers to him by telling amusing anecdotes of his boyhood beginnings of bird study. He later showed some of his first photographs: some good pictures of Screech Owls.

He spoke of the distressing decrease in the number of birds of prey in the eastern states, caused first by a misunderstanding of their usefulness and second by the encroachment upon their domains by cities and towns.

Mr. Peterson gave an encouraging account of the increase in the numbers of Double Crested Cormorants and Common Terns along the Atlantic coast.

This he attributed to the protection given them by the National Association at their key nesting colonies on the coast. One of his slides showed these cormorants nesting at the base of the "keep off" sign of the Association.

The most outstanding among the really fine pictures were those of the White Ibis in Florida. The worst enemy of these birds is the plume collector.



Memberships (\$3.00 per year) for 1937 paid at this time entitles the new members to all privileges of the Association for the remainder of 1936 free.

Audubon Association of the Pacific

Organized January 25, 1917

For the Study and the Protection of Birds

President.....Mrs. G. Earle Kelly.....1311 Grand Ave., Alameda, Calif.
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.

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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.