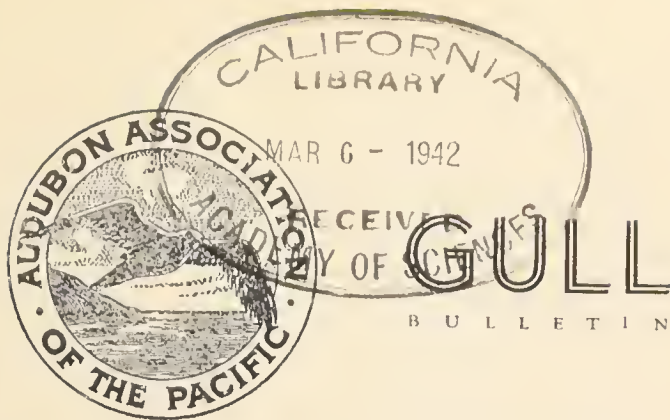


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# THE MONTHLY



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## Achievement

It was fortunate for the Audubon Association of the Pacific that Laura A. Stephens chose July 24, 1927, to join its ranks and begin an active participating membership. Since that time she has been a constant worker for the organization.

With the February issue of *THE GULL* Mrs. Stephens relinquished her editorship, thereby closing twelve years of untiring effort in our behalf. One hundred forty-four issues of a publication is an exacting task for anyone, especially when a certain standard is maintained. That a high standard was maintained is evidenced by the fact that *THE GULL* is referred to in many scientific journals.



Most of us look back to the influence of one person for our interest in birds. With Mrs. Stephens it was Dr. Harold C. Bryant, who was conducting field trips from the University of California at the time. Under his guidance, she became a competent observer, whose records are accepted by authoritative literature. In 1933 Mrs. Stephens was co-author with Miss Cornelia C. Pringle of the Association's first pamphlet, "Birds of Marin County". Three years later corrections and additions were made through the pages of *THE GULL*, bringing this list up to date. Another office, with much work and no glory, that our former editor held for the same twelve years was that of Treasurer. The fact that the society ends the year 1941 financially sound speaks for itself.

The Association is in its twenty-fifth year, a time to count its assets in order to know its strength for the future. Mrs. Stephens' record of achievement is one of those assets for which the society is very grateful.

Enid K. Austin, Piedmont, California.



## Records of a Bird Bander

I suppose every bird-bander has been amused by being asked, "Do you ever catch the same bird twice?" During the eleven years I have been banding I have been asked this question by at least ten persons. Here are some data that will answer the question.

On twenty-seven days between December 2, 1941, and February 2, 1942, I trapped and banded 273 birds of eleven species at the home of Dr. T. E. Reynolds in Piedmont. After these birds were caught the first time, 186 of them repeated a total of 572 times. And the number of repeats would have been more if I had not on December 10th removed fifteen Golden-crowned Sparrows (*Zonotrichia coronata*) and Song Sparrows (*Melospiza melodia*). Of the 121 Golden-crowns banded, 106 repeated a total of 346 times; of the 27 Song Sparrows, 24 repeated

a total of 98 times. The bird that was trapped the greatest number of times was Golden-crown 40-133892, which returned to the traps 28 times in 24 days. The birds which repeated the fewest times were the Spotted Towhees (*Pipilo maculatus*). Nine of these were banded and only two were re-trapped, once each. However, Spotted Towhees are not always as shy as this. In 1931, I banded 178 of them on 252 days in Strawberry Canyon, and 89 of them repeated a total of 476 times the same year.

All these repeat records are dwarfed by some of those kept by Mr. and Mrs. Harold Michener of Pasadena. Among their many records are those of a Mockingbird (*Mimus polyglottos*), which repeated 299 times in about two years, and a House Finch (*Carpodacus mexicanus*) repeated 480 times in 26 months. They do not know how many times the House Finch entered the traps, as it learned after a while to walk in and out without springing the trap.

Many interesting records of the longevity of birds have been obtained through banding. Among them are a Purple Finch ten years old, a Blue Jay twelve and a half years old, a Starling nearly sixteen years old. I have a record of a Wren-tit which must have been at least nine years old when last trapped. This bird was banded in Strawberry Canyon, Berkeley, on March 22, 1925, by E. D. Clabaugh. I re-trapped it thirteen times, the first time on February 3, 1931, shortly after I began to band in the Canyon, and the last time on February 21, 1934. I have not banded in the Canyon since October, 1934, and for all I know this Wren-tit may be enjoying life still in the vicinity of the swimming pool, where it was trapped each time.

I have been interested for some years in the so-called "homing instinct" which causes birds to return to the same locality when released at great distances from where they were trapped. Here is one interesting case: Early in November, 1933, I trapped and banded 28 Golden-crowned Sparrows in Strawberry Canyon, and on November 10th, I placed them in paper cartons and put them in the bottom of my car. I then drove to the North Fork of the Calaveras River, in the Sierra foothills, a distance of about 84 miles east of Berkeley, where I released them. One of these sparrows I recaptured 17 days later in almost the exact spot where it was first trapped. How did it find its way back, across the migration route of the Golden-crowned Sparrows, and across a country where it had never been before? Several more of these 28 birds I recaptured the following year, at the time Golden-crowned Sparrows usually arrive from their breeding grounds in British Columbia and Alaska. Where were they in the winter of 1933-34? None were recaptured then.

Bird-banding has added much to the knowledge of ornithologists, and has corrected some of their beliefs. Here is a correction of a minor matter: Hoffman in "Birds of the Pacific States," speaking of the Golden-crowned Sparrow, says of the immature bird that "its head is brown with only a trace of yellow on the forehead." So it is, but it used to be assumed, before bird-banding proved otherwise, that all Golden-crowns with this plumage were immature. However, both Mr. Joseph Mailliard and I have found that this "immature" plumage often persists for at least two years.

To write about all the interesting things learned through bird-banding would fill many volumes of THE GULL. What I have written is a mere scratch on the surface.

E. L. Sumner, Berkeley, Calif., February 5, 1942.



### California Audubon Convention

The second State Convention of the National Audubon Society and its California affiliated groups was held in Santa Barbara, January 23, 24 and 25, 1942, at the Samarkand Hotel. Mr. C. A. Harwell, California Representative, was director and general chairman of the meeting. Delegates from the various Audubon and bird study clubs throughout the State were present, and reported on the activities of their groups. More than three hundred people attended at least one session.

The Audubon Societies recognize that in the world of today what birds do for people is equally as important as what people do for birds. One of the purposes of the meeting was to stimulate those who are already interested in birds to share their pleasure and enthusiasm with the uninitiated. At the opening session, Mrs. Harriet W. Myers, President of the California Audubon Society, Los Angeles, presided. Mrs. Mary V. Hood of Los Angeles shared her interesting experience of watching the growth and development of the comical triplets, Woody, Donald and Peck of the California Woodpecker family, in a series of skilfully photographed kodachrome slides. The sight of young Donald chinning himself on a cross-bar and simultaneously performing "eyes left," "eyes right" and "eyes front" was as humorous as a Disney caricature. Mr. Frank F. Gander of the San Diego Museum of Natural History took the group with him visually to the tip of Lower California, also using the medium of beautifully photographed kodachrome slides. At an informal dinner on Friday night, Miss Laura Greely, President of the Los Angeles Audubon Society, presided. Mrs. T. Eric Reynolds of Piedmont showed her colored motion picture, "Fun with Birds," telling the story of the adventure and excitement which she and her family experience in their own backyard.

The Museum of Natural History of Santa Barbara was the delightful setting for the Saturday sessions, Mr. Arthur Coggeshall and his staff acting as hosts. Mr. James Moffitt of the Academy of Sciences, San Francisco, and member of the Board of Directors of the National Audubon Society, served as chairman. Mrs. J. H. Comby, State Chairman of Wildlife, California Federation of Women's Clubs, spoke on the subject of bird sanctuaries in California in general and the San Gabriel Canyon Sanctuary in particular, where Eastern Cardinals have established themselves, now numbering approximately one hundred birds. Mr. Richard Bond of the U. S. Soil Conservation Service, a specialist on birds of prey, gave a brief account of the status of the White-tailed Kite; he estimates that there are one hundred pairs of this threatened species in California. Miss Pearl Chase spoke on conservation, Miss Helen Pratt on Junior Audubon Clubs, and Mr. Moffitt on the plan for an Audubon Nature Camp in California. A life-history film of the Red-bellied Hawk was shown by Mr. Harrison of Los Angeles. The brief address of Mrs. Dorothy Dean Sheldon, "Knowing That He Has Wings," was an excellent exposition of one philosophy of bird study. She sketched the stories of a number of people who have found the bird world helpful in trying times.

Dr. T. D. A. Cockerell, Professor Emeritus of Zoology of the University of Colorado, eminent student of life in all its forms, sparkling with the joy of it even unto the seventh decade, told of the war work which he and Mrs. Cockerell have been doing for several years. They have been purchasing nature films and sending them to the soldiers' camps in England, and to the evacuated children. He suggested that our own soldiers are in need of entertainment of this kind, and urged the distribution of worthwhile films to camps throughout the country. This is a very tangible and timely suggestion. As Dr. Cockerell emphasized, the soldiers of today are the civilians of tomorrow, and now is the opportune time to enrich their lives by exposing them to nature films. He showed one of the films which they have distributed, "The Hummingbird" by E. R. and Jean Hoff, a superb achievement in bird photography. There could not be a soul so dead or a soldier so dull who would not be entertained by this film.

The Saturday night dinner was held at the Montecito Country Club, with Mr. David G. Nichols as master of ceremonies. Mr. Harwell entertained with whistling selections and showed Mr. Allan Cruickshank's film of the Audubon Wildlife Tours. The guest speaker was Mr. Donald Culross Peattie, author of "Audubon's America", "Singing in the Wilderness", "Road of a Naturalist" and other books. Mr. Peattie amazed everyone by recounting his experiences on a mythical peninsula, where he encountered such rare species as the "Double-breasted Seersucker" and the "Chromium-plated Gadget"--birds which we had believed extinct. The audience was further entertained by unpublished anecdotes of the life of John James Audubon.

When the meeting adjourned, and those who had attended returned to their homes and occupations, they did so with a feeling that they had been given a delightful respite from the cares of the man-made world. They had been stimulated to enjoy more than ever the beauty and interest of the world of birds.

Laurel Reynolds, Piedmont, California.



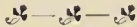
### Audubon Notes

**March Meeting:** The regular meeting will be held on Thursday, the 12th, at 8 p.m., in the Assembly Room, San Francisco Public Library, Larkin and McAllister Streets, San Francisco.

Mr. Brighton C. (Bugs) Cain, Nature Director and Assistant Executive of the Oakland Boy Scouts, will talk on "Bird and Boy Scouting."



**March Field Trip** will be taken on Sunday, the 15th, to East Bay Regional Park, back of Berkeley. Members take the Shattuck Avenue line F bus from the San Francisco Terminal, Natoma Street, at 8:55 a.m. to Berkeley Station. Then take the Spruce Street No. 67 bus to the reservoir at the top of the hill (end of bus line).



**February Meeting:** The 293rd regular meeting was held on the 12th in the Assembly Room of the San Francisco Public Library, with seventy-five members and guests present. First Vice-

President Mrs. Enid K. Austin presided.

It is with regret that we announce the resignation of our new President, Mr. David G. Nichols, whose personal affairs have required him to return to New York City.

The following names were proposed for membership: Mr. Earl Ninnis, of El Cerrito; Mr. Jim Selvester, of San Francisco; Master Warren Fischer, of Piedmont; Mr. E. L. Sumner Sr.; Mesdames A. M. Newhall, Howard Fletcher and Frank Shuman, all of Berkeley.

Dr. and Mrs. T. Eric Reynolds, of Piedmont, showed their colored motion pictures of birds of the Pacific Coast.



**Early Arrivals:** Mrs. M. L. Courtright, of Larkspur, Marin County, reported the arrival of Allen Hummingbirds on January 22nd. This is four days earlier than her reported arrival of last year. Mrs. Otis H. Smith, of San Anselmo, reported the arrival of the same species in her garden on January 27th, which she states is extremely early for her neighborhood.

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## Audubon Association of the Pacific

Organized January 25, 1917

### For the Study and the Protection of Birds

President.....	Mr. David G. Nichols.....	1710 Grant St., Berkeley
Corresponding Secretary.....	Mr. Joseph J. Webb.....	519 California St., San Francisco
Treasurer.....	Miss Ivander MacIver.....	2414 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley
Editor.....	Mrs. T. Eric Reynolds.....	140 Estates Drive, Piedmont

Monthly meeting second Thursday, 8 p.m.

Assembly Room, San Francisco Public Library, Larkin and McAllister Streets, San Francisco.

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.