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APRIL MEETING: The next regular meeting of the Association will be held on Thursday evening, 8th inst., at eight o'clock sharp, in the Lecture Hall of the California Development Board, Ferry Building.

This is the first of a series to be held at intervals, with special programs to encourage a more intimate and co-operative participation by the membership in general, and visitors as well are cordially invited to

An Audubon "At Home"
Miss Eva F. Griffin, Hostess



APRIL FIELD TRIP will be taken on Sunday, April 11, to and around Lake Merced. East Bay members should take ferry boat reaching San Francisco about 8:40 A. M. and go thence by Mission St. car line No. 12 with "Ocean" sign. Leave car at Fortieth Ave. and Sloat Boulevard. San Francisco members take Ingleside car, line No. 17, and transfer to car line No. 12 at Nineteenth Ave. and Sloat Boulevard and ride west on the boulevard to Fortieth Ave.

Party will form at 9:30 A. M. at entrance to nurseries of MacRorie & McLaren on Sloat Boulevard, near the point where Fortieth Ave. intersects same. Bring lunch and drinking water. Leader, Mr. C. R. Thomas.



PROCEEDINGS OF THE MARCH MEETING: The thirty-eighth regular meeting of the Association was held on the 11th of March in the Ferry Building, with President D'Evelyn in the chair; Mrs. C. R. Smith, Secretary. Members in attendance: Mesdames Kelly, Kibbe, Leggett, Rosemont; Misses Ayer, Boyle, Burnell, Burroughs, Drachman, Flynn, Griffin, Gunn, Howitt, Johnson, King, Potter, Raphael, Schroder; Messrs. Bell, Bryant, Hansen, Kelly, Kibbe, Lastreto, Leggett, Michael, Smith, Webb, Geo. Wright. Visitors: Mesdames Aiken, Bryant, Curry, Gunn, Michael, Pitcher, Rice, Stoddard, Wilcox; Misses Black, Gilbert, Lichtenstein, Nevis, Rosemont, Steele; Messrs. Dolliver, Meskimons, Pitman, Rice, and nine others, whose names it was impossible to secure, making fifty-nine in all.

Miss Elizabeth F. Burnell, A.M., Univ. Mich., recounted her experiences and observations along "A Rocky Mountain Trail," and detailed the varying emotions inspired in visitors, many of whom came to take a hasty glance,

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but loitered long and departed with regret. In the absence of a full report, the essence of Miss Burnell's very interesting address is set forth in the following review by an appreciative auditor:

"Making friends with birds along a trail gives new adventure and romance to every mountain climb. Interest in Natural History is returning visitors to the Rocky Mountain National Park summer after summer. They come not alone to climb Long's Peak but are asking for Nature Guides to tell the story of the wild life on its forest slopes and arctic moorlands. The Long's Peak trail is the home of the crested jay and the friendly 'camp robber'; it climbs to dashing cascades where the water ouzel courtesies, sings and courtesies for those who linger; it winds through limber pines, the banqueting halls of Clarke crows; it skirts the wind-scarred battle front of Timberline where the white crowned sparrow raises its second brood in the late summer; the plaintive call and tilting tail of the pipit and the rosy finches feeding on the Alpine snow fields become associated with the joy of the summit climb.

"It is the hope of Nature Guides to interest in birds and flowers those who have not been interested before; to give to those who find no pleasure in the physical exhilaration of climbing a taste of intellectual adventure which will carry them to an Alpine garden or to the bird visitors of Timberline. This is the spirit of the Rocky Mountain Trail School of Enos Mills. It is open to all; none are too old, none too young, for trail schools invite all alike. Nature Guides bring the spirit of discovery and exploration of the mountain trail to neighborhood birds and trees, to the shipping center and the market place. Each Audubon enthusiast becomes the inspiration for the Nature Center and the Trail School of the future. Other regions are rich in Natural History resources but nowhere else are they so accessible for rich and poor alike as in the San Francisco Bay region."

Dr. H. C. Bryant, Honorary Member of the Association then engaged the attention of those present with a systematic review of the shore birds to be found along the bay and adjacent marshes. Specimens of each were exhibited and data given for field identification and distinctions between different species resembling each other. If the birds could only be brought to realize the importance of exhibiting these certain marks at short range, the troubles of our field trips would disappear, but possibly they would lose a portion of their zest as well. The lecture was most timely and will help every observer who was fortunate enough to hear it.



Immediately prior to the meeting of the Association, the Board of Directors convened and elected to membership Mrs. Georgia T. Roe, Mrs. Grace Starrett, Miss Kate Applegarth, Miss Elizabeth F. Burnell, and Mr. G. Earle Kelly.

A committee was also appointed to consider the matter of place of meeting. The mail ballot indicated a slight majority in favor of larger quarters, but the Phelan Building auditorium was no longer available, and there was therefore no occasion to present the proposition to the meeting.

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STUDY OF BIRD HABITS BY SYSTEMATIC TRAPPING AND BANDING

While using a "Government Sparrow Trap" to rid his premises of the English Sparrow, Mr. S. Prentiss Baldwin (in Ohio and Georgia) found a new method of determining certain habits of birds by banding the native birds that also were wont to enter the traps. Systematic numbering and records lead to many interesting deductions of more or less scientific reliability that only need more extensive experimentation in the same line to be finally established. We shall epitomize some of these that are described by Mr. Baldwin in the Proceedings of the Linnaean Society of New York.

During four years of intermittent trapping sixteen hundred birds were banded. Reports of only three were received from outside sources, while sixty were retaken, many a number of times, under conditions that afforded an insight into their habits. This, and the behavior of the subjects, shows that birds are not unfavorably affected by their experience.

Birds do return to the same spot for nesting in succeeding seasons, but not with the same regularity as is popularly believed. Birds do return to the same spot to spend the winter year after year.

Migrating birds stop off at the same feeding stations on their route in succeeding seasons.

Birds linger for days in a locality while migrating, especially if the weather is stable. In the fall, an approaching storm will hasten them on their southward journey.

When the young birds leave their nest, the family will at once move away from the locality.

Young birds apparently will return the following year to the locality of their birth, and even also for their succeeding winter visits.

The odds are against the sentimental belief that birds are monogamous even within the same season when a second brood is raised.

Birds rapidly recover from injuries, as the replacement of lost tail feathers, healing of scars, etc.

Certain birds, notably thrashers, white-throated sparrows, towhees, wrens, retrapped repeatedly in the same spot but avoiding the same bait only a short distance away, show a limited foraging range. The writer had formed the same opinion, though only from observation uncorroborated by positive identification, from observations at his summer residence, when individuals or pairs and even flocks of the same species (except the white-throated sparrow, but adding the song and the Nuttall sparrows and the wren-tit) were always noted within the same small radius. Migrants also restrict their stop-over station to a small area where food is plentiful.

By thus retrapping the same birds in the same season and in succeeding years, and keeping records of mates and their young at the nest, scientific facts may be established such as those here noted and also others, such as the longevity of birds, foraging range, repeated use of the same nesting hole the same and following seasons, genealogical trees, individualisms, and other unexpected facts.

Two other practical lessons learned that are of interest to us are that measurably as the experimenter was reducing the number of English sparrows, the native birds increased in numbers, and that the loggerhead shrike deliberately lay in wait at the traps to attack the imprisoned birds. This is evidence in favor of sparrow hawk who may have been unjustly accused of killing canary birds in their cages in our city.

C. B. LASTRETO.

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GAME LAW PSYCHOLOGY

Very frequently complaint is made that the game laws are discriminatory and unfair. In most instances, ignorance or selfishness is the motive behind such criticism.

Game laws are necessary and must be strictly enforced, otherwise all of our game would quickly follow the wild pigeon, eskimo curlew, buffalo and others. A law that is not fair to the game is not fair to the sportsmen for it does not accomplish its purpose—protection.

Killing can only be allowed within the breeding capacity of the species. There must always be enough breeding stock left at the close of the season to take care of the natural decrease together with the kill during the next open season.

Too long or wrongly placed seasons for the convenience of sportsmen will surely result in game extermination.

J. S. HUNTER.



THE MARCH FIELD TRIP was taken on Sunday, March 14th, to Park Canyon, Haywards. This is one of the zonal regions of California from an ornithological point of view and is, of course, at its best somewhat later in the year, at the height of the nesting season, when the maximum development of insects brings the small flycatchers, wood pewees and vireos. The trip was not one for scoring numbers of species but interest centered upon the newly arrived lutescent warblers with which everyone had an excellent opportunity to become acquainted. Two nests of Allen hummers were of much interest. Several of the party lingered to watch the mother hummer feeding her young and reported her return to the nest every few minutes.

The following birds were encountered on the trip: Turkey vulture, sharp-shinned and red-tail hawks; flickers and Allen hummers; coast and California jays, meadow larks and Brewer blackbirds; purple finches, linnets, green-backed goldfinches and pine siskins; intermediate, Nuttall, golden-crowned, and song sparrows; San Francisco and California towhees; cliff swallow and cedar waxwings; lutescent, Townsend, and Audubon warblers; Vigors wren, red-breasted nuthatch, titmouse, bush-tits and wren-tits; ruby-crowned kinglets, hermit thrushes and Western robin. Thirty-two species.

Members present were: Misses Applegarth, Ayer, Burnell, Burroughs, Flynn, Griffin, Gunn and King; Mr. Michael; Mr. and Mrs. Kibbe. Guests: Mesdames Bridges, Harder, Michael and Pitcher; Misses Barrows, Gibbons, Mulligan, Rothstein, Valencia and Woodward; Messrs. Bridges and Meskimons. Eleven members and twelve guests.

ELIZABETH F. BURNELL.

AUDUBON ASSOCIATION OF THE PACIFIC

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Meets second Thursday of each month in Lecture Room of California Development Board, Ferry Building, San Francisco.

Every one welcome. Active Membership, \$3.00 per year, including Bulletin.

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