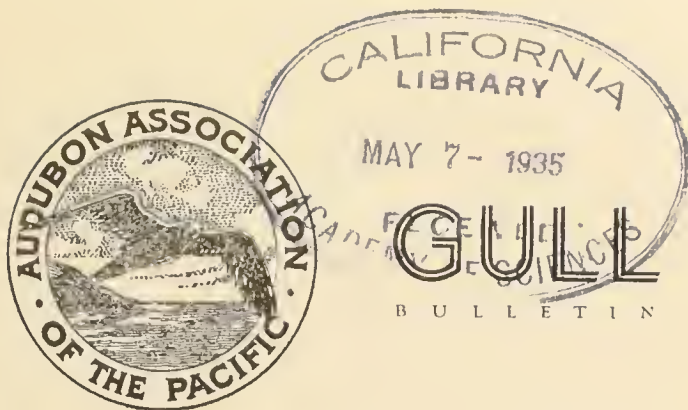


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Prairie Falcons

These birds do not confine themselves to the great open spaces but sometimes enter our cities. On December 26, 1932, I found one perched on an electric light pole, three blocks from our business center. The bird was in front of a service station and was totally oblivious to pedestrians or traffic. It seemed to be more interested in watching some House Sparrows fluttering about in Lombardy poplars nearby. Twice it moved to different poles close to the trees but I did not see it strike a bird.

Another spent the winter just beyond the southwest part of town near some feed yards adjacent to large pastures. House Sparrows were there by the thousands, also two or three hundred Brewer Blackbirds, but the only bird I saw it strike was a Pipit. It left its perch fully a quarter of a mile to overtake this bird, striking several times before its prey fell. In this same locality on December 24, 1933, I saw a Falcon swoop at a flock of Brewer Blackbirds without success.

On September 20, 1933, I saw a Prairie Falcon harassing a flock of Green-winged Teal for an hour or more without striking. Finally it did strike a single bird not more than a hundred feet from me, seemingly for the sheer joy of it, since it passed on without taking its prey. The Teal, however, recovered enough in a few minutes to fly to nearby water though it was apparently badly hurt.

I have made most of my Prairie Falcon observations in the territory of Horned Larks, which I believe are its principal food, although I have never seen a Falcon kill one of these birds.

On another occasion I saw a Prairie Falcon alight on a ledge where lived a family of Rock Wrens. My concern for the Wren's safety impelled me to climb the hill and frighten away the marauder. It, however, manifested no interest in the Wrens nor they any-fear of it as their curiosity took them within a very few feet of their dangerous visitor. Apparently it was not yet dangerous, being immature. I approached within twenty-five or thirty feet before it flushed and flew to a nearby ledge higher up the hill.

Hardly had it alighted when I heard a piercing squeal. I did not readily locate the source as I was looking too low, but when I did I saw another Prairie Falcon flying toward the cliff where the immature bird was sitting. Instead of continuing to the cliff, this Falcon began to circle in front of the cliffs and as it did so four or five other Falcons arose, and, as if by an order, all sat back on the rocks except one which pursued and overtook the Falcon still in the air, and, just as it seemed to attack, the first Falcon let go its prey, probably a bird, which the pursuing one caught in the air before it had dropped more than twenty or thirty feet. It then flew back toward the waiting ones on the rock, which arose and followed it over the hill, where they were soon lost to view. Whether it was the fond father's wish to feed his offspring, whether mother thought she could better attend to that herself, or whether all this was merely a training exercise for the young, is a matter of conjecture.

C. W. Lockerbie, Salt Lake City, Utah. January 15, 1934.

A Ruby-crowned Kinglet Asleep

A boy brought me a male Ruby-crowned Kinglet on December 24, 1934, which he said he caught in a tree, seemingly suffering from the cold. I put it in a cage overnight, and noted that while it slept, with its head under one wing, the red feathers of the crown, which in many of its attitudes are not visible, were spread wide open in a wedge-shaped exhibit. I wonder if it is customary for them to display the bright head patch while at roost.

Emerson A. Stoner, Benicia, California. February 18, 1935.



A Cormorant's Meal

On November 25, 1934, a hunter handed me a "fish hawk" which he had killed on Southampton Bay, Benicia, California. It proved to be a male Farallon Cormorant, *Phalacrocorax auritus albociliatus*. These birds are quite often seen here, but this happened to be the first one that I had handled.

What interested me mostly was that upon skinning it, I found an immense swelling in the gullet extending from the stomach towards the throat. The stomach itself was filled to capacity with the remains of partly digested fish, and, with its nose in the stomach of the bird, and its tail in the throat, was an entire fish, ten and a quarter inches in length, awaiting its turn for room to enter the stomach.

Emerson A. Stoner, Benicia, California. February 18, 1935.



Do Birds Reason?

My residence in the outskirts of Redlands, California, is among the extensive orange groves, and we have an attractive garden which is enlivened by a variety of bird-life. Under the bushes a small feeding space has been selected and each morning several handfuls of chicken feed, crackers, and bread crumbs are distributed and the birds soon learned that a friendly hand lived near them. Occasionally a few Valley Quail join the Towhees, both the Brown and Spotted, and several species of Sparrows, Blue Jays and other birds enjoy the feast.

A few evenings ago just before dark I was sitting in a chair on the front porch at the top of about three steps to the lawn, when suddenly around the corner of the house at full speed came a Valley Quail followed by a Hawk; not more than a few feet separated the two birds and the Hawk's talons were already lowered to grasp his victim. The Quail evidently saw me as a friend and rescuer as he swerved quickly and lit right at my feet. The Hawk, of course, swung away and disappeared. The Quail, a fine cock bird, dropped so suddenly that I thought at first the Hawk had struck it and it was wounded, but it hopped a few steps, just out of reach of my hand, and seemed perfectly all right as it rested quietly for a few minutes while getting its breath and then ran off into the bushes.

Do birds reason? I would say, decidedly yes! This Quail had evidently been feeding and had seen me and knew I was his friend.

M. Hall McAllister, Redlands, California. January 2, 1935.

April Field Trip was taken on Sunday, the 14th, to the Lake Merced region with fourteen members and three guests present. The morning was ideal, but the clouds, at first beautiful, soon turned to storm clouds so that shortly after luncheon rain began falling and increased in intensity to such an extent that only two members of the group continued around the larger lake.

Since the canyon leading down from Junipero Serra Boulevard has been completely denuded of all vegetation, it has proved more profitable to start the trip from the north end of the smaller lake. On this lake were Eared Grebes in nuptial plumage and three male Red-breasted Mergansers; a Bittern was flushed from the tules bordering on the south side of the lake. Tule Wrens and Yellowthroats also were present; in fact these two species were present in numbers around both lakes. Bank Swallows were apparently nesting in the bank at the northeast corner of the lake; a Mallard's nest with eggs was found in the tules near this location, and two broods of young were noted on the larger lake.

The tules and willows which were removed from the shores of the larger lake some time ago have grown again so that suitable cover is provided for the species which favor such associations.

Allen Hummingbirds were feeding young still in the nest and the familiar "whit" of the Russet-backed Thrush was heard several times during the day.

This trip was the eleventh taken to this region in April. The number of species noted is only two below the average for all previous April trips. While the road building and the presence of the skeet club in this region have undoubtedly driven away certain interesting birds, particularly of the water species, the smaller land varieties still persist. The total list of fifty-two species is as follows:

Eared Grebe	Mourning Dove	Yellow Warbler
Western Grebe	Anna Hummingbird	Audubon Warbler
Pied-billed Grebe	Allen Hummingbird	Yellow-throat
Great Blue Heron	Red-shafted Flicker	Pileolated Warbler
Black-cr. Night Heron	Black Phoebe	English Sparrow
Bittern	Western Flycatcher	Red-winged Blackbird
Mallard	Wood Pewee	Brewer Blackbird
Baldpate	Bank Swallow	Purple Finch
Ruddy Duck	Barn Swallow	Linnet
Red-breasted Merganser	Chickadee	Pine Siskin
Ring-necked Pheasant	Bush-tit	Willow Goldfinch
California Quail	Vigors Wren	Green-backed Goldfinch
Virginia Rail	Tule Wren	Spotted Towhee
Coot	Robin	Junco
Killdeer	Russet-backed Thrush	Nuttall Sparrow
Glaucous-winged Gull	Cedar Waxwing	Fox Sparrow
Western Gull	Warbling Vireo	Song Sparrow
Forster Tern		

It may be mentioned here that the Lake Merced region has also a rather profuse plant population as well as an interesting bird one. The following is an incomplete list of the plants commonly found: Soap plant, muilla, blue-eyed grass, lupine, pimpernel, sun-cups, evening primrose, California poppy, yellow mustard, footsteps-of-spring, wild hollyhock, wild heliotrope, wild cucumber, sheep sorrel, Indian paint-brush, bee-plant, toad-flax, popcorn flower, baccharis, lizard tail, gold fields, yarrow, pineapple-weed, senecio, fire-weed, silver-weed, and brake fern.

Members attending: Mesdames Cummings, Kelly, Ruly H. Thomas; Mr. and Mrs. Stephens; Misses Cohen, Griffin, Papina; Messrs. Bryant, Chase, Power, Carl R. Smith, C. R. Thomas; Master Harold Kirker. Guests: Mrs. Anabel, Miss Nienburg, Warren Swing.

C. A. Bryant, Leader and Historian.

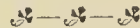
Audubon Notes

May Meeting: The regular meeting will be held on Thursday, the 9th, at 8 p. m., room 19, Ferry Building.

The speaker of the evening will be Dr. Gayle Pickwell of the San Jose State Teachers College. Subject: "Birds of the Transition and Canadian Life Zones of the Sierra Nevada and the Sierra Madre Mountains."



May Field Trip will be taken on Sunday, the 12th, to Saint Mary's, Contra Costa County. San Francisco members will take 8 a. m. Key Route Ferry and Sacramento Northern Railway train. East Bay members may take train at Fortieth Street and Shafter Avenue at 8:30 a. m. Purchase round-trip tickets to Saint Mary's; fare from San Francisco, 75c; from Oakland, 50c. Bring luncheon and filled canteens. Charles A. Bryant, leader.



April Meeting: The 213th regular meeting was held on April 11th, room 19, Ferry Building, with thirty-seven members and guests present. President Junea W. Kelly presiding.

Paul Arnstein, of San Francisco, was elected a junior member.

The following observations were reported:

Mrs. G. Earle Kelly: March 23rd, Bay Farm Island, Hudsonian Curlew, the first seen in the vicinity in 1935; 27th, Berkeley, Western Flycatcher; April 1st, Stanford Campus, Warbling Vireo; 10th, Golden Gate Park, Pileolated Warbler, Cliff House, 3 Ruddy Turnstones, 25 Black Turnstones, 5 Surf

Birds, 1 Wandering Tattler; 8th, Bay Farm Island, 2 Caspian Terns.

Tom Kirksey: March 29th, Hamilton Field, Marin County, Western Flycatcher, Dusky Poorwill.

Fritz Lippmann: April 7th, San Andreas Lake, Red-bellied Hawk.

Commander Parmenter: March 15th, Leslie Salt Ponds, 155 Shovellers, 2 Baldpates, 800± Lesser Scaup; San Mateo Bridge, 10 Black-bellied Plovers; 750± Western Willets, 600± Marbled Godwits; Dumbarton Bridge, two Forster Terns; 19th, Bodega Bay, 1000± Black Brant; Lagunitas, Varied Thrush.



The following records were received through the mail:

Chas. A. Bryant: April 21st, Livermore, Western Kingbird, Ash-throated Flycatcher, Tolmie Warbler, Bullock Oriole, Black-headed Grosbeak, Chipping Sparrow, Russet-backed Thrush, House Wren.

Mrs. L. W. Cummings: April 11th, Lafayette Square, San Francisco, two Varied Thrushes.

Robt. Taylor: March 23rd, Oakland Scout Camp, Western Flycatcher; April 12th, Pileolated Warbler, House Wren; March 29th, Livermore, Cliff and Barn Swallows; April 10th, Oakland, Bullock Oriole; a bird of this species has nested at Mr. Taylor's home for the last five years; Black-headed Grosbeak; 12th, Western Kingbird; 13th, Gnat-catcher; 19th, Olive-sided Flycatcher; Lazuli Bunting; 21st, near San Mateo, Ash-throated Flycatcher; 5th, Spring Valley Lakes, Hermit Thrush.

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.

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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.