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ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

VOLUME 18

SAN FRANCISCO, MARCH, 1936

NUMBER 3

Report of the President for the Year 1935

This meeting brings to a close the nineteenth year of the existence of our Association, which was organized January 25, 1917, for the study and the protection of wild birds. Our membership is 117, the lowest we have had since 1929. There are nine honorary, eleven life and only ninety-seven active members. During 1935 one honorary member, H. S. Swarth, died, nine active members resigned and eight have been dropped for non-payment of dues. We have added six new members for the year, four of whom are junior members. The average attendance at the meetings for 1935 was only thirty-four.

In 1932 we had a membership of 148, in 1934 of 125. Average attendance at the meetings in 1934 was forty-seven against thirty-four in 1935. Associations such as ours do not suffer in membership in the early part of a depression but bear the brunt of it as time goes on. In the beginning few people realized that the difficult times would last so long and that they would be so severe. Hence our membership has continued to drop and it has been difficult to secure new members. In the past few years suburban boat schedules have made it less convenient for some members to attend meetings and in some cases the price of transportation has been increased. Undoubtedly all these things have had a decided effect upon our membership.

We are, however, solvent. Our efficient treasurer and editor, Mrs. A. B. Stephens, has managed to balance the account. We, indeed, owe her a vote of thanks for the many hours of splendid work she has given the Association. Of the ten subscribers to *The Gull*, six live in California, and one each in New York, Louisiana, North Dakota and Washington, D. C. With each year *The Gull* becomes more valuable as it continues to give bird observations from the same places and thus adds another year's record.

To Mrs. H. P. Bracelin the organization is indebted for her continued service in securing able speakers. The Association hereby thanks her and the speakers who have so generously given of their time and knowledge.

Mr. Charles A. Bryant has again planned and led the field trips and acted as historian. The Association appreciates his good work.

Through the Publicity Committee we have brought the work of the Association before the public. Through the Reception Committee we have welcomed visitors. The Conservation Committee is still working on the Lake Merced project, hoping to have it set aside for a bird sanctuary. They have enlisted the co-operation of the San Francisco Junior Chamber of Commerce.

I take this occasion to extend thanks to my fellow officers and to all who have served on committees and to the membership at large for their co-operation. In conclusion, may I urge every one of you to help build up the organization so that it may have a wider sphere of influence in this community of ours, for in the future more than ever before will wild life need protection.

Respectfully submitted,

Junea W. Kelly, President.

Treasurer's Report for 1935

Commercial Account:		
Balance January 2, 1935		\$ 99.33
Receipts:		
Dues for 1934	\$ 9.00	
Dues for 1935	249.00	
Dues for 1936 (junior)	1.50	
Subscription to The Gull for 1933.....	1.00	
Subscription to The Gull for 1934.....	2.00	
Subscription to The Gull for 1935.....	10.00	
Subscription to The Gull for 1936.....	2.00	
Sale of back numbers of The Gull.....	.30	
Sale of "Birds of Marin County" booklet.....	11.25	
Donation from a guest	5.00	
Miscellaneous09	291.14
		<hr/>
		\$390.47
Expenditures:		
Publishing The Gull	\$216.00	
Envelopes and stamps	20.80	
Audubon meeting notice circulars.....	6.75	
Sales taxes	6.02	
Federal taxes04	
Deposit in Savings Account	8.75	
Dinner money for guest speakers	5.56	
Janitor's Christmas gift	5.00	
Post cards10	
Committee on Lighthouse Research problem.....	25.00	\$294.02
		<hr/>
Balance in Commercial Account.....		96.45
		<hr/>
		\$390.47
Savings Account:		
Balance January 2, 1935.....	\$532.04	
Deposit for 1935	8.75	
Interest for 1935	12.04	\$552.83
		<hr/>
Total Accounts:		
Commercial Account	\$ 96.45	
Savings Account	552.83	\$649.28
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Memberships: Honorary, 9; Life, 11; Junior, 9; Active, 88; total, 117.

Laura A. Stephens, Treasurer.

Checked and approved: Joseph J. Webb and Chas. A. Bryant.

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Report of Field Trips for 1935

The following report covers the results of the monthly field trips made by the Association during the year 1935. One trip each was taken to Lake Merritt, Oakland, Alameda and Bay Farm Island and University of California Campus, Berkeley, all in Alameda County; Saint Mary's, Contra Costa County; Burlingame, including the San Mateo Bridge, San Mateo County; Point Bonita and Tennessee Cove, Marin County; Land's End, Cliff House and Golden Gate Park, San Francisco. Two trips were taken to each of the following: Ross, Marin County and Lake Merced, San Francisco.

Species totaling 171 were noted, with an average of fifty to a trip. The largest list, seventy-seven in number, was noted on our walk to Point Bonita in March. Burlingame and San Mateo Bridge in February and Saint Mary's

in May tied for second place with sixty-nine each. The June trip to Ross was third with fifty-four species, followed closely by the April trip to Lake Merced with fifty-two species.

The Yellow-billed Magpie was a new species for the Association's life-list which now totals 238 species. The Spotted Sandpiper is missing from our list for the first time since 1927. Greater Yellow-legs and Avocets, missing from our lists since 1931, appear again. The Short-eared Owl, noted for the first time in 1932, appears again, as does the Townsend Solitaire, which was noted for the first time in 1923.

Fifty-two members attended the various trips, the average per trip being seventeen. The most popular trip was to Point Bonita, with thirty-two members attending; Saint Mary's in May was second with twenty-four members; and Lake Merritt in January, third with twenty-one members.

Seventy-four different guests attended the various trips, none becoming members of the Association.

Chas. A. Bryant, Field Trip Leader.

* * *

February Field Trip

Under the leadership of Mrs. Junea W. Kelly, six members and three guests spent a most delightful day in San Mateo County, on their annual trip to Burlingame. The day was overcast at times and rain threatened, but only once did a few drops fall.

The morning was spent in Burlingame, walking up Easton Drive, around Baileyana Road, along Oakdale and Summit Roads and back to Easton Drive. The returning Allen Hummingbirds were numerous, swinging through the air over our heads, or perching on the shrubbery. Robins were common and a number of Varied Thrushes were observed. Thirty species were noted as follow:

Sharp-shinned Hawk	Coast Bush-tit	Purple Finch
Red-tailed Hawk	Vigors Wren	House Finch
Sparrow Hawk	Thrasher	Pine Siskin
Anna Hummingbird	Western Robin	Green-backed Goldfinch
Allen Hummingbird	Varied Thrush	Brown Towhee
Red-shafted Flicker	Hermit Thrush	San Francisco Towhee
California Woodpecker	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	Oregon Junco (pink sides)
California Jay	Hutton Vireo	Nuttall Sparrow
Barlow Chickadee	Audubon Warbler	Golden-crowned Sparrow
Plain Titmouse	Townsend Warbler	Song Sparrow

After eating luncheon at the playground, we drove down to the marshes at Palo Alto, the proposed site for a bird sanctuary. Along the Bayshore Highway six Sparrow Hawks, three American Egrets, large flocks of Red-backed and Western Sandpipers, a few English Sparrows and Meadowlarks were seen.

Walking along the levee, a distance of half a mile, where walking was not too good, due to very recent rains, we were fully rewarded for our effort and the mud accumulated on our shoes by seeing the following species: Great Blue Heron, Pintail Duck, Duck Hawk, Clapper Rail, Killdeer, Black-bellied Plover, Long-billed Curlew, Western Willet, Greater Yellow-leg, Marbled Godwit and Pipit. The real thrill, however, came when we reached the end of the levee. Standing on the mud flats behind a lateral levee was a flock of at least 250 Avocets all facing a brisk west wind. They did not become alarmed at our presence. Many of them were already wearing their breeding plumage of cinnamon-brown on the neck and breast. Several times they arose in the air, displaying their striking pattern of black and white in the sunlight, and each time returned to their first position. Beyond them in the northeast sky was a beautiful rainbow, which seemed to enclose them: a picture long to be cherished and a perfect ending to another enjoyable day in the field.

Members attending were our leader, Mrs. Kelly; Messrs. Bryant and Myer; Mr. and Mrs. Stephens and Master Kirker. Guests were Mr. and Mrs. N. R. Baugh of San Francisco and Mrs. A. Baer of Burlingame.

Laura A. Stephens, Historian.

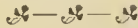
Audubon Notes

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

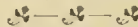
The speaker of the evening will be Mr. Gordon True, of the Fish and Game Commission, whose subject will be "Game Refuges."



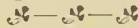
March Field Trip will be taken on Sunday, the 15th, to Tennessee Cove, Marin County. Purchase round-trip ticket to Manzanita, 45 cents, and take 8:45 Sausalito Ferry. Bring luncheon. Leader, B. K. Dunshee.



"Birds of Marin County," published by the Audubon Association of the Pacific, giving a list of the birds found in Marin County, may be obtained from the leader. Price, 25 cents.



Dinner: The Lick Tavern, 39 Lick Place, has been designated as the restaurant for members desiring to have dinner together on the evening of the regular meeting at 6:30.



The news of the death of George M. Wright, chief of the Wildlife Division, National Park Service, in an automobile accident in New Mexico, February 25th, was a great shock to his many friends in the Bay region.

When a boy, on January 16, 1918, he joined the Audubon Association of the Pacific, which was the beginning of his serious study of birds. On June 9, 1927, he was elected to honorary membership because of his work in McKinley National Park, where he discovered the nest and eggs of the Surf-bird. On May 17, 1929, in appreciation of what the Association meant to him, he became a life member.

Admired for his fine personal qualities and widely known for his work in wild-life research and conservation, he will be keenly missed.



February Meeting. The 223rd regular meeting was held on February 13th, room 19, Ferry Building, with twenty-five members and guests present.

Mrs. Mary L. Courtright reported that for some time eight American Egrets and one Snowy Heron have been seen at Manzanita marsh.

Mrs. Kelly reported an Allen Hummingbird on the slopes of Mt. Tamalpais, February 2, and one in Golden Gate Park, February 15th.

Commander Parmenter reported 100 Horned Grebes, February 11th; one each Hutchins Goose and Cinnamon Teal on the 12th, at Lake Merced. Eleven Redhead Ducks on Stow Lake, February 8th. The four Whistling Swans that have been spending the winter at Crystal Springs Lakes were last seen January 15th. The Canada Geese previously reported are still there. From January 21st to February 3rd, on the Mountain View marshes. Long-billed Curlew were present in considerable numbers, twenty-eight being noted at one time, together with more than ten Hudsonian Curlew; seven Long-billed Dowitchers on the 27th, and about 500 Avocets on the 17th; on Tomales Bay 2500± Black Brant and 200± on Bodega Bay, January 24th.

Miss Werner observed in Golden Gate Park three Varied Thrushes and one Willow Woodpecker, January 19th.

Mr. F. H. Test delivered a very interesting lecture contrasting his bird studies in Indiana, Honduras and California.

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.

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.