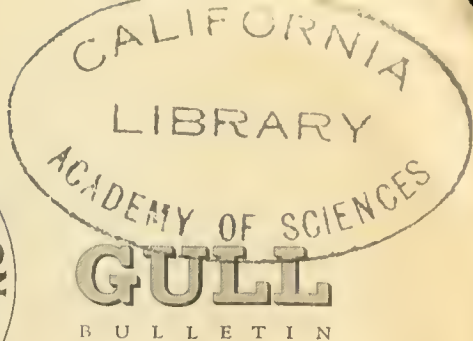


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THE MONTHLY



GULL BULLETIN

VOLUME 1

SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA, FEBRUARY, 1919

NUMBER 2

FEBRUARY MEETING: The twenty-fifth regular meeting of the Association will be held on Thursday evening, 13th inst., at 8 o'clock sharp, in the lecture hall of the California Development Board, Ferry Building.

Bird nesting boxes will be discussed.

Dr. Barton W. Evermann, Honorary President, will recount "A California Quail Story."



FEBRUARY FIELD TRIP: By the courtesy of the Tamalpais Conservation Club, we will share their rendezvous at Bootjack No. 2, on Sunday, 16th inst. Leave San Francisco on Sausalito boat at 8:15 a. m. Purchase return tickets to Mill Valley. Party will proceed via steps and pipe line trail to Rattlesnake Camp and up to Bootjack, six miles. Bring your own cup and sugar with your lunch. Hot coffee will be the reward. Everyone you meet will be a lover of the mountain.



PROCEEDINGS OF THE ANNUAL MEETING

The second annual meeting was held on January 9th, in the Ferry Building, with President Lastreto in the chair and seventeen members and several guests present. Following the transaction of routine business and the presentation of annual reports, the lecture of the evening was delivered by Mr. H. S. Swarth, Honorary Member of the Association and Curator of Birds in the ornithological department of the University of California. The subject, "Some Birds of Arizona," was ably handled by Mr. Swarth, who not only gave us a comprehensive idea of the avifauna of the State, but illustrated the diverse habitat through the medium of exquisitely colored lantern slides.

Following the lecture came the election of Dr. B. W. Evermann as Honorary President and the Board of Directors for 1919.

On January 22d the newly elected board was organized as follows:

President	C. B. Lastreto
1st Vice-President	F. W. D'Evelyn
2d Vice-President	G. T. Marsh
Recording Secretary	R. M. Leggett
Corresponding Secretary	C. N. Douglas
Treasurer	A. S. Kibbe
Superintendent of Juniors	H. E. Hansen
Director	C. R. Smith
Director	N. D. Kelley

PRESIDENT'S REPORT FOR 1918

Our young Association entered into its second year with very promising prospects of continued rapid growth and important accomplishments. Many new members were added to our roster and strong committees were well launched into their work. But the abnormal conditions caused by the war interrupted and, let us hope, only postponed, expected accomplishments. At least seven of our foremost members, Dr. Gibbons, Messrs. Webb, Newson, Peck, Loeb, McClenahan and Tevis, in answering their country's call, made their absence felt. But on the other hand we are proud of the representation they give the Association in the country's service and we can thank them for the greater work they performed. The other activities that fell to the part of the civilian also deprived many others of the time and opportunity to do what they would for the good of the Association.

Notwithstanding this and many distracting events, the monthly meetings continued uninterruptedly, except one made impossible by the influenza epidemic, and they were well attended. As much can be said of our monthly field-trips, all of which were very successful from the pleasure and instruction afforded and the interesting observations recorded.

There are no legislative activities to record as the State Legislature did not meet. Mention, however, may be made of the passage of the enabling act by Congress for the enforcement of the Migratory Bird Treaty with Great Britain on the 3rd of July. That the preceding Federal Migratory Bird Act of 1913 has practically been found unconstitutional is therefore of little importance.

It behooves us, however, to be vigilant and ready to enlist our services where they may be needed, as for example against the purpose to drain the Klamath Lakes which would destroy a valuable reservation and bird-preserve. As it is explained with apparent plausibility that the alleged reclamation of cultivable land would be ineffectual because of the heavily alkaline character of the locality, it would appear that we would be on the right side in opposing the project; then, too, it might be proper to direct our influence in favor of the counter proposition of ceding to the Federal Government the jurisdiction over this reservation as well as the Lake Malheur Reservation in Oregon.

It is an unfortunate circumstance that little sympathy has been won from our local press for our work and its objects. It might even be stated that we encounter here an opposition that we have to combat, by what means it is hard to exactly outline. For example, the almost violent attacks on the treaty that protects migratory birds, with special reference to ducks, are evidently the outgrowth of fallacious opinions and interested opposition. Enlightenment can not of itself conquer this hostility. We may for the present have to limit our efforts to influencing public sentiment to counteract the effect of malicious propaganda.

Pursuing our plan to study the truth on a question and seek the guidance of scientific experts before taking sides or adopting a course of action, at two of our monthly meetings we had the question of the alleged damage by ducks to the California rice fields expounded by such authorities as Messrs. Hunter and Badé, Dr. Bryant and Prof. Mackie. The net result is that the duck as an accused pest to the rice farmer is at most but incomparably less so than rodents and insects against which birds are the best combatants, though scantily acknowledged by those who impeach the duck. We learned besides that even the comparatively small damage actually done to the rice can easily be avoided by the shooting of bombs to scare away the ducks from the fields, but better by properly sowing the seed so as to thoroughly cover the ground with the growing crop so as not to leave exposed puddles for the birds to descend into and where they begin the damage. In the light of such simple facts, are we not right, then, to enlist our sympathies and service in defense of a victim of, let it be said, epicurean covetousness?

In line with our juvenile program, we have found a fertile field anxiously awaiting our cultivation in the Boy Scout organization. When announcement of intended bird instruction was made to a theater full of the boys the enthusiasm expressed by them in their loud and prolonged cheers was as an imperative demand made upon their elders and those who are able to satisfy their desire for bird knowledge. Already Mr. Hansen has begun the good work, and as Scout Master of a troop, with the assistance of Dr. Leggett and Mr. Thomas, has begun to instruct them. Soon they will be taught about bird houses and how to help birds to build their nests so that they may prepare homes for their feathered chums for the coming housekeeping season.

Nothing has been done towards the prevention of destruction of birds at lighthouses as war conditions made it inopportune, but we have not lost sight of this interesting purpose.

On account of increased cost, it is questionable whether the Association can continue to give its members a free subscription to Bird Lore, as heretofore, unless an addition be made to the very small yearly dues. Instead, effort will be made to publish a monthly Bulletin to be sent to each member, reporting our activities and with bird news of nearer, and possibly more, interest to us. Every member will be requested to communicate to the Corresponding Secretary any item of interest to the Association, personal observations, and suggestions. By such general and generous support you can all help to develop a publication that may be a source to yourselves of pleasure and pride.

Initial steps have been taken, and the co-operation of the Cooper Ornithological Club secured, to advocate the adoption of municipal cat-licensing ordinances.

The success, growth and the value to each member of the Audubon Association depends upon the interest each takes in its welfare. Besides your continued loyalty which I wish to call for, may I also urge upon you to try to enlarge our membership. Surely every one has some friend who can enjoy with you your companionship with birds, and others who would gladly join us in our efforts to give them protection, even if only with the small monetary contribution and the moral weight given by a large membership.

I have much to thank you for in your devotion to the cause and especially the officers, who have given more of work and service than appears on the surface. And may I bespeak for my successor the same interest and loyalty, that your Association may soon well deserve its wide including title of the Audubon Association of the Pacific. C. B. LASTRETO.



FIELD TRIPS AND OUTINGS DURING 1918

Field trips were made monthly during the year, parties visiting Golden Gate Park on three occasions and the following named localities once each: University of California Campus, Lake Merritt and Trestle Glen, Azalea Spring, Lafayette, Tennessee Cove, Redwood Peak, Bay Farm Island, Temescal Canyon and Lagunitas Lake.

On these trips an average of thirty-four different species have been observed. The average attendance has consisted of nine members and two guests.

These trips have covered the best bird locations in this vicinity within the practicable radius for an outing of one day's length. Golden Gate Park has been visited oftenest for the reason that it is more accessible to the membership than any other equally good territory. Trips were made to observe the water birds in the Winter, the nesting birds in the Spring and the adolescent birds with the parents in the Fall.

The varying times of tides and the unsettled habits of the shore birds make the problem of arranging a satisfactory trip for their observation a

THE GULL

AUDUBON ASSOCIATION OF THE PACIFIC FOR THE STUDY AND THE PROTECTION OF BIRDS

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Corresponding Secretary, C. N. Douglas.....Kohl Building, San Francisco
Superintendent of Juniors, Harold E. Hanscn.....870 Forty-third Avenue, San Francisco
Treasurer, A. S. Kibbc.....1534 Grove St., Berkeley

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

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

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somewhat difficult one. It is to be regretted that so few members availed themselves of the opportunity afforded by the October trip to Bay Farm Island when the best possible tide and the remarkable gathering of shore birds offered what must be a rare opportunity to an organization of this character. The present Committee would bespeak for its successor during 1919 the co-operation of members who are interested in the field trips in arranging such a program as will bring out a somewhat larger attendance. It is felt that the parties might with advantage average twelve or more members, and if there is any way in which the trips can be made more attractive from the standpoint of bird observation and study, your Committee is certain that the 1919 Committee will keenly appreciate any suggestions or assistance in making this a popular and profitable feature of the Association's activities.



ACTIVITIES OF THE JUNIOR ANNEX

Bird study and protection, have been received with interest by the San Francisco Boy Scouts. Backed with sincere interest by Mr. Raymond O. Hanson, Chief Scout Executive, classes are being organized, and the Junior Audubon Work is rapidly being placed on a practical working basis. Volunteers are now needed to help instruct the boys. All Association members who wish to help the good work along, should communicate with the Superintendent of Juniors.



Plans regarding the establishment of experiment grounds and the placing of bird nesting houses in Golden Gate Park, for the instruction of the Junior Department, are now being prepared, with the co-operation of the Park authorities. A definite program will be announced later.



Troop Twenty, San Francisco, Boy Scouts of America, participated in the taking of a Christmas Bird Census for the magazine "Bird Lore." A total of 61 species and 12,058 individuals was obtained for the day, in San Francisco County. Several thousand canvas backs were seen at Lake Merced. One varied thrush was seen at Sutro Park.



THE JANUARY FIELD TRIP was taken on the 12th ult., to Lake Merritt and Trestle Glen, Oakland. The day was cool, but pleasant, although the ground in the glen was rather damp. Members present were the Misses Cassidy, King, Raphael and Wilson, and Mrs. and Mr. Kibbe. Our guests were Miss Darby and Miss Natalie Healey.

On the lake were found pin-tails, canvas-backs, ruddys, golden-eyes, shovellers, bald-pates, greater and lesser scaup, and green-winged teal; cared and pied-bill grebes; coots; California and Bonaparte gulls.

On shore, along the lake and in the glen, were hermit thrushes, green-backed goldfinches, spurred towhees, ruby-crowned kinglets, brown towhees, a sparrow hawk; song, golden-crowned and Nuttall sparrows; wren-tits, flickers, Audubon warblers, bush-tits, and a titmouse; meadow larks, California quail; a willow woodpecker and a black phoebe. Thirty-two species in all.