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JANUARY TRIP TO TOMALES BAY

The 25 persons who turned out for this trip on January 17 certainly could not be accused of faint heart for the wind blew a gale for some 15 hours previously and over 5 inches of rain fell in the Pt. Reyes area. Dawn found clearing weather however, and blue skies predominated all day. The Olema marsh, full to overflowing, blocked the road to Inverness during the morning so the car caravan birded the east shore of Tomales Bay where the highlights were one female Old-squaw, about a dozen Redheads and hundreds of Black Brant. After lunch we slowly plowed through the shallow water covering the highway and made our way to Tomales Point where three more Old-squaws were seen plus the beautiful Harlequin Ducks and one female American Scoter.

The following 90 species were observed: Common Loon, Arctic Loon, Red-throated Loon, Horned Grebe, Eared Grebe, W. Grebe, Pied-billed Grebe, White Pelican, Brown Pelican, Double-crested Cormorant, Brandt Cormorant, Pelagic Cormorant, Great Blue Heron, Am. Egret, Snowy Egret, Black Brant, Mallard, Baldpate, Pintail, Green-winged Teal, Shoveller, Redhead., Canvas-back, Scaup (probably both species), Am. Golden-eye, Bufflehead, Old Squaw, Harlequin Duck, White-winged Scoter, Surf Scoter, Am. Scoter, Ruddy Duck, Red-breasted Merganser, Turkey Vulture, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Cooper Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, Sparrow Hawk, Calif. Quail, Coot, Black Oyster-catcher, Killdeer, Surf-bird, Ruddy Turnstone, Black Turnstone, Wilson Snipe, Spotted Sandpiper, Willet, Dowitcher, Sanderling, Glaucous-winged Gull, W. Gull, Herring Gull, Calif. Gull, Ring-billed Gull, Common Murre, Pigeon Guillemot, Horned Owl, Belted Kingfisher, Red-shafted Flicker, Scrub Jay, Am. Raven, Crow, Bush-tit, Wren-tit, Winter Wren, Bewick Wren, Robin, Varied Thrush, Hermit Thrush, W. Bluebird, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Water Pipit, Loggerhead Shrike, Audubon Warbler, Townsend Warbler, House Sparrow, W. Meadowlark, Red-winged Blackbird, Brewer Blackbird, Purple Finch, House Finch, Lesser Goldfinch, Brown Towhee, Savannah Sparrow, Oregon Junco, White-crowned Sparrow, Golden-crowned Sparrow, and Song Sparrow.

— HARRY C. ADAMSON, *Leader and Historian.*

JANUARY TRIP TO LAKE MERRITT

In spite of the rain on Saturday, January 23, about 30 members and guests met at the Rotary Natural Science Center at Lake Merritt. During the heavier showers, the leader showed Laurel Reynolds' film of Lake Merritt waterfowl and the B. C. Cain collection of study skins. Twenty-two species of birds were seen on the refuge: Eared Grebe, Western Grebe, Pied-billed Grebe, Double-crested Cormorant, Am. Egret, Mallard, Pintail, Baldpate, Canvasback, Lesser Scaup, Am. Golden-eye, Bufflehead, Ruddy Duck, Coot, Killdeer, Glaucous-winged Gull, Herring Gull, Calif. Gull, Ring-billed Gull, Short-billed Gull, Bonaparte Gull, and Forster Tern.

— PAUL F. COVEL, *Leader and Historian*.

NEW MEMBERS. We welcome the following: from San Francisco, Miss Ruth G. Anderson, Brian R. Davy, Miss Blanche Dewey, Miss Charlotte Dorsey, Miss Ruth E. Fink, Samuel Jacobs, Mrs. Alan C. Livingston, William E. Lutz, Miss Amy Marshall, Arthur A. Nelson, Mrs. R. K. Paine, Albert Picard, Glenn Stackhouse, Mrs. Annette W. Teames; from Oakland, Mrs. A. D. Aston, Mrs. Milda Hester, Mrs. Lillie R. Reynolds; from Berkeley, Miss Madi Bacon, Miss Mekossa Foster, Sara G. Landels, Mr. and Mrs. Frisbie W. Nunn, Dr. William A. Perkins, Dr. James W. Robert, Mrs. Blanc C. Rocca, Miss Grace E. Steinback, Joseph C. Wampler; from Piedmont, Mrs. Hester Robinson; from El Cerrito, Glen Whalen; from Richmond, R. H. Delahay; from Orinda, H. B. McFarland; from Alameda, John M. Peoples; from Mills Park, Mrs. A. Fassin; from San Rafael, Miss Betty Peterson; from Sausalito, Walter S. Lennon; from Mill Valley, Mrs. Lucia Neelands.

EXCHANGE MAGAZINES. The file of exchange magazines of the Golden Gate Audubon Society has been moved from the Oakland Public Museum to the Rotary Natural Science Center, near the duck-feeding area at Lake Merritt. Regular open hours of the Center are from 1 to 4:30 on Monday and Tuesday, 10 to 4:30 on other week-days, and 10 to 5 on Sunday. The B. C. Cain Memorial Library in the Center is ordinarily open to the public on Saturday and Sunday afternoons only, but Audubon members may apply for admittance at other times by telephoning TE. 2-3600, Ext. 598. The exchange magazines include THE AUK, THE CONDOR, THE WILSON BULLETIN, NATURAL HISTORY, and the publications of a number of Audubon and other Societies both in California (Santa Clara, Monterey Peninsula, Los Angeles, Sacramento and Santa Barbara) and in other states (Massachusetts, Michigan, Maine, Ohio, Georgia, Texas, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Nebraska, Oregon, etc.).

— PAUL F. COVEL, *Oakland Park Naturalist*.

The Sierra Club has extended an invitation to members of the Golden Gate Audubon Society to attend an illustrated talk by E. Lowell Summer entitled "The Arctic Wilderness", in the Morrison Auditorium, Academy of Sciences, Golden Gate Park, San Francisco, at 8 p.m. on Tuesday, March 2.

OBSERVATIONS

WHITE-TAILED KITE, 2, one-half mile east of Tracy, Dec. 3; 4 between Salinas and San Ardo, Dec. 6 (Harry C. Adamson); 1 near Sebastopol, 1 southwest of Sonoma, Dec. 22 (Ethel Matheson); GOSHAWK, immature near Mt. Davidson, San Francisco, Oct. 31-Nov. 1 (Mr. and Mrs. Edward A. Sibley); ROAD RUNNER, Inspiration Point, Tilden Park, Feb. 2 (Mrs. Alfred Hurtgen); SHORT-EARED OWL, near Berkeley Dump, Dec. 27 (A. Laurence Curl); ALLEN HUMMINGBIRD, El Cerrito, Feb. 3 (ALC); WESTERN KINGBIRD, Berkeley, Jan. 23 (A. S. Campbell); TREE SWALLOWS, El Cerrito, Feb. 6 (ALC).

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The California office of the National Audubon Society has announced an all-day conference on "Conservation policies — their effect today and for the future of our national resources", to be held at the San Francisco YMCA camp at Jones Gulch, La Honda, on Saturday, April 3, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. A special field trip will be held on Sunday, April 4, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Reservations are to be mailed to the National Audubon Society, 693 Sutter St., San Francisco 2. The speakers will include Newton Drury, head of the Division of Beaches and Parks of the State of California, Dr. A. Starker Leopold of the Department of Zoology of the University of California, and Carl Buchheister, Vice-president of the National Audubon Society. This conference is being held in place of the State Convention which was held at Asilomar in recent years.

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The Committee on Research of the American Ornithologists' Union has recently completed the manuscript of a new book, "Recent Studies in Avian Biology" to be published soon. The 13 chapters have been prepared by recognized authorities who are active investigators in their fields. Examples: Alden H. Miller, Concepts and Problems of Avian Systematics; Alexander Wetmore, Paleontology; Donald R. Griffin, Bird Navigation. The pre-publication price of the book is \$6.00.

The Cooper Ornithological Society announces the forthcoming publication of Pacific Coast Avifauna No. 31, "Life Histories of Central American Birds," by Alexander F. Skutch, priced at \$9.00 in paper covers.

The January-February number of THE CONDOR has a number of articles of interest to California birders: "Food Habits of Nesting Golden Eagles in the Coast Ranges of California", by S. Kent Carnie; "Interspecific Relations of Breeding Gulls at Honey Lake, California", by David W. Johnston and M. E. Foster; and "Experiments on Social Behavior in Nonbreeding Brewer Blackbirds", by Thomas R. Howell and George A. Bartholomew, Jr. Notes include: "Falcated Teal at San Francisco, Calif." by Joel T. Hedgpeth", and "The Prothonotary Warbler in California", by Marianne Hillman and Mary E. Erickson.

The July 1953 number of THE AUK has an article "The Plumage Cycle of the California Gull (*Larus californicus*) with Notes on Color Changes of Soft Parts", by William H. Behle and Robert K. Selander. The authors show that the California Gull, like the Herring Gull, has a 4-year plumage cycle, not a 3-year cycle as suggested by Allan Brooks.

MARCH MEETING

The 437th regular meeting of the Golden Gate Audubon Society will be held on March 11 in the West Auditorium of the Oakland Public Library, Oak and 14th Streets, at 7:30 p.m. After the business meeting, Dr. Robert C. Stebbins, Herpetologist of the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology of the University of California, will show kodachrome slides to illustrate his talk "Reptiles and Amphibians of the San Francisco Bay Area".

— MRS. BUDD J. SMITH, *Program Chairman.*

MARCH TRIP TO RODEO LAGOON

On Sunday, March 14, a trip to Rodeo Lagoon is planned, A. Laurence Curl, leader. Meet at the parking area just beyond the north end of Golden Gate Bridge at 9 a.m. It is necessary to be prompt since we must enter the Fort Baker reservation in a body. Bring binoculars, telescopes, lunch and interested friends.

MARCH TRIP TO JEWEL LAKE

On Saturday, March 27, a trip to Jewel Lake and vicinity will be taken. Meet at the reservoir at the upper end of Spruce Street, Berkeley, at 9 a.m. Bring lunch, binoculars, telescopes if desired, and interested friends. Leader, C. L. Carson.

— FRANK A. SCOTT, *Chairman, Trip Committee.*

SCREEN TOUR LECTURE. Friday, February 26, 1954 — Robert C. Hermes, "Once Upon an Island", at 8 p.m. at the Berkeley High School Little Theatre.

In the December 1953 number of AUDUBON FIELD NOTES is published the 17th Breeding Bird Census. Of the 44 censuses included, one is from California, covering the Coastal Closed-cone Pine Forest near Inverness, by Robert A. Norris of the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology of the University of California.

In the February 1954 number of SUNSET on page 33 is an article "The Desert's Critters". A portion of the article is devoted to birds.

Golden Gate Audubon Society, Inc.

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For the Study and the Protection of Birds Branch of National Audubon Society

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