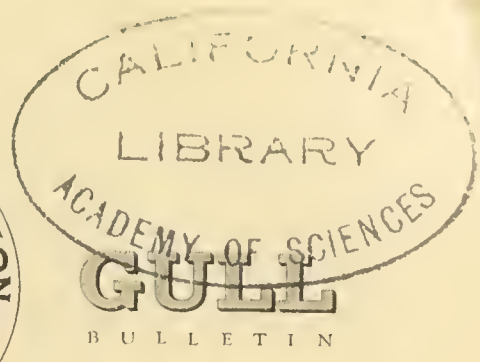


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THE MONTHLY



VOLUME 1

SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA, MAY, 1919

NUMBER 5

MAY MEETING: The twenty-eighth 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.

"Hunting with the Camera" will be the subject of the lecture, illustrated with moving pictures, to be given by Mr. Paul J. Fair.



MAY FIELD TRIP will be taken to Lafayette, Contra Costa County, on Sunday, 11th inst. San Francisco members will take 8 o'clock Key boat and Oakland & Antioch train at the ferry mole. East Bay members may take train at College and Shafter Avenues, Oakland, at 8:35 a. m. Buy round trip tickets to Lafayette, \$1.03. We hope for a record equally as good as that of last year, which showed Long-tailed Chats, Bullock Orioles, Lazuli Buntings, Slender-billed Nuthatches, etc. Bring lunch and drinking water.



PROCEEDINGS OF THE APRIL MEETING

The twenty-seventh regular meeting was held on the 10th of April in the Ferry Building, Vice-President Dr. D'Evelyn presiding.

Dr. William F. Badé gave an interesting and instructive talk on "The Birds of the High Sierras," illustrated with colored slides.

Mr. Joseph J. Webb, charter member, who had recently returned from war service overseas, recounted some of his experiences.

The Secretary reported the election by the Board of Directors of Junea W. Kelly (Mrs. G. E.) to membership in the Association.



"THE GAME BIRDS OF CALIFORNIA"

A VOLUME

Appropriate—and intensely pleasurable—is it that our initiatory mention—may we say review?—of contemporary publications should be of a California work on California Birds and by our good friends and own Honorary Members. To have named the author, say Dr. Grinnell, or Dr. Bryant, or Mr. Storer, would say all that we need to recommend the book; but to announce it as the production of the "happy combination" of their triple authorship leaves us with little to add to qualify its scientific standing, completeness and value and attractiveness—nor is it necessary.

For those who have not seen the book we need only qualify its material features, and these are of the finest quality. The binding, the paper and the typographical presentation make it an attractive volume and its sixteen colored plates by Fuertes and Brooks are of the artistic and true-to-nature character than which no other illustrator has done better in this field.

THE GULL

The 108 species of native and visiting game birds are described technically, including their distribution, migration, history, food, economic value and variation of status. What will appeal weleomely to the amateur ornithologist are the field characteristics of the live bird, so sadly incomplete in available hand books, affording him much needed assistance in recognizing species for which the technical descriptions of skins are frequently of impractical value; but to be complete these are also tabled and keyed. An interesting and orientating index of scientific, popular and local names completes the needed guide-posts for all degrees of investigators.

Nor need we take for granted the otherwise suffieient—nay triple—guarantee of seientifie authority that the authorship gives, but it must be gratifying for the writers' friends, their fellow members of the Audubon Association of the Pacific, the friends of the University and for Californians to read the highly complimentary criticisms that are appearing in ornithological periodicals.

Any bird library in California without "THE GAME BIRDS OF CALIFORNIA" is as incomplete as would be our feathered population on eliminating our quail, doves, ducks, geese, etc., and any bird lover, student, sportsman—mark this—and legislator, with library or without, should possess this source of information, reference, entertainment and ornament.

In spite of promising advices on the issuance of Dawson's "BIRDS OF CALIFORNIA," we can't help asking suggestively and hopefully, "Will the non-game water and land birds receive the same attention as their game brethren?"

* * *

Song birds are not particularly numerous in the "Down Town Districts" of San Francisco. Crossing Union Square Park in the early mornings, it is therefore with real interest and appreciation one hears the simple lays of the Nuttall sparrows among the evergreens; not famous songsters, we shall admit, but doing their bit in their best possible to give a nature tinge to the thoughts of the new day.

Reecrossing the same paths after nightfall, it is not encouraging to discover several lanky, ill-conditioned cats sneaking amidst the shrubbery, their purpose destruction of birds.

Were these vagrants, dogs, they would be impounded, finally gassed. Why not the same medicine for the greater vagrant of the two?—the immoral, disease-bearing vandal, the stray eat!

* * *

ACTIVITIES OF THE JUNIOR ANNEX

The Hamilton Junior Audubon Club was recently organized, with headquarters at the Hamilton Intermediate School, San Francisco. Miss Ida Manley is the instructor in charge of the group. The Hummer Junior Audubon Society was organized several weeks ago, with headquarters at 681 12th Avenue, Mrs. Mark Geirrine being in charge of the Society.

* * *

The Wrens and Chickadees have taken very kindly to the boxes placed in the Park. Every box that the boys made is occupied. In one instance a Linnet box was placed on a Friday, and contained a Wren's nest in the course of construction the following Sunday. Scout Gutman of Troop Twenty has located the following nests: quail with fifteen eggs, Allen Hummer, Chickadee, and a Nuttall Sparrow built on the ground.

* * *

The Assoeiation will give an illustrated lecture to the Boy Scouts, Saturday evening, May 10, 1919, 7:30, at the headquarters of Troop 5, California and Webster Streets, Mr. Douglass officiating.

WINTER BIRD GUESTS

Our small yard in San Francisco seems to have had an unusual attraction for birds this winter, and we cannot quite account for our popularity. Perhaps it is due to the heavy snow in the mountains and perhaps to the unlimited supply of berries on our big pepper tree. All winter, as every winter, we have had our hermit thrush. And of course we feel sure it is the same bird each year who calls from the cherry tree, and flits along under the bushes, shrugging his shoulders and eyeing us curiously, and who bathes in our pool at frequent intervals between daylight and dark. Another brave bather is the little ruby-crowned kinglet who bathed between the flakes of ice in our pool very early on New Year's morning. He has been a constant visitor all winter and on one or two notable occasions has favored us with a very charming little song. An Audubon warbler comes once or twice a day for a dip in the pool, but is too rushed and restless ever to stay long, or to bathe very thoroughly. These three birds seem chiefly to enjoy our little bird bath.

Then we have three bird visitors who seem to come only to sing. They are the song sparrow, the linnet and the golden-crowned sparrow. Apparently they like to begin the day early and our yard is the first on their circuit. Their solos, duets and rare trios are certainly delightful to listen to, especially if you are only about half awake when you begin to hear them. Sometime in June the linnet will accept cherries as payment for his part of the concert.

But most surprising of all bird events this year has been the visit of a flock of cedar wax-wings; surprising not only on account of the number of birds in the flock, but also because of the length of time they have stayed. We saw three birds in the yard on Washington's birthday, and this morning, March 26th, at least a dozen came for their pepper-berry breakfast. During all this time they have not missed coming a single day, and often as many as fifty at one time have been in our trees. They have just about stripped our pepper tree of berries and even pick up what they have dropped on the ground underneath. Their hot diet seems to make them thirsty and they drink at our pool, but we have never seen them bathe. They look almost too clean to need a bath. As there are now very few berries left, probably the wax-wings will not linger with us much longer, but we hope they will return next year and wake us again before sunrise with their plaintive little call notes.

[For a small yard in one of the oldest thickly settled sections of the city this is a noticeable record and may serve as encouragement for anyone who would extend hospitality to "Bird Guests." It is worth noting the conditions that attract the birds in the winter and spring—and we are interested to learn further if the yard is as successful a bird summer resort. No doubt the management of the institution enforces the rule "No Cats allowed."

We would like to recommend as a drawing card for Goldfinch tourists the planting of Cosmos plants, and even a few wild thistles, some beautiful species of which might be collected from in the neighborhood of Forest Hill.

Both this item from our modestly anonymous charter member and the one on Union Square Park, taken in consideration with the numerous species abounding Golden Gate Park, suggest the possibility—minus cat and English sparrow—of adding to the Nuttall sparrow other interesting and musical tenants in our city squares. Would it not be a worthy work for our Association to undertake? To induce our authorities to plant peppers, and other berries and bird-attracting shrubs?—Ed.]

THE GULL

THE APRIL FIELD TRIP brought out a fine party of members and was graced as well by a goodly list of guests. The day was beautiful, and cool enough to make the walking pleasant. Immediately after alighting from the train at Ross, such a variety of birds was encountered that the first half-hour was spent on that spot. The party then paid its respects to little bronze "Wild Flower," who left her place in front of the Palace of Fine Arts to nestle into a most appropriate setting in a Ross garden. Diverse tastes and a wealth of variety in attractions strung the party over quite a stretch of the road, and the first section to reach the lake had laid heavy hands upon their lunches before the second section managed to begin. After lunch, members went their various ways, some returning at once, others climbing the Eldridge Grade, while the latest arrivals loitered about Lake Lagunitas until four o'clock.

Members in attendance were Mesdames Douglas, Roe, Smith and Kibbe; Mesdemoiselles Ames, Ayer, Boyle, Griffin, Howitt, Johnson, King; Messrs. Bell, Douglas, Storer, Thomas and Kibbe. Our guests were Mrs. J. T. Allen, Mrs. Storer, the Misses Flynn, Kinlay, Phyllis Markham, Florence and Henrietta Witt, and Messrs. Scott and Pennington of the Naval Radio Station on Goat Island.

On the bay were found Bonaparte, California, glaucous-winged, ring-billed and Western gulls, scaup duck, surf scoters and a cormorant. The land birds were a red-winged blackbird, crow, yellow, lutescent and pileolated warblers; linnets, Bullock oriole; song- Nuttall- and golden-crowned sparrows; both Allen and Anna hummers; warbling vireos, San Francisco and California towhees; chickadees, meadow larks and purple finches; pine siskin, robin, green-backed goldfinches, wren tits, quail, coast and California jays; titmouse, flicker, Western flycatcher, bush tits, Hutton vireo, Vigors and house wrens; hermit thrush, kingfisher, turkey vulture, red-tailed hawk, bluebirds, Brewer blackbird and willow woodpecker. And as the special treat of the day, a flock of violet green swallows was fluttering over our heads as we wandered along the lake, making forty-eight species in all.

AUDUBON ASSOCIATION OF THE PACIFIC

FOR THE STUDY AND THE PROTECTION OF BIRDS

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