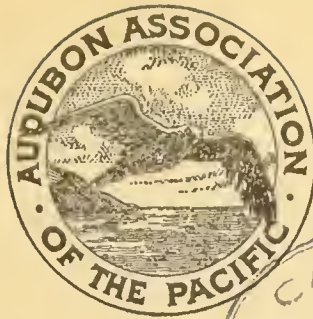


M&O
Serials
QL 671
.G84

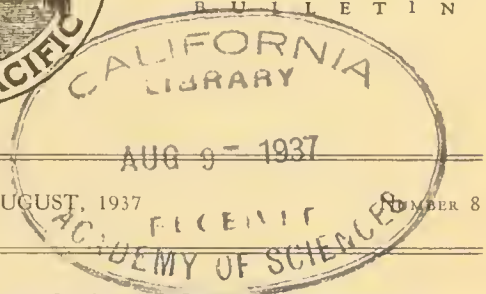
THE
MONTHLY



GULL
BULLETIN

VOLUME 19

SAN FRANCISCO, AUGUST, 1937



Bird Lore to Be Featured in Kentucky's Audubon Museum

Honoring the memory of John James Audubon, famous American artist and ornithologist, a museum is being erected by Works Progress Administration workmen in the Audubon Memorial Park, a mile north of Henderson, Kentucky. High on a hill overlooking a majestic stretch of the Ohio River, the gray stone two-story building is surrounded by the 400-acre park with its rolling land and thick woods.

The Federal Government, the State of Kentucky, the city of Henderson, the Henderson Historical Society and the Transylvania Society are sponsoring the undertaking. In addition, Audubon enthusiasts from all over the nation have agreed to send in valuable prints, papers, portraits and other mementoes of the great naturalist, it is announced.

A complete collection of Audubon prints will be exhibited in a double frieze in the main gallery on the first floor of the museum. The second floor will have space for stuffed birds, books, portraits, and other Auduboniana. There will also be a Kentucky room, which will contain the relics of Daniel Boone, who was a close friend of Audubon, and mementoes of other contemporaries. A Transylvania room will honor the notables of this society of early settlers.

The Norman style of architecture has been employed in the museum structure because of Audubon's ancestry. This allowed the construction of a round tower in the museum with pigeon holes so that the birds can nest in the masonry. A formal garden will be laid out in front of the building with the wheel from the stream grist-and-lumber mill that Audubon built at Henderson, and which ended so disastrously for him, in the center. Near the museum will be a French gatehouse.

The decade that Audubon spent in Henderson included the happiest and the saddest years of his life. Kentucky was practically a wilderness when Audubon, unsuccessful in the mercantile business in Louisville, arrived at Henderson on a flatboat in 1810 at the age of twenty-five. With him was Lucy Bakewell Audubon, whom he married two years before. Their daughter, Lucy, died and was buried there while still a child.



California Condors and Other Birds of Sespe Canyon

Leaving Oakland at 5 a. m., Sunday, May 2, 1937, Mr. Cranson Hopkins and the writer drove via San Joaquin Valley to Sespe Canyon, reaching Fillmore at 3:15 p. m. The speedometer registered at Mr. Henley's Toll and Parking Station exactly 398 miles. Here camp was pitched under a symmetrical, wide-spreading oak.

The clear, balmy night promised that the coming day would be an ideal one to seek the Condor, called by some "The King of the Air." A Pacific Horned Owl greeted us about dusk and continued hooting for some time. Retiring early, we were awakened at daybreak by the songs of the Black-headed Grosbeak and Canyon Wren, the calls of the Western Tanager and several other birds. Leaving camp at 5 a. m., we walked leisurely up Sespe Canyon, noting as we went along the old roadway the different species hereinafter listed. At this time of the year the canyon is particularly interesting in every respect. The main stream carries a great deal of water, and how pleasing does it sound to the ear as it rushes along, falling over immense boulders which lie in its pathway. Many small creeks seeking the main stream cross your path as you proceed to your observation point. Wild flowers and ferns are beautiful and grow in abundant profusion. The alders, maples, sycamores, oaks, etc., are in green foliage and add to the charm of the walk, even though it makes it a bit more difficult to locate tiny warblers as they flit about amongst the leaves.

About three miles up the canyon, which runs in a northerly and southerly direction, there are an abandoned oil derrick, tanks, furnaces, etc., and here you find what the writer termed in one of his previous articles "Observation Rock"; it is about ten feet high, fifteen feet across, with a comparatively flat top from which one has a splendid and unobstructed view in all directions. This point we reached at 7 a. m. The morning air was cool, but the sky, by this time, had become overcast with cloud masses moving rapidly overhead; thus we did not have so clear and so far reaching a view as we had expected. From 7 o'clock until 9:30 patiently and anxiously we scanned the sky in all directions for the chief object of our visit, but without success. On several occasions, over the western rim, were birds soaring about, but they proved to be Turkey Vultures. However, we were compensated to some extent for our patience as we had a good opportunity to observe two male Arizona Hooded Orioles and one female. Also, much to our surprise, a male and female Cowbird were seen and apparently they were much interested in a nearby nest of a House Finch. A male Costa Hummingbird also came into view with the female busily engaged in the process of nest building. A male Lazuli Bunting gave us an excellent opportunity to observe its coloring.

Leaving "Observation Rock" about 9:30, we walked along the trail running northerly until we came to a creek known as the western fork of the Sespe River. Upstream and within 100 yards from where the western fork crosses the trail we found a fascinating cascade, about fifty feet wide at the top with a thirty-foot drop, the rushing water leaping into the pool beneath. Behind the waterfall were green plants and a great deal of green moss, making a colorful background. Seeing an Ouzel flying up-stream in the direction of the cascade, we looked carefully and to our joy a large, mossy nest was located directly behind the waterfall; it was placed close to the top and to the left side. Nesting serenely in her picturesque home was mother Ouzel. We flushed her but she returned shortly so that we had the pleasure of watching her dash through the spray as she left and re-entered her nest.

Other nests found were those of the Black-chinned Hummingbird, with female incubating; Western Flycatcher, also with female incubating; Black Phoebe, House Wren and Cliff Swallows. Although we could not reach it, we observed the nesting site of two White-throated Swifts, many of which were seen throughout the day. We believe we heard the young calling to their mother as she approached.

Returning to "Observation Rock" about 11 o'clock, we again scanned the sky and at 11:30 two Condors soared above the eastern rim. They dropped below the top of the ridge on our side, then flew back and forth for a few minutes, giving a splendid opportunity to observe the orange-colored head, the white under-wing coverts and widely spread wing tips. An interesting sight was a Red-tailed Hawk darting downward toward one of the Condors, but apparently this did not disturb the flight of this magnificent bird so the Red-tailed Hawk quickly desisted in its efforts.

Looking in a southeasterly direction, we observed six other Condors circling upwards into the sky, making a total of eight. For a short period of time we watched these tremendously interesting birds as they soared higher and higher, until they passed out of sight. Being fully satisfied for the day, we started toward the camp, when about ten minutes to twelve, while resting on the trail along the western cliff, we again saw two Condors, no doubt the first two seen. One apparently seeing us, became a bit curious and flew toward our resting place until almost overhead, giving an excellent view as it approached. It looked downward, seemed satisfied with its observation, and then turned in a southerly direction down the canyon. We watched it sail along the cliffs until it rounded a point some distance below.

The opportunity to observe this bird was exceedingly good; it was close, with an unobstructed view, perfect lighting conditions,—a thrilling and magnificent sight. The other bird disappeared over the eastern rim. None of the birds, however, sought a resting place along the cliffs; perhaps they were nesting elsewhere this year. From an article which appeared in the *Los Angeles Times* on March 28, 1937, it would seem that the Condors are nesting in some cliffs up Pole Creek Canyon, not far from Sespe Canyon.

The following fifty species were observed in the canyon: Turkey Vulture; California Condor; Cooper and Red-tailed Hawks; Valley and Plumed Quail; Band-tailed Pigeon; Mourning Dove; Pacific Horned Owl; White-throated Swift; Costa and Black-chinned Hummingbirds; Belted Kingfisher; Nuttall Woodpecker; Arkansas Kingbird; Ash-throated Flycatcher; Black Phoebe; Western Flycatcher; Wood Pewee; Olive-sided Flycatcher; Violet-green and Cliff Swallows; California Jay; American Raven; Chickadee; Plain Titmouse; Bush-tit; Pallid Wren-tit; Dipper; House, Canyon and Rock Wrens; Russet-backed Thrush; Phainopepla; Cassin and Warbling Vireos; Lutescent, Yellow and Pileolated Warblers; Arizona Hooded Oriole; Cowbird; Western Tanager; Black-headed Grosbeak; Lazuli Bunting; House Finch; Green-backed Goldfinch; Spotted and Brown Towhees; Chipping and Song Sparrows.

Joseph J. Webb, San Francisco, California. May 13, 1937.



The July field trip was taken in San Francisco, Sunday, the 11th, by ten members and four guests. The sky was overcast but bright, making it an ideal day for walking.

Starting from Sea Cliff we followed the trail above the water to Land's End and the Cliff House and then continued on to Golden Gate Park, going only as far as the Chain of Lakes.

Not a single Farallon Cormorant was seen, but two groups of Brandt Cormorants were nesting, one on rocks off Land's End and the other on rocks off the Cliff House. Twelve Pigeon Guillemots in all were seen on rocks and in the water and one young in the nest hole on the camel-back rock where we have noted a nest of this species for a number of years.

From Seal Cliff to the Cliff House we found twenty-four species, as follows: Brown Pelican; Quail; Western and Heermann Gulls; Pigeon Guillemot; Anna and Allen Hummingbirds; Red-shafted Flicker; Barlow Chickadee; Coast Bush-tit; Western Robin; Russet-backed Thrush; Lutescent Warbler; English Sparrow; Brewer Blackbird; Purple Finch; Pine Siskin; Willow and Green-backed Goldfinches; San Francisco Towhee; Point Pinos Junco; Nuttall and Song Sparrows.

In Golden Gate Park: Mallard; Quail; Mourning Dove; Allen Hummingbird; Black Phoebe; Olive-sided Flycatcher; Barn Swallow; Barlow Chickadee; Vigors Wren; Western Robin; Russet-backed Thrush; Yellow Warbler; English Sparrow; Brewer Blackbird; House Finch; Point Pinos Junco; Nuttall and Song Sparrows, making a total of thirty-two species for the day.

Members attending were Mr. and Mrs. Stephens; Mesdames Courtright, Kelly; Misses Berg, Collins, Conant, Gallagher; Messrs. Myer and Power; with four guests: Jean Myer; Messrs. Cannon, Cudaback and Gray.

Audubon Notes

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

The meeting will be given over to field notes, vacation experiences and comments on recent literature. If you have a new bird book or bird picture to show, bring it to the meeting.



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



"**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, 25 cents.



Membership for the remainder of 1937 is \$1.50. This includes subscription to the monthly bulletin, *THE GULL*, five field trips and five lectures.



July Meeting: The 239th regular meeting was held on the 8th, in room 19, Ferry Building, twenty-eight members and guests present. President Junea W. Kelly presiding.

The attention of members was again called to the necessity of writing let-

ters to senators and representatives protesting against the passage of Senate bill 2681, the Grand Lake Big Thompson Transmountain Water Diversion Project. This project if carried out would not only destroy the wilderness quality of Rocky Mountain National Park but would establish a precedent and foster a policy which could easily be extended to all our other National Parks.

Our members are also asked to express themselves on whether they are in favor of a complete closed season on ducks. Much literature has been received on this subject lately. Mrs. Kelly read from a bulletin, "Ducks for Tomorrow," in which several prominent sportsmen gave their reasons for the closed season. Our members are urged to write the Biological Survey, Washington, D. C., expressing their views.

Dr. Adele Grant took as her subject for the evening "The Economic Value of Hawks and Owls in California," giving a brief sketch of the identification marks for each bird in the field and data concerning their food habits.

Dr. Grant closed with a plea to have the Great Horned Owl put back on the protected list in California.

Copies of articles written on this subject together with a few mounted specimens and many colored pictures of the species were placed on the table for inspection.

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.

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.