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**THE**  
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**GULL**  
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### Christmas Bird Census at Benicia

Benicia, California. December 24, 1933, from 8:30 a. m. to 5 p. m. High fog obscuring the sun throughout the day; light east wind; temperature 38° at start, 40° at return. Observers traveling together by automobile with frequent stops to canvass the marsh and hills along highway between Benicia and Cordelia, these towns being fourteen miles apart.

Pied-billed Grebe, 2; California Heron, 1; American Egret, 12; Black-cr. Night Heron, 10; Whistling Swan, 60; White-fronted Goose, 11; Mallard, 7; Baldpate, 150; Pintail, 800+; Green-winged Teal, 17; Shoveller, 40; Lesser Scaup, 1; Ruddy Duck, 7; White-tailed Kite, 2; Red-tailed Hawk, 9; Marsh Hawk, 14; Prairie Falcon, 1; Sparrow Hawk, 16; Coot, 2500+; Killdeer, 1; Western Gull, 8; Glaucous-winged Gull, 4; California Gull, 10; Red-shafted Flicker, 48; California Woodpecker, 2; Lewis Woodpecker, 1; Gairdner Woodpecker, 1; Nicasio Jay, 25; Western Robin, 1000+; Pacific Varied Thrush, 4; Western Bluebird, 48; Ruby-crowned Kinglet, 8; American Pipit, 400+; Cedar Waxwing, 106; Shrike, 29; Audubon Warbler, 1; Meadowlark, 300+; S. F. Red-wing, 24; Brewer Blackbird, 11,000+; House Finch, 27; Green-backed Goldfinch, 30; Willow Goldfinch, 700+; San Francisco Towhee, 1; Brown Towhee, 2; Savannah Sparrow, 200+; Lark Sparrow, 16; Junco, 175; Nuttall Sparrow, 80; Golden-cr. Sparrow, 8; Suisun Song Sparrow, 7.

Total 50 species, about 17,926 individuals.

The Whistling Swan were viewed all on one pond and have been wintering in this territory since early November. The White-tailed Kites were observed and admired at length with field glasses. The immense flocks of Brewer Blackbirds were conservatively estimated.

James M. Barkley and Emerson A. Stoner, Benicia, California.



### Christmas Bird Census for 1933

The Christmas census for San Francisco embracing Fort Mason, the Marina, the Presidio, the ocean beach, Golden Gate Park, Lake Merced and the new Sunset Boulevard from Golden Gate Park to Lake Merced, was taken on Sunday, December 17, 1933. The day was clear and cold, the average temperature being about 45°. Fortunately there was not a strong north wind as there has been on some former occasions at this time of the year to harass our observers, as well as to keep the birds under cover or render very transient those that did show themselves.

This year's census compares very favorably with any of former years and presents certain interesting differences.

A conspicuous decrease in the number of Killdeers is due to their total absence this year from their favorite field at Fort Mason, now being adorned with concrete roads and officers' homes.

Restrictions on visitors at Crissy Field on account of the building of the Golden Gate bridge cut off valuable territory and consequently large numbers of individuals, and possibly additional species.

Unprecedented numbers of persons surf fishing made birds very scarce along the beach. For the first time in years no Snowy Plovers were found there.

The cutting of trees and excavating for a highway in the canyon approach to Lake Merced had no doubt disturbed and scattered the population of smaller birds in that area.

A more favorable item, however, was the exceptionally large numbers of Varied Thrushes reported. It is quite probable that the recent heavy storms in the northwest have destroyed their food supply there, forcing them rapidly southward in larger flocks than usual.

The very large increase in Tule Wrens and Yellow-throats at Lake Merced is credited to the dense growth of tules there, which have been allowed to stand.

Golden Gate Park furnished the outstanding records for the day. Creepers found there had not been noted in any of our former census records; the Tule Goose at Metson Lake (present since November 4) is new for the park as is also the California Woodpecker.

The total number of individuals (14,556) exceeds any former census and the number of species, 87, and one new sub-species prove to be second only to those noted in 1930.

Following is the complete list of species and individuals:

	Marina to Beach	Golden Gate Park	Sunset Boulevard	Lake Merced
Eared Grebe .....	...	2	...	48+
Western Grebe .....	32	...	...	8
Pied-billed Grebe ... ..	1	9	...	18
Mallard .....	39	470	...	12
Baldpate .....	20	3	...	26
Pintail .....	5	21	...	...
Green-winged Teal .....	...	1	...	5
Canvas-back .....	13	248	...	303+
Lesser Scaup .....	...	50	...	3
Ring-necked Duck .....	36	2	...	45
Buffle-head .....	...	2 F	...	1
White-winged Scoter .....	3	...	...	1
Ruddy Duck .....	5	120	...	43+
Sharp-shinned Hawk .....	1	...	1	1
Sparrow Hawk .....	7	...	1	1
Quail .....	51	274	...	1
Coot .....	174	257	...	207+
Killdeer .....	...	1	2	55
Glaucous-winged Gull .....	631+	111	...	172+
Western Gull .....	1298+	82	...	61
California Gull .....	3809+	152	...	767+
Ring-billed Gull .....	22	...	...	1
Anna Hummingbird .....	10	11	...	28
Red-shafted Flicker .....	22	4	...	9
Black Phoebe .....	9	6	...	5
Horned Lark.....	7	...	...	7
Chestnut-backed Chickadee .....	28	35	...	40
Coast Bush-tit .....	65	71+	...	172+
Vigors Wren .....	2	4	...	17
Western Robin .....	87	54+	25	6
Pacific Varied Thrush.....	14	97	...	4
Dwarf Hermit Thrush .....	15	28	...	22
Ruby-crowned Kinglet .....	5	28	...	10

American Pipit .....	13	17	26	38
Cedar Waxwing .....	---	1	---	6
Shrike .....	1	---	---	2
Myrtle Warbler .....	---	1	---	18
Audubon Warbler .....	25	29	---	80+
Yellow-throat .....	1	---	---	38
Western Meadowlark .....	40+	---	4	11
Brewer Blackbird .....	1013+	---	5	---
English House Sparrow.....	111	402	---	30
California Purple Finch.....	1	---	---	9
Common House Finch .....	86	---	---	14
Willow Goldfinch .....	---	---	12	3
San Francisco Spotted Towhee.....	2	22	---	27
Fox Sparrow .....	5	43	---	38
Point Pinos Junco.....	6	50	---	35
Golden-crowned Sparrow .....	25	47	---	---
Nuttall Sparrow .....	385+	386+	---	146+
Song Sparrow .....	55	38	---	92+

In addition to the above, the following birds were observed only along the Marina and at the Beach: Red-throated Loon, 5; Brown Pelican, 6; Farallon Cormorant, 54; Surf Scoter, 55; Surf Bird, 1; Ruddy Turnstone, 3; Black Turnstone, 15; Short-billed Gull, 130+; Say Phoebe, 1; California Jay, 2; Sanderling, 121+.

Golden Gate Park only: Tule Goose, 1; Redhead, 1; Cooper Hawk, 1; Red-tailed Hawk, 2; Mourning Dove, 1; California Woodpecker, 1; Red-breasted Sapsucker, 1; Willow Downy Woodpecker, 1; Creeper, 2; Townsend Warbler, 1; Rusty Song Sparrow (sub-species), 3.

Lake Merced only: Pacific Loon, 1; Horned Grebe, 9; Great Blue Heron, 5; Shoveller, 1; Virginia Rail, 3; Sora, 2; Wilson Snipe, 6; Herring Gull, 2; Tule Wren, 67+; Wren-tit, 6; Golden-crowned Kinglet, 2; Red-winged Blackbird, 3; Pine Siskin, 4; Green-backed Goldfinch, 6.

Observers: Commander and Mrs. Henry E. Parmenter; Messrs. and Mesdames Oliver J. Millard, Albert B. Stephens; Mesdames H. P. Bracelin, L. W. Cummings, Ynes Mexia; Miss Pringle; Messrs. B. C. Bremer, Carl R. Smith, Joseph J. Webb, Eddie McClintock, Paul Lehmann, Vincent Mowbray, Robert Taylor and Joseph Ewan.



### Annual Bird Census at Yosemite Valley

Yosemite Valley, Yosemite National Park, California (Mirror Lake to El Portal), December 20, 1933: 8 a. m. to 5 p. m. Clear; seven inches of snow average; wind, none; temperature at start 30°, at return 38°. Fifteen miles. four observers working singly in four-hour shifts. Observers: Park Naturalist Bert Harwell, Assistant Naturalists M. E. Beatty and A. E. Sorell and Museum Assistant Ray Gilmore.

A total of 40 species, 449 individuals, as follows: Sharp-shinned Hawk, 1; Western Red-tailed Hawk, 4; Golden Eagle, 1; Valley Quail, 8; Mountain Quail, 36; Western Belted Kingfisher, 2; Red-shafted Flicker, 10; Western Pileated Woodpecker, 1; California Woodpecker, 48; Modoc Woodpecker, 3; Northern White-headed Woodpecker, 1; Black Phoebe, 1; Blue-fronted Jay, 54; California Jay, 20; Short-tailed Mountain Chickadee, 10; Plain Titmouse, 6; Slender-billed Nuthatch, 1; Red-breasted Nuthatch, 4; Sierra Creeper, 10; Pallid Wren-tit, 3; Dipper, 5; Dotted Canyon Wren, 1; Rock Wren, 3; California Brown Thrasher, 1; Northern Varied Thrush, 2; Hermit Thrush, 1; Western Bluebird, 13; Western Golden-crowned Kinglet, 3; Western Ruby-crowned Kinglet, 9; Audubon Warbler, 7; English Sparrow, 2; California Purple Finch, 12; House Finch, 5; Sacramento Spotted Towhee, 40; Sacramento Brown Towhee, 30; Thurber Junco, 57; Gambel Sparrow, 20; Golden-crowned Sparrow, 4; Fox Sparrow, 8; Song Sparrow, 2.

## Audubon Notes

**January Meeting:** The 17th annual meeting will be held on Thursday evening, the 11th, at 8 o'clock, room 19, 2nd floor, Ferry Building.

Annual reports will be presented and officers and directors will be elected for the ensuing year.

The speaker of the evening will be Mr. Joseph Ewan, Research Associate in Botany, University of California, whose subject will be "Mountain Birds of Southern California."



**January Field Trip** will be taken to the wild waterfowl sanctuary at Lake Merritt, Oakland, on Sunday, the 14th. San Francisco members will take Key Route boat at 9:20 a. m. and the Grand Avenue car on the Twenty-second Street train, leaving the car at Grand Avenue and Perkins Street, where party will meet.

East Bay members will transfer from any traction main line to Grand Avenue or Lakeshore Avenue cars.



A check list of the birds of Lake Merritt, issued by the Oakland Ornithological Club, may be obtained from any of our Junior members, price five cents per copy.



**1934 Dues.** The annual dues for the year of 1934 are now payable and all members are asked to make their remittances as early as possible to the Treasurer. It is requested that all checks be made in the name of the Audubon Association of the Pacific.



"Birds of Marin County," by Laura A. Stephens and Cornelia C. Pringle, published by the Audubon Association of the Pacific, is now ready. An at-

tractive pamphlet of sixteen pages containing a list of 269 species, seasonally classified with authentic records, specific locations, dates, and names of observers, it will be found very useful to all bird students when in Marin County. Price twenty-five cents.



**December Meeting:** The 197th regular meeting was held on December 14th, in room 19, Ferry Building, with thirty-one members and guests present. Second Vice-President Mrs. Otis H. Smith presiding.

The following new members were elected: Mrs. Alice M. Bello, Novato; Miss Mabel Cave, San Francisco; Mrs. Annie B. Strock, Oakland; and Mrs. Ruby H. Thomas, San Francisco.

The nominating committee, composed of Commander Parmenter, Mr. Carl R. Smith and Miss Cornelia C. Pringle, has proposed the following for officers for the year of 1934:

President—Joseph J. Webb.

First Vice-President—Mrs. C. Norman Compton.

Second Vice-President—Mrs. Otis H. Smith.

Treasurer—Mrs. A. B. Stephens.

Recording Secretary—Miss Cornelia C. Pringle.

Corresponding Secretary—C. B. Lastreto.

Directors—Mrs. H. P. Bracelin,  
Miss Selma Werner,  
Mr. B. K. Dunshee.

Additional nominations may be made from the floor at the January meeting.

The speaker of the evening, Mr. Ben H. Thompson, gave a very interesting talk on the "History and Present Status of the Breeding Colonies of the White Pelicans."

## Audubon Association of the Pacific

For the Study and the Protection of Birds

President.....	Chas. A. Bryant.....	150 Franklin St., San Francisco
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.

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Student memberships, \$1.50 per year.

Life memberships, \$50.00

Members are responsible for dues until written notice of resignation is received by Treasurer