

M&O  
Serials  
QL 671  
G84

THE  
MONTHLY



RECEIVED  
OCT 11 1944  
CALIFORNIA LIBRARY  
GULL  
BULLETIN

---

VOLUME 26

SAN FRANCISCO, CALIF., OCTOBER, 1944

NUMBER 10

---

### Shore Birds

The place was no farther away than the streets, vacant lots, and the garbage dump road of Alameda. But from those locations on the morning of April 29, 1944, were to be seen thousands of shore birds, in plumages strange and startling to one who knew these birds only in their winter grays and whites.

It was 7:30 a.m. at the foot of Liberty Street. The tide only a few moments before had been poised at its highest point in about twelve hours. The morning was gray and overcast, but the visibility was so good that each wavy black line in plumage or gradation of color in bill could be seen.

As the water gradually receded exposing a few feet of mud, small flocks of Sandpipers, Dowitchers with bright cinnamon underparts, and Godwits whirled down onto the shore to feed. A single Hudsonian Curlew moved along the shore. Weaving in and out among the compact little groups of Least and Western Sandpipers were, here and there, a Semipalmated Plover.

A little beyond Liberty Street on Fernside Boulevard we stood on the edge of a vacant lot within a few yards of feeding shore birds. Here were increasing numbers of birds and increased activity. Large flocks were continually arriving. The air was filled with the cries of swirling flocks of Godwits, Dowitchers, Willets, and Bonaparte Gulls. Soon the small expanse of mud in front of us was swarming with feeding birds, the Least and Western Sandpipers by far the greatest in number. On an exposed post a few yards out in the water stood a Black Turnstone. As we viewed him through our binoculars, flocks of birds streamed in and out of the field of our binoculars.

From the bridge that crosses to Bay Farm Island we watched Cliff Swallows gathering mud on the flats beneath us. Two Barn Swallows with glinting steel-blue backs perched side by side on the piling of the bridge. On one of the lower cross-railings was a Spotted Sandpiper.

Walking along the garbage dump road on Bay Farm Island we looked out on thousands of shore birds. Among the innumerable Sandpipers were scattered a few Black-bellied Plovers in breeding plumage. There was a small group of three Knots. Near us on the mud flats Semipalmated Plovers dashed toward each other

head down and tail feathers spread. Floating on the outermost fringe of water were a few Bonaparte Gulls.

Before 9:30 a.m. we were again in Alameda on Otis Drive. A Caspian Tern with bright red bill and black cap splashed the water near us as he dove for fish. The smaller Forster Tern, all silver and white except for his black cap, circled over the water, the long forks of his tail following like streamers his graceful flight curves. A short distance away on the exposed mud flat an Avocet fed, swishing his long, slender bill sideways in the mud. To his winter beauty of black and white was now added cinnamon coloring on his head, neck, and breast.

This trip of less than two hours illustrates how excellent are our opportunities in this area to observe shore birds. But for favorable observation the time and place must be carefully chosen. The tide constantly affects what may be seen from any one spot. A few minutes later than the most opportune moment some of the shore birds will have moved to other feeding grounds. Still later others will be too far out on the mud flats to be seen easily. During migration the pattern of unceasing movement of these birds from place to place is further complicated. A few days earlier than this particular morning, for instance, there would have been perhaps many restless flocks of Bonaparte Gulls or large numbers of Black-bellied Plovers instead of the thousands of Least and Western Sandpipers. On a visit several weeks earlier there would have been no such display of breeding plumage. Accessible as shore birds are to all of us in the Bay Area, this precision with which their activities are timed, must be taken into consideration in looking for them.

—Ruth Elwonger, Berkeley

### September Meeting

The 324th meeting of the Audubon Association of the Pacific was held Thursday evening, September 14, 1944, in the Public Library Auditorium, San Francisco, California. President Arthur H. Myer presided.

Miss Ivander MacIver, Treasurer, reported the new membership of the following: Mr. D. V. Murphy, Mr. Myer Randall Pinckert, Masters Paul Altrocchi, Jack Heyneman, Lee Talbot and Howard Mathews.

Miss Amy Heggie, Chairman, Natural Science Section of the Sierra Club, wrote to thank the Audubon Association of the Pacific for the invitation to join the bird walk to Alameda. Miss Heggie invited the members of the Audubon Association to join the Sierra Club on a hike out of Ross, October 1, to study the Marin trees of that region.

President Arthur H. Myer announced Mr. H. V. Leffler was chairman of the Christmas Bird Census.

Field Observations were made by Miss Amy Rinehart, Mr. Walter W. Bradley, and Mr. Bert Harwell.

Mr. Charles A. Bryant introduced the speaker of the evening, Mrs. Junea W. Kelly, who spoke on her specialty, "Shore Birds". To the Junior members, Mrs. Kelly spoke of the importance of scientific research in bird life. There was the analysis of the contents of a bird's stomach, giving information as to feeding habits and feeding grounds, and the study of optics; did birds have to see to eat, and the importance of feeding grounds and changes in time of tide to the bird life in a district.

Owing to the Library closing at 9 o'clock, the meeting convened at 7:30 p.m.

### September Field Trip

The September Field Trip was taken to Alameda on Sunday, the 10th. The weather was pleasant after several days of extremely high temperature. High tide at Ft. Point was 4.2 feet at 8:00 a.m. PWT. The low tide was 2.9 feet. The party met at Liberty and Fernside at 10:15 a.m. After going to the foot of Liberty Street the group proceeded along Fernside and later went to a large flooded area west of the golf course on Bay Farm Island. Here at the south end of the pond thousands of waders were observed as they probed in the mud.

Twenty-four species were observed:

Great Blue Heron	Western Willet	California Gull
Mallard Duck	Greater Yellow-legs	Forster Tern
Pintail Duck	Least Sandpiper	Anna Hummingbird
Sparrow Hawk	Dowitcher	House Sparrow
Clapper Rail	Western Sandpiper	Meadow Lark
Semipalmated Plover	Marbled Godwit	Red-winged Blackbird
Killdeer	Avocet	House Finch
Black-bellied Plover	Western Gull	Savannah Sparrow

Members present were: Mr. and Mrs. Kilham; Mesdames Austin, Bozant, Curtis, Kelly, Zinke; Misses Ball, Chandler, Johnson, MacIver, Milwain; Mesrs. Myer, Heyneman, Leffler, Wolff. Some 15 guests attended, including members of the Natural Science Section of the Sierra Club.

—Junea W. Kelly, Leader and Historian

### September Junior Field Trip

To Chain of Lakes, Buffalo Paddock, Spreckels Lake in Golden Gate Park on Sept. 16th. The day was sunny and pleasant. The birds identified were: Mallard and Lesser Scaup Ducks, Valley Quail, Coot, Florida Gallinule, Anna Hummer, Belted Kingfisher, Downy Woodpecker, Black Phoebe, Western Flycatcher, Chestnut-sided Chickadee, Red-breasted Nuthatch, California Creeper, Western Robin, Orange-crowned Warbler, Audubon Warbler, Townsend Warbler, Hermit Warbler, Pileolated Warbler, Western Meadowlark, Brewer's Black Bird, House Finch, Oregon Junco, Nuttall Sparrow, Song Sparrow, altogether 26 species. The find of the day was the Hermit Warbler. There were 14 juniors present, 7 boys and 7 girls, also two scout leaders, besides the two leaders of the trip, Mrs. Ethel Richardson and Miss C. A. Paroni.

After the group disbanded at 2:30 p.m. some of the boys continued on to the beach to see what they could find there. The majority with leaders attended a lecture on California Wild Flowers given in African Hall and then inspected the animal habitat groups and mounted bird specimens in the Academy of Sciences. A few continued on through the Steinhardt Aquarium. The day proved most profitable and enjoyable.

### Observations

Edited by Junea W. Kelly

Golden-crowned Sparrow, September 7; Hairy Woodpeckers working on pine trees which were broken by wind-storm of last December. 6147 Givin Rd., Oakland Mrs. Estella Bruce.

Red-breasted Nuthatches, September 13 at 2630 Hiloard, Berkeley. A White-tailed Kite in Valley of the Moon near Sonoma on Aug. 9. C. A. Harwell.

**October Meeting**

The regular meeting of the Association will be held on Thursday, October 12th at 7:30 p.m. in the Assembly Room, San Francisco Public Library, Larkin and McAllister Streets, San Francisco.

The speaker will be Mr. Joseph Dixon, Field Naturalist of the United States Fish and Wild Life Service and honorary member of our association. "Birds of Crater Lake, Oregon" will be the subject of the lecture. The talk will be illustrated with slides taken by the speaker. Guests are welcome.

**October Field Trip**

On Sunday, October 15th, the monthly trip of the Association will be taken to Ross in Marin County. Members will take the 8:40 Greyhound bus from 7th and Mission Streets, San Francisco. Mrs. Otis H. Smith will be the leader.

**Junior Field Trip**

Saturday, October 21st to Dimond Park, Oakland. Meet leaders Mrs. E. Richardson and Miss C. Paroni at 8:00 a.m. at S. E. corner of Shattuck and University Avenue, Berkeley. Will transfer at MacArthur Blvd. to bus No. 57 and get off at Fruitvale Avenue, Oakland where party meets at 9:00 a.m. Bring lunch.

**PRESIDENT'S NOTE:** We welcome contributions of articles from our members.

**CORRECTION:** Add date, April 24, 1944 to Gordon Bolander's article on "Bird Observations in a Cemetery" in the September, 1944 "The Gull".

**MAGAZINE REFERENCE:** Our member Mrs. E. S. Bruce, brings to our attention an article that appeared in "The Saturday Evening Post" of Feb. 26, 1944, written by Wm. Abbott. It tells of the great interest that our service men, among them General Eisenhower, are taking in the strange birds and other animals seen in the new lands where they find themselves. Great numbers of letters for information are being received at museums and colleges everywhere from all occupied areas, so much so that it looks as if our men overseas constitute the biggest nature-study group in history.

**ADDRESSES UNKNOWN:** Will members who know addresses of the following please notify the editor: Mrs. A. F. Peterson, Ralph Ellis, Jr., John Roush, Cadet-Mid. J. Wolff.

---

---

**Audubon Association of the Pacific**

Organized January 25, 1917

**For the Study and the Protection of Birds**

President.....	Mr. Arthur H. Myer.....	25 El Camino Real, Berkeley 5
Corresponding Secretary .....	Mr. Joseph J. Webb.....	519 California St., San Francisco 4
Treasurer.....	Miss Ivander MacIver.....	2414 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley 4
Editor .....	Miss Clelia A. Paroni.....	575 Vincente Avenue, Berkeley 6

Monthly meetings second Thursday, 7:30 p.m.

Assembly Room, San Francisco Public Library, Larkin and McAllister Streets, 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