



OCTOBER MEETING: The next monthly meeting of the Association will be held on Thursday, the 9th of October, in the lecture hall of the California Development Board, Ferry Building. The meeting will be called promptly at 8 P. M.

A discussion will be held on the subject, "The Domestic Cat and Its Relationship to Bird Life—Its Utilization and Control."

- (a) The Fancier's Cat, Mrs. A. B. Strauss, President Pacific Cat Club.
- (b) The Vagrant Cat, Mr. Matthew McCurrie, Secretary, S. P. C. A.
- (c) Reports on State and Municipal Laws on the Subject.
- (d) General Discussion by any of those present.

The Public is cordially invited.



OCTOBER FIELD TRIP will be taken to Bay Farm Island. In order to secure a favorable stage of tide the trip will be postponed one week beyond the usual date and will be made on Sunday, October 19, 1919. San Francisco members take Southern Pacific 8:45 A. M. Alameda boat and Encinal train at mole, leaving train at High Street Station on the Encinal line, where the party will be formed. East Bay members can reach the High Street Station by Southern Pacific center-entrance local cars running from Sixteenth Street Station on 18th, 20th and Webster Streets and around the loop in Alameda. Bring lunch and drinking water.



PROCEEDINGS OF THE SEPTEMBER MEETING: The thirty-second regular meeting of the Association was held on the 11th of September in the Ferry Building, President Lastreto presiding.

Mr. Tracy I. Storer delivered a lecture on the "Woodpeckers of California," illustrated with slide projections. Several members followed with interesting stories concerning this group of birds.

The Board of Directors reported the election to membership of Miss Rose Marjorie Cahn.



ACTIVITIES OF THE JUNIOR ANNEX—Miss Ames has kindly consented to act as instructor for the Gull Junior Audubon Club. We expect to see a keen competition ensue between them and the Hummer Audubon Club.

Geo. Wright, of the Lowell Junior Audubon Club, reports the appearance of a flock of Tanagers around Middle Lake, Golden Gate Park. After a scarcity of several years the red-breasted nuthatches are visiting the Park in large numbers.

Mr. Kibbe responded to a request of Troop 16, Boy Scouts, for a bird talk on Monday, the 29th ult.



ON THE BAY: A heavy flight of dark-bodied shearwaters swept past Mile Rock Light shortly before the Pacific Fleet came into the Bay.

Pemarine jaegers have been paying one of their rare visits to the bay during the past two weeks. The Forster terns will rejoice when it is over, for life holds few joys for them while these tormenting pirates are about.

The Northern phalaropes returned to town in force on September 10th.

DOGS AND CATS AND PEOPLE

A great deal has been spoken and written on the subject of pet animals, for and against the practice of domesticating various of what we are pleased to term "lower species," and of maintaining them in intimate contact with ourselves and our neighbors. There is no intention of here opening a discussion of the relative merits of different animals in this respect. The issues with which we now have to deal are almost entirely the indirect results of the practice above referred to.

Dogs and cats both have their friends and their enemies; their accusers and their defenders, and there is more or less reason back of all the various feelings inspired by them, albeit there are people who simply feel intense aversion without definite cause.

If it be granted that anyone may exercise his or her taste in such matters, there remains, nevertheless, the necessity that this shall be done with due regard for the safety, comfort and well-being of others.

A pet is no longer a pet when it is neglected and permitted to become a homeless stray, but there is no way of distinguishing a stray dog or cat unless some means is provided for identifying those that have homes and owners.

In many foreign localities, dogs and cats are freely permitted to run at large, either to act as scavengers or by reason of superstition, but neither of these excuses would be urged in our country. Where garbage is kept out of reach, a stray dog or cat is subject to the same debasing forces as is a human hobo, and what food it cannot beg, it must secure by stealing or hunting. In such straits, a dog is the more likely to make new friends, but a cat shows strong tendencies to revert, and every objection raised to tame pet cats is intensified many fold in the case of stray ones.

A dog is more readily confined than a cat, within the limits of a house or an enclosure, and stray dogs are less a menace than stray cats. Dogs are far less prolific than cats and their progeny are more likely to obtain homes and protectors. But, in spite of all this, and possibly because the dog is more intimately connected in the public mind with the dreaded rabies, dogs have been the objects of regulatory laws for many years, while cats have been consistently ignored therein. Of late years, however, attention has been directed more and more to two facts intimately concerning our food supply:

First—The enormous value of the services performed by birds which eat insects and weed seeds.

Second—The loss to the country caused by the depredations of the bird-killing cat.

The New York State Conservation Commission has recently issued a bulletin which in part reads as follows:

Remove the Cat Menace to Bird Life

John Burroughs is of the opinion that cats probably destroy more birds than all other animals combined.

Dr. A. K. Fisher of the U. S. Biological Survey estimates that the cats of New York State destroy 3,500,000 birds annually.

By far the most effective checks on insect and weed pests are birds. The U. S. Government places the value of insect and weed-seed eating birds to the farmer at one dollar each per year.

The cat nuisance can be remedied only by the co-operation of farmers and other harborers of cats in closely limiting the number of cats on their premises and in destroying their litters, and by the assistance of sportsmen in shooting cats found hunting afield.

In the past, little or no attention has been vouchsafed to those who raised their voices against reckless waste of resources. That day has gone, and solutions proposed for conservation problems are receiving consideration. The most obvious means of reducing the stray cat menace, where that menace is greatest, i. e., in municipalities, lies in subjecting the cat to the same requirements of registration and to the same regulatory measures as now and for a long time imposed upon dogs.

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Such measures have been adopted and are in force as below:

Montclair, N. J. Pop. 22,000. July, 1915. Cats must wear collar with name and address of owner or else a tag furnished by license bureau with registry number at a cost of 5c. 925 tags issued.

Pasadena, Calif. Pop. 30,000. Sept., 1916. License law. 50c per year for each cat. 1604 licenses issued in 1918.

Grand Rapids, Mich. Pop. 113,000. August, 1917. License law. 25c per year for males; \$1.00 per year for females. First season, 442 female and 2424 male licenses issued.

Seattle, Wash. Pop. 237,000. Sept., 1918. License law. \$1.00 per year for males; \$2.50 per year for females. Applies to dogs and cats. Over 900 cat licenses issued the first month.

In each instance provision is made for redemption of impounded animals, and penalties imposed for failure to comply with law.

It has been unlawful for any cat to run at large in the city of Washington, D. C., since June, 1912. Traps are set where wandering cats become a nuisance and all cats captured are destroyed.

In 1918, the State of New York enacted a law under which any licensed hunter may, and all game wardens or peace officers are required to, kill any cat found hunting a protected bird or with such a bird in its possession.

Common sense dictates the preservation of helpful animals and the restraint or destruction of those who prey upon them, while simple justice requires that the cat should be subjected to the same measures as those governing dogs. A license tag identifies a pet animal, protects it, and gives it a status under the law. If we want pets, let us take care of them and let us see that neither they nor their progeny become a menace to the comfort or welfare of our neighbors or of our friends, the birds, who spend most of their waking hours consuming noxious pests that otherwise would overwhelm our fields, trees and flowers.

A. S. KIBBE.

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FROM ABROAD

50 Eendrachtsweg,
Rotterdam, August 26th, 19.

To the Audubon Association of the Pacific,
San Francisco, Cal.

Dear Mr. Lastreto:

The Netherlands Association for the protection of birds publishes stereoscopic photographs of some of our wild birds.

Being sure that it will interest you and the members of the Audubon Association to make their acquaintance, I take the pleasure of making a present to the Association of the six series till now published.

I asked the Netherlands Club to mail them to you and hope they may reach you in good order.

With kind regards, Truly yours, H. VAN STRAATEN.

A few days after this letter a package of beautiful stereoptic photographs was received. Some of the pictures suggest wonderful skill on the part of the photographer, being close-ups on birds in most natural attitudes and in different occupations.

Arrangements will be made to display them in a stereopticon at one of our meetings soon.

Mr. Van Straaten values his membership in the Association as he retains it though he has returned to his country. We should be proud to have such a member representing us in Holland and appreciate his generous thoughtfulness.

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A young bittern was found foraging along Lobos Creek, near the western entrance to the Presidio on Saturday, August 30th.

A California gull was observed recently swallowing one complete, full-sized, hard Vienna roll, which inspires a regret that these birds are not fond of gophers.

A. S. K.

THE GULL

BIRD STUDY COURSES, UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

A new opportunity is given this fall to those interested to learn something about birds.

Dr. Harold C. Bryant, ornithologist of the University of California, will conduct six field excursions for bird study in the neighborhood.

All lovers of nature should embrace this opportunity, if possible to study bird lore under the expert and interesting guidance of Dr. Bryant.

The fee for the Six Trips Afield is \$3.00.

This class combines study with delightful Saturday afternoon walks, and should make a special appeal to students and lovers of the out of doors. Those who cannot take part in the excursions can join Dr. Bryant's lecture class which meets on Tuesday evenings at 7:45 in the Ferry Building, San Francisco, for the study of bird life. Persons wishing to join either of these courses can register at 140 Kearny Street, San Francisco; 301 California Hall, Berkeley; Oakland Chamber of Commerce, Hotel Oakland, Oakland.



THE SEPTEMBER FIELD TRIP occurred on Sunday, September 14th. The day was perfect for hiking. It was neither too hot for the climb over the hills nor too cool for the rest on the beach.

We walked from Mill Valley, by way of Muir Woods and Frank Valley, to Big Lagoon, where we rested and patronized the ice cream man. The return walk was through Coyote Valley to Manzanita.

On the bay and shore were seen Western grebes, California, Western and Heermann gulls; cormorants, great blue herons, Northern phalaropes, Western sandpipers and marbled godwits.

On the ocean were brown pelicans.

The land birds noted were California quail, turkey vultures, Western red-tail and sparrow hawks; Western belted kingfisher, red-shafted flicker, Anna hummers; Say phoebes, black phoebes, coast and California jays; Western crows, red-winged blackbirds, meadowlarks and Brewer blackbirds; purple finches, linnets, willow and green-backed goldfinches; pine siskins, Nuttall and Marin song sparrows; San Francisco and California towhees; cliff swallows, Hutton vireos, Townsend, pileolated and lutescent or yellow warblers; Vigors wrens, Marin chickadees, coast bush-tits, ruddy wren-tits.

There were many young Nuttall sparrows and their sweet, uncertain little voices were delicious. Our list contains forty-three species. It was one of the very best of our bird walks, and it is regrettable that so few were there to enjoy it. The members present were Miss Gunn, Mrs. Roe, Mr. and Mrs. Kibbe, Mr. Lastreto, Mr. Peekham (a junior), and Miss Ames, who acted as historian.

AUDUBON ASSOCIATION OF THE PACIFIC FOR THE STUDY AND THE PROTECTION OF BIRDS

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Meets second Thursday of each month in Lecture Room of California Development Board,
Ferry Building, San Francisco.

Everyone welcome. Active Membership, \$3.00 per year, including Bulletin.
The Gull invites free and open discussion. The views expressed herein are not necessarily the views nor the stand taken by this Association.

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