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Lake Merritt, Oakland, California

The annual field trip to the wild water-fowl refuge at Lake Merritt, Oakland, was taken on Sunday, January 13, 1935. Mrs. G. Earle Kelly led the group of twenty-one members and nine guests. The day was clear and very cold at the beginning, but later when the sun came out it was quite pleasant.

At the feeding pen a male Mandarin Duck and a female Wood Duck were constantly together and the female, at least, seemed to be thinking of mating as she was doing the courting, pursuing the handsome Mandarin with great persistence.

The outstanding observation among the land birds was a Yellow-billed Magpie—a new bird for the Audubon Association's life-list. Lakeside Park on a cold day is a strange place for a Magpie but others have been reported in the East Bay district, which would seem to indicate that their range is being extended northward.

The duck population was represented by the usual species in practically the same numbers noted for the past several years with one exception, the American Golden-eye. For some unknown reason this species was very abundant. We counted 417 individuals, whereas the greatest number recorded on any former trip was forty the preceding year.

The annual census of ducks was taken with the following results:

Mallard	2	Canvas-back	876
European Widgeon	1	Scaup, both species.....	309
Baldpate	235	Ring-necked Duck	5
Pintail	239	American Golden-eye	417
Green-winged Teal	3	Buffle-head	16
Wood Duck, female.....	1	Ruddy Duck	185
Redhead	1		
		Total.....	2290

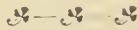
In addition to the ducks the following were noted, making a total of forty species:

Eared Grebe	45	Herring Gull	1	Bush-tit
Pied-billed Grebe	32	California Gull	16	Robin
Farallon Cormorant	1	Ring-billed Gull	5	Ruby-crowned Kinglet
Black-crowned Night Heron	20	Bonaparte Gull	28	Cedar Waxwing
Quail		Anna Hummingbird		Audubon Warbler
Coot	294	Red-shafted Flicker		Brewer Blackbird
Glaucous-winged Gull.....	33	California Jay		English Sparrow
Western Gull	2	Yellow-billed Magpie		Nuttall Sparrow
		Titmouse		Song Sparrow

There are also at the lake six introduced species of geese. Many of these can fly and do fly quite often: White-fronted 2; Cackling 2; Lesser Snow 10; Ross 1; Canada 7; Hutchins 1.

Members attending: Mr. and Mrs. Myer; Mr. and Mrs. Stephens; Mesdames Courtright, Kelly; Misses Berg, Cave, Cockefair, Cohen, Griffin, McConnell; Messrs. Bunker, Bryant, Davis, Lastreto, Power, C. R. Thomas, Taylor; Masters Kirker, Lehman; Guests: Mrs. Davis; Messrs. J. E. Case, Robert Case, Fitter, Kellogg, Keyes, and three Scouts.

Laura A. Stephens, Historian.



Birds Seen in and about Stockton, December 24 to 26, 1934

Along the Borden Highway for about twenty miles, in the old corn fields, over the plowed ground, and perched on the electric and fence wires and on the tops of poles and posts, the following birds were seen: hundreds of American Egrets, a few Great Blue Herons, many Marsh and Sparrow Hawks, a few Red-tailed Hawks and Short-eared Owls, numerous Shrikes, Brewer Blackbirds, Meadowlarks, Crows and Gulls, and two White Pelicans in flight.

Along a levee in the city limits of Stockton many Red-shafted Flickers, Intermediate White-crowned Sparrows, Audubon Warblers, Coots, some Song Sparrows, Ruby-crowned Kinglets, Spotted and Brown Towhees and a Kingfisher were seen.

After leaving Stockton over Pacific Avenue and traveling some seven miles over the main highway toward Walnut Grove there is a left-hand turn which takes one to King Island. Continuing along this road to the ferry crossing for Empire Island one turns right upon the levee road. It is here that I saw small groups of Cranes within a short distance of the turn. Continuing along, others were seen and in the distance near the north end of the island some two hundred or more took wing uttering their loud calls. While in the air they were constantly changing their formation until finally they streaked off into the distance and appeared as a dark edge to some of the clouds hanging in the sky until they were out of sight. As far as I can determine from inquiry and literature they were the Little Brown Cranes.

Black-crowned Night Herons, Great Blue Herons, Red-tailed Hawks, Coots, Brewer Blackbirds and great numbers of Crows were seen from the levee. After circling the island and reaching the road again I turned toward the main highway. A short distance after crossing the large bridge I took a dirt road turning off to the left at a place locally named camp number one. After reaching the ponds I saw Sandpipers, Killdeer and Yellow-legs feeding along the margins. Thirty Whistling Swans were resting on a small pond. In the distance where the sun made identification difficult, ducks in variety could be seen. Continuing along this road until it makes a sharp turn to the left three more Cranes were found. It was interesting to notice how two would have their heads down feeding while one would stand guard with head erect. When this one's head went down, one of the others would raise its head. On the side of the road opposite the ponds some two hundred and fifty Canada Geese were feeding in the grass.

In the late afternoon I returned to the neighborhood, not going quite so far along the road to the island but turning off at the so-called Bishop tract. In the distance Cranes could be seen flying and then settling down over the fields possibly for the night. Canada Geese, possibly the same seen that morning, flew overhead honking and settling on grassy ground under oak trees. Here they were still seen when I left at sunset. A few American Egrets, Wilson Snipe, a small flock of Green-winged Teal, Coots, small flocks of Sandpipers, and Pied-billed Grebes were on the canals or along their margins. A flock of Whistling Swans seemed to have settled down for the night on a very small pond. These may have been the same birds seen in the morning a few miles to the west.

From my experience I would say that this region which is so accessible is good birding territory.

Junea W. Kelly, Alameda, California. February 5, 1935.



On February 18th, I again visited Stockton, and saw about 250 Cranes mount into the air, rising higher and higher until they were lost to sight. I spent the

whole afternoon trying to locate them but without success. I feel that there is so much farm activity going on now in this region with the plowing and seeding, as well as with pasturing of sheep, that there is little undisturbed territory left for the Cranes. It would be interesting to obtain the date of their departure from the delta area.

On February 22nd, I saw about 125 Cranes in flight over King Island at about 9:45 a. m.; also seven more were feeding nearby. I crawled to within 125 yards of them until I was able to see the red skin on the head. I watched them until they took flight and all were out of sight by 10:30.

J. W. K.



February Field Trip: On February 17th, the Association went on its annual field trip to Burlingame. It was an ideal California spring day, sunny and warm.

On account of no longer being able to obtain permission to pass over the Water Company's property, as in former years, our birding would have been confined within the city limits of Burlingame and Hillsborough, but due to the enthusiasm and resourcefulness of Mrs. Kelly, and the number of automobiles available, the trip was extended to include the territory along the San Mateo Bridge and around Baumberg.

In both Burlingame and Hillsborough the birds usually found on lawns and in gardens were present in fair numbers. No doubt but that the individuals present have learned to enjoy the luxurious surroundings which exist in these exclusive towns. Juncos, Robius, Hermit Thrushes, Bush-tits, Titmice and Chickadees were the most abundant. Purple Finches were studied at very close range. Garden fish ponds probably accounted for the presence of a Kingfisher.

At the west end of the San Mateo Bridge many large flocks of Willets and Godwits were observed as they left their loafing grounds and flew across to feed on the mud flats exposed by the receding tide. Red-backed and Western Sandpipers were observed in fair numbers.

From the bridge the group continued on to Baumberg, arriving just as a flock of approximately one hundred fifty Avocets arose from a shallow pond. They circled about a few times then disappeared in the direction of the bay. Yellow-legs were also present and a Short-eared Owl was observed flying over the adjacent marsh.

Sixty-nine species were observed as follows:

Burlingame: Turkey Vulture; Cooper, Red-tailed and Sparrow-Hawks; Band-tailed Pigeon; Anna and Allen Hummingbirds; Kingfisher; Red-shafted Flicker; California Woodpecker; California Jay; Chickadee; Titmouse; Bush-tit; Creeper; Vigor Wren; Robin; Varied Thrush; Hermit Thrush; Ruby-crowned Kinglet; Cedar Waxwing; Hutton Vireo; Audubon Warbler; English Sparrow; Purple and House Finches; Pine Siskin; Brown and Spotted Towhees; Junco; Nuttall, Golden-crowned and Song Sparrows.

Dumbarton Bridge: Eared and Western Grebes; Great Blue Heron; American Egret; Pintail, Canvas-back and Scaup Duck; American Golden-eye; Bufflehead; White-winged and Surf Scoters; Ruddy Duck; Red-breasted Merganser; Black-bellied and Semipalmated Plovers; Black Turnstone; Willet; Red-backed and Western Sandpipers; Godwit; Western, California, Ring-billed and Bonaparte Gulls; Horned Lark; Pipit; Meadowlark; House Finch; Song Sparrow.

Baumberg: Marsh and Sparrow Hawks; Great Blue Heron; Killdeer; Yellow-legs; Avocet; Short-eared Owl; Say Phoebe; Shrike; Meadowlark; Brewer Blackbird; English Sparrow; House Finch; Savannah Sparrow.

Members attending were: Messrs. and Mesdames Dunshee, Millard and Stephens; Mesdames Courtright, Cummings and Kelly; Misses Cave, Cohen, Danz, Dunshee; Messrs. Bryant, Chase, Davis, Lastreto, Power; and Master Harold Kirker. Guests: Mesdames Davis, Tenbrook, Wahfeld; Miss Merritt of the Brookline Bird Club, Mass., and Miss Worth. Nineteen members and five guests.

Chas. A. Bryant, Historian.

Audubon Notes

April Meeting: The regular meeting will be held on Thursday, the 11th, at 8 p. m., room 19, Ferry Building.

The speaker of the evening will be Mrs. M. E. Davidson, of the California Academy of Sciences, whose subject will be "Collecting Among the Painted Indians of Panama." The lecture will be illustrated.



April Field Trip will be taken on Sunday, the 14th, to Lake Merced. East Bay members may take either No. 12 Mission Street car marked "Ocean" or Municipal car K, transferring to No. 12 car at Sloat Boulevard, getting off at entrance to Fleishacker Playgrounds, where party will meet at 9:30 a. m. Bring luncheon. Leader, Chas. A. Bryant.



March Meeting: The 212th regular meeting was held on March 14th, room 19, Ferry Building, with fifty-five members and guests present. First Vice-President B. K. Dunshee presiding.

Mrs. R. M. Sims of Berkeley and Tom M. Kirksey of Hamilton Field, Marin County, were elected members.

The following observations were reported:

Chas. Bryant: March 10th, Manzanita, four American Egrets.

Mrs. C. S. S. Dutton: February 27th, Presidio, Creeper and Winter Wren singing; March 13th, partly albino Winter Wren.

Mrs. Kelly: March 9th, Leona Heights, White-throated Swifts; 14th, Lutescent Warblers abundant.

Harold Kirker: March 2nd, Golden Gate Park, Red-breasted Sapsucker.

Fritz Lippmann: February 23rd, Great Highway, eleven Snowy Plovers; March 10th, partly albino Brewer Blackbird; 9th, San Andreas Lake, Violet-green Swallows.

Eddie McClintock: March 20th, San Mateo Bridge, Cliff Swallows.

Commander Parmenter: February 19th, Collinsville, Solano County, 29 Cinnamon Teal; Suisun marshes, 6 American Egrets, 2 White-tailed Kites, 9 Marsh Hawks, Florida Gallinule, 4 Short-eared Owls; March 2nd, Lake Merced, 2 Rufous Hummingbirds; 8th, Suisun marshes, Ferruginous Rough-leg, 8 Marsh Hawks, 12 Tree Swallows; Sears Point-Vallejo Road, 5 American Egrets, 8 Green-winged Teal, 7 Bufflehead, 2 White-tailed Kites, 3 Marsh Hawks, 3 Short-eared Owls; February 25th, Borden Highway, 170 American Egrets, 7 Marsh Hawks, Short-eared Owl, Ring-necked Pheasant; March 12th, two Barn Swallows and two Mockingbirds.

Carl Smith: February 10th, on Nineteenth Avenue in San Francisco near the county line, American Egret; Cliff House, Wandering Tattler; 24th, San Mateo salt ponds, two Long-billed Dowitchers.

Robert Taylor: Oakland, February 13th, Allen Hummingbird; March 3rd, Lutescent Warbler; 4th, Chipping Sparrow; 13th, Western Bluebirds, Cedar Waxwings, Pine Siskins and Robins very abundant, over 1,000 Robins counted in the field next to his home.



Correction: In March issue, February field trip, Dumbarton Bridge should read San Mateo Bridge.

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.

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