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THE
MONTHLY

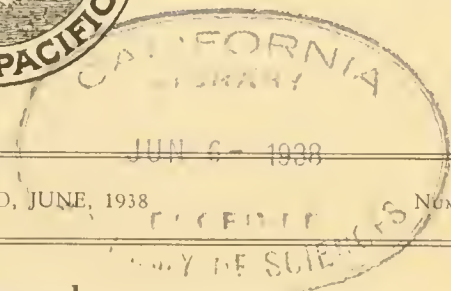


GULL
BULLETIN

VOLUME 20

SAN FRANCISCO, JUNE, 1938

NUMBER 6



Lake Merced

Since the first of the year I have spent considerable time in the vicinity of Lake Merced, San Francisco, collecting data to be used in a proposed check-list by the Oakland Ornithological Club. I had small hopes of any but routine observations of common species as the area has been drastically dealt with by a P. W. A. road-building program. Not only the actual physical changes wrought but the continued presence of workmen seemed to be insurmountable obstacles to all but the hardiest of our avian friends. Some of my observations, therefore, came as distinct surprises and seem to be of enough general interest to warrant publishing them at this time in a more thorough treatment than they will get in the check-list. I present some of them here in an annotated fashion for convenience sake.

Eared Grebe: Present in numbers up to thirty in full breeding plumage as late as May 18th.

Pied-billed Grebe: I have not seen this species since May 6th, but there are most likely one or two breeding pairs on the lake.

Black-crowned Night Heron: Observed by myself only once since the first of the year—an immature on March 30th.

American Bittern: Regularly observed in numbers up to six. I once had the pleasure of watching no less than three individuals at the same time while they were "pumping."

Mallard: This species is enjoying a very profitable year at the lake. I estimate the number of young being raised to be more than two hundred individuals.

Greater Scaup: I was unable to find any definite record for this species on the lake so I kept careful watch among the mixed Lesser Scaup and Ring-necked Ducks to see if I could discover any. On February 23rd I found three male birds that were unmistakably of this species. They were noted again on March 4th and 9th.

Golden Eagle: A bird in immature plumage was noted on January 5th flying over the lake—apparently the first record for the lake.

Osprey: Another new species for this area—seen on April 7th during quite a flight of hawks.

Florida Gallinule: Four individuals were regularly present at the south end of the large lake. March 9th marked my last observation of them, but I believe they were observed a week later by Harold Kirker.

Coot: This species is also enjoying a profitable year. Nests all about the lakes with little attempt at concealment.

Semipalmated Plover: The subsidence of the water over a flooded kale patch produced a bit of shore line that promptly attracted several of the shore-birds. This species was first noted on April 23rd and remained in goodly numbers at least through May 6th, my last date for them.

Spotted Sandpiper: A spring date for the species—one noted on May 13th.

Greater Yellow-Legs: Another welcome visitor to the kale patch. One present on the 17th of May.

Long-billed Dowitcher: Noted at the same place on April 25th, May 5th and 6th.

Western Sandpiper: Also at the same spot in goodly numbers from April 23rd to May 6th.

Forster Tern: On May 2nd there were approximately 175 of these beautiful birds flying about over the smaller lake. They gathered into a compact group and rose to a great height on a stiff west wind; alternately flashing like brilliant silver and disappearing against the blue sky as they wheeled around. Finally they flew off toward the bay.

Barn Owl: An additional record. One sitting among some dried tules, beautifully camouflaged, on January 21st. They are evidently regular residents among the pines on the golf courses judging by the pellets found there.

Wood Pewee: One noted among the pines east of the pumping station on May 17th and 18th. Further investigation may disclose its nesting there.

California Jay: Evidently well established now—were noted carrying food to young.

Raven: Four seen March 30th. A pair regularly noted up to May 17th are probably nesting on the cliffs near Mussel Rock.

Red-breasted Nuthatch: Noted at various times among the pines in the Olympic Club golf course until May 6th, when a strike of the club employees forced me to halt my observations there. Perhaps they will become established as residents on this side of the bay as they have on the other.

Brown Creeper: One of my best finds was a nest of this species in a cypress stub among the trees east of the pumping station. On May 17th and 18th they were busy feeding young.

House Wren: Noted at the lake only once before; this year two pair are nesting there, one pair in a stand-pipe at the pumping station and the other in a truck gardener's barn nearby.

Lincoln Sparrow: Rather a common bird during the winter season in the brushy canyons. Latest date of observation April 27th.

Besides such species noted above I have seen definite evidence of the nesting of the following species at the lake this year:

Anna Hummingbird	Vigors Wren	California Purple Finch
Allen Hummingbird	Tule Wren	House Finch
Red-Shafted Flicker	Russet-back Thrush	Willow Goldfinch
Western Flycatcher	Western Robin	Green-backed Goldfinch
Barn Swallow	Warbling Vireo	Pine Siskin
Bank Swallow	Hutton Vireo	Spotted Towhee
Round-winged Swallow	Yellow-throat	Bryant Sparrow
California Jay	Pileolated Warbler	Point Pinos Junco
Barlow Chickadee	Meadowlark	Nuttall Sparrow
Bush-tit	Brewer Blackbird	Song Sparrow
Wren-tit	English Sparrow	

Gordon Bolander, San Francisco, California. May 23, 1938.



Saint Mary's, Contra Costa County

The May field trip was taken on Sunday, the 15th, to Saint Mary's, Contra Costa County. Eighteen members and five guests attended. The day was overcast. There was a slight sprinkle in the early part of the morning but the sun shown intermittently in the afternoon.

We again enjoyed the privilege of walking down the beautiful canyon belonging to Mr. Emile A. Pierre. He told us of two boys who were there the previous

day and heard a chat. We also heard what we thought to be a chat and walked a long way down the canyon following the notes. Finally tracing the notes to a pair of Thrashers, we were inclined to doubt the reported record of the chat.

Returning to the road, we continued on up Los Trampas Canyon beyond the picnic grounds, where we had luncheon on a grassy hillside with many birds singing in the trees about. Here we saw two Tanagers on a nearby tree, to the delight of all present. A short walk farther up the canyon was taken, but the road became so muddy and broken in places that we turned back.

A list of forty-nine birds for the day was recorded as follows:

California Heron	California Jay	MacGillivray Warbler
Turkey Vulture	Plain Titmouse	Pileolated Warbler
Sharp-shinned Hawk	Slender-billed Nuthatch	English Sparrow
Red-tailed Hawk	Wren-tit	Meadowlark
Sparrow Hawk	House Wren	S. F. Red-wing Blackbird
Quail	Vigors Wren	Brewer Blackbird
Mourning Dove	Thrasher	Western Tanager
Horned Owl	Western Robin	Black-headed Grosbeak
Allen Hummingbird	Russet-backed Thrush	Lazuli Bunting
Red-shafted Flicker	Western Bluebird	Purple Finch
California Woodpecker	Cedar Waxwing	House Finch
Ash-throated Flycatcher	Shrike	Green-backed Goldfinch
Black Phoebe	Cassin Vireo	Spotted Towhee
Western Flycatcher	Warbling Vireo	Brown Towhee
Wood Pewee	Lutescent Warbler	Junco
Cliff Swallow	Yellow Warbler	Song Sparrow
Coast Jay		

Eighteen members attended, as follows: Mesdames Mitchell, Ruby H. Thomas, Woolsey; Misses Berg, Cockefair, Danz, Gallagher, Hunt, Papina, Perdue, Taylor, Yeamans; Messrs. Bremer, Davis, Kirker, Power and Mr. and Mrs. Stephens with five guests, namely: Mesdames Anabel, Davis, Deuprey, Kearney and Master Ed. C. Perya.

Laura A. Stephens, Leader and Historian.



Observations

Gordon Bolander: San Francisco Beach, many Hudsonian Curlews; Mussel Rock, Wandering Tattler, May 6th; Lake Merced, Lincoln and Golden-crowned Sparrows, April 27th (late), Red-breasted Merganser, May 2nd (late), 175± Forster Terns, many Bonaparte Gulls, 32 Semipalmated Plovers, May 2nd, 70± Semipalmated Plovers, 6th, Cedar Waxwings and 27 Long-billed Dowitchers, 5th, two Long-billed Dowitchers and Raven, 6th; Mussel Rock, Baird Cormorants nesting, May 23rd.

B. C. Bremer: Deer Park, Fairfax, Long-eared Owl, near Camp Lake Lagunitas, Western Lark Sparrows, May 8th.

Mrs. Mary L. Courtright: Larkspur, Chat, May 5th; Alpine Dam, Golden-crowned Sparrows and Kingfisher and nest, May 9th; Larkspur, Varied Thrush, 12th (late).

Mrs. Junea W. Kelly: Codornices Park, Berkeley, Calliope Hummingbird, May 7th; Bay Farm Island, Golden Plover, May 7th and 8th, had been reported several times since April 25th; pool along Otis Drive, Alameda, Horned Grebe in full plumage, May 8th; Bay Farm Island, Knots from April 2nd to May 10th; Saint Mary's, Wood Pewee, several pairs MacGillivray Warblers, Bullock Oriole, May 4th; Santa Cruz, Hooded Oriole, May 10th, reported by Mr. Clark P. Streator, May 3rd.

Harold Kirker: Elk Valley, Marin County, American Egret, 50 Hudsonian Curlews; Richardson's Bay, seven Semipalmated Plovers, two Yellow-legs, May 1st.

Angelo Hewetson: Early in April a pair of Bullock Orioles came to my garden in Alameda and daily comes to bathe. Along Otis Drive, Alameda, a Horned Grebe in full breeding plumage, and a female American Golden-eye, May 8th.

Miss Pringle: Lafayette Park, San Francisco, Turkey Vulture, April 15th.

Lester Power: near Hunter's Point, San Francisco, Bonaparte Gulls, four Caspian Terns, Forster Terns, Red-breasted Merganser, Hudsonian Curlew, May 10th.

Commander Parmenter: Cliff House, 500± Shearwaters, May 6th and 7th; one Hudsonian Curlew, May 9th, Wandering Tattler, May 6th and 7th; San Mateo Bridge, five Ruddy Turnstones, April 19th; Alvarado, 500± Avocets, May 2nd; Bodega Cliffs, Black-necked Stilt, April 27th; Dumbarton Bridge, 2000± Northern Phalaropes, May 2nd.

Mrs. Stephens: Golden Gate Park, Olive-sided Flycatcher, May 19th; from Cliff House to Thornton Beach, thousands of Shearwaters, 22nd.

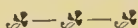


Audubon Notes

June Meeting: The regular meeting will be held on Thursday evening, the 9th, at 8 o'clock, in room 19, Ferry Building.

The speaker of the evening will be Mr. O. S. Walsh, whose subject will be "Birding in Utah."

Members may bring guests.



June Field Trip will be taken on Sunday, the 12th, to Ross, Marin County. Those so desiring may start from Fairfax. Purchase round-trip ticket to Ross or Fairfax, and take the 8:45 a. m. Sausalito Ferry. Those desiring to remain for supper bring food for two meals.

Leader: Mrs. Mary L. Courtright.



May Meeting: The 249th regular meeting was held on the 12th, in room 19, Ferry Building, with thirty-two members and guests present. President Junea W. Kelly presiding.

Mr. E. L. Sumner Jr. spoke in place of Mr. Joseph Dixon, who was unable to be present. Mr. Sumner told us of the meeting of the third North American Wild Life Conference in Washing-

ton, D. C., which he attended. The delegates to the conference were representative of three other groups: first, the American Wild Life Institute, composed of sportsmen, ammunition manufacturers and influential business men; second, the Wildlife Society, composed of professional scientists and the Fish and Game Commissions; and third, the Wildlife Federation, a combination of the two other groups.

The first North American Wildlife Conference was conceived by Darling and Leopold in 1934. It was planned as a National Clearing House for ideas of conservation. A big meeting resulted and \$170,000 was raised for research.

At the time of the second conference the Wildlife Society had a hundred experts in the field and a group of specialists to maintain professional standards on sound biological lines.

Members from Canada and Mexico attended the third conference in Washington, D. C. They were interested in the Glacier Waterton Park and the Big Bend Park across the Rio Grande. All the prominent men in Washington attended the meeting. The sessions were general and technical.

Audubon Association of the Pacific

Organized January 25, 1917

For the Study and the Protection of Birds

President.....Mrs. G. Earle Kelly..... 1311 Grand St., 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.