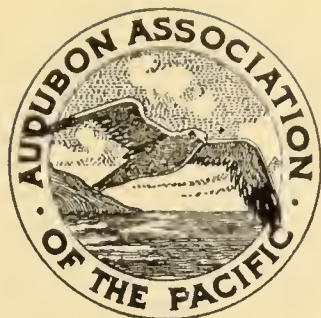


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NOVEMBER MEETING: The next monthly meeting of the Association will be held on Thursday evening, the 13th of November, in the lecture hall of the California Development Board, Ferry Building, at eight o'clock.

Mrs. Bertha M. Rice, Secretary of the California State Wild Flower League, will read a paper on the subject of "Natural Flora and its Influence on Wild Bird Conservation."



NOVEMBER FIELD TRIP will be taken on November 16, 1919, to University Campus, Berkeley. San Francisco members take 8:40 A. M. Key boat, transferring to "Berkeley" train at mole and riding to end of line at University and Shattuck Aves., where party will be formed on arrival of train at 9:20 A. M. East Bay members may reach this point by either College, Telegraph, Shattuck or Grove Street cars. Bring lunch and canteens.



PROCEEDINGS OF THE OCTOBER MEETING: The thirty-third regular meeting of the Association was held on the 9th of October in the Ferry Building, President Lastreto in the chair.

By a unanimous vote the Corresponding Secretary was instructed to write a letter of thanks to Mr. Van Straaten, Rotterdam, thanking him for his magnificent gift of a set of stereoscopic photographs of birds published by the Netherlands Association for the Protection of Birds.

Mr. A. S. Kibbe reported on the various legislative measures enacted by many States and cities in the United States to repress the stray cat nuisance by different methods, all of them involving the obligatory licensing of cats similarly as is generally done with dogs, and recommended that existing ordinances in our neighboring cities affecting dogs be amended so as to include cats on the same basis.

Mr. Matthew McCurrie, Secretary S. P. C. A., read a very enlightening paper on the "Vagrant Cat," describing its evolution from the pet kitten and the rejected house cat. He also reported that the San Francisco Society was quietly doing a surprisingly large work in gathering cats that had outgrown usefulness or desirability in homes, amounting to 57,343 in ten years and in increasing proportions. "Had the cats been allowed to live, imagine the result of natural increase . . .", and in spite of this our streets and parks abound with this feline bird hunter.

Dr. Oscar Kron, veterinarian and proprietor of a cat and dog hospital, explained that most of the antipathy against cats was aroused by the stray ones and strongly advocated licensing regulations, but principally humane destruction of unwanted cats and not turning them out to forage for existence. He also stated that there would not be any element of cruelty in clipping the foreclaws, which would render cats incapable to climb after and to catch birds, an easy and safe precaution in allowing the pet cat its liberty.

Mrs. C. B. Grover, Secretary of the Pacific Cat Club, made a feeling appeal in behalf of the Fancier's Cat and defended the usefulness of cats in general. While advocating laws to forbid abandoning cats, she insisted

that licensing measures would not be effective, though she stated that her club would not oppose the same in principle. Another method to control the normally large propagation would be to neuter young cats.

In reply to the objection that collars in cats' necks would expose them to the danger of hanging themselves on picket fences, Mr. Kibbe judged that if thus caught in poaching expeditions into neighbors' premises, they would well deserve such self-imposed lynching.

Then followed a general discussion participated in by members and visitors and which was brought to a head by Judge Rolla B. Watt showing how all sides agreed on the desirability of limiting the feline population and the necessity of suppressing the stray cat by efficacious measures, the only point of dispute being on the means of identifying the pet and the fine breed cats.

It was unanimously resolved that the Association continue in co-operation with the Cooper Ornithological Club in their plans to procure the passage of ordinances in our Bay Cities to repress the cat nuisance and menace to bird life, and a committee, consisting of Messrs. Kibbe and Douglas, was appointed to work to that end.

The Chairman appropriately asked Mrs. Grover to deliver on behalf of the Audubon Association of the Pacific a message of friendship to and disposition to co-operate with the Pacific Cat Club.

* * *

ACTIVITIES OF THE JUNIOR ANNEX—The "Hummer" Jr. Audubon branch is a lively one and the following questions have recently been debated:

Resolved: "The Flicker is of more benefit than injury to the farmer."

"The Cat must be curbed in its bird eating—How?"

The members are making extremely good use of the Audubon educational leaflets, a number of which were given them for circulation by Mrs. Maurer of Berkeley.

MRS. E. ROE (Teacher).

* * *

"BIRDS AND THE WAR": From a review in "The Auk" (Oct.) on this recent work by Hugh S. Gladstone, London, we learn that the author's observations during the four years of war in France are that water—as well as land—birds were little affected by projectiles, noise, gas or aeroplanes, directly or in their life and migration habits, except where total deforestation ceased to shelter those that formerly occupied such habitats. Indeed homing pigeons successfully traversed barrages and gas, and canaries detected poisonous gases and cheered the wounded in ambulances.

The important exception recorded is of particular interest to us, adding argument and importance to our efforts to put a positive stop to the spilling of oil by tankers off our coast. We quote: ". . .but the sinking of oil ships by submarines was a source of real danger, and large numbers of ducks and other sea birds perished from their plumage becoming hopelessly caked with the oil, so that flight was impossible."

* * *

"PUT NO STRINGS ON DOVES OF PEACE."

Such was the title under which the San Francisco Chronicle's Safety Valve (19 Oct.) published a communication (concurred in by most of our Directors) calling attention to the unintentional act of cruelty to a dozen white pigeons ("doves of peace") liberated at a luncheon in honor to the King of the Belgians in the Palace Hotel dining hall. Not only did these poor birds have a hard time to find resting perches but the long colored streamers tied to their feet exposed them to being caught on the fixtures, and such as escaped through open windows, thus shackled, ran this greater danger in the open and with a serious handicap in escaping enemies.

To illustrate the danger of such an example of "a pretty sight," plans were made to likewise liberate blue birds at a certain wedding, though later abandoned on the explanation of the objectionable features.

It is hoped that this friendly suggestion will prevent the repetition of a thoughtless, cruel performance.

CO-OPERATIVE PROTECTIVE WORK.

By FRANKLIN B. MORSE,
Associate Editor "Our Animals."

That much of the work done by the San Francisco Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals parallels that of The Audubon Association and is of a co-operative nature is well exemplified in the records of the first named society. There is much that the two organizations can accomplish hand in hand.

Exhibits at the S. P. C. A. headquarters, No. 2500 Sixteenth Street, of sling shots, air guns, traps, cages and other devices, designed for the capture or killing of feathered creatures, are mute testimony of the battle which constantly is being waged by humanitarians against the human enemies of bird life. All of these exhibits were confiscated from the culprits, the majority of them from boys.

The vagrant cat is another destructive agency with which the humane society has much to do. In fact, it may be said that in the problem of keeping the city rid of these pests, the San Francisco Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals faces one of the most important and vexatious problems. Some idea of the work accomplished in this direction may be gained when it is said that during some months the number of vagrant and unwanted cats humanely destroyed by the Society amounts to a thousand during the thirty-day interval.

In the two directions mentioned above then, the two organizations have a common work in which each can lend the other assistance and, with close co-operation, there is no reason why the results attained should not grow in value.

Of prime importance to the two societies, however, is the great educational work which lies before them—a work which will never end, for each succeeding generation will have to be told just what was imparted to that which went before. While prosecutions and other punitive activities have their influence in keeping down the destructive forces, it only is by a constantly expanding educational system that a real preventive will begin to operate as a restricting influence. The child, properly instructed as to his relations with bird and animal life, will need no information, as a man, from the judge of a police court.

One of the photographic exhibits in the possession of the San Francisco Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals is a picture of a string of 45 birds netted in a single morning by two men who were arrested by an officer of the society. These birds consisted of linnets, "red-heads," and California canaries. A more pitiful and pathetic display is would be hard to conceive.

To the average humanitarian it is impossible to believe that, with a proper knowledge imparted during youth, these men would have found it possible to destroy this species of bird life.

The recent arrest in Marin County, California, of the president of a gun club for having in his possession illegal game which he had shot presents a new and disgraceful condition of affairs which should have instant and wide publicity.

One would think a regularly organized gun club would be most jealous of and precise in the manner in which it lived up to the laws, and do everything possible to co-operate in the protection of game animals and birds when their slaughter is prohibited. When an officer of such an organization deliberately breaks the laws, what may we expect from the members of the club, let alone the youths of the country who look to their elders for an example?

In the case mentioned this law-breaker had in his possession a doe which he had shot. It follows that we may infer he would have as little compunction in slaughtering birds during their respective closed seasons.

It would be interesting to know just what action this club's members took in regard to this man they elected to be their president. Certainly nothing less than his expulsion from the organization would be adequate.

THE GULL

It is a deplorable condition of affairs when it becomes necessary for organizations such as The Audubon Association to keep an eye to so-called reputable gun clubs which should, as far as in them lies, co-operate in every way possible to preserve bird and animal life in accordance with the laws governing game creatures.

* * *

On the University Extension field trip of November 1st, 33 species of birds were seen and identified, some of them being quite unusual. The Virginia rail was watched for some time by all 17 members from the trail above its feeding ground of marshy land. On the open hillside, a fine specimen of the burrowing owl was flushed and his home hole identified by many ejected pellets of indigestible bones, hair, etc. Examination of some of these pellets by Dr. Bryant disclosed the fact that the owl's diet has been largely field mice (one long curved tooth being located) and Jerusalem crickets or potato bugs, these latter being recognized by their peculiar jaws.

The Bird classes of the University Extension courses have grown so much that two large sections have been formed with all the students that can possibly be taken care of.

* * *

THE OCTOBER FIELD TRIP was taken Sunday, October 19th. The party met at High Street Station, Alameda, at 9:30 a. m., and started for Bay Farm Island. The tide being high, it was deemed best to walk to the further side of the island and study land birds until the tide turned. Lunch was eaten on the beach and when this was finished the tide was receding and the first shore birds came to reconnoiter. Sandpipers led the throng.

It was regrettable that certain hunters, better termed vandals, were present on the beach and took occasion to fire at any kind of bird that came along. This made the birds shy and we decided to walk back to the bridge. Now the sloughs were emptying and a clapper rail was seen. After crossing the bridge, some of the party turned to the west and by going out over the wet sand, were well repaid by splendid views of many shore birds.

The birds found on the water and shore were: Holboell and pied-bill grebes; Western gull (young); California and Bonaparte gulls; Forster tern and a cormorant; great blue heron and California clapper rail; least, red-backed and Western sandpipers; marbled godwits, Western willets, black-bellied plover, kildeer and snowy plover. Land birds seen were: marsh and sparrow hawks, Anna hummer and black phoebe; Western meadow lark, Brewer blackbird, California linnet, Bryant marsh, Nuttall and salt marsh song sparrows; California shrike, salt marsh yellow throat, pipit and tule wren.

On account of the above mentioned hunters, there were found a dead barn owl and two eared grebes. Several flocks of birds were seen passing and alighting in the distance. From general appearance they seemed to be knots. Thirty-three species were identified.

Those present to enjoy the outing were: Misses Ames, Ayer, Cassiday, Griffin, Gunn and King; Mesdames Roe, Kibbe and Kelly; Messrs. Kibbe, Thomas and Wright, members, with Mrs. Allen and Mr. Kelly as guests.

MRS. G. E. KELLY.

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,
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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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