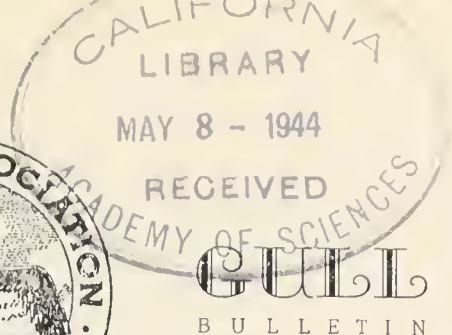


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VOLUME 26

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### News of Members in the Armed Forces

At Ft. Sam Houston, Texas, GORDON BOLANDER recently completed a course of training as X-ray technician in the Medical Service School. He has been selected for advanced training in another school in St. Louis. Of his experiences birding while at Ft. Sam Houston he writes:

"I have encountered many species new to me since leaving San Francisco last August. As I think back over the new ones the following stand out for varied reasons: Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, Golden-fronted Woodpecker, Great-tailed Grackle, Inca Dove, Red-eyed Cowbird, Starling, Black-crested Titmouse, and the Yellow-throated Vireo. Not all of the species are new, of course. Many of the familiar California species are here, House Finches, Meadowlarks, Killdeer, Flickers, Sparrow and Red-tailed Hawks, etc. However, the proportions of their numbers are sometimes very different. Here, for instance, Lincoln Sparrows greatly outnumber Song Sparrows, and Myrtle Warblers are everywhere while I haven't yet seen an Audubon Warbler."

From JOHN H. ROUSH who is with an engineering combat group at Camp Swift, Texas:

"All through the months of January and February we had the pleasure of the visits of the Pyrrhuloxia and the Cardinal. It is surprising how much those little splotches of color coupled with a short melodious trill can brighten up an otherwise drab sea of barracks, scrub pine, and occasional cacti . . . I am glad to say that I have finally seen the Scissor-tailed Flycatcher. Yesterday, April 18, I was out a few miles from the post making a reconnaissance of possible bivouac areas when I saw a remarkable display of the flycatcher's courage. Two of the birds suddenly arose to meet a crow which came flopping along near the flycatchers' perch. I have never seen a bird get out of the air so fast as that crow, and he stayed down for some time after the smaller birds had left."

At home on leave is HAROLD KIRKER who is in training with the Mountain Troops at Camp Hale, Colorado. Also at Camp Hale are GERALD SEDGEWICK and DON HEYNEMAN. We have enjoyed hearing from each in earlier issues and remember the fine pictures of that area taken by Mr. Kirker and shown by Mr. Heyneman at the October, 1943 meeting. In a letter dated April 9, Mr. Heyneman describes a trip to Moraga which he took while on leave in the Bay Area a short time ago:

"Birds were abundant, and the countryside was beautiful. Nuttall Woodpeckers were fairly common, three seen and four or five heard. A Black-crowned

Night Heron flew from the oaks bordering St. Mary's lake. Lark Sparrows were seen in the orchard. However, the common birds pleased us most — their chorus of songs was continuous and all-pervading. Finches, robins, sparrows, warblers, vireos, spotted towhees, and juncos gave unceasing ovation. Except for the Cliff Swallows under the building eaves, a Black Phoebe pair nesting under a bridge, and perhaps the hummers, there was no apparent nesting. Our most productive area was a trail leading up the stream which feeds into St. Mary's lake. It seemed a paradise of bird life, particularly in comparison with Camp Hale's ornithologically bleak winter."

On duty in Iceland is SGT. JAMES SELVESTER.

MARINE LIEUT. DAVID G. NICHOLS is now located at Quonset Point, Rhode Island.

FIRST LIEUT. DONALD J. BARMETTLER, a new member of the Audubon Association of the Pacific, is with the Army Medical Administration Corps. He is assigned to the administrative division of the Station Hospital, San Francisco Port of Embarkation, San Francisco.

DR. T. E. REYNOLDS is with Admiral Halsey's staff as consulting surgeon in the South Pacific. He has received a promotion to captain. He has been able to visit most of the islands of the South Pacific from Australia north to the Russell Islands, and is preparing a collection of specimens of birds of that area. Recently he spent a day with Ensign Sibley of the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, University of California.

SGT. EDWIN B. PIKE is with the AAF in Ardmore, Oklahoma. He is completing his training for combat duty and high altitude work.

CHIEF SPECIALIST ROBERT E. TAYLOR is an instructor in the physical fitness program of the Navy at Farragut, Iowa. He directs classes and groups in wrestling, boxing, calisthenics, and sports.

PFC. MELVILLE V. WOLFF is on active duty at the Marine Corps Depot, Engineers Section, in San Francisco.

EDWARD GREENHOOD is with the U. S. Maritime Service. After training at San Mateo and duty in the South Pacific wherever supplies were needed, he has been detached. He will be a Cadet Midshipman at the Midshipman Academy, King Point, Long Island, New York.

We hope to hear of further experiences and observations from these and other members who may be far afield.

### First Year Young of the Southern Bald Eagle

On March 26, 1944, I had an excellent opportunity to observe closely the very dark plumage of the first year young of the Southern Bald Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus leucocephalus*). While standing on the porch of my house six miles east of Napa, I saw a dark plumaged eagle soaring about one-half mile distant. The lighting conditions for observation were excellent. After soaring for a few moments, the eagle flew directly toward me, passing about 200 yards distant at 300 yards elevation. Prior to this observation and at different dates, I had identified an eagle with dark plumage. But at these times the bird had been too far away to note the extent of the dark coloration. My property is on Atlas Road at an elevation of about 1000 feet. Two miles farther on this road is Millikan Dam which

impounds water for Napa City and creates a lake about a mile in length and of irregular width. The country to the north and east is quite rugged with many streams flowing through deep, well-wooded canyons. Some 1,500 acres about the dam is a game refuge. The refuge keeper, Mr. Meachem, had previously told me that a "Black Eagle" frequents this area and has been seen and identified on different occasions. A name sometimes used in reference to the first year young of the Southern Bald Eagle is "Black Eagle". In *The Condor*, November-December, 1933, L. Ph. Bolander, Jr., describes the full-grown young as "so dark in color that they could be termed 'black', especially in the region of the head and tail." That the Southern Bald Eagle nests somewhere in the hills east of Napa, or in adjacent territory, is indicated by the fact that first year young have been seen on different occasions over a period of years in this area. —Joseph J. Webb, San Francisco

### April Field Trip

The April Field Trip was taken to Mills College and vicinity on Sunday, the 16th. The day was clear and bright for the observation of birds. Shortly after the start of the trip Miss Ivander MacIver located the nest of the Western Warbling Vireo. While we observed the nest, the female Vireo returned to the nest with nesting material in her bill. The male Vireo was singing a few feet away.

A short time later Miss Dorothy Chandler located the nest of a Red-shafted Flicker. The Flicker was inside a hole in the trunk of a dead tree and was seen removing chips of wood from the hole. The nest of a Plain Titmouse was next located in the trunk of another tree. We all stood back and watched the parent bird with a bill full of food enter the nest to feed the young. After a few seconds in the nest the Titmouse left, probably in search of more food. Marshall Jercks found the nest of an Anna Hummingbird. The nest was under construction.

After lunch the party proceeded about two miles into the hills. A very interesting observation was made of a Hairy Woodpecker and a Downy Woodpecker quarreling. The Downy Woodpecker, the smaller of the two, seemed to be on the offensive.

The thirty-five species identified were:

Cooper Hawk	California Jay	English Sparrow
Red-tailed Hawk	Plain Titmouse	California Purple Finch
Sparrow Hawk	Bush-Tit	House Finch
Ouail	Wren-Tit	Pine Siskin
Anna Hummingbird	Western House Wren	Willow Goldfinch
Allen Hummingbird	Pewick Wren	Green-backed Goldfinch
Red-shafted Flicker	Western Robin	Spotted Towhee
Hairy Woodpecker	Cedar Waxwing	Brown Towhee
Downy Woodpecker	Western Warbling Vireo	Junco
Black Phoebe	Lutescent Warbler	Golden-crowned Sparrow
Western Flycatcher	Audubon Warbler	Song Sparrow
Earn Swallow	Pileolated Warbler	

Members present were: Mr. and Mrs. Mver, Mr. and Mrs. Kilham; Mesdames Curtis, Dickman, Kelly; Misses Barry, Chandler, Kirk MacIver, Papina; Messrs. Brock, McGuckin. Seventeen guests attended, including members of the Natural Science Section of the Sierra Club.

—Donald Brock, Leader



**Audubon Notes**

*May Meeting:* The regular meeting will be held on Thursday, May 11, at 7:30 p.m. in the Assembly Hall of the San Francisco Public Library, Larkin and McAllister Streets, San Francisco.

The speaker will be Mr. Donald D. McLean, Economic Biologist of the California Division of Fish and Game. His subject will be "Problems of Color Photography of Some California Birds." The talk will be illustrated with colored motion pictures. Mr. McLean's ability, interest, and experience in photography and in field and aerial observations in natural history have well equipped him for the work he so ably handles for the State.

Guests are welcome to attend.

*May Field Trip* will be taken to Lafayette, Contra Costa County, on Sunday, the 14th. Members and guests will meet at Golden Gate Avenue, easterly limits of Lafayette, at 9 a.m. From San Francisco take the Greyhound bus at 7:40 a.m. at the Seventh and Mission Street Depot, San Francisco. From the East Bay take the 8:10 a.m. Greyhound bus at 20th and San Pablo Avenue, Oakland. Buses return in the afternoon at 3:25, 4:25, and 5:25 p.m. Buy return tickets. Bring binoculars and lunch. Leader: Mrs. Gertrude Zinke.

*Special Trip for Juniors:* There will be a special morning trip for junior members and their guests on Saturday, May 13th, to the campus of the University of California. Meet at Oxford and Center Streets in Berkeley at 8:30

a.m. Leaders will be Miss Clelia A. Paroni, former Supervisor of Nature Study in Berkeley schools, and Mrs. Ethel Richardson, Superintendent of Juniors, Audubon Association of the Pacific.

*April Meeting:* The 319th regular meeting was held on Thursday evening, April 13, in the Assembly Room, San Francisco Public Library, President Arthur H. Myer presiding.

We had the pleasure of hearing Dr. Robert C. Miller, Director of the California Academy of Science, speak on the subject "Morning Awakening and Evening Song of Birds". Illustrating his talk with graphs he discussed the effect of light, as related to the time element and to latitude, on these songs, and indicated the order in which the songs of familiar species first occur.

It is with regret that we announce the resignation of our editor, Mrs. T. Eric Reynolds, whose personal obligations prevent her continuing as editor of *The Gull*. Her effective work in this capacity for more than two years will be greatly missed.

*Observations:* Hudsonian Curlew, April 5; Knots, April 16; Semipalmated Plovers (100 more or less), April 22; Cassin Vireo, April 7, Alameda. Plack-headed Grosbeak, April 7, Ross; April 20, U. C. Campus, Berkeley. Tormie Warbler, April 15, Strawberry Canyon, Berkeley. Russet-backed Thrush (singing), April 27, U. C. Campus, Berkeley.

—Mrs. Junea W. Kelly.

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**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
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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