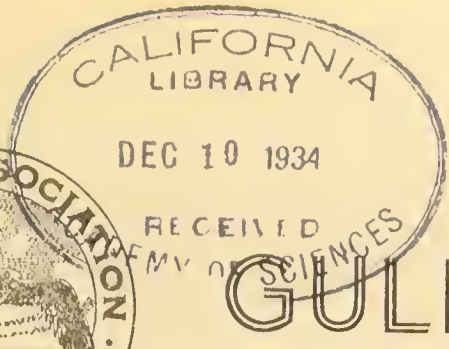
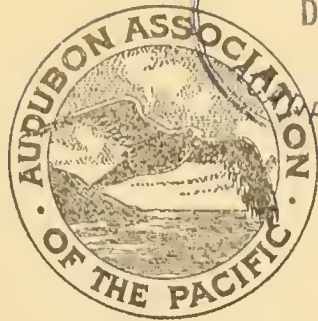


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Magpies Mobbing Horned Owl Routed by Kingfisher

On December 16, 1930, about one mile north of Kemmerer, Wyoming, on Hams Fork creek, I saw a flock of Magpies flush a large Owl from a clump of willows and follow it to where it lit on a telephone pole. Six of the Magpies alighted on the cross arm, three on either side and a foot or so below the Owl. There they scolded and taunted it, exchanging places and flying close enough to peck it on the back. The other Magpies gathered about the willows below and when they flushed again, either from my approach or other annoyance, eleven of them followed the Owl to its next retreat in a willow thicket nearby.

As this was the first Horned Owl I had seen in this locality, I continued to follow, hoping to get a better observation. Fortune seemed to favor me when the Owl took a position in a clump of willows on a bend of the small stream, now frozen, on which I could make a quiet approach. In the creek bend was an unfrozen eddy over which watched a Kingfisher. When I stepped into the open it flushed in the direction of the Magpies and Owl, venting its wild rattle. This so startled both Magpies and Owl that they parted company, the Magpies going to the brush on the left, and the Owl to the right dropping almost out of sight in a snow bank. In this unique setting the Owl afforded me an excellent head study.

Closer approach led to a weak place in the ice and I went down with a crash. The Owl took flight and the returning Kingfisher changed its course, rattling an unwelcome protest.

The Kingfisher wintering on this small stream in a blizzard swept area at an elevation of 7,000 feet, where only an occasional rapid was not frozen over; the daring pugnacity exhibited by the Magpies toward so formidable an enemy; and the Owl's recourse to a snow drift in which to hide, are, I think, all observations worthy of recording.

C. W. Lockerbie, Salt Lake City, Utah.



Red Phalaropes

Some further information regarding the recent presence of the Red Phalarope (*Phalaropus fulicarius*) on our coast:

The first arrivals were seen by Mr. and Mrs. Albert B. Stephens on October 12, 1934, in Golden Gate Park. The next day, the 13th, Mrs. Parmenter and I saw one at the parking space at the south end of Sunset Boulevard overlooking Lake Merced. We passed very close to the bird and an automobile back of us had to stop to allow it to move out of harm's way. The upper end of the right tarsus had quite a large swelling as though the joint had been injured. He could and did fly and apparently was not disabled, and seemed not at all disturbed by our presence as we observed him for some time as he flew or walked about. The same day we counted thirty-nine in Golden Gate Park.

On the 16th we saw one on the beach, a few on Lake Merced and seventy-four in the park. The 17th we visited the Dumbarton and San Mateo Bridges and saw

in the salt ponds more than 4,000. They were most active as food apparently was very abundant.

On October 19th we visited the outer shores of Marin and Sonoma Counties from Bolinas to the mouth of the Russian River; the birds increased from eight at Bolinas to more than 1,000 on Tomales Bay; there were twenty-five at Bodega, and sixty-five on Salmon Creek north of Bodega. We saw none farther north that day.

October 22nd we went south and saw more than 200 from the Municipal Pier at Santa Cruz, more than 100 at Moss Landing, more than 300 in the lagoons at Monterey and two from the southerly side of Point Lobos, Carmel Highlands; here they were in company with Surf-birds, Ruddy and Black Turnstones. In returning by the road from Monterey to Salinas two Phalaropes on the wing crossed the road in front of our automobile.

On October 24th in Golden Gate Park we saw only three, and two on the ocean near the Cliff House Rocks. On October 28th we saw three on San Francisco Bay while we were crossing by ferry.

October 25th, on the Bayshore flats, including the ponds at Redwood City, we saw more than 750. On the salt-ponds at the Dumbarton Bridge they were very abundant and we estimated there were more than 6,000 in sight. At the Leslie salt-ponds and San Mateo Bridge we saw at least 700.

From our observations we believe that the height of abundance was on October 25th, as since that day they have steadily decreased in numbers. We have seen surprisingly few dead. However, near the eastern end of the Dumbarton causeway we saw one in flight strike one of the overhead wires and drop dead.

On November 1st we again visited the ocean shores of Marin and Sonoma Counties and only forty-three were seen where there had been more than 1200 thirteen days previous; however, this day we saw five near the mouth of the Russian River, thus extending the presence of the Phalaropes a few miles to the northward.

As these birds are pelagic and their normal habitat is the ocean, it may be proper to give the distance between the north and south limits (where observed), in nautical miles, which is about 130.

On November 6th we visited again the Bay Shore flats and bridges at the southern end of San Francisco Bay and saw not more than 1200 where we had seen at least 7450 on October 25th. November 13 we once more went to Santa Cruz and along the bay to Monterey and Pacific Grove and saw only thirty-three Phalaropes where we had seen more than 600 on October 22nd. The same day we crossed the Dumbarton Bridge and could count only 130.

November 16th we again visited the Bay Shore flats and bridges and counted only 180 birds, showing the rapid decrease in their numbers. Our last record for the Golden Gate Park was one bird on Chain of Lakes, November 23rd.

On October 25th I wrote to Mr. David B. Rogers, curator in the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History, asking as to the presence of the Red Phalaropes in that vicinity. He reports that Red Phalaropes have been observed from Goleta on the north, to San Pedro on the south—Dr. Adele L. Grant having seen them at the southern reported limit. Many dead were seen by the different observers of Santa Barbara.

I also wrote to Mr. Clinton G. Abbott, Director of the Natural History Museum, Balboa Park, San Diego, and he replied under date of November 9th, that there had been abnormally large numbers of Phalaropes in the San Diego region. Mr. L. M. Huey, the Museum's curator of birds, reported that there were "thousands" of Red Phalaropes at the south end of San Diego Bay near National City. Mr. J. F. Sefton, Jr., President of the Museum, who is particularly interested in pelagic birds, stated there were unusually large numbers of Red Phalaropes on San Diego Bay, that they were everywhere, including the sloughs between San Diego and Los Angeles.

Henry E. Parmenter, San Francisco, California.

November Field Trip: A small but enthusiastic group of Audubonites, undismayed by threatening weather, gathered at Ross Station, Marin County, November 11, 1934, at the usual hour, for what proved to be a most enjoyable field trip. The morning was heavily overcast, with no wind. About noon the sun shone through and thereafter we had an ideal day, quite warm with a beautiful blue sky.

We took the usual route to Phoenix Lake, thence to Lake Lagunitas via the old Fairfax road, returning to Phoenix Lake by the Fish Gulch Road.

The outstanding observation of the day, two adult Spotted Owls, must be credited to Miss T. A. Papina, who discovered them in a tan bark oak, perched about thirty feet above the ground, almost directly over the roadway. A splendid opportunity was afforded all present to observe these two, rather rare birds, as they were exceedingly gentle and tame. Notwithstanding various kinds of calls and noises proceeding from the interested group, these two owls viewed us with some little curiosity but no great concern, and we reluctantly left them there still seated upon their perch. The dark lead color of their iris, the dusky bill, yellow at tip, and the brown coloring with many white spots were clearly seen.

We were also fortunate in seeing many Cedar Waxwings, perhaps two hundred throughout the day. The madrona trees, heavily laden with berries, sheltered flocks of fifty or more. Two flocks of Band-tailed Pigeons were noted, the first had probably seventy-five birds, while the second a hundred or more.

On Richardson's Bay, Brown Pelican; Hudsonian Curlew; Pintail, White-winged Scoter; California and Western Gulls were noted.

A list of forty-six species was noted as follows:

Pied-billed Grebe	Red-Shafted Flicker	Western Bluebird
Great Blue Heron	California Woodpecker	Ruby-crowned Kinglet
Black-crowned Night Heron	Red-breasted Sapsucker	Cedar Waxwing
Baldpate	Cabanis Woodpecker	Audubon Warbler
Lesser Scaup	Coast Jay	Townsend Warbler
Ring-necked Duck	Nicasio Jay	Meadowlark
Ruddy Duck	Western Crow	Brewer Blackbird
Turkey Vulture	Black Phoebe	House Finch
Red-tailed Hawk	Nicasio Chickadee	Pine Siskin
Desert Sparrow Hawk	Plain Titmouse	Spotted Towhee
California Quail	Coast Bush-tit	Brown Towhee
American Coot	California Creeper	Junco
Band-tailed Pigeon	Ruddy Wren-tit	Golden-crowned Sparrow
Northern Spotted Owl	Western Robin	Nuttall Sparrow
Anna Hummingbird	Dwarf Hermit Thrush	Marin Song Sparrow
Belted Kingfisher		

Members attending were: Messrs. and Mesdames Dunshee, Ensign and Stephens; Misses Cohen, Danz, Dunshee, Papina and Pringle; Messrs. Bremer, Chase, Myer, Power, Thomas and Webb. Guests: Scouts Kirker, Lippmann, Mabey and Stahr.

Joseph J. Webb, Leader and Historian.



November Meeting: Dr. Alden H. Miller spoke to us on a trip he and Mrs. Miller had taken to British Columbia, as the guests of Mr. and Mrs. T. T. McCabe, describing in particular an isolated spot near Barkerville which had to be reached by trail. On the way north, Dr. and Mrs. Miller camped on Mt. Begbie in the Canadian Life Zone, above a marshy lake, surrounded by grass and tules. Here were seen Holboell Grebes and Common Loons in their breeding antics and nesting activities, and a number of other species. Dr. Miller's description of the nest

of a Canada Goose was especially interesting, it being eight feet across and constructed of tule and material from the bottom of the lake, the cup lined with down, and containing six eggs. Dr. Miller was able to stand on the nest without sinking it.

On May 18th Dr. Miller began to watch the progress of the warbler migration. Townsend Warblers had already arrived, and were stationed out in the darkest and dampest areas for breeding. Next day the Orange-crowned Warblers were abundant and remained so for three days. Audubons came in great numbers, a few Myrtles, and then Yellow Warblers. Pileolated Warblers followed the Lutescent. The British Columbia species of Water-thrush, an excellent powerful singer, was heard at the mouths of the streams. May 23rd the Tennessee Warblers arrived in great numbers to occupy the spruces and more open timber, and on May 29th the Black-polls were present though difficult to locate in the tops of the spruces. The last named are eastern species and Barkerville is their western limit of migration. On May 25th the Tolmie Warblers were in the open copses, then the Redstarts were suddenly everywhere among the small trees, going through their nuptial display. Yellow-throats arrived next, and finally came the Magnolia Warblers seen in the open spruce forest but using only alder or cottonwood in which to sing.

On May 25th Mr. McCabe took Dr. Miller to Indian Point Mountain, 7000 feet elevation, 3000 feet above the house and nearby lake. Here the nest of a Golden-crowned Sparrow was found in a balsam thicket, without eggs. The

song differed from that of the Bay region visitant.

In turn all the thrills of the region were enjoyed: Blue Grouse, Ptarmigan, eastern Yellow-bellied Flycatcher, Saw-whet Owl and Canada Jay.



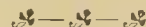
Audubon Notes

December Meeting: The regular meeting will be held on Thursday, the 13th, at 8 p. m., room 19, Ferry Building.

The speaker of the evening will be Dr. George Haley, whose subject will be "A Summer in Spitzbergen."



December Field Trip will be taken on Sunday, the 16th, to the University of California campus, Berkeley. San Francisco members take 9 a. m. Southern Pacific train to Berkeley Station. Party will meet at University and Shattuck Avenues. Bring luncheon. Leader, Joseph J. Webb.



November Meeting: The 208th regular meeting was held on November 8th, at 8 p. m., room 19, Ferry Building, with twenty-five members and guests present. President Webb presiding.

The following observations were reported:

Charles W. Michael: November 6th, Manzanita, American Egret and two Buffle-heads on Richardson Bay.

Commander Parmenter: October 19th, Bodega Cliffs, two Ferruginous Rough-legged Hawks; Olema marsh, two Pigeon Hawks, November 1st, Red-bellied Hawk.

Mrs. Stephens: October 13th, Middle Lake, White-fronted Goose; 20th, Metson Lake, eighteen Ring-necked Ducks.

C. R. Thomas: October 20th, Lake Merritt, European Widgeon.

Audubon Association of the Pacific

Organized January 25, 1917

For the Study and the Protection of Birds

President.....Joseph J. Webb.....519 California St., San Francisco
 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.

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