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### Bird-Banding at Hastings Reservation

On my last banding trip to the Hastings Natural History Reservation, Monterey County, California, from October 16 to November 10, 1942, both dates inclusive, I ran 25 traps over an area about three-quarters of a mile long and a hundred yards wide. All traps were visited from four to six times a day.

Four hundred and eighty-five birds were banded, and about 1600 repeats and returns were trapped. The banded birds were as follows: Sharp-shinned Hawk 2, California Quail 33, California Jay 2, Wren-tit 14, Bewick Wren 3, California Thrasher 2, Hermit Thrush 1, Spotted Towhee 13, Brown Towhee 31, Lark Sparrow 5, Oregon Junco 3, White-crowned Sparrow 109, Golden-crowned Sparrow 262, Song Sparrow 5.

The two Sharp-shinned Hawks, a male and a female, were caught on different days in the same two-compartment (large size) W.B.B.A. type trap. In neither case was any other bird in the trap. It is evident that each time some bird, probably a zonotrichia, was in the other compartment, and the struggles of the hawk to reach the bird lifted the trap far enough from the ground to enable the bird to escape underneath.

The following quail captures are interesting: On October 30, I caught a male and a female quail in the same two-compartment trap, and banded them. On November 4, I caught the same two birds in the same trap. Three hours later, the same birds were caught together in a different trap about 200 yards from the first one. I related this experience to Dr. John T. Emlen, Jr., who replied in part, "It would certainly look as though the two birds captured together were paired. I have noted pairs remaining together until early October. Direct field observation would, of course, clinch the matter."

My experience with wildcats on this banding trip interested me. Twice I came within about twenty-five feet of a wildcat which was watching a bird caught in one of my traps. On another occasion, while walking across an open field, I saw something strange in appearance in a furrow partly hidden by weeds. I walked up to investigate, and when forty feet away, a large wildcat slowly rose to its feet and looked at me. I walked closer. The cat leisurely bounded off a little distance and stopped again to look me over. This was repeated twice more before the cat ran off into the woods. Well, they say, "A cat may look upon a king" — and I am no king.

—E. L. Sumner, Berkeley, Calif.

### Christmas Bird Census, San Francisco 1942

San Francisco, California. (Fisherman's Wharf, Marina, Ocean Beach, Golden Gate Park, Lake Merced, and Bayview Park). December 20, 1942, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., cloudy with periodic rain, clearing in the afternoon, wind north-east, light; temperature 42 degrees at start, 45 degrees at finish. Twenty-one observers in seven parties. Total hours afield 50 (by foot 47½, by car 2½). Total party miles 68 (by foot 44, by car 24). Pacific Loon 1; Eared Grebe 47; Western Grebe 43; Pied-billed Grebe 32; Farallon Cormorant 46; Brandt Cormorant 1; Great Blue Heron 2; American Bittern 2; Cackling Goose 5; White-fronted Goose 1; Mallard 956; Gadwall 4; Baldpate 140; Pintail 3; Green-winged Teal 1; Shoveller 6; Redhead 8; Ring-necked Duck 120; Canvas-back 24; Lesser Scaup 530; White-winged Scoter 6; Surf Scoter 1072; Ruddy Duck 125; Red-breasted Merganser 4; Sharp-shinned Hawk 2; Cooper Hawk 5; Red-tailed Hawk 2; Duck Hawk 1; Sparrow Hawk 7; California Quail 136; Sora 1; Florida Gallinule 3; Coot 1264; Killdeer 17; Black-bellied Plover 13; Surf Bird 2; Black Turnstone 15; Wilson Snipe 4; Spotted Sandpiper 1; Willet 13; Least Sandpiper 100; Red-backed Sandpiper 30; Western Sandpiper 98; Marbled Godwit 25; Sanderling 500; Glaucous-winged Gull 415; Western Gull 838; Herring Gull 29; California Gull 1006; Ring-billed Gull 58; Short-billed Gull 118; Bonaparte Gull 120; Burrowing Owl 1; Anna Hummingbird 94; Kingfisher 2; Red-shafted Flicker 30; California Woodpecker 1; Willow Woodpecker 2; Black Phoebe 40; Say Phoebe 2; California Jay 1; Chickadee 71; Plain Titmouse 4; Bush-tit 56; Red-breasted Nuthatch 1; Creeper 3; Wren-tit 5; Bewick Wren 14; Marsh Wren 2; Robin 19; Varied Thrush 37; Hermit Thrush 32; Gnatcatcher 1; Golden-crowned Kinglet 7; Ruby-crowned Kinglet 89; American Pipit 30; Cedar Waxwing 4; California Shrike 3; Orange-crowned Warbler 2; Myrtle Warbler 5; Audubon Warbler 419; Townsend Warbler 12; Yellow-throat 21; English Sparrow 279; Meadowlark 22; Brewer Blackbird 291; Purple Finch 9; House Finch 385; Pine Siskin 3; Willow Goldfinch 18; Spotted Towhee 54; Savannah Sparrow 7; Oregon Junco 143; Nuttall Sparrow 3179; Golden-crowned Sparrow 29; Fox Sparrow 100; Song Sparrow 116. Total 97 species, 11,689 individuals.

—Enid Austin, Frances Blake, Gordon Bolander, Sadie Bozant, Donald Brock, Mary Courtright, Ruth Elwonger, Jean Fay, Bert Harwell, Junea Kelly, Ethelwyn Kilham, George Kilham, Ivander MacIver, Arthur Myer, Jerry Sedgewick, Robert Storer, Blanche Wallace, Joseph Webb, Selma Werner (members Audubon Association of the Pacific).

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### December Field Trip

The twenty-fifth annual census of water birds at Lake Merritt, Oakland, was taken on December 13th. The date had been moved ahead one month because in the last years many ducks left the lake by January, the hunting season closing in the latter half of December. The weather was ideal. After lunch a walk through the park increased the species of land birds observed. The pinioned geese were enjoyed, but not included in the list. Although only seven Black-crowned Night Herons were counted, there may well have been more hidden in the trees and shrubs on the island. On December 12th Warren Fischer saw 63 of this species.

The following is the result of our morning's walk around the lake, twenty-three species of water birds:

Eared Grebe 84; Pied-billed Grebe 26; Farallon Cormorant 11; American Egret 2; Black-crowned Night Heron 7; Mallard 155; Baldpate 83; Pintail

2274 (1773 male, 501 female); Shoveller 9; Wood Duck 5; Redhead 1; Canvas-back 32; Scaup 17; American Golden-eye 46; Buffle-head 2; Ruddy Duck 161; Coot 221; Killdeer 20; Least Sandpiper 15; Glaucous-winged Gull 53; California Gull 1; Ring-billed Gull 16; Bonaparte Gull 44; Forster Tern 7.

The killdeer, sandpipers, and pipits, mentioned later, were seen along the channel and on the lawn by the Oakland Auditorium. While looking for land birds it was interesting to find dozens of robins and cedar waxwings alighting on the bare boughs of the round-headed Turkish oaks (*Quercus cerris*). They were very restless flying out to feed upon the bountiful supply of red berries, and then returning to the trees for a few seconds, only to start off for the feast again. In their excitement the robins were constantly giving snatches of song. In contrast to this eternal motion, the pine siskins and green-backed goldfinches were quietly feeding on the birch cones nearby. They looked like little ornaments hung on the delicate pendant branches of the trees.

Twenty-eight species of land birds were seen as follows: Cooper Hawk, Anna Hummingbird, Red-shafted Flicker, Black Phoebe, California Jay, Plain Titmouse, Bush-tit, Wren-tit, Robin, Varied Thrush, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Pipit (50), Cedar Waxwing, Orange-crowned Warbler, Audubon Warbler, English Sparrow, Brewer Blackbird, California Purple Finch, House Finch, Pine Siskin, Green-backed Goldfinch, Spotted Towhee, Brown Towhee, White-crowned Sparrow, Golden-crowned Sparrow, Fox Sparrow, Song Sparrow.

Seventeen members were present: Mr. and Mrs. Kilham; Mesdames Austin, Bozant, Dickman, Kelly; Misses Berg, Blake, Fay, Kirk, Rinehart, Webb, Willoughby; Messrs. Bolander, Fischer, Harwell, Leffler, Myer. Two guests attended.

—Junea W. Kelly, Historian

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### Observations

The following observations have been reported:

25 American Egrets, 3 Red-tailed Hawks and 1 Sparrow Hawk, along main highway opposite Corte Madera turnoff at Meadowsweet Dairy. Nov. 29. The Egrets were observed feeding here regularly for some weeks, their food consisting of mice and gophers. Varied Thrushes more numerous than usual in Marin County; Western Bluebirds and Cedar Waxwings seen daily in San Anselmo. Mr. and Mrs. Otis Smith, Marin County.

4 Ferruginous Rough-legged Hawks, Sear's Point Bridge crossing, Petaluma Slough; Screech Owl sitting on fire hydrant, Filbert and Lyon Sts., Nov. 12, 10 p.m., again on Nov. 27; 25 Cedar Waxwings Filbert and Scott Sts., Nov. 14; Myrtle Warbler, Filbert and Lyon Sts., Nov. 26; all in San Francisco. Joseph J. Webb.

1 Red-throated Loon, 6 Black-bellied Plovers, 150 Willets, 400 Bonaparte and 2 Western Gulls, 2 Canvas-back, 8 Scaup, 16 Golden-eye, and 80 Ruddy Ducks, Berkeley Aquatic Park, Dec. 10. Gerald E. Sedgewick.

1 female American Merganser, Mountain View Cemetery; 1 Wood Duck, Dracina Park, Piedmont; 2 Herring Gulls, Lake Merritt, Dec. 5; 1 Western Bluebird, Mosswood Park, Oakland, Nov. 28. Warren Fischer.

Unusually small numbers of Canvas-backs and Scaups, Lake Merritt, to date, Dec. 10. Junea W. Kelly.

**Audubon Notes**

**January Meeting:** The 26th annual and the 303rd regular meeting will be held on Thursday evening January 14th, in the Auditorium of the San Francisco Public Library, Larkin and McAllister Streets, at 8 o'clock. Annual reports will be read, officers and directors for the ensuing year will be elected.

The nominating committee — Mr. Bradley, Mrs. Kibbe, and Miss Cohen, has submitted its report as follows: President, Mrs. Harold C. Austin; First Vice-President, Mrs. Dorothy Dean Sheldon; Second Vice-President, Miss Selma Werner; Corresponding Secretary, Mr. Joseph J. Webb; Recording Secretary, Mr. Gordon Bolander; Treasurer, Miss Ivander MacIver; and directors — Mrs. Mary L. Courtright, Mrs. Otis Smith, Mr. Walter Bradley.

The members of the Association have the privilege of selecting the three directors and nominations may be made from the floor. At the conclusion of the election Mr. Walter Bradley will show some of his Kodachrome slides which will be of interest to the members.

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**January Field Trip** will be taken on Sunday, the 17th, to the campus of the University of California and Strawberry Canyon. Members and friends will meet at Oxford and University Avenue, Berkeley, at 9:30 a.m. San Francisco members will take the "F" train at San Francisco Terminal at 8:54 and get off at University Avenue.

Bring luncheon, which will be eaten at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Arthur H. Myer, 25 El Camino Real,

Berkeley. Hot coffee will be served. Mr. Gordon Bolander will be the leader of the trip.

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**December Meeting:** The 303rd regular meeting was held on the 10th in the Assembly Room of the San Francisco Public Library, President Mrs. Harold C. Austin presiding.

Mrs. James T. Allen of Berkeley gave a most fascinating talk on 'Birds in Retrospect'. With a rare sense of humor Mrs. Allen described her experiences over the years beginning with zero in the days when there was no literature available and there were no bird clubs. In 1899 Bird Notes Afield by Charles A. Keeler appeared, Field-Days in California by Bradford Torrey, 1913, helped and then in 1917 Handbook of Birds of the Western United States by Florence Merriam Bailey gave bird observers their first big help in identifying species. The speaker made her audience appreciate the great value of keeping systematic bird records, especially when she told of the first nesting record in this vicinity of robins in 1916 in Golden Gate Park, and of juncos in 1917 in the Claremont Country Club grounds. The time was far too short. All agreed that they would like to have Mrs. Allen come back soon and give more bird observations.

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**1943 Dues:** The annual dues for the year 1943 are now payable and all members are asked to make their remittances as early as possible to the Treasurer. All checks should be made in the name of the Audubon Association of the Pacific.

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**Audubon Association of the Pacific**

Organized January 25, 1917

**For the Study and the Protection of Birds**

President.....	Mrs. Harold C. Austin.....	541 Boulevard Way, Piedmont
Corresponding Secretary.....	Mr. Joseph J. Webb.....	519 California St., San Francisco
Treasurer.....	Miss Ivander MacIver.....	2414 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley
Editor.....	Mrs. T. Eric Reynolds.....	140 Estates Drive, Piedmont

Monthly meeting second Thursday, 8 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.