



### Notes From Yosemite

A few days ago we passed the vernal equinox and with it came the realization that spring had once more arrived in Yosemite. This year, however, the arrival was heralded only in a chronological sense, and the joy instilled by the knowledge was considerably diluted by the sight of a miniature blizzard sporting itself outside our windows. Nevertheless, Yosemite will be invaded within a few short weeks by avifauna, which will be not less numerous than our own kind, but lovely beyond all comparison.

The birds will be largely indifferent to us and our clatter, but will offer no serious objection to our study of their ways and means. In some instances, with the bribe of raisins and other prized tidbits, they will even co-operate, and since we are merely human, it goes almost without saying that a few of us will not allow the bird flood to pass by unnoticed.

Birding in Yosemite is difficult to defend on a purely statistical basis; there is never at any one time a very great number of species to be observed. In fact, our best month on record was September 1940, during which time the well-remembered and dearly beloved Charley Michael and ourselves "logged" only eighty species. Yet the privilege of being able to study birds in Yosemite is one not lightly to be shrugged off. Up here our pleasure is qualitative rather than quantitative. Probably what gives it particular zest is the setting; the lovely green stage with its backdrop of mighty cliffs and tumbling waters. These are indeed the things that are worth while.

A pitifully small detail of the human invaders will find its way to our ivory tower where it will stop to inquire about the other and more interesting invasion. Needless to say, this detail will be made most welcome. Its interest will be centered on a small but select variety of our feathered friends, and, since we have but recently returned to Yosemite after far too long an absence, our own interest will be as keen as that of any of our visitors.

We wonder if the pair of Wood Ducks, which for several years reared its family in Leidig Meadow, will again appear this April to set up business on the old stand? Will the Duck Hawk seen recently in the vicinity of Bridalveil Falls settle down for a stay? No reason why it shouldn't; there's no housing shortage in the acres of cliffs in Yosemite. And what of our Pygmy Owl friends? We note with disappointment that the cottonwood stump which apparently looked like "blue heaven" to them has failed to withstand the rigorous winters of the Valley. Will the mighty mite, the Calliope Hummingbird, again select the

brushpile in Indian Canyon for its summer home? What plans have the Arctic Three-toed Woodpeckers made? It would be too much to hope for them again to rear their children in a lodgepole pine home with its front porch only a yard above the ground in a perfect setting for colored movies.

But this could go on indefinitely. Let it suffice that there will be many fine adventures as always there are—and that there will be friends on hand to share our visits with our feathered friends.

Yosemite Valley, Calif., March 27, 1946. —WALTER AND ERMA FITZPATRICK.

## **FRANCES SIMES HASTINGS NATURAL HISTORY RESERVATION** **Summary of Activities to May 1, 1946**

The chief aim at the Hastings reservation is to obtain in a continuous record the biotic changes on protected ground, with special attention directed to the vertebrate animals. As the land changes toward a condition resembling complete lack of human use, we see glimpses of the character it must have had before the arrival of white men. The protection requires a special vigilance. Each added year of protection of the land and concentrated observation reveals new developments in the biotic communities represented. The relationships among living vertebrates and between them and the environment becomes clearer as each annual cycle of change is traced. The new avenues of work which continually appear provide important links in the chain of relationships. Our understanding of each kind of animal grows more rapidly as we become more familiar with each of these links.

A current problem is to restrict attention of a changing group of field naturalists to permit verification and expansion of knowledge already obtained. At the same time attention is required for the maintenance of our store of information and the arrangement of it into condensed written reports suitable for publication. A start has been made to make our conclusions available to naturalists elsewhere. The units being prepared deal with species of mammals. One concerning the ground squirrel is being published. Others pertaining to the wood rat, the meadow mouse, the pocket mouse and the four kinds of white-footed mouse are partly completed. Delay in beginning of this writing was to accumulate sufficient evidence for sound basis. The opportunity, then, is to represent the interdependence of organisms which we observe to be so prominent in the field.

As the tenth year of protection and study begins on the Reservation, it is evident that persistent following of the original plan adopted in 1937 has brought results in greater mass as well as of more pointed significance than would have been likely from a series of shorter, more restricted studies. We maintain the conviction that a single study calculated to reveal the nature of, and the main trends in, the population of the vertebrate life of a tract of land can be conducted with more profit than a series of separate, short term studies. Especially favorable in this circumstance are the following elements provided by Mrs. Hastings: the varied and isolated site surrounded by land relatively free from harmful human use; the numerous items of equipment used in the maintenance and study and making possible continuous residence as well as storage for the materials resulting from work in the field; and the opportunity for many naturalists who have contributed directly to the assembly of records and the

greater number who have made identifications of specimens.

This year ten persons have spent an aggregate of thirty months in the field and in the museum. For the first time since 1941 care of the Reservation and equipment has had the continuous, full attention of one man. Full use of the information and specimens already collected involves extension of them as well as safe preservation. This requires the full time of experienced workers. The kind of observation now being carried on cannot be done adequately by beginners even though they can make important records. An urgent need, therefore, is the provision for continuous work in the field by capable naturalists as well as more rapid organization of the results.

Note: The Frances Simes Hastings Natural History Reservation is under the management of the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology of the University of California and is located in Monterey County, California.

DR. JEAN M. LINSDALE, April 30, 1946.

### April Meeting

This meeting was held April 11, 1946 with president Miss Jean B. Fay presiding. Miss I. MacIver announced a new member, Mrs. Alma Bentley. Mr. Campbell, a visitor from Canada, gave observations on birds seen while crossing the United States. The program was presented by the vice-president, Mr. Walter W. Bradley, who showed slides of aquatic birds. The slides were from the National Audubon Association. MONICA GOEN, *Recording Secretary*.

### May Meeting

The May meeting occurred on May 9, 1946 with the president, Miss Jean B. Fay presiding. Announcements concerning programs for future meetings were made as follows: Dr. J. Linsdale on "Hastings Reservation" in July, Dr. Robert C. Miller of the California Academy of Sciences on "Albatrosses" in August, and vacation observations by members in September.

Field observations were reported by Mrs. Sadie Bozant, Mr. J. G. Irving, Mr. L. P. Bolander, Jr., Mr. C. A. Harwell, Mr. W. W. Bradley, and Mr. A. Myer. Field observations had been made and reported during April by Mr. Hermann Leffler and Mr. W. W. Bradley.

The president, Miss J. Fay, announced the resignation of Miss C. A. Paroni from the editorship of "The Gull" and the appointment of Miss Grace Crowe to fill the position.

The evening's program was presented by Miss Grace Crowe of the California Academy of Sciences in Golden Gate Park. She talked on bird songs, displaying bird skins and playing recordings of 72 bird songs. Mr. C. A. Harwell, lecturer and whistler of the National Audubon Society, happening to be in the audience, added to the enjoyment of the evening by giving many interesting facts about bird songs and by whistling some of them. He announced that the recordings that Miss Crowe had used are now available through the National Audubon Society.

Members were told to remember that beginning with the June meeting the opening hour is to be 8:00 P.M. instead of 7:30 P.M. as heretofore.

Forty members and friends were present.

MONICA GOEN, *Recording Secretary*.

## MAY FIELD TRIP

Sunday, May 12, 1946, the Audubon group went to the McCoy Ranch near Livermore. In the early morning, skies were overcast but soon the sun came out. Twenty-seven members and 23 visitors enjoyed an eventful day. Seven members of the Stockton Audubon Club were with us on the first joint outing of the two clubs. Our able leaders were: Mrs. W. W. Stone, Mr. Arthur Myer, Mr. Herman Leffler, and Mr. J. M. F. Dubois. The following 42 species were noted:

Turkey Vulture	Black Phoebe	Phainopepla
Cooper Hawk	Say Phoebe	California Shrike
Red-tailed Hawk	Western Wood Pewee	Yellow Warbler
Sparrow Hawk	California Jay	English Sparrow
California Quail	Yellow-billed Magpie	Western Meadowlark
Killdeer	Western Crow	Red-winged Blackbird
Mourning Dove	Plain Titmouse	Bullock Oriole
Anna Hummingbird	Bush-tit	Brewer Blackbird
Red-shafted Flicker	House Wren	Bl.-headed Grosbeak
California Woodpecker	Bewick Wren	Cal. Purple Finch
Hairy Woodpecker	California Thrasher	House Finch
Downy Woodpecker	Hermit Thrush	Green-backed Goldfinch
Western Kingbird	Western Gnatcatcher	Spotted Towhee
Ash-thr. Flycatcher	Cedar Waxwing	Brown Towhee

Mrs. J. M. F. Dubois, *Historian*

## June Meeting

*Note:* change of time of meeting from 7:30 to 8:00 P.M.

The 345th meeting of the Audubon Association of the Pacific occurs on Thursday, June 13, 1946 at 8:00 P.M. in the Assembly Room of the San Francisco Library at Larkin and McAllister Streets. Dr. Russell T. Congdon, Wenatchee, Washington will show reels of pictures that he and Mrs. Congdon took in the northwest.

## June Field Trip

The June Field Trip is to be held on Sunday, June 16th; and is to be taken to Phoenix Lake and Lagunitas Lake by way of Ross in Marin County.

Members and friends take the 8:40 A. M. Greyhound bus at 7th and Mission Streets, San Francisco. Buy the round-trip ticket to Ross. Meet at the station, next to the fire-house in Ross. Bring lunch and binoculars.

## Audubon Association of the Pacific

Organized January 25, 1917

## For the Study and the Protection of Birds

President.....	Miss Jean Bradford Fay.....	1150 Filbert St., San Francisco 9
Corresponding Secretary.....	Mr. Joseph J. Webb.....	519 California St., San Francisco 4
Treasurer.....	Miss Ivander MacIver.....	2414 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley 4
Editor.....	Miss Grace Irene Crowe.....	1420 Henry St., Berkeley 7

Monthly meetings second Thursday, 8:00 p. m.

Assembly Room, San Francisco Public Library, Larkin and McAllister Sts., 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