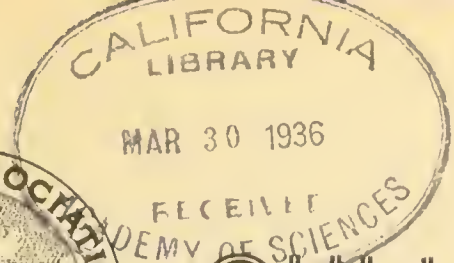


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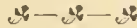
BULLETIN

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Special Notices and Changes of Dates—See Last Page



A Proposed Bird Sanctuary

On November 24, 1935, a group consisting of members from the Cooper Ornithological Club and the Audubon Association of the Pacific, and their friends, visited the properties of the Palo Alto Yacht Club and the Arden Salt Company which are located east of Palo Alto between the Bayshore Highway and the western shore of San Francisco Bay.

The Stanford Chapter of the Cooper Ornithological Club had in mind at one time, a proposal to try to induce the Yacht Club and the Salt Company to cooperate with them in making a bird sanctuary out of the two properties, since the nature of the region and its location are ideal for such a purpose. Marsh birds, shore birds and ducks are the species which would be most benefited, as the area consists of sloughs, ponds, and mud-flats suitable for feeding grounds and higher areas for loafing places. The abundant growth of salicornia would afford protection for the Clapper Rail.

The following species were noted on the Yacht Club property: Eared and Western Grebes; Farallon Cormorant; California Heron; Ruddy Duck; Duck and Sparrow Hawks; Clapper Rail; Coot; Killdeer; Spotted Sandpiper; Western Gull; Pipit and Shrike; on the Arden Salt Company's property: Pied-billed Grebe; White Pelican; American Egret; Pintail Duck; Red-tailed Hawk; Black-bellied Plover; Long-billed and Hudsonian Curlew; Willet; Greater Yellow-leg; Least; Red-backed and Western Sandpipers; Marbled Godwit; Avocet; Glaucous-winged, Ring-billed and Bonaparte Gulls; Pipit; Song Sparrow: a total of thirty-three species.

When one considers that this region is but thirty-five miles from San Francisco and easily reached by a drive over a perfect boulevard, and that many of the above-mentioned species may be satisfactorily studied from one's car, there can be no doubt as to the very great desirability of having this area set aside as a bird sanctuary.

Chas. A. Bryant, Historian.



A Day on Marshes and Shores

It was Sunday, November 24, 1935, beginning at 7:15 along the shore of Bay Farm Island in the faint light of an overcast morning and ending at the foot of Mound Street, Alameda, at 5:45 in the dark with the last soft copper-colored reflections of sunset on tide pools and wet mud. Here the distant calls of a few lingering sandpipers closed the eventful bird day. Time and height of high tide as of Fort Point were respectively 9:30 a. m., 5.6 feet and low tide 4:42 p. m. 0.6 feet.

Along the north shore of Bay Farm Island large numbers of Marbled Godwits and Western Willets, gathered in dense masses, were being aroused from their

sleep by the rising water, and becoming restless would rise in the air and settle a little farther up on the shore. A few scattered individuals together with sandpipers were feeding. Soon the whole region would be under water. Along the south shore of the Island, Least, Western and Red-backed Sandpipers, Sanderlings and a few Black-bellied Plovers also were feeding. On slightly raised ground along the water's edge Willets and a few Godwits were either sleeping or bathing and preening. None seemed interested in securing breakfast.

The next place of observation was from the road through the Leslie Salt Works. At the entrance one American Egret and three Snowy Herons stood undisturbed as I drove by. On the right side of the road there were at least twenty-four adult and immature Black-crowned Night Herons. Great Blue Herons were everywhere. Some twelve Yellow-legs were feeding in a small pool. As I proceeded Pintail and Ruddy Ducks increased in numbers particularly on the left side of the road. A few Shovellers and a female Golden-eye completed the species of ducks observed. Several Pied-billed and Eared Grebes were present. Sandpipers in variety, a few Sanderlings, Black-bellied Plovers, an occasional Avocet and two Long-billed Dowitchers were scattered over the mud flats. While watching a California Clapper Rail walking about near me I heard a shot fired by some duck hunter. On looking up, much to my surprise, hundreds of Avocets took to the air. These had been hidden from view by a mud ridge. They were soon joined by hundreds of Bonaparte Gulls. Godwits then rose mingling their rich cinnamon forms with the glistening light-colored Avocets and Gulls. All this gave me that satisfied feeling that only a bird-lover knows. As I was leaving the salt works Killdeer called from the road side.

Passing through Coyote Hills, my search with field glasses revealed but a few gulls and ducks in the distance. As I approached closer to the bridge, birds seemed to be more numerous. The three species of Sandpipers and a very few Sanderlings were feeding along the mud embankment. Again Godwits and Willets were huddled closely together more asleep than awake. When distant gun shots brought additional individuals, there was a complete re-arrangement of the mass in order to accommodate the newcomers. Not less than 500 Eared Grebes were swimming about. For many years large numbers of these birds have been observed here during the winter. Of course, Herons were very much in evidence.

As the height of water here and at the Leslie Salt Works is artificially regulated, the height of tide does not affect the habitat; in fact, when tides make other territory unfavorable, birds find these places good loafing grounds. On the Palo Alto side of Dumbarton Bridge tides affect the height of water. As it was now approaching 10 a. m. the region was more or less flooded and I saw no birds.

In the preceding article by Mr. Charles A. Bryant you have learned of the wonderful bird experiences of the afternoon in Palo Alto.

On returning home I crossed over the San Mateo Bridge at 4:30 p. m. Along the approach from San Mateo Sandpipers were scattered over the exposed mud flats. From near the high span of the bridge two female Buffle-heads could be seen. As there was a very low tide a greater extent than usual of mud flats was exposed, and as I approached the Mt. Eden end the birds were far from shore. All along I saw more Black-bellied Plovers than at any other time during the day. Sandpipers, Godwits and Willets were busily feeding in shallow water close to the bridge, the greater number being along the southside. At a farther distance to the south there appeared to be a long mud spit projecting into the now almost stationary water. This was not mud, however, but a mass of birds (I dare not try to name the number). Thousands of Godwits and Willets rose just to settle down again a little farther out in the water.

Daylight was now fast fading. As I reached the main land two American Egrets were standing in the water just across the fence, while Great Blue Herons with necks tilted at various angles were patiently catching their supper. The beauty of the marsh scene was enhanced by the vivid red color of the salicornia. Its color had been intensified by the soft sunset glow. Along Bay Farm Island all was quiet but for a few small birds flying low and a large one here and there walking about over the rosy tinted mud.

I have crossed Florida over the Tamiami Trail, ridden in a small boat in Tampa Bay visiting the Keys, and birded at Avery Island and in Vermillion Bay, Louisiana. All these places have been described in the National Geographic, Saturday Evening Post and other magazines. However, I have yet to find a region where on a single day I can see a greater number of species of marsh and shore birds, or see a larger number of any one species or more wonderful color patterns in the air than I saw on this drive of 100 miles round trip.

After such a field trip I always feel I owe a vote of thanks to the various salt companies which through the very nature of their enterprise have made possible loafing and feeding grounds for thousands of birds. I hope that some day soon all the bird clubs, chambers of commerce and other organizations of this locality will co-operate in securing a bit of natural marsh land that will be made a bird preserve, so that the rich heritage which is ours may be perpetuated.

Junea W. Kelly, Alameda, California, November 25, 1935.



March Field Trip

March is the month we customarily go to Point Bonita but due to bad road conditions, caused by recent heavy rains, we were advised by the military authorities to postpone our trip.

Under the leadership of Mr. B. K. Dunshee we went to Tennessee Cove, a place usually visited by us in August. As a result of this change we enjoyed an ideal spring day in this locality where we have generally met with fog and wind on the August date.

The marsh at Manzanita was so wet that no attempt was made to search for the Clapper Rail. We did, however, observe three American Egrets at a distance off shore in the shallow water.

On the trip across San Francisco Bay we observed California, Western and Glaucous-winged Gulls, Farallon Cormorants, Surf Scoters and a lone California Murre.

On Richardson Bay large flocks of Ruddy Ducks and California Gulls, six Farallon Cormorants and a Pied-billed Grebe were seen.

As we walked up Elk Valley we heard Ruby-crowned Kinglets singing in several places. This is rather unusual, kinglets being winter visitants with us, and in song only a short period before migrating to their summer habitat.

In the meadow beyond the Lewis Ranch there was so much water that only a few of our more daring members went on to the beach. Their reward was a few Cormorants and a gull or two.

Thirty-nine species were noted as follow:

Mallard	Nicasio Chickadee	English Sparrow
American Pintail	Plain Titmouse	Western Meadowlark
Turkey Vulture	Coast Bush-tit	Brewer Blackbird
Red-tailed Hawk	Ruddy Wren-tit	Common House Finch
Desert Sparrow Hawk	Nicasio Wren	Pine Siskin
Quail	Western Robin	Green-backed Goldfinch
Allen Hummingbird	Varied Thrush	San Francisco Towhee
Belted Kingfisher	Hermit Thrush	S. F. Brown Towhee
Red-shafted Flicker	Western Bluebird	Lark Sparrow
Black Phoebe	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	Junco
Coast Jay	American Pipit	Nuttall Sparrow
Nicasio Jay	Hutton Vireo	Golden-crowned Sparrow
Western Crow	Lutescent Warbler	Song Sparrow

Sixteen members and sixteen guests attended the trip.

Laura A. Stephens, Historian.

Audubon Notes

April Meeting: The regular meeting will be held on Thursday, the second, at 8 p. m., in the Auditorium of the Pacific Gas and Electric Company's Building, 245 Market Street.

The speaker will be Mr. John Hopkinson Baker, Executive Director of the National Association of Audubon Societies, whose subject will be "Wildlife Conservation in America." The subject is an important one and the speaker is well qualified to present it. There will be motion pictures.

Don't miss this event and tell your friends to attend. There will be no charge.



April Field Trip will be taken on Sunday, the fifth, to Lake Merced. East Bay members may take either No. 12 Mission Street car marked "Ocean" or Municipal car K, transferring to No. 12 car at Sloat Boulevard, getting off at entrance to Fleischhacker Playground where party will meet at 10 a. m. Bring luncheon. Leader, Mrs. Kelly.



Dr. William F. Bade, Honorary Member, died March 4, 1936.



Dues: Dues are payable in advance January 1 for the calendar year. The Association values the support of each member and asks those who have neglected to send in their dues to do so as soon as possible, thereby saving the treasurer further work of sending individual notices.



March Meeting: The 224th regular

meeting was held on Thursday, the twelfth, in room 19, Ferry Building, with twenty-two members and guests present.

Mrs. Silas Sinton of San Mateo was elected to membership.

Mrs. Kelly reported Lutescent Warblers very common at Leona Heights on March 4; also the finding of fifty Long-billed Dowitchers at Alameda on the seventh.

Commander Parmenter observed Brandt Cormorants carrying nestling material to the Seal Rocks, Cliff House, February 26. He also saw at the Alvarado marshes 100± Shovellers and 1,000± Lesser Scaup, on the Mountain View marshes 30+ Long-billed and 15+ Hudsonian Curlew, and eleven Avocets March 2, and at Dumbarton Bridge 50± Avocets, March 5.

Mr. Gordon True of the Fish and Game Commission spoke on "Game Bird Importation." He reviewed the early history of various attempts to establish exotic species such as pheasants, partridges and grouse in the United States and Canada. Mr. True questioned the necessity or advisability of bringing in foreign birds when we have our own native Valley Quail which is adaptable to wide distribution over the State and does equally well in humid coast belt and desert.

Major Allan Brooks was present and being asked by Mrs. Kelly to say a few words spoke briefly on the threatened extinction of the Murre by the Western Gull and of other species by the California Gull. He also called attention to the status of the White-tailed Kite, a 100% beneficial bird, and urged the Association to do something to save it.

Audubon Association of the Pacific

Organized January 25, 1917

For the Study and the Protection of Birds

President.....Mrs. G. Earle Kelly.....1311 Grand Ave., Alameda, Calif.
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.

Address Bulletin correspondence to Mrs. A. B. Stephens, Editor, 1695 Filbert St., San Francisco.

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Student memberships, \$1.50 per year.

Life memberships, \$50.00.

Members are responsible for dues until written notice of resignation is received by Treasurer.