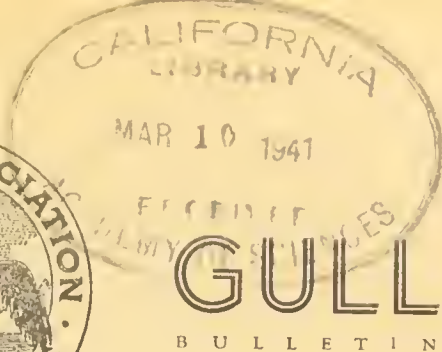
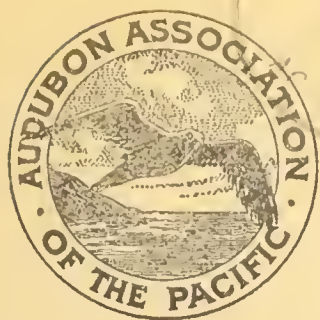


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# THE MONTHLY



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## A Trusting Sandpiper

On December 18, 1940, while fishing for steelhead in Tomales Bay, near the mouth of Papermill Creek, I noticed a Least Sandpiper, *Pisobia minutilla*, standing in the shallow water at the edge of the slough. Interested in observing the little fellow, I cautiously approached him. To my complete surprise he refused to fly away, even when I placed my open hand within a few inches of him. Then, to my amazement, he calmly proceeded to step onto the palm of my opened hand. I was beginning to think that the bird had been injured in some way, for he refused to fly even when I stood erect and held him at arm's length from me, while one of my friends snapped a picture (which I have as proof of this little adventure). But as soon as my friend approached too close, away flew my tiny sandpiper acquaintance.

Robert Provoo, San Francisco, California. February 20, 1941.



## A Banded Coot

On November 16, 1940, I found a dead Coot, *Fulica americana*, near Mountain Lake in the Presidio, San Francisco, with a Biological Survey band on its leg. This band was sent to Washington and last week I received a letter from the Fish and Wildlife Service saying that the bird carrying band number 40-516130 was a coot banded October 11, 1940, in Tofield, Alberta, Canada, by B. W. Cartwright. This shows that the coot flew over 2,000 miles in about a month.

John Roush, San Francisco, California. February 4, 1941.

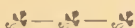


## A Banded California Gull

Mrs. Enid Austin of Piedmont reported seeing a California Gull, *Larus californicus*, in second year plumage, at Fleishhacker Zoo, San Francisco, February 12, 1941, banded red over yellow on the right leg, survey band on the left. This bird was banded in 1940 as a nestling at Great Salt Lake.

In acknowledging this report, Mrs. M. C. Sargent, of the Western Bird-banding Association, stated that she has also noticed that the plumage of some of the first year Western Gulls has already changed into second year plumage as early as January.

Laura A. Stephens.



## Marin County Observations

Mrs. Mary L. Courtright reports that a male Western Tanager visited the garden of Mrs. Thos. Kent in Ross, December 16th, and two Allen Hummingbirds were seen in her own garden in Larkspur, January 26th; also that one male and

five female Hooded Mergansers were on Phoenix Lake, February 12, 1941, and more were to be seen there on the 24th, together with a male and female Barrow Golden-eye. She also reports that Mr. Glenn Ensign saw a Road-runner on San Rafael Hill, near Dollar Drive, February 24th.



### Special Notice

**New Meeting Place in March.** Members please note that commencing with the regular meeting on March 13, 1941, and until further notice, the Association will hold its regular meetings in the Little Theatre of the United States Travel Bureau, Old Mint Building, Fifth and Mission Streets, San Francisco.

To reach the Little Theatre, enter the old Mint Building at the main entrance, which is on Fifth Street directly opposite the Pickwick Hotel and Greyhound Bus Depot. After reaching the main corridor on the first floor, go to the right, entering the Travel Bureau offices at the north end of the hall, then turn left to the second room. The Little Theatre opens to the left from this room. Signs will be displayed to further facilitate finding the new meeting hall.

The new hall provides the Association with slightly larger and considerably better equipped quarters, which, combined with the generally more accessible location, should prove to be a great improvement. The Association is greatly indebted to the United States Department of the Interior, which operates the Travel Bureau, for providing their facilities free of charge. We also are much indebted to the State Board of Harbor Commissioners who have for so many years provided our old meeting places in the Ferry Building at no cost to the Association.

The March meeting, as stated above, will be held in the Old Mint Building, at 8 p.m. on Thursday evening, the 13th. The speaker of the evening will be Mrs. Robert C. Miller, formerly of the Art Department of the University of Washington, who will speak on "The Bird in Art." The lecture will be illustrated with colored lantern slides and with examples of bird paintings, including those of Mr. Harry Adamson of Berkeley, who will personally show some of his latest work.

Members are privileged to bring guests.



### February Field Trip

The February field trip was held on Sunday, the sixteenth, in the vicinity of Tomales Bay in northern Marin County. In spite of threatening weather, over thirty birders turned out and were rewarded by a fine sunny day.

Tomales Bay, running north and south on the San Andreas fault line, offers fine birding due to the variety of habitats available about its shores. It is some seventeen miles long, fairly shallow and flanked on both sides by a range of hills. Those to the west are heavily wooded on the bay side, while those to the east are bare. At the head of the bay is a sizeable salicornia marsh as well as a smaller fresh-water marsh and considerable amounts of riparian association centered about Paper Mill and Olema Creeks. There are fine mud flats available at low tides and Tomales Point is justly famed for species that prefer rocky ocean shores. We had hoped to drive to this point but the bad weather of the past few weeks necessitated our remaining on the east side of the bay. The quality of the birding there left little to be desired, as our list will show.

Our first stop, on Olema Creek, yielded the greatest concentration of Wilson Snipe that it had ever been the pleasure of anyone in our group to observe. There were at least a hundred birds in a wet spot about fifty yards square and very likely their actual total was closer to twice that. Allen Hummingbirds at that point provided many with their first seasonal record for the species and several other highly interesting birds were watched about the marsh before we started down the bay proper.

Lunch was eaten near Dillon's Beach after a pleasant birding jaunt down the east side of the bay. Several members volunteered to undertake the tiresome

walk along the sandspit, for which they received scant reward in the form of a Snowy Plover and several Sanderlings. The trip-list profited, however, as neither of these birds was seen elsewhere.

The tide had come up considerably as we made our way back toward the head of the bay. As a result the shorebirds could be seen to much better advantage. Long-billed Curlew, Marbled Godwits and Western Willets were the most numerous. A fine male and three female American Scoters provided the find of the day. They were feeding in close to shore, yielding some excellent views of themselves. Unfortunately the late hour of their discovery sadly limited the numbers of the party that saw them. It was a surprise to find a large group of Coots on the open bay near them and even more surprising to see these diving for eel-grass.

As an expression of my personal opinion, I would like to see this trip become a regular one for the Association and hope that future trip leaders might stress more the ecologic relationships met and less the size of the day's list. May I also take this opportunity to thank the participating members and their guests for their courteous co-operation in the field?

The following ninety-six species were observed:

Common Loon	Snowy Plover	Bewick Wren
Horned Grebe	Killdeer	Marsh Wren
Eared Grebe	Black-bellied Plover	Robin
Western Grebe	Wilson Snipe	Varied Thrush
Pied-billed Grebe	Long-billed Curlew	Hermit Thrush
White Pelican	Western Willet	Western Bluebird
Brown Pelican	Western (?) Sandpiper	Ruby-crowned Kinglet
Farallon Cormorant	Marbled Godwit	Pipit
California Heron	Sanderling	Cedar Waxwing
American Egret	Glaucous-winged Gull	Shrike
American Bittern	Western Gull	Hutton Vireo
Black Brant	Herring Gull	Myrtle Warbler
Mallard	California Gull	Audubon Warbler
Pintail	Ring-billed Gull	Townsend Warbler
Canvas-back	Short-billed Gull	Yellow-throat
Lesser Scaup Duck	Band-tailed Pigeon	English Sparrow
American Golden-eye	Anna Hummingbird	Western Meadowlark
Buffle-head	Allen Hummingbird	Red-winged Blackbird
White-winged Scoter	Belted Kingfisher	Brewer Blackbird
Surf Scoter	Red-shafted Flicker	Purple Finch
American Scoter	California Woodpecker	House Finch
Ruddy Duck	Black Phoebe	Pine Siskin
Red-breasted Merganser	Say Phoebe	Willow Goldfinch
Turkey Vulture	Horned Lark	Green-backed Goldfinch
Sharp-shinned Hawk	Coast Jay	Spotted Towhee
Cooper Hawk	California Jay	Brown Towhee
Red-tailed Hawk	Raven	Savannah Sparrow
Marsh Hawk	Crow	Junco
Sparrow Hawk	Chickadee	White-crowned Sparrow
Ring-necked Pheasant	Bush-tit	Golden-crowned Sparrow
Virginia Rail	Wren-tit	Fox Sparrow
Coot	Winter Wren	Song Sparrow

Nineteen members attended, namely: Mr. and Mrs. Otis H. Smith; Mesdames Bello, Courtright; Misses Blake, Danz, Gilliam, MacIver, Papina, Roscoe, Rinehart; Messrs. Bolander, Greenhood, Heyneman, Kirker, Myer, Pike, Provoo, Rousch and thirteen guests: Mr. and Mrs. Victor Johnson and daughters; Mesdames Anabel Van Meurs; Misses Edith and Ethel Sherfey and Betty Wilbur; Messrs. Newell, Newhall, McClintock and Vinther.

Gordon Bolander, Leader and Historian.



The Black Brant listed above is a new species to the life-list of the Audubon Association of the Pacific. Editor.

## Audubon Notes

March Meeting: See special notice on page two.



March Field Trip will be taken on Sunday, the 16th, to East Bay Regional Park, back of Berkeley. Members take the Shattuck Avenue line of the Interurban from the San Francisco Terminal at 8:51 a.m. to Berkeley Station. Then take the Spruce Street No. 67 bus to the reservoir at the top of the hill (end of bus line). Luncheon will be eaten at camp number three below Grizzly Peak.



February Meeting: The 282nd regular meeting was held on Thursday, the 13th, in the Ferry Building with thirty-seven members and guests present. President James Moffitt presiding.

The following were elected to membership: Misses Christine Danz of San Francisco and Florence B. Stanton of Berkeley; John Roush and Ferdinand Ruth, both of San Francisco, to junior membership; and Berkeley Rod and Gun Club.

The following observations were reported:

Mrs. Kelly: Moss Landing, 4 Snowy Egrets, 1 Wood Duck, 1 Whistling Swan, 2 pairs Gadwalls; off Lovers Point, 1 Rhinoceros Auklet; in bay between Point Aulon (Lovers Point) and Cabrillo Point (Hopkins Marine Station) at least two Ancient Murrelets and found one dead on the beach near Asilomar, 1 Red Phalarope, January 12th; San Pablo Reservoir, 75+ American Mergansers, 4 Ring-necked Ducks, 25 Canada Geese, 29th; Berkeley campus, Anna Hummingbird sitting on nest, February 1st; Sears Point Cut-off,

1,000+ Avocets, 4 Short-eared Owls, 8 Long-billed Curlews, 9th.

Dr. Robert T. Orr: Golden Gate Park, Allen Hummingbird, February 13th.

Miss Rinehart: in marsh east end of San Francisco Bay Bridge, 5 American Egrets, February 6 and 8, also flock of Bonaparte Gulls on roof of Key Terminal.

Mr. James Moffitt: Canvas-back Ducks feeding in plowed barley fields flooded by recent rains south of Novato, February 12th.

The speaker of the evening was Dr. Alden H. Miller, who took as his subject "Territorial Behavior in Birds." Dr. Miller drew a very apt parallel between birds and humans in respect to their requirements and their manner of securing these and protecting them. Birds want plenty of space or territory in which to live and obtain food for themselves and young. This they guard jealously, more particularly against their own species. Like humans they must fight for their rights. In doing this they employ bluff against intruders by assuming threatening postures and ruffling their feathers to show defiance: a sort of rattling of arms. They also use harsh and excited notes: a dictatorial speech. Fifth column activities are seen in the case of a Mockingbird which entered a bush occupied by another pair of the same species. At first it was driven out several times but finally was tolerated.

It was a most interesting and instructive talk and was illustrated with slides showing various species and maps of their territorial boundaries.

## Audubon Association of the Pacific

Organized January 25, 1917

### For the Study and the Protection of Birds

President.....	Mr. James Moffitt.....	California Academy of Sciences, Golden Gate Park, San Francisco
Corresponding Secretary.....	Mr. Joseph J. Webb.....	519 California St., San Francisco
Treasurer and Editor.....	Mrs. A. B. Stephens.....	1695 Filbert St., San Francisco
Associate Editor.....	Mr. David G. Nichols.....	1713 Dwight Way, Berkeley

Monthly meeting second Thursday, 8 p.m., Little Theatre, Old U. S. Mint Building,  
Fifth and Mission Streets.

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.