



THE  
MONTHLY

GULL  
BULLETIN

VOLUME 23

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NUMBER 2

### Lake Merritt, Oakland, California

On New Year's Day our long dry spell terminated. Then came almost continuous rain for twelve days bringing the annual rainfall up from 1.78 inches at the time of our Christmas census to 9.82 inches, which is .12 over the normal record for the season.

Sunday, January 14, 1940, was a perfect day, fairly warm with no wind, for our twenty-second annual trip to Lake Merritt, Oakland, for the purpose of counting the ducks at the wild game sanctuary. Mr. Paul Covell, lecturer at the lake, stated that after the recent heavy rains most of the wild ducks left for new feeding grounds farther south, and that only last week there were at least 2000 Pintails present. We found only twenty-seven. Also many of the Canvas-back Ducks had left. This exodus of ducks takes place each year after the first heavy winter rains, but in 1938 when these rains did not occur it was interesting to note that a large number of Pintails remained until late March.

The banded European Widgeon, which we have recorded almost every year since 1928, was again missing, this being the third year it has not been seen. Mr. Covell stated that an unbanded one came to the lake last year but remained only a few days.

It is of interest to note that geese and ducks (including many Pintails and Canvas-backs) which were on display at the Oregon State Building on Treasure Island during 1939 were released at the lake. These, however, have not been included in our census. They are as follows: ten Cackling, four White-fronted and four Lesser Snow Geese, four Gadwalls, eight Green-winged Teal, four Shoveller Ducks, three Redhead and five Wood Ducks. Seven Wood Ducks which had been pinioned and released in the spring of 1939 are still present at the lake, making a total of twelve. At present the total count of introduced geese is as follows: Canada Geese 5, Hutchins Goose 1, Cackling Geese 11, White-fronted Geese 6, and Lesser Snow Geese 8.

The list of thirty-three species seen on the lake and in Lakeside Park is as follows:

Eared Grebe 48	American Golden-eye 60	California Jay 1
Western Grebe 2	Buffle-head 9	Bush-tit
Pied-billed Grebe 19	Ruddy Duck 97	Western Robin
Farallon Cormorant 1	Coot 494	Pipit
American Egret 2	Glaucous-winged Gull 85	Cedar Waxwing
Black-cr. Night Heron 15	California Gull 146	Audubon Warbler
Mallard 12	Heermann Gull 1	English Sparrow
Baldpate 98	Ring-billed Gull 20	Brewer Blackbird
Pintail 27	Bonaparte Gull 82	Green-backed Goldfinch
Canvas-back Duck 335	Anna Hummingbird	Nuttall Sparrow
Scaup 211	Red-shafted Flicker	Song Sparrow

The American Egret was a new species for our list at the lake. The Heermann Gull appears for the second time, having been noted first in 1924.

Members attending the trip were Messrs. and Mesdames Dunshee, Myer, Stephens; Mesdames C. F. Austin, Kelly; Misses Berg, Blake, Cohen, Gilliam, Rinehart, Sterne; Messrs. Holmes and Taylor and six guests.

Laura A. Stephens, Historian.



### Report of the President for the Year 1939

The people of the San Francisco Bay region will long remember 1939 as the year of the Golden Gate International Exposition. In anticipation of the many visitors expected, our Association asked The National Association through *Bird Lore* to extend our welcome to persons visiting here who were interested in obtaining information about local birds and also to invite them to attend our meetings and field trips. We sent special letters to the presidents of the Southern California bird clubs inviting them and their members. These clubs reciprocated by extending invitations to our members when in the south. It would be of mutual benefit for the members of the northern and southern clubs to become better acquainted so that all could co-operate when necessary to promote wild-life protection.

The June meeting was held in Pacific House, Treasure Island, where Mr. Philip N. Yountz, Consultant and Director of the Pacific Area, spoke to us on "Exploring the Pacific." Seventy-five persons attended this meeting. September 23rd to 26th inclusive were California Bird Days on Treasure Island. Our Association participated. Many members exhibited materials, including pictures and books. Others were liberal with their time, acting as hosts and hostesses during these days. In this capacity they answered questions and explained to many the work of the Association.

During the year fifty-five visitors signed our guest book at the meetings. Among them were visitors from Providence, R. I., New York, Washington, D. C., and Honolulu. The average attendance at the meetings was thirty-nine.

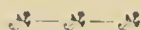
The conservation committee, with Mr. Webb as chairman, has been very active in furthering our aims, and we thank Mr. Webb and members of his committee for their splendid service. We subscribed fifty dollars to the Condor Fund which is being raised by the National Association for the purpose of studying all phases of the life history of this vanishing bird.

Again Mrs. Stephens has edited THE GULL and I know I am expressing what we all feel when I say that we sincerely thank her for her work. I would like to call special attention to the December number, in which Mrs. Stephens compiled a list of the birds seen on Treasure Island. This list is particularly interesting for future reference and also to show how quickly birds avail themselves of newly created conditions.

Mrs. Bracelin has once more arranged for our speakers and we thank her as well as those persons who so generously have given us of their knowledge and time. To Mrs. Millard go our thanks for again addressing the envelopes, to Miss MacIver for her reviews of recent literature, to Miss Blake for arranging the field trips, and to those who led these trips and acted as historians. In conclusion I want to thank the officers and all the members for their co-operation during 1939.

Respectfully submitted,

Junea W. Kelly, President.



### Report of the Outing Committee for 1939

Eleven regular monthly field trips and the annual Christmas census trip were taken in 1939. This year there were three new trips made, one each to Berkeley Regional Park in April, Muir Woods in August and Rodeo in October.

The trips most popular with the members were Lake Merritt in January and Saint Mary's in May, each having an attendance of twenty.

Forty-one members came on the eleven trips, an average of less than four to a trip. Seventy-one guests attended ten of the trips, seventeen of whom were members of the Nature Study Section of the Sierra Club, making an average of seven guests to a trip.

During the year 161 species were observed, ten fewer than in 1938. Our life-list total is now 244, a new species, the Anhinga, having been added.

I wish to express appreciation to Miss Frances J. Blake for her assistance in arranging details of the trips and hope that she will continue in this activity.

Respectfully submitted,  
Laura A. Stephens.



### Treasurer's Report for 1939

#### Commercial account:

Balance on hand January 3, 1939.....		\$212.39	
Receipts:			
Dues for 1938.....	\$ 11.00		
Dues for 1939.....	267.00		
Dues of Junior members.....	10.50		
Sale of copies of THE GULL.....	15.80		
Sale of "Birds of Marin County".....	5.50	309.80	
			\$522.19

#### Expenditures:

Publishing THE GULL with extras.....	\$221.25		
Donation to the Condor Research Fund.....	50.00		
Royal typewriter .....	54.50		
Wildlife stamps .....	1.00		
Janitor's Christmas gift.....	5.00		
Stamped envelopes .....	33.92		
Sales tax .....	8.59		
Miscellaneous expenses:			
President.....	1.90		
Corresponding Secretary .....	2.50		
Lectures.....	4.35		
Bird show, Treasure Island.....	2.01		
Envelopes, paper and stamps.....	9.48		
		\$394.50	
Balance in the Commercial Account.....	125.74		
Cash on hand.....	1.95	\$522.19	

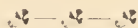
#### Savings Account:

Balance January 3, 1939.....	\$738.34		
Interest in 1939.....	12.97	\$751.31	

#### Total accounts:

Commercial Account .....	\$125.74		
Cash on hand.....	1.95		
Savings Account .....	751.31	\$879.00	

Memberships: Honorary 4, Life 11, Junior 6, Regular 103, total 124.  
Laura A. Stephens, Treasurer.



### Audubon Notes

**February Meeting:** The regular meeting will be held on Thursday, the 8th, at 8 p. m., Ferry Building.

The speaker of the evening will be Mr. F. H. Test of the Museum of

Vertebrate Zoology, Berkeley, whose subject will be "The Nature and Development of Plumage Coloration in the Flickers."

Members may bring guests.



**February Field Trip** will be taken on the 11th to the University of California campus, Berkeley, including Strawberry Canyon and the Botanical Gardens. The territory will be covered by two separate walks. The more strenuous will start at about 9:15 a. m. from the college tennis courts on Bancroft Way. Take Key Route train or No. 6 College Avenue car—go direct to the Botanical Gardens, climb to the top of ridge and then work down. Those choosing the easier walk take Southern Pacific Interurban to Berkeley Station, arriving about 9:50, and meet group at University Avenue and Oxford Street. Bring luncheon, which will be eaten about 1 o'clock at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Arthur H. Myer, 25 El Camino Real. After luncheon if there are enough cars a trip will be taken to the Aquatic Park. Leaders of each group are to record species and also number of individuals seen.



**January Meeting:** The 23rd annual and the 269th regular meeting was held on the 11th in the Ferry Building, with twenty members and guests present. President Junea W. Kelly presided.

Officers and Directors for 1940 were elected as follows:

Mr. B. K. Dunshee.....	President
Mr. Gordon Bolander.....	1st Vice-Pres.
Mrs. H. P. Bracelin.....	2nd Vice-Pres.
Mrs. Albert B. Stephens.....	Treasurer
Mr. Joseph J. Webb.....	Corresp. Secy.
Mrs. Mary L. Courtright.....	Record. Secy.
Mrs. Junea W. Kelly.....	Director
Mrs. Bessie W. Kibbe.....	Director
Mr. C. B. Lastreto.....	Director

The following new members were elected to membership:

Mrs. Enid Austin of Piedmont and Mrs. C. F. Austin of Larkspur.

The following observations were reported:

Gordon Bolander: Lake Merced, Cackling Goose, December 25th; Bay Bridge approach (Oakland side), Clapper Rail, January 3rd; Crystal Springs Lake, Duck Hawk, 9th; Lake Merced, Red-bellied Hawk, Golden Gate Park, Semipalmated Plover, 10th.

Mrs. Kelly: In a *pittosporum eugenioides* in an Alameda garden Bush-tits were building a nest, the framework well along on December 21st. They were still working on it on the 29th and on January 9th the nest was in good condition in spite of continued rains, but do not know whether the eggs have been laid. Both birds were seen feeding in a nearby oak. A Barn Owl spends daylight hours in the same tree only a few feet distant from the nest. Along Borden Highway in flooded asparagus fields, 400 Whistling Swans, December 26th.

Mrs. Otis H. Smith: Banded a White-throated Sparrow in her garden in San Anselmo, December 18th.

Mr. Webb: Fine Arts Palace, San Francisco, Screech Owl, December 22nd, also heard by Mr. and Mrs. Stephens on the 23rd.

The discussion in regard to the check-list, for San Francisco Bay region, proposed by Mr. Moffitt, was continued at considerable length, and brought out many interesting points. It was generally agreed that the names of sub-species could be used wherever deemed helpful.



**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.

## Audubon Association of the Pacific

Organized January 25, 1917

### For the Study and the Protection of Birds

President.....	Mr. B. K. Dunshee.....	Room 714, 245 Market St., San Francisco
Corresponding Secretary.....	Mr. Joseph J. Webb.....	519 California St., San Francisco
Treasurer.....	Mrs. A. B. Stephens.....	1695 Filbert St., San Francisco

Monthly meeting second Thursday, 8 P. M., Ferry Building.

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