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Birding around Salt Lake City, Utah

The Wasatch Mountains form the eastern boundary of the Great Basin. They are a faulted range, rising abruptly from the valley floor to a mean elevation of 10,000 feet with many outstanding elevations considerably over 11,000.

The Great Basin floor in these parts was once filled by a lake in extent equal to Lake Huron and was at its highest level 1,000 feet deep where the Mormon Temple now stands.

Great Salt Lake, Utah, and Sevier Lakes are the only remaining large bodies of water now occupying the bed of that once great body known as Lake Bonneville.

Salt Lake City rises from the valley floor along a series of mountain stream deltas close to the western face of the Wasatch Range. The elevation is a little over 4,200 feet. The valley is in the Upper Sonoran Zone, and the mountains are in the Transition, with a small extent in the Boreal. This zone range, and the salt, alkaline and fresh water lakes, the marshes of the valley, the desert shrubbery, the cultivated lands, and the rich verdure of the mountains are all contributing factors to our large and varied bird population. Still we have very few bird walks that yield large lists, so join me in two, one in the valley and one in the mountains, which will yield the largest and most representative lists we have.

Board a Bamberger electric train about 6 a. m. for Bountiful, eight miles north of the city. Our walk begins here and continues west four miles to and through the "Jordan Fur Farm," which is also the private shooting grounds of the Utah State Gun Club.

For a couple of miles we traverse a rich gardening section with an occasional brush clump along the water courses. The representative birds here are Pale Goldfinch, Linnet, English and Chipping Sparrows, Lazuli Bunting, Warbling Vireo, Yellow Warbler and an occasional Chat and Cat Bird. Robins are numerous and a few Mountain Blue Birds nest along the way. Bullock Oriole, Barn Swallow, Western Kingbird, Wood Pewee and a small Flycatcher are found here and along the last line of trees one is certain to find the Eastern Kingbird, *Tyrannus tyrannus*. The Mourning Dove and the Ring-necked Pheasant are also common, and while I have not seen the Bobolink on this walk, I have found it a mile or two northward and therefore think it should be included in the list.

The next two miles to the Fur Farm extend through salt grass, alkali flats and shallow marshes and where greasewood is still standing an occasional Sage Thrasher is found. But the outstanding feature of this part of the walk is the Long-billed Curlew. About seventy-five pairs nest in this vicinity but take their offspring to adjoining alfalfa and grain fields for better cover and food.

This farm, bordering the Great Salt Lake, occupies 6,000 acres of alkaline flats, through which flows a small fresh water stream called the Jordan River. This stream is diverted over most of the area by a system of canals, the water

being impounded by dykes into ponds ranging in extent from a few acres to several hundred. Though most of this is overgrown with tules, cattails, sedges and other marsh vegetation, there are several quite large bodies of open water.

All ponds are drained each year and sunbaked, which has proved the most effective check yet found to the dreaded duck disease. Since the practice was adopted, there has been a smaller loss from this malady on the shooting field than on any other like area in these parts where water fowl concentrate in large numbers.

The following are all breeding birds of this area except the California Gull, the Double Crested Cormorant, the White Pelican and possibly the Caspian Tern, which nests on islands in Great Salt Lake:

Western Grebe	Ruddy Duck	Killdeer
Eared Grebe	Canada Goose	Marsh Hawk
Pied-billed Grebe	White-faced Glossy Ibis	Sparrow Hawk
California Gull	Bittern	Short-eared Owl
Caspian Tern	Blue Heron	Cat Bird
Forster's Tern	Snowy Heron	Yellow-headed Blackbird
Black Tern	Black-crowned Night Heron	Red-winged Blackbird
Cormorant	Virginia Rail	Brewer Blackbird
White Pelican	Sora Rail	Meadowlark
Mallard Duck	Coot	Savannah Sparrow
Gadwall	Wilson Phalarope	Song Sparrow
Baldpate	Avocet	Cliff Swallow
Blue-winged Teal	Black-necked Stilt	Tree Swallow
Green-winged Teal	Wilson Snipe	Bank Swallow
Cinnamon Teal	Willet	Barn Swallow
Shoveller	Spotted Sandpiper	Rough-winged Swallow
Pintail	Long-billed Curlew	Yellow-throat
Red-head	Snowy Plover	Tule Wren
Scaup		

So endeth a day in June, with many thanks to the Jordan Fur Farm executive for the permit to visit this sanctuary.

C. W. Lockerbie, Salt Lake City, Utah. June 21, 1933.



A Marsh Hawk Observation

On the afternoon of November 12, 1932, I stopped my car along the road skirting the Suisun marshes near Benicia to observe some of the marsh birds near the highway through my field glasses.

A Marsh Hawk (*Circus hudsonius*) came along and I trained my glasses on him as he sailed leisurely over the marsh. He was some thirty feet in the air when suddenly half a dozen sandpipers, probably Western, flew toward and a little under him. With only a slight drop downward, the hawk had captured one of these "peeps" in his talons. The latter escaped almost immediately, and was apparently not greatly injured, for he flew for some fifteen or twenty feet in an effort to escape. The hawk, however, caught up with his victim in a few seconds and recaptured it, this time dropping to the marsh with the bird firmly in his grasp.

The hawk did not tear his victim apart at once, but stood on a dense growth of salicornia watching me as I hurriedly left my car and rushed toward him, some hundred yards away, in an effort to see if he could be frightened from his victim, as I wished to secure positive identification of the sandpiper which had made the thrilling escape in midair. The hawk, however, flew a considerable distance away as I approached, taking his prey with him, and all I secured for my dash toward his perching place in the marsh was a pair of very wet feet.

Emerson A. Stoner, Benicia, California. July 18, 1933.

The July Field Trip

The July field trip was taken on Sunday, the 16th. The day was ideal for walking and also for making observations. Overcast at first, yet bright, with a minimum of wind, it was not cold at any time, and before noon the sun broke through, dissipating the fog.

Starting at Sea Cliff a group of nineteen members and twelve guests took the usual route of the abandoned street car grade overlooking the ocean and the trail to Land's End, Sutro Gardens and the Cliff House, thence along the beach and into the park.

After eating lunch on the lawn close by the beautiful pond just beyond the Dutch Wind Mill, we resumed our walk, visiting Chain of Lakes, the buffalo paddock, Spreckels and Stow Lakes and finally the old park pumping plant and rose garden, where the party disbanded about 3:30 p. m.

The first interesting observation of the day was a small flock of Lawrence Goldfinches in the pines on the edge of Lincoln Park just above the water, a rather unusual locality for this species. Next several Pigeon Guillemots on a large rock just off shore attracted our attention, five individuals being seen at one time. The sight of a young one in the crevice of another rock was acclaimed the outstanding observation of the day.

The following list comprises the species found between Sea Cliff and the ocean beach:

Brown Pelican	Allen Hummingbird	Brewer Blackbird
Farallon Cormorant	Red-shafted Flicker	House Finch
Western Gull	Black Phoebe	Green-backed Goldfinch
California Gull	Chickadee	Lawrence Goldfinch
Heermann Gull	Bush-tit	Spotted Towhee
Pigeon Guillemot	Robin	Junco
Anna Hummingbird	English Sparrow	Nuttall Sparrow

In Golden Gate Park the bird population continues to be, as we have found it in recent years: scarce and scattered. This may be due in part to the general dry condition in certain areas and a consequent lack of food, and also, no doubt, to the harmful activities of small boys in shooting birds with slingshots and robbing nests, evils which flourish in times of inadequate policing.

At the Chain of Lakes two young coots are raising themselves. Their parents have been missing for some time. We wonder what has happened to them. We were glad to see the Kingfisher here today, a species absent from this locality many months.

Two male Canvas-back Ducks are still on Spreckels Lake, having remained after the large flock migrated last winter. There is also one lone Pintail here which has been seen now for two or three months past.

At Stow Lake a single Red-head Duck, apparently contented without any of its own kind to associate with, swam among Swans and Ruddy Ducks. This species like the Canvas-back Ducks mentioned above has also been here since last winter.

The species found in the park were as follows, making the combined total for the trip thirty-four:

Mallard	Anna Hummingbird	Pileolated Warbler
Canvas-back Duck	Red-shafted Flicker	English Sparrow
Pintail	Black Phoebe	Brewer Blackbird
Red-head Duck	Western Flycatcher	House Finch
Ruddy Duck	Chickadee	Spotted Towhee
Coot	Bewick wren	Junco
Kingfisher	Russet-backed Thrush	Song Sparrow
Quail		

Albert B. Stephens, Historian.

Audubon Notes

August Meeting: The regular meeting will be held on Thursday, the 10th, at 8 p. m., room 19, Ferry Building.

The evening will be devoted to vacation experiences. Visitors as well as members are invited to contribute to the evening's program.



August Field Trip will be taken Sunday, the 13th, to Tennessee Cove, Marin County. Purchase round-trip ticket to Manzanita, 45c, and take 8:45 a. m. Sausalito Ferry. Bring luncheon. Leader, Chas. A. Bryant.



The announcement of the wedding in Spokane, Washington, July 13th, of two of our popular members, Mr. Frank Arthur Roberts and Miss Alfreda Kirsch, is of much interest to their many friends in the Audubon. The happy couple are honeymooning in Glacier National Park.



Membership for the remainder of 1933 is \$1.50. This includes subscription to the monthly bulletin, "The Gull," field trips and lectures.



July Meeting: The 191st regular meeting was held on July 12, in room 19, Ferry Building, with thirty-six members and guests present. President Chas. A. Bryant in the chair.

The following observations were reported:

Vincent Mowbray: June 27, Burlin-

game, California Creeper's nest with four young; three Western Tanagers; July 1, San Andreas Lake, Western Tanager; 8th, Pacific Night Hawk flying over East Oakland about dusk; 10th, Oakland near Park Boulevard, one pair of Lawrence Goldfinches nesting.

Commander and Mrs. Parmenter: June 13, San Mateo and Dumbarton Bridges, Black-bellied Plover, Hudsonian Curlew, Western Willet, Long-billed Dowitcher, one Red Phalarope, large colony of Caspian Terns breeding; 21st, on San Jose Avenue about two miles east of Saratoga, Phainopepla; July 6, San Mateo and Dumbarton Bridges, 60+ White Pelicans, one Snowy Plover with two young, 300+ Western Willets, 250+ Red-backed Sandpipers, 35+ Long-billed Dowitchers, 150+ Western Sandpipers; 11th, Pt. San Pedro, two Duck Hawks; Cliff Rocks, 12+ Heermann Gulls.

Miss Pringle: June 17, Permanant Creek, San Antonio District, Santa Clara County, Poor-will.

Mr. John B. Price of Stanford University showed two very interesting reels of birds of the Stanford Campus.



Correction, July issue: The third species in the list of birds found on the Ross trip should be California Quail instead of California Gull.

Audubon Association of the Pacific

For the Study and the Protection of Birds

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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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Life memberships, \$50.00

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