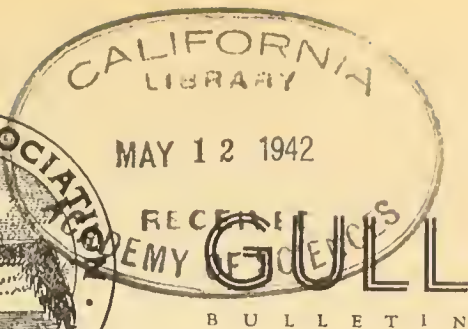


M&O
Serials
QL 671
G84

THE

MONTHLY



VOLUME 24

SAN FRANCISCO, MAY, 1942

NUMBER 5

A Narrow Escape

On March 21, 1942, while driving east about five miles from Kelseyville in Lake County, I saw a Sharp-shinned Hawk (*Accipiter velox*) swoop down and strike a Mountain Bluebird (*Sialia currucoides*), knocking it out of the branches of a tree by the side of the highway. The bluebird, apparently dead or badly injured, fell to the road directly in front of my car. I stopped as quickly as I could and backed the car up to where the bluebird lay in the road, as I wanted to make a study skin out of it.

When I got out of the car I could see the hawk angrily circling overhead watching me steal his dinner from under his very bill, so to speak. The bluebird showed some faint signs of life when I took it up in my hand. When I arrived at my destination several miles farther on, I placed the bird in a warm room and awaited further developments with some misgivings.

In about twenty minutes the little bird stood on its own two feet, opened its eyes, and showed every sign of complete recovery from the violent accident it had experienced. Five minutes later in front of the house my little feathered ex-hawk dinner spread its sky-blue wings and flew away from under the very lens of my camera as I was attempting to take its picture.

—Robert Provo, San Francisco, California.



American Scoter at Alameda

On April 14, 1942, a male American Scoter (*Oidemia americana*) was observed resting on a mud bank just east of the draw bridge running between Alameda and Bay Farm Island, Alameda County, California. The brilliant yellow of the bill was fully developed and immediately attracted attention. This infrequent visitor to the San Francisco region seems not to have been reported heretofore from the east shores of the Bay, but it has been recorded from near Redwood City, from near Menlo Park, and off San Bruno, San Mateo County (Grinnell and Wythe, Pac. Coast Avif. No. 18, 1927: 55). It was in the vicinity of this same bridge that an Old-squaw Duck (*Clangula hyemalis*) was observed in April of 1940 by Frank Watson and myself in company with a group of students.

—Alden H. Miller, Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, Berkeley, Calif.



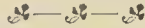
The Perversity of Pigeons

It is well known in our neighborhood that we feed the birds and photograph them when we have an opportunity. We buy grain by the hundred-pound sack and maintain four feeding-stands the year-round. We cater to the appetites of the most fastidious, from hummingbirds to pigeons. Yes, pigeons. The acorns from eighty-five live oak trees are scattered on the ground. Everything is ready—the film is in the camera ready to “shoot.”

On February first a great flock of Band-tailed Pigeons (*Columba fasciata*) arrived in the oak-covered hills of east Piedmont. The neighbors boastfully reported to us, "Of course you have seen the pigeons. There must have been 250 birds in the flock that flew over our house. Last night a hundred or more roosted in our trees."

With chagrin we have had to admit that the pigeons have not come to our home. We have silently prayed, "Please, pigeons, pretty pigeons, come to our garden, the acorns are here in abundance. If you are tired of acorns, grain and grubs await you. Not only will we give you a banquet but we will immortalize your images in kodachrome, that all may see the iridescent sheen of your feathers and the interesting markings of your famous tails." The pigeons have paid no heed. Bribes and flattery have been of no avail. Their flock at the present writing, March 20th, has been reduced to thirty birds, but not one bird has condescended to pay us a visit. We wish to add to the literature on Band-tailed Pigeons: A very perverse bird.

—Laurel Reynolds, Piedmont, California.



March Field Trip

Seventeen members and guests gathered at the Berkeley Regional Park on March 15, 1942, for the monthly field trip. The day proved ideal for birding, a total of thirty-two species having been seen.

Several Rufous Hummingbirds took permanent perches very near the trail, affording many of the group the season's first view of these early migrants.

In the live oaks, from which poured the constant song of the Lutescent Warbler, a pair of Hutton Vireos slipped among the twigs, giving the keen-eyed members considerable sport in distinguishing them from the kinglets.

A Spotted Sandpiper, presumably the same one we saw last year, was teetering on the shore of the lake. Here we also saw a pair of American Golden-eye Ducks.

It is the opinion of those who attended this trip that although the actual list is not lengthy the experiences with certain species, such as the Rufous Hummingbird and the Spotted Sandpiper, make it a very worthwhile birding spot; particularly so in these days which make near-at-home trips the rule.

| | | |
|---------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|
| American Golden-eye | California Woodpecker | Hutton Vireo |
| Turkey Vulture | Coast Jay | Lutescent Warbler |
| Cooper Hawk | California Jay | Audubon Warbler |
| Red-tailed Hawk | Titmouse | House Finch |
| Quail | Bush-tit | Spotted Towhee |
| Spotted Sandpiper | Wren-tit | Brown Towhee |
| Anna Hummingbird | Winter Wren | Junco |
| Rufous Hummingbird | Bewick Wren | Nuttall Sparrow |
| Allen Hummingbird | Robin | Golden-crowned Sparrow |
| Red-shafted Flicker | Hermit Thrush | Song Sparrow |
| Black Phoebe | Ruby-crowned Kinglet | |

—Harold Kirker, Trip Historian.



April Field Trip

The April field trip taken on the 12th to Livermore and the McCoy Ranch on the Arroyo Mocho Road was under the leadership of Dr. T. Eric Reynolds. A caravan of private machines met in Livermore at the flagpole at nine a.m. The weather was cool; a gray day with the sun shining through heavy clouds at times. War Time was to our advantage for we got to our destination an hour earlier than in previous years.

Upon arriving at McCoy's Ranch we were greeted with a constant chorus of songs and twittering notes, a delightful welcome. On the McCoy Ranch we enjoyed watching a Golden Eagle, and Red-tailed Hawks were often in view. At one time Mrs. Laura Stephens and I watched a pair of Red-tailed Hawks. One would fly to quite a height and then plummet down to where the other bird was circling around.

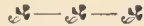
About three hours were spent around the ranch. Luncheon was eaten at one o'clock and then we left to drive up the Tesla Road. Those who went on to Corral Hollow had the pleasure of watching a Prairie Falcon and enjoyed an excellent view of the Rufous Hummingbird. As in the past year, there was disappointment in not seeing the Phainopeplas.

The list of sixty-five species is as follows:

| | | |
|-----------------------|----------------------|------------------------|
| Turkey Vulture | Western Flycatcher | Warbling Vireo |
| Red-tailed Hawk | Horned Lark | Lutescent Warbler |
| Golden Eagle | Rough-winged Swallow | Audubon Warbler |
| Prairie Falcon | Barn Swallow | Yellow-throat |
| Sparrow Hawk | Cliff Swallow | English Sparrow |
| Quail | Tree Swallow | Meadowlark |
| Killdeer | California Jay | Red-winged Blackbird |
| Band-tailed Pigeon | Yellow-billed Magpie | Bullock Oriole |
| Mourning Dove | Raven | Brewer Blackbird |
| Barn Owl | Western Crow | House Finch |
| Anna Hummingbird | Plain Titmouse | Willow Goldfinch |
| Allen Hummingbird | Bush-tit | Green-backed Goldfinch |
| Rufous Hummingbird | Wren-tit | Lawrence Goldfinch |
| Kingfisher | House Wren | Spotted Towhee |
| Red-shafted Flicker | Bewick Wren | Brown Towhee |
| California Woodpecker | Mockingbird | Lark Sparrow |
| Lewis Woodpecker | Western Bluebird | Junco |
| Hairy Woodpecker | Western Robin | Chipping Sparrow |
| Downy Woodpecker | Hermit Thrush | White-crowned Sparrow |
| Nuttall Woodpecker | Gnatcatcher | Golden-crowned Sparrow |
| Western Kingbird | Ruby-crowned Kinglet | Song Sparrow |
| Black Phoebe | Shrike | |

Twenty members were present as follows: Dr. T. Eric Reynolds, leader; Misses Blake, Danz, Johnson, MacIver, Papina, Richards, Roscoe; Mesdames Austin, Courtright, Kelly; Messrs. Warren Fischer, Kirker, Leffler; Messrs. and Mesdames Dunshee, Myer, Stephens, and ten guests.

—Christine Danz, Trip Historian.



Community Service for Audubon

At the March meeting of the Audubon Association of the Pacific it was decided to include in our activities a service to hospitals and other charitable organizations whereby chronic invalids, the aged, and underprivileged may receive at least an introduction to the pleasure to be derived from an awareness of birds. A Committee for Education was formed, composed of Mrs. A. M. Newhall, Chairman, Mrs. Dorothy Dean Sheldon, Mrs. Harold C. Austin, and Mrs. T. Eric Reynolds. Members of the Association will visit one institution each month, give an informal talk on bird study in general and show either colored motion pictures or slides. They will determine if a reference book or feeding stand would be of value to the institution, and will report such needs to the membership. It is hoped that a fund may be voluntarily contributed for this cause.

This work has already started. The Protestant-Episcopal Home in San Francisco was visited in March, the tubercular sanitarium of Arroyo del Valle at Livermore in April, and the Presbyterian Orphanage in Marin County will be visited in May. The Committee has been well pleased with the response.



Audubon Notes

May Meeting: The regular meeting will be held on Thursday, the 14th, at 8 p.m., in the Assembly Room, San Francisco Public Library, Larkin and McAllister Streets, San Francisco.

Mrs. Junea W. Kelly, Lecturer on Natural Science, University of California Extension Division, will talk on "Birding at Home."

Members may bring guest.

May Field Trip will be taken on Sunday, the 17th, to the Dimond Canyon District, Oakland. Members take the "A" train at San Francisco Terminal at 8:35 a.m., transfer at First Avenue to No. 18 Park Boulevard car to end of line on Leimert. A walk will be taken through Dimond Canyon towards the redwoods. Miss Christine Danz will act as leader.



April Meeting: The 295th regular meeting was held on the 9th in the Assembly Room of the San Francisco Public Library, with eighty members and guests present. President Mrs. Harold C. Austin presided.

A resolution was passed authorizing the Board of Directors to appoint any member to any vacated office at its discretion.

Mr. Laidlaw Williams spoke of the impending danger to Point Lobos State Park which was to be left undisturbed for the benefit of scientific research. Now certain interests propose to destroy its natural state under the pretext of fire protection.



The following observations were reported:

B. C. Cain: Oakland Municipal Golf Course, Lutescent Warbler, March 8th.

Mrs. Sheldon: Dumbarton Bridge, Black-necked Stilt, February 28th.

Mrs. Otis H. Smith: Diablo Country Club, two Mockingbirds, seven Varied Thrushes, February 22nd; Ross, Lutescent Warbler, March 10th.

Mrs. Dorothy Dean Sheldon entertained the members and guests with her natural color film "Wing Flashes." Mrs. Sheldon, interested in study of birds for many years, took up the hobby of bird photography less than a year ago. In this brief period she has succeeded in accumulating a film of great beauty. Her pictures of California Gulls, at Mono Lake, in flight against the blue sky with snow-capped mountains in the background live long in the memory of those who see them.

Quoting from Dr. Linsdale's report for "The Season" in March-April issue of Audubon Magazine, "Recent departures from normal weather have been numerous and varied and have brought many noticeable changes in the bird life in Central California, but information is too meager to trace all the relationships. It is clear, however, that many kinds of birds have been influenced, some of them directly but more of them through changes in the food supply. In some species, the response was to move to a new location, in others it involved merely a change of diet."

Our members by carefully noting the birds on their walks and by bringing to the meetings a written list showing the approximate number of each species seen, or by mailing in their observations to either Mrs. Reynolds or Mrs. Stephens, could do a great deal in supplying notes that would help out in this work. This would give our bulletin valuable items as well as supply Dr. Linsdale with records for his reports.

Audubon Association of the Pacific

Organized January 25, 1917

For the Study and the Protection of Birds

| | | |
|------------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| President..... | Mrs. Harold C. Austin..... | 541 Boulevard Way, Piedmont |
| Corresponding Secretary..... | Mr. Joseph J. Webb..... | 519 California St., San Francisco |
| Treasurer..... | Miss Ivander MacIver..... | 2414 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley |
| Editor..... | Mrs. T. Eric Reynolds..... | 140 Estates Drive, Piedmont |

Monthly meeting second Thursday, 8 p.m.

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