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Birds of the Swiss Alps

Extract of letter of August 30, 1945, from Gordon Bolander

While on a seven day furlough in Switzerland he speaks of the marvelous scenery and the joy of being "in some real mountains again. Just to stand with closed eyes and listen to the nutcrackers was to be back in our Sierra once more. The dress of the bird is different (they wear 'salt and pepper' suits here) but the voice is identical. The voices of golden-crowned kinglets, creepers, and the smaller Panuridae also sounded like home. We even had golden eagles overhead to add to the illusion, but with wall creepers to be seen along with wagtails, black redstarts, wheatears, and redbreasts it was all too apparent that it was not the Sierra country. . . ."

In connection with a description of the "splendor" of the Alps, mention is made of the crows—"the flocks that wheel about the mountain tops are possessed of really musical voices and are saved from the somber monotony of their less fortunate brothers by a brilliant yellow bill and bright red legs and feet. Quite a bird! The little wall creeper is another to catch the eye. As he clings to the side of a canyon rock he presents a pearly gray back to an observer, but, like a kinglet, he constantly flits his wings with a sidewise motion, and it is then that his appearance undergoes a sudden, dazzling change. Jet black primaries with large white spots serve to set off the totally unexpected brilliance of the magenta-scarlet coverts. It is really a spot of brilliance amid the shaded monotonies of the canyon's depths. The bird certainly fits the country. . . ."

November Field Trip

The November field trip of the Association was taken to Golden Gate Park on the 11th, with Mr. Charles Bryant as our leader. Despite predictions of inclement weather the day passed clear and cold.

The chief objectives were the park lakes and while little of great rarity was observed several hours were profitably spent viewing the multitude of ducks. Mallard, Pintail, Baldpate and Ruddies were in abundance. In with them Scoup, Ringnecks, and two male Shovellers were observed. As usual fine

close-ups were obtained. Size and plumage comparisons could be easily noted such as those between female Lesser Scaup and female Ringneck, etc.

At the Chain of Lakes the Florida Gallinule was sought. Presumably the same adult individual occupies the middle lake, usually on or near the round island. It was found on the island. With it was an immature, slightly slimmer, lighter bird with dull greenish bill. It followed the adult off into the water. Later on the gallinules were again sought. The party was led right to them by hearing the markedly different notes among those of the many coots.

At the close of the trip a bird was seen by the remaining members of the group, which in everyone's opinion followed closely the descriptions of the Western and Cassin Kingbird. It was not, however, positively identified.

The following thirty-nine species of birds were noted:

Pied-billed Grebe	Killdeer	Myrtle Warbler
Anthony Green Heron	California Gull	Audubon Warbler
Mallard	Anna Hummingbird	Yellow-throat
Baldpate	Downy Woodpecker	Brewer Blackbird
Shoveller	Red-shafted Flicker	Purple Finch
Pintail	Kingbird (Species?)	Linnet
Scaup	Black Phoebe	Pine Siskin
Ring-necked Duck	Chickadee	Spotted Towhee
Ruddy Duck	Red-breasted Nuthatch	Fox Sparrow
Sharp-skinned Hawk	Hermit Thrush	Junco
Red-tailed Hawk	Western Robin	Nuttall Sparrow
Florida Gallinule	Ruby-crowned Kniglet	Golden-crowned Sparrow
Coot	Pipit	Song Sparrow

Ten members were present: Mrs. Bozant, Mrs. Stowell; Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Myer; Misses Camilla and Clelia Paroni, Goen and Young; Messrs. Bryant, Loren Cochran. Three guests were present: Mrs. Augsberry; J. Gordon Irving, S 1/c U. S. Navy; and Mr. Mayer.

Historian — J. Gordon Irving, S 1/c U. S. Navy,
Linnaean Society, New York.

October Meeting

The 337th meeting of the Association was held on October 11, 1945, with president, Arthur H. Myer, in the chair. The resignation of Mrs. Sadie Bozant from the program committee was accepted, and Mrs. D. M. Curtis was appointed to fill the vacancy, while Miss Mary E. Sterne was appointed to replace Mrs. Curtis on the Publicity Committee.

Field observations were given by Mr. Walter W. Bradley, Donald Berger, and Mr. Myer.

Mr. Bradley, our vice-president, presented the program of the evening on "The Art of John James Audubon." The hand-colored slides reproduced from Audubon's paintings were greatly enjoyed.

—Monica Goen, *Recording Secretary*.

November Meeting

The 338th meeting of the Association occurred on Thursday, November 8, with Mr. Arthur Myer presiding.

Mr. Myer named the new nominating committee—Mr. Charles Bryant, chairman, Miss Jean Fay and Miss Papina.

Field observations were given by Mr. Bryant, Mr. Bradley, and Mr. Myer.

Mr. Myer welcomed the girl scouts and their leaders, who were present.

Mr. Bradley, our vice-president, introduced the speaker of the evening, Mrs. Dorothy Dean Sheldon of Mills College. Mrs. Sheldon showed several fine reels of films of birds and small mammals, which she had taken recently in the state of Nevada, and the Sierra Nevada Mountains.

About 75 members and guests were present.

—Monica Goen, *Recording Secretary*.

Observations

Edited by Junea W. Kelly

The following observations have been reported:

On Oct. 8, Mrs. Mary L. Courtright of Larkspur reported that Dr. and Mrs. Paul Wilson of Kentfield have had a Canada Jay at their window for a week. The bird pecks at the glass.

Golden-crowned Sparrow, Sept. 24, Eight Cedar Waxwings, Oct. 1, Larkspur: Mrs. Courtright. Mrs. Courtright further reports that on almost every trip to Healdsburg she sees a White-tailed Kite on Stony Point Road, at Ignacio or south of Santa Rosa. Another Kite was seen over Larkspur on Oct. 15.

Hermit Thrush, Sept. 28, Alameda, Junea W. Kelly.

Three White-tailed Kites—Nov. 18—Castroville—Mr. Charles Bryant and J. Gordon Irving.

New Members

Miss I. MacIver announces these new members:

Mr. John A. Keating—3031 Balboa Street, San Francisco.

Mrs. Mary W. Hall—2606 Shasta Road, Berkeley.

Miss Phila Helt—2740 Russell Street, Berkeley.

Mr. Harold Peterson—Oakland.

Loren Cochran—San Francisco.

—Junior Member.

The Annual Bird Census

The annual bird census of the San Francisco area will be held on Sunday, December 23, 1945.

All members and visitors interested please contact Mr. H. Leffler, Olympic 0270, or Mr. Arthur Myer, Berkeley 3050.

Conservation of Wild Life

An interesting article appears in the October, 1945, "California Federation News" of the California Women's Clubs on the above subject. It was the first article sent to Mrs. Edwin S. Fuller, State Chairman of Nature Study and Wild Life, who had asked her district chairmen to present this subject from the various locations of the state. Mrs. Sidney Foy, representing the San Francisco District, sent an article which was written by our own member, Mr. C. A. Harwell. It describes the Tomales Bay Beaches Project acquired by Marin County this past summer, telling about the many birds to be found there, their various kinds of habitats, the unusual tree forms, and the rich sea-life awaiting further study.

December Meeting

The 339th meeting of the Audubon Association of the Pacific will take place on Thursday, December 13, at 7:30 P.M. in the Assembly Room of the San Francisco Library at Larkin and McAllister Streets, San Francisco.

The speaker is to be Lieutenant Charles G. Sibley, U. S. N. R., who has recently returned from the South Pacific. Mr. Sibley is a graduate student at the University of California and has done work in the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology. He has been interested in bird work for the past fifteen years and belongs to a number of bird clubs amongst them the Cooper Club.

Mr. Silbley's subject will be "Birds of the Manila Area" illustrated by means of slides and bird skins.



December Field Trip

This trip will be taken to Lake Merritt in Oakland on Sunday, December the 16th. Members and friends from San Francisco take the "B" train at the San Francisco Terminal at 9:22 A.M. Get off on Grand Avenue at Perkins Street and meet the rest of the party at the Duck Feeding Station about 10 A.M. East Bay members and friends transfer to cars No. 12 or No. 18 going out Grand Avenue.

We are to have the annual count of the water bird population on this trip.

Bring lunch and binoculars.

Audubon Association of the Pacific

Organized January 25, 1917

For the Study and the Protection of Birds

President.....	Mr. Arthur H. Myer.....	25 El Camino Real, Berkeley 5
Corresponding Secretary.....	Mr. Joseph J. Webb.....	519 California St., San Francisco 4
Treasurer.....	Miss Ivander MacIver.....	2414 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley 4
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Monthly meetings second Thursday, 7:30 p. m.

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