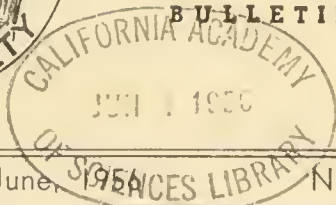


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APRIL TRIP TO McCOY RANCH

Phainopeplas being the "target" for the day, thirty-five members and guests of the society gathered at the McCoy Ranch, southeast of Livermore, on Sunday, April 29. An early morning fog, which lifted about 9 a.m., put a little zip in the air. The first thrill of the morning was an immature Golden Eagle which glided close to the hills to the West and came to rest in an oak tree. Its perch was partially obscured by foliage, but through the scopes the lower parts of the bird were visible. Vesper Sparrows were seen and identified by Sather and Smith. Lewis's Woodpeckers came into the area while the group was eating lunch. While talking to some of the members, our gracious hostess, Mrs. McCoy, stated that the society had scheduled annual field trips to her ranch for over 25 years. A search of the back issues of the Gull showed that the first field trip was made on May 26, 1929. On that date the Phainopepla was recorded also. That the members deeply appreciate the privilege of visiting the McCoy Ranch is attested by the fact that this trip has been repeated for so many years.

After luncheon all present continued about two miles toward Mt. Hamilton in search of the Phainopepla. A stop was made at the second bridge where quite a number were seen flying overhead and perching in trees on both sides of the road. Their crests, white wing patches, and glossy black coloring were plainly visible without the aid of field glasses. To those who have repeated this trip it appeared this species was present in greater numbers than on previous trips. The following 61 species were observed in the area: Turkey Vulture, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, Golden Eagle, Sparrow Hawk, California Quail, Killdeer, Mourning Dove, Anna's Hummingbird, Red-shafted Flicker, Acorn Woodpecker, Lewis's Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Nuttall's Woodpecker, Western Kingbird, Ash-throated Flycatcher, Black Phoebe, Say's Phoebe, Western Flycatcher, Violet-green Swallow, Rough-winged Swallow, Barn Swallow, Cliff Swallow, Scrub Jay, Yellow-billed Magpie, Am. Crow, Plain Titmouse, Common Bushtit, White-breasted Nuthatch, Wren-tit, House Wren, Bewick's Wren, California Thrasher, Am. Robin, Western Bluebird, Cedar Waxwing, Phainopepla, Loggerhead Shrike, Yellow Warbler, Pileolated Warbler, English Sparrow, Western Meadowlark, Red-winged Blackbird, Bullock's Oriole, Brewer's Blackbird, Brown-headed Cowbird, Black-headed Grosbeak, Purple Finch, House Finch, Pine Siskin, Am. Goldfinch, (Green-backed) Lesser Goldfinch, Spotted Towhee, Brown Towhee, Vesper Sparrow, Lark Sparrow, Oregon Junco, White-crowned Sparrow, Golden-crowned Sparrow, Lincoln's Sparrow, Song Sparrow.

— HAROLD G. PETERSON, *Leader and Historian.*

DAWN CHORUS TRIP TO REDWOOD REGIONAL PARK

Fully 21 exceptionally eager members and guests gathered in drizzly pre-dawn darkness at the entrance to Redwood Regional Park, east of Oakland, on May 5 and those who were not too late were serenaded by a Saw-whet Owl which called at intervals of a little less than a second, but with frequent interruptions, for about 20 minutes. The bird was perched somewhere well up on the north-facing slope of the canyon above the listeners and would not be coaxed down despite attempts at imitation of his notes. The first diurnal bird voice heard was that of a Western Flycatcher at 5:05 a.m. (Daylight Saving Time). After a slow start, due in part perhaps to the overcast, a number of species were in song by the time the listeners moved on up the road into the park, where 2 Horned Owls called until well after it was light enough to see them flying and perching on distant hillsides. One flew directly over the group. By about 5:45 a.m. all the diurnal birds seemed to be in full voice, and the listeners became watchers and spent much time along a particular thicket in which a persistently singing MacGillivray's Warbler covered a regular "beat." Eventually some good views of him were obtained, and it was discovered that he was still in the whitish-throated plumage of the first-winter but showed the white on both eyelids as in the adult. By 7:15 the watchers began to feel the need of sustenance, and most of them gathered at the picnic area near the entrance and prepared and/or ate breakfast while a wren, several warblers, vireos, etc., still sang in chorus. The following birds were recorded by voice in the early morning hours, the times (Daylight Saving) being the earliest at which that particular species was noted: Saw-whet Owl, 4:45 - 5:10; Western Flycatcher, 5:05; Song Sparrow, 5:07; House Wren, 5:08; Spotted Towhee, 5:09; Lazuli Bunting, 5:15; (Russet-backed) Swainson's Thrush, 5:18 (call); Orange-crowned Warbler, 5:25; MacGillivray's Warbler, 5:26; Mourning Dove, 5:27; Black-headed Grosbeak, 5:29; Swainson's Thrush, 5:33 (song); Horned Owl, 5:35 (probably called earlier, however); Bewick's Wren, 5:43; Wren-tit, 5:45; Warbling Vireo, 5:45; Pileolated Warbler and Olive-sided Flycatcher, by 5:48; Brown Towhee, by 5:50. Other species seen and heard later, bringing the total to 49, were: Turkey Vulture 2, Cooper's Hawk 1, Sparrow Hawk 1, California Quail 10, Band-tailed Pigeon 26, Anna's Hummingbird, Allen's Hummingbird, Red-shafted Flicker, Hairy Woodpecker 1, Downy Woodpecker 2, Ash-throated Flycatcher 2, W. Wood Pewee 3, Horned Lark and Violet-green Swallow (on hilltop at Skyline Blvd., Chas. Hines), Steller's Jay, Scrub Jay, Chestnut-backed Chickadee, Common Bushtit, California Thrasher 2, Am. Robin, Cedar Waxwing 3, Western Meadowlark (on hilltop), Bullock's Oriole 1, Brewer's Blackbird (on hilltop), Brown-headed Cowbird 3, Western Tanager 1, Purple Finch 3, House Finch 2, Am. Goldfinch 5, Oregon Junco.

—HOWARD L. COGSWELL, *Leader and Historian.*

BAY-SHORE SANCTUARY POSTED

On Sunday, May 6, 1956, another step forward was taken in setting aside a salt-marsh and tidal flat sanctuary on San Francisco Bay. I believe this is only the second such area along the Pacific Coast to be declared a sanctuary, the first being in Morro Bay State Park in San Luis bispo County. A group of volunteer workers from the Golden Gate Audubon Society and the Sierra Club posted signs on the East Bay portion of that part of the land leased from Ideal Cement Company, which lies south of Plummer Creek near the town of Newark. By calculations from planimeter measurements Howard Cogswell estimated that this section of the sanctuary contains about 235 acres of salt-marsh and 990 acres of mud flat and bay, only the former being practicable to post. The area leased from Leslie Salt Company, still to be posted, adjoins this one on the west and includes about 212 acres of saltmarsh and 163 of mud flat and bay, bringing the total acreage of the sanctuary area southeast of Dumbarton Bridge to about 1600.

The signs were placed approximately 700 feet apart around the perimeter of the saltmarsh area. Eight foot redwood two-by-four posts were used, the enamelled signs reading, "No Trespass! This is a Sanctuary — Wildlife Protected by Federal and State Law and by the Sierra Club and National and Bay Area Audubon Societies."

At the time of the early morning start, the weather looked somewhat inauspicious and no doubt discouraged a few workers, but more than 30 people took part in the project and the day was one of real accomplishment. Although the primary concern was not that of birding, a good many birds were observed, and nests of Marsh Hawk, Clapper Rail, Pintail, Avocet, and Savannah Sparrow were found. Perhaps the most significant fact noticed was that although it was not a particularly low tide, and it was late in the season for an abundance of waders, a fair representation both of species and of individuals was feeding on the exposed mud flats. On a point of land across the mouth of Mowry Slough a large number of Hair Seals was observed, apparently with young. Some of these mammals were in the water, and at one point in the salt-marsh of the sanctuary. When approached, they slithered down the mud slope to the water in a most amusing manner. The following 44 species of birds, totalling 750+ individuals, were recorded by Charles Hines, Jr.: Eared Grebe, 1, Pied-billed Grebe 1, White Pelican 36, Great Blue Heron 3, American Egret 2, Black-crowned Night Heron 2, Mallard 7, Pintail 6, Greater Scaup, 4, Buffle-head 1, Turkey Vulture 8, Red-tailed Hawk 1, Marsh Hawk 2, Peregrine Falcon 1 (sp. ?), Sparrow Hawk 1, Clapper Rail 7, Am. Coot 1, Killdeer 5, Black-bellied Plover 26, Long-billed Curlew 3, Hudsonian Curlew 1, Willet 7, Red-backed Sandpiper 3, Dowitcher 28, Western Sandpiper 200, Marbled Godwit 50, Am. Avocet 10, Northern Palarope 20, Glaucous-winged Gull 1, Gulls, (sp. ?) several, Forster's Tern 30, Caspian Tern 6, Barn Swallow 12, Cliff Swallow 150, Savannah Sparrow 10, Salt-marsh Song Sparrow 50; and in vicinity of Newark, Burrowing Owl 3, Anna's Hummingbird 1, English Sparrow, Western Meadowlark 10, Red-winged Blackbird 33, Brewer's Blackbird, Brown-headed Cowbird, House Finch 6.

The following people helped post the signs: Dr. Albert Boles, Mrs. George C. Browne, Mr. and Mrs. Howard L. Cogswell, Denis Cogswell, Alan Craig, Tom Elliot, Linda Gadbury, Charles Hines, Jr., Mrs. Junea Kelly, Phyllis Lindley, Natalie Mestechin, Tim Newcomb, Dr. Arthur Nelson, Harold G. Peterson, Dr. and Mrs. T. Eric Reynolds, Mr. and Mrs. L. P. Smith, Leland Stallcup, Richard Stallcup, Jean Terschuren, Mrs. Virginia Thompson, and Joselyn Tyler. In addition to these individual volunteers, there were two Boy Scouts troops represented. The following Explorers from Troop 54 were under the leadership of Dr. Boles: Bill Baker, Frank Higgins, John Fitzpatrick, Roger Porto, Steve Shaudet, and Pete Turner. The names of the Explorer Scouts sent by Mr. Randal Dickey, Jr., of the Sierra Club are unfortunately not at hand, but their very significant contribution is nevertheless greatly appreciated as is that of all the others who participated.

—T. ERIC REYNOLDS, *Conservation Chairman*.

NEW MEMBERS

The Golden Gate Audubon Society has the following new members: from Berkeley, Mrs. Phillip S. Breck and Miss Rose Hovsepian; from Mill Valley, Dr. I. D. Steinhart; from Oakland, Miss Vira A. Parker, Mr. Rich Rimbach, and Mr. Virgil A. Muhler; from Lafayette, Mrs. Betty Adamson; from San Francisco, Mrs. Charles H. Smith, Mr. Edward Owen, and Mr. and Mrs. Carl B. King; from Walnut Creek, Miss Norma L. Warner.

—JEAN L. DUNHAM, M.D., *Membership Chairman*.

OBSERVATIONS

On a boat trip to the Farallon Islands on Apr. 28: very few Sooty Shearwaters, but 2 Black-footed Albatrosses at exceedingly close range (one on board the boat, in fact, with a measured wingspread of 7 ft. 2 in.; it was released); about 30 Tufted Puffins, many Murres and Guillemots, 1 Peregrine Falcon at the Island (H. L. Cogswell). An Arctic Loon at Lake La Salle, Saint Mary's College, May 12-15, is a new record for that locality (A. S. Campbell).

AUDUBON CAMP

For a memorable two weeks of seeing nature where it is supremely magnificent in the summer, with instruction in the field by expert teacher-naturalists, send your reservation now for any 2-week period June 24 to Sep. 1 (except July 8-21 which is full) at the Audubon Camp of California, at Norden, near Donner Pass, 7000 feet in altitude in the Sierra Nevada. Write to National Audubon Society, 2426 Bancroft Way, Berkeley 4.

JUNE MEETING

The 465th regular meeting of the Golden Gate Audubon Society will be held at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, June 14, in the Assembly Room (3rd floor) of the Main Library in San Francisco (Larkin and McAllister Streets, no. 5 bus). "From Winter to Winter at Point Barrow, Alaska" is the title of the lecture which will be given by Mr. John Thomas Howell, Curator of the Department of Botany, California Academy of Sciences. Mr. Howell's talk will be illustrated by a collection of kodachrome pictures taken by Dr. and Mrs. G. Dallas Hanna from April to September, 1955. We are assured of a most entertaining and stimulating experience.

— LAUREL REYNOLDS, *Program Chairman*.

Before the meeting — a no-host dinner at 6 p.m. at the Rathskeller, an old German restaurant. Prices are moderate; 602 Turk St. at Polk, just 3 blocks from the library.

— BONNIE SMITH, *Social Chairman*.

JUNE FIELD TRIP

On Sunday, June 10, a joint trip with Sacramento birders to the fields and willow-bordered lowland watercourses of the **Sacramento Valley**. Blue Grosbeaks, Chats, Lazuli Buntings, Traill's Flycatchers and other delectables guaranteed, with Yellow-billed Cuckoo possible. Meet at 9:00 a.m. at the State Library Circle where Highway U.S. 40 meets the Capitol grounds in Sacramento. Allow 2¼ hours from San Francisco and Oakland. Bring lunch, binoculars, telescopes and interested friends. Leader, Bill Kirsher, 571 Fulton St., Sacramento. Phone IVanhoe 97247.

Unless pressure is brought to bear by members, there will be only one field trip per month until September, because of vacations, dearth of birds, etc.

— LEE STALLCUP, *Field Trips Chairman*.

GOLDEN GATE AUDUBON SOCIETY, INC.

Established January 25, 1917

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Claims for missing numbers of THE GULL should be sent to the Distribution Chairman. Changes of address should be sent to the Membership Chairman.

Monthly meetings second Thursday, 7:30 p.m. Joint Membership, Local and National, \$5.00 per year, includes AUDUBON MAGAZINE and THE GULL. Subscription to THE GULL separately, \$1.00 per year.

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