

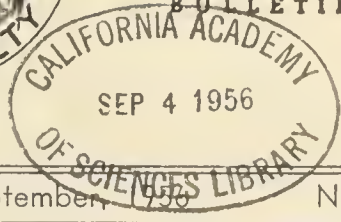
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BULLETIN



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### JULY TRIP TO WRIGHT'S LAKE

The Golden Gate and Mt. Diablo Audubon Societies independently scheduled trips to Wright's Lake on July 14 - 15, resulting in a joint trip to this area of the Sierra Nevada at 7000 feet elevation, west of Pyramid Peak in Eldorado County. The group of about 33 was about evenly divided between the two societies, with one representative from Sacramento. Harry Adamson acted as leader of the Mt. Diablo group. The road into Wright's Lake was much improved since last year, nearly all of the bumps having been eliminated. On Saturday morning we visited Dark Lake, then went up the slope to the southeast where at least 5 Evening Grosbeaks and 2 Townsend's Solitaires were seen and a Hermit Thrush was singing. In the afternoon we followed the rock ridge north up to Beauty Lake, then went west to a small pond where a Pine Grosbeak was found. We returned past Dark Lake and went up to the hilltop above the dump where we found another small lake. Two Red Crossbills were found near here. On Sunday morning we circled the north side of Wright's Lake, while a part of the group made the climb up to Twin Lakes. Few birds were noted here, but a fine display of wildflowers, including red heather (*Phyllodoce breweri*) and the large pink Mountain Pride (*Pentstemon newberryi*) which attracted a number of hummingbirds. Nests found over the week-end included those of Mountain Chickadee, Mountain Bluebird, and Oregon Junco, the last with four eggs. Mammals observed included a Marten (seen by Richard Stallcup and David McCarroll), Mule Deer, Yellow-bellied Marmot, Pikas, and Chipmunks (sp.?).

The following list of 40 species of birds observed includes those found along the road between U.S. Route 50 and the lake: Mallard, Spotted Sandpiper 1, California Gull 1, Common Nighthawk 1, Vaux's Swift 1, Rufous Hummingbird, Calliope Hummingbird, 1, Red-shafted Flicker, Williamson's Sapsucker, Hairy Woodpecker, Wright's Flycatcher (identified as this species rather than Hammond's by habitat), Western Wood Pewee, Olive-sided Flycatcher, Violet-green Swallow, Steller's Jay, Mountain Chickadee, White-breasted Nuthatch 2, Brown Creeper, Am. Robin, Hermit Thrush, Mountain Bluebird, Townsend's Solitaire 2, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Ruby-crowned Kinglet 2, Warbling Vireo, Audubon's Warbler, Hermit Warbler, Pileolated Warbler 1,

Brewer's Blackbird, Western Tanager, Evening Grosbeak 5, Cassin's Finch (many), Pine Grosbeak 2, Pine Siskin, Red Crossbill 3, Green-tailed Towhee, Oregon Junco, Chipping Sparrow, White-crowned Sparrow, Fox Sparrow. In addition, a flock of 50 Black Swifts reported by Richard Stallcup in the American River Canyon is noteworthy.

—A. LAURENCE CURL, *Leader and Historian*.

#### HOODED ORIOLES WITH YOUNG AT BURLINGAME

On July 6, 1956, in my back yard in Burlingame (about one mile from San Francisco Bay) I saw a Hooded Oriole perching in an apricot tree about 25 feet from my window. I couldn't believe what I saw, so grabbed my binoculars and ran outside. Not seeing the bird at once, I began a search of all the trees and presently saw a young bird about 15 feet up in a plum tree in the neighbor's yard, about 20 yards from where I stood. The bird was making quite a lot of noise and presently I saw a flash of color and the male Hooded Oriole perched on the tip of a branch with something in his bill. He then flew down to the small bird and fed it. Soon the female arrived with food and fed the "baby", which was actually almost as large as the adult female. It would cry loudly for food and when fed appeared to doze and settle down; but as soon as a meal arrived, the crying would start again. This noise was what first attracted me to that particular tree.

With unobstructed views of these birds through binoculars the identification was easy to make, the male especially turning and peering at me and affording good views of all aspects of his plumage. My mother, Mrs. Bessie Wesenberg, also watched the birds and agreed with my identification. I observed this family of birds for about 40 minutes; and, for about an hour afterward, every time I checked they were still in the tree feeding the young one. The male was certainly a handsome bird with his brilliant colors.

Later, on July 14, I saw the male fly out of the apricot tree and about a minute later the female took a bath in my birdbath, an event I observed from my window 20 feet away. Needless to say, the experience of seeing so well a bird unusual in the area was very worthwhile for somewhat of a novice bird-watcher.

—FRANCES WESENBERG, *Member, GGAS*.

#### OBSERVATIONS

Near Bolinas Lagoon, GREAT BLUE HERONS and AM. EGRETS still had some large young in or near nests on July 22, and a few of these were still on hand on Aug. 13 (Mrs. Grace Miller, H. L. Cogswell). On the former date the Am. Egret colony on Little Marin Island, which was raided by vandals last year, held at least 150 white birds, visible through binoculars from the Marin shore some 2/3 mile away (HLC). CLAPPER RAIL, 2 adults and at least 3 black, downy young in salt marshes N. of Pt. Isabel, Richmond, on July 22 (A.L.Curl).

FALL MIGRANT SHOREBIRDS normally reappear in numbers on our tide flats by mid-July, and a few often by early July (or some even stay as non-breeding stragglers through the June-July period). However, some of the numbers reported by the following observers seem to be unusually high for so early: Willet, 50 at Bay Farm Island, June 24, and 300 there on July 6 (Mrs. Junea W. Kelly); Curlew (sp.?), 30 to 40 near San Quentin Point, and numbers of shorebirds including some Willets nearby, on July 2 (GM); 2 Long-billed Curlews and about 10 Dowitchers on the Bay shore N. of San Francisco Airport on July 7, and about 25 Long-billed Curlews, a few Hudsonian Curlews, over 30 Black-bellied Plovers, 15 Marbled Godwits, and many Willets and a few "peeps" there on July 21 (Arthur Bennett). At Bay Farm Island Mrs. Kelly found that Western Sandpipers had reached 4000 by July 19, and there were about 200 Black-bellied Plovers there then, many still in breeding plumage.

HEERMANN'S GULL, 7 adults near Richmond—San Rafael Ferry run on July 7, one with the large white patches on the upper surface of the wing just beyond the bend

(primary coverts) that have been previously reported elsewhere (Wm. Pursell) [For a full account of the history of this color aberration, which has existed for over a hundred years, see Hubbs and Bartholomew, *Condor*, 53, 1951:221-227 — Ed.]. On Aug. 5 apparently the same bird was still there, and about 30 other Heermann's Gulls were also seen (HLC). A real rarity, a HORNED PUFFIN, probably immature, was found dead on San Francisco's Ocean Beach on Aug. 3 (Mrs. Betsey D. Cutler). It will become a skeleton specimen in the California Academy of Sciences. [All records of this species in California are of birds either dead or dying — Ed.].

MOCKINGBIRD, at one non-breeding locale in El Cerrito one returned on July 2, the earliest "fall" date there yet, prior ones being July 31, Aug. 21, and Oct. 7 in 1955, '54, and '53, respectively; HERMIT THRUSH, at least 3 singing in Redwood Regional Park on July 4 (ALC). WESTERN Tanager, 2 males and a female in Sausalito, Aug. 2-4 (Walter Lennon).

#### SCREEN TOUR TICKETS STILL AVAILABLE

Although sales of tickets for the Screen Tour series to be given at the Berkeley Little Theater by our Society this fall are progressing nicely, there is still time for you to send in your reservation, with check for \$3.50 for each season ticket for the five lectures. The first speaker, Ernest P. Edwards, is the expert on Mexican birds who operated the automobile tours in southern Mexico about which we heard at the July meeting. Don't miss his "Land of the Scarlet Macaw", on October 10. Tickets will be mailed in September. See the August "Gull" for details.

#### NEW MEMBERS

We welcome the following new members to our Society: Mr. William M. Pursell, Berkeley; Mr. William R. Rowland, El Cerrito; Miss Jeanne Quintal, San Francisco. The membership count is now 861.

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

#### NATIONAL AUDUBON CONVENTION

The 52nd Annual Convention of the National Audubon Society and its branch and affiliated societies will take place November 10-13, 1956, in New York City, with Audubon House, 1130 Fifth Avenue, as headquarters. Details of the program will be sent to all branch members and to affiliated societies as soon as it is known and printed, by about the middle of October. The Annual Dinner will take place on Tuesday evening, November 13, and will be the concluding event. The Golden Gate Audubon Society will again be represented by a delegate at this most worthwhile gathering of Audubon members and workers from all over the country. Every individual member is urged to attend also, if he can. It will be a memorable experience, and there will no doubt be some worthwhile field trips included.

#### FALL BOAT TRIP REGISTRATION

For Sunday, October 14, the 65-foot "Rowland R Sr." sport fishing boat has been reserved for a trip to the Farallon Islands and vicinity for the study of pelagic birds. Departure will be from Berkeley Yacht Harbor at 5:45 a.m., and passengers from San Francisco and Marin County can be picked up at Fisherman's Wharf in San Francisco at 6:30. Although the weather is obviously a fickle force, the sea is generally smoother at this season than at any other time. Twenty-eight passengers are the maximum load, so those wishing to go should send the \$7.00 fare (checks payable to Golden Gate Audubon Society), and their name, address, and phone number, as soon as possible to the undersigned. Complete instructions will be mailed to those making reservations. First come, first served. Leader, (tentative), Alan Craig.

—LEE STALLCUP, *Field Trips Chairman*,  
6227 Buena Ventura St., Oakland 5.

## FIELD TRIPS FOR SEPTEMBER

On Saturday, Sep. 15, to GRASS VALLEY REGIONAL PARK and adjacent canyons and reservoirs. Meet at 9:00 a.m. at the corner of Mountain Boulevard and Redwood Road in Oakland, which point can be reached via Key System Bus line 15, 15A, or 15D. From San Francisco take the N line and transfer at 35th Ave. and MacArthur Blvd. Transportation to park entrance by private cars. Migrant warblers and vireos and perhaps early arrivals among the sparrows are to be expected on this date. Leader, Lee Stallcup, LO 9-3185.

On Sunday, Sep. 30, our annual fall trip to BAY FARM ISLAND AND ALAMEDA at the period of peak numbers of shorebirds (we hope). This area is rapidly being destroyed as shorebird habitat by progressive "developments" and in a few years factories, freeways, and residences will replace the natural scene. See it before it vanishes. Since the tide schedule is such that the best time for observation will be in the middle of the day, meet at 9:45 a.m. *Standard* time at High Street and Santa Clara Ave. in Alameda (Key System line 51 from Oakland or Berkeley, line D from San Francisco). Bring binoculars, telescope, bird books, interested friends, and lunch if you wish to stay through the the period of maximum movement of birds. Leader, Mrs. Junea W. Kelly, LA 2-7084.

— LEE STALLCUP, *Field Trips Chairman*.

## SEPTEMBER MEETING

The 468th regular meeting of the Golden Gate Audubon Society will be held at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, September 13, at the Rotary Natural Science Center in Lakeside Park by the bird-feeding area at Lake Merritt, Oakland. From San Francisco, take Key System line B to Grand Ave. at Perkins St. and walk one block down Perkins to the Center. Miss J. Mary Taylor, graduate student of the Zoology Department, University of California, will lecture on "Wildlife in Australia" and will illustrate her talk with Kodachrome slides. Mr. Frank Scott will give a brief discussion of the National Audubon Christmas Counts. Mr. David Stearns will be in charge of the program.

— LAUREL REYNOLDS, *Program Chairman*.

Dinner is available, cafeteria style, at 6 p.m. at "The Duchess" restaurant just across the bird-feeding area from the Natural Science Center in the park.

— BONNIE SMITH, *Social Chairman*.

## GOLDEN GATE AUDUBON SOCIETY, INC.

Established January 25, 1917

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Membership Chairman.....	Dr. Jean L. Dunham.....	4607 Harbord Drive, Oakland 18,	OL 5-1591

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.

Branch of NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY, California Office — 2426 Bancroft Way  
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