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THE
MONTHLY



Volume 42 Berkeley, California August 1960 Number 8

SEPTEMBER MEETING AND GARDEN PARTY

The 500th regular meeting of the Golden Gate Audubon Society will be held on Thursday, September 8, at 6:00 p.m. in the garden of Dr. and Mrs. T. Eric Reynolds, 140 Estates Drive, Piedmont. Take the #18 bus to Leimert and Park Blvd. and walk one block north to Estates Drive.

This is the annual Audubon Camp scholarship garden party. A committee is arranging for a catered dinner, with music accompaniment by Mr. Capelli. Cost, including contribution to the scholarship fund, is \$3.50 a person. Reservations are limited to 150 and must be in by September 1. There will be no notice in the September Gull, so be sure to send in reservations for members and friends immediately. A clip-out reservation form is on page 56 of this issue.

Members not attending the dinner but wishing to contribute to the camp scholarship fund may so state on the reservation form.

As for the program, here at last is your opportunity to see the latest and finest color motion picture by Laurel Reynolds, the superlative "An Island In Time," filmed on Point Reyes.

The schedule for the evening is:

- 6:00 -- Gathering
- 6:30 -- Dinner
- 7:30 -- Business meeting
- 8:00 -- Audubon Camp impressions: Scholarship recipients
- 8:15 -- "AN ISLAND IN TIME," Laurel Reynolds

Come. Enjoy the fine dinner and programs with your friends. And remember the cause, THE AUDUBON CAMP SCHOLARSHIP FUND.
LOUISE MUHLER, Garden Party Chairman

OBSERVATIONS ON EUROPEAN CONSERVATION TRENDS

I was invited by a naive assistant editor to "write a few European notes for the next issue...." Guess the lady didn't realize what this could lead to. (She guessed very well that this would lead to an interesting article. Ass't. Ed.) But I'll play fair and hold a close rein on myself. It is easy to go overboard with first impressions, but I realize that many Bay Area Audubonites know Europe much better than I. For instance, I wouldn't dare show my meager bird list to Mrs. K----.

My own European impressions are a blend of pleasant surprises -- such as discovering other bird watchers or common birds in familiar situations -- and of bitter disappointments at being just a few miles or hours away from some famous bird resort and without time on a tight schedule to visit it. So my wife and I gave up places like the Camargue, Delacour's chateau-aviaries, and the island of Texel off Land's End in Holland. But we'll remember fondly the Blue Tit that sat on our friend's

hand in Hamburg park, while the Bullfinch, Greenfinch, and Song Thrush fed nearby. We'll remember the Yellow-bellied Blackbird (a thrush) that serenaded us from Germany to Holland to France, and again across the British Isles to Ireland. We'll remember, too, the soft-voiced Alpine Choughs we lured with nuts and snapped on a high ridge above Lake Geneva, and the little European Robin we met first among the tulips of Keukenhof and again in the rockery at Kew Gardens.

Peter Scott's Wildfowl Trust on the Severn River in Gloucestershire deserves an entire report by itself, at least from the viewpoint of this waterfowl admirer. It is an institution known to ornithologists the world over and to nature lovers across the British Isles, thanks to press and periodical stories and radio and TV programs. Here is found the largest single population of the once-vanishing Hawaiian Nene geese, which share the charming meadows, ponds, and woodsy pens with some 160 other species and races of the world's waterfowl. School buses bring teachers and classes from distant towns and cities to study this controlled breeding sanctuary. There is even a tempting gift shoppe--but no restaurant as yet. But if you would find the Wildfowl Trust at Slimbridge, don't depend on tourist guides or maps. Like many other Old World folk, the British assume that we know the way to such important places. Better get your directions before leaving the Bay Area (from me, if you like), or call the British Museum if you are in London.

As a conservationist, I can give certain impressions and conclusions derived from several weeks in Western Europe and the British Isles with some certainty and conviction. Like many Americans, even from the once wide-open West, my wife and I were amazed at the proportion of farmlands, pastures, and woodlots in relation to the area of towns, cities, highways, and industry, and to the separation and scenic purity of all this green space. Extreme scarcity of billboards and other advertising in the countryside and the incredible cleanliness of roadsides, lay-ups (roadside rests), and public parks gave us new courage for the old litter fight back home. Without all our organizations and slogans, most of the Europeans seem to live by outdoor good manners, to love and proclaim each scenic feature or historic site, no matter how humble. Visiting these people and knowing them should make us better Americans.

PAUL F. COVEL, Conservation Chairman

JUNE TRIP TO NORTHERN SIERRA NEVADA

About 30 members and friends took part in the June 11 and 12 trip to the David Snyder cabin at Clark Station in Yuba Pass.

The first day we spent in the higher elevations around Yuba Pass. By the Snyder cabin we saw a Pileated Woodpecker, one of the two highlights of the trip. We also had excellent views of Calliope Hummingbirds, MacGillivray's Warblers, and Green-tailed Towhees. In the meadow at the top of the summit Beth Snyder had a pair of nesting Black-backed Three-toed Woodpeckers, which were the other highlight of the trip. We saw both of the birds at the nesting hole from very close range. West of the cabin some of us visited a pair of Dippers that were feeding young.

On Saturday night we met at the Snyder cabin, where Roberta Long showed beautiful colored slides of her recent trip to Australia and talked to us about far-away sheep stations and about koala bears and bowerbirds. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed the evening--and found it quite a change, and a stimulating one, from a day spent with the flora

and fauna of California's Sierra Nevada.

On the second day we went into the Sierra Valley. In the sage we had clear views of Sage Thrashers and Brewer's and Vesper Sparrows. Near Beckworth we were the guests of Mr. R. Scolari on the Scolari Ranch; and here we drove out to a large grassy lake where we saw Blue-winged, Cinnamon, and Green-winged Teal sitting side by side, thus making comparison among the three species of teal that occur regularly in the area very easy. Other birds of interest here were an immature Golden Eagle, Black Terns, and Wilson's Phalaropes. While we were driving through the area we saw Common Nighthawks and a Swainson's Hawk. In the afternoon a number of us went into the hills south of Sierraville, where we saw a Gray Flycatcher.

The following 107 species were seen during the two days: Eared and Pied-billed Grebe; Canada Goose; Mallard; Gadwall; Pintail; Green-winged, Blue-winged, and Cinnamon Teal; American Widgeon; Shoveler; Redhead; Ruddy Duck; Turkey Vulture; Red-tailed and Swainson's Hawk; Golden Eagle; Marsh and Sparrow Hawk; Mountain Quail; American Coot; Killdeer; Common Snipe; Spotted Sandpiper; Willet; American Avocet; Black-necked Stilt; Wilson's Phalarope; California Gull; Black Tern; Mourning Dove; Great-horned and Burrowing Owl; Common Nighthawk; Vaux's Swift; Calliope Hummingbird; Belted Kingfisher; Red-shafted Flicker; Pileated Woodpecker; Yellow-bellied and Williamson's Sapsucker; Hairy, Downy, White-headed, and Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker; Western Kingbird; Traill's, Hammond's, and Gray Flycatcher; Western Wood Pewee; Olive-sided Flycatcher; Horned Lark; Tree, Barn, and Cliff Swallow; Steller's and Scrub Jay; Black-billed Magpie; Common Crow; Mountain Chickadee; Red-breasted and White-breasted Nuthatch; Brown Creeper; Dipper; House and Cañon Wren; Sage Thrasher; Robin; Hermit Thrush; Mountain Bluebird; Townsend's Solitaire; Golden-crowned and Ruby-crowned Kinglet; Water Pipit; Starling; Warbling Vireo; Nashville, Yellow, Audubon's, MacGillivray's, and Wilson's Warbler; House Sparrow; Western Meadowlark; Yellow-headed, Red-winged, and Tri-colored Blackbird; Bullock's Oriole; Brewer's Blackbird; Brown-headed Cowbird; Western Tanager; Black-headed and Evening Grosbeak; Cassin's and House Finch; Pine Siskin; Lesser Goldfinch; Green-tailed and Rufous-sided Towhee; Savannah, Vesper, and Sage Sparrow; Oregon Junco; Chip-ping, Brewer's, White-crowned, Fox, Lincoln's, and Song Sparrow.

In addition to seeing all these birds, we saw the nests of Gadwall, of White-headed and Black-backed Three-toed Woodpeckers, of Mountain Chickadees, of the Red-breasted Nuthatch, Dipper, Robin, Traill's Flycatcher, Brewer's Blackbird, Green-tailed Towhee, and the Savannah Sparrow.

R. GUY McCASKIE, Co-leader and Historian
HAROLD G. PETERSON, Co-leader
BETH C. SNYDER, Co-leader

SANCTUARY MANAGEMENT

In sanctuary management the first need is to mark the boundaries and post warning signs against trespass at conspicuous places. Shore-line boundaries with occasional posting signs are usually obvious, but, to deter trespassing across inland boundaries, fencing is a requisite, with signs hung from the top fence wire or attached to certain fence posts.

Adequate patrol is required during some seasons, such as the hunting season if there are game birds to be protected or during the

breeding period if there are nesting colonies in the sanctuary. The choice of a good warden, one who can give effective protection to wild life, and at the same time maintain good public relations, goes a long way toward making a sanctuary a success.

Sanctuary management also includes the maintenance and restoration, when needed, of suitable vegetation for its various wildlife uses, such as nesting, roosting, escape cover, food, and protection from the elements and predators.

To a well-managed and productive sanctuary one should also add such important practices as maintenance of balanced relationships among the various wildlife species present, and between species and their food supply. A final added requirement is adequate fire protection.

DR. ALBERT BOLES, Memorial Fund Chairman

JUNE BIRDING-BY-EAR TRIP TO MT. DIABLO

For an early start next morning, most of us threw sleeping bags in the car and arrived at Mt. Diablo on the evening of June 4. Because of the high interest in the sparrows of the chaparral, an impromptu gathering formed on the road below the South Gate after 7 p. m. Rufous-crowned Sparrows, Lark Sparrows, and Sage Sparrows, with Lazuli Buntings for comparison, sang steadily, giving us a chance to learn their songs, and even to pick out interesting individual variations of songs of each species. We also heard songs from Rufous-sided Towhees, Wrentits, California Thrashers, and House Finches. From the canyon far below, the songs of Western Wood Pewee, Black-headed Grosbeak, and Brown Towhee drifted up, while Violet-green Swallows and Cliff Swallows added their songs to our list from the air. And then as dusk closed in, a distant Poor-will called. Close to 20 Turkey Vultures resumed their roost in the nearby trees below the first bend, and we were about to go to bed when we heard the slow, sweet opening notes of the Black-chinned Sparrow coming soft but clear from the canyon slopes, and ending in the characteristic trill. Just a few more times and he, too, stopped for the night.

The next morning's meeting found us enveloped in light fog, with a breeze blowing, but it did not bother us. The same birds were singing as the night before. The Black-chinned Sparrows sounded even closer, although we were unable to glimpse them. Rufous-crowned Sparrows were especially bold, giving us good views; but the Sage Sparrows, although often singing from bush tops, were elusive. Lesser Goldfinches, Bewick's Wrens, Orange-crowned Warblers, and Anna's Hummers also sang from the black sage-chamise association below.

We left the chaparral and began our way through the other habitats of this varied mountain. A stop at Rock Gibraltar gave us good views and clear call notes of White-throated Swifts, Ash-throated Flycatchers, and again the Violet-green Swallow, while from the densely wooded canyon below came an odd two-parted song of the Oregon Junco and the rough rattle of the Nuttall's Woodpecker, as well as the songs of the Black-headed Grosbeak and the Western Flycatcher.

In the Live-Oak woodland of Rock City and beyond, we found Plain Titmice, Acorn Woodpeckers, White-breasted Nuthatches, and Western Bluebirds. With the sun warming us, we climbed to Blue Oak Camp, where we sought out a Lazuli Bunting whose song closely resembled that of a warbler at a distance, again bringing to our attention individual song variations.

Along the road and on the grassland slopes below Juniper Camp,

we found singing Horned Larks and familiarized ourselves with their song. Then, up to Devil's Elbow, where the rocky North Peak Trail begins. From there, surprisingly, we heard our first Warbling Vireo of the day, soon joined by the musical trills of the Rock Wren. Bird song was dwindling, and the sun was now quite warm, so we disbanded to go our separate ways. Just seven of us, but we had a very good time and a real chance to study and learn to recognize birds by ear.

ELEANOR A. PUGH, Leader and Historian

WILDFLOWER SANCTUARIES

From The Phainopepla in San Bernardino we learn of a new and encouraging aspect in conservation, that of the establishment of three wildflower sanctuaries in Antelope Valley, Los Angeles County. Dedication of the first, a 320-acre tract, as Butte Valley Wildflower Sanctuary, took place on April 30. Combined efforts of California Garden Clubs, Inc., whose resolution gave impetus to the project, the Southern California Chapter of Nature Conservancy, the County Board of Supervisors, and the Department of Parks and Recreation, made possible the creation of these preserves. Varying in soil and in environmental characteristics, each will offer distinctive flora for recreational and scientific enjoyment as field laboratories, living museums, and natural gardens. Theodore Payne, a California expert on native plants, calls them, "A dream come true... important for their scientific, historic, and esthetic values." These sanctuaries are also evidence of an increasing awareness on the part of the people in preserving our natural heritage.

JUNE TRIP TO BOTANICAL GARDENS AND STRAWBERRY CANYON

A low overcast sky greeted the 12 members and guests who came out on June 25 for the walk through the Botanical Gardens and Strawberry Canyon. We heard many bird songs and calls along the paths, and they provided some interesting problems in identification. Swainson's Thrush sang from the heavy brush along the canyon floor. Western Wood Pewee, Olive-sided Flycatcher, and Black-headed Grosbeak called from the tops of trees. A good number of Purple Finch, House Finch, and American and Lesser Goldfinch were also seen in this area. We saw two Great Horned Owls in the Eucalyptus grove north of the gardens.

The following 33 species were noted: Red-tailed Hawk; California Quail; Band-tailed Pigeon; Mourning Dove; Great Horned Owl; Anna's and Allen's Hummingbird; Red-shafted Flicker; Downy Woodpecker; Western Wood Pewee; Olive-sided Flycatcher; Steller's and Scrub Jay; Chestnut-backed Chickadee; Common Bushtit; Wrentit; Robin; Swainson's Thrush; Hutton's and Warbling Vireo; Wilson's Warbler; Brown-headed Cowbird; Black-headed Grosbeak; Purple and House Finch; Pine Siskin; American and Lesser Goldfinch; Rufous-sided and Brown Towhee; Oregon Junco; Fox and Song Sparrow.

HAROLD G. PETERSON, Leader and Historian

NEW MEMBERS

We welcome the following members to the Golden Gate Audubon Society: from Alameda, Mrs. Pauline McIntosh; from Berkeley, Mr. and Mrs. James Cason, Mrs. Marcia H. Long, Mr. and Mrs. L. A. MacKay, Dr. Hajime Uyeyama; from El Cerrito, Miss Maud Greenwood; from Orinda, Mr. John E. Satterthwaite; from San Francisco, Mrs. Alan J. Antos, Miss Grace Haw, Mrs. Hugh McDonald, and Mr.

and Mrs. J. S. Strauss.

AGNES OCZKEWECZ, Membership Chairman

VACATION BIRDING: Vacationers may be interested to know that information on Audubon societies in other parts of California and in other states is available at our Berkeley office, 2426 Bancroft Way. Bulletins and news notes from Arizona, Oregon, Utah, etc. may help you meet fellow-birders when you are away from home.

SUMMER NOTE: Water in a bird bath is more important to songbirds in summer than hand-outs of feed, according to the National Audubon Society. Food is usually plentiful in summer, but water is likely to be in short supply, or too far away from birds busy feeding young in the nest.

FIELD TRIPS FOR AUGUST

On Sunday, August 14, to Rodeo Lagoon in Marin County. The fall migration of water birds offers views of many exciting species. This particular area with its brackish lagoons separated from the ocean by a sand bar is a haven for many migrating birds. For those who like to hike, the 2-1/2 miles from the entrance to Fort Barry and Fort Cronkite to the ocean may produce such species as the Allen's and Anna's Hummingbird, several species of swallow, hawk, towhee, sparrow, and warbler. Meet at the parking area just north of the Golden Gate Bridge at 9:00 a.m. Leader: Jerry Phillips, HE 1-2936.

On Saturday and Sunday, August 27 and 28, to Moss Landing and Monterey overnight. On Saturday, take U.S. South to the Monterey Peninsula cutoff (route 156) 9 miles north of Salinas. Turn west to Castroville, then north (right) on Route 1 for 3 miles. Meet at 9:00 a.m. near the bridge over Elkhorn Slough. Distance from Bay area, 110 miles. Driving time 3 hours. This spot offers beach, ocean, lagoon, pond, marsh, and open grassland habitat in one package. At this time the migration of loon, grebe, albatross, fulmar, shearwater, and petrel takes place. Last year Elegant Tern appeared in considerable number, accompanied by Pomarine and Parasitic Jaegers.

After lunch to the pier at Monterey. Meet at 2:00 p.m. at the Fisherman's Wharf Municipal Parking Lot. A tour will be made of the wharves, where may be seen kittiwake, oyster catcher, petrel, and turnstone. A side trip will be made at the close of the day to the mouth of the Carmel River for Baird and, possibly, Pectoral Sandpiper.

On Sunday, at 9:00 a.m., depart from Sam's Wharf on the party boat, "Red Rooster," for a trip off the Monterey coast. Allow one-half hour for parking car at the Municipal Parking Lot, travel to Sam's Wharf, and boarding boat. Return will be at 2:00 p.m. Be sure to wear warm clothing and bring lunch and sea-sick pills. This trip will be at the time of heavy migration of ocean birds that travel on a route fairly close to the Monterey area. Fare, \$4.50 a person. It should be sent to the field trips chairman, Harold G. Peterson, 3548 65th Avenue, Oakland 5. Make check payable to the Golden Gate Audubon Society. Names will be placed on the passenger list in the order received. Space is limited. Leader: Richard Stallcup, LO 9-3185.

HAROLD G. PETERSON, Field Trips Chairman

NOTE: Again this month it is necessary to set an early deadline. All material for the September Gull should be sent to the Assistant Editor by August 10.

CLIP-OUT RESERVATION FORM

AUDUBON CAMP SCHOLARSHIP GARDEN PARTY

September 8, 1960, 6:00 p. m. 140 Estates Drive, Piedmont

Please reserve _____ places at \$3.50 each

Contribution to fund only _____

Check for _____ enclosed

Your name _____

Address _____

Reservations should be received by September 1.

No tickets will be mailed.

.....
Cut off. Send to: Mrs. Virgil Muhler, 5774 Scarborough Drive,
Oakland 11, California.

Make check payable to "Golden Gate Audubon Society."



DFG FIELD PERSONNEL TO WEAR UNIFORMS

The Department of Fish and Game reports that starting October 1, its field personnel will wear a uniform while working in the field.

The uniform will be distinct from that of Fish and Game wardens. The summer field uniform will be suntans, with optional headgear and optional black tie. The winter uniform will be forest green wool, with cruiser-type jacket.

Department personnel who are deputy wardens will wear shield-type badges. The regular warden's badge is a star.

The uniform will have a "Fish and Game Department" shoulder patch on the left sleeve of shirt and jacket. Below the shoulder patch will be a functional bar, designating the type of work the person does, and carrying the wording, "Game Management," "Inland Fisheries," "Marine Resources," "Water Projects," etc.

Fatigue uniforms may be worn while doing rough or dirty work. The shirt will be the same as the field uniform but the trousers will be blue denim. Or, if the employee chooses, gray-green coveralls may be worn. The shoulder patch and bar will be worn on the left sleeve.

FIELD OBSERVATION: On May 3 an adult California Condor was seen flying over Highway 99 about four miles up the Grapevine from LeBec.

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Monthly meetings second Thursday, 7:30 p.m. Joint Membership, Local and National, \$6.50 per year, includes AUDUBON MAGAZINE and THE GULL. Subscription to THE GULL separately, \$1.50 per year.

Visit the Pacific Coast Office of the NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY—2426 Bancroft Way
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