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THE  
MONTHLY



GULL  
BULLETIN

Volume 43

Berkeley, California

May, 1961

Number 5

FIELD TRIP ACTIVITIES — FEBRUARY & MARCH

*Trip to Fleishacker Zoo and Lake Merced* — On February 25, 25 members and friends were greeted at the entrance to the zoo by Allen's and Anna's Hummingbirds and several Audubon Warblers. There was, also, a display of resident and winter visiting gulls.

Adding something to the trip, a probable escapee from a zoo pen was found hiding in the thick underbrush. After a great deal of research, Larry Curl believes it was the Violet-crested Toraco, a relative of the Cuckoo from South Africa.

The trip around Lake Merced brought unusual results. Scoters and Western Grebe, usually there at this time of the year, were not to be found. However, at the first stop just off Sunset Boulevard, 5 Green Herons were seen flying at one time. They seemed very restless and put on a good display flying back and forth across the lake. Two Horned Grebe were seen.—*Harold G. Peterson, Leader and Historian.*

*Trip to Thornton and Areas West of Lodi* — On the weekend of February 18 and 19, two separate trips were made to this area in San Joaquin County, with 45 birders taking part during the two days. Several hundred Sandhill Cranes were seen on Woodbridge Road bordering the Richie Ranch. Part of the farm had been flooded and here were found about 1,000 Whistling Swans, 4,000 White-fronted Geese, 400 Snow Geese, and hundreds of Pintail Ducks. In a flooded area near Terminus, Highway 12, another 1,000 Whistling Swan were seen with a large number of White-fronted and Snow Geese and Pintail Ducks. A side trip to Courtland netted 8 Long-eared Owls perched in a conifer on the banks of the Sacramento River. Saturday was cool with a brisk wind but Sunday was much warmer. The total of species counted by the Saturday group was 60. The Sunday group counted 50 making a total of 68 species for the two days. — *Harold G. Peterson, Leader and Historian Saturday; Phil Smith, Leader and Historian, Sunday.*

*Trip to Tilden Park* — On March 18, about 20 members and guests took advantage of a fine, clear, spring day to survey the birds in this nature area which includes Jewel Lake and Laurel Canyon. Because of recent rains the combination of moisture and sunshine had brought out flower displays, notably, the vivid red calandrinias, trillium, elderberry, and poppies. Several species of finches and a Downy Woodpecker were busily eating willow catkins. In all, 46 species of birds were identified. — *L. R. Leinbach, Leader-Historian*

*Trip to San Andreas and Crystal Springs Reservoirs, San Mateo Co.* — On March 12, a perfect spring day, more than 50 members and friends went on the trip. The city water department lent us keys so we were able to walk along the pleasant paths in the watershed terrain. Many wild flowers were in bloom with a profusion of hound's tongue and Indian warrior. We were fortunate in having Paul Covell and Richard Leinbaek to take charge of the botany department while Larry Curl, Carlyle Sather, and Phil Smith led the birding part of the trip. 55 species of birds were seen. — *Agnes Oczkewecz, Historian*

EDITOR'S NOTE: For complete lists of bird species seen on field trips, send your name and address to THE GULL, 1512 Grand Avenue, Piedmont 11, and you will be put on the mailing list.

### COVELL'S CONSATORIAL

Four exciting, stimulating days with the National Audubon Pacific Coast Convention at Asilomar and a more recent session with the Wilderness Conference in San Francisco should have left us riding high with confidence in the eventual triumph of our major conservation goals. We heard many wise and prophetic words from such dedicated leaders as Olaus Murie, Roger Tory Peterson, Carl W. Buchheister; and Justice William O. Douglas, David Brower, and Secretary Stewart L. Udall joined the solemn chorus in demanding action on the Wilderness Bill, Point Reyes, Cape Cod and other vanishing wildlife areas. We heard the eager voices of young conservationists from Alaska, our last frontier. Our new administration promises the greatest park acquisition program in decades. — Then we came home and read the papers!

A handful of ranchers with legal counsel have caused the congressional committee to put off the Point Reyes hearing "for further study" in spite of the demands of millions of citizens for quick action. — These farmers have been promised the right of continued occupancy providing they do not sell out later to promoters. — And there are further reports of other painful procrastinations in vital conservation matters. Can it be that too many of us have not made ourselves heard — by letter or telegram — where our legislators meet? Are too many of us suffering from armchair inertia? Please, stand up and be counted — not once but constantly. Get behind those leaders who are trying to save some bits of wild America.

PAUL COVELL, Conservation Chairman

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### ANNUAL MEETING DINNER RESERVATION

Claremont Hotel, Horizon Room, Berkeley — June 8, — Speaker, Dr. Joel F. Gustafson, Associate Director California Academy of Sciences.

Name ..... Address .....

No. of persons ..... Send to: Lee Stallecup, 6227 Buena Ventura, Oakland.

## FIELD TRIPS FOR MAY

On Saturday, May 6, to Bodega Bay and the lower part of the Russian River. Habitat there is open fields, streamside, forest, ocean and ocean cliffs. Nesting Ospreys, White-tailed Kite, Tufted Puffin, and Falcons are likely to be seen. Meet in town of Valley Ford, 9 a.m., on State Route No. 1. Bring binoculars, telescopes, lunch, friends. — Leader, Gordon L. Boiander, LI 2-5216.

On Sunday, May 7, to Jack London Ranch, Glen Ellen, Sonoma Co. This is the home of Mrs. Marianne Shepard. Here there are wooded slopes covered with oaks, shrubs and conifers, an ideal habitat for birds. At this season, the rolling meadows will be covered with wildflowers. Meet at 9 a.m., at Glen Ellen post office. It is about one mile from Highway 12, seven miles from Sonoma and 15 miles from Santa Rosa. Bring lunch, binoculars, telescopes and friends. — *Leaders, Marianne and Susan Shepard, Box 141, Glen Ellen.*

On Tuesday, May 16, to Golden Gate Park Fuchsia Gardens. These gardens are a lovely setting in which to enjoy birds and flowers. Spring plumage and song will be at its best. Nesting warblers and many hummingbirds will be present. Meet at 9:30 a.m., at Fifth Avenue and Fulton Street. — *Leader, Florence Plymell, PR 6-1208*

On Saturday & Sunday, May 20-21, to Yosemite National Park. Here may be seen many unusual birds. Last year, at this time, Great Gray Owl, Pygmy Owl, Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker and Williamson's Sapsucker were seen. Interesting mammals and beautiful flowers were observed and the waterfalls are most spectacular at this time. Campers will get together at Camp 11. Trips will start from the main post office, at 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. on Saturday and 9 a.m. on Sunday. The Saturday afternoon trip will be to the meadows on the Glacier Point Road, to look for the Great Gray Owl. — *Leader, Richard Stallcup, LO 9-3185.*

— HAROLD G. PETERSON, Field Trips Chairman

FIELD OBSERVATIONS — 1 male Calliope Hummingbird was feeding at our hummingbird feeders on April 10th. — Harry Adamson, Lafayette.

A migration of approximately 500 Cedarwaxwings stopped about one mile east of Berkeley during a recent rainstorm. — Warren Larson.

## IN MEMORIAM

*In loving memory of Mrs. Alma M. Bahler*

*Contribution from Mrs. Myra Brown*

Dr. Albert Boles, Chairman, Sanctuary & Memorial Fund

854 Longridge Road, Oakland 10

## MAY MEETING

The 581st regular meeting of the Golden Gate Audubon Society will be held Thursday, May 11, at 7:30 p.m., at the Rotary Science Center, Lake Merritt, Oakland, near the duck feeding station.

The speaker, Mr. Bert Harwell, will show an hour long, beautiful film entitled *Canada from Sea to Sea*, showing tundra, Eskimos, seals, reindeer roundup, buffalo, caribou, water ouzels, birds anting, salmon jumping, the rufous hummer and seabirds.

A no-host dinner will precede the meeting at Conover's Cafeteria, Perkins at Grand Ave. Come at six. — MABEL EARLE, Program Chairman

## GOLDEN GATE AUDUBON SOCIETY, INC.

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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, \$6.50 per year, includes AUDUBON MAGAZINE and THE GULL.

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