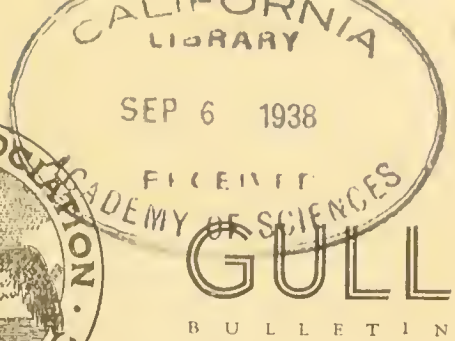


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An Interesting Experience with Cooper Hawks

The writer during the week-end of August 6th visited Shelter Rock Ranch, located in Reliz Canyon about ten miles, in an air line, west of King City. In a creek bed not far distant from the ranch house there stands a dead willow tree. On the flat, through which the creek runs, and within seventy-five feet of the willow, several fairly large oaks thrive.

About mid-afternoon of August 6th, while the writer was walking along a pathway paralleling the creek bed, a note taken for the harsh "pee-ee" of the Western Wood Pewee, quite common on this ranch, was heard several times. Its rather sharp tone indicated an angry bird and its quality created some doubt as to the correctness of identification. Suddenly a female Cooper Hawk flew from one of the oaks, but within a few moments she returned, alighted in plain view and gave frequent utterance to a "far-reaching psee-ur." There was no question now that the note first heard was that of this hawk.

This particular note is not mentioned either by Dawson or Hoffmann, but in "The Hawks of North America," by John Buchard May, it is described as "a far-reaching *swee-ew* or *psee-ur*." Within a few moments the female with two well-advanced young flew from the oaks into the willow, where they were plainly seen and closely observed for some time during which the "far-reaching *psee-ur*" was repeatedly uttered.

The mother and one of the young ones left, leaving the other behind, when about fifteen Green-backed Goldfinches flew into the willow and perched not more than five feet from this sharp-eyed predator, which heard their plaintive call as they approached. A few tense moments were experienced, as a tragedy in bird life was fully expected, for the hawk looked at them intently, opened its wings as if to dart and strike, but instead it suddenly turned, gave a shrill cry and flew into some alders on the opposite side of the creek bed.

Joseph J. Webb, San Francisco, California. August 18, 1938.



A Few Observations along the Bay Shore

Northern ducks have begun to arrive at Alvarado Gun Club, Pintails, Baldpates, Shovellers and Mallards being observed on August 17th.

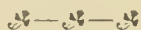
At the Dumbarton Bridge were numbers of Avocets still in breeding plumage. Two adult Avocets, evidently a pair, were standing on a dike some fifty feet apart guarding two young birds feeding in the water below. There were hundreds of Willets, many Farallon Cormorants, one American Egret, a few California Blue and Black-crowned Night Herons and three Black Turnstones. Least and Western Sandpipers were feeding on the approach, giving the observer an excellent opportunity to study the difference in size as well as to see the greenish feet of the Least. Thousands of Northern Phalaropes with a large number of California

Gulls in adult and immature plumage and a lesser number of Bonaparte Gulls and some Pintails covered the water. From a distance as this mixture of birds floated, bobbed and swam about, they appeared in the early morning light like so much flotsam and jetsam cast upon the water. On the Palo Alto side of the bridge eight California Clapper Rail were feeding.

As I returned over the San Mateo Bridge at high tide I noted Avocets and a large number of Godwits gathered on the salt ponds. At the Oakland Airport many birds were resting, among them about two hundred Black-bellied Plovers, five per cent of which were still in fine summer plumage. There were also hundreds of sandpipers and Sanderlings as well as a few Semipalmated Plovers. Some of the Sanderlings still had a pinkish cast on their breasts. On the Alameda Bay shore Snowy Plovers were added to the species already mentioned.

On August 21st at the Airport there were again large numbers of Black-bellied Plovers as well as a hundred or more Marbled Godwits, a few Dowitchers, Willets and Hudsonian Curlews. Hundreds of smaller waders were resting on the dry ground and along the Alameda Bay Shore Highway. On this date I saw no Sanderlings with pinkish breasts. About ten Snowy Plovers were sitting in little depressions in the sand but they were a restless lot and no sooner were all peacefully squatted down than one would start to chase another out of his sand hole. This would be the signal for each one to take up the game and chase out another until all had changed their holes. This performance was repeated over and over again. It was a comical sight—a study of speeding feet over the sand.

Junea W. Kelly, Alameda, California. August 26, 1938.



August Field Trip

The August field trip was taken on Sunday, the 14th, to Tennessee Cove, Marin County. Only a few members turned out, probably because the day was foggy and many thought that the trip offered little of interest. We did, however, have a good list of birds considering the time of year—fifty species.

We had excellent views of many of the birds. The Western Gnatcatcher gave a good account of himself, allowing everybody to see him at close range. We saw or heard this species at not less than four places along the way. At the large buckeye trees 1.3 miles from the station some six species of birds were bathing, affording us excellent views of Warbling Vireos and Willow Goldfinches. At the ranch 1.5 miles farther along seven Band-tailed Pigeons flew up from the hedgerow. Several Pileolated and Macgillivray Warblers were found among the willows beyond the creek at the last ranch.

The color across the marsh was lovely. The purplish stems of the pickleweed (*Salicornia ambigua*) and the lavender bloom of the sea lavender or marsh rosemary (*Limonium commune*) gave a soft glow which was accented by clumps of yellow flowers of the grindelia. Along the roadside the greenish yellow of sweet fennel (*Foeniculum vulgare*) added a pleasant note, while in the low places one of the mints was in full bloom. It was strange to find that some of the buckeyes were still in flower.

Geologically the walk has several interesting features. The road passes through Elk Valley, which extends across the Marin Peninsula from the head of Richardson Bay to Tennessee Cove. This narrow valley with its steep mountain sides of sandstone lies at right angles to the Marin fault block. The highest point of the valley bottom is about midway between bay and ocean at a little less than 200 feet elevation. Here is the divide that sends the water of one small creek to Richardson Bay and the other to the ocean. At one point along the road there is a fine exhibit of folded chert. The rocks belong to the Franciscan Group. There are large boulders beautifully covered with lichens in variety.

Most of the party went only as far as the usual lunch place by the big rock under the old oak tree. A few went as far as the government sign. Charles

Hansen and Robert Wells continued on to the ocean, thus adding several species to our list.

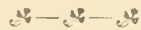
The following birds were identified:

Brown Pelican	Black Phoebe	Warbling Vireo
Farallon Cormorant	Western Flycatcher	Lutescent Warbler
California Heron	Cliff Swallow	Macgillivray Warbler
Turkey Vulture	Barn Swallow	Pileolated Warbler
Duck Hawk	Rough-winged Swallow	Brewer Blackbird
Sparrow Hawk	Coast Jay	House Sparrow
California Quail	Nicasio Jay	House Finch
Hudsonian Curlew	Raven	Willow Goldfinch
Western Willet	Crow	Green-backed Goldfinch
Western Gull	Plain Titmouse	Pine Siskin
California Gull	Nicasio Chickadee	San Francisco Towhee
Heermann Gull	Coast Bush-tit	S. F. Brown Towhee
Band-tailed Pigeon	Ruddy Wren-tit	Lark Sparrow
Mourning Dove	Nicasio Wren	Junco
Allen Hummingbird	Western Robin	Nuttall Sparrow
Belted Kingfisher	Western Bluebird	Song Sparrow
Red-shafted Flicker	Western Gnatcatcher	

After hearing an account of Shearwaters seen near the Cliff House, most of us decided that we would return to San Francisco and try our luck. We took the 1:45 p. m. train. Although the Shearwaters were out beyond the Seal Rocks and the red buoy, we did have the satisfaction of seeing what seemed to be an endless flight of birds passing low over the water. We walked along the water's edge to Lincoln Park, adding the following birds: Sooty Shearwaters, Brandt Cormorants, Surf-bird, Black Turnstone and Anna Hummingbird. Phalaropes were riding the waves and at least some seemed to be Red Phalaropes, but the strong wind made it difficult to see distinctly.

Ten members attended: Mesdames Courtright, Kelly; Misses Blake, MacIver, Werner; Messrs. Bremer, Hansen, Kirker, Myer and Wells.

Junea W. Kelly, Leader and Historian.



Shore Birds in San Francisco County

Although shore birds do not visit San Francisco in large numbers, a few occasionally appear at the lakes in Golden Gate Park, at Lake Merced and along the ocean beach. It makes an interesting study to compare records of them. As it is now shore-bird time, it is hoped that members will be on the lookout for any of the species and report them either at our meetings or by post-card.

Western Willets: In *The Condor*, XVIII, No. 6, December, 1916, H. W. Carriger "noted this species in spring at Lake Merced." Later records are: three seen in Presidio, July 24, 1928, by Mrs. Stephens; near Cliff House, April 15, 1934, by Carl R. Smith, and fourteen seen at Lake Merced, August 10, 1938, by Harold Kirker.

In the "Directory to the Birdlife of San Francisco Bay Region." Mountain Plovers: "vicinity of San Francisco, January 26, 1898": Marbled Godwits and Avocets: "have been observed in vicinity of San Francisco"; American Golden Plover: "found one or more times (previous to 1884) near San Francisco." To these may be added one more record for the Golden Plover: one seen at Lake Merced, October 14, 1931, by Commander Parmenter.

Long-billed Curlew: on the beach near Cliff House two May 15, 1933, and ten November 17, 1931, by Commander and Mrs. Parmenter.

Solitary Sandpiper: seen at Lake Merced, September 13 and 20, 1931, by Carl R. Smith; September 14 and 15 by Mr. and Mrs. Stephens; and in Golden Gate Park, September 11, 1932, by Carl R. Smith.

The list of shore birds for San Francisco includes Black-bellied Plovers, Killdeer, Semipalmated and Snowy Plovers, Surf-birds, Ruddy and Black Turnstones, Wilson Snipe, Hudsonian Curlews, Spotted Sandpipers, Wandering Tattlers, Greater Yellow-legs, Pectoral, Least, Red-backed and Western Sandpipers, Long-billed Dowitchers and Sanderlings. Some of these species occur quite frequently, while others are seen only occasionally.—Laura A. Stephens.



Audubon Notes

September Meeting: The regular meeting will be held on Thursday evening, the 8th, in room 19, Ferry Building, at 8 o'clock.



Directors' Meeting: There will be a meeting of the directors before the regular meeting in the office of Mr. B. K. Dunshee, room 714, 245 Market Street, at 6:30 p. m.



September Field Trip will be taken to Alameda to study shore birds, September 18th, one week later than our usual date. San Francisco members take the 8:45 a. m. Alameda boat and Encinal Avenue train to High Street Station South, meeting there at 9:30 a. m. Bring luncheon. Leader, Mrs. Junea W. Kelly.



August Meeting: The 252nd regular meeting was held on the 11th, in room 19, Ferry Building, with seventeen members and guests present. President Junea W. Kelly presiding.

The following observations were reported:

Mrs. Kelly: Alameda, Mockingbird, August 22nd and 24th.

Harold Kirker: Cliff House, Wandering Tattler, Land's End, thirty Black Turnstones, four Ravens July 25th; Metson Lake, sixty Northern Phalaropes;

Chain of Lakes, Ash-throated Flycatcher, small flock of Rough-winged Swallows, August 23rd.

Commander Parmenter: San Francisco Beach, twenty Sanderlings, July 25th; Cliff House, Wandering Tattler, July 22nd; seven Black Turnstones, 25th; one Surf-bird, 26th; one Ruddy Turnstone, 27th; Mountain View marshes, ten Black-bellied Plovers, 30th; Alvarado, one Hudsonian Curlew, ten Greater Yellow-legs, forty-five Avocets, 30th; Dumbarton Bridge, 2000± California Gulls; San Mateo Bridge, thirteen Semipalmated Plovers, fifty Black-bellied Plovers, 1500± Willets, twenty-five Forster Terns; both bridges, 6000± Northern Phalaropes, twenty-four Caspian Terns, July 30th.

Mrs. Saunders: Berkeley, male Western Tanager, August 9th.

The evening was devoted to vacation experiences; Miss Blake reported on the Grand Canyon of Arizona; Mr. Stephens on the Trinity Alps Region; Mr. Webb on Sequoia National Park; Mr. Johnson on the Upper Basin of the Middle Fork of King's River Canyon; Mrs. Saunders on Mono Lake; Harold Kirker on Cazadero and Lake Tahoe; Miss Rinehart on a trip to Springfield, Illinois; and Mrs. Kelly on Churchill, Manitoba, Canada. Mr. Bradley showed some very excellent Kodachrome slides of both cultivated and wild flowers.

Audubon Association of the Pacific

Organized January 25, 1917

For the Study and the Protection of Birds

President.....Mrs. G. Earle Kelly..... 1311 Grand St., Alameda, Calif.
 Corresponding Secretary.....C. B. Lastreto.....260 California St., San Francisco
 Treasurer.....Mrs. A. B. Stephens.....1695 Filbert St., San Francisco

Monthly meeting second Thursday, 8 P. M., Room 19, Ferry Building.

Address Bulletin correspondence to Mrs. A. B. Stephens, Editor, 1695 Filbert St., 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.