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**THE**  
MONTHLY



**GULL**  
BULLETIN

VOLUME 15

SAN FRANCISCO, JUNE, 1933

NUMBER 6

### Avocets Feeding

On May 1, 1933, at the San Mateo Bridge on the Alameda side of the bay, we had an unusual opportunity to observe a flock of about seventy-five Avocets, in their spring plumage, while feeding. We first saw them wading and reaching down in the water covering their heads and part of their necks and then getting into deeper water they swam and actually tipped up similar to the pintail when feeding. At times they went so deep into the water that they almost disappeared.

They also fed on the surface while swimming, similar to the Northern Phalarope with which they were associated. However, they did not whirl about but swayed their heads from side to side, handling their recurved bills in the same manner as when in shallow water. We also noticed that the curvature of their bills differed perceptibly in different birds.

While swimming they rose from the water with apparent ease and flew about. They were unusually tame and seemed to ignore our automobile as we sat in it and observed them.

Commander Henry E. Parmenter, San Francisco, California. May 11, 1933.



### Trapping the Duck Peddlers

The following narrative relates an actual experience with that type of law-breaker who is doing much to deplete the already scarce wild duck population, namely, the market hunter and his associates, the duck sellers. This account is authenticated by the Division of Fish and Game. For obvious reasons names are not used. In it is shown how I worked to apprehend and bring to justice this reproachable type of violator, who, after having been outlawed for more than thirty years, still seeks ways of commercializing our fast vanishing wild life.

Information was received from the Division of Fish and Game Patrol Office that wild ducks were being sold at a certain restaurant in the commission district in San Francisco. I was advised that there was a habitual duck peddler working out of the place, making sales and deliveries of wild ducks and his name and description were given. The office informed me that they did not only want to trap this peddler, who was not directly connected with the restaurant and only stored his ducks there, but they wanted to make a buy from one of the waiters or owners. The San Francisco Game Wardens were too well known, so they asked me to do the trick. Realizing that chances for such a buy would be practically nil without an introduction or without gaining their confidence, I decided first to make a buy from the peddler, who was known to sell to outsiders, and thereby to become known around the place.

The next day I entered the restaurant and found the peddler. Taking a long chance, I said: "Joe told me I could get some ducks here." The name seemed magic because he replied he had some very nice bluebills, which he showed me in a back room. The purchase was made as nonchalantly as possible, the price being 75 cents each. Laying a plan now to trap the owner of the place, I found out that a partner opens the place early in the morning, the peddler not arriving until 8 a. m. Five days later at 6 a. m. the partner was alone in the place. He remembered me, so, unsuspectingly, he sold me a bluebill.

Deciding to go further and lay a plan to trap the market hunters who were supplying the ducks to the peddler, the same day returning to the restaurant, and getting on the good side of the peddler, I bought two sprig for \$1.00 each. I had to use hunter jargon for the ducks' names so as not to arouse suspicion. Placing an order with him to have 86 ducks delivered to a North Beach address at noon before New Year's Eve, well knowing that he could not fill such a large order, I would get direct connections with the market hunter.

Game wardens from San Francisco, San Mateo, Santa Clara, and Marin Counties were called to assist and at the time set we were at strategic points ready for the violators to walk into the trap. The ducks did not come. We decided to arrest the peddler and part owner on January 21, which comes after the five days' possession limit allowed by law after the close of the State duck season.

On January 21 we parked across the street from the restaurant and watched awhile. Presently, the peddler came out carrying a carton which we suspected contained ducks. We trailed him to a financial district address and watched him deliver the carton. We entered, searched the place, found the carton with eight red head ducks in it and arrested the peddler, who was just leaving. We returned to the restaurant and served a warrant on the partner, searched the place and in the back room seized a sack containing eight red head ducks, and placed the man under arrest.

The violators were penalized appropriately in justice's court. This is a typical case showing that the duck bootlegger plies his illegal trade in the closed season too.

E. R. Jacob, Volunteer State Fish and Game Warden.



### Another San Francisco Garden

On Sunday morning, May 7, 1933, between 7:30 and 8:30 o'clock, we had the thrill of a lifetime. The Lazuli Bunting was singing in our garden and we went to the window to see him, having missed him the last two years. While waiting for him to come into view, what should appear but three male Tanagers. The day was gray, making their coloring seem more brilliant than ever. One perched on the radio wire, the other two in the plum tree.

An Ash-throated Flycatcher was the next visitor and stayed a short time on a fence post under the buckeye tree.

Our attention was attracted next to a couple of warblers flying about the rose bushes, and when we trained the glasses on them, they proved to be Calaveras Warblers. Several Pileolated Warblers were flying about in the locust tree and a Hermit Thrush flew on the bird-bath. We heard the song of the Black-headed Grosbeak and located him on a branch of a summer lilac bush in the next garden. A little gray bird, the Warbling Vireo, was another visitor, and the Allen Hummer did his part by showing his beautiful gorget.

Now the lovely Lazuli Bunting showed himself and entertained us with his little song. He perched on the radio wire just a few feet from our window. Linnets, Green-backed Goldfinches and Sparrows were also present, but the more brilliantly colored visitors naturally received most of our attention.

The Calaveras Warbler, Grosbeak, and Ash-throated Flycatcher were new comers to our garden. Tanagers had visited us on other occasions but never three at one time.

Marie Millard (Mrs. Oliver J.), San Francisco, California. May 12, 1933.



### St. Mary's, Contra Costa County, California

May Field Trip was taken on Sunday, the 14th, to St. Mary's, Contra Costa County, with twenty-three members and sixteen guests.

The day was partly cloudy and cool with a brisk west wind, which probably was the reason why there were not so many birds as usual in the row of eucalyptus trees along the road. But in more sheltered places there was the usual mixed chorus of bird songs.

Nests were found of the Downy Woodpecker, Black Phoebe, Cliff Swallow, Tolmie Warbler, Pileolated Warbler, Linnet and Junco. Lutescent Warblers were feeding the young which had left the nest.

Lazuli Buntings were the most numerous of the species noted; their songs were heard everywhere on the trip.

The construction of a dam to form a reservoir for St. Mary's College has attracted such species as the Great Blue Heron, Pied-billed Grebe and Spotted Sandpiper.

The following list of fifty-nine species was noted:

Pied-billed Grebe	Western Flycatcher	Tolmie Warbler
Great Blue Heron	Wood Pewee	Pileolated Warbler
Turkey Vulture	Rough-winged Swallow	English Sparrow
Cooper Hawk	Barn Swallow	Meadowlark
Red-tailed Hawk	Cliff Swallow	Red-winged Blackbird
Golden Eagle	Stellar Jay	Bullock Oriole
Sparrow Hawk	California Jay	Brewer Blackbird
California Quail	Plain Titmouse	Black-headed Grosbeak
Spotted Sandpiper	Bush-tit	Lazuli Bunting
Mourning Dove	Slender-billed Nuthatch	Linnet
Barn Owl	Wren-tit	Willow Goldfinch
White-throated Swift	House Wren	Green-backed Goldfinch
Allen Hummingbird	Bowick Wren	Lawrence Goldfinch
Red-shafted Flicker	Robin	Spotted Towhee
California Woodpecker	Russet-backed Thrush	Brown Towhee
Hairy Woodpecker	Western Bluebird	Rufous-crowned Sparrow
Downy Woodpecker	Cassin Vireo	Junco
Nuttall Woodpecker	Warbling Vireo	Chipping Sparrow
Ash-throated Flycatcher	Lutescent Warbler	Song Sparrow
Black Phoebe	Yellow Warbler	

Some of the members climbed to the top of Rocky Ridge, where they noted Prairie Falcon, White-throated Swift, Rock Wren, California Thrasher and Bell Sparrows.

C. A. Bryant, Historian.



### Nuthatches Nesting

From the generous branches of a white oak on a grassy hillside in Santa Clara County, in the last week of April I heard the call of a Slender-billed Nuthatch. Soon a pair of them began bringing in nesting material to a cavity where a large branch had broken off on the western side of the tree about fifteen feet from the ground. Two weeks later I arrived in time to see Father Nuthatch go in the back door with a large insect in his mouth. In a moment out came Mother Nuthatch to eat it on the front porch.

On May 14 they were still occupying the nest. On the opposite side of the tree a Violet-green Swallow was flying in and out of a hole in one of the larger branches evidently nesting too.

Good neighbors these, one pair gleaning its food from the tree itself, and the other from the air. The Nuthatches know their surrounding country well but think what the Violet-greens have seen, having come possibly all the way from Mexico, Guatemala or Costa Rica.

Cornelia C. Pringle, San Francisco, California. May 28, 1933.

**Audubon Notes**

**June Meeting:** The regular meeting will be held on Thursday, the 8th, at 8 p. m., room 19, Ferry Building.

The speaker of the evening will be Mr. Dudley S. De Groot, of the Menlo Union High School, whose subject will be "California Ducks."



**June Field Trip** will be taken Sunday, the 11th, to Ross, Marin County, visiting Phoenix Lake, thence to Lagunitas and Alpine Lakes, returning to the picnic place below Phoenix Lake for supper. Those so desiring may start from Fairfax. Purchase round-trip ticket to Ross or Fairfax, 60c. Take Sausalito Ferry at 8:15 a. m. Bring food for two meals.



**May Meeting:** The 189th regular meeting was held on May 11th, in room 19, Ferry Building, with fifty members and guests present. President Chas. A. Bryant presiding.

The following observations were reported:

Commander and Mrs. Parmenter: April 21, Cliff House, 2 Ruddy Turnstones, 2 Black Turnstones, Wandering Tattler. 18th: Tomales Bay, north end, Osprey; May 1, Dumbarton and San Mateo Bridges, Snowy Plover, Black-bellied Plover, Hudsonian Curlew, Willet, many thousands Least. Red-backed and Western Sandpipers, 75+ Marbled Godwit, 75+ Avocet, 2000+ Northern Phalarope, 125+ Forster Tern, 29 Caspian Tern; 4th, Beach, San Francisco, Black-bellied Plover, 60+ Hudsonian Curlew, 500 Sanderlings; 9th, Dumbarton and San Mateo Bridges, 5 Semipalmated Plover, 21 Knots in a flock less than 100 feet away and many more with Black-bellied Plover some distance away, 100+ Caspian Terns.

Mrs. Otis H. Smith: Lansdale, band-

ed White-throated Sparrow on March 28th, and a Bullock Oriole April 23rd. May 9th, Cascades, Western Tanager.

Mrs. A. B. Stephens: April 22nd, Chain of Lakes, Yellow Warbler; 23rd, Redwood City, Yellow-leg, 12 Avocets; 26th, Cliff House, 12 Black Turnstones, 2 Ruddy Turnstones, 2 Wandering Tattlers.

Brighton C. Cain: April 29th, Oakland hills, Tolmie Warbler, Chipping Sparrow, Audubon Warbler in full song and plumage; May 7th, Cedar Waxwings; 12th, East Oakland, Vaux Swifts.

Paul Lehmann: May 9th to 11th, campus, Berkeley, Cedar Waxwings.

The lecture of the evening was delivered by Mr. George M. Wright, Chief of the Wild Life Division, United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service. His subject was "The Amazing Bird Life of the Yellowstone Plateau." In a most delightful and informal manner he took his audience with him on a bird trip around the lakes of Yellowstone National Park.



"Fauna of the National Parks of the United States," 1933. This is the first of a series of reports dealing with the vertebrate fauna of the national parks to be prepared by the National Park Service. In addition to treating of the vertebrate natural history of the parks still requiring basic surveys, the reports will cover research in one branch of the science that is the very foundation upon which the National Park Service is built, namely, the preservation of the values of wilderness life. Authors: George M. Wright, Joseph S. Dixon and Ben H. Thompson. Obtainable from Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C. Price, 20 cents.

**Audubon Association of the Pacific**

For the Study and the Protection of Birds

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

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Subscription to monthly Bulletin, \$1.00 per year. Single copies, 15c.

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