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THE
MONTHLY



GULL
BULLETIN

Volume 41

Berkeley, California, March, 1959

Number 3

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT —1958

SAN FRANCISCO —

Area covered: Marina, Lincoln Park, Twin Peaks, Sutro Forest, Land's End, Presidio, Golden Gate Park, Stern Grove, Treasure Island, Goat Island, San Francisco Bayshore, Pacific Ocean Beach, Seal Rocks, Lake Merced, Fleishaker Area, Marin Shoreline, McLaren Park and smaller city parks.

Weather: Temperature 51-55 degrees, cloudy, misty, low visibility, wind 5-10 mph southwesterly, occasional rain.

Leaders: Leland L. Stallcup, Frank Zografos, Harold G. Peterson, Dr. Albert Boles, Aileen Pierson, Florence Plymell, Howard L. Cogswell, Myra J. Browne, Erline Hevel, Carlyle Sather, Peter A. Veitch, L. Richard Leinbach, Roberta J. Long, Elizabeth S. Lennon and Arthur Myer, *Compiler*.

Observers: Leaders listed above and Louise Abbott, Sadie Bozant, Marie B. Brennan, Betsy Cutler, Mrs. Hubert Fry, Mary B. Leinbach, Steven Lewis, John Merryman, Natalie Mestechin, Thomas A. Oczkewecz, Agnes Oczkewecz, Jessie Saunders, Herbert Scheal, Phillip Silva, Jean Stallcup, Patricia Triggs, Ted Troutman, Evelyn Van Scyoc, Marjorie Van Scyoc, Blanche Wallace.

Totals: 121 Species; 44,136 Individuals, 36 Observers. 144 miles by Car, 6412 Miles by foot, 208.2 total miles. 38½ hours by car, 53½ hours by foot, 92 hours total.

OAKLAND —

Area covered: 15 mile diameter circle centered at Estates Drive and Moraga Avenue in Oakland. Circle includes Bayshore from Point Isabell in Richmond to just east of Yerba Buena Island and south to and including the Oakland Airport. It extends inland through the San Pablo Reservoir, Briones Valley, Lafayette and south to about one-half mile north of the Naval Hospital.

Weather: This count was taken just two days after a rain had ended the record-breaking drought which probably accounts for the high number of some usually summer birds and the records of summer visitants in this and other counts. Fog in morning. Clear in afternoon. Wind westerly, 0-11 mph.

Leaders: Harry Adamson, Dr. Albert Boles, Myra J. Browne, A. Laurence Curl, Junea Kelly, Mary Leinbach, Phyllis Lindley, Arthur Myer, Harold Peterson, C. John Ralph, *Compiler*, Edward Shafer, Lee Stallcup.

Observers: Leaders listed above and Betty Adamson, Sadie Bozant, John Bruce, Francis Campbell, B. Christophensen, Howard L. Cogswell, Herold Connon, Paul Covel, Lynn Farrar, Carroll Hayes, John Hildebrand, William Landels, L. Richard Leinbach, Mr. and Mrs. James Linford, Wendell Lipscomb, Neil Lochmead, Roberta J. Long, Marie Mans, Gardner Marshall, Margot Ostrom, Elsie Roemer, Richard Stallcup, Mrs. John Thomas, C. O. Thomson, B. D. Underwood, R. S. Underwood, Evelyn Van Scyoc, Marjorie Van Scyoc, Peter Veitch, Ben Wilder, Jane Woods, Minnie H. Young, E. O. Willis.

Totals: 138 Species, 62,888 Individuals. 46 Observers

TOMALES BAY —

Area covered: 15 mile diameter circle centering 1/2 mile NW of Marshalls.

Weather: Fog in early morning, clearing by 10 a. m. with strong winds in afternoon.

Leader: Phyllis Lindley, *Compiler*.

Totals: 152 Species, about 13,500 Individuals, 39 Observers.

1 Empidonax flycatcher seen on count day, species not determined.

American Bittern and Spotted Owl seen during count period but not on count day.

Unusual low counts for: Double-crested Cormorant, Brandt's Cormorant, Pelagic Cormorant, Black Brant, Ruddy Duck, Band-tailed Pigeon, Robin (compared to last year), Starling (compared to last year).

SPECIES	SAN FRANCISCO TOTALS	OAKLAND TOTALS	TOMALES BAY TOTALS
Common Loon.....	1	5	23
Artic Loon.....	4	—	225
Red-throated Loon.....	11	3	947 * ‡
Red-necked Grebe.....	1	—	1
Horned Grebe.....	13	54	184
Eared Grebe.....	77	110	74
Western Grebe.....	633	36	1,694 * ‡
Pied-billed Grebe.....	229	28	33
Sooty Shearwater.....	65	—	6 * †
White Pelican.....	15	1	330
Brown Pelican.....	3	—	30
Double-crested Cormorant.....	304	73	14
Brandt's Cormorant.....	165	—	1,332
Pelagic Cormorant.....	—	—	5
Great Blue Heron.....	1	27	31
Common Egret.....	3	14	12
Snowy Egret.....	—	55	13
Green Heron.....	3	—	—
Black-crowned Night Heron.....	9	9	19
American Bittern.....	2	—	—
Canada Goose.....	—	1,056 ‡	11
Black Brant.....	—	—	15

SPECIES	SAN FRANCISCO TOTALS	OAKLAND TOTALS	TOMALES BAY TOTALS
White-fronted Goose.....	1	—	—
Snow Goose.....	2	—	—
Mallard.....	1,131	274	260
Gadwall.....	—	—	14
Pintail.....	—	3,886 ‡	744
Green-winged Teal.....	3	17	301 ‡
Shoveler.....	39	92	—
European Widgeon.....	—	1†	—
American Widgeon.....	1,250	1,576	67
Wood Duck.....	—	15	—
Redhead.....	—	—	30
Ring-necked Duck.....	11	43	—
Canvasback.....	5	633	60
Greater Scaup.....	15	2	25
Scaup (sp?).....	—	745	—
Lesser Scaup.....	4	—	16
Common Goldeneye.....	2	209	124
Bufflehead.....	6	59	295
Oldsquaw.....	—	—	10
Harlequin Duck.....	—	—	1
White-winged Scoter.....	25	26	187
Surf Scoter.....	160	37	2,410
Common Scoter.....	2	—	48
Ruddy Duck.....	642	2,173	1,025
Duck (sp?).....	—	200	—
Hooded Merganser.....	—	16	—
Common Merganser.....	—	49	—
Red-breasted Merganser.....	6	2	476 *
Turkey Vulture.....	—	14 ‡	109
White-tailed Kite.....	—	—	3
Goshawk.....	—	—	1 †
Sharp-shinned Hawk.....	1	5	4
Cooper's Hawk.....	1	8	5
Red-tailed Hawk.....	4	43	193 * ‡
Red-Shouldered Hawk.....	—	—	1
Marsh Hawk.....	—	2	19
Osprey.....	—	1 †	—
Prairie Falcon.....	—	—	3 * †
Pigeon Hawk.....	—	—	1
Sparrow Hawk (Kestrel).....	10	53	169
California Quail.....	199	315	232
Ring-necked Pheasant.....	—	—	1
Clapper Rail.....	—	1	—
Virginia Rail.....	5	—	—
Sora Rail.....	2	—	—
American Coot.....	3,395	1,405	6,325
Black Oystercatcher.....	—	—	4
Semipalmated Plover.....	—	152 ‡	19
Snowy Plover.....	31	30	15
Killdeer.....	391	75	84
Black-bellied Plover.....	3	567 *	175
Surfbird.....	4	—	14
Ruddy Turnstone.....	—	1	—
Black Turnstone.....	66	21	76
Common Snipe.....	1	—	62
Long-billed Curlew.....	—	137	3
Whimbrel.....	—	10	—
Spotted Sandpiper.....	1	3	1
Wandering Tattler.....	—	—	2

SPECIES	SAN FRANCISCO TOTALS	OAKLAND TOTALS	TOMALES BAY TOTALS
Willet.....	14	1,161	239
Greater Yellowlegs.....	—	12	—
Least Sandpiper.....	15	1,155	514
Dunlin.....	550	6,200 *	2,810
Short-billed Dowitcher.....	—	40	80
Long-billed Dowitcher.....	3	70	—
Dowitcher (sp?).....	—	265	—
Western Sandpiper.....	74	11,725 *	1,187
Marbled Godwit.....	—	1,346	313
Sanderling.....	687	368	304
American Avocet.....	1	2,354 *	15
Wilson's Phalarope.....	—	—	1 * †
Glaucous-winged Gull.....	2,992	998	395
Western Gull.....	3,810	247	619
Herring Gull.....	306	16	37
California Gull.....	11,565	398	245
Ring-billed Gull.....	206	276	228
Mew Gull.....	5,122	413	6
Bonaparte's Gull.....	69	252	59
Heermann's Gull.....	20	—	1
Gull (sp?).....	1,765	—	—
Forester's Tern.....	—	17	—
Common Murre.....	1	—	1
Marbled Murrelet.....	—	—	50 † ‡
Cassin's Auklet.....	—	—	1 * †
Band-tailed Pigeon.....	—	—	10
Mourning Dove.....	144	251	3
Barn Owl.....	—	3	1
Screech Owl.....	—	3 ‡	—
Great Horned Owl.....	—	35 ‡	4
Burrowing Owl.....	1	—	1
Short-eared Owl.....	—	1	19 ‡
Saw-whet Owl.....	—	2 †	2
White-throated Swift.....	—	4	—
Anna's Hummingbird.....	99	110	22
Belted Kingfisher.....	8	4	22
Yellow-shafted Flicker.....	—	—	1 †
Red-shafted Flicker.....	98	225	254
Acorn Woodpecker.....	—	28	4
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker.....	1	9	1
Hairy Woodpecker.....	—	3	19
Downy Woodpecker.....	10	13	2
Nuttall's Woodpecker.....	—	5	—
Black Phoebe.....	38	19	92 *
Say's Phoebe.....	2	2	15
Horned Lark.....	—	33	87
Steller's Jay.....	—	80	25
Scrub Jay (California).....	10	260	134
Common Raven.....	1	—	96
Common Crow.....	—	34	275
Chestnut-backed Chickadee.....	57	260 *	125
Plain Titmouse.....	—	52	2
Common Bushtit.....	42	654	234
White-breasted Nuthatch.....	—	14	1
Red-breasted Nuthatch.....	8	23 ‡	1
Pigmy Nuthatch.....	—	—	78
Brown Creeper.....	5	—	23
Wrentit.....	8	175	182
House Wren.....	—	1 †	—

SPECIES	SAN FRANCISCO TOTALS	OAKLAND TOTALS	TOMALES BAY TOTALS
Winter Wren.....L.....	18	8	48
Bewick's Wren.....	5	36	53 *
Long-billed March Wren.....	2	1 †	10
Mockingbird.....	—	16	—
California Thrasher.....	—	17	—
Robin.....	150	829	40
Varied Thrush.....	80	111	26
Hermit Thrush.....	66	100	67
Western Bluebird.....	2	27	131
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher.....	—	2 †	—
Golden-crowned Kinglet.....	68	47 ‡	229 ‡
Ruby-crowned Kinglet.....	78	85	270
Water Pipit.....	245	185	121
Cedar Waxwing.....	15	787	—
Loggerhead Shrike.....	11	15	28
Starling.....	6	4 †	357
Hutton's Vireo.....	3	9	11 *
Orange-crowned Warbler.....	1	—	1
Myrtle Warbler.....	24	37 ‡	38
Audubon's Warbler.....	614	162	558
Black-throated Gray Warbler.....	—	1 †	—
Townsend's Warbler.....	4	—	6
Yellowthroat Warbler.....	29	—	—
Wilson's Warbler.....	1	—	—
House Sparrow (English).....	701	583	244
Western Meadowlark.....	356	489	1,679
Redwinged Blackbird.....	8	418	515
Tricolored Blackbird.....	750	—	—
Bullock's Oriole.....	1	—	—
Brewer's Blackbird.....	1,035	2,279	2,394
Brown-headed Cowbird.....	—	283	2
Purple Finch.....	2	6	8
House Finch.....	351	358	90
Pine Siskin.....	67	205	185
American Goldfinch.....	24	35	—
Lesser Goldfinch.....	18	49	4
Rufous-sided Towhee.....	45	137	36
Brown Towhee.....	—	144	55
Savanah Sparrow.....	—	48	62
Lark Sparrow.....	—	—	2
Rufous-crowned Sparrow.....	—	3	2
Slate-colored Junco.....	—	—	3 †
Oregon Junco.....	555	978	120
White-crowned Sparrow.....	1,295	1,538	2,822
Golden-crowned Sparrow.....	167	538	372
White-throated Sparrow.....	1	—	2 †
Fox Sparrow.....	499	220	166
Lincoln's Sparrow.....	1	3	4
Song Sparrow.....	149	188	220

* Highest or tied with highest counts of individuals compared with 1957 figures for the entire U. S. and Canada.

† Species of special interest.

‡ Numbers of special interest.

NOVEMBER TRIP TO CONN LAKE

Seventeen cars, containing about 50 passengers, convened at the stone bridge on the Silverado Trail for the trip to Conn Lake. The long caravan made its way to the lake without any side trips in order to get good morning light on the birds. At the first view of the lake the light was very good on the great expanse of water, but no birds were to be seen. Farther along, in the upper arm of the lake, several hundred birds were seen, but very few compared to what has been noted on former trips at the same time of year. The most interesting views of the day were those of a very active Rock Wren, a large group of Wood Ducks, and a flock of 16 swans grazing on the lake shore which flew out over the water at our approach. During the day, 83 species were heard or seen.

—LEE STALLCUP, *Leader* and JEAN STALLCUP, *Historian*

OCTOBER TRIP TO ST. MARY'S COLLEGE

Approximately 30 members and guests explored the lake and trails of St. Mary's College on a quiet, sunny, fall day. We had a good look at some of our resident and winter birds, especially, many Golden-crowned and Ruby-crowned Kinglets, who seem to have invaded the Bay Area this season. The highlight was a Common Snipe stirred up from the delta of the lake. Part of the group walked further up on Bollinger Road in the afternoon, where we found Varied Thrushes and Winter Wrens in clear view. 61 species were seen or heard during the day.

—MARY MANS, *Leader & Historian*

OCTOBER TRIP TO TOMALES STATE PARK AND POINT REYES

About 28 members and guests enjoyed a wonderful day of birding in the above mentioned areas. What appeared to be a wave of Golden-crowned kinglets was observed on the Jepson Trail in Tomales Park. It is estimated that at least 50 were seen or heard along with 5 Winter Wrens on this trail. 12 Barn Owls were, also, counted in the grove of trees leading into the R.C.A. Trans-Pacific broadcasting station. From the meeting place at Point Reyes Station to Point Reyes lighthouse a grand total of 95 species were seen or heard.

—CARLYLE SATHER, *Leader & Historian*

MARCH MEETING

The 494th regular meeting of the Golden Gate Audubon Society will be held on Thursday, March 12, at 7:30 p.m., in the Rotary Natural Science Center on Lake Merritt in Oakland, near the duck-feeding area. Our speaker will be Mrs. Junea Kelly. She will tell of her trip to Europe where she attended the *International Meeting for Bird Prservation* which met at Helsinki, Finland. Mrs. Kelly is well-known in the Bay Area as the popular conductor of *Six Trips Afield*, a Nature Study course given through University of California Extension Division. Everyone is urged to attend. Guests are welcome.

Note: A no-host dinner preceding the meeting will be held at Conover's at Perkins and Grand Avenue, near the Science Center. Six o'clock.

—BONNIE SMITH, *Program Chairman*

NEW MEMBERS

We welcome the following new members to the Golden Gate Audubon Society: from Berkeley, Miss Edith E. Dennett, Mr. C. John Ralph, Mr. John A. Thomas; from Hayward, Miss Lois M. Bastian; from Oakland, Mrs. Herman Blau, Miss Ruth F. Johnson, Miss Thelma Lauffer, Mrs. Eleanor Smith, Mr. and Mrs. Arvin P. Zunkel; from Ross, Mrs. Jonathan Rice; from San Francisco, Dr. Morton J. Keston, Miss Olga Kowall and Dr. Bernard Susskind.

—AGNES OCZKEWECZ, *Membership Chairman*

FIELD TRIPS FOR MARCH

On Saturday, March 14, GOLDEN GATE PARK and CHAIN OF LAKES. This trip is one of the favorites because it has produced many surprises, such as, Green Heron, Common Gallinule and Wood Duck at this time of year. Meet at Hayes and Stanyan Streets in San Francisco, at 9 a. m.—Leader, Florence Plymell, PR 6-1208.

On Saturday, March 28, to part of the SAN FRANCISCO BAY SALT MARSH SANCTUARY, near Newark. This area is a nesting site for Avocets and Terns. Clapper Rails and other marsh birds may be seen. Spring migrations of shore birds pass through here. A walk on a dike enclosing salt water ponds will be made so wear suitable shoes. After lunch a side trip to Sunol Water Temple (at crossroad where Route 21 comes in from the left, turn right) is scheduled. Travel will be through Niles Canyon. If time allows, Calaveras Reservoir Area will be visited to see Yellow-billed Magpie. Meet at 9 a.m. at the post office in Newark.—Leader, A. Laurence Curl, LA 6-7004.

APRIL BOAT TRIP

On Sunday, April 12. to the Farallon Islands on the Rowland II. Departure will be from Berkeley Harbor, at 5:30 a. m., with a later pickup of passengers in San Francisco. Complete information as to time, clothing, etc., will be sent to those who reserve a space. Fee \$8.00 per person. This should be sent to the Field Trips Chairman, Harold G. Peterson, 3548 65th Avenue, Oakland 5, with your name, and address and phone number. Make all checks payable to the Golden Gate Audubon Society, Inc. Names will be placed on the passenger list in the order received. Maximum number of passengers, 30.—Co-leaders, Richard Stallcup, LO 9-3185 and Guy McCaskie, P. O. Box 241, Tahoe City.

—HAROLD G. PETERSON, *Field Trips Chairman*

GOLDEN GATE AUDUBON SOCIETY, INC.

Established January 25, 1917

A Branch of the National Audubon Society since 1948

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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. 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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