

SANTA CLARA VALLEY AUDUBON SOCIETY

September, 1947

THE SEPTEMBER MEETING will be held Monday evening, Sept 15, in Room 210, Science Building, San Jose State College, at 7:45 p.m. The Society's Screen Tours Committee, which has been cooperating with San Jose State College to bring the Screen Tours lecture series to San Jose, will make its report to the Society. The Committee hopes there will be a large attendance of members at this meeting to get detailed information about this coming series of motion pictures of American wild life. After the Committee's report there will be an informal exchange of summer experiences with birds by members, and perhaps Al Wool will bring some of his pictures to show us.

MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS will be held Friday evening of this week, Sept 12, at 7:30 o'clock, in Room 201, Science Building, San Jose State College. The meeting will be open to any member of the Society who has new business to present or who is interested in the conduct of the Society's business.

THE SEPTEMBER FIELD TRIP will be taken the following Sunday, Sept 21, to the Alviso marshes and Alum Rock Park. Dr. Ralph Smith will be the leader. In addition to migrating shore birds we shall look for late-lingering summer resident land birds and early-arriving winter visitors. Bring lunch to eat in Alum Rock Park. The meeting place will be Bayshore Highway at North First Street at 8:30 a.m. San Jose members who want transportation meet at corner of East San Carlos and Fifth Streets at 8 o'clock, and Palo Alto members at S. P. Depot in Palo Alto, also at 8.

Ralph A. Smith, Pres. - phone Campbell 3997
Emily Smith, Corr. Sec. - Los Gatos 994-W

Dear Audubon Society Members:

The Society's committee for selling tickets for the Audubon Screen Tours needs the help of every member. The Society's chief object in cooperating with San Jose State College to bring the Screen Tours to San Jose is to help arouse more interest in wild life and its conservation in our community. If this civic project is to succeed we must fill the Montgomery Theatre with an interested audience. We are enclosing a circular announcing the Screen Tours, and with it three order blanks for tickets. We hope you will help sell tickets to persons who will be interested in attending this series of very fine motion pictures of the out-of-doors. If you can use more order ~~order~~ blanks or circulars, please let us know.

Mrs. Grace Brubaker, Chairman
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THE MAY 25th FIELD TRIP was taken to the San Felipe Valley in the foothills south of Evergreen. Mr. Tourtillott had invited the Society to come early and cook breakfast on the grill in his garden. Twelve Audubonites availed themselves of the chance to do some early morning birding. A chorus of lively bird songs greeted us in the woodsy garden: orange-crowned and pileolated warblers, Bullock oriole, solitary vireo, and other singers we failed to list. Soon we were watching a warbling vireo work on its nest in an oak, and then we saw the oriole's nest and also the nest of a black-headed grosbeak.

After breakfast eight more members joined us and birding began in earnest. On or near Mr. Tourtillott's place, on Metcalf Rd. near its junction with San Felipe Rd., the following birds were observed: Anna hummingbird, several acorn woodpeckers, 2 black phoebes, 2 western flycatchers, 4 violet-green swallows, several California jays, 2 plain titmice (titmouses?), 4 bush-tits, white-breasted nuthatch, several house wrens (one pair feeding young in bird house), solitary vireo, 2 warbling vireos, 2 orange-crowned warblers, yellow warbler, pileolated warbler, 2 Bullock orioles, 2 black-headed grosbeaks, purple finch, many house finches, several Arkansas goldfinches, spotted and brown towhees at feeding tray, 2 Oregon juncos anxious about a nest we could not find. Cedar waxwings had been seen on the San Felipe Rd. before reaching Mr. Tourtillott's home.

By half past nine the day was clear and warm, our destination the O'Connell cattle ranch in the San Felipe Valley. Along the way we stopped to observe a pair of western kingbirds and their nest high in an oak. Near by we saw seven or eight yellow-billed magpies, and we watched a pair feeding very clamorous young high in another oak. We were amazed to see a great blue heron feeding out in the middle of a stubble field. Suggestions as to the nature of its meal included "lizzard cocktail" and "snake pie." In this same general area were a red-tailed hawk and a turkey vulture, mourning dove, ash-throated flycatcher, wood pewee, violet-green swallows, American crow, western bluebirds, western meadowlarks, Brewer blackbirds, small flock of lark sparrows, and a chipping sparrow. While we were trying to see the pewee Bernice Kersell sang out "Road-runner!" We all ran to see, but its legs were better than ours, and we had to be content with knowing it had been there.

For a lunch site Mr. Tourtillott chose a small tule-bordered, bass-filled lake. Our approach startled a family of coots. All we saw were twelve small red heads moving across the lake, and it was some time before we were able to identify our new birds as baby coots. Here in this Twin Lakes region and at two other stops after entering the O'Connell Ranch we added the following birds to our list: green heron, horned owl and its nest, California quail, red-shafted flicker, rough-winged swallow entering hole in bank of a dry stream, cliff swallows flying around ranch buildings, Steller jay, wren-tit, robin, russet-backed thrush, Lawrence goldfinch, and song sparrow. The last observation for the trip was made at the summit of the Metcalf Rd. where there was a field with "a horned lark on every rock." In all, 54 species of birds were recorded, and most of the song birds were singing.

Grace Brubaker