

SANTA CLARA VALLEY AUDUBON SOCIETY

January, 1948

THE JANUARY FIELD TRIP will be taken this coming Sunday, January 18, to Mount Hermon to look for red crossbills which have been wintering there since the middle of October. Red crossbills are residents of high mountains and rarely come to our part of California. Perhaps a small cone crop somewhere was the reason for crossbills in the ponderosa pines at Mount Hermon this fall. Mrs. Thomas says they come frequently to her bird bath to drink, and she is inviting us to her house on the good chance of our seeing these handsome birds with crazily crossed bills. Bring along any walnuts you may want to feed the chickadees while we wait for the crossbills. From Mount Hermon we can either walk or drive to Santa Cruz County Big Trees Park for picnic lunch (grills available) and afternoon birding. Mrs. Grace Brubaker will be our leader, and the meeting place will be the Lyndon Hotel in Los Gatos at 8:30 o'clock. San Jose members wanting transportation meet at corner of E. San Carlos and Fifth Streets promptly at 8: Palo Alto members at the S. P. Depot in Palo Alto at 7:45.

THE THIRD SCREEN TOURS LECTURE will be given Monday evening, January 19, in the Montgomery Theatre in the San Jose Civic Auditorium at 8 o'clock. Mr. Roger Tory Peterson will talk on "The Riddle of Migration," illustrating his talk with colored motion pictures. Many of us know Roger Tory Peterson as the author and illustrator of our much used copies of "A Field Guide to Western Birds."

Ralph A. Smith, Pres. - phone Campbell 3997  
Emily Smith, Corr. Sec. - Los Gatos 994-W  
Route 1, Box 387, Los Gatos

OUR 18th CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT was held the Sunday after Christmas. Twenty one participants, in five parties, counted birds in five different areas: suburbs of San Jose in the vicinity of the San Jose Country Club, the upper and lower regions of Alum Rock Park, pasture and farm land on the Sierra and Marsh Roads in the foothills east of Milpitas, and the Alviso salt marshes. The count in the marshes was not representative because of heavy duck shooting at the time, and also because of a mishap which left the two observers without binoculars. At 4 o'clock the five parties came together at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Lester Brubaker to summarize the count and enjoy a social hour.

The following report of the count is in the form requested by the National Audubon Society: San Jose, California (same general area as in 1946, with addition of areas on Sierra and Marsh Roads in foothills east of Milpitas; city suburbs which included gardens, orchards, waste fields, and dry creek bed, 22%; foothill canyon with live creek, 43%; foothill pasture land which included farm buildings and eucalyptus trees, open fields with rock fences, brushy draw and grassy slope with white oaks, 23%; salt marsh and sloughs, 12%). - Dec. 28, 1947; 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Clear, with high fog until 10; prevailing wind N, 5 to 20 m.p.h.; temp. 50 to 61 degrees F. Twenty one observers in 5 parties. Total hours, 20 (on foot); total miles, about 14 (on foot). White pelican, 16; Can. goose, 109 (2 flocks); Am. pintail, 4; green-winged teal, 3; shoveller, 410; Am. merganser, 1; white-tailed kite, 1; sharp-shinned hawk, 3; red-tailed hawk, 12; golden eagle, 2; marsh hawk, 6; sparrow hawk, 15; Cal. quail, 59; Am. coot, 92; killdeer, 24; willet, 22; least and Western sandpipers, numerous (Western outnumbering least when near enough to be distinguished); avocet, 500+; ring-billed gull, 150+; mourning dove, 2; Anna hummingbird, 18; belted kingfisher, 1; red-shafted flicker, 39; Cal. woodpecker, 15; hairy woodpecker, 1; downy woodpecker, 2; Nuttall woodpecker, 7; black phoebe, 6; Say phoebe, 3; horned lark, 129; Steller jay, 23; Cal. jay, 21; yellow-billed magpie, 27; crow, 26; chestnut-backed chickadee, 24; plain titmouse, 20; bush-tit, 76; white-breasted nuthatch, 6; wren-tit, 16; dipper, 1; Bewick wren, 10; canyon wren, 3; rock wren, 1; mockingbird, 15; Cal. thrasher, 6; robin, 524; varied thrush, 6; hermit thrush, 33; Western bluebird, 20; ruby-crowned kinglet, 39; Am. pipit, 152; cedar waxwing, 126; loggerhead shrike, 5; Hutton vireo, 5; Audubon warbler, 44; Townsend warbler, 4; yellow-throat, 2; English sparrow, 34; Western meadowlark, 191; Brewer blackbird, 256; purple finch, 19; house finch, 15; pine siskin, 21; willow goldfinch, 1; green-backed goldfinch, 102; spotted towhee, 14; brown towhee, 41; savannah sparrow, 26; lark sparrow, 9; rufous-crowned sparrow, 7; Ore. junco, 186; white-crowned sparrow, 281; golden-crowned sparrow, 174; fox sparrow, 3; song sparrow, 24. Total, 76 species, about 4291 individuals, plus numerous sandpipers.

Grace Brubaker, Kent Carnie, Claire Coolidge, B. N. Dickinson, Curt Dietz, Florence Durfee, Ruth Griffith, Elsie Hoeck, David Jenkinson, Eva McRae, Etta Waddington Smith, Emily Smith, James G. Peterson and Jean, Clyde and Agnes Prusman, Marilyn Wood, Albert and Dorothy Wool, Charles and Fanny Zwaal.  
(Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society)

Emily Smith