

SANTA CLARA VALLEY AUDUBON SOCIETY
May, 1948

REGULAR LAY MEETING will be held next Monday evening, May 10, in Alum Rock Park. An hour of birding and a picnic supper will precede the meeting for those who can come early. Bring your basket lunch and meet at the Lodge at 4:30 o'clock. Supper will be at 6 o'clock at picnic tables near the Lodge. There will be a big pot of hot coffee, but bring cup and spoon. There are grills for those who want to cook.

At the evening meeting, at 8 o'clock in the Lodge, Dr. William Graf, of San Jose State College, will show photographs of birds, which he took in the field to help students learn to identify birds by their field characteristics.

Following the regular meeting there will be a short annual business meeting to elect officers of the Society for the coming year. If you want transportation to the Park, phone Mrs. Lester Brubaker, San Jose, or Miss Emily Smith, Los Gatos.

MAY FIELD TRIP will be taken this coming Sunday, May 9, to the San Felipe Valley, about 15 miles southeast of San Jose.

Mr. Tourtillott has again invited the members of the Society to come early and cook their breakfast on the barbecue grill in his garden on Metcalf Road. Mrs. Brubaker will make coffee, but bring cup and spoon. Meet at the corner of E. San Carlos and 5th Streets, San Jose, at 6:30 a.m. Bring lunch as well as breakfast, if you want to bird in the afternoon.

Members who wish to join the group after breakfast (9 a.m.), drive south from San Jose on the King Rd. to Evergreen, and then south on San Felipe Rd. to Metcalf Rd., about 8 miles beyond Evergreen. Follow the Metcalf Rd. a short distance and watch for a sign on the left side, with Mr. Tourtillott's name on it.

Ralph A. Smith, Pres.
Emily Smith, Corr. Sec. - Route 1, Box 387, Los Gatos

TWO LETTERS from Baron Nikolaus von Bodman, to whom we have sent CARE packages. The first letter, dated June 2, 1947, was translated for us by Mr. Curt Dietz. "Permit me to express heartfelt thanks of myself and my entire family, for your kindness and generosity in sending us the so very welcome CARE package. It made us awfully glad, and we are very grateful for everything in the package. All of you should have seen with what enthusiasm my children of 10, 8, and 5 years, opened the package; when the chocolate was discovered, there was a shout of joy. It is truly touching, how you have thought of us, and I can not thank you enough for it. How beautiful is this human willingness to help! If it were found everywhere how peaceful this world would be!"

Dr. William Graf helped us translate the second letter, which came early in March, in reply to a letter from us. "We were truly glad when your kind letter arrived yesterday. We thank you heartily for it. Very great was my pleasure when I saw the little picture of the Bufflehead duck. (I had stuck a Wildlife Conservation stamp on the letter.) I have always been especially interested in ducks. (His home is near a large lake, Boden See, between Germany and Switzerland.) Buffleheads do not occur here, but their near relative, the Golden-eye, does. It is found here on the Boden See often during the winter. The commonest duck with us is the Mallard, then

97
 9:30
 1041 The Aleutian
 Could you phone Etta Washington Smith
 (S.M. I think) a card if she is going
 and will take passengers? And Elsie
 at the college campus (San Carlos & 5th)
 OK? I'll be at the college campus (San Carlos & 5th)
 at 4 to take passengers. I'll ask Etta to make coffee.

OK? I'll bring coffee
pot a coffee

the Green-winged Teal and the Blue-winged Teal. All three of these ducks breed here. In the winter, by the thousands, we have Gadwall, European Widgeon, Shoveller, Pintail, Redhead, Old Squaw. . . . Yesterday I saw a Sea-eagle, which is very seldom seen here. The bird life on the Boden See is very interesting and very many-sided. Therefore the well-known Vogelwarte Rossitten is now located near the Boden See, since it lost its former home. The Vogelwarte is now called Vogelwarte Radolfzell (Name of town near which the von Bodmans live) and is housed in my home, (His home is a castle, part of which dates back to the 11th century.) and here it carries on its work of bird banding, research, etc. I am very happy about it. The director of the Vogelwarte, Dr. Schulz, is not always here, since he lives in Ludwigsburg, but his assistant in zoology and ornithology, Dr. Kulk, is stationed here with his co-workers. Last year we were able to get bands again, and already 2000 birds have been banded. Correspondence with workers in other countries has been resumed, and we receive active support from your country. Should you have particular interests, please share them with us. It is fine that you take monthly field trips.

Now I must tell you the good news that we have just received your second CARE package. To the great joy of the children, and equally of their parents, it was unpacked. What wonderful things were inside! Everything so much needed! We thank the members of your Society with all our hearts for the so kind, so welcome gift. In your letter you have the great kindness to ask what we most need. We hate to ask for anything, but it is truly bad here. You can have no idea what all is lacking in food and clothing and everyday articles. The CARE packages, which you have sent us, have been a very great benefit to us, and we can not thank you enough for them. With 50 gr. of fat, which we receive per month when things go well, you can imagine how far we get. So it is with meat, etc. How wonderful when sometimes one gets good coffee, and I miss tea dreadfully, for I am a great tea drinker. You can not imagine the great pleasure of our boys, who are 11, 8, and 6, when chocolate comes out of the wonderful CARE package.

I am venturing to list some of our needs for you to select from. Stockings are particularly wanted, and I am enclosing foot sizes. Garters, shoe strings for children's and adults' shoes, suspenders, sponges for the children's bath, can opener, candles, ordinary letter paper and envelopes. These are the things which occur to me right now. But I beg you not to go to any trouble, for I do not want to appear troublesomely urgent. I shall be very glad if we can exchange our ornithological interests, and thank you once more for your kindness in sending us the CARE packages. For your Society I wish everything good and much success. Heartiest greetings from my entire family and myself to the members of your Society, and especially to Mr. President, Dr. R. Smith."

The Committee for Relief to European Ornithologists is planning to send a box to the von Bodmans by the middle of May. We think that most of the things listed in the letter should be new, and so we shall buy them instead of asking for used articles. Five members have already contributed 50 cents apiece. If other members want to add to this, please see Mrs. Charles Zwaal on the field trip or at the meeting next Monday. Have you a can opener, or candles, or a small plaything for the boys? Or a pair of women's shoes, size 8½ or 9 and sturdy? We have been told they need shoes, and men's and boys' shoes have already been donated.

Emily Smith, chairman

APRIL 17 FIELD TRIP REPORT. The day was overcast and dampish, and the birds on the Hastings Natural History Reservation were elusive for the most part. But the drive up the beautiful Carmel Valley, carpeted in many places with spring wild flowers, and our introduction to the fine work being carried on at the Reservation justified the long trip.

Bird behaviour sometimes contradicts the amateur's feeling of what is fitting and proper. Why should big, gaudy birds such as the magpies squawk and fly about in open terrain, while a rare mite like the hermit warbler slips unobtrusively among broad leaves far back in gloomy woods? Jim Rigby tried patiently to show me both hermit and orange-crowned warblers, but all I could see were tips of grayish tails. If they had been magpies I could have seen them!

Dr. and Mrs. Linsdale were very kind and hospitable. Dr. Linsdale told us something of the objectives of the Reservation, how the area is being preserved so that "native plants and animals may live undisturbed by human use of the land," and how continuous studies are being made of the vertebrate animals in the Reservation, especially their relationships to their surroundings. His account of the changes which have occurred with the discontinuance of grazing and cultivation was very interesting: for instance, the disappearance of ground squirrels with the return of grasses to the meadows, and at the same time the increase of meadow mice. In the museum we saw preserved and named plants, small mammals, insects, etc., which serve as references for identifying the food of animals being studied on the Reservation (even leaf hairs in droppings are clues to the species of plant which was eaten!), and also for identifying the parasites which plague those same animals. Very ingenious was the method of filing preserved insects, lichens, and other small specimens, in transparent sealed envelopes. We were much impressed with the immense amount of field observations which is being carried on all the time, and the endless recording and analyzing of these observations. One worker, specializing in deer, has learned to recognize by sight 75 individual deer in the draw passing the Linsdales' house - a range on which perhaps 6 head would be overabundant. Despite this crowding, evidenced by the browse line on every thicket, state hunters moved into the adjacent area last year to kill mountain lion, bobcat, and coyote. Dr. Linsdale suggested that letters of protest to appropriate officials might be efficacious in terminating such practices.

Our list of birds for the Reservation is enumerated as follows: sharpshinned hawk, red-tailed hawk, Cal. quail, Anna hummingbird, Allen hummingbird, red-shafted flicker, acorn woodpecker, hairy woodpecker, Nuttall woodpecker, black phoebe, W.flycatcher, Steller jay, Cal.jay, yellow-billed magpie (nests with eggs), crow (pair nesting), plain titmouse, bush-tit, white-breasted nuthatch, wren-tit, house wren, Bewick wren, Cal.thrasher, hermit thrush, W.bluebird, blue-gray gnatcatcher, ruby-crowned kinglet, Hutton vireo, warbling vireo, orange-crowned warbler, hermit warbler, W.meadowlark, Bullock oriole, black-headed grosbeak, purple finch, house finch, pine siskin, Ark. goldfinch, Lawrence goldfinch, spotted towhee, brown towhee, Ore. junco, white-crowned sparrow, golden-crowned sparrow, song sparrow.

Neil Dickinson

MAY 9 FIELD TRIP to Mr. Tourtillott's home and the San Felipe Valley was very delightful, but no report has come in.