

SANTA CLARA VALLEY AUDUBON SOCIETY

November¹, 1948
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THE REGULAR NOVEMBER MEETING will be held next Wednesday evening, November 10, at 8 o'clock in Room 210, Science Building, San Jose State College. Albert Wool will have charge of an informal program, which will include reports of seasonal bird observation by members of the Society and a general discussion on how to keep records of bird observations. Dr. William Graf, who went to Germany in 1936 to observe the work being carried on at the Bird Watching Stations, will tell us about these stations, especially the "Vogelwarte" which we hear about in letters from Nikolaus von Bodman.

A MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS and Committee Chairmen will be held immediately before the regular meeting, at 7 o'clock in the same room in the Science Building. This 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 November Field Trip will be taken Saturday, November 20; and the second Audubon Screen Tours lecture will be presented the following Friday evening, November 26. Further announcement of both the field trip and the lecture will be mailed the middle of this month, and with it the report of the wonderful field trip to Los Banos.

B. Neil Dickinson, Pres. - 1135 Crane St., Menlo Park
Emily Smith, Corr. Sec. - 387 Glen Una Dr., Los Gatos

Two letters have come from Nikolaus von Bodman, thanking the Society for the box of clothing we sent his family in May, and for the CARE package in late July. The letters, which follow, were in German and have been translated.

Moggingen, July 25, 1948

To the Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society!

What a pleasure it was, when I brought your kind gift box from the Post! Such wonderful and such very useful things you had packed into it! It was so full of things we need, that the children jumped for joy again and again, as the beautiful things were brought out to view. How nice all the various socks! Today the boys are wearing theirs with great pride. My wife was so very pleased with the beautiful coat; and the package of tea delighted me, as I enjoy drinking tea very much and we can get none at all here. And so it was with everything we took out, one after the other, from the box. With all our hearts we thank you for this wonderful gift box, and we do not know at all how we can repay you. Every single thing is so very useful and you hit upon just the right things.

For the Camp Fire Girls (Mrs. Brubaker's group of Camp Fire Girls enclosed a small box in our box.--E.S.), I am enclosing a separate thank-you. They planned so well and everything in the box gave us pleasure.

This spring we suffered from severe drought, and now from too much water, for it is raining constantly. We hope the weather will improve soon, so that we can bring in our crops successfully. The birds also have suffered from too much wetness, and many young birds are being found dead. Most of the swifts, which nest in holes in our wall (The von Bodmans live in a walled castle, parts of which date back to the twelfth century.--E.S.) have not been able to rear their broods. We have found many dead young birds, also adult birds.

Once more very heartily I thank you, also in the name of my wife and our boys, and we send you all many greetings.

Yours very truly,

Nikolaus v. Bodman

Moggingen, October 10, 1948

To the Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society!

In the name of my entire family I thank you most heartily for the wonderful CARE package, which we again have been privileged to receive. Again it was unpacked with great pleasure, and my wife and all of us are very happy over the contents, which we so very much need. You can not know how very happy we are over it.

We are having wonderful autumn weather, and just now at Boden Lake Nature is gloriously beautiful. The bird migration has again been very interesting, especially the waterfowl. The technician here at the Vogelwarte trapped and banded a great many pond and marsh song birds. Also several kingfishers were trapped. Recently at one of the most favorable places on the Lake we made a duck count, and upwards of 20,000 birds were counted. If we could trap ducks there for banding, how interesting it would be! They were mostly "Stockenten" (My very small German-English dictionary is no help here.--E.S.) then a great many red-crested pochards and redheads; some golden-eyes, "Krickenten," "Pfeifenten," and "Spiessenten."

With interest I have been looking at the fine books about ducks, which the Vogelwarte has received and which you probably know well: "Food Habits of North American Diving Birds," with splendid illustrations; "Food of Game Ducks in the United States and Canada," also a very fine book. I liked especially the pictures in the very beautiful book "The Canvasback on a Prairie Marsh," by H. Albert Hochbaum. I very much regret that I can not read these books.

I trust that you have received my last letter and the little booklet about our region.

We fervently hope that the research work here at the Vogelwarte may continue undisturbed and we be spared another war. With us only one wish prevails, that finally a lasting, beautiful peace be granted us and all men learn to understand each other.

Once more very heartily we thank you and send greetings to you all.

Yours very truly,

Nikolaus v. Bodman