

SANTA CLARA VALLEY AUDUBON SOCIETY

December, ¹⁵ 1948

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT. A bird count at Christmas time is taken annually by Audubon Societies and other bird watchers throughout the United States and Canada. The National Audubon Society started the taking of Christmas bird counts (originally called a "Census") forty-nine years ago, and ever since then has published reports of the counts. Three hundred and fourteen reports of counts taken last Christmas were printed in the March issue of Audubon Field Notes. The U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service is now collaborating with the National Audubon Society in editing and summarizing the reports. Aside from their scientific value, Christmas bird counts are lots of fun--a sort of game to see how many different species of birds and how many individuals of each species can be recorded in one day in a given area. Choosing an area which includes as many types of bird habitats as possible, is part of the game. The rules of the count, prescribed by the National Audubon Society, state that "the area must fall within a circle 15 miles in diameter."

The Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society held its first Christmas Bird Count in 1929, when eight members, in two groups, Dr. Charles Fiper Smith leading one and Dr. Gayle Fickwell the other, counted birds in the Alum Rock region and between Alviso and the foothills east of Milpitas. In more or less the same territory a count has been taken almost every Christmas season since then.

At the December meeting members who were interested in taking a count this year, got together and agreed to hold the 1948 Christmas Bird Count in the Palo Alto region Sunday, JANUARY 2. The meeting place will be the S. P. Depot in Palo Alto, at 7:30 a.m., Standard Time. Mr. Rigby, who has conducted a one-man count in the Palo Alto region the last two Christmases, has worked out a very promising count area which reaches from the sloughs of San Francisco Bay, over the mountains to the ocean at Half Moon Bay. He has prepared maps of the area which show how it can be most successfully covered. At the meeting place he will explain the rules of the count and distribute the maps. All members are urged to participate in the count and to bring their bird-minded friends. Any member who is interested in doing some advance scouting between Christmas and the day of the count, can get a map by phoning B.N. Dickinson in Menlo Park or Emily Smith, Los Gatos. San Jose members who can take passengers and those who want transportation, meet at corner of E. San Carlos and Fifth shortly before 7 a.m.

TWO CORRECTIONS FOR THE CALENDAR which was mailed to members early this month. In cutting the stencil for the mimeographer, one line was inadvertently left out. May 22 should read:

May 22 Joint field trip with the Audubon Association of the Pacific to Livermore Canyon, to see nesting phainopeplas

Also, at the end of the Calendar, the corresponding secretary again slipped--omitted the names of the members of the program committee who are making arrangements for the regular and informal meetings. The first and second vice-presidents, Albert Wool and Oleta Dickinson, serve on that committee.

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Emily Smith, Corr. Sec. - 387 Glen Una Dr., Los Gatos