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SANTA CLARA VALLEY AUDUBON SOCIETY

January, 1949

A MIDWINTER BIRD CENSUS in the Alum Rock Park and Alviso areas will be taken this next Sunday, Jan. 16, under the leadership of Jim Peterson. This will be a one-party census, with the morning spent in Alum Rock Canyon and the afternoon in the Alviso salt marshes. The leader suggests a one-party census, hoping that the whole party will have the opportunity of seeing the sharp-tailed sparrow, which was recently observed at Alviso by a visiting bird student from Pennsylvania. Although the sharp-tailed sparrow is common in the East, it is listed as a "rare straggler" in California. Of the only three records for California, two were at Milpitas, about three miles from Alviso. The meeting place for the trip will be San Jose State College campus, E. San Carlos St. at Fifth St., and the time 8 a.m. Bring a lunch. Palo Alto members who want transportation, phone the B.N. Dickinsons.

THE THIRD AUDUBON SCREEN TOUR, entitled "Wildlife Down East," will be presented Monday evening, Jan. 17, at 8 o'clock in Montgomery Theatre, Civic Auditorium, San Jose. Carl W. Buchheister, vice-president of the National Audubon Society, will be speaker and will take his audience on a tour "down east" to Maine and other parts of New England, to see the interesting wildlife along the "rockbound coast" and in the picturesque country near the coast. As director of the Audubon Nature Camp at Medomak in Maine since its first season ten years ago, Mr. Buchheister has had excellent opportunity to become acquainted with this "Down East" country and its wildlife population, which ranges from "harbor seals in the bays to warblers in the spruce woods." From all reports Mr. Buchheister is a very pleasing, stimulating speaker and is showing very fine color motion pictures. Help advertise the Audubon Screen Tours by telling your friends about this third Screen Tour. Tickets will be sold at the Montgomery Theatre on the night of the performance: general admission, 75c; students, 60c.

DATE OF THE JANUARY FIELD TRIP had to be changed from January 29 to Saturday, January 22. The Field Trip Committee is sorry and hopes it won't happen again. Jim Rigby will lead the trip to Monterey, and is planning to go by way of Watsonville, so that the Elkhorn Slough area can be visited for a part of the day's birding. Meet in San Jose at the usual place, E. San Carlos St. at Fifth St., at 6:30 a.m. It might be well to bring along a midmorning snack as well as the usual picnic lunch. Palo Alto members who want transportation, telephone Mr. Rigby--he has a phone now--DA 2-0515.

MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS and Committee Chairmen will be held Monday evening, January 24, at 8 o'clock in Room 220, Natural Science Building, San Jose State College. Any member of the Society who is interested in attending the meeting will be welcome.

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

would go like to have us stop
for you about 8:30 > E.S.
we hope you can plan to attend this Board meeting.
also Mr. Buchheister wants to meet the Board Tues. evening, Jan 18 -
will send you a card to let you know where we'll meet him. E.S.

1948 CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT was taken in the Palo Alto region. In spite of a strong cold wind which blew all day, the participants turned in a good report. The count area, which stretched across the Peninsula from the sloughs of San Francisco Bay to the ocean at Half Moon Bay, offered many kinds of bird habitats and beautiful country to spend the day in. Jim Rigby, who so successfully mapped out the area and directed the count, prepared the following report for the National Audubon Society.

Crystal Springs Reservoir, San Mateo Co, Cal. (count area included South San Francisco Bay in the vicinity of Belmont Slough and San Mateo Bridge, Crystal Springs Valley and Lakes, northern Santa Cruz Mts., and Pacific Ocean at Half Moon Bay; open salt water of bay and ocean 15%, tidal salt marsh 10%, exposed mud flats 5%, lawns and shrubbery 10%, fresh water lakes 10%, chaparral-covered hillsides 15%, farm and grazing land 15%, forested canyons and ridges 10%, ocean beach 10%). - Jan. 2; 8:00 a.m. to 5 p.m. Clear; temp. 35° to 55°; wind N, 13-18 m.p.h. Twenty-three observers in 7 parties. Total hours 40 (28 on foot, 12 by car); total miles 260 (24 on foot, 236 by car). Red-throated loon, 1; horned grebe, 4; eared grebe, 2; Western grebe, 34; pied-billed grebe, 7; double-crested cormorant, 14; Brandt's cormorant, 11; great blue heron, 9; American egret, 41; snowy egret, 1; whistling swan, 8; Canada goose, 450; blue goose, 1 (wintering with Canada geese at Crystal Springs Reservoir, also seen Jan. 8); mallard, 25; gadwall, 10; baldpate, 12; pintail, 760; green-winged teal, 10; shoveller, 56; ring-necked duck, 8; canvas-back, 1000; scaup duck, 460; Am. golden-eye, 29; buffle-head, 10; old-squaw, 1; white-winged scoter, 15; surf scoter, 40; ruddy duck, 110; Am. merganser, 2; red-breasted merganser, 4; turkey vulture, 14; white-tailed kite, 1; sharp-shinned hawk, 3; Cooper's hawk, 5; red-tailed hawk, 42; red-bellied hawk, 2; marsh hawk, 5; sparrow hawk, 33; Cal. quail, 180; coot, 1200; killdeer, 120; black-bellied plover, 125; Wilson's snipe, 1; long-billed curlew, 23; willet, 1250; greater yellow-legs, 2; least sandpiper, 450; red-backed sandpiper, 120; dowitcher (Eastern), 20; marbled godwit, 55; sanderling, 65; avocet, 200; glaucous-winged gull, 3; Western gull, 32; herring gull, 60; Cal. gull, 45; ring-billed gull, 100; short-billed gull, 530; Forster's tern, 6; common murre, 1; band-tailed pigeon, 430; white-throated swift, 30; Anna's hummingbird, 4; red-shafted flicker, 34; acorn woodpecker, 15; hairy woodpecker, 1; black phoebe, 16; Say's phoebe, 4; horned lark, 15; Steller's jay, 9; Cal. jay, 28; chestnut-backed chickadee, 20; plain titmouse, 6; bush-tit, 170; white-breasted nuthatch, 1; pygmy nuthatch, 3; wren-tit, 19; winter wren, 2; Bewick's wren, 11; rock wren, 1; Cal. thrasher, 5; robin, 130; varied thrush, 13; hermit thrush, 17; Western bluebird, 18; ruby-crowned kinglet, 11; Am. pipit, 60; cedar waxwing, 63; loggerhead shrike, 6; Hutton's vireo, 1; myrtle warbler, 1; Audubon's warbler, 59; English sparrow, 20; Western meadowlark, 730; red-winged blackbird, 2; tricolored blackbird, 3; Brewer's blackbird, 650; purple finch, 7; house finch, 370; pine siskin, 15; Am. goldfinch, 4; Ark. goldfinch, 41; spotted towhee, 10; brown towhee, 52; lark sparrow, 25; Savannah sparrow, 83; rufous-crowned sparrow, 2; Ore. junco, 63; white-crowned sparrow, 650; golden-crowned sparrow, 73; fox sparrow, 9; song sparrow, 32. Total, 112 species; 11,872 individuals (the numbers of individuals in some cases could only be estimated).

Mrs. Grace Brubaker, Kent Carnie, Florence Durfee, Etta Gibson, H.G. Hill, Mrs. W.A. Hillebrand, Elsie Hoeck, Myrtle Moore, J.G. Peterson, Mr. and Mrs. Clyde Prusman, J.P. Rigby, Max Schreiber, C.L. Sleeper, Emily Smith, Mr. and Mrs. Irving Snow, J.B. Sterling, Dr. M.F. Vessel, Mr. and Mrs. Albert Wool, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Zwaal (Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society).