

63

SANTA CLARA VALLEY AUDUBON SOCIETY

January, 1950

THE POSTPONED JANUARY MEETING will be held Monday evening, January 23, in Palo Alto at the Palo Alto High School. The meeting is set for 7:45 p.m. in Room 2. As is our usual custom, the first fifteen minutes of the program will be devoted to reports of bird observations by the members of the Society. (Have the robins and cedar waxwings come for your red berries yet? Is there an Anna's hummingbird still in your garden inspite of the cold which shriveled the flowers? Have you heard a plain titmouse or a song sparrow singing quite persistently this month? What unusual winter visitant birds have you seen?)

Our speaker for the evening will be Mr. Frank H. Lewis, of San Jose, who will show assorted color slides of the High Sierra; and also of the Arizona deserts, including the Rainbow Natural Bridge country. Mr. Lewis, a member of the Sierra Club, took his pictures on Sierra Club "annual outings." We are especially glad to have Frank Lewis with us, for he has for many years been actively associated with the Sierra Club in its fine work in aiding in the creation and preservation of national parks and wilderness areas.

OUR SECOND JANUARY FIELD TRIP will be taken the following Saturday, January 28, to Marina Park and Golden Gate Park in San Francisco, with Mr. and Mrs. Irving Snow as leaders. In these two parks the Snows found good birding while they were living in San Francisco. The meeting place for the trip will be the Yacht Harbor near Marina Park, at 10 o'clock. To avoid the usual Saturday morning traffic, the Snows suggest going by way of U.S. Highway 101 and turning left at stop sign three or four miles beyond San Bruno, to enter San Francisco on Junipero Serra Blvd. and 19th Ave. "Continue on 19th Ave. through Golden Gate Park, following signs to Golden Gate Bridge. Shortly after leaving tunnel, turn right at sign marked "Marina," and continue along viaduct to next Y; turn right here and when you reach Lombard St., take street to left to Yacht Harbor." San Jose members who want to go in caravan, meet at corner of E. San Carlos and 5th Streets at 8 a.m., and Palo Alto members at S.P. Station in Palo Alto at 8:30. There is always room in our cars for those who want transportation. Bring lunch.

NEW MEMBERS. The Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society welcomes as new members: Mr. George W. Lane, Morgan Hill; Miss Mary MacRae Corbus, Los Gatos; Mr. and Mrs. Sidney T. Carr and Mr. John P. Harville, Los Altos; Mrs. Elma H. Levorsen and Mrs. R. Wesley Wright, Los Altos; Mrs. U.E. Laurence, Redwood City; Miss Sara D. Harker, Miss Dora Lidgate, Miss Edith E. Patton, Mrs. Josef C. Urban, Miss Fay L. Younkin, all of Palo Alto; and from San Jose, Miss Grace E. Ganley, Miss Mildred Goss, Mrs. A. Hougardy, Mr. Alvin Long, Mrs. Grace D. Peterson, Mr. Harry H. Rumbolz, and Dr. Charles G. Sibley.

Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society, Branch of National Audubon Society
Monthly meetings second Monday, alternately in San Jose and Palo Alto

B. Neil Dickinson, Pres., 554 Oak Park Way, Redwood City, EMerson 6-7661
Miss Emily Smith, Corr. Sec., Rt. 1, Box 387, Los Gatos

At the Boylans' there were bright-colored syrup bottles for the hummingbirds, feed trays to which chickadees and juncos were coming, and bird houses for nesting birds next spring. Farther up the road, at Miss Miller's summer home, chickadees came to our hands for walnut meats and pygmy nuthatches and bush-tits to suet hung up only a few feet away. To our surprise, bush-tits also picked up bread crumbs from a feed tray.

After a picnic lunch at the Big Trees County Park, we drove on to Santa Cruz, to see the monarch butterflies which winter in the grove of red gums in the Natural Bridges Beach Park. Thousands of the butterflies were clinging to the long pendulous branches of the gum trees, looking like flowers at first glance. In the warm sunlight they opened and closed their wings, which displayed the ruddy gold of their coloring. Many butterflies were fluttering about among the trees, and some that had been too much battered by wind and rain were down in the grass. Mrs. Boylan said the monarchs come in late October and stay until March.

After enjoying the butterflies we turned back and drove along the West Cliff Drive. The tide was very low—a low minus tide—and a surprising number of seaweed-covered rocks were exposed. We stopped several times and with Mr. Hill's telescope enjoyed good views of black turnstone, black-bellied plover, Hudsonian curlew, marbled godwit, and willet. On a sandy beach in one of the coves a flock of sanderlings were running back and forth with the waves. Out from the shore, among scoters and scaup ducks, were five red-breasted mergansers. A lone loon with a slender bill which did not turn up, we decided was a Pacific loon. On a bird rock were many Brandt's and double-crested cormorants and a few Baird's. Several of the Brandt's showed the white filaments and blue throat-pouch which is seen only during the breeding season. By this time it was getting cold and a strong wind was blowing; and so we checked our list and called it a day, a very good day.

Our list for the day: Pacific loon, 1; eared grebe, 6; western grebe, 3; brown pelican, 1; double-crested cormorant, 20+; Brandt's cormorant, 30+; Baird's cormorant, 6; scaup duck, 24; white-winged scoter, 1; surf scoter, 12; red-breasted merganser, 5; sharp-shinned hawk, 1; red-tailed hawk, 2; sparrow hawk, 3; Cal. quail, 22; killdeer, 19; black-bellied plover, 2; black turnstone, 4; Hudsonian curlew, 2; willet, 24, marbled godwit, 4; sanderling, 40+; western gull and also herring, California, ring-billed, and short-billed gulls, in small numbers; Anna's hummingbird, 1; red-shafted flicker, 4; acorn woodpecker, 15+; downy woodpecker, 1; black phoebe, 3; Steller's jay, 6+; Cal. jay, 2; chestnut-backed chickadee, 13+; bush-tit, 38; pygmy nuthatch, 8; wren-tit, 3; Bewick's wren, 2; mockingbird, 1; robin, 100+; hermit thrush, 2; western bluebird, 15; ruby-crowned kinglet, 2; Audubon's warbler, 12; western meadowlark, 20+; Brewer's blackbird, 12; purple finch, 12; house finch, 75+; Ark. goldfinch, 1; spotted towhee, 3; brown towhee, 6; Savannah sparrow, 15; Ore. junco 200+; white-crowned sparrow, 30+; golden-crowned sparrow, 20+; song sparrow, 20+. (Mrs. Boylan said we should have seen at her home varied thrush, Townsend's warbler, and fox sparrow.)

Charles and Fanny Zwaal

Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society, Branch of National Audubon Society

President, B. Neil Dickinson, 554 Oak Park Way, Redwood City
Corr. Sec., Miss Emily Smith, Rt. 1, Box 387, Los Gatos