

SANTA CLARA AUDUBON SOCIETY

JUNE, 1950

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THE AUDUBON PRINTS

Many Americans have seen, in some library or museum, one or more of the magnificent prints made from the original plates of John James Audubon's "Birds of America." But these aquatints are no common matter. Audubon's son estimated that no more than 175 sets of them were made. These should not be confused with reproductions of the prints which are available in books and sets at popular prices.

All but ten of the original 435 plates were the work of Robert Havell Jr., and Englishman, who for eleven years devoted his great talents to the Audubon project. To get his fine effects Havell combined etching, dry point, aquatint, and line engraving; and, moreover, he supervised the coloring of the prints by hand.

The 435 Audubon plates showed 489 species of American birds and contained 1065 figures. The handsome paper on which they were impressed was handmade, dated, and measured 38x25½ inches. For a few of the larger birds, such as Plate 1, The Wild Turkey, six square feet of copper were required. Havell pulled his last Audubon proof in June 1838.

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THE REGULAR JUNE MEETING will be held Monday evening, June 12, in Alum Rock Park. Members who can come to the Park in the afternoon, will enjoy an hour of birding, followed by a picnic supper. Meet at the Lodge at four o'clock for the birding. Supper will be at 5:30 at picnic tables near the Lodge, each one bringing his own supper. There are grills for those who want to cook, and Mrs. C. Prusman will serve hot coffee and sugar and cream,--bring your own cup and spoon. At the evening meeting, at 7:30 in the Lodge, there will be reports of bird observations. Dr. C. Sibley will talk on "Territorial Behavior in Birdlife".

FIELD TRIP TO LAKE COUNTY, June 17 and 18, Anne Peterson, leader. The main meeting place will be at 5th and San Carlos Streets, San Jose at 7:30 a.m., Saturday June 17th. The route is as follows: - Highway 9, joining 21 at Mission San Jose, thence through canyon to Dublin, Walnut Creek and Martinez, taking ferry to Benicia. Follow highway 40, and take underpass to Napa. Members coming another route will be met at 11:00 a.m. at the Napa Airport. From Napa take highway to Middleton. Peterson's place is reached by turning left about one mile before reaching Middleton at a 3 A (AAA) sign saying "Peterson's Resort". Follow UP the creek, cross a bridge and keep to the main road. Bring lunch, sleeping roll and cot--if possible, (there are some beds available) camp dishes and swim suit. Saturday dinner and Sunday breakfast will be commissary style. On Sunday morning there will be "the makings" for each person to pack his own lunch for birding at Clear Lake where it is expected Grebe with young will be seen. It will take about five hours to return, and cars may depart at any time. On Sunday morning there may be any early breakfast, and a later one for those who prefer to bird close by.

Reservations should be in the hands of Anne Peterson by Wednesday, June 14, Comm. Solv. Corp., Agnew, California. Phone Cypress 3-1077. Anyone having transportation to offer please give that information at the Alum Rock meeting, June 12.

FIELD TRIP, SUNDAY, JUNE 25, will be taken to the egret heronry on Guadalupe Creek, near Montague Road, Agnew; and in the afternoon, to Alviso to look for birds which summer in the salt marshes. The meeting place will be the S.P. Station at Agnew, Santa Clara-Alviso Road at 7 A.M. Those who wish to come later, will find the party near the eucalyptus grove on Guadalupe Creek, where the heronry is, at 9 o'clock. From the Santa Clara-Alviso Road, turn east into the second driveway south of Montague Road. An Audubon sign will be posted at the entrance to the driveway. Mr. and Mrs. Jim Peterson will be the leaders.

Bring lunch. Mrs. Anne Peterson has invited us to picnic at her home, on the grounds of the Commercial Solvents Corporation grounds, near Agnew.

THE SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE wish to announce that they received six written and four oral applications for the scholarships offered by our Audubon Society. After careful consideration it was decided to send Mrs. Esther Ollis, Lexington School, Alma, and Mr. Elwood G. Mitchell, Supervisor of Physical Education, Santa Clara County Schools.

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

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Miss Eva Allen, Corr. Secretary - 406 Bella Vista Ave., Los Gatos, California