

SANTA CLARA VALLEY AUDUBON SOCIETY

November 1950

THE NOVEMBER MEETING will be held Monday, November 13, in Menlo Park, at the home of Mrs. Bernhard Jakobsen, 1325 Johnson St., at eight o'clock. The speaker will be Mr. B. S. Show, for twenty years Regional Forester for the Pacific Coast for the U. S. Forest Service, and now with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. Mr. Show will discuss the conservation work being done by the United Nations.

To find Mrs. Jakobsen's home, come El Camino Real to main stop signal in Menlo Park at Santa Cruz Ave. and turn toward the hills. Johnson St. is the fourth street on the right side (where church is being built). Turn right on Johnson, which is a short street of only two or three blocks.

THE SECOND AUDUBON SCREEN TOUR will come on Thursday, November 16. "By Erie's Changing Shores" will be presented by G. Harrison Orians in Montgomery Theatre, San Jose Civic Auditorium, at eight o'clock. This Screen Tour takes its audience into the famous "Dune Country" and through extensive marshes, as well as along the water's edge, to see evidences the shores of Lake Erie were once part of a vast inland sea. Dr. Orians' film also shows the great numbers of waterfowl, shorebirds, and songbirds, and other forms of life, which come and go with the changing seasons. Dr. Orians, who is connected with University of Toledo, is a native of Ohio and has known and photographed this Lake Erie region since boyhood.

From all accounts this is another good Screen Tour and should be given lots of publicity. Tickets are 74 cents (students, 50 cents) and can be had at the door the evening of the performance. Please note there will be no afternoon performance at the Montgomery Theatre. The rest of the matinees will be presented for school children at different schools.

THE NOVEMBER FIELD TRIP will be conducted by Oleta and Neil Dickinson Saturday, November 18. Meet at the Palo Alto S. P. Station for departure at 8 a.m., and bring your lunch if you plan to remain for the whole trip. Stops for bird observations will be made at Crystal Springs Lakes and at various points along the coast south from Half Moon Bay.

TWO FIELD TRIP REPORTS, from Nell and Les Sleeper who led the trips:

The August 27 field trip to Searsville Lake was enjoyed by twenty-three members and two guests. A fog that thinned and broke against a blue sky, and the pink of masses of smartweed blossoming on the surface of shallow water at upper end of the lake, added beauty to the scene of our birding. From the entrance gate we followed, at liesurely pace, the road which crosses a bridge and then skirts the south side of the main part of the lake, between the lake and a willow thicket. Our biggest bird surprise was a lone Black Brant among five Mallards. When the ducks flew away the brant remained, very much alone and out of its natural habitat.

By noon it was hot and we were grateful for Mr. and Mrs. Nash's invitation to eat our lunches under a magnificent oak at their home on Moody Road. In spite of heat and the time of day we found good birding here, and beside the Adobe Creek across the road—twenty-five species!

Birds seen at Searsville Lake: Pied-billed Grebe, 3; Great Blue Heron, 2; Anthony's Green Heron, 1; Am. Bittern, 1; Black Brant, 1; Mallard, 15; Ruddy Duck, 7; Turkey Vulture, 1; Red-tailed Hawk, 1; Coot, 18 (four immature, chasing vainly after adults, with squealy notes); Killdeer, 2; Mourning Dove, 2; Vaux Swift, 1; Anna's Hummingbird, 1; Acorn Woodpecker, 3; Downy Woodpecker, 1; Black Phoebe, 3; W. Flycatcher, 1; Rough-winged Swallow, 1; Barn Swallow, 1; Purple Martin, 5 (one immature still being fed by parent); Cal. Jay, 3; Chestnut-backed Chickadee, 5; Plain Titmouse, 1; White-breasted Nuthatch, 1; Wren-tit, 2; Bewick's Wren, 1; W. Bluebird, 6; Hutton's Vireo, 1; Warbling Vireo, 1; Yellow-throat, 4; Pileolated Warbler, 1; W. Meadowlark, 2 (singing); Red-winged Blackbird, 18, Bullock's Oriole, 1; Brewer's Blackbird, 30+; House Finch, large flock; Am. Goldfinch, 15; Green-backed Goldfinch, large flock; Spotted Towhee, 1; Brown Towhee, 4; Oregon Junco, small flock; Song Sparrow, 6.

The September 16 field trip to Dumbarton Bridge was a morning trip, during high tide. From the quarry at the east end we followed the trail which circles back of the hill and overlooks the Newark Slough. Returning to the quarry, we drove to KGO Radio Station where we found that two boys with guns had scattered the birds. However our walk out the levee which extends south between two salt ponds, proved rewarding, for with the boys gone the birds gradually came back. Again in our cars, driving back to Bayshore Highway, we were thrilled at the sight of many White Pelicans riding buoyantly on the ponds west of the toll bridge, and many others resting on a distant levee in snowy windrows.

The lunch hour was spent in Los Altos, this time at the invitation of Mrs. Howard Stevens. We very much enjoyed our visit in her garden which includes a beautiful stretch of the San Antonio Creek.

Birds observed in the Dumbarton Bridge area: Eared Grebe, 3; Pied-billed Grebe, 1; White Pelican, 300+; Double-crested Cormorant, 12; Great Blue Heron, 3; Am. Egret, 14; Am. Pintail, many; Ruddy Duck, 8; Turkey Vulture, 1; Black Turnstone, 31; Semipalmated Plover, 1; Killdeer, 12; Black-bellied Plover, 3; Long-billed Curlew, 2; Willet, many; Greater Yellow-legs, 3; Least Sandpiper, many; Dowitcher, 6; W. Sandpiper, many but fewer than Least; Marbled Godwit, 8; Avocet, 14; N. Phalarope, many; Cal. Gull, many; Forster's Tern, 24 (one seen feeding an immature bird); Turkey Vulture, 1; Black Phoebe, 1; Barn Swallow, 10; Cliff Swallow, 30; Cal. Shrike, 1; Yellow-throat, 3; English Sparrow, 8; Red-winged Blackbird, 1 (singing); Brewer's Blackbird, several small flocks; House Finch, small flock; Am. Goldfinch, 6; Savannah Sparrow, 4; Song Sparrow, 6.

SEASONAL NOTE. There have been many reports of mockingbirds singing this fall; also uttering vigorous call notes and frequently chasing each other. Eva Allen recently saw two fly up at each other "like fighting gamecocks." Mockingbirds are solitary after the nesting season, and each one must have a territory of its own, with plenty of berries. It would seem mockingbirds are having difficulties establishing the boundaries of their winter territories, with the increase in their numbers in our area. California thrashers have also been singing conspicuously. There have been an unusual number of requests for the name of "that brown bird, with long curved bill, which sings like a mockingbird." E.S.

SANTA CLARA VALLEY AUDUBON SOCIETY, Branch of NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY

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