

SANTA CLARA VALLEY AUDUBON SOCIETY

April 1951

WILD FLOWER TRIP. The Sequoia Audubon Society has invited our Society to join them on their field trip this coming Saturday, April 7, to see spring wild flowers with Dr. Carl Sharsmith, of San Jose State College Natural Science Department. Many of us know Dr. Sharsmith better as Ranger Naturalist at Tuolumne Meadows in Yosemite National Park. The meeting place for the trip is in Woodside, at Leo's Garage at corner of Woodside and Canada Roads, and the time 8:30 a.m. Bring lunch. The Field Trip Committee regrets that the Pinto Lake trip, scheduled for April 8, had to be cancelled.

THE REGULAR APRIL MEETING will be held in San Jose on Monday, April 9, at 7:45 p.m. in Room 210, Science Building, San Jose State College. As part of the program, members will be given time to report their seasonal bird observations; and Mrs. Beatrice Nielsen and Mrs. Anne Peterson will give the brief bird identification talks. The speaker of the evening will be Mr. John Harville of San Jose State College Science Department, who will talk on "The One World of Nature," stressing the interrelations of birds and other forms of wildlife, plants, soil, and water. Mr. Harville has been an instructor at Audubon Camp of California since its inception three years ago. Guests are always welcome at our meetings.

OVERNIGHT TRIP TO PINNACLES NATIONAL MONUMENT will occur on the week end of April 14 and 15, with the Snows as leaders. Bring camping equipment and food, for there are no cabins, meals, or groceries available at the Monument. There is a good campground, however, with fireplaces, tables and benches, piped water, and restrooms. Wood is available. Meet at the Ranger Station at 2 p.m. if you care to participate in the Saturday afternoon walk. There will be an informal program around the campfire in the evening. Sunday there will be hiking for those who wish it, but those who do not care to hike will find excellent birding and much of geological interest within easy walking distance of campgrounds. Those who can get an early start Saturday, will be able to enjoy fine birding on the way down. Look for Phainopeplas in tops of low trees as you approach the Monument.

FIELD TRIP TO UVAS VALLEY will be taken on Sunday, April 22, with Fanny and Charles Zwaal as leaders. The Zwaals are planning an easy two- or three-mile hike off the main road, where both birds and wild flowers are good. Meet at the corner of San Carlos and Fifth Streets at 8 a.m. Palo Alto members meet at S. P. Station at 7:15. Bring along lunch. (Uvas Valley is some twenty miles south of San Jose, as the crow flies.)

TWO COMING FIELD TRIP DATES: May 6, to Alviso salt marshes, with Charles Sibley; and May 13, to Al and Dorothy Wool's ranch and new home.

ORNITHOLOGY LECTURES. "Adaptations for Flight" will be the subject of Dr. Sibley's lecture in Redwood City on Monday, April 9, as announced in the March notice of meetings. The meeting place will be Room 26, Music Building, Sequoia High School, and the time eight o'clock. The subject for the sixth lecture, in Palo Alto on April 16, will be "Avian Ecology," dealing with the interrelation of birds and their environment. The Palo Alto meetings are being held in the Junior Museum, at the Community Center on Middlefield Road, at eight o'clock.

THE LAST AUDUBON SCREEN TOUR THIS SEASON comes Friday, April 27, when Tom and Arlene Hadley present their travelogue "America the Beautiful." The Hadleys' color motion picture film, taken on their lecture tours across the continent, presents a "naturalist's-eye view of a great and beautiful country," showing much of the interesting wildlife of the country as well as its scenic glories.

The Screen Tour will be held in the Montgomery Theatre, San Jose Civic Auditorium, at eight o'clock. Single admission tickets are 74 cents (students 50 cents) and can be had at the door that evening.

REPORT OF ADOBE CREEK FIELD TRIP, MARCH 17, 1951. On the morning of a perfect spring day thirty-five members and guests foregathered at the Los Altos Railroad Station and proceeded to Hidden Villa Ranch, home of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Duveneck, in the hills west of Los Altos. Just inside the gate cars were parked under the olive trees, and the party walked out into a field along the Adobe Creek. Purple Finches were singing melodiously, and field glasses showed that they were pecking into ripe olives still hanging on the trees. In oaks on the hillslope across the creek Orange-crowned Warblers were singing persistently (they were recently arrived, for none were heard when the trip was scouted two days earlier). Birding was so good here that it was an hour before the bird watchers continued on to the Youth Hostel, where they were met by Mr. Duveneck and conducted over two miles of beautiful mountain trails through untouched oak-and-madrone woodland and chaparral. Walking single file made birding difficult, but the displays of wild flowers were much enjoyed. Among the many flowers noted were Columbine, Hound's Tongue, Purple Trillium, Mission Bells, Star Zygadene, Indian Warrior, Woolly Paintbrush, and Milkmaids. Near the end of the hike feet were pleasantly cooled when every one had to ford a stream by wading, to get back to his lunch box the short way. Lunch was enjoyed on the lawn of the Duveneck home, where a giant pot of hot coffee was kindly contributed by Mrs. Duveneck.

In the afternoon the beautifully landscaped grounds of Adobe Creek Lodge were visited by most of the group. The unexpected bird for this area was a Townsend's Solitaire; and the most interesting to watch, a pair of Green-backed Goldfinches "honeymooning at their new home" (two days earlier female was incorporating bits of cotton into the nest's lining).

Birds seen at Hidden Villa Ranch: Turkey Vulture, Red-tailed Hawk, Cal. Quail, Band-tailed Pigeon, Anna's Hummingbird, Red-shafted Flicker, Black Phoebe, Violet-green Swallow, Steller's Jay, Scrub Jay, Chestnut-backed Chickadee, Plain Titmouse, Bushtit, Wrentit, Bewick's Wren, Cal. Thrasher (vigorous singing and some scrapping), Robin, Varied Thrush, Hermit Thrush, W. Bluebird, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Hutton's Vireo, Orange-crowned Warbler, Audubon's Warbler, Townsend's Warbler (singing), W. Meadowlark, Brewer's Blackbird, Purple Finch, House Finch, Green-backed Goldfinch, Spotted Towhee, Brown Towhee, Ore. Junco, Golden-crowned Sparrow, Song Sparrow. (Bell Sparrow, two days earlier, taking dust bath by Hostel.)

Mildred and Edgar Nash

SANTA CLARA VALLEY AUDUBON SOCIETY, Branch of NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY

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