

SANTA CLARA VALLEY AUDUBON SOCIETY

October 1951

THE REGULAR OCTOBER MEETING will be held Monday, Oct. 8 at 8 p.m. in the Junior Museum of the Palo Alto Community Center. Dr. Gordon Edwards of the San Jose State College Natural Science Dep't. will speak on "Nature Ramblings in Glacier National Park". He will illustrate his talk with colored slides. Dr. Edwards has spent several summers in the Park as a Ranger Naturalist.

There will be a short time, before Dr. Edwards' talk, for reports of seasonal bird observations. Please bring your reports in writing and give them to Charles Sibley or Emily Smith for inclusion in the next Bulletin.

Leona Jakobsen, Program Chairman

THE MIDWEEK BIRD TRIP, planned especially for beginners, will be taken Wed. morning, Oct. 10, to Aldercroft Heights, with Mrs. Irving Snow as leader. Meet at the Shell Station in Alma, on the Old Los Gatos-Santa Cruz Highway, at 8 o'clock. These Wednesday morning trips should be over by 11:00, but if the day is nice and you want to picnic, bring along a lunch. Mrs. Snow will provide hot coffee in her garden.

AN ALL-DAY FIELD TRIP will be taken Sunday, October 14, to the Lisle Shores' cabin on a high ridge flanking Loma Prieta, with Mrs. Shore as leader. This will be a scenic trip, with the possibility of a side trip to the summit of Loma Prieta, where there is a fire lookout. The Loma Prieta road is not difficult, if you are used to unpaved mountain roads. Meet at junction of Soquel Road and the Old Los Gatos-Santa Cruz Highway at 8:00 a.m. If you want to go in caravan to the meeting place be in front of the Lyndon Hotel in Los Gatos at 8 o'clock. Bring lunch.

AN ALL-DAY FIELD TRIP to the foothills east of San Martin will be taken Saturday, October 20, with Mr. and Mrs. William Ouderkirk as leaders. The Ouderkirks are planning a trip out from their new home in this area. Meet in San Martin at corner of Highway 101 and Church Road, by Don's Service Station, at 9:00 a.m. Bring lunch.

AUDUBON SCREEN TOURS. Two Audubon Screen Tours folders and a circular letter are enclosed. Perhaps you know of some interested person to whom you can pass on the letter and a folder.

Places where season tickets can be purchased are listed on the back of the folder. In addition, season tickets can be obtained after October 15, at the Peninsula Box Office, 315 University Ave., Palo Alto; and at the Corner Drug Store, 1 North Santa Cruz Ave., Los Gatos. Single admission tickets can be purchased only at the Civic Auditorium Box Office on the evening of each Screen Tour.

A children's matinee series is again being sponsored by our Society and will be offered to the schools of Santa Clara County on a nominal at-cost basis. Because the first Screen Tour comes on a holiday, the first matinee can not be booked by the schools. Consequently a children's matinee will be presented in the Montgomery Theatre, San Jose Civic Auditorium, on Monday afternoon, November 12 at 2:30. Matinee tickets for children will be 25 cents and can be obtained at the door on the afternoon of the performance.

Wilbur Luick, Audubon Screen Tours Chairman

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FIELD OBSERVATIONS. (Send your records to the editors)

White-crowned Sparrow, Sept. 18, East Foothills. Grace Brubaker.

Golden-crowned Sparrow, Sept. 19, Los Gatos. Emily Smith; Charles Sibley.

Cedar Waxwing, Sept. 14 and 22, Los Gatos. Emily Smith.

Townsend Warbler, Spotted Sandpiper, Green Heron, Sept. 25, Los Gatos, Emily Smith.

Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Sept. 30, Los Gatos. Eva McRae.

HAVE YOU EVER SEEN AN ALBATROSS? --or a Fulmar? -- or passed close to shearwaters, murrelets, and auklets?? Here's your chance! On Sunday, October 28 the "Tom Swift" with Capt. Groszmann at the helm will take a group offshore from Santa Cruz to observe oceanic birds. The "Tom Swift" is a 40' gasoline powered cruiser with space for 30 passengers. There are only 14 spaces left. Cost is \$2.00 per person. Send your reservation to Charles Sibley, Rt. 1, Box 241, Los Gatos (ELgato 4-4429) before Oct. 15. Save up your stale bread and get all the suet you can--bring both along for "chum"--bait for the birds. This is the time of year when the maximum variety and numbers may be expected.

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REPORT OF FIELD TRIP, SEPT. 29, 1951. At Palo Alto the overcast was heavy. Flocks of House Finches, Brewer Blackbirds, and Meadowlarks along the Sand Hill Road were evidence that the territorial antagonisms of the breeding season are over and winter flocks are again formed. The first stop at Upper Crystal Springs Reservoir was rewarded with views of at least 4 Red-bellied Hawks and large numbers of Pintails. Flocks of Pintails were arriving frequently from the direction of the Bay. Forced to a considerable altitude in surmounting the ridge to the east they dropped in steep whistling glides to the lake. Other species at Crystal Springs Reservoir: Eared Grebe, 2; Pied-billed Grebe, 3; Great Blue Heron, 2; Mallard, 100; Turkey Vulture, 11; Marsh Hawk, 1; Sparrow Hawk, 2; Calif. Quail, 20; Coot, 1000; Killdeer, 6; Northern Phalarope, 2; Ring-billed Gull, 25; Barn Owl, 1 (flushed from cover by Mr. Anderson); Downy Woodpecker, 1; Scrub Jay, 3; Loggerhead Shrike, 1; Red-winged Blackbird, 50; Spotted Towhee, 2; Brown Towhee, 3; White-crowned Sparrow, 1.

At Half Moon Bay the sky was clear and while eating lunch on the beach the following species were observed: Red-throated Loon 1; Western Grebe, 100; Brandt Cormorant, 25; White-winged Scoter, 3; Surf Scoter, 10; Sanderling, 11; Heermann Gull, 10; Western Gull, 100; California Murre 1.

Continuing southward along the coast to Pescadero Slough a stop was made to count the birds on the pond beside the highway. A Virginia Rail gave several calls in the thick growth at the edge of the water--then flew across an open space permitting identification. Other species were: Great Blue Heron, 2; Cinnamon Teal, 2; Pintail, 200; Baldpate, 10; Scaup (sp.?) 4; Ruddy Duck, 20; Coot, 100; Killdeer, 2; Dowitcher (sp.?), 25; Marsh Wren, 5; Red-winged Blackbird, 50.

A stop at the Pigeon Point lighthouse added Pelagic (Baird) Cormorant and Glaucous-winged Gull to the list. At Waddell Creek the Heermann Gulls were harassing the Brown Pelicans. Each time a pelican plunged into the water for a fish the gulls "mobbed" the larger bird and attempted to snatch the fish away. At Scott Creek a Belted Kingfisher was perched on a wire over the stream.

Charles Sibley

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