



BULLETIN OF THE
SANTA CLARA VALLEY AUDUBON SOCIETY

March 1952

SOME ORNITHOLOGISTS OF THE SOUTH BAY REGION

The first resident naturalist in the Santa Clara Valley was Thomas Bridges who lived in San Jose. He was born in 1807, probably in England. Bridges made a small collection of birds which he sent to Philip Lutley Sclater in London and in 1857 Sclater published a list of the 33 species contained in Bridges' collection. The title of the paper was, "List of Birds Collected by Mr. Thomas Bridges, Corresponding Member of the Society, in the Valley of San Jose, in the State of California." It appeared in the Proceedings of the Zoological Society of London, vol. 25, pp. 125-127. This paper is the first published list of birds pertaining specifically to our area. Bridges died in 1865 and is buried in Laurel Hill cemetery in San Francisco. In 1927 the Golden Gate Audubon Society raised funds for a memorial stone for his grave inscribed, "Thomas Bridges, Naturalist".

John Van Denburgh, primarily known as a herpetologist, began observing and collecting birds in Los Gatos and Palo Alto in 1885. In 1899 he published a paper entitled, "Notes on Some Birds of Santa Clara County, California" (Proc. Amer. Phil. Soc., vol. 38, pp. 157-180) which listed 108 species of land birds.

Chase Littlejohn was born in 1854 and lived most of his long life in Redwood City. He was an active field worker and to his intensive efforts we owe many of the most interesting records for our area. He published a few items in the Condor and Grinnell and Wythe used his notes extensively in their 1927 "Directory to the Bird-Life of the San Francisco Bay Region".

Between 1890 and 1910 there were several young men who were actively climbing trees in search of eggs and spending all possible time afield in pursuit of birds. Among them were Chester Barlow, Rollo Beck, Richard McGregor, William L. Atkinson, and Ernest Adams. Barlow was one of the founders of the Cooper Ornithological Club and was editor of the Condor from 1899 to 1902. Beck became a professional collector and spent most of his life in other parts of the world, collecting birds. McGregor went to the Philippine Islands and became ornithologist at the Philippine Bureau of Science in Manila. Atkinson still lives in San Jose and Adams moved to Placer County many years ago. Walter K. Fisher, Joseph Grinnell, and J.R. Pemberton were at Stanford in the early 1900's. Fisher succeeded Barlow as editor of the Condor and was in turn succeeded by Grinnell in 1906.

In 1910 W.E. Unglish of Gilroy joined the Cooper Club and began publishing the results of his work in southern Santa Clara and northern San Benito counties. Many "firsts" for the county are due to his activities.

Charles Sibley

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NEW MEMBERS

- Miss Phyllis M. Bastin, Box 78, Mt. Hermon
- Mr. Fred Byl, 1480 Emory St., San Jose 26
- Mr. Sam W. Elkins, 787 Cereza Drive, Palo Alto
- Miss Elizabeth F. Gamble, 1431 Waverley St., Palo Alto
- Mr. Allen R. Johnson, 164 South 10th. St., San Jose 12
- Mr. Sheldon C. Judson, "El Paraiso", 6th. St., Saratoga
- Miss Grace V. Plum, 751 Riverside Drive, San Jose 25
- Mr. F. Robert Shellenberger, 145 Spartan City, San Jose

The Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society is pleased to welcome our new members with the hope that they will be able to participate in the activities of the Society and will find profit and pleasure by so doing.

WILDLIFE CONSERVATION

The management of the environment and the manipulation of animal populations are today considered essential for the protection and preservation of much of our wildlife, especially the so-called "game" species. Simply closing the hunting season or providing a refuge is not always the answer. Overpopulation may result from overprotection and animals may become their own worst enemies, creating starvation conditions and disease epidemics which may have unfortunate effects on other species and lead to lasting damage to the vegetation. The practice of applied ecology or wildlife management, is today an accepted method. The necessity for management is not always so obvious. Lack of understanding often results in conflicts and opposition to conservation and management programs. Proper appreciation can come only with full understanding. Students of bird-life will sooner or later be confronted with some of the problems dealing with the management of the various forms of wildlife classed as "game". For a better understanding of the objectives, techniques, and methods of wildlife management both from the standpoint of the layman and the professional worker the following books are suggested.

"Wildlife Conservation" by Ira N. Gabrielson. An outline of the need for conservation and the various phases of conservation. The "renewable" resources are considered with relation to the wildlife dependent upon them. Big-game, fur-bearers, waterfowl, and non-game species are considered in brief but well organized chapters. The book provides a clear picture of the problems of wildlife conservation.

"Wildlife Refuges" by Ira N. Gabrielson is a discussion of the National Refuge System. Refuges in general and their management, predators and predator control, and the fur seal islands and "bird cities" of the Aleutian Islands are given detailed treatment. Canadian and Mexican refuge systems are briefly discussed.

"Wildlife Management" by Ira N. Gabrielson takes up in greater detail the problems of management and particularly the administration of our wildlife resources. These three books are not only authoritative but are written in an interesting style. The author was formerly Chief of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and has had a lifetime of experience in many parts of this continent.

William Graf

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THE COOPERATIVE NESTING SURVEY

The returns have started to come in! Lynn Robbins found an Anna Hummer gathering nesting material on February 9 at Palo Alto. TWO THOUSAND more Nesting Survey blanks have been mimeographed and are ready for use. A supply will be brought to each meeting for distribution. If you cannot attend the meeting send your request for "More Blanks" on a postal card to the Editor.

One of the best sources of information on nesting dates is the already published material in the "CONDOR", the "GULL", and our own "BULLETIN". The job of reading through the files of these periodicals and extracting the data for our nesting study is a huge one and can be accomplished only by the help of a large number of people. WILL YOU HELP??? All that is necessary is to settle down comfortably in an easy chair with a supply of Nesting Survey blanks and some copies of one of the periodicals---- then scan through the articles, notes, field observations, etc. and each time a nest record in our area is noted, fill out a blank. Complete files of the Condor and Gull are available. If you would like to help out with this phase of the Nesting Survey please send a postal card to the Editor. You will be supplied with all the necessary materials and information.

C.S.

Three books loaned to our Society have gone astray. If you know the whereabouts of, "Logbook for Grace", "Kon Tiki", and "Birds Over America" please let Emily Smith know.

C A L E N D A R F O R M A R C H

THE REGULAR MARCH MEETING will be held in San Jose on Monday, March 10, at 7:45 p.m. in Room 210, Science Building, San Jose State College. At beginning of program there will be a short time for reports of field observations by members. Please bring them in writing for our files. The speaker of the evening will be Mr. Donald D. McLean, Game Biologist with the California Division of Fish and Game. Mr. McLean, always a welcome speaker at our meetings, will show a color motion picture film of "California Birds," and also a "Special Surprise" film. Bring your friends—you will be glad you did.

Grace Brubaker, Program Chairman.

A MIDWEEK BIRD TRIP will be taken Wednesday morning, March 12, in the San Jose area—first to Mrs. Fanny Zwaal's home in Burbank to see the Evening Grosbeaks which come every morning for sunflower seeds; then to Mrs. Mary McCormick's garden and farm on Scott Lane, near Santa Clara. Meet at Mrs. Zwaal's home, 478 Clifton Ave. (W. San Carlos, between Race and San Jose-Los Gatos Rd., on south side, opposite Safeway Store). The grosbeaks come early, and so we should be there by 8:15 a.m.

FIELD TRIP UP STEVENS CREEK CANYON will be taken Sunday, March 16, with Mr. and Mrs. George Bottini as leaders. Birding is always good around the reservoir and in the county park farther up the canyon. Meet at junction of Stevens Creek Rd. and Permanente Rd., about 2 miles west of Cupertino, at 8:00 a.m. Bring lunch.

SECOND MIDWEEK BIRD TRIP will be taken on Wednesday morning, March 26, in the Palo Alto area. Mrs. Roberta Pleas, who is a member of the Sequoia Audubon Society, has invited the members of our Society to come to her place in Woodside. If you do not know the way to Mrs. Pleas's home, meet in Woodside, in front of Caldwell's Store at 8:30 a.m.

AN ALL-DAY FIELD TRIP will be taken on Saturday, March 29, with Neil and Oleta Dickinson as leaders. The Dickinsons were scheduled to lead an April trip, but over the phone last night they were good enough to agree to take this date instead. If they can get permission, we'll go to Rancho del Oso, the Theodore Hoover ranch on the Waddell Creek which has been proposed as a wildlife refuge to the National Audubon Society. But wherever they lead us, it will be a good trip. Meet in Palo Alto at S.P. Station at 7:45 a.m., so that we can be on our way at 8:00 (it is 50 miles to the "Ranch of the Grizzly Bear" by way of Pescadero and south along the coast). Bring lunch.

FIELD TRIPS SCHEDULE FOR REST OF YEAR is still incomplete. Les Sleeper and Emily Smith will be glad for suggestions for trips.

Apr. 12, Sat., Wild Flowers trip.

Apr. 19, Sat., Shore Birds trip, with Charles Sibley.

Apr. 26 and 27, week-end trip to San Antonio Valley and Arroyo Mocho, with Mrs. Caroline Davis.

May 4, Sun., Wools' ranch.

June 7, Sat., Eagle Rock, Santa Cruz Mts., with Mr. and Mrs. Goldsmith.

June 28, Point Lobos State Park, with Mrs. Grace Brubaker.

The midweek bird trips will come on the Wednesday following the regular meeting (second Monday in the month) and on Wednesday two weeks later.

FIELD TRIP REPORTS

REPORT OF MOSS LANDING FIELD TRIP, FEBRUARY 3, 1952. The joint trip with the Monterey Peninsula Audubon Society was enjoyed by 45 members and guests of the two societies. The day was bright and clear, doubly appreciated after the constant rain of January. Between 10 a.m. (the meeting time) and noon, while the tide was very low, the lagoon area on both sides of the construction road was searched over with binoculars and 'scopes, with good results for the day's bird list. After lunch on the dunes, the group visited briefly Temblader Slough, to look for the Florida Gallinules which have been seen there since last June. Fortunately two soon came out into good view from among the cattails. In the same cattails Long-billed Marsh Wrens were singing persistently.

Birds observed at Moss Landing (construction road and sanddunes): Arctic (Pacific) Loon, Red-throated Loon, Horned Grebe, Eared Grebe, Western Grebe, Pied-billed Grebe, Brown Pelican, Double-crested Cormorant, Brandt Cormorant, Great Blue Heron, Am. Egret, Snowy Egret, Black Brant, Mallard, Cinnamon Teal, Shoveller, Lesser Scaup, Bufflehead, White-winged Scoter, Surf Scoter, Ruddy Duck, Red-breasted Merganser, White-tailed Kite, Marsh Hawk, Sparrow Hawk, Am. Coot, Snowy Plover, Killdeer, Black-bellied Plover, Long-billed Curlew, Hudsonian Curlew, Willet, Greater Yellow-legs, Least Sandpiper, Red-backed Sandpiper, Western Sandpiper, Marbled Godwit, Sanderling, Am. Avocet, Glaucous-winged Gull, Western Gull, Herring Gull, Ring-billed Gull, Heermann Gull, Forster Tern, Common Murre (dead), Short-eared Owl, Belted Kingfisher, Say Phoebe, Am. Pipit, Audubon Warbler, House Finch, White-crowned Sparrow, and Savannah Sparrow.

Charlie and Viola Anderson

REPORT OF CASTLE ROCK FIELD TRIP, FEBRUARY 9, 1952. Bright sunlight added much to the enjoyment of our trip along the Summit Road; and a clean-up-the-rubbish effort at Saratoga Gap, where we had stopped to enjoy the view, proved to be fun. Every one joined the "Save-the-Scenery Squad," and soon papers were gathered up and burned, and cans and bottles put into cartons to be carried off.

Between the Gap and the pleasant yard of the little Central School where we spent the lunch hour, we frequently saw flocks of Band-tailed Pigeons flying from treetops to treetops. Berries on the many fine Madrones along the Summit Road were gone, but the many Canyon Live Oaks still had acorns for the pigeons. Other birds were few in number. A glimpse of a Red-breasted Sapsucker and the nasal call notes of two Red-breasted Nuthatches excited those in search of the unusual.

Castle Rock itself, set in a beautiful grove of fine old Douglas Firs and Canyon Live Oaks, was well worth the trip. Those versed in geology shared with the rest of us their guesses as to the Rock's history, while we gazed at its great moss- and lichen-covered bulk and its curious deep holes and caves.

Birds listed: Vulture (2), Red-tailed Hawk, Band-tailed Pigeon (probably 100's), Red-shafted Flicker, Acorn Woodpecker, Yellow-bellied (Red-breasted) Sapsucker, Hairy Woodpecker, Steller Jay, Scrub Jay, Chestnut-backed Chickadee, Bushtit (flock), Red-breasted Nuthatch, Pygmy Nuthatch, Wren-tit (singing), Bewick Wren, California Thrasher (singing), Varied Thrush, Hermit Thrush, Western Bluebird, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Hutton Vireo (singing), Audubon Warbler, Purple Finch (singing), Pine Siskin, Spotted Towhee, Oregon Junco (singing), Golden-crowned Sparrow, and Fox Sparrow.

Donna McBryan

REPORT OF CRYSTAL SPRINGS LAKES TRIP, FEBRUARY 24, 1952. Perfect views of a Bald Eagle, which few of us had ever seen, made the trip never-to-be-forgotten. The great bird flew out from its treetop perch near the upper end of the reservoir and, flying low over the water, came close to where we were watching breathlessly. Before it was out of sight a Red-tailed Hawk dived at it several times. A little later the eagle returned and again excited the smaller hawk. The third time, below the dam, we saw it soaring high in the air. Its head and tail appeared immaculately white in the bright sunshine, and its flight was truly majestic. The thrill we experienced reminded us acutely that this magnificent bird, our national emblem, is nearly extinct in our country. The fact that it now has federal protection in the states does not help much. The only help would be extending federal protection to Alaska where the Bald Eagle is still fairly common. Our Society should help prevent the Bald Eagle from becoming a beautiful legend of the past.

Birds listed at upper end of reservoir and along the Sawyer Road below the dam: Western Grebe, 1; Pied-billed Grebe, 3; Double-crested Cormorant, 7; Great Blue Heron, 2; Canada Goose, 18; Mallard, 2; Green-winged Teal, 1; Redhead, 1; Ring-necked Duck, 17; Lesser Scaup, 2; Am. Golden-eye, 4; Buffle-head, 2; Ruddy Duck, 14; Turkey Vulture, 1; Sharp-shinned Hawk, 1; Red-tailed Hawk, 5; Bald Eagle, 1; Sparrow Hawk, 2; Calif. Quail, 5; Am. Coot, 100±; Killdeer, 2; Glaucous-winged Gull, 1; Herring Gull, 25; Ring-billed Gull, 30; Anna Hummingbird; Red-shafted Flicker; Black Phoebe (singing); Tree Swallow; Scrub Jay; Chestnut-backed Chickadee; Plain Titmouse; Bushtit; Wren-tit; Bewick Wren; Robin; Hermit Thrush; Western Bluebird; Ruby-crowned Kinglet; Loggerhead Shrike; Hutton Vireo; Audubon Warbler; Townsend Warbler; Western Meadowlark; Brewer Blackbird; House Finch; Pine Siskin; Spotted Towhee; Brown Towhee; Oregon Junco; White- and Golden-crowned sparrows; Song Sparrow.

Manette and Herbert Wittgenstein

FIELD OBSERVATIONS. Evening Grosbeaks returned to the Zwaals' feeding tray in San Jose on Jan. 28 and have come almost daily during February in numbers varying from 3 to 25. Anne Peterson reported 14 Evening Grosbeaks in Box Elders on Guadalupe Cr. near Montague Rd. on Jan. 27.

Townsend Solitaires have been reported in or near Los Gatos on Jan. 27 (Eva McRae), on Feb. 3 (Charles Sibley), and frequently from Feb. 5 to Feb. 27 (Gladys Record).

Arrival of Allen Hummingbird was first reported by Angelina Snow on Jan. 28 in Aldercroft; Feb. 2 near Los Gatos (Charles Sibley). The "pendulum" display was observed on Feb. 3 (C.S.), Feb. 5 (Gladys Record), and Feb. 11 (Angelina Snow).

The volume of bird song increases daily. California Thrashers, Song Sparrows, Spotted Towhees, Wren-tits, Hutton Vireos, and Bewick Wrens have all been especially vocal. Species seen collecting or carrying nesting material: Anna Hummingbird, Jan. 20, San Jose (Wilma Harris) and Feb. 12, Los Gatos (Gladys Record); Bushtit, Feb. 21, Menlo Park (Les Sleeper); Scrub Jay, Feb. 27, Palo Alto (June Miller).

SANTA CLARA VALLEY AUDUBON SOCIETY, Branch of NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY

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Meetings are held on the second Monday of each month, alternately in San Jose and Palo Alto. Guests are always welcome.