



BULLETIN OF THE  
SANTA CLARA VALLEY AUDUBON SOCIETY

July-August 1952

THE NOCTURNAL MIGRATION OF BIRDS

The nocturnal migration of birds is a phenomenon that has intrigued ornithologists for centuries. Recently, techniques for the observation of migrating birds seen through a low-power telescope against the full moon have been developed and by means of special mathematical calculations the direction and density of nocturnal migrants may be computed.

In 1945 Dr. George H. Lowery, Jr. of Louisiana State University began a study of nocturnal migration. In the spring of 1948 he enlisted the aid of a large number of observers scattered over the eastern United States to obtain counts of birds crossing the full moon during the spring migration. The results of the more than 1000 hours of observation by over 200 observers were published by Lowery in 1951. (A Quantitative Study of the Nocturnal Migration of Birds, Univ. of Kansas Publ. Mus. Nat. Hist., 3:361-472).

Among the interesting conclusions drawn from this first large-scale study were the following:

1. Nocturnal migrants fly singly more often than in flocks.
2. The nocturnal migratory flight is apparently preceded by a resting or feeding pause during which there are few migrants in the air.
3. There is a gradual increase in the numbers of nocturnal migrants up to the hour before midnight, then a decline until dawn.
4. Evidence so far does not prove that migrants follow narrow topographically determined flight lanes.
5. A correlation exists between air currents and flight trends, suggesting that most night migrants are greatly affected by atmospheric pressure patterns.

Dr. Lowery and his associate, Mr. Robert J. Newman, have announced the initiation of an even more comprehensive study for this fall. They are especially interested in obtaining data from the western states. Our help has been solicited and the undersigned has assured Lowery and Newman that the Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society will respond. (WILL YOU???)

The procedure is simple. The full moon is watched through a telescope by an observer who notes the passage of birds crossing the face of the moon. A second person records the time and direction of flight. The original data sheets will be sent to Lowery and Newman who will perform the calculations and send us a summary of our observations.

Clyde Prusman has offered the use of his telescope--Emily Smith has already started work on the project. The place of observation will probably be at the Prusman home in Los Gatos.

WE NEED VOLUNTEERS -- to man the 'scope and act as Recorder. Here is an opportunity to learn something interesting about birds and to participate in a most worthwhile project. The periods during which observations will be made will be the nights of full or almost-full moon in Sept., Oct., and Nov. (Sept. 1-5; Oct. 1-5; Oct. 30-Nov. 3). On the enclosed postal card please indicate if you will help out with this study. Even if you can put in but an hour or two---please let us know.

Charles Sibley

\* \* \* \* \*

NESTING SURVEY

The Nesting Survey continues to be most successful. Several hundred nesting records were submitted during the past three months. Watch now for late nests and for young birds being fed out of the nest. Remember, this is a long-term project--so continue to send in records.

BOOKS

"King Solomon's Ring", by Konrad Lorenz (Crowell Publ. Co. 1952, \$4.00).

Curt Dietz and Herb and Manette Wittgenstein read this entertaining book in the original German and were extremely enthusiastic about it. It is now available in an excellent English translation and is recommended for all who enjoy animals. Lorenz is the Austrian ornithologist who has contributed so much to our understanding of animal behavior.

"The Study of Instinct" by N. Tinbergen (Oxford Univ. Press. 1951. \$7.00). A fine review of the science of animal behavior written by one of the foremost authorities on the subject. Tinbergen is presently Lecturer in Animal Behavior at Oxford.

"The Bird: Its Life and Structure", by Gertrud Hess. (Herbert Jenkins Publ. 1951. \$3.60). This is a general ornithology with chapters on migration, reproduction, structure, classification, etc. At present it is about the only modern treatise in English which will provide concise discussions of avian biology.

C.S.

\* \* \* \* \*

If your address has been changed by the Santa Clara County Planning Commission- please send us your new address on the enclosed postal card. Check the other items in which you may be interested.

\* \* \* \* \*

NEW OFFICERS

The officers for the coming year were elected at the June meeting. They are:

- President: Dr. H.B. Humphrey, 715 Fremont Ave., Mountain View
- Vice-Pres: John P. Harville, 576 Lassen, Los Altos  
Mrs. Esther Ollis, P.O. Box 786, Los Gatos
- Treasurer: Mrs. Eva McRae, San Jose State College, San Jose
- Corr. Secty: Miss Eva Allen, P.O. Box 772, Los Gatos
- Rec. Secty: Mrs. George R. Bottini, 855 Poplar St., Santa Clara
- Council Members: Miss Elsie Hoeck, 55 S. 6th. St. San Jose  
Mrs. Fanny Zwaal, 478 Clifton, San Jose  
Mrs. W.A. Hillebrand, 345 Kellogg, Palo Alto

COMMITTEES

The following committees were appointed at the first meeting of the Council. The person whose name appears first in each committee is the chairman.

- BY-LAWS
- Wilbur Luick
  - Emily Smith
  - Henri Hill

- PUBLICITY
- Les Sleeper
  - Clyde Prusman
  - Ann Peterson

- FIELD TRIPS
- Emily Smith
  - Caroline Davis
  - Charles Anderson
  - Charles Sibley

- PROGRAM
- Charles Sibley
  - Malcolm Miller
  - Mrs. W.H. McCormick

- CONSERVATION
- Matt Vessel
  - Jim Peterson
  - Charles Anderson
  - B.C. Goldsmith

- SCREEN TOURS
- Wilbur Luick

- MEMBERSHIP
- Angelina Snow
  - Agnes Prusman
  - Janet Koppel

- SOCIAL
- Grace Brubaker
  - Fanny Zwaal

FIELD OBSERVATIONS

CALIFORNIA QUAIL. June 11, female flushed from brooding of small chicks, near Los Gatos. Col. A.E. Merrill.

BLACK-NECKED STILT. July 8, 3 juveniles feeding in a pond, 1 mi. E. Alviso. C. Sibley

CASPIAN TERN. On June 21, Mr. Carlyle Sather (see Gull, 34:28) made a census of the colony near the east end of Dumbarton Bridge and on July 8 the colony was visited by Charles Sibley and Milton Seibert. Following is a comparison of the two counts, taken 17 days apart.

	Nests with one egg	Nests with two eggs	Nests with three eggs	Nests with 1 egg, 1 young	Nests with two young.
June 21.....	52	75	11	27	23
July 8 .....	45	27	1	19	15

Sather counted 202 non-flying young out of the nest; Sibley and Seibert found approximately 175.

FORSTER TERN. On July 8 Sibley and Seibert investigated two colonies on the South Bay. (1). On an old salt pond dike across the Dumbarton Bridge road from the KGO transmitter. This colony contained: 7 nests with one egg; 4 with 2 eggs; 3 with one. Forty-five eggs were scattered on the ground out of nests; 3 downy young in nests; 30 non-flying young; 10-15 juveniles on the wing. Adults numbered between 60 and 70.

(2). On the same day the same observers checked the colony south of the Oliver Bros. Salt Co. on the approach to the San Mateo Bridge. Only a fraction of this colony could be reached but along one series of dikes were found 8 nests with one egg; 7 with 2; 10 with 3; one with 4; and more than 50 non-flying young were seen in the vicinity.

LEAST TERN. On sand dunes north of Construction Rd., Moss Landing, a nest contained 2 eggs July 4; 1 nestling, 1 egg, July 17, and on July 21 the nest was empty and one young was seen nearby. C. Anderson.

RED-SHAFTED FLICKER. July 25, 2 fledglings fed by parent near Los Gatos. Emily Smith.

ACORN WOODPECKER. Aug. 5, feeding large nestlings, Los Gatos. E.S.

ASH-THROATED FLYCATCHER. June 21, 4 young left nest, Los Gatos. Gladys Record.

BLACK PHOEBE. July 27, feeding 2 large nestlings. Los Gatos. E.S.

WESTERN FLYCATCHER. July 19, 4 young left nest. Known to be 3rd brood; first was fledged successfully, second destroyed as eggs. G.R.

July 17, recently hatched nestlings near Los Gatos. E.S.

TRAILL FLYCATCHER. June 11, a transient in San Jose. Milton Seibert.

WOOD PEWEE. July 19, female working on nearly finished nest; fledglings being fed nearby on July 12 and 16. Near Los Gatos. E.S.

Aug. 5, feeding small nestlings in Los Gatos. E.S.

OLIVE-SIDED FLYCATCHER. Feeding large nestlings near Los Gatos. C.S.

ROUGH-WINGED SWALLOW. June 6, feeding nestlings at Mt. Hermon. E.S.

CLIFF SWALLOW. Aug. 1, feeding nestlings, Los Gatos. E.S.

PURPLE MARTIN. June 6, pair at nest tree which was used in past 3 or 4 years in Mt. Hermon; July 16, male singing in flight near Los Gatos. E.S.

PIGMY NUTHATCH. June 6, feeding nestlings, Mt. Hermon; June 12 digging nest hole at Castle Rock, Santa Cruz Mts. E.S.

WHITE-BREASTED NUTHATCH. July 14 and 17, feeding fledglings, Aldercroft. 'Lina Snow.

RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH. June 22, call notes of 2 or 3, Castle Rock. M. Wittgenstein.

BROWN CREEPER. July 31, one foraging on prune tree near Los Gatos. E.S.

MOCKINGBIRD. June 11, nest with 4 eggs hatching, near Los Gatos. Col. A.E. Merrill.

GOLDEN-CROWNED KINGLET. June 22, 2 singing, Portola Park. Nell Sleeper.

LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE. June 1, 3 young out of nest near Salinas. Chas. Anderson.

YELLOW WARBLER. June 13, feeding small nestlings, Los Gatos. G.R.

AUDUBON WARBLER. June 15, feeding fledgling, Castle Rock. E.S.

HERMIT WARBLER. June 8, 12, 15, 22 (2 males singing at same time) Castle Rock. Singing male at Mt. Hermon, June 6. E.S.

TOLMIE WARBLER. July 14, male feeding 2 fledglings, Santa Cruz Mts. Mary Ellen Shore.

BROWN-HEADED COWBIRD. July 16, 6 (1 male, 2 females, 3 imm.); call notes heard daily in July until July 24, near Los Gatos. E.S.

WESTERN Tanager. June 13, male feeding nearly fledged young, Los Gatos. G.R.  
 June 22, female feeding nestlings, Castle Rock, E.S.  
 HOUSE FINCH. Aug. 1, feeding small nestlings near Los Gatos. E.S.  
 GREEN-BACKED GOLDFINCH. Aug. 1, feeding small nestlings, Santa Cruz Mts. M.E.S.  
 LAWRENCE GOLDFINCH. July 6, actively nest building near Los Gatos. Known to be the  
 3rd nest. First brood fledged; incubating on second nest May 18  
 but not known if successful. E.S.  
 BROWN TOWHEE. July 16, banded female feeding small nestlings. Same female was  
 feeding previous brood of nestlings on May 19. Near Los Gatos. E.S.  
 OREGON JUNCO. July 27, fledglings being fed, Aldercroft. 'Lina Snow.  
 WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW. Nest (contents?) at Moss Landing, May 20. C. Anderson.

\* \* \* \* \*

With regret we report the passing of the only known breeding colony of the American Egret in the South Bay area. The grove of eucalyptus trees 1 mile southeast of Agnew was cut down in early July. On July 8 most of the trees had been felled and four dead nestling Great Blue Herons were found on the ground. The bulldozers doubtless had covered many more. Both the egrets and herons may relocate in some other grove so watch for developments next year.

Charles Sibley and Milton Seibert

\* \* \* \* \*

FIELD TRIP SCHEDULE FOR AUGUST

To MOSS LANDING with the Monterey Peninsula Audubon Society, Saturday, August 16  
 Meet at 9:00 a.m. on Construction Road (the road which crosses the north arm of Elkhorn Slough about 1/2 mile north of the concrete bridge on State Route #1.  
 The fall migration of shorebirds and water birds is now underway and Moss Landing is an excellent area for observing them. Bring lunch.

To ALVISO SALT MARSHES, Wednesday morning, August 20, to observe shorebirds. Meet at Alviso Grammar School at 9:00 a.m.

To HALF MOON BAY and points north along the shore, Sunday, August 31. Meet in Woodside, at Caldwell's Store, at 8:00 a.m. Bring lunch.

ADVANCE NOTICE ON SEPTEMBER FIELD TRIPS (details in Sept. Bulletin)

Sept. 14, Sunday, shorebird trip to Alviso and Dumbarton Bridge.  
 Sept. 17, Wednesday morning trip to Searsville Lake.

\* \* \* \* \*

NEW MEMBERS

- Mrs. Enid Austin, 1116 Mandana Blvd., Oakland 10
- Mr. Fred Cantu, 90 Glen Eyrie Ave., San Jose 25
- Mrs. E.P. Hunt, 1248 Harriet St., Palo Alto
- Miss Florence Mills, 860 Hamilton Ave., Palo Alto
- Mr. Carlyle Sather, 1290 Grove St., Apt. 204, San Francisco 17

Mrs. Austin and Mr. Sather are long-time members of the Cooper Ornithological Society and the Golden Gate Audubon Society.

\* \* \* \* \*

Mr. Russell H. Pray, 662 Santa Rosa Ave., Berkeley 7, is the new editor of the Season Reports for Audubon Field Notes, Middle Pacific Coast Region. Observers who have been sending records to Dr. Jean M. Linsdale, the former editor, should now send them to Mr. Pray.

\* \* \* \* \*

Mr. Harry Adamson, the bird artist, has been asked (by the Ed.) to design a new heading for our Bulletin. We hope to have it by Jan. 1953. If you have any ideas please let us hear from you.

## FIELD TRIP REPORTS

TO SAN ANTONIO VALLEY, April 27, 1952. At 6 a.m., Daylight Saving Time, there were five cars at the meeting place for the trip over Mt. Hamilton to San Antonio Valley. Soon they were on their way. At 6 a.m., Pacific Standard Time, five more cars met for the trip. By the time the second caravan had overtaken the first, in Hall's Valley, the early birders had already listed the following birds for that area (near junction of Mt. Hamilton Road and Quimby Road): Mourning Dove, Red-shafted Flicker, Acorn Woodpecker, Western Kingbird (in territorial dispute), Western Flycatcher, Violet-green Swallow, Scrub Jay, Yellow-billed Magpie, American Crow, Plain Titmouse, House Wren, Robin, Warbling Vireo, Yellow Warbler, Western Meadowlark, Red-winged Blackbird, Bullock Oriole (nest-building), Brewer Blackbird (nest with 5 eggs), Black-headed Grosbeak (in territorial dispute and song flight), Purple Finch, House Finch, Green-backed Goldfinch, Lark Sparrow, White-crowned Sparrow, and Lincoln Sparrow (one in weedy fence row, clearly seen).

Together we continued our trip over Mt. Hamilton and down into Isabel Valley, where a midmorning snack was enjoyed, especially by the early birders. One car reported seeing 15 Band-tailed Pigeons just east of the summit, and hearing Olive-sided Flycatcher in the Coulter Pines there. The following birds were listed in Isabel Valley: Turkey Vulture, Red-tailed Hawk, Sparrow Hawk, California Quail, Killdeer, Mourning Dove, Red-shafted Flicker, Acorn Woodpecker, Nuttall Woodpecker, Western Kingbird, Ash-throated Flycatcher, Black Phoebe, Western Wood Pewee, Violet-green Swallow, Yellow-billed Magpie, Plain Titmouse, White-breasted Nuthatch, Western Bluebird, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Western Meadowlark, Brewer Blackbird, Brown-headed Cowbird, House Finch, Green-backed Goldfinch, Brown Towhee, Chipping Sparrow, and Golden-crowned Sparrow.

In San Antonio Valley, at the Gerber Ranch and nearby abandoned school house, we observed these birds: Green Heron, Turkey Vulture, Red-tailed Hawk, Sparrow Hawk, California Quail, Killdeer, Mourning Dove, Barn Owl (dead), Acorn Woodpecker, Lewis Woodpecker, Western Kingbird (nest-building), Black Phoebe (4 nests, one with 4 newly hatched young and the others with eggs), Say Phoebe (pair feeding young in nest on ridgepole protruding under eaves of barn), Western Wood Pewee, Violet-green Swallow (picked up feather from ground), Scrub Jay, House Wren, Bewick Wren, Robin, Western Bluebird, Yellow Warbler, Yellow-breasted Chat, Pileolated Warbler, English Sparrow (nest-building in a cottonwood), Western Meadowlark, Red-winged Blackbird, Yellow-headed Blackbird (female and male by creek), Bullock Oriole, Brewer Blackbird (nest in cypress), Brown-headed Cowbird, House Finch (4 nests, with 1-6 eggs), Brown Towhee, Lark Sparrow, Chipping Sparrow, Golden-crowned Sparrow.

Returning home by way of Arroyo Mocho and Livermore, one of the cars stopped to examine a Poor-will which had been run over; and at the same place the song of a Canyon Wren was heard. About 10 miles before reaching Livermore, those in the lead car saw the promised Phainopepla, as it flew across the road—a male in fine plumage!

Caroline Davis, Leader

(And the promise that we would see fine displays of wild flowers was also fulfilled. There were carpets of gillias, Gold Fields, Tidy Tips, lupines, Johnny-tuck, Owl's Clover; masses of Meadow Foam, California Poppy; colonies of Royal Larkspur, Blazing Star, Bitter Root! E.S.)

TO WOOLS' RANCH, May 4, 1952. The weather was clear and warm, ideal for birding. The caravan, following the Calaveras Road east from Milpitas, made its first stop in the Arroyo de los Coches, where a short walk was taken along a wooded road beside the stream. The pretty little pond of last year was gone—washed out by the heavy rains of last winter—but

there was an abundance of water in the stream, which assured us a large number of species for such a small area.

At the Wools' ranch, a mile or so farther along the Calaveras Road, birding centered around the new pond which now replaces some of the cattail marsh. This year a colony of about 300 pairs of Tricolored Blackbirds are established in the marsh. Jim Peterson and the leader waded out among the cattails and surveyed the nesting Tricolors. Of 30 occupied nests, 9 contained newly hatched young; the remaining nests held eggs. The many nests in the process of being built were not counted. The nesting peak for the colony probably will not be reached before the middle of May—two weeks later than other years.

After lunch we drove up the Weller Road but were unable to locate the Rufous-crowned Sparrows which have always been there at this time of year. No Grasshopper Sparrows, either—nor have I seen any this year.

Our list for the day: Great Blue Heron, Turkey Vulture, Cooper Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk (nest with 2 young, less than a week old; also 2 fence lizards and a striped racer which had been brought as food for young), Golden Eagle, Sparrow Hawk, California Quail, American Coot, Killdeer, Mourning Dove (nest), Anna Hummingbird, Red-shafted Flicker, Downy Woodpecker, Western Kingbird (nest), Ash-throated Flycatcher, Black Phoebe, Western Flycatcher, Western Wood Pewee, Horned Lark, Violet-green Swallow, Barn Swallow, Cliff Swallow, Scrub Jay (nest), Yellow-billed Magpie (nest), American Crow, Chestnut-backed Chickadee, Plain Titmouse, Bushtit (pair feeding nestlings), House Wren, Bewick Wren, Mockingbird, Russet-backed Thrush, Western Bluebird, Loggerhead Shrike, Hutton Vireo, Warbling Vireo, Orange-crowned Warbler, Yellow Warbler, Tolmie Warbler, Yellow-breasted Chat, Pileolated Warbler, Western Meadowlark, Red-winged Blackbird (3 or 4 pairs among the Tricolors), Tricolored Blackbird, Bullock Oriole, Brewer Blackbird, Brown-headed Cowbird, Black-headed Grosbeak (nest with 4 eggs), Lazuli Bunting, House Finch (4 eggs in nest in Milk Thistle), Green-backed Goldfinch, Spotted Towhee, Brown Towhee, Lark Sparrow, Oregon Junco, and Song Sparrow.

Albert J. Wool, Leader.

TO SEARSVILLE LAKE, May 17, 1952. When the eleven observers gathered at the gate to Searsville Lake at 8 o'clock, there was a light ground fog, but it soon gave way to warm sunlight—very warm, before we left at noon.

Our announced objective on this trip was to record nesting birds. In carrying it out we spent so much time standing around to watch evasive parent birds, that we covered very little ground. A pair of Yellowthroats kept us watching longest; and even then the nestlings were not found until the next morning when the two leaders came back for further watching. With the exception of a walk over to the cottonwoods by the Corte de Madera Creek where the Great Blue Herons nest, we spent our time along the south end of the lake.

At noon we were glad to accept Mr. and Mrs. Charles Mueser's invitation to picnic at their home on Oakwood Place. Their shady "backyard" proved a delightful place for picnicking and armchair birding.

The following birds were listed at Searsville Lake, those showing nesting activity underlined: Great Blue Heron (6 occupied nests, 4 with nearly fledged young and each of other two with an adult bird on it), Mallard (female with 7 downy ducklings), Ring-necked Duck (a lone male), Ruddy Duck (1 pair, and another male), Cooper Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, Red-shouldered Hawk, Sparrow Hawk, California Quail (2 pairs, no chicks seen), American Coot (2 pairs, one with 3 downy red-headed chicks, and the other with 2 young already showing some juvenal plumage), Band-tailed Pigeon (6), Mourning Dove (on nest), Allen Hummingbird (female carrying cotton), Red-shafted Flicker, Acorn Woodpecker (feeding nestlings), Downy Woodpecker, Western Kingbird, Ash-throated Flycatcher, Black Phoebe, Western Flycatcher (2 nests, one with 4 eggs, and other with 5 eggs in process of hatching), Western Wood Pewee, Olive-sided

Flycatcher, Violet-green Swallow (entered nest hole), Tree Swallow (fed nestling), Barn Swallow (pair), Cliff Swallow, Scrub Jay, Chestnut-backed Chickadee (fed nestlings), Plain Titmouse, Bushtit (pair renovating used nest), White-breasted Nuthatch, Bewick Wren, Robin, Russet-backed Thrush (several singing), Western Bluebird, Hutton Vireo, Warbling Vireo (4), Orange-crowned Warbler, Yellow Warbler, Yellow-throat (several pairs, one feeding nestlings), Pileolated Warbler, Western Meadowlark, Red-winged Blackbird (many fledglings being fed), Bullock Oriole (2 pairs), Brewer Blackbird (nest with 3 eggs; also fledglings being fed), Brown-headed Cowbird, Black-headed Grosbeak, Purple Finch, House Finch, Pine Siskin, American Goldfinch (2 pairs), Green-backed Goldfinch, Spotted Towhee, Brown Towhee, Oregon Junco, and Song Sparrow (feeding young in juvenal plumage).

Les and Nell Sleeper, Leaders

TO ARROYO SECO, May 24 and 25, 1952. Members who participated in the overnight trip to Arroyo Seco, agreed that the week-end in the Santa Lucia Mountains yielded scenic beauty as well as an abundance of plant and animal life. The afternoon was warm when the group arrived at the cabin, which had been kindly loaned by Mr. and Mrs. W. Livingston, and so a tour under the trees and along the canyon rim was in order. The evening meal, celebrating Elsie Hoeck's birthday, was much enjoyed; and then desirable spots outdoors and indoors were selected for the night. Finally the campers were lulled to sleep by the "song" of a Horned Owl.

A short trip was taken early Sunday morning to see the Santa Lucia Fir near the river. Many other trees, shrubs, and flowers were observed along the way—and, of course, birds. After breakfast a mile-long trip was taken along a shady trail to the lakes. So interesting was the walk, with so many stops for observation, that noon arrived much too soon.

Birds seen or heard during the week-end included:- Turkey Vulture, Cooper Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, Sharp-shinned Hawk (pursued by 2 kingbirds and 8 Brewer Blackbirds), Sparrow Hawk, California Quail, Coot, Spotted Sandpiper, Band-tailed Pigeon, Mourning Dove, Horned Owl, Anna Hummingbird, Allen Hummingbird (female feeding fledgling), Red-shafted Flicker, Acorn Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Nuttall Woodpecker, Western Kingbird, Ash-throated Flycatcher, Western Flycatcher, W. Wood Pewee, Violet-green Swallow (carried dry grass into hole), Cliff Swallow, Steller Jay, Scrub Jay, Plain Titmouse (fed fledglings), Bushtit, White-breasted Nuthatch (fed fledglings), House Wren (fed fledglings), Canyon Wren, Western Bluebird, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Warbling Vireo, Orange-crowned Warbler, Yellow Warbler, Pileolated Warbler, Bullock Oriole, Brewer Blackbird, Black-headed Grosbeak, Purple Finch, House Finch, Green-backed Goldfinch, Spotted Towhee, Brown Towhee, Chipping Sparrow, and Song Sparrow.

Charles and Viola Anderson, Leaders

TO EAGLE ROCK, June 8, 1952. In Los Gatos, at starting time, one of the group expressed the hope we would see Western Tanagers on our trip into the Santa Cruz Mts. To every one's surprise the leader replied that the surest place to see one was in Los Gatos, where a pair was nesting. And so we detoured to Fairview Plaza, four short blocks from the center of town. Miss Gladys Record had discovered the nest in a live oak on the wooded slope back of her house. Soon a whistled imitation of a Pygmy Owl's call brought the excited pair of tanagers into clear view. The nest was too high to see into, but Miss Record has since reported that the young in the nest were successfully fledged on June 13.

On our way to Eagle Rock we stopped in the Mt. Hermon area to listen to the beautiful song of the Hermit Thrush, and to look for the Hermit Warbler which had been singing persistently there two days before. Charles Sibley's "owl talk" and the stuffed owl which he perched in a tree, excited Western Flycatcher, Chestnut-backed Chickadee, Brown Creeper, Hutton Vireo, Western Tanager, Purple Finch, and Oregon Junco,

but there was no sign that the Hermit Warbler was present.

It was noon before we reached the fire lookout on Eagle Rock, at the north end of the Ben Lomond ridge. We ate our lunches, perched on the top of Eagle Rock, with a clear sky above and far-reaching views all about us. Looking down over the precipitous east wall of the Rock we could see Violet-green Swallows in flight. Mr. Fanger, in charge of the lookout, said the swallows were nesting in holes in the rock wall.

The botanically minded were interested in a clump of the Santa Cruz Cypress (Cupressus Abramsiana C.B.Wolf) on the southwest slope. These cypresses, known only from the Santa Cruz Mts., were associated on Eagle Rock with Knobcone Pine, scrub oaks, Chamise, Buck Brush, Bush Poppy, and other plants which can adapt themselves to steep rocky slopes.

We listed the following birds on Eagle Rock (between the lookout and the gate at the foot of the Rock): Turkey Vulture, California Quail, Vaux Swift, Hairy Woodpecker, Ash-throated Flycatcher, Violet-green Swallow, Bushtit, Wren-tit, Bewick Wren, California Thrasher, Hutton Vireo, Orange-crowned Warbler (fed fledgling), Audubon Warbler (in firs near gate), Western Tanager, Pine Siskin, Spotted Towhee, and Oregon Junco.

Emily Smith, Leader

TO THE SANTA CRUZ MOUNTAINS, July 13, 1952. The Golden Gate and Santa Clara Valley Audubon Societies joined forces for this trip. Approximately 50 persons, about evenly divided between the two societies, participated. The weather was clear and warm along the crest of the mountains but a spectacular sea of fog filled the Santa Clara Valley, the Diablo Range appearing as an island mass to the east. From Saratoga Gap the route was south for 3 miles on Summit Rd. to where a singing male Tolmie Warbler refused to come out of the dense ground cover, and a Lazuli Bunting occupied successive song perches along the edge of a pear orchard. A pair of Green-backed Goldfinches were feeding nestlings. From this open country to the Douglas fir and madrone woods at Castle Rock (3214' elevation) was a short drive. A Wood Pewee was watched as it fed nestlings, and both White-throated and Vaux Swifts were seen overhead.

Lunch was eaten on the Central School grounds, and the midday ebb of avian activity was compensated by an extended period of relaxation and conversation. On the return trip a stop was made on a likely side road, but even the stuffed owl failed to arouse the birds from the lethargy of a mid-July afternoon.

In addition to the species mentioned, the following were noted: Turkey Vulture, Red-tailed Hawk, California Quail, Band-tailed Pigeon, Mourning Dove, Acorn Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, Ash-throated Flycatcher, Western Flycatcher, Olive-sided Flycatcher, Violet-green Swallow, Purple Martin, Steller Jay, Scrub Jay, Chestnut-backed Chickadee, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Brown Creeper, Wren-tit, House Wren, Bewick Wren, Western Bluebird, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Hutton Vireo, Solitary Vireo, Warbling Vireo, Audubon Warbler, Pileolated Warbler, Western Tanager, Black-headed Grosbeak, Purple Finch, Pine Siskin, Spotted Towhee, Brown Towhee, and Oregon Junco.

Charles G. Sibley, Leader

\* \* \* \* \*

SANTA CLARA VALLEY AUDUBON SOCIETY, Branch of NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY

President --- Dr. H. B. Humphrey, 715 Fremont Ave., Mountain View  
Corr. Sec. -- Miss Eva Allen, P.O. Box 772, Los Gatos  
Editor ----- Charles G. Sibley, 15880 Ravine Rd., Los Gatos  
Assoc. Ed. -- Miss Emily Smith, 19651 Glen Una Dr., Los Gatos

Meetings are held on the second Monday of each month (except July and August), alternately in San Jose and Palo Alto. Guests are welcome.