

BULLETIN OF THE  
SANTA CLARA VALLEY AUDUBON SOCIETY

October 1952

FALL MIGRATION

The fall migration has been in progress since July. The shorebirds and waterfowl were the first to begin their flight, followed in August and September by increasing numbers of land birds. Evidence of actual passage is often subtle---the gradual departure of the nesting warblers, vireos, flycatchers, and grosbeaks is not as apparent as the arrival of those same groups in the spring. Occasional flocks of ducks or geese, migrant hawks, or groups of swallows are seen during daylight and the calls of migrants drift down from the night sky. The newly developed technique of "moon-watching" has provided an additional method for the detection of migrant birds at night.

Species of land birds which nest farther north or in the high mountains and which spend the winter with us are now beginning to appear. Audubon and Townsend warblers, Golden-crowned, White-crowned, and Fox sparrows have arrived. Others to be looked for include Varied and Hermit thrushes and the Ruby-crowned Kinglet. Vagrant species such as the Townsend Solitaire, Evening Grosbeak, Red Crossbill, Slate-colored Junco, and White-throated Sparrow are recorded just rarely enough to provide more than usual interest when detected.

FIELD OBSERVATIONS

- OSPREY, Aug. 19 at Santa Cruz. Grace Brubaker  
AMERICAN COOT, Sept. 17, 7 imm. and 38 adults, Searsville L. Mr. and Mrs. C. Mueser.  
SNOWY PLOVER, Sept. 26, 1 on dike of salt pond at Alviso. G.B.  
SPOTTED SANDPIPER, Sept. 26, 1 on dike of salt pond at Alviso. G.B. and Emily Smith.  
RED-BREASTED SAPSUCKER, Sept. 26, 1 at Mr. Tourtillot's on Metcalf Rd. E.S.  
BLACK PHOEBE, Sept. 17, song flight followed by vigorous song from perch. The Muesers.  
SAY PHOEBE, Sept. 18, 1, Mines Rd. near Livermore; Sept. 26, Metcalf Rd. E.S.  
?WESTERN FLYCATCHER, Sept. 18, Cedar Mt., Alameda Co. E.S. and Sept. 26, Alum Rock Park, G.B. In both instances the birds were silent, hence the doubt attached to the species identification.  
WOOD PEWEE, Sept. 4, 1, Aldercroft Heights, Lina Snow.  
HORNED LARK, Sept. 26, flock of at least 50 foraging at margin of Calero Res. G.B.  
VIOLET-GREEN SWALLOW, Sept. 15 and 17, 4 at Searsville Lake. E. and C. Mueser.  
ROUGH-WINGED SWALLOW, Sept. 17, 1 at Searsville Lake, E. and C. Mueser.  
BARN SWALLOW, Sept. 15 and 17, 2 at Searsville Lake, E. and C. M.  
RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH, Sept. 18, Cedar Mt., Milton Seibert; Sept. 20 (E.S.) and Oct. 4 (C.S.), both near Los Gatos.  
BROWN CREEPER, Sept. 17, 2 on willow at Searsville Lake. Muesers.  
MOCKINGBIRD, Sept. 25, 2 winter visitants (not present during nesting season) singing vigorously to establish boundaries of their respective feeding territories for the winter. One bird present since Aug. 8, no singing. Call notes of two birds first heard Sept. 10. Occasional singing first noticed on Sept. 21. Vigorous song and pursuit first observed Sept. 25. E.S.  
CEDAR WAXWING, Sept. 15 and 17, flock of 18 (mostly imm.) flycatching from dead cottonwood at Searsville Lake. Muesers. Sept. 26, flock of about 30 (apparently imm.) near Alma. Lina Snow.  
SOLITARY VIREO, Sept. 11, 1 singing, Chews Ridge, Monterey Co. E.S.  
AUDUBON WARBLER, Sept. 18, 2 Cedar Mt., Alameda Co. M. Seibert.  
TOWNSEND WARBLER, Sept. 7, 2 with flock of Pigmy Nuthatches, Santa Cruz Mts. M.E. Shore. Sept. 11, at least 8 observed on Chews Ridge, E.S. Sept. 17, at bird bath near Los Gatos, Eva. McRae. Sept. 17, 1, Aldercroft Heights, L.S.; Sept. 18, Cedar Mt., M. Seibert  
PILEOLATED WARBLER, Sept. 13, 1, Santa Cruz Mts., M.E. Shore; Sept. 15, 1 at Searsville Lake. E.S.

WESTERN Tanager, Sept. 6, 1 in San Jose. Wilma Harris  
 AMERICAN GOLDFINCH, Sept. 15, fledgling fed, Searsville Lake. E.S.  
 GREEN-BACKED GOLDFINCH, Sept. 17, fledgling fed by male, Searsville Lake. Muesers.  
 BROWN TOWHEE, Sept. 19, fighting image in auto hub cap, near Los Gatos. Gladys Rounds.  
 WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW, Sept. 15, 2 ad. on lawn near Los Gatos. E.S. Sept. 15 and 17  
 flock of about 25, Searsville L. The Muesers. Sept. 19, 1 ad.  
 and 2 imm. Santa Cruz Mts., M.E. Shore; Sept. 21, 3 ad. and 3  
 imm., San Jose. Grace Brubaker.  
 GOLDEN-CROWNED SPARROW, Sept. 17, 2 on lawn with White-crowns near Los Gatos. E.S.  
 Both species present in numbers by Oct. 2 and songs heard.  
 FOX SPARROW, Sept. 25, near Los Gatos one present, a second arrived Oct. 5. C.S.  
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NOCTURNAL MIGRATION STUDY

Four stations were in operation during the full moon period from Oct. 1-5. All could have used more help, especially the Palo Alto group.

From the unprocessed data it appears that more migrants travel down the center of the Santa Clara Valley than along the margins next to the hills. The San Jose State College station recorded approximately twice the total number of birds during the all-night watch of Oct. 2-3 than the Los Gatos or East Foothills stations.

The next series of moon-watching periods will be Oct. 30, 31, Nov. 1, 2, 3. The night of Oct. 31 will be the all-night watch. (This will conflict with the first screen tour so help will be hard to get---please lend a hand if possible). Plan now to help---contact Emily Smith (Los Gatos), Grace Brubaker (East Foothills) or Les Sleeper (Palo Alto). The San Jose State College station has enough student help to man it.

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FIELD TRIP REPORTS

TO ALVISO AND THE DUMBARTON BRIDGE, September 14, 1952. The Santa Clara Valley and Golden Gate Audubon societies met in Alviso for a joint trip to shorebird spots at the south end of San Francisco Bay. Los Esteros Road from Alviso to Zanker Road, the Leslie Salt Co. evaporating ponds southwest of Alviso, and the east approach to the Dumbarton Bridge were investigated. Roadside ponds along Los Esteros Rd. were dry and some of the best spots were not occupied by the usual numbers of birds. The Leslie Salt ponds near Alviso provided the best concentrations. Northern Phalaropes were numerous, some individuals of which were so gray-backed as to lead to an extended debate as to their identity--Red or Northern? All were decided to be Northern when seen at close range.

Species recorded were: Eared Grebe (500 or more on ponds at the east end of the Dumbarton Bridge); White Pelican, Double-crested Cormorant, Great Blue Heron, American Egret, Black-crowned Night Heron, Mallard, Pintail, Shoveller, Lesser Scaup, Marsh Hawk, Clapper Rail, Coot, Black-bellied Plover, Killdeer, Long-billed Curlew, Marbled Godwit, Greater Yellow-legs, Spotted Sandpiper, Willet, Black Turnstone (2 at east end of Dumbarton Bridge), Dowitcher (sp.), Western Sandpiper, Least Sandpiper, Avocet, Northern Phalarope, Ring-billed and California gulls, Forster Tern, Barn and Cliff swallows, Red-winged and Brewer blackbirds, Savannah and Song sparrows.

The weather was clear and warm. In general the total numbers of shorebirds seemed rather low for mid-September and none of the hoped-for rare vagrants was found.

Charles Sibley

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REPORT OF FIELD TRIP TO ALUM ROCK PARK, September 27, 1952. Twenty-six observers journeyed into Alum Rock Park to make a survey of the birds present at the season of the year when one hopes to get late dates for migrating summer residents and early ones for winter visitant birds.

The weather was definitely on the summery side, but the lower picnic grounds ("Rustic Lands") were in deep shade, and soon every one sought the warmth of the sunny hillside across the road. A short hike led up to the back side of Alum Rock—the huge rock of lava which guards the entrance to the Park, and for which the Park was named. As we rested in the shade of the Blue Oaks we noted how many birds were singing: Wren-tit, Bewick Wren, Mockingbird, California Thrasher, Western Meadowlark, House Finch, Green-backed Goldfinch, and the winter-visitant White-crowned Sparrows. While we were in the lower picnic grounds we had heard Brown Creeper and Song Sparrow singing.

A small party of real mountain climbers set out for Eagle Rock, where Manette Wittgenstein saw an Audubon Warbler, the third winter-visitant for our trip. (The first was a Townsend Warbler in the lower picnic grounds—a winter visitant from far north of California.) The rest of the party divided: some to take the upper trail into the park center, and the rest to follow the bridle path along the creek.

After a picnic lunch in the Big-leaf Maple Grounds, ten of the party had energy enough to walk up the beautiful trail which follows the South Fork of the Penitencia Creek to the falls, in search of a Dipper. They finally had to be satisfied with just a call note as a Dipper flew by unseen. However they saw a silent Western Flycatcher on its way to Mexico, and a Winter Wren which may have been a vagrant.

The following birds were seen or heard during the trip: Turkey Vulture, 3; Sharp-shinned Hawk, 1; Cooper Hawk, 1; Red-tailed Hawk, 2; Sparrow Hawk, 1; California Quail, small covey; White-throated Swift, 1; Red-shafted Flicker, 6; Acorn Woodpecker, 15; Downy Woodpecker, 2; Nuttall Woodpecker, 3; Black Phoebe, 3; Western Flycatcher, 1; Steller and Scrub jays, not counted; American Crow, 4; Chestnut-backed Chickadee, 10; Plain Titmouse, 9; Bushtit, one flock of at least 60 and three smaller flocks; White-breasted Nuthatch, 4; Wren-tit, 4; Brown Creeper, 7; Dipper (Water Ouzel), 1; Winter Wren, 1; Bewick Wren, 4; Canyon Wren, 1; Mockingbird, 4; California Thrasher, 4; Hutton Vireo, 1; Audubon Warbler, 1; Townsend Warbler, 2; Western Meadowlark, 3; House Finch, large flock; Green-backed Goldfinch, large flock; Spotted Towhee, 5; Brown Towhee, 12; Lark Sparrow, 1; Rufous-crowned Sparrow, 2; Oregon Junco, 30; White-crowned Sparrow, flock of about 45; Golden-crowned Sparrow, 1; and Song Sparrow, 10.

Grace Brubaker, Leader

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BUTANO FOREST. Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society contributed \$361.00 to the Butano Forest Fund, and \$50.00 to the Butano Campaign Committee, as a result of donations from its members.

The long struggle to save at least a part of the Butano Forest is reaching another crisis. At the November election San Francisco voters will decide whether or not their city shall contribute \$100,000 toward the purchase fund. The supervisors of Santa Clara and San Mateo Counties have already voted \$100,000, conditional upon San Francisco's contribution to the fund. If San Franciscans vote YES on Proposition C they can save the South Butano Grove, and stand to gain a priceless park within an hour's drive of their city. We Audubon Society members can still help the cause by urging our San Francisco friends to vote for Proposition C on the November ballot.

Emily Smith

C A L E N D A R F O R O C T O B E R

FIELD TRIP on this coming Sunday, October 12, to roads new and old around Lexington Dam. Mrs. Irving Snow is planning the trip. Meet in Los Gatos, in front of the Lyndon Hotel, at 8:00 a.m. Bring lunch.

REGULAR OCTOBER MEETING in San Jose on Monday, October 13, at 8:00 p.m. in Room 210, Science Building, San Jose State College. The program will consist of motion pictures on birds. The films were recently acquired by San Jose State College and show many species of western birds in their native surroundings. Dr. Charles G. Sibley will have charge of the program.

MIDWEEK BIRD TRIP on Wednesday morning, October 22, to the Stanford campus. Dr. and Mrs. M. R. Kirkwood, who know the campus so well, will lead the trip. Meet in Palo Alto at S. P. Station at 8:30 a.m.

FIELD TRIP on Saturday, October 25, to Calera Canyon, about 10 miles south of Salinas. Mrs. Louise Hatton, member of the Monterey Peninsula Audubon Society, has invited our Society to come to her ranch. Mr. and Mrs. Charles Anderson, who will lead the trip, promise fine birding. Meet at intersection of Salinas—Monterey Highway and Corral de Tierra Rd. (second road on left side of Highway after crossing the Salinas River bridge, south from Salinas). Meeting time, 9:00 a.m.

AUDUBON SCREEN TOURS. Two series this season! In San Jose the Screen Tours will come on Friday evenings, the first on October 31; and in Redwood City, on Saturday afternoons, beginning on November 1. The enclosed folders, one for the San Jose series and the other for the Redwood City series, give all the details.

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FIELD TRIP DATES FOR NOVEMBER:

Nov. 5, Wednesday morning trip in the Los Gatos area  
Nov. 9, Sunday, shore and water birds trip with Dr. Malcolm Miller  
Nov. 15, Saturday, Los Banos Bird and Game Refuge, with Albert Wool  
Nov. 19, Wednesday morning trip to Dr. Harold Ray's estate in Woodside  
Nov. 23, Sunday, Hall's Valley, with Mr. and Mrs. Clyde Prusman

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NEW MEMBERS we are glad to welcome to Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society:

Mrs. Doris L. Hubbard, Box 333, Campbell; Charles Rend, 285 Walter Hays Drive, Palo Alto; Peter Seymour, 304 Village Court, San Jose; and Mrs. P. B. Wright, 131 Stanford Ave., Menlo Park.

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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 ----- Dr. Charles G. Sibley, 15880 Ravine Rd., Los Gatos  
Assoc. Ed. -- Miss Emily Smith, 19651 Glen Una Drive, 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.

## 1952-1953 AUDUBON SCREEN TOURS

Arrangements for the 1952-1953 season of Audubon Screen Tours are being completed. There will be a Friday evening series in Montgomery Theatre in San Jose's Civic Auditorium, and a Saturday afternoon series in the Sequoia Union High School Auditorium, Redwood City.

### San Jose Program

Friday, October 31, Fran William Hall - "The Four Corners"  
Friday, December 5, Robert Hermes - "Bonaventure Diary"  
Friday, February 6, Howard Cleaves - "By Sky Crib to Glacier"  
Friday, March 6, Allan Cruickshank - "Santa Lucia Sea Cliffs"  
Friday, April 24, Walter Shackleton - "Oddities in Nature"

### Redwood City Program

Saturday, November 1, Fran William Hall - "Jungle Journey"  
Saturday, December 6, Robert Hermes - "The Grass Forest"  
Saturday, February 7, Howard Cleaves - "Animals Unaware"  
Saturday, March 7, Allan Cruickshank - "Sea Cliff Adventures"  
Saturday, April 25, Walter Shackleton - "Oddities in Nature"

For the fourth year a children's matinee series will be offered Friday afternoons to the schools of Santa Clara County on a nominal at-cost basis.

The Audubon Screen Tours in San Jose and Redwood City are jointly sponsored by the Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society and San Jose State College. Representing the College in the planning is Dr. Carl Duncan, head of the Natural Science Division; representing the Society is Mr. Wilbur F. Luick, chairman of the Audubon Screen Tours Committee.

San Jose State College will handle the season ticket mail orders for the San Jose evening series in the Natural Science Division Office, and will take charge of the financial records in the Graduate Manager's Office. Public Relations Officer, Mr. Lowell Pratt, will do a repeat performance on the excellent news releases prepared for the 1951-1952 Screen Tours. The Audio-Visual Service Center, under the direction of Dr. Richard Lewis, will provide equipment and projectionists. The Spartan Daily will give space to news stories, and members of the Natural Science Division will personally advertise the Screen Tours among their students.

Tasks which the Society must perform include getting publicity folders and tickets printed; addressing and stuffing envelopes for the mailing list; contacting newspapers for publicity and advertising; preparing posters and getting them placed; entertaining lecturers during their stay; selling tickets at the box office; collecting tickets at the door; and many other tasks. Listed below are tasks for which there are already volunteers, and also for which other volunteers are wanted:

#### Publicity Committee (San Jose)

Chairman - ?

Mailing list - Mrs. Eva McRae

Posters - ?

Window display - ?

Newspaper advertising - Albert Wool

#### Entertainment Committee (San Jose)

Chairman - ?

Dinner arrangements - ?

Field trip arrangements - ?

House Committee (San Jose)

Chairman - Emily Smith

Ticket selling - Mrs. Fanny Zwaal and Mrs. Ruth Paulus

Ticket collecting - Elsie Hoeck and Mrs. Grace Brubaker

Audubon Table - Mrs. Irving Snow

If you are willing to help either as a chairman or as a worker, please telephone or write Mr. W.F. Luick, 571 Arletta Ave., San Jose 28, CYPRESS 2-1758.

Mrs. Bernhard F. Jakobsen has taken the responsibility for guiding the Redwood City Saturday afternoon series to a successful conclusion. She has formed a committee to assist her with the work of publicity, selling, and administration.

One of the important ways in which each member of the Society can help the Audubon Screen Tours to succeed is to assist in the sale of season tickets. By advertising the Screen Tours among your friends and by personally guaranteeing the sale of at least two season tickets you can provide one of the most effective means of assuring success. Costs of the Screen Tours have increased during the past year, and the cooperation of all the members of the Society will be needed if we are to succeed. The enclosed program folders, one for the San Jose series and one for the Redwood City series, contain information concerning where you can purchase season tickets by mail order or direct sale.

Wilbur F. Luick  
Chairman, Audubon Screen Tours

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: Audubon Screen Tours :  
: Room 100, Science Building SAN JOSE ORDER BLANK :  
: San Jose State College :  
: San Jose 14, California :  
:

: Enclosed find check or money order in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ :  
: Please send season tickets as indicated below. :  
: \_\_\_\_\_ General Season Tickets at \$3.00 each, tax incl. :  
: \_\_\_\_\_ Student Season Tickets at \$1.80 each, tax incl. :  
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: Name \_\_\_\_\_ :  
: Address \_\_\_\_\_ :  
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: Audubon Screen Tours :  
: c/o Mrs. Bernhard F. Jackson REDWOOD CITY ORDER BLANK :  
: 1325 Johnson Street :  
: Menlo Park, California :  
:

: Enclosed find check or money order in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ :  
: Please send season tickets as indicated below. :  
: \_\_\_\_\_ General Season Tickets at \$2.40 each, tax incl. :  
: \_\_\_\_\_ Student Season Tickets at \$1.50 each, tax incl. :  
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: Name \_\_\_\_\_ :  
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