

BULLETIN OF THE
SANTA CLARA VALLEY AUDUBON SOCIETY

November 1952

F I E L D O B S E R V A T I O N S

The summer visitants have departed. Most of the winter visitants have arrived and are present in good numbers. With the exception of the resident Plain Titmouse and Roadrunner, the following records pertain to species which are normally present in the South San Francisco Bay region only during the winter season.

- WHITE-FACED IBIS, Oct. 18, Moss Landing. Manette and Herb Wittgenstein.
ROADRUNNER, Oct. 19, one near Guadalupe Mines. B.C. Goldsmith.
RED-BREASTED SAPSUCKER, Oct. 5, Los Gatos. Gladys Record.
SAY PHOEBE, Sept. 13 and regularly since, San Martin. Jo Ouderkirk.
PLAIN TITMOUSE, Oct. 22, one excavating a (roosting?) cavity in a rotted branch of an oak tree on the Stanford campus. The bird twice appeared at the entrance to the cavity and "spit out sawdust." Dr. and Mrs. M.R. Kirkwood.
RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH, Oct. 9, Mt. Hermon. Adist Boylan.
Oct. 10 and 12, one at bird bath and also seen in pepper tree in Menlo Park. Marjorie Davis.
Oct. 20, one calling near Los Gatos. Emily Smith.
VARIED THRUSH, Oct. 5, five birds, Mission Ridge. A.J. Wool.
Oct. 6, call notes near Los Gatos. E.S.
Oct. 9, call notes at Mt. Hermon. A. Boylan.
HERMIT THRUSH, Oct. 4, near Cupertino. Lucia DeWolf.
Oct. 9, Los Gatos, G. Record; and Oct. 10, Alma, E.S.
Many other records on subsequent dates.
GOLDEN-CROWNED KINGLET, Oct. 22, one bird, Stanford campus. Kirkwoods.
Oct. 27, call notes and sight of two or three in alders along Smith Cr., Mt. Hamilton Rd. E.S.
RUBY-CROWNED KINGLET, Oct. 6, one near Los Gatos; and Oct. 10, two near Alma. E.S.
AUDUBON WARBLER, Oct. 10, Los Gatos. G. Record.
Oct. 24, a loose flock of about 50 foraging in oaks and on ground, Los Gatos Memorial Park. E.S.
WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW, Nov. 1, a bird banded on March 14, 1952, by Emily Smith, returned to her garden. This bird carries a distinctive, very white spot, the size of a nickel, on its left flank. "White-Spot" has been a regular winter visitant to the Smiths' garden since the season of 1949-1950. That first winter its crown stripes were tan and brown, indicating a bird in its first year, which means it is now in its fourth year. In the fall of 1950 it returned on Oct. 18 and remained until Mar. 29. Last year it was present from Oct. 6 to Apr. 14.

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FIELD TRIP REPORTS

TO "ROADS OLD AND NEW" AROUND LEXINGTON DAM, October 12, 1952. Since all members of the Audubon Society are interested in conservation, we twenty participants in this field trip, were glad to have the opportunity of inspecting the nearly completed Lexington Dam. As we stood on what was at that date the crest of the Dam, a little awed by its bigness a titmouse called from an oak tree off to one side. The familiar sound brought an uneasy questioning to the mind of this observer at least. Will all the furred and feathered animals, soon to be dispossessed by the rising waters, find satisfactory new territories in the region around the lake? And what about those which will lose their winter stores, like the Acorn Woodpeckers which we had just been watching?

From the dam we drove through the old-time town of Alma, now almost completely dismantled and removed from the reservoir site. We continued up the Old Santa Cruz Highway to where the two new access roads for the mountain communities meet. We walked along the still unfinished upper road to a little pond which was fringed with willows, cattails, tules, water plantains and other interesting water plants. Around this pond we found a number of birds, notably a Yellow-throat which was singing a bit.

On the way to Aldercroft we stopped by the new bridge across the Los Gatos Creek and explored along the creek. At lunch time, while sitting around the Snows' patio, everyone enjoyed watching the birds at the food tray, and especially the Pygmy Nuthatches on the suet feeder and a Brown Creeper on a tree trunk close by. Finally, as a fitting climax for the day in which we had already seen three species of woodpeckers, a Red-breasted Sapsucker made its appearance.

Birds seen or heard were as follows: Red-tailed Hawk, California Quail, Killdeer, Acorn Woodpecker, Red-breasted Sapsucker, Hairy Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Black Phoebe, Steller Jay, Scrub Jay, Chestnut-backed Chickadee, Plain Titmouse, Bushtit, Pygmy Nuthatch, Wren-tit, Brown Creeper, Bewick Wren, California Thrasher, Robin, Varied Thrush, Hermit Thrush, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Audubon Warbler, Yellow-throat, Brewer Blackbird, Purple Finch, House Finch, Pine Siskin, Green-backed Goldfinch, Spotted Towhee, Brown Towhee, Oregon Junco, White-crowned Sparrow, Golden-crowned Sparrow, Fox Sparrow, and Song Sparrow.

Angelina Snow, Leader

TO CALERA CANYON, October 25, 1952. Bright sunshine and the hospitality of Mr. and Mrs. William Hatton greeted the Audubon Society members on their arrival at the Hatton ranch house in the Calera Canyon. In the living room, where the register was signed, every one was attracted to the great fireplace made of native diatomaceous rock. Later, along the trail, samples of this white rock were found containing fossil shells.

The trail led up the canyon, with chaparral on one side and wooded slopes across the creek. Interesting plants as well as birds and rocks were observed. A very large flock of Pine Siskins were picking seeds out of sycamore balls when a Sharp-shinned Hawk suddenly dashed through the tree, scattering the small birds, but it apparently missed a catch.

The birds listed for the day included:- Sharp-shinned Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, California Quail, Mourning Dove, Red-shafted Flicker, Hairy Woodpecker, Nuttall Woodpecker, Black Phoebe, Steller Jay, Scrub Jay, Crow, Chestnut-backed Chickadee, Plain Titmouse, Bushtit, Wren-tit, Bewick Wren, Hermit Thrush (brief song heard), Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Audubon Warbler, House Finch, Pine Siskin, Green-backed Goldfinch, Spotted Towhee, Brown Towhee, Oregon Junco, White-crowned Sparrow and Golden-crowned Sparrow.

Charles and Viola Anderson, Leaders

C A L E N D A R F O R N O V E M B E R

FIELD TRIP on this coming Sunday, November 9, with Dr. Malcolm Miller, to look for shore and water birds. The trip will include the Palo Alto Yacht Harbor area, where Dr. Miller has made bird population counts, and the "even better sloughs and marshes in the vicinity of the Sunnyvale Dump." Meet in Palo Alto, at S. P. Station, at 8:00 a.m. Bring lunch.

REGULAR NOVEMBER MEETING in Palo Alto on Monday, Nov. 10, at 8:00 p.m. in the Junior Museum, Community Center. Dr. Frank A. Pitelka, Curator of Birds, Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, University of California, will speak on "Summer Bird-Life of Point Barrow, Alaska." His talk will be illustrated with Kodachrome slides.

Charles Sibley, Program Chairman

FIELD TRIP on Saturday, November 15, to Los Banos Bird and Game Refuge, with Mr. and Mrs. Albert Wool as leaders, to see great concentrations of ducks and geese, and perhaps Sandhill Cranes. Meet in Los Banos at Tiny's restaurant on Highway 152, for breakfast at 8:00 a.m. If you do not want breakfast in Los Banos, be at Tiny's at 8:45. Bring lunch. Members of the Monterey Peninsula Audubon Society will have a trip to the Refuge on Sunday, November 16. If you can not come Saturday, you are invited to join them at Tiny's at 9:30 a.m. on Sunday.

MIDWEEK BIRD TRIP on Wednesday morning, November 19, to Dr. Harold Ray's estate in Woodside. Mrs. Marjorie Davis is planning the trip. Meet in Woodside at Caldwell's Store at 8:30 a.m.

FIELD TRIP on Sunday, November 23, to Hall's Valley and Smith Creek, on the Mt. Hamilton Road, with Mr. and Mrs. Clyde Prusman as leaders. The autumn coloring should be at its best. Meet at junction of Mt. Hamilton Road with Alum Rock Ave., east San Jose, at 8:30 a.m. Bring lunch.

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FIELD TRIP DATES FOR DECEMBER (details in December Bulletin)

Wednesday morning bird trips, December 3 and December 17
December 13, Saturday, Huddart Park in Woodside
December 28, Sunday, 1952 Christmas Bird Count

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NEW MEMBERS we are glad to welcome to Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society: Mrs. K.B. Barnes, Rt. 2, Box 462, Los Gatos; Miss Alice Freedman, 2155 Cornell St., Palo Alto; Miss Hazel Freeman, 1011 Asbury St., San Jose; Dr. C.P. Harrod, 1212 Fulton St., Palo Alto; Mrs. Mildred Eddy Knight, 812 Creek Dr., Menlo Park; Mrs. Mary J. Littlefield, 16585 Kennedy Rd., Los Gatos; Mrs. Pauline McMaster and Miss Martha McMaster, 1421 Glenwood Ave., San Jose; Mrs. Phyrne S. Russell, Natural History Museum, Stanford; Dr. Herbert C. Wittgenstein, Dept. of Economics, Stanford.

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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.