

BULLETIN OF THE
SANTA CLARA VALLEY AUDUBON SOCIETY

January

1953

FIELD OBSERVATIONS

Buffle-head and other diving ducks. A male Buffle-head on Penitencia Cr. in Alum Rock Park (a Dipper present nearby), Dec. 4. Dorothy Wool. Six Buffle-heads (only one an adult male), a female or juvenile Golden-eye, and a female Scaup on a very small Lagunita, Stanford campus, Dec. 13. Emily Smith. Curt Dietz reports that Lagunita is now full, Jan. 7, and many ducks present, including Canvas-backs, Redheads, Scaups, Buffle-heads, and "rafts" of Buddys.

White-tailed Kite. One on Bayshore Highway near Guadalupe Cr., Dec. 7. George Bottini. Two together on Hillsdale Rd., near Monterey Highway, Dec. 28. Angelina Snow.

Pigeon Hawk. One in Menlo Park, Dec. 13. C.L. Sleeper. Also one at Lagunita, Stanford campus, same day and possibly same bird. E.S.

Anna Hummingbird. On Jan. 4, near Los Gatos, a female gathered cotton from dry flower stalks of a garden anemone and then, after alighting on twig of nearby tree, dropped it and wiped off her bill. E.S.

Scrub Jay. On Dec. 26, in Los Gatos, a jay carried a 5-inch twig into a densely foliated cypress, where a pair nested last year, but there was no repeat performance. Eva Allen.

Robin and Varied Thrush. Robins in great number since New Year's Day, and a sudden increase in numbers of Varied Thrushes on Jan. 6, in an oak-wooded canyon near Los Gatos. Charles Sibley.

Water Pipit. Large flock on County Hospital grounds, Dec. 9 and 10. Manette Wittgenstein.

Song Sparrow. Two birds, fluffed out and hunched, singing at each other, in territorial dispute, near Los Gatos, Jan. 5. E.S.

* * * * *

REPORT OF FIELD TRIP TO HUDDART PARK, December 13, 1952. It was a mild, sunny morning for birding. The meeting place was the historic Old Woodside Store, built in 1854 in the center of redwood lumbering operations. From the Store we walked to Huddart Park by way of Greer Road, past wooded country estates. Along the way were flocks of Robins and Cedar Waxwings, attracted by the many Madrones with good crops of berries this year. We had excellent opportunities to watch the birds strip the trees of their berries. Under a large California Laurel at one place the ground was littered with fruits which had fallen from the tree. Many of them had the stem end eaten off. It could have been the work of Varied Thrushes whose call notes we were occasionally hearing, for Varied Thrushes have been seen eating the softer upper end of fallen fruit of this tree and discarding the rest (C.L.Sleeper). At Huddart Park we circled both the upper and lower fields, which were already showing the green of sprouting grass and filaree.

The following birds were listed during our pleasant morning's walk: Sharp-shinned Hawk, 2; Cooper Hawk, 1; Sparrow Hawk, 1; Band-tailed Pigeon, 15; Anna Hummingbird, 1; Red-shafted Flicker, 3; Acorn Woodpecker, 1; Red-breasted Sapsucker, 1; Downy Woodpecker, 1; Steller Jay, 3; Scrub Jay, 4; Chestnut-backed Chickadee, many; Plain Titmouse, 5; Bush-tit, 2 flocks; White-breasted Nuthatch, 2; Wren-tit, 2; Brown Creeper, 5; Bewick Wren, 3, singing; Robin, 100's; Varied Thrush, 6; Hermit Thrush, 6; Golden-crowned Kinglet, 3; Ruby-crowned Kinglet, 8; Cedar Waxwing, many; Hutton Vireo, 2; Townsend Warbler, 5; Western Meadowlark, 2, singing; Brewer Blackbird, flock of about 20; Purple Finch, 3; House Finch, several; Pine Siskin, 2 flocks; Spotted Towhee, 2; Brown Towhee, 4; Oregon Junco, many; White-crowned Sparrow, small flock at Woodside Store; Fox Sparrow, 3; and Song Sparrow 2.

Les and Nell Sleeper, Leaders.

CALENDAR FOR JANUARY

Regular January Meeting in Palo Alto on Monday, January 12, at 8:00 p.m. in the Junior Museum at the Community Center. Dr. Oliver P. Pearson, Professor of Zoology, University of California, will show his Kodachrome movie film entitled "Birds and Mammals of the Peruvian Highland." This program promises to be both entertaining and informative. Bring your friends.

Charles G. Sibley, Program Chairman.

Field Trip to San Martin and Morgan Hill areas on Sunday, January 18. Mr. and Mrs. William R. Ouderkirk are planning an interesting trip. Meet in Morgan Hill at 9:00 a.m. in front of the City Hall, which is on your right soon after entering Morgan Hill from the north on Highway 101. Bring lunch.

Wednesday Morning Bird Trip to the beautiful grounds of the Adobe Creek Lodge on Moody Road near Los Altos on January 21. The trip will be led by Dr. and Mrs. H. B. Humphrey. Meet in Los Altos at the S. P. Station at 8:30 a.m.

Field Trip to the Crystal Springs Lakes region on Saturday, January 31. Mrs. R. Wesley Wright, who knows this area well, is planning the trip. Meet at the Las Pulgas Water Tower at the south end of the reservoir, on Canada Road north of Woodside, at 9:00 a.m.; or in Palo Alto at the S. P. Station at 8:30 a.m. Bring lunch.

* * * * *

CALENDAR DATES FOR FEBRUARY (details in February Bulletin):

February 6, Friday, Screen Tour in San Jose; February 7, in Redwood City.
February 9, Monday, regular February meeting, in San Jose.
February 11, Wednesday morning bird trip to Lagunita at Stanford Univ.
February 14 and 15, how about a week-end field trip to Tomales Bay?
February 25, Wednesday morning bird trip to Villa Montalvo in Saratoga.

* * * * *

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

- Jerry Buzzell, 41 Avalon Drive, Los Altos
- Mrs. Charles W. Doe, 70 Kirby Place, Palo Alto
- Mrs. Joseph Donaghey and Pat Donaghey, 24 Berenda Way, Menlo Park
- Mrs. C. F. Harrod, 1212 Fulton Street, Palo Alto
- Mrs. William C. Hodge, 12 Berenda Way, Menlo Park
- Miss Clara Johnson, 35 South 5th Street, San Jose 12
- Miss June O'Brien, James Lick High School, San Jose
- Mr. Peter Seymour, 304 Village Court, San Jose
- Miss Christine Tapley, Kingscote Apts., Stanford
- Mrs. Edward Worcester, P.O. Box 516, Los Gatos
- Mr. Sanborn Young, P.O. Box 247, Los Gatos

* * * * *

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
Treasurer --- Mrs. Eva McRae, San Jose State College, San Jose 14
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.