

CALENDAR FOR JUNE

Field Trip This Coming Saturday, June 6, to Mount Diablo State Park, with Jim Peterson and Emily Smith as leaders. Meet in Danville at 8:30 a.m., at intersection of Mt. Diablo Rd. and Highway 21 (there's a Standard Station at corner and parking space along side of Mt. Diablo Rd.). Driving distance from San Jose about 40 miles. Bring lunch. There are good campsites with running water, if you want to camp Saturday night and enjoy early morning birding on Sunday.

Regular June Meeting and picnic supper in Alum Rock Park on Monday, June 8. If you can come early for late afternoon birding, meet at 4:00 p.m. in Big-leaf Maple Picnic Grounds, which is across bridge, past springs, and as far as you can drive. Picnic supper at 6:00 at same place (not near Lodge, as formerly). Bring basket lunch--there are grills if you want to cook. Coffee, cream, and sugar will be served, but bring cup and spoon.

At the evening meeting, at 7:30 p.m., in the Lodge, Charles Sibley will speak on "A Century of Progress in Ornithology." This material is selected from a chapter which he has prepared for a forthcoming volume to be published by the California Academy of Sciences in celebration of their centennial. The history of ornithology from 1853 to 1953 includes most of the history of ornithology in the United States. Dr. Sibley will trace the development of our modern ideas concerning bird behavior, the subspecies concept, and other phases of avian biology.

The annual meeting will come after the program, to elect officers and directors for the coming year.

Wednesday Morning Bird Trip on June 10 to Castle Rock, about 10 miles from Saratoga. Last year at this time there were Hermit and Audubon Warblers, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Red-breasted Nuthatch, and Western Tanager there. Let's find out if they are there this year and possibly nesting. Meet at 8:00 a.m. in Saratoga on Big Basin Way, just beyond (west of) Post Office. If weather is fine and you want to picnic at Castle Rock, bring lunch.

Field Trip to Butano Forest, Sunday, June 21. Meet at Saratoga Gap, where Big Basin Road (Highway 9) crosses Skyline Blvd. (Highway 5), at 8:00 a.m. From the Gap the trip to Butano Forest will be about 28 miles, ten of which will be over an unsurfaced but recently scraped mountain road along the ridge between Butano Creek and the Little Butano--dusty but no steep grades or sharp turns. The walk into the forest can be as long or as short as one wishes. Return trip will be by way of Pescadero, over paved roads. Bring lunch.

AUDUBON CAMP OF CALIFORNIA

If you like to go on Field Trips (and who doesn't?), why don't you go to the California Audubon Camp this summer? I've been there twice and think it so fine, I wish you could go, too.

We went on trips in station wagons--only one carful to an instructor. We went once or twice a day for two weeks! There were some lectures and movies and class activities, too. The people were congenial and we had fun. At the end of two weeks we had learned a lot about many things and we had learned how all living things depend upon soil and water and climate and each other for life. We learned it because we saw it right there instead of reading it out of a book--and because someone was there to explain what we saw.

Those of us who went to camp learned to see many things we had not seen before and we learned that there are interesting things to see wherever we are, if we only know how to look for them.

Perhaps you think, "I don't want to go to school". Well, go for fun then (the teaching is very subtly done)--but if you are interested at all you cannot help learning, and without effort! If you want to go to camp this year and have questions I can answer, write me at 55 South 6th Street, Apt. 105, or phone Cypress 5-1410.

Elsie Hoeck

THE SAN FRANCISCO BAY REGION NESTING SURVEY

The file of nesting records continues its healthy growth. Lynn Robbins and Mal Miller merit special recognition for the many records they have submitted.

After July 1, 1953, please send your records to either: Mrs. Eva McRae, San Jose State College, San Jose 14, or to Dr. Frank A. Pitelka, Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, University of California, Berkeley 4.

Charles Sibley

JUNIOR MUSEUM

John Harville reports that plans for the Junior Museum in Alum Rock Park are going ahead satisfactorily. As chairman of the Exhibits Committee, he has a suggestion for those of us who may find dead birds. The Museum can use them in its habitat groups, and save having to collect specimens with a gun. So if you find a dead bird still in good condition, put it in the freezing unit until you can get it to Mrs. McRae at San Jose State College. John will send it to Santa Barbara Museum where it will be properly mounted for the Alum Rock Junior Museum. Hawks will be especially welcome, for the Museum does not intend to "collect" hawks.

FIELD TRIP REPORTS

Trip to Portola State Park, May 10, 1953. The trip into the redwoods was blessed with bright sunlight and rewarded with much nature enjoyment, at the meeting place on the Skyline Blvd., no sooner had a cicada-like trill been identified as the song of a Chipping Sparrow, than a female was discovered building her nest in a cluster of pine needles.

In the park itself, seven-year old Tamie Miller went into the creeks after frogs, "water dogs," and other aquatic creatures, and her father turned over logs to find salamanders called *Ensatina* and *Batrachoseps*. Every one enjoyed listening to the songs of a Hermit Thrush and several Winter Wrens; and many wanted to know the names of the delicate wild flowers blossoming under the redwoods: Modesty, Alum Root, Sugar Scoup, Redwood Sorrel, Mountain Iris, and Redwood Rose. The trip ended with a thrilling nest discovery. On Peters Creek two Dippers were found feeding noisy nestlings.

Jerry Buzzell kept the bird list for the day, which included for Portola State Park: Vaux Swift, Allen Hummingbird, Belted Kingfisher, Acorn and Hairy woodpeckers, Western Flycatcher, Violet-green Swallow, Purple Martin, Steller Jay, Chestnut-backed Chickadee, White-breasted and Pygmy nuthatches, Brown Creeper, Dipper, Winter Wren, Robin, Hermit Thrush, Hutton Vireo, Pileolated Warbler, Purple Finch, Pine Siskin, Spotted Towhee, Oregon Junco, and Song Sparrow.

Lynn Robbins, co-leader with Malcolm Miller

Trip to Pilarcitos Reservoir, May 17, 1953. The day was overcast and cold when we started out, but by midmorning it was clear, with a brisk wind up the canyons. With permission of the San Francisco Water Department we drove to Pilarcitos Reservoir. Along the way, on this protected property, many wild flowers were blossoming. Of especial interest were the lemon-yellow flowers of the Wall Flower. In the vicinity of the reservoir were magnificent Douglas Firs, and in several of them Golden-crowned Kinglets were singing. Once a kinglet was close enough so that we could see its crown flash golden in the sunlight.

From the reservoir we followed Pilarcitos Creek down to Stone Pond. In places the banks were covered with the fernlike leaves and pink flowers of Bleeding Heart. There were fine clumps of Fringe Cups and Alum Root, companies of the rare *Romanzoffia*, and ferns everywhere. An ancient Big-leaf Maple, with great moss-covered branches, carried gardens of Licorice Fern on almost every main branch.

At lunch time, by Stone Pond, a Russet-backed Thrush was singing. While we watched red dragonflies hawking over the water, we suddenly saw an Allen Hummingbird collecting fuzz from a cattail close by. With field glasses we followed her across the pond to her nest in an alder, where she worked the fuzz into place, and then came back for more. In the afternoon we followed Winter Wrens around--one was carrying food--but they didn't disclose the location of their young.

Our list of birds for the trip included: Turkey Vulture, Red-tailed Hawk, California Quail, Band-tailed Pigeon (calling, but its "coo" sounded more like an owl's "hoot"), Mourning Dove, Anna Hummingbird, Allen Hummingbird (2 collecting fuzz), Red-shafted Flicker, Hairy Woodpecker, Western Flycatcher (bird on nest), Olive-sided Flycatcher, Violet-green Swallow, Purple Martin (pair), Steller and Scrub Jays, Chestnut-backed Chickadee, Plain Titmouse, Bushtit, Wren-tit, Brown Creeper, Winter and Bewick Wrens, Russet-backed Thrush, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Hutton and Warbling vireos; Yellow, Tolmie, and Pileolated warblers; Yellow-breasted Chat, Western Meadowlark, Black-headed Grosbeak, Purple and House finches, Pine Siskin, Green-backed Goldfinch, Spotted and Brown Towhees, Oregon Junco, and Song Sparrow.

Well and Les Sleeper, Leaders

Trip to Fremont Peak State Park, May 23, 1953. A thick cloud covered the top of Fremont Peak all day, and a cold wind blew most of the time. But the ten members who came on the trip inspite of morning showers, enjoyed the day. Stops were made on the way up the mountain to see choke-cherry trees and the shrubby Bitter Cherry, both species in bloom. The rare Creeping Sage was found growing abundantly under shrubs in the chaparral area, well up the mountain on the south side; and among the Coulter Pines the bright yellow flowers of the Mock Lupine were enjoyed. From the end of the road the group walked the trail almost to the top of the Peak, where a Rock Wren was singing vigorously. Along the trail, where yellow Fiddleneck was going to seed, Lawrence Goldfinches were clinging to stalks and picking out the seeds. But for the most part birds were few and hard to see. And except for fine displays of orange-colored Wall Flower, and pink Hedge Nettle, the many wild flowers were rain-soaked and drooping. Before noon it was agreed to descend the mountain and find a sunny, sheltered spot for lunch.

The trip was concluded with a detour over the scenic Old Stage Road, which took us back to 101 Highway.

Viola and Charles Anderson, Leaders

FIELD OBSERVATIONS

Last of the Winter Visitants. A VARIED THRUSH was last seen by Adist Boylan on Apr. 27 at Mt. Hermon. May 13 was Jerry Buzzell's last date for CEDAR WAXWINGS (2 flocks of about 10 each) in Los Altos. Flock of about 30 roosted in Glen Una area, near Saratoga, until May 17 (Emily Smith). The HARRIS SPARROW, first seen Mar. 17 by Grace Brubaker at her feed tray in foothills east of San Jose, was present regularly until May 4. A banded WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW completed its fourth winter in the vicinity of Emily Smith's home, near Saratoga, on Apr. 15. Last dates for White-crowns came from Helen Wright, Apr. 20 in Los Gatos; and from Grace Brubaker, Apr. 22 near San Jose. On Apr. 28 there were 2 White-crowned Sparrows among Golden-crowns picking up crumbs at Mary Ellen Shore's, near summit of Santa Cruz Mts.--the first as well as the last time White-crowns were seen there this season. Last dates for GOLDEN-CROWNED SPARROWS came from Eva McRae, May 1, near Los Gatos; and from Grace Brubaker, May 4, one accompanying the Harris Sparrow--or was it the other way round?--near San Jose. Of the 3 banded FOX SPARROWS which wintered in Glen Una area, the one with two white feathers on rump was last seen Apr. 5; the larger gray-headed bird, Apr. 9; and the smaller one, Apr. 12 (E.S.).

Other Bird Observations. PIED-BILLED GREBE. May 27, one swam across upper end of Searsville Lake with fish in bill, and disappeared among knotweeds bordering far side (Sidney and Grace Carr, Wed. Bird Trip). GREAT BLUE HERON. May 27, an adult at each of the 5 nests reported for Searsville L. in May Bull. At one nest, where parent stood on rim, 2 downy heads were seen (Carrs, Wed. Bird Trip). CALIFORNIA QUAIL. May 5, 11 downy chicks were trapped in a one-step-down cement approach to building on Stanford campus (Herbert Wittgenstein, who rescued the chicks. Ask Manette to tell you about it). COOT. May 27, 4 downy red-headed chicks, Searsville L. When parent fed them narrow green leaves, brought up from under water, they quivered their tiny wings (Carrs, Wed. Bird Trip). AVOCET. May 24, 4 eggs, pointed ends in, encircled by a few plant stems, on bare ground of dike, Alviso (Etta Smith). BAND-TAILED PIGEON. May 9, very large flock (100+) in olive trees at entrance to Hidden Villa, near Los Altos (Jerry Buzzell). VAUX SWIFT. May 6, 4 entered chimney in Los Gatos at

roosting time; May 19, midmorning, pair circled over same chimney, and then one entered and other flew off (E.S.). SAY PHOEBE. May 9, one at the Ouderkirks' ranch near San Martin. (If this bird is nesting here, it is at the extreme western edge of the breeding range in this part of California. Ed.) WESTERN FLYCATCHER. May 22, young left nest under porch roof by kitchen door, Los Gatos (Nell Hamsher). OLIVE-SIDED FLYCATCHER. May 12, female nest-building in Cedrus, Villa Montalvo, near Saratoga. For nest material she snapped off twigs from dead branch of nearby acacia (Clyde and Agnes Prusman, Wed. Bird Trip). CHESTNUT-BACKED CHICKADEE. May 5, nestlings being fed in old woodpecker hole in dead flower stalk of Century Plant, Villa Montalvo (Agnes Prusman); May 14, 4 fledglings being fed near Los Gatos (Eva McRae). PLAIN TITMOUSE. 3 fledglings perched near feed tray and parents making trips back and forth to feed them crumbs, near Los Gatos (Eva McRae). RUSSET-BACKED THRUSH. Arrival dates: May 3, singing near Milpitas (Al Wool). May 5, Los Gatos (Gladys Record). LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE. Apr. 30, one seen eating a fledgling English Sparrow, which it had apparently caught on feed tray, near San Jose (Grace Brubaker); May 3, 4 recent fledglings, 3 of them easily caught and posed for picture, foothills east of Milpitas (Al Wool). AUDUBON WARBLER. May 21 near summit of Santa Cruz Mts, small nestlings being fed (Mary Ellen Shore). HERMIT WARBLER. May 3, 2 males (also 3 Townsend warblers and a Black-throated Gray Warbler) in oaks about house for an hour or so, Santa Cruz Mts; 2 males again on May 10 (M. E. Shore). YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD. May 3, 3 females in tules where Tricolors were nesting (see Tricolored Blackbird). TRICOLORED BLACKBIRD. May 3, very large colony nesting in tules bordering pond on the Wools' ranch, foothills east of Milpitas; eggs in several located nests (Al Wool). BREWER BLACKBIRD. May 1, young fledged from nest in pine on San Jose State College campus (Eva McRae). AMERICAN GOLDFINCH. May 27, female accompanied by male, collecting willow cotton and nest-building in willow, Searsville L. (Lillian Gorham). OREGON JUNCO. May 13, juveniles foraging for themselves, apparently on their own. (Prusmans, Wed. Bird Trip).

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PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE BY-LAWS

The Board of Directors has approved the following proposed amendment to Article VIII, Section 1 of the By-Laws for submission to the members of the Society:

Amend by inserting into Section 1, Article VIII, after "Standing committees shall act within policies established by the Board of Directors, and shall report to the Board through the President of the Society or through the chairman of the committee," the following statement: It shall be customary for the chairmen of standing committees to attend the meetings of the Board of Directors.

The proposed amendment will be voted on at the Annual Meeting, June 8. For adoption it will be necessary for the proposed amendment to secure a two-thirds vote of the members present and voting at the Annual Meeting of the Society, a quorum being present.

Pro - The Board of Directors initiated the proposed amendment to make more specific its desire that the eleven standing committee chairmen participate in the formulation of the policies of the Society.

Con - The action called for in the proposed amendment is already provided for in Article VIII, Section 1, i.e. "and shall report to the Board through the President of the Society or through the chairman of the committee." A standing rule, which can be adopted or rescinded by a majority vote of the Board of Directors at any time, could serve the objective of the present Board of Directors and would not be binding upon all future Boards of Directors.

Wilbur F. Luick, Chairman
By-Laws Committee

EDITORIAL EPILOGUE

This issue of the "Bulletin" will be the final one for the present editors. It is customary for retiring editors to express "sincere hope that their efforts have met with approval" and to "wish their successors well". These old chestnuts we heartily endorse.

The publications committee will be faced with the problem of finding new editors. This is a matter of concern to the entire membership--give this committee your support.

Publications owe their existence to the interest of a group of people. Our modest "Bulletin" could not survive without the contributions of field notes, field trip reports and articles submitted by the members. We hope that contributors will continue to send in copy and that they will take pity on the as-yet-unknown editors and submit their copy in good shape and well in advance of the deadline. (Was there ever an editor who voiced not this plea?)

With all good wishes,

Charles Sibley and Emily Smith

SANTA CLARA VALLEY AUDUBON SOCIETY, Branch Of NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY

President --- Dr. H. B. Humphrey, 715 Fremont Ave., Mountain View
Secretary --- Mrs. Bernice Bottini, 918 Sunset Dr., Santa Clara
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 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.

NEW MEMBERS. The Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society takes pleasure in welcoming its new members.

Mr. Henry T. Bergh, Box 580, San Jose
Mr. A. Holden Higbee, Rt. 2, Box 694, Los Altos.
Mrs. Helen E. Frederick, 279 E. San Fernando St. San Jose.
Mrs. Clyde Mitchell, 16682 Kennedy Rd. Los Gatos.
Miss Hazel Ruth Prole, 63 Ellenwood Ave, Los Gatos.