

SANTA CLARA VALLEY AUDUBON SOCIETY

BULLETIN

Vol. 1, No. 2

December 1953

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings and best wishes for a happy holiday season, from all the officers and board of directors of the Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society to all its members.

Elsie D. Hoeck

DECEMBER CALENDAR

FIELD TRIPS:

Sunday, Dec. 6, to the Ralph Johnson ranch in Uvas Valley, Charles and Fanny Zwaal leaders. There is a possibility of Wood Ducks on a small reservoir on this interesting ranch. Meet at the Almaden School on Almaden Road, at Downer Avenue, a little more than 5 miles south of San Jose, at 8:30. Bring lunch.

Wednesday Morning, Dec. 9, to Searsville Lake, west of Palo Alto with Mr. and Mrs. M. R. Kirkwood. There is soft autumn color around the lake at this time of year and the birding there is always interesting. Meet at the gate to Searsville Lake at 8:30 a.m.

Saturday, Dec. 19, to Oak Hill Cemetery with Jim Peterson as leader. This area of lawns, trees and shrubs with the rocky hillslope beyond, should produce a fine list of birds. Meet at entrance to the Cemetery on highway 101 about 3 miles south of San Jose at 8:30 a.m. Bring lunch.

George Bottini and Miss Emily Smith.

REGULAR MEETING:

Monday, Dec. 14, at 8:00 p.m. in room 210 Science Bldg. at San Jose State College. Dick Mewaldt will explain the use of diurnal activity patterns of caged birds in the study of bird migration.

SCREEN TOURS:

Monday, Jan. 18, 1954, at 8:00 P.M. in the Morris Dailey Auditorium at San Jose State College. "Wildlife of Marsh and Mountain", by Cleveland P. Grant, noted lecturer and wildlife photographer. A color movie of wildlife - including waterfowl at their nesting areas, shore birds, ducks, grebes and hawks. Also antelope, deer, buffalo, moose, caribou and bear.

STUDENT GROUP ACTIVITIES:

Saturday, Dec. 5, the Student Group of the Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society has planned its first meeting to bring young people together to explore the out-of-doors. They will meet Jeanie Nieri at Newman's General Store in Woodside at 8:30 a.m. to see the bird, animal and plant life at Crystal Springs Lakes.

This group is for young people who want to study the out-of-doors seriously by attending and leading field trips. The first meeting is to plan future trips and leaders. Audubon members who know of young people who would be interested are invited to have them call Miss Nieri at EMerson 6-3343. (Grades 6 to 12) They may also join the Society through a student membership.

Wednesday, Dec. 9, at 8:00 p.m. the Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society will hold a meeting in room 210, Science Bldg. at San Jose State College for all teachers, nature leaders and others interested in information about Audubon Junior Clubs. These clubs are valuable in maintaining classroom interest in Conservation and Nature Study. Please pass the word along.

Jeanie Nieri, Chairman of
the Education Committee

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

Our twenty third Christmas Bird Census will be taken in the San Jose area on Sunday, Jan. 3. Groups in all parts of the country will be making bird counts during the week of December 27 to January 3. All count areas must be within a circle 15 miles in diameter. The center of our area is at the junction of Mabury Road and Capitol Avenue. We want to cover this area as completely as possible, to obtain the best possible index to its bird population. We need lots of help - the more eyes the better - so plan to participate this year. Aside from its scientific value, it is lots of fun. It is a sort of game to see how many species can be recorded in one day in a given area. Everyone can help - counting, checking or driving a car. Do you know where owls roost in this area? Or where there are unusual numbers of birds. For the count, meet in San Jose at corner of E. San Carlos and 5th Sts, by the campus, at 7:30 a.m. promptly. George Bottini will explain the rules of the count and outline the procedure at the meeting place. Bring lunch.

Miss Emily Smith

OFFICERS

President: Miss Elsie D. Hoeck, 55 So.6th St.Apt.105, San Jose 12
Vice-President: Dr. Malcolm Miller
Secretary: Miss Lynn Robbins, 370 University Ave, Los Altos
Treasurer: Mrs. Evan McRae, S.221, San Jose State Col, S.J. 14,
Membership Chair: Mrs. Irving Snow, 21441 Roaring Water Way, Los Gatos.
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FIELD TRIP REPORTS FOR NOVEMBER

Clyde and Agnes Prusman led about 35 Club members along Black Road to the Kane Ranch, on November 7. The following birds were noted at the Lakeside School stop: Bewick Wren, Brown Towhee, Ruby crowned Kinglet, Purple Finch, Greenback Goldfinch, Flicker, Downy Woodpecker, Stellar's Jay, California Jay, Chickadee, Quail, Oregon Junco, Common Titmouse, Audubon's Warbler, Townsend Warbler, Hermit Thrush and Golden crowned Sparrow.

These birds were seen near the water company lakes: Green Heron, Great Blue Heron, Kingfisher, Killdeer, 50 Coots, 6 Ring necked Ducks, 12 Ruddy Ducks, 4 Baldpates, 2 Scaups, 1 Mallard, Wrentit, Audubon's Warbler, Black Phoebe, Bewick Wren, Chickadee, Stellar Jay, Golden crowned Sparrow and California Jay.

During the lunch hour in the Kane's patio the group observed: Black phoebe, Titmouse, Anna's Hummingbird, Cedar Waxwing, Robin, Golden crowned Sparrow and later Western Bluebirds were found near the intersection of Skyline Boulevard.

The report from the Los Banos Game Refuge visit unfortunately missed the Bulletin's deadline. Al Wool conducted 18 members through the reserve and the trip was most successful. Highlight of the day was the sight of 6 Florida Gallinules. Other birds observed were Snow Geese, many varieties of ducks, cranes and Canada Geese.

NOVEMBER REVIEW

The San Jose-Santa Clara County Junior Museum opened November 15, at Alum Rock Park. It displays permanent, lifelike exhibits and living plants and animals. A diorama of the Bay mudflats with representative birds in natural poses and one of a habitat group of animals native to Alum Rock Park posed against the Canyon background are the special features. An outdoor trail program is being organized by Sam Smoker, recent San Jose State College graduate. It will keynote many of the Junior Museum activities for schools and youth groups, and will include a streamside museum, exhibiting characteristic aquatic life, as highpoint of his conducted tour.

The Museum will provide an animal lending library for schools and homes without pets; a meeting place for Junior Audubon, Junior Scientists, Scouts and Campfire groups. It will conduct special programs suited to needs of the handicapped.

Leaders for bird study groups will be sought from the Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society membership, President Elsie Hoeck advises. She praised the work our members have done on the Museum dioramas.

The 22nd Annual Convention of Western Outdoor Clubs held this fall agreed upon a number of resolutions of interest to all conservationists. Its 30 western mountaineering and hiking clubs membership issued policy governing statements:

1. To protest construction of dams or similar structures which would be adverse to the interests and principles of the National Park System.
2. To continue Dinosaur National Monument; its possible change in status to a National Park; protested proposals to construct dams within its boundaries.
3. To maintain the present boundaries of Olympic National Park.

The Act sought by Resolution #1, would bar such projects as the proposed Kings River project in the Kings Canyon National Park. The Federation commended the National Park Service for refusing to permit road construction through the Joshua Tree National Monument in Southern California.

Waterfowl in the Pacific Flyway 1953. The National Audubon Society deploras a change of policy by the Fish and Wildlife Service. Formerly hunting seasons and bag limits were based on the supply of ducks available. This year the policy seems to have been reversed. Official statistics show a slight decrease in the duck population but hunting regulations were liberalized, the San Francisco office of National states. The reason given was to alleviate bird depredations on agricultural crops. "The effective and time honored use of the principle of supply and demand has been abandoned in favor of the highly questionable principle of controlling depredations by indiscriminate hunting. In the opinion of the National Audubon Society this is a dangerous trend, one which if carried out might well reduce or even nullify the effect of the Migratory Bird Treaty. The Society believes that the depredations problem would be more effectively met by the issuance of special killing permits in the areas affected."

QUILLS AND PINFEATHERS

Young birds and fledgling editors have at least one characteristic in common. Their first flights are highly experimental and often humorous. The next time we see a reluctant feathered baby teetering on the edge of the nest we will understand his problem - perfectly!

The Bulletin's staff hopes to give full coverage to news of the Society's activities and to add items of state and national interest. Material sent to the Editor before the 21st of the month will be welcomed.