

SANTA CLARA VALLEY AUDUBON SOCIETY

BULLETIN

Vol. 1, No. 3

January 1954

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings for the New Year. Lets start our 1954 birding with a large attendance at the Bird Census, Sunday, January 3rd. Everyone is welcome. Meet in San Jose at E. San Carlos and Fifth Streets at 7:30 a.m. PROMPTLY. Bring lunch. George Bottini will explain the rules and procedures and the group will reassemble in the Fireside Room of the First Unitarian Church, 160 North Third Street, San Jose afterward for summary and refreshments. Elsie D. Hoeck

January
DECEMBER CALENDAR

FIELD TRIPS:

Wednesday, Jan. 13, to Stanford Campus where Dr. and Mrs. H. B. Humphrey have found good birding lately. Meet them in Palo Alto at El Camino (Highway 101) and Embarcadero Road. at 8:30 a.m. Rubbers are advised.

Sunday, Jan. 17. by request, a return trip to the Ralph Johnson ranch in Uvas Valley to see the Wood Ducks which are wintering there. Meet Charles and Fanny Zwaal at the Almaden School on Almaden Road at Downer Ave., about 5 miles south of San Jose, at 8:30 a.m. Bring lunch.

Sunday, Jan. 24, Frank Cantu will lead a trip through Golden Gate Park. Meet at the Dutch Windmill on the Great Highway at the San Francisco Beach at 9:30 a.m. Bring lunch.

Wednesday, Jan. 27, to the Alviso salt marshes, with Mrs. Etta Smith as leader. Mrs. Smith makes no promises but she always finds birding in the marshes exciting. Meet at the Alviso Grammar School at 8:30 a.m.

Saturday, Jan. 30, to San Jose's Alum Rock Park in the eastern foothills. The morning will be spent on the trails which should be beautiful in late January with mosses and ferns and the earliest spring wildflowers. In the afternoon we will visit the new Junior Museum. Mrs. Grace Brubaker is planning the trip. Meet at the junction of Alum Rock Ave. and Miguelito Rd., just beyond the main entrance to San Jose Country Club, at 8:30 a.m. Bring lunch.

George R. Bottini

REGULAR MEETING:

Monday, Jan. 11, at 8:00p.m. in the Palo Alto Community Center Junior Museum, 1305 Middlefield Road. Joseph C. Wampler, trained archeologist and naturalist, will show his colored movie of Havasu Canyon - an enchantingly beautiful and until recently almost inaccessible side canyon in the Grand Canyon in Arizona. Mr. Wampler has conducted trail trips into this remote home of the Havasupai, the "People of the Blue-Green Water". His pictures were taken during the spring corn planting, when Canyon Wrens were nesting, wild flowers were abundant and the falls were at their best. Bring your friends to enjoy this picture with you.

BOARD MEETING:

Tuesday, Jan. 5th. at 8:00 p.m., in room 210 of the Science Building at San Jose State College.

SCREEN TOURS:

Monday, Jan. 18th 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. Come early to get a seat.

STUDENT GROUP ACTIVITIES

Jan. 3, 1954. The Student Group will participate in the Christmas Bird Count.

Jan. 9, 1954. A second field trip will be led by Les Sleeper, to Dumbarton Bridge. We will meet at the Palo Alto Southern Pacific Station at 8:00 a.m. Bring lunch. We return by 2:30 p.m.
Jeanie Nieri

Report of the Student Group's first field trip, led by Jeanie Nieri, Dec. 5th. The Student Group met for the first time for a field trip to Crystal Springs Lakes. The Leader, Jeanie Nieri, welcomed seven members for the trip. It was a fine day, with clear skies and a brisk wind. As the group worked its way along the string of lakes, 47 species of birds were seen. They were as follows: California Jay, Meadow Lark, Sparrow Hawk, Brewer's Blackbird, Brown Towhee, Golden-crowned Sparrow, Coot, Black Swan (unverified) Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Oregon Junco, Hermit Thrush, Ruddy Duck, Pintail, Shoveller, Mallard, Black Phoebe, Audubon Warbler, Cooper's Hawk, Bewick Wren, Canada Geese, (215 in 1 flock) Red-tailed Hawk, Turkey Vulture, Loon (unidentified) Eared Grebe, Cedar Waxwing, Great Blue Heron, Western Grebe, Greater Scaup Duck, Song Sparrow, Kingfisher, Pied-billed Grebe, Red-shafted Flicker, Canvasback, Western Gull, American Merganser, Stellar's Jay,

California Quail, Varied Thrush, Chestnut-backed Chickadee, Herring Gull, Ring-billed Gull, Ring-necked Duck. We watched a Cooper's Hawk make a pass at a group of Coots. Some members of the group also collected unidentified reptile eggs. On the return trip the group stopped at the Pulgas Water Temple. Altogether the trip was a big success, and the group is planning more trips for the future.

Charlie Rend

DECEMBER FIELD TRIP REPORTS

Sunday, Dec. 6th, to the Ralph Johnson Ranch in Uvas Valley.

Although the weatherman had promised showers, the day proved to be warm and sunny, much to the delight of the 16 members who journeyed to the Ulistac Ranch. (Johnson's ranch.)

Along McKean Road en route, great flocks of Arkansas Goldfinches were observed feeding among the roadside weeds. Also many dozens of Meadow larks, a mixed flock of Brewer and Red-winged Blackbirds, numbering into the hundreds; Red-shafted Flicker, Robin, Audubon Warbler, Killdeer (26) Crow, White and Golden-crowned Sparrows, Song Sparrows, Shrike, Pipits, (many) Magpie, Scrub Jay, Black Phoebe, Brown Towhee, Acorn Woodpecker, Sparrow Hawk, and Band Tailed Pigeons. (The latter in great numbers.)

The noise of our arrival at the ranch frightened the Wood Ducks from a nearby reservoir. However a dozen of the beautiful birds were observed, as they flew past at close range. Three more were seen a short time later as they rose from the water.

Additional birds observed at the ranch included: California Jay, Hermit Thrush, Brown Towhee, Spotted Towhee, White-breasted Nuthatch, Hutton Vireo, Golden Eagle, Red-tailed Hawk, Band-tailed Pigeons; Magpie, Valley Quail, Meadowlark, White and Golden-crowned Sparrow, Song Sparrow, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Titmouse; Bush-Tit, Junco, Black Phoebe, Bewick Wren, Red-shafted Flicker, Acorn Woodpecker, Purple Finch, Pied-billed Grebe, American Coot and Ring-necked Duck.

Charles and Fanny Zwaal.

SEARSVILLE LAKE, Dec. 9. Morning trip.

In the foggy, foggy dew of December 9th, nine indestructibles set out in the everglades, or Searsville Lake territory, on a bird quest. Actually it was so foggy at first that most of us could not have spotted an eagle if we had bumped into it. But right at the entrance to the lake property we heard some squabbling titmouse, and thanks to Miss Emily, we learned that not only they, but other species, have already begun to appropriate their territory in preparation for romance.

Then, moving toward the lake, and parting the fog as we progressed we began to see and before the morning was over had spotted not only the titmice but the following species: Black Phoebe, Varied Thrush, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Purple Finch, Robin, Flicker, Killdeer, Sparrow Hawk, Band-tailed pigeon, Brown creeper, Bewick Wren,

White-breasted nuthatch, Junco, Downy Woodpecker, Cedar Waxwing, Western Bluebird, Acorn Woodpecker, Mourning Dove, Bush-Tit, Brown Towhee, Great Blue Heron, White-crowned Sparrow, Golden-crowned Sparrow, Coot, Ring-necked Duck, Ruddy Duck. We heard, in addition, a Hermit Thrush and the song of the Wren-Tit.

It might be added that all of us did not see all of the species listed. As Mr. Ouderdirk said, when he reads in the Bulletin about trips, he often wonders if he was on them. He sees five species and reads that forty have been observed. That rings a familiar note! But we all saw enough to garner a respectable list. Besides that, as we came out of a kind of gulley, with arching trees overhead, the fog lifted and we could see now all the lovely muted colors of fall. Just as we were leaving the sun shone through, lighting some of the trees with gold. Altogether a fine morning and one we wouldn't have missed. Christine Tapley.

Los Banos Refuge, Nov. 22, Al Wool, leader.

Eleven cars of birders entered the refuge on a warm, but partly overcast day. Two cars came from the Redwood City group; later in the day we also met the Monterey group.

We drove first to the far end of the refuge and were rewarded with a view of about 200 Sandhill Cranes standing in an 80 acre area that had been recently planted to barley. Large numbers of them took flight and flew overhead giving their loud, guttural, rollicking call that is so characteristic of the species.

We ate our lunch with the Monterey group at the edge of that very fine and nearly always well populated 60 acre resting pond. Here we set up the scopes and viewed several thousand waterfowl consisting of numerous species of ducks, and a few geese.

On our way out of the refuge we stopped along a recently dredged canal and we all enjoyed excellent views of about 16 Gallinules well scattered and swimming among the Coots. It would seem that the Gallinule is on the increase in the area. Here we also saw a Virginia Rail, Birds observed on the tour included: Ring-necked Pheasant 5, Sandhill Cranes 200, White-fronted Goose, about 70, Snow Goose 48, Marsh Hawk 4, Western Red-tailed Hawk 3, Mallard, Marsh Wren, Baldpate, Pintail, Canada Geese, Green-winged Teal, Great Blue Heron, Bi-colored Redwing Blackbird, Yellow-headed blackbird, Pied-billed Grebe, Shoveller, Pipit, Savannah Sparrow, Golden-crowned Sparrow, Audubon Warbler, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Black Phoebe, Least Sandpiper, Mockingbird, Virginia Rail, Tree Swallow, Gallinule, Ruddy Duck, Cinnamon Teal, Gadwill, Brant.

A. L. Wool

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QUILLS AND PINFEATHERS

Enclosed in this issue of the Bulletin is the Holiday Gift list from National. The Committee felt that its items are of year round interest and should be included - regardless of the date.

We are most appreciative of the prompt arrival of the field trip reports this month, and would suggest that three days be allowed as travel time for letters and reports which are sent to us. The Bulletin's deadline is the 21st of the month to assure its reaching the members in time for them to plan their own schedules more conveniently.

Mimi Doe

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