

SANTA CLARA VALLEY AUDUBON SOCIETY

BULLETIN

Vol. 1 No. 4

February 1954

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Most urgent is the need for everyone interested in conservation and the protection of our National Parks System to write or wire AT ONCE to our Congressional representatives protesting invasion of our parks by the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, or any other federal bureau.

Douglas McKay, Secretary of Interior, has recommended immediate authorization by Congress of a 525 ft. dam at Echo Park in Dinosaur National Monument. It is part of a series to be constructed in connection with the Upper Colorado River Water Storage Project. All but two of these dams are to be built OUTSIDE the national preserve. Conservationists object to building these two INSIDE because they destroy much needed recreational values, set a dangerous precedent of invasion of the entire National Park System for special interests, and they are unnecessary because alternate damsites exist. Enclosed in this issue is an explanatory page from the Sierra Club bulletin.

Writing to legislators does help in conservation. The story of the California Condor is a case in point. Only about 30 or 40 survivors are known to exist in the Los Padres National Forest. Such serious objections were raised by bird lovers all over California that permission to take specimens, even for the rather dubious good purpose of raising them in the San Diego Zoo, was withdrawn, effective Jan. 16.

Renewal of the Screen Tours poses two questions: do the members of the Santa Clara Audubon Society wish to continue them and are there some volunteers who will assume some of the duties connected with presenting them?

A contest to decide what name would be suitable for our Bulletin opens today. Full explanation and rules are enclosed in this issue.

Elsie D. Hoeck

FEBRUARY CALENDAR

MEETINGS:

Regular Meeting, Monday, Feb. 8, at 8:00 p.m. Room 44 upstairs in the Home Economics Bldg., San Jose State College. This is on So. 7th St. on the west side, between San Carlos and San Antonio Sts. opposite the new Music Building.

Dr. James A. Cutting will show his color film entitled "Fun Shooting Birds and Other Animals with a Movie Camera." Dr. Cutting took some of the shots- White-throated Sparrow, for instance, on Audubon field

trips. Bring your friends to enjoy with you Dr. Cutting's beautiful pictures.

Board Meeting, Tuesday, Feb. 2, at 8 p.m. in the Science Building 2nd floor, at San Jose State College.

FIELD TRIPS:

Sunday, Feb. 7, to Moss Landing, with the Monterey Peninsula Audubon Society. Charles and Viola Anderson, who will lead the trip, report that Whistling Swans are being seen at Moss Landing this winter, 19 on one occasion: and that Fulmars can usually be seen out just beyond the jetty. Meet at Moss Landing at 9:00 a.m. at junction of Construction Road with State Highway 1 about half mile north of the cement bridge over Elkhorn Slough. Bring lunch.

Wednesday Morning, Feb. 10, to Palo Alto Yacht Harbor with Charles and Elizabeth Mueser. Golden-eyes and other interesting ducks often drop down to the pond there and are easily observed. From the Yacht Harbor the trip will continue on to the Muesers' garden in Menlo Park, to visit "Solomon" and "Sheba", two Barn Owls which usually roost there daytimes. Meet in Palo Alto at 8:30 a.m. at the S.P. Depot.

Saturday, Feb. 13, to Crystal Springs Lakes in San Mateo County, where good numbers of ducks and Canada Geese are being reported this winter. Herbert and Manette Wittgenstein are planning the trip. It was on a trip to this area just two years ago that we had such fine flocks of a Bald Eagle. Meet in Palo Alto at 8:30 a.m. at S.P. Depot or at 9:00 at the Las Pulgas Water Temple on Canada Rd. about 6 miles north of Woodside. Bring lunch.

Wednesday Morning, Feb. 24, to Juliette Jones' home at 15850 West Road in the foothills between Los Gatos and Saratoga. Mrs. Jones is planning an easy walk along trails in her neighborhood. It will be quite possible to find an Anna Hummingbird or a pair of Bushtits nestbuilding, or even an Allen Hummingbird, recently back from the south. Meet at 8:30 a.m. at the Quito Fire Station, on Saratoga-Los Altos Rd. at Austin Way, about halfway between Saratoga and Los Gatos.

Sunday, Feb. 28, to Aldercroft Heights in the Santa Cruz Mountains with Angelina Snow. Mrs. Snow has several good birding places in mind, including her home in a grove of Madrones on a steep canyon slope. She says more and more species of woodland birds are finding their way to her feeders. Meet in Los Gatos at 8:a.m. in front of the Lyndon Hotel. Bring lunch.

George R. Bottini, Field Trips
918 Sunset Drive, Santa Clara

SCREEN TOURS:

Monday, March 1, at 8:00 p.m. in the Morris Dailey Auditorium at San Jose State College. "Once Upon an Island," by Robert C. Hermes. There is a special charm about an island to humans and to the birds and animals that live on it. Eider ducks, puffins, Arctic and Caspian terns, murrelets, whirligig beetles, seals and whales—these and many others are leading actors in this color motion picture. Come early to inspect the display of materials available from the

Pacific Coast Office of National Audubon. Everything from books and games to field glasses.

Information about Wampler Trail Trips is available at 1940 Hearst Ave., Berkeley 9, California.

STUDENT GROUP ACTIVITIES

FIELD TRIP:

On Saturday, Feb. 6, Pat Donaghey will lead the Student Group on a field trip to Ladera. Meet at the Palo Alto S.P. Depot at 8:00 a.m. Bring lunch.

Student Group Report: Led by Les Sleeper, on Jan. 9, seven members attended the trip to Dumbarton Bridge. It was a fine day with slight overcast haze and a brisk wind. As the group worked their way from San Francisquito Creek near the S.P. Depot in Palo Alto through the Dumbarton marsh area, fifty one species of birds were seen. They were Mockingbird, Robin, Acorn Woodpecker, Sparrowhawk, Red-tailed Hawk, Ruby-crowned kinglet, Audubon's Warbler, Calif. Quail, Brown Towhee, Anna's Hummingbird, Meadowlark, Kingfisher, House Finch, Brewer's Blackbird, Flicker, Golden-crowned Sparrow, Mourning Dove, California Thrasher, White-crowned Sparrow, Green-backed Goldfinch, Pine Siskins, Song Sparrow, Greater Sparrow, Greater Yellowlegs, Western Gull, Ring billed Gull, Bonaparte Gull, Greater Scaup, Coot, Pintail, Western Grebe, Hudsonian Curlew, Western Sandpiper, Killdeer, Semipalmated Plover, Savannah Sparrow, Eared Grebe, American Egret, Avocet, Double-crested Cormorant, Marbled Godwit, Foster's Tern, White-winged Scoter, Loggerhead Shrike, American Pipit, Ring-necked Duck, Black-bellied Plover, Rufous-crowned Sparrow, Northern Phalarope, Clapper Rail, It cleared up during the day and the group had lunch at the K.G.O. Station. Altogether it was a very successful trip.

Patrick Donaghey

FIELD TRIP REPORTS FOR JANUARY

Harry and Eloine Humphrey led fifteen Club members through the Stanford Arboretum for two hours of excellent birding on Jan. 13. The day was bright and clear though cool, and many birds were seen and studied in the live oaks, eucalyptus, shrubbery and open spaces back of the Arboretum. Everywhere there were birds: Thrasher, Fox Sparrows, pine siskins, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Red-shafted Flicker, Sparrow Hawk, California Quail, Hummingbird, California Woodpecker, Red-breasted Sapsucker, California Jay, Chestnut backed Chickadee, Plain Titmouse, Bushtit, Brown Creeper, Bewick's Wren, Robin, Varied Thrush, Hermit Thrush, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Audubon's Warbler, Townsend's Warbler, Western Meadowlark, Calif. Purple Finch, American Goldfinch, Greenbacked Goldfinch, Spotted Towhee, Brown Towhee, Oregon Junco, White-crowned Sparrow, Golden-crowned Sparrow and Song Sparrow.

Charles and Fanny Zwaal report that a few webfoot members sloshed through the fields in a repeat attempt to see the Wood Ducks on the Johnson Ranch in Uvas Valley, on Sunday, Jan. 17. The 21 Wood Ducks were still wary, left the pond at the sound of voices and were observed only in flight. Fourteen Mallards preceded them. Large Flocks of Meadowlark, Golden-crowned Sparrow, Lark Sparrow and Pine Siskins

(100 or more each) were observed. Also Robin, Tit-mouse, Bushtit, Acorn Woodpecker, Audubon Warbler, Red-shafted Flicker, Western Bluebird, Junco, Magpie, Brown Towhee, Black Phoebe, Red-winged and Brewer Blackbird, White-crowned Sparrows, Quail, Band-tailed Pigeon, Arkansas Goldfinch, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, American Coot and Ruddy Duck.

The Christmas Bird Count: Thirty one observers in five parties totaled 166 party miles in 40 party hours on Sunday, Jan. 3, to count 118 species of birds and 19,284 individuals. The area radiated $7\frac{1}{2}$ miles from Capitol Av. and Mabury Road and included Alviso, Calaveras Reservoir, Hall's Valley and Santa Clara. The percentages were broken down as salt marshes and mud flats 10%, fresh water lakes 10%, Oak woodland 30%, orchard 30%, city and suburbs 10%, pasture 10%.

Listed in the count were: 1 Horned Grebe, 1 Pied-billed Grebe, 21 Double-crested Cormorant, 6 Great Blue Heron, 2 Black-crowned Night Heron, 288 Canada Geese, 12 Mallard, 9 Pintail, 11 Green-winged Teal, 12 Shoveller, 8 Wood-Duck, 11 Canvas-back, 24 Greater Scaup, 1 Buffle head, 497 Ruddy Duck, 2 American Merganser, 4 Turkey Vulture, 1 White-tailed Kite, 18 Sharp-shinned Hawk, 2 Cooper's Hawk, 32 Red-tailed Hawk, 2 Golden Eagle, 81 Sparrow Hawk, 168 California Quail, 11 Ring-necked Pheasant, 14 Varied Thrush, 11 Golden-crowned Kinglet, 269 Audubon's Warbler, 34 Red-winged Blackbird, 6 Purple Finch, 193 Savannah Sparrow, 80 Leconte's Sparrow, 525 Golden-crowned Sparrow, 1 Lincoln Sparrow, 4 Brown Thrasher, 51 Western Bluebird, 111 Ruby-crowned Kinglet, 2 Orange-crowned Warbler, 31 Townsend's Warbler, 603 Western Meadowlark, 150 Am. Goldfinch, 4 Rufus-crowned Sparrow, 559 Oregon Junco, 249 Am. Robin, 58 Hermit Thrush, 100 Water Pipit, 380 Cedar Waxwing, 36 Loggerhead Shrike, 7 Hutton's Vireo, 12 Myrtle Warbler, 470 House Sparrows, 1739 Brewer's Blackbird, 1428 Housefinch, 713 Lesser Goldfinch, 51 Spotted Towhee, 103 Lark Bunting, 2108 White-crowned Sparrow, 21 Fox Sparrow, 58 Song Sparrow, 280 Killdeer, 233 Wilson's Snipe, 1 Spotted Sandpiper, 12 Greater Yellowlegs, 1 Pectoral Sandpiper, 174 Dowitcher, 16 Marbled Godwit, 2 Glaucous-winged Gull, 77 Calif. Gull, 102 Band-tailed Pigeon, 1 Barn Owl, 7 Burrowing Owl, 2 Belted Kingfisher, 112 Red-shafted Flicker, 1 Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, 9 Downy Woodpecker, 121 Scrub Jay, 79 Chestnut-backed Chickadee, 39 Plain Titmouse, 368 Common Bushtit, 16 Wren-tit, 9 Winter Wren, 1 Sora, 2249 Am. Coot, 125 Black-bellied Plover, 13 Long-billed Curlew, 101 Least Sandpiper, 4 Western Gull, 248 Ring-billed Gull, 6 Mourning Dove, 53 Acorn Woodpecker, 40 Black Phoebe, 53 Yellow-billed Magpie, 29 Am. Crow, 4 White-breasted nuthatch, 1 Am. Dipper, 19 Bewick's Wren, 25 Clapper Rail, 53 Hudsonian Curlew, 544 Willet, 63 Sandpiper, red-backed, 51 Western Sandpiper, 114 Am. Avocet, 130 Herring Gull, 125 Bonaparte's Gull, 2000 (unidentified) Gulls, 1 Horned Owl, 5 White-throated Swift, 13 Anna's Hummingbird, 3 Hairy Woodpecker, 10 Nuttall's Woodpecker, 91 Horned Lark, 1 Say's Phoebe, 38 Stellar's Jay, 4 Brown Creeper, 1 House Wren, 81 Mockingbird,

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JANUARY REVIEW

Newly appointed Conservation Chairman, Dr. William Graf, professor of zoology at San Jose State College, supports the arguments advanced by the Sierra Club and other conservation groups against building of Echo Park and Split Mountain Dams in Dinosaur National Monument.

The launching of the atomic powered submarine, and General Doolittle's comment that planes will be atomic powered within 25 years, points up the questionability of the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation's argument that to destroy the character of a unique, national monument having special scenic, geological, archaeological and recreational values is justified for the sake of the electric power the dams will generate and the water storage they will provide.

Why should taxpayers foot the bill to take away low cost recreation area which already belongs to them, to the tune of some 200 millions of dollars when water could be stored OUTSIDE the park and power generated by coal from deposits in that same area. Besides the commercial use of atomic power is literally on our doorstep.

Dr. Graf also calls attention to the fact that the Upper Colorado watershed has a specially high silt rate in the region concerned. Low gradient dams previously built on rivers with high silt rates have shown a life expectancy of about 50 years. An expensive gamble especially when Dept. of Interior engineers themselves disagree on the necessity of building Echo Park Dam and Split Mountain Dam in Dinosaur Monument.

CLIPPED FROM THE AUDUBON PACIFIC COAST NEWSLETTER

State Park Attendance reached an all-time high of nearly 150 million visitors in 1952, an increase of 24% over 1951 and 61% over 1946, the first normal post war year, according to recently released statistics from National Park Service. Canada's national parks recorded more than two and one half million visitors in 1952.

A wild duck, banded December 1932, was shot on Dec. 27, 1952, making it at least 20½ years old, as it was at least 6 months old when banded.

The California State Park Commission approved a resolution, Oct. 1953, reaffirming its longstanding policy to prohibit the hunting of game with firearms and by other destructive methods, in units of the park system.

There have been fewer forest fires in California so far this year than any year since 1948, the State Division of Forestry reports. A total of 2,016 fires have burned over 117,792 acres. (Press Democrat, 12,6,53)

Forest Service Establishes New Preserve. A unique and remote area to be known as the White Mountain Natural Area was established Nov. 13, 1953, by the U.S. Forest Service to protect and preserve a rare stand of bristle cone pine and associated alpine flora. The area covers 2,330 acres of remnant timberline forest which is about two thirds covered with living and dead bristle cone pine. A 26" tree was determined to be 900 years old; the largest veterans there exceed 12 ft. in diameter. Location: east slope of the White Mountains, northeast of Bishop, Calif. at elevations from 9,900 to 11,419 ft.

The Editorial Committee of the Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society takes pleasure in announcing a contest for the members of the Society to participate in the selection of an appropriate name for our publication, Bulletin of the Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society.

The member who submits the winning name will receive as a prize a copy of Olin Sewall Pettingill, Jr.'s book, "A Guide to Bird Finding West of the Mississippi." (Value, \$6.00)

Many of you are familiar with the history of the publications of our Society. In January, 1929, No.1 of Volume I of The Wren-Tit was published. Dr. Gayle B. Pickwell was editor; and Miss Emily Smith, assistant editor. The Wren-Tit appeared quarterly in 1929, 1930, and 1931. The editors established high standards for the publications of our Society. It is the recommendation of the Editorial Committee that The Wren-Tit not be considered in the current contest, that it stand as a memorial to the unique contribution of the late and beloved Dr. Gayle B. Pickwell.

BULLETIN of the Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society has been the name used to identify our publication in recent years.

Rules of the contest are as follows:

1. Any member of the Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society, excepting members of the Editorial Committee, is eligible to enter the select-a-name contest.
2. A member may submit as many entries as he wishes. Entries should be mailed to Dr. Wilbur F. Luick, Chairman, Editorial Committee, 1027 Camino Ricardo, San Jose 25. Only entries submitted by mail will be considered by the committee.
3. In the event more than one member submits the same name, the committee will credit the member whose entry was postmarked the earliest.
4. Deadline for submission of entries will be February 15, 1954. Any postmarked after midnight of that date will be ignored.
5. The Editorial committee will select four (4) names from those submitted. The March Bulletin will publish these names and the name of the member who submitted each. A preferential mail ballot will be taken among the members of the Society to determine the most popular title. Deadline for receipt of the members preferential mail ballots will be published in the March Bulletin
6. The Editorial Committee will present the prize to the winning member at the April, 1954, meeting of the Society.
7. The following names are excluded from consideration:
 - THE CORDONICES: THE CALIFORNIA QUAIL - California Office of the National Audubon Society.
 - THE GULL - Golden Gate Audubon Society
 - THE WESTERN Tanager - Los Angeles Audubon Society
 - THE SANDERLING - Monterey Peninsula Audubon Society
 - CALIFORNIA THRASHER - Paso Robles Audubon Society
 - THE OBSERVER - Sacramento Audubon Soc., Whittier Audubon Soc.
 - WESTERN MEADOWLARK - San Bernardino Valley Audubon Society
 - SKETCHES - San Diego Audubon Society
 - GOLDEN GARDENS - California Garden Clubs, Inc.
 - AUDUBON WARBLER - Oregon Audubon Society

YOU STILL CAN HELP TO SAVE THE DINOSAUR NATIONAL MONUMENT*

(*Copied from January 15, 1954 Sierra Club Bulletin.)

This is a national emergency. The stakes are high - the future of all our national parks and monuments.

THE THREAT: The Bureau of Reclamation includes in its plans for the comprehensive development of the upper Colorado River a dam inundating Echo Park, in the scenic heart of Dinosaur National Monument. Alternative sites exist, but they have not been even carefully studied. The Secretary of the Interior has recommended to the President and to Congress the plan as it now stands, including Echo Park Dam. If the Echo Park Dam is not deleted from the plan, we stand to lose not only the brilliant cliffs, thrilling river and inviting green living space along the canyon floor in Echo Park, but also the security of every last scenic preserve that contains anything with a possible dollar value to it.

THE DEFENSE: Aroused public opinion, if it is expressed, can help persuade the Congress and the President that the Echo Park Dam should be disapproved. Hearings on the project start January 18th before the Subcommittee on Irrigation and Reclamation in the House of Representatives. Time is short. The worse enemy of the parks right now is simple apathy or procrastination on the part of the public.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: You can send telegrams or air mail letters to key men in Washington. Tell them that you want them to save Dinosaur National Monument by deleting Echo Park Dam from the upper Colorado project. Urge your friends to do likewise.

SOME ARGUMENTS: 1. Dinosaur National Monument deserves protection from exploitation. 2. Echo Park Dam is not necessary for orderly development of Colorado River resources. Alternative sites that would not harm the monument should be utilized. 3. No violation of any part of the National Park System should be considered except in extreme National need and after all alternatives have been exhausted. 4. The precedent established by such a project would extend the harm to all our parks, monuments and wilderness areas.

ADDRESSES: (A letter to Mr. Harrison, with copies to the others, will suffice):

The Hon. William H. Harrison, Chairman, Subcommittee on Irrigation & Reclamation. House Office Building, Washington 25, D.C. ("Dear Sir:")

The Hon. Charles Gubser: House Office Bldg. ("Dear Sir:")

The Hon. William Knowland - Senate Office Bldg. ("Dear Mr. ..")

The Hon. Thomas Kuchel - Senate Office Bldg., etc. ("Dear Mr..")

Please request that your letters be entered on the Congressional Record, and send a copy to Gene Waller, Conservation Chairman, 489 South 7th Street, San Jose, California.

THE MINIMUM: If you only have time to write "Please save Dinosaur National Monument", then at least do that promptly. Write more fully if you can. Get your family and friends and associates to do likewise. All letters should reach Washington D.C. by January 29th, when the meeting closes. Even after the 29th WRITE. In addition to the above Congressmen also write: A.L. Miller, Chairman of House Committee on Interior & Insular Affairs; Craig Hosmer, Claire Engle and Samuel W. Yorty - all addressed at House Office Building, Washington, D. C. Your letter can help save our National Parks.

THE 1954 CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT, Sunday, January 2

MEETING PLACE. In San Jose, at corner of E. San Carlos and 5th Sts., by the State College campus. Be there by 7:30 a.m. Tally of the count will be held at 4:30 p.m. at First Unitarian Church, 160 N. 3rd St., in the Fireside Room. Please use rear entrance. Dr. Dick Mewaldt will have charge of the tally.

COUNT AREA. Same as in past years, a circular area, 15 miles in diameter, the center northeast of city limits, at junction of Mabury Rd. and Capitol Ave.

SECTORS. The count area will be divided into five sectors, as follows:

- A. Alviso Sector, bounded on east by State Highway 17 (Oakland Highway) and on south by Bayshore Highway. Bayshore Highway inside this sector.
- B. Southwest Sector, bounded on north and east by Bayshore Highway. Bayshore Highway, south of Alum Rock Ave., inside this sector.
- C. Evergreen Sector, bounded by Bayshore Highway, Alum Rock Ave., and Mt. Hamilton Road. Mt. Hamilton Rd. inside this sector.
- D. Alum Rock Sector, bounded on south and west by Mt. Hamilton Rd., Alum Rock Ave. and Bayshore Highway; on north by Capitol Ave. and Sierra Rd. Alum Rock Ave., Bayshore and Oakland Highways, and Capitol Ave. are all inside this sector.
- E. Calaveras Sector, bounded by Sierra Rd., Capitol Ave., and Oakland Highway. Sierra Rd. and Oakland Highway inside this sector.

SECTOR LEADERS. Alviso (A), Etta Smith (Mrs. G. M. Smith), 1041 The Alameda, San Jose; Southwest (B), James G. Peterson, 3801 Blackford Ave., San Jose; Evergreen (C), Herbert C. Wittgenstein, 15355 Bellecourt Ave., Los Gatos; Alum Rock (D), Grace Brubaker (Mrs. Lester H. Brubaker), 191 Mountain View Ave., San Jose; Calaveras (E), Albert J. Wool, Rt. 2, Box 728, San Jose.

Each leader is responsible for planning the itinerary within his sector. (If you know where there is good birding in a sector, let the leader know.) At the meeting place, on the day of the count, the assembled bird counters will divide into groups and go with whichever sectors they wish. If you know now which sector you want to join, phone or drop a card to the leader. It will be a big help in planning the itinerary if the leader knows beforehand how many observers (and cars) he can count on for his sector.

RECORDS. One person in each group will act as scribe, to record the counts of each species of wild bird positively identified. In making estimates of large numbers, indicate the probable error, for example: Coot, 2000 \pm 300. If unable to estimate degree of accuracy, record estimate as: Coot, 2000 est. In adding estimates to actual counts, in final tally, indicate accuracy in this way: Coot, 2173 (2000 \pm 300, 173). This shows that of the total number of Coots reported (2173), 173 were actually counted and the rest estimated.

Record hours and mileage spent on foot and by car by each group in sector. As weather conditions can effect results, keep record of weather (minimum and maximum temperature, wind direction and approximate velocity, cloud cover, etc.). Because habitats are important in evaluating species counts, record habitats visited (salt marsh, canyon stream, oak woodland, grassland, golf course, etc.) and percentage of time spent in each habitat.