

SANTA CLARA VALLEY AUDUBON SOCIETY

BULLETIN

Vol. 1 No. 6

April 1954

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Lets go to Audubon Camp this year. This will be the 7th season of Audubon Camp in the High Sierra at Norden, California. It provides a unique experience in outdoor learning, through a daily program of informal field trips in small groups under expert leadership. Special emphasis is given instruction in birds and nature activities with additional instruction on a selective basis offered in the subjects of plants and animals.

The food is excellent, the accommodations most comfortable with such camp luxuries as hot and cold running water, good mattresses and an attractive lounge with a large fireplace.

Enrollment is limited to 50 campers per session; the cost is \$95 per two week session, which includes board, lodging, instruction transportation on regularly scheduled field trips and to and from nearest train and bus stations. Applications must be accompanied by a deposit of \$15. to be applied to the total fee. The dates are June 27 to July 10; July 11 to July 24; July 25 to August 7; Aug. 8 to Aug. 21; Aug. 22 to Sept. 4. Address letters to: National Audubon Society, 639 Sutter Street, Room 201, San Francisco, and additional information will be sent on request.

A nominating committee has been appointed to present a slate of officers for the coming year at the annual meeting in June. Members of the committee are: Les Sleeper, Clyde Prusman and Frank Cantu.
Elsie Hoeck

APRIL CALENDAR

MEETINGS:

Regular Meeting, Monday, April 12, at 8:00 p.m. at the Rosicrucian Art Gallery, at 1342 Naglee in San Jose. There will be exhibited the Louis Agassiz Fuertes bird portraits in color and a short motion picture on the "Dinosaur National Monument."

Board Meeting, Monday, April 12, at 7:45 p.m. at the Rosicrucian Art Gallery in San Jose. The address is 1342 Naglee.

FIELD TRIPS:

Sunday, April 11. Charlie and Viola Anderson will lead a trip in the Pinnacles National Monument, located 35 miles south of Hollister on U.S. Highway 25. Meet at the Ranger's station at 9:00 a.m. The park is about two hours drive from Palo Alto, turning onto the Hollister road just south of Gilroy on 101. Mr. and Mrs. Wittgenstein will be camping in the park and plan to arrive the Saturday afternoon previous.

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Wednesday morning, April 14, bird trip to Roberta Wright's home, 540 Atherton Avenue, Atherton (no mistake this time!). Mrs. Wright will lead leisurely walk from her place to nearby Bear Gulch Reservoir and the woods beyond. Meet in Palo Alto at the S.P. Station at 8:30 a.m. or at Mrs. Wright's home at 9:00 a.m.

Saturday, April 24, The Charles Andersons will lead the group on the Hatton ranch near Salinas, where many birds are nesting among them the Allen Hummingbirds. Follow Main St. through Salinas towards Monterey and meet at the eucalyptus grove near the Salinas River. Time 8:30 a.m.

Wednesday morning, April 28, a bird trip to Alum Rock Park with Grace Brubaker as leader. In late April many birds in the park will be busy about their nesting affairs. Mrs. Brubaker is planning a new approach to the park. Meet at the corner of Penitencia Creek Rd. and Toyon Avenue at 8:30 a.m.

SELECT A NAME CONTEST

Due to an editorial oversight, no deadline was announced for the name contest for the Bulletin. The closing date for the balloting will be April 15, 1954. Any mail postmarked after that date will not be counted. To be valid a preferential mail ballot must show a rating, from 1 to 4 for each of the nominated titles which were announced in the March Bulletin. These were: The Avocet; the American Kestrel; the Chat; and the Kite.

The Editorial Committee will present the prize, a copy of Olin Seward Pettingill, Jr.'s book, "A Guide to Bird Finding West of the Mississippi" (value \$6.00) at the Annual Meeting of the Society in June 1954. Send your ballot to Will Luick, Chairman, 1027 Camino Ricardo, San Jose 25.

CORRECTIONS FOR THE BIRD CENSUS LIST

Two errors were caught in the Christmas bird census list, and are corrected as follows: the Le Conte Sparrow should have been checked on the list as Brown Towhee and the Brown Thrasher should have been California Thrasher.

Frank Cantu

STUDENT GROUP ACTIVITIES

FIELD TRIP

On Saturday, April 24, the Student Group will meet at the junction of Alpine Road and Los Trancos Rd. at 8:45 a.m. for a trip to the top of Los Trancos Woods. Dr. Malcolm Miller will be the adult guide and the student leader will be Jerry Buzzell. Bring lunch.

Report of March 6th trip: On March 6, six youngsters and one adult followed Lynn Robbins and Dr. M. R. Miller around Searsville Lake in an exciting exploration of bird, reptile and plant life. We entered caves and crossed the dam. We had a good view of the yellow-throated warbler and caught newts (Triturus) and slender (Batracocaps) and fence (Saloporus) lizards. We also saw white-crowned Sparrow, Robin, Meadowlark; Brewer's Blackbird, Mockingbird, Acorn Woodpecker, California Jay, Audubon Warbler, Great Blue Heron, Ring-necked Duck, Golden-crowned Sparrows, Ruddy Duck, Song Sparrow,

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Black Phoebe, Violet Green Swallow, American Merganser, Red-winged Blackbird, Chestnut-backed Chickadee, Wrentit, Green-backed Goldfinch, Anna's Hummingbird, Mallard, Coot, Yellow Warbler, Bewick's Wren, Rufus Hummingbird, Flicker, Fox Sparrow, Plain Titmouse, Oregon Junco, Hermit Thrush, Barn Swallow, Brown Towhee, English Sparrow, Bluebird.
Pat Donaghey

SEASONAL BIRD NOTES

Albert J. Wool reports: On Feb. 28, a pair of Dippers nest building in Arroyo Honda, (Mt. Hamilton Range). Mar. 9, Western Meadowlark nest with 4 eggs found in cow pasture off Sierra Road (East of San Jose).

Gladys Scott: Mar. 8, Bewick Wren nest-building in bird house in Los Gatos.

Etta Smith: Feb. 27, about 20 Cliff Swallows inspecting old nests under water tower in Alviso.

Emily Smith: Mar. 15, Violet-green Swallows inspecting roof tile under which Violet-Greens have nested for several years, Glen Una Drive near Saratoga. Mar. 16, Loggerhead Shrike nest-building near Glen Una Drive. Feb. 22, Orange-crowned Warbler seen and heard singing, West Heights near Los Gatos.

Gladys Record: Mar. 18, Pileolated Warbler seen and heard singing in Los Gatos. Mar. 8, Allen Hummingbird nest-building in Los Gatos (see Feb. 24, field trip report.)

Eva McRae: Mar. 15, Oregon Junco nest-building in a small covered feed tray hanging outside the dining room window, Poindexter Road near Los Gatos; still adding material on Mar. 21st.

Who has seen a House Wren, Western Flycatcher, Warbling and Solitary Vireos, Bullock Oriole? They should be arriving now.

Emily Smith

OFFICERS

PRESIDENT: Miss Elsie D. Hoeck, 55 So. 6th St., #105, San Jose
Vice-Pres.: Dr. Malcolm Miller, Stanford University, Stanford
Secretary: Miss Lynn Robbins
Treasurer: Mrs. Eva McRae, 221 San Jose State College, San Jose 14
Membership: Mrs. Irving Snow, 21441 Roaring Water Way, Los Gatos

Bulletin Editor: Mrs. Charles Doe, 70 Kirby Place, Palo Alto
Assoc. Editor: Miss Christine Tapley, Kingscote Apts, Stanford
Circulation Ed.: Mrs. Charles Zwaal, 478 Clifton Ave., San Jose

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FIELD TRIP REPORTS FOR MARCH

Juliette Jones reports that on the Wednesday morning bird trip to her home on West Heights, between Los Gatos and Saratoga Feb. 24, the day was mild and sunny. Birds which were singing conspicuously were the Plain Titmouse; Hutton Vireo; Green-backed Goldfinch; Purple Finch and House Finch. A pair of Titmice were inspecting a bird house set up against the trunk of a tall pine. A female Allen Hummingbird was building a nest near the tip of a low branch of a Douglas Fir. A bit farther on up the road a female Anna Hummingbird was building a nest in a live oak. When the party entered a grove of live oaks at the upper end of West Road, a flock of about 50 Band-tailed Pigeons suddenly rose from the trees with a great whir of wings. Several Varied Thrushes were seen in these woods.

As an experiment, a stuffed Screech Owl was set up on a branch of an Oak tree. It was discovered soon by a pair of Oregon Juncos, then by a Hutton Vireo, 3 Chestnut-backed Chickadees, 2 Plain Titmice, a Ruby Crowned Kinglet, 2 Wrentits, a Hermit Thrush and 3 Audubon Warblers. All fifteen birds "mobbed" the dummy owl. In all, 26 species of birds were listed during the morning trip.

Angeline Snow tells us that the thirty-one bird watchers who set out to walk to the top of Aldercroft Heights with her on Feb. 28 found the day clear and warm and their spirits as gay as the season deserved. Some of the most interesting observations were of Orange-crowned Warblers singing: a pair of Bushtits just completing their nest and some fine views of the courtship flight of the Allen Hummingbird. A Red-bellied Hawk caught Mr. Sather's eye on top of the Heights, probably attracted by a grove of great eucalyptus trees.

Before lunch there was a brief stop at the K.B. Barnes' to watch the Hummingbirds around their feeders; then lunch and hot coffee at the Snow's while watching Chickadees and Pygmy Nuthatches peck suet, and Juncos, Brown and Spotted Towhees, Fox Sparrows, Golden-crowned Sparrows gobbled cracked corn. A Hermit Thrush which takes cracked corn now that the berries are gone astonished everyone.

A short drive toward Alma was unrewarding, but the last stop of the day at a little pond on the new road found many Audubon Warblers and other species. The one addition to the day's list was a beautiful male Downy Woodpecker. In summary, the following birds were noted: Turkey Vulture; Red-tailed Hawk; Red-bellied Hawk; Band-tailed pigeon; Anna Hummer; Allen Hummer; Acorn Woodpecker; Downey Woodpecker; Flicker; Stellar Jay; Scrub Jay; Titmouse; Chickadee; Bush-tit; Ruby-crowned Kinglet; Bewick Wren; Thrasher; Hutton Vireo; Audubon Warbler; Purple Finch; Golden-crowned Sparrow; Fox Sparrow; Song Sparrow; Brown Towhee; Spotted Towhee; Oregon Junco.

Editor's Note: The Bulletin is late this month because we were visited by a virus infection - characteristic of spring perhaps, but no feathered friend. Our apologies for any inconvenience you may be given because of us.