

SANTA CLARA VALLEY AUDUBON SOCIETY

BULLETIN

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The annual meeting of the Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society presents the opportunity to our members and their officers of acknowledging the generous efforts of those who have served the organization in the past and of encouraging others to follow their example in the future.

Our sincere appreciation and thanks go out to the first group, with an equally sincere invitation to the second group to give of their time in the coming year. They will enjoy the pleasure and satisfaction that is inseparable from activities on behalf of the society.

Field trips dont just "happen". They are carefully planned by committee members and volunteers. Leaders often secure permissions to visit private grounds or restricted areas not open to the public. These volunteers scout the trip in advance and write a report for the record.

The same expenditure of thought for you has been made by other volunteers who see that you have a monthly bulletin to read, and that it reaches you at your current address. Monthly programs are arranged for your meetings and a monthly board meeting conducts the business of the organization. Many members give their time to committee meetings, see that you have an up to date constitution and a receipt for dues.

Although there are many in the organization contributing towards its programs, some with years of such service on their record, our society is growing and needs more of you participating. Some of you are new-comers and your talents are unknown. Be assured they could be used to the great benefit of all the members.

We need all who can help on committee; who will volunteer to lead field trips or donate a special skill- typing and stencil cutting would be especially welcomed. Wont you let us know what you will do as your share in the development of our society?

Elsie D. Hoeck

JUNE CALENDAR

MEETINGS

Annual Meeting, Monday, June 14

6:30 p.m. Meet for picnic supper ( bring your own food) at picnic tables nearest the Junior Museum a t Alum Rock Park, San Jose. Coffee will be provided ( Bring your own cup).

7:30 p.m. Annual Meeting in the Junior Museum. Nomination and election of new officers. Program by staff members of the Junior Museum.

For any who wish, there is good birding available before supper. We

have met previously about 4 o'clock for this at the picnic place. There is no designated leader, each member is on his own.

### Field Trips

On Saturday, June 12, Harriet Mundy will lead the group through the Lazy Day Ranch back of Palo Alto. Meet at Merrivale Antique Shop, Portola Rd. at 8:30 a.m.

## STUDENT GROUP ACTIVITIES

### FIELD TRIP REPORTS:

Accompanied by Dr. Miller, a little band braved the cold and wind on May 8 to explore the Westridge area. They found the nests of bush-tit, chestnut-backed chickadee, Oregon junco, plain titmouse and the young of a lark sparrow family. Also observed were: house finch, bluebird, green-backed goldfinch; brown towhee; meadow-lark, sparrow hawk, Brewer's blackbird; robin, lark sparrow, Oregon Junco, violet-green sparrow, scrub jay, California quail, California woodpecker, spotted towhee, ash-throated flycatcher, plain titmouse, mourning dove, song sparrow, pileolated warbler, bush-tit, western flycatcher, warbling vireo, Bewick's wren, Western gnatcatcher, Anna's hummingbird, chestnut-backed chickadee and great horned owl. turkey vulture, flicker, Townsend's warbler, Allan's hummingbird.  
George Bennett

### Saturday, May 29, to Searsville Lake

About ten members turned out bright and early Saturday morning for this trip. Under the leadership of Dr. Miller, the group worked its way along the lake and around the nearby hills. The following species of birds were identified. Coot. black Phoebe; song sparrow, red-winged blackbird, Brewer's blackbird, Calif. jay, violet-green swallow, cliff swallow, barn swallow, bush-tit, great blue heron ( 4 nests with young located in tall sycamore trees), yellow-throated warbler, turkey vulture, black-headed grosbeak, ash-throated flycatcher, greenbacked goldfinch, Oregon Junco, house finch, California quail Anna's hummingbird, pine siskin, sparrow hawk, brown towhee, Hutton's vireo, Western flycatcher, Western gnatcatcher. Not seen but heard were pileolated warbler, russet-backed thrush, Bewick's wren and Western wood pewee.  
Charlie Rend.

### Saturday, April 24, Los Trancos Woods.

Nine persons turned out for a jaunt thru the area. The air was filled with music of numerous birds of which Dr. Miller was valuable in identifying. Of the 24 birds listed, 9 were in song with the little pileolated warbler's melody reaching our ears most. A nest with 4 eggs of an Oregon Junco were discovered to the side of one of the trails by Lynn Robbins and another bird of this species was seen in the process of constructing a nest by two student members. Our list: red-tailed hawk, Calif. quail, Anna's hummingbird, belted kingfisher, ash-throated flycatcher, black Phoebe, olive-sided flycatcher, Stellar's jay plain titmouse, bush-tit, white-breasted nuthatch, wren-tit, Bewick's wren, robin, cedar waxwing, Hutton's vireo, warbling vireo, black-throated gray warbler, pileolated warbler, purple finch, spotted towhee, brown towhee, and the Oregon junco.

Jerry Buzzell

FIELD TRIPS REPORTED FOR MAY

Charles and Viola Anderson wrote that it was regrettable only five members were able to attend on the delightful morning at the Hatton Ranch in Calera Canyon on April 24. The group met at the eucalyptus grove near the Salinas River bridge where nests of Allen hummingbirds were viewed at close range. Some of the tiny nests were built only one foot from the ground. Along the route to the ranch, the largest bird in the area, the golden eagle, was seen on a power pole and in flight pursued by a crow. Mrs. Hatton welcomed all graciously; it was a grand day to enjoy coffee in the patio, to follow the trail up the canyon and to admire unusual trees- pinus coulteri, Bishop pine, Santa Lucia fir, Arizona cypress and the flowering fremontia. Birds observed were: turkey vulture; red-tailed hawk, golden eagle, Calif. quail, white-throated swift, Anna hummingbird, rufous hummingbird, Allen's hummingbird, red-shafted flicker, acorn woodpecker, Nuttall woodpecker, Western kingbird, ash-throated flycatcher, black Phoebe, Western flycatcher, wood pewee, Steller's jay, yellow-billed magpie, crow, chestnut-backed chickadee; plain titmouse, bush-tit, Bewick's wren, California thrasher, Western gnatcatcher, Cedar waxwing, warbling vireo, lutescent warbler, yellow warbler, pileolated warbler, meadowlark, Bullock oriole, Brewer blackbird, Western tanager, black-headed grosbeak, lazuli bunting, purple finch, house finch, greenbacked goldfinch; La wrence goldfinch, spotted towhee, brown towhee, Oregon junco, white-crowned sparrow, golden-crowned sparrow and song sparrow.

Mr. and Mrs. H. B. Humphrey led the group on Wednesday morning, May 12, to Searsville Lake. Part of the group went on to the hillside from which one sees great blue herons nesting and they felt well repaid for the effort. These birds were seen: violet-green swallow, bluebird, acorn woodpecker, red-winged blackbird, Brewer's blackbird; house finch, black Phoebe, yellow-throat, great blue heron, coot, brown towhee, American goldfinch; pileolated warbler, lutescent warbler, ruddy duck, yellow warbler, Anthony's green heron, Calif. thrasher, Valley quail; wren-tit, olive-sided flycatcher, downy woodpecker, mallard duck, pied-billed grebe, green-backed goldfinch, barn swallow, meadowlark, song sparrow, bush-tit.

Herbert and Manette Wittgenstein tell us that lovely sunshine favored the field trip to the Isenberg Ranch, May 16, located on the west slope of the Coastal Range. The turnout of members and guests was very good, about 40 persons appeared. Upon arrival, beginners were able to get a close look at Canada geese, swans, wood ducks, mandarin ducks and other rare birds. Some of these are held in coops at the ranch; others are free to swim on a small pond there. They watched bluebirds, chickadees, violet-green swallows and cliff swallows feeding their young in bird houses. The group then took a leisurely and delightful three hour stroll over a trail of this beautiful 2000 acre ranch. With rolling fields to one side and mountainslope covered with chapparal, madrone and oak trees on the other, they had the opportunity of seeing and hearing many birds. One of the highlights were the lazuli buntings which were very cooperative. Deer crossed the path and spring flowers added to their enjoyment. Returning from the walk, they had lunch and coffee at a delightful picnic spot on a creek. Observed were great blue heron, mallard, turkey vulture, Cooper's hawk, red-tailed hawk, Calif. quail, coot, mourning dove, Anna's hummingbird, Allen's hummingbird, red-shafted flicker, ash-throated flycatcher, black

Phoebe, horned lark, violet-green swallow, barn swallow, cliff swallow, Steller's jay, scrub jay, chestnut-backed chickadee, titmouse, bush-tit, wren-tit, house wren, robin, Western bluebird, solitary vireo, warbling vireo, yellow warbler, pileolated warbler, meadowlark, redwing, Brewer blackbird, lazuli bunting, purple finch, house finch, American goldfinch, greenbacked goldfinch, spotted towhee, brown towhee, lark sparrow, Oregon junco, chipping sparrow, song sparrow.

With the permission of the City of San Francisco Water Company, through the courtesy of Mr. George Davis, division superintendent, thirty members enjoyed the privilege of birding at Pilarcitos and Stone Dam reservoirs on Saturday, May 22. It was perfect May weather, warm and clear. The lakes reflected the sky and the wooded shore and the birds were in good voice for the occasion. Among the singers identified were Bewick's wren, bush-tit, wren-tit, orange-crowned warbler, Western flycatcher, yellowthroat, and Steller's jay. The inevitable red-tailed hawks were circling over Pilarcitos Lake; violet-green swallows swooped back and forth over the water where several drake mallards were cruising. Although few were aware of it, the occasion was a special birthday observance for the leader, Mimi Doe, whose family had been associated with those lakes for many years. So while binoculars were being focused on the birds, we were checking to see if gold backed fern still grows where it used to, whether the trillium had seed pods yet, and if the wild bleeding heart had flowered. Everything is just as it used to be in our pig tail days. The sword fern, lady fern and delicate five finger fern are as green and thick as ever. Leafy liverwort was coming out in the moss on old tree trunks; there were fairy bells and fringe cup and alum root feathering the roadbank near Stone Dam. Close to them, in a shady stretch where tree roots overhung the bank, a Western flycatcher was brooding on a nest she had built at eye level from the road. Across the little dam and walking farther along the old flume the birders saw winter wrens whisking under and out from beneath the floor boards and heard their song. Also seen were: band-tailed pigeon, junco, hummingbird, pine siskin, yellow warbler, purple finch, Western robin, California quail, and song sparrow. Since the area is a game refuge, we expected to meet deer somewhere along the way and were not disappointed. A spike buck and several does were foraging along the roadside as the party made its way back to the gate at San Andreas dam.

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