

THE AVOCET

Bulletin of the Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society, California

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The Pacific Coast office of the National Audubon Society has moved from San Francisco to Berkeley, where it is located near the University of California at 2426 Bancroft Way. The new and larger offices are invitingly located at ground floor level. When you are in Berkeley stop in to see the interesting displays and materials for loan and sale. Some lovely Christmas gifts are available.

Our representatives at the Pacific Coast office are the same people who brought the display of books and other materials to our screen tour. There will be another similar display here in the spring. This office is staffed with people we should all know. They can help us attain the objectives we have as a conservation society.

On October 9, eight members of SCVAS attended an all day meeting at Mills College sponsored by the Pacific Coast office of the National Audubon Society. Here we had an opportunity to meet officers and members of other Audubon Societies in northern California. In their exchange of ideas, we learned our 'problems' are not unique and sometimes are not even problems. Each of us was given a generous supply of literature useful in our work. A workshop on Junior Audubon activities was enjoyed by those who attended this section of the meeting. We would like to extend our thanks to our Pacific Coast office Staff for their helpfulness and the skills they bring to their work. They are Mr. Bill Goodall, Mr. Sandy Sprunt and Miss Mary Jefferds.

Elsie D. Hoeck

NOVEMBER CALENDAR

MEETINGS:

Board Meeting, Monday, Nov. 8 in the Science Building, Room 210, at San Jose State College, 7:30 p.m.

Regular Meeting, on November 8, at 8 p.m. in the Science Building at San Jose State College. William Graf, associate professor of zoology, will discuss "Realistic Wildlife Conservation and its Relationship to Game Management and Hunting." His talk will conclude with a period for group discussion of his subject.

Room 210

FIELD TRIPS:

Saturday, November 6, a trip to Santa Cruz and the coast. We are fortunate to have ranger Kenneth Legg as our leader. He plans to show us the butterfly trees and the interesting features of the Natural Bridge State Park. We will also visit two more beach state parks. Meet at 8:00 a.m. in front of the Lyndon Hotel in Los Gatos, or at 9:00 a.m. on the parking lot overlooking the Natural Bridge, located at the northern end of North Cliff Drive in Santa Cruz. Bring lunch.

Wednesday, November 10 Dr. and Mrs. Humphrey will lead the group around the Stanford campus. The colors should be at their best at that time of year. Meet at the southwest corner of Embarcadero and El Camino Real in Palo Alto at 8:15 a.m.

Sunday, November 21, our annual trip to Los Banos Bird Refuge with Al Wool as leader. Meet at Tiny's Cafe in Los Banos for breakfast at 8:30 a.m. or at the

refuge at 9:30 a.m. Bring lunch. Allow one and a half hours driving time from San Jose.

SCREEN TOUR:

Monday, November 22 at 8 p.m. at the Morris Dailey Auditorium at San Jose State College, San Jose. Bert Harwell will lecture on "Canada East" -- a nature-log by the famous naturalist from Berkeley, California, on the area from the St. Lawrence Plain to the Maritime Provinces and the Gaspe Peninsula - a region of gulls, terns, guillemots, owls, gannets, ducks and other wildlife. This color film presents birds, mammals and plant life in a quaint and old worldly setting.

IN MEMORIAM

Miss Doris Kersell of Santa Clara, for many years a member of the Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society, passed away recently after a few weeks illness. The long-term members of the society will recall the days when Miss Doris, her sister Miss Bernice and their brother Leslie led us on interesting bird trips into San Felipe Valley. We wish to extend our sincere sympathy to the Kersell family.

Eve McRae.

The Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society has lost a real friend in the death of Adelaide (Mrs. Frederic) Perry. She was a devoted member for many years. One of the special interests of her life was in the fundamental principles of the Audubon Society, conservation and the mutual dependency of all living things. Many years ago she took up, first with Dr. Harold Bryant, then of the University of California, and with Miss Junea Kelly, the study of California species of plants and birds. She always supported A.A.U.W.'s section for bird identification, became a director on the board of the Girl Scouts, encouraged and assisted like interests for both Boy and Girl Scouts and actually organized her friends and associates in a similar study group. Such enlightened interest and devotion are the necessary sustenance of Audubon Societies.

Mrs. E. I. Miller

OBSERVATIONS:

Manette Wittgenstein, the newly appointed chairman of the field trip committee, writes that golden-crowned sparrows returned to her home at 15355 Bellecourt Drive, Los Gatos, during the night of September 24/25. She announces that they beat the East San Jose Brubaker sparrows by two days this year. Their song woke the family up early Saturday morning and sounded especially sweet.

Dr. Danforth reports his golden-crowned sparrow neighbor arrived on September 20 - beating both the Wittgenstein and Brubaker sparrows. (He didn't mention a song - perhaps the little arrival was breathless from haste?) He also saw a varied thrush about that time.

Harriet Munday's visitors were a pair of yellowthroats, which came into her patio in Palo Alto early in October; also one McGilvray's warbler.

TREASURER'S MEMO:

Members who pay their dues by check will not be sent receipts unless they so request.

FIELD TRIP REPORT FOR OCTOBER

Margaret Hudson led a group to Mt. Madonna Park on Sunday, Oct. 10. She tells us that most of the observations made there were in an area which had reforested after a fire in the 1930s. Because an early fog had freshened the air, birds were still

busy feeding in the bright sunshine when the party arrived. Huckleberry bushes and small trees in the burn and the deeper forest surrounding it were the background for a variety of birds.

There were some good views of the usually shy fox sparrow. One fox sparrow reversed the usual bird-watching procedure by peering at the humans from behind a huckleberry. A large V formation of ducks which were observed heading inland from Monterey Bay to Santa Clara Valley during lunch could not be identified because of their distance from the Park.

After lunching at the old Miller homesite, the group followed the ridge road from Mt. Madonna to Loma Prieta. A hawk of about the size of a sparrow hawk, sailed slowly ahead of the lead car alternately perching and sailing for at least a half mile when he suddenly turned and dived at a small bird escaping into the brush. The hawk's underparts were pearly white, his top grayish and there was a definite white band near the end of the tail. The group could not be sure of his identification.

Birds seen or heard during the day were: red-tailed hawk, pigeon hawk, band-tailed pigeon, acorn woodpecker, black phoebe, Stellar jay, titmouse, hermit thrush, chickadee, wrenit, creeper, ruby-crowned kinglet, Bewick's wren, Hutton's vireo, Townsend's warbler, Audubon warbler, purple finch, golden-crowned sparrow, pine siskin, spotted towhee, brown towhee, flicker, junco and fox-sparrow.

OFFICERS

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Bulletin

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SEASON SCREEN TOUR DATES

November 22, Monday, Bert Harwell presents "Canada East."

January 12, Wednesday, Charles Mohr presents "Outdoor Almanac."

March 7, Monday, Fran William Hall presents "South to Siesta Land."

April 4, Monday, Olin Sewall Pettingill, Jr. presents "Tip O' the Mitten."

These will be shown at the Morris Dailey Auditorium, at 8:00 p.m. at San Jose State College.