



Santa Cruz Bird Club

VOL. IV, No. 1

February & March, 1959

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

This is a message of hope and faith:

Hope that when you have paid your dues, you will not feel that you have done all you can for the club;

Hope that you will feel you should try to interest friends and acquaintances in our work;

Hope that you will try to give publicity to our meetings and to our walks, for we always welcome interested strangers to all our activities;

Hope that you will write down interesting notes regarding your own experiences and discoveries and send them to our editor;

Hope that you will join us on our walks whenever you can, seeing birds you did not know before, enjoying the good fellowship that prevails on these field trips and the lunches we have at the end of them.

If you will do these things, then I have faith that 1959 will be a banner year for our club.

* * * *

COMING EVENTS

February 8th, Sunday: Joint field trip with Monterey Peninsula Audubon Society in Rio Del Mar area to look for Varied Thrush and Golden-crowned Kinglets. Meet near Deer Park Tavern, Rio Del Mar Junction, at 9 A.M. Bring lunch.

February 9th, Monday: Audubon Screen Tour in Carmel at 8 P.M. Maslowski's Waterway Wild Life by Leonard Hall.

February 19th, Thursday: Regular meeting at Branciforte Junior High.

February 23rd, Monday: Field trip in Cowell Big Trees State Park for warblers and perhaps a wood duck. Meet at parking area at 9 A.M. Bring lunch.

February 28th, Saturday: Post-hunting season field trip to wild life preserve at Los Banos with Monterey Peninsula Audubon Society. Meet at Tiny's Restaurant on Highway 152, Los Banos, about 9 A.M. for breakfast, ready to leave at 10 A.M. sharp. Bring lunch.

COMING EVENTS (CONT'D)

March 14th, Saturday: Field trip at Pinto Lake for rails and gallinules. Meet at Watsonville Airport, Roache Road, at 9 A.M. Bring lunch.

March 19th, Thursday: Regular meeting at Branciforte Junior High at 8 P.M.

March 21-24: Audubon Convention at Asilomar. Key representatives from national and local groups will lead the Audubon Convention at Asilomar, March 21-24, 1959. The future, sketching, and history will be the bill of fare.

"The Shape of Things to Come" is the title of a panel discussion to be held during the convention. It will bring together representatives of the National Park Service, the U.S. Forest Service, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and California Division of Beaches and Parks, California Department of Fish and Game, and the California Public Outdoor Recreation Study. Under the chairmanship of Dr. A. Starker Leopold of the University of California they will bring the conference up to date on the status of conservation and outdoor projects.

As in the past, youth will be represented on the program -- this time in a specially arranged bird sketching contest. Roger Tory Peterson and local artists will serve as judges.

"The Best in the West" will be displays and discussions of the finest publications on conservation, nature and the out-of-doors.

OBITUARY: The Santa Cruz Bird Club as an organization and the individual members personally have sustained a grievous loss in the sudden passing of Miss Carol Barrington on December 22, 1958. Carol served for two years as Corresponding Secretary and Historian and had just been elected for another term. She took an active part in club projects and compiled the data for the Christmas Bird Count in 1957.

We extend our sympathy to her family and to Miss Doris Blakeslee, with whom Carol was always associated in our minds and hearts. They served the club together as officers and enthusiastic boosters.

In compiling the Christmas Bird Count for 1958 we like to think of it as a tribute to Carol, in a way. It took some doing, for we were working under a serious handicap, but here it is:

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT - December 27, 1958:

Red-throated loon.....	3	Green-winged teal.....	2
Horned grebe.....	3	Shoveler.....	100
Eared grebe.....	7	American widgeon.....	6
Western grebe.....	20	*Wood duck.....	1
Pied-billed grebe.....	1	Redhead.....	19
*Fulmar.....	30	Ring-necked duck.....	27
Double-cr. cormorant...	1	Canvasback.....	10
Brandt's cormorant.....	7	Bufflehead.....	12
Pelagic cormorant.....	3	Surf scoter.....	1
Great blue heron.....	2	Ruddy duck.....	25
Black-cr. night heron..	12	Red-breasted merganser...	2
Mallard duck.....	215	Cooper's hawk.....	1
Pintail duck.....	93	Red-tailed hawk.....	5

American Kestrel		White-breasted nuthatch.....1
or Sparrow hawk.....12		Pygmy nuthatch.....57
California quail.....358		Brown creeper.....2
Ring-necked pheasant.....6		Wrentit.....28
*Virginia rail.....2		Winter wren.....5
*Sora rail.....2		Bewick's wren.....13
Common gallinule.....1		Long-billed marsh wren.....3
American coot.....315		Mockingbird.....13
Snowy plover.....6		California thrasher.....2
Killdeer.....54		Robin.....123
Black-bellied plover.....3		Varied thrush.....35
Black turnstone.....42		Hermit thrush.....36
Common snipe.....15		Western bluebird.....4
Whimbrel.....2		Golden-crowned kinglet.....23
Spotted sandpiper.....6		Ruby-crowned kinglet.....63
Willet.....50		Water pipit.....22
Greater yellowlegs.....3		Cedar waxwing.....30
Short-billed dowitcher...1		Loggerhead shrike.....4
Marbled godwit.....20		Hutton's vireo.....3
Sanderling.....205		Myrtle warbler.....5
Glaucous-winged gull.....5		Audubon's warbler.....71
Western gull.....118		Townsend's warbler.....5
Herring gull.....5		Yellowthroat.....1
California gull.....22		House sparrow.....35
Ring-billed gull.....50		Western meadowlark.....15
Mew gull.....72		Redwinged blackbird.....105
Bonaparte's gull.....1		Brewer's blackbird.....152
Heermann's gull.....15		Purple finch.....24
Mourning dove.....41		House finch.....330
Great horned owl.....3		Pine siskin.....87
Pygmy owl.....1		American goldfinch.....35
Anna's hummingbird.....84		Lesser goldfinch.....47
Belted kingfisher.....1		*Red crossbill.....23
Red-shafted flicker.....45		Rufous-sided towhee.....25
Acorn woodpecker.....8		Brown towhee.....99
Yellow-bellied sapsucker.2		*Rufous-crowned sparrow.....19
Hairy woodpecker.....3		Oregon junco.....149
Downy woodpecker.....5		Chipping sparrow.....44
Black phoebe.....15		White-crowned sparrow.....74
Steller's jay.....14		Golden-crowned sparrow.....272
Scrub jay.....52		White-throated sparrow.....2
Chest.-backed chickadee..64		Fox sparrow.....56
Plain titmouse.....18		Song sparrow.....43
Common bushtit.....43		

(Say's Phoebe on December 28, 1958)

Total of 112 species - About 4,583 individuals.

*Fulmar: Observed at end of Municipal Wharf, Santa Cruz, by Leavitt McQuesten and party.

Wood duck: Observed by Eleanor A. Pugh in Cowell park area.

Red crossbill: Also observed by Mrs. Pugh.

Virginia rail, sora rail, and rufous-crowned sparrow are firsts for the club's records, the historian reports.

Participants: Viola and Charles Anderson, Florence Haas, Jessie Hooper, Dorothy and Ray Hunt, Leavitt McQuesten, Stanley Mythaler, Eleanor A. Pugh, J. P. Strohbeen, Viola and Henry Washburn. Jessie Hooper, compiler.

REPORTS

LOS BANOS TRIP

Members of the Monterey Peninsula Audubon Society and the Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society were our guests at the Los Banos Waterfowl Area on Sunday, December 7th. About eighty persons enjoyed a warm day and an abundance of wintering birds. The caravan of cars moved over the levees and through the hunting area to Buttonwillow Lake, which is a refuge at all seasons. The deep rolling of the Sandhill Cranes' voices sounded from above and myriads of ducks and geese populated the lake.

Birds listed in the Waterfowl Area included: White Pelican, Double-crested Cormorant, Great Blue Heron, Common Egret, Black-crowned Night Heron, Whistling Swan, Canada Goose, White-fronted Goose, Snow Goose, Mallard, Green-winged Teal, Shoveler, American Widgeon, Redhead, Ruddy Duck, Red-tailed Hawk, Marsh Hawk, Sparrow Hawk, Sandhill Crane, Common Gallinule, Coot, Killdeer, Common Snipe, Willet, Greater Yellowlegs, Dowitcher, Avocet, Ring-billed Gull, Red-shafted Flicker, Tree Swallow, Mockingbird, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Water Pipit, Loggerhead Shrike, Myrtle Warbler, Audubon's Warbler, Meadowlark, Brewer's Blackbird, House Finch, White-crowned Sparrow, Golden-crowned Sparrow and Song Sparrow. -- Charles Anderson, Leader.

* * *

The field trip to Elkhorn Slough Area on January 18th, led by Florence Haas, produced a list of 60 species. It was not until the group went to McKlusky Slough for lunch out of the wind, however, that the White-tailed Kites put on their best show.

-- --

Observations

- Oct. 16: MacGillivray's Warbler at suet feeder.
- Oct. 19: Returning from trip to Moss Landing, almost ran down a Road-runner along Elkhorn Road.
- Oct. 26: A White Pelican at McKlusky Slough -- a first for us.
- Nov. 15, 17, and again on January 12: A White-tailed Kite on our back acres.
- Nov. 17, 24, and again on Dec. 3 and 11: Flocks of 15 to 20 Blue-gray Gnatcatchers -- small, happy little birds with white edges on their long tails, white eye-ring, and blue-gray crowns.
- Oct. 16, 17, 22 and again Nov. 27 and 28: Solitary Vireo at feeder.
- Jan. 1: Male Anna's Hummingbird doing his high diving act for female in a hazelnut bush. Seems a bit early.
- Jan. 11: Three Rock Wrens combing the elm trees along the side road, very much as a nuthatch feeds.

Ruby-crowned Kinglets were eating the aphids on the new growth of the Pyracantha. Bluebirds, Hermit Thrush, Robin and a Mockingbird are fighting each other for the berries. My money is on the Hermit Thrush.

An owl is "yowling" us to sleep at night. Could it be a Short-eared Owl, I wonder? -- Jessie Hooper.

-5-
New Member: Miss Marj Pressey came to our January meeting, signed up as a member, and joined the field trip to Elkhorn Slough on January 18th. That's the spirit, Marj! We extend a warm welcome and hope to see you often.

THE ALBATROSS BOAT TRIP--ANOTHER VIEW

Although 'twould mean a lot to me
The "gooney" albatross to see,
With twelve-mile-limit rendezvous
From this day henceforth I am through.
One trip upon that sea so rough
For this poor salt was quite enough.
And so I write off as a loss
A glimpse of "gooney" albatross.

-- Anonymous

Thanks from the Editor

Last year my husband and I took part in the Christmas Bird Count on Staten Island, a borough of New York City; this year we covered territory in Eastern Santa Cruz County, California. The transition from "counting noses" of eastern birds to those of western birds was made with considerably less difficulty than we had anticipated, and for that we thank the Santa Cruz Bird Club.

We still have a long way to go, but we've made a good start because you birders have been so willing to help us. We've thoroughly enjoyed the meetings and field trips with stimulating people who share our interest in nature, and you've always shown us something special in birding spots, nesting sites, or species unfamiliar to us.

It is a pleasure, therefore, to express some of our appreciation by serving as editor of the Albatross for 1959. On reviewing Esther Van Buren's bulletins and issues from other birding groups, I'm rather scared. It is an important job and my only qualification seems to be having a typewriter in the family. It will be a barrel of fun, though, so I'll jump in with both feet and do the best I can. Remember, though, that it takes your contributions and interest to make the Albatross worth while, so I urge you not to be bashful about sending me items.

-- Dorothy Hunt

President: Franz Erkelens, 101 Frederick Street, Santa Cruz
Vice Pres. (Programs): Leavitt M. McQuesten, 120 Otis Street, S.C.
2nd Vice Pres. (Field Director): Jessie Hooper, 6546 Soquel Drive,
Aptos. Tel: GR 5-2340

Recording Sec. and Treasurer: Florence Haas, 3361 Cunnison Lane,
Soquel. Tel: GR 5-0960 (Pro tem.)

Corresponding Sec. and Historian: Mrs. P. B. Hitchcock, 9 Western Ave.,
Brookdale.

Publicity Chairman: Stanley Mythaler

Conservation Chairman: Elaine Reinelt

Junior Activities Chairman: Alice Dreyfus

Membership Chairman: Clarence Selden

Editor: Dorothy B. Hunt, 4111 Trout Gulch Rd., Aptos. Tel.: MU 8-2269