

THE AVOCET

Bulletin of the Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Please note the important discussion coming up for a vote at our next meeting. The Board of Directors has advised the membership to consider incorporation of our society. Come to the meeting to consider the wisdom of this and give us the benefit of your thinking.

The October issue of Holiday Magazine contains an interesting article by Donald Culross Peattie on the National Audubon Society. From a statement of Audubon philosophy quoted in part in this article are these words; I would call them to your attention, "We dedicate ourselves to the pleasant task of opening the eyes of young and old that all may come to enjoy the beauty of the outdoor world, and to share in conserving its wonders forever."

Congratulations to Charles and Viola Anderson on their article on Hummingbirds in the National Audubon Magazine for July-August, 1954. Its title is "At Home with the Allen's Hummingbird."

Elsie D. Hoeck

OCTOBER CALENDAR

MEETINGS:

Board Meeting: Tuesday, October 5, at 8 p.m. in the Science Building at San Jose State College, 2nd floor.

Regular Meeting: Monday, Oct. 11, in the Junior Museum at Community Center in Palo Alto at 8 p.m. The program will be an illustrated lecture by Mr. John P. Figg-Hoblyn of the Stanford University Natural Museum, entitled "Here and There in Baja California." Visitors are welcome.

FIELD TRIPS:

Sunday, Oct. 10, 1954, to Mt. Madonna Park with Margaret Hudson as leader. Meet the group at 5th and San Carlos Sts., in San Jose at 8 a.m. or join the group at 9:15 a.m. at the entrance to Mt. Madonna Park. The Park is located on the summit of Hecker Pass on highway 152, the Gilroy to Watsonville road. We will stop several places in the Park, will eat lunch there (bring your own) and return over the Ridge Road through the Loma Prieta area.

Friday, Oct. 15, a Morning Field Trip led by Grace Brubacker will scout the East Foothills area for the winter visitants which should have arrived by this date. If the weather is inviting, Mrs. Brubacker suggests, bring a lunch and plan on a picnic in the park. Meet at the junction of Alum Rock and Meguillito Ave. just above the Country Club, at 8:30 a.m.

Saturday, October 23, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Meuser will lead the group on a Searsville Park trip. Meet at the Palo Alto S.P. Station at 8:30 a.m. Anyone desiring transportation may call Mrs. Meuser at DA 2-4450.

November 21, Sunday to Los Banos Bird and Game Refuge with Al Wool. This is one

of the "must" field trips offered each year to the society. In November, the ponds, stubble fields and canals of this refuge harbor an exciting variety of migrants and some resident birds who make this flyway oasis their home. Meet at Tiny's Cafe in Los Banos at 8:30 a.m. for breakfast. Be at the Refuge at 9:30 a.m. Bring lunch. Trip will be cancelled if it is raining in San Jose before time to leave for Los Banos. Allow one and one-half hours driving time from San Jose to Los Banos.

SCREEN TOURS:

The Screen Tours start Wednesday, October 27 at 8 p.m. at the Morris Dailey Auditorium. The first presentation will be William H. Wagoner Jr.'s "Wanderland". Watch for further announcements in the newspapers.

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT:

The Golden Gate Audubon Society Inc. cordially invites the members of the Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society to attend an open meeting in the Morrison Auditorium of the California Academy of Sciences, Golden Gate Park, on Thursday evening, October 14, at 7:30 p.m.

Dr. A. Starker Leopold, well known authority in the field of wildlife management, will speak on the subject, "The 'Balance of Nature' Concept".

Their President, Dorothy Dean Scott (Mrs. Frank A. Scott) hopes to see a good number of Santa Clara Valley Audubon members present to hear Dr. Leopold and to share the fellowship with members of other groups.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society takes pleasure in announcing a list of new members and extends a cordial welcome to them.

Mrs. Lorraine M. Gaul, 763 De Soto Drive, Palo Alto
 Mrs. Marion Hoye, 415 Laurent St., Santa Cruz, California
 Mrs. Mary O'Keefe, 45 North 8th St., San Jose 12
 Reverend Lorin A. Paull Jr., 563 Miramonte Ave., Palo Alto
 Mrs. Donald E. Richardson, 866 San Jude Ave., Palo Alto
 Miss Danise Smoker, 3027 Julio Ave., San Jose - Student Member.

OFFICERS

President: Miss Elsie D. Hoeck, 55 - 6th St., Apt. 105, San Jose
 Vice-President: Dr. Malcolm Miller, Stanford University
 Secretary: Miss Lynn Robbins, Dept. of Anatomy, Stanford University
 Treasurer: Mrs. Charles Zwall, 478 Clifton Ave., San Jose
 Membership Ch: Mrs. Irving Snow, 21441 Roaring Water Way, Los Gatos

Board members: Mrs. George Bottini, Frank Cantu, John Harville, Dr. H.B. Humphrey.
 Bulletin Editor: Mrs. Charles Doe, 70 Kirby Place, Palo Alto
 Assoc. Editor: Miss Christine Tapley, Kingscote, Stanford University
 Circulation manager: Mrs. Lester H. Brubaker, 191 Mountain View Ave., San Jose 27, California

SEPTEMBER REVIEW

The regular meeting of the Society on Sept. 13, held in San Jose produced a record turnout, and was an auspicious beginning to the new season. The programs at these regular meetings represent thought and considerable effort on the part of the society's Vice-President and program chairman, Dr. Mal Miller. Evidently the

members are beginning to realize that they are too good to miss.

At a special Board of Directors meeting held that same date official action was taken on several matters of importance.

Dr. Richard Mewaldt was appointed to the Board filling a recently created vacancy. The proposal that the Santa Clara Audubon Society join with Sequoia Audubon and National Audubon in a sanctuary project involving salt marsh land in San Mateo County and Alameda County was rejected. It was decided that field trips shall be limited to three per month. It was decided that two of the regular monthly meetings of the society shall be held at Los Gatos between November and May, 1955.

A resolution that the Audubon Society of Santa Clara County shall incorporate for reasons of protection of its members, was passed and this proposition is scheduled for presentation at the October meeting.

It is necessary that the proposed amendments and additions to the By-Laws be voted on by the members at the next regular meeting of the society. The propositions are as follows:

PART 1 - VOTE ON PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE BY-LAWS

Approved at the June meeting of the Board of Directors and read at the Annual Meeting of the Society, the following proposed amendments to the By-Laws will be acted upon by the members present and voting at the October regular meeting of the Society:

Proposition A - Amend Article VIII, Section 11, by inserting the words THE AVOCET in the blanks in the sentences reading as follows: "It shall be the duty of the Editorial Committee to plan, organize, and arrange, for prompt, economical issuance, under high editorial standards, of the information publication of the Society issued under the name of _____, and for its effective distribution. The Editorial Committee shall prepare rules and practices covering the distribution of _____ to libraries and institutions, or individuals, not participating members of the Society; and rules covering the preservation of reference and office copies, and of binding; all such rules shall be approved by the Board of Directors and shall be maintained on file by the Committee available for reference, and for the guidance of successors and members generally."

Explanation of Proposition A - When the By-Laws were revised, the name of the publication had not been determined. Blanks were left in Section 11 of Article VIII for the future insertion of the name of the publication. The recent contest to select a name for the bulletin provided the title. The Publication Standing Rules have already been amended, and the September issue of THE AVOCET has placed the new title into use. Amending the By-Laws will complete the necessary parliamentary action.

Proposition B - Amend Article V, Section 1, by adding the following sentence: "In the event a meeting of special interest to this Society shall be scheduled in the area served by this Society during the week preceding, the week of, or the week succeeding a regular meeting of the members of this Society, the President, upon the recommendation of the chairman of the Program Committee, with the approval of the Board of Directors, may substitute the special-interest meeting for the regular meeting, provided that the members of this Society shall be notified by mail or in the publication of the Society in sufficient time."

Explanation of Proposition B - During the 1953-1954 term of Vice-President Dr. Malcolm Miller, who was also chairman of the Program Committee, Dr. Miller suggested that something be done to relieve the calendar congestion brought about by

the scheduling of a regular meeting, a Board of Directors' meeting, an Audubon Screen Tour, and field trips within a week's time. The Board of Directors referred his request to the By-Laws Committee for recommendation. The proposed amendment was developed to ease the scheduling problem of the Program Committee.

PART 2 - SHALL THE SOCIETY INCORPORATE?

The question of incorporation for the Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society is not a new proposal. Many times in past years individual members and/or groups of members have advocated the action.

The subject was brought into focus again because of an opportunity to join a sanctuary project with the Sequoia Audubon Society and the National Audubon Society. The project would involve the signing of contracts (use permits) with the industrial firms owning the proposed sanctuary lands, and would require the carrying of public liability insurance by the three Audubon groups.

The Sequoia Audubon Society has already taken legal steps toward incorporation.

The Board of Directors sought the legal opinion of Mr. Henry Hill with reference to the advisability of incorporation and the legal acceptability of the several contracts under consideration. Mr. Hill strongly recommended incorporation, and personally offered to prepare the necessary legal documents and to pay the necessary fees if the Society determined to proceed with the action.

Although the Board of Directors rejected the proposed sanctuary project at the special meeting, September 13th, it passed a resolution recommending that the members of the Society decide favorably upon incorporation at the October regular meeting.

Principal arguments in favor of incorporation include the following: (1) Incorporation would relieve any member, present or future, of financial liability beyond the resources of the Society. (2) Incorporation would assure continuation of the Society from year to year. (3) Incorporation would be necessary if the Society expects to own property or be eligible for gifts or bequests.

Principal arguments in opposition to incorporation include the following: (1) Incorporation is unnecessary; the members' financial liability beyond the resources of the Society is exaggerated. The present policy of placing the responsibility of insurance protection upon the driver of a field trip car is working satisfactorily. (2) The Society has been in existence for many years and shows no signs of going out of existence. (3) Incorporation would increase the cost per member per year; dues would probably have to be increased, or some kind of money-raising scheme undertaken.

Come to the October regular meeting if you want to express your opinion with reference to incorporation!

Will Luick
Chairman, By-Laws Committee

SANTA CLARA VALLEY AUDUBON SOCIETY

Special Announcements

"MOON WATCHING"

On the nights of October 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5 there will be observation posts in operation at Los Gatos, San Jose State College, the Palo Alto Yacht Harbor, and the East Foothills of San Jose. Observers and Recorders are needed at all the posts. If you can help with this interesting and important project call one of the following persons.

Los Gatos Station. Emily Smith, ELgato 4-2494
San Jose State College. Charles Sibley, ELgato 4-4429
East Foothills Station. Grace Brubaker, Clayburn 8-2289
Palo Alto Yacht Harbor. Les Sleeper, DAvenport 3-9370

The comparison of "flight densities" between the various stations will yield information on the relationship between topographic features and migratory "flyways". You can help if you can (1) SEE, (2) WRITE, or (3) make coffee!

The night of Thursday, October 2 is the "target night" for the all-night watch. Stations all over the United States will be watching all that night. Stations will remain active on October 1, 3, 4, and 5 for as long as there are willing helpers available.

SCREEN TOURS

A SCREEN TOURS WORK MEETING will be held on Monday evening, October 6 at 7:30 p.m. in Room 222, Science Bldg., San Jose State College. Envelopes must be addressed and Screen Tour folders placed in them. Bring your fountain pen or typewriter and the names of persons you think may be interested in the Screen Tours. Refreshments will be served after the work is done.

Wilbur Luick, Screen Tours Chairman

OCTOBER MEETING

The regular October meeting of the Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society will be held on Monday, October 13, 1952 at 8:00 p.m. in Room 210, Science Bldg., San Jose State College. The program will consist of several motion pictures on birds which will last about one hour. The films were recently acquired by San Jose State and will show many species of western birds in their native surroundings.

Charles Sibley, Program Chairman

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The return of wintering "crowned" sparrows, Fox Sparrows, and other seed-eaters will cause many Audubon Society members to lay in a supply of feed for their dooryard flock. Suet for chickadees, sunflower seeds for titmice, and seeds for the ground foraging sparrows.

The cheapest wild bird seed we know of is "water-grass" seed which may be obtained from Jay's Pet and Garden Shop, 668 Lincoln St., San Jose. The seed is \$5.75 per 100 lbs. with a 10% discount to Audubon Society members.