

THE AVOCET

Bulletin of the Santa Clara Valley Audubon SocietyPRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

In November 1953 we welcomed Mrs. Charles W. Doe as editor of our bulletin. It is with regret and a sense of loss that we must now accept her resignation. We are grateful to Mrs. Doe--now affectionately known to us as Mimi--for all the fine editorial work she did on The Avocet, and for the friendly and helpful way she did it. Thank you very much, Mimi.

This year the Pacific Coast Audubon Convention will again be held at Asilomar. The date set is April 2-5, Saturday through Tuesday. A fine program of talks, nature films, displays, and field trips has been planned. A copy of the program has reached you or will with this bulletin. Let's have a good representation at the convention! Asilomar is a beautiful place, and people who come to the convention are fun to be with. If you want a registration blank write for it to National Audubon Society, 2426 Bancroft Way, Berkeley 4, Calif., or call Elsie Hoeck in San Jose (CY5-1410).

Elsie D. Hoeck

MARCH-APRIL CALENDAR

MEETINGS

Board Meeting, Tuesday, March 1, at 8:00 p.m., in Room 210, Science Building, San Jose State College.

No regular March meeting, the Screen Tour taking its place.

Audubon Screen Tour, the fourth for this season, comes Monday, March 7, when Fran William Hall presents "South to Siesta Land," a color motion picture of Mexico. Not the Mexico of modern cities, but colorful out-of-the-way villages, countryside, and wilderness, along the tropic coastal plain and high into the mountain uplands, where birds, insects, animals, and the shy proud native Indians live in a constant climate of eternal spring.

The Screen tour will be presented at 8:00 p.m. in Morris Dailey Auditorium, San Jose State College. Single tickets, for those who do not have season tickets, are 85 cents (students 55 cents), and will be on sale at the door.

The last Audubon Screen Tour, this season, will come on Monday, April 4, at 8:00 p.m. in Morris Dailey Auditorium. Olin Sewal Pettingill, Jr. will present his "Tip O'the Mitten." As summer instructor at University of Michigan Biological Station at Cheboygan (at the tip of that part of Michigan known as the "Mitten."), Dr. Pettingill produced a documentary story of nature scientists and their projects. This is an all color Audubon Screen Tour that combines educational content with fine entertainment. Single admission tickets will be on sale at the door.

Regular April Meeting, Monday, April 11, at 8:00 p.m. in Room 118 of the new Engineering Building of San Jose State College. This new building is located on the east side of 7th Street, the second building south of San Fernando Street. Parking here is less of a problem than at the Science Building.

Mr. Kenneth D. Morrison, Director of Public Relations at National Audubon Society Headquarters and Editor of Audubon Magazine, will be our speaker. This will be a fine opportunity to get better acquainted with the program and philosophy of the National Society. Come and bring your interested friends. At this time we are not certain but believe Mr. Morrison will have films showing work of Society.

FIELD TRIPS. There will be more trips during March and April, so that more members will be able to come and enjoy spring birds and wild flowers. Call Mrs. Herbert C. Wittgenstein evenings, El gato 4-9420, if you have questions about the trips.

MARCH

Wednesday Morning Bird Trip, March 9, to the Guadalupe Mines area, with Miss Emily Smith as leader. Meet at 8:30 a.m., at corner of San Jose-Los Gatos Road (Highway 17) and Shamon Road, near Los Gatos.

Sunday, March 13, to Hidden Villa Ranch in foothills west of Los Altos, where Mr. Frank Duvencek will lead us over beautiful woodland trails on his property. To reach the ranch take first railroad crossing south of Los Altos at El Monte Ave. Follow signs to Adobe Creek Lodge. Hidden Villa Ranch is about a mile further, on same side of Moody Road, with large iron gate and olive grove. Meet there at 8:30 a.m. We will drive in and park by Youth Hostel (first house on right). Bring Lunch.

Wednesday Morning, March 23, to Holly Lodge Farm, 3789 Woodside Road, through courtesy of Dr. and Mrs. Harold G. Ray. Landscaped grounds, farmland, and a creek through woodland offer a variety of birds. Mrs. Ransom K. Davis is planning the trip. Meet her in front of Caldwell's Store in Woodside at 8:30 a.m.

Saturday, March 26, to Mr. T. T. Tourtillott's place, "Coon Hollow," and from there to Costa Ranch in the San Felipe Creek area (weather permitting). Meet the leader, Miss Elsie Hoeck, at 8:00 a.m. in San Jose at corner of E. San Carlos and 5th Street, by the college campus. Bring lunch.

APRIL

Saturday, April 9, Dr. and Mrs. James A. Cutting will lead us on an easy walk through delightful countryside in the foothills near Saratoga, with a visit to Woodhill Ranch, the home of Mrs. Fremont Older. Meet at 8:30 a.m. on the Saratoga-Sunnyvale Road (Highway 9) at Prospect Road, about halfway between Saratoga and Cupertino. Bring lunch.

Wednesday Morning, April 13, to Mrs. F. Wesley Wright's garden in Atherton Heights, where we always have good birding. Mrs. Wright is planning a leisurely walk to nearby Bear Gulch Reservoir. Meet at Mrs. Wright's home at 540 Atherton Ave. (Extension) at 8:45 a.m. or, if you are uncertain about finding your way, at S. P. Station in Palo Alto at 8:30.

Week-end Camping Trip, April 16-17, to Arroyo Seco in Monterey County, with Mr. and Mrs. Charles H. Anderson. This is beautiful country off the beaten track. Meet at 9:00 a.m. on the Salinas-Monterey Highway at the north end of the bridge over the Salinas River (about 4 miles south of Salinas). There is a eucalyptus grove there where the Andersons always show us nesting Allen Hummingbirds. The Andersons will meet late-comers at 6:00 p.m. at Fred's Camp in Arroyo Seco Canyon, which is about 21 miles west of Soledad; also on Sunday at 9:00 a.m. Or you can ask Fred for directions to the Livingston Cabin, where we shall spend the night. There are half a dozen beds (no bedding) and plenty of camping space. Bring food for all meals.

Sunday, April 24, we will explore new territory on the beautiful Isenberg Ranch on the Skyline Blvd. Meet leader (Herbert Wittgenstein) at 8:30 a.m. at Saratoga Gap, or at 8:45 on Skyline Blvd. at entrance to private road to Isenberg Ranch (on west side and signed), 4.6 miles south from Skyline-La Honda junction. Bring lunch.

Field Trips continued on next page

Wednesday Morning, April 27, to Palo Alto Yacht Harbor area. The trip will be led by Dr. and Mrs. M. R. Kirkwood. With the spring migration at or near its peak there should be a maximum number of shore birds present. Meet at intersection of Bay shore Highway and Embarcadero Road at 8:30 a.m.

Saturday, April 30, a wild flower trip to the east side of Mt. Hamilton, with Dr. Carl Sharsmith of San Jose State College. We shall follow San Antonio Valley Road to the Arroyo Bayo where, if the season is right, there should be wonderful displays of wild flowers. Meet at 9:00 a.m. on top of Mt. Hamilton, at parking area at the Lick Observatory (at look-out, by building housing the old 60-inch). Bring lunch.

Manette Wittgenstein

EDITORIAL COMMITTEE REPORT

The Editorial Committee joins the Board of Directors in expressing sincere regret on the occasion of the announcement of Mrs. Charles W. Doe's resignation as editor of The Avocet. The Society loses an editor of imaginative creativity and quiet efficiency. The members will miss her inimitable style and sparkling humor as expressed in "Quills and Pinfeathers." Mimi's layout of the bulletin has improved its readability. Whenever Mrs. Doe feels that she can undertake publication responsibilities again, the Committee will welcome her return.

The bulletin you are reading is the product of a pro tem staff composed of Emily Smith, who put the material together, and Janice and Will Luick, operators of the Society's mimeograph machine. Grace Brubaker continues as circulation manager. If you want to continue to receive your bimonthly bulletin, one of you members is needed to volunteer to serve as editor. The statement is blunt, but the problem is pointed.

As soon as a new editor steps forward and a publication staff is organized, the mimeograph machine will be moved to its new home with Dr. Richard Mewaldt, who has generously offered to house and operate it, in cooperation with the Board of Director's efforts to economize.

Volunteers, please contact the chairman of the Editorial Committee, or any one of the officers!

Will Luick
Chairman, Editorial Committee

ATTENTION! Have you moved? It is time to order new mail-aid stickers, so please notify us of any changes you wish made. This will insure the bulletin's reaching you during the coming year. A postcard to Circulation Manager, Mrs. Grace Brubaker, 191 Mt. View Ave., San Jose 27, or a phone call to GL3-2239 will do.

OFFICERS

President Miss Elsie D. Hoeck, 55 So. 6th St., Apt. 105, San Jose 12
Vice-President . Dr. Malcolm Miller, Anatomy Dept., Stanford University, Stanford
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Treasurer Mrs. Charles J. Zwaal, 487 Clifton Ave., San Jose 28
Membership Chairman . Mrs. Irving W. Snow, 21441 Roaring Water Way, Los Gatos

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Bits of Bird News, to fill up the page. Allen's Hummingbirds have arrived from the south. Lina Snow reports one at syrup feeder at Aldercroft Heights, February 9, and Marjorie Davis another in her garden in Menlo Park, February 13. A resident Anna's Hummingbird was collecting anemone cotton in Emily Smith's garden near Los Gatos, February 17. During January and February Juliette Jones has had, among wintering Golden-crowned Sparrows in her garden near Los Gatos, two White-throated Sparrows.