THE AVOCET

Bulletin of the Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Sessions of Audubon Camp start June 26th, July 10th, July 24th, August 7th, and August 21st, at Sugar Bowl Lodge, in the High Sierras, 7,000 feet elevation and close to Donner Summit, one mile off U.S.40 from Sacraments to Reno.

Speak to any of our members who have attended camp-----they will tell you why you ought to go-----this year!

As we approach the time of our Annual Meeting (June 13th), your officers for the past year want to tell you that we have enjoyed working with and for you. We recommend that each of you take your turn sharing some of the responsibilities of your Society. Our Society can be as effective as each of us wants to make it. If the members of the Nominating Committee ask you to hold an office for 1955-1956, please consider the request and accept the nomination. Being an officer, or a board member, or a committee chairman, or a committee member, or a publication staff member, can be a rewarding experience for you personally and a real contribution to the program of your Society.

Elsie D. Hoeck

ANNOUNCEMENT

There will be no July-August THE AVOCET published. Postcard notices of the calendar will be mailed to you.

MAY-JUNE CALENDAR

MEETINGS

MAY

Regular Meeting: Monday, May 9th, at 8:00 p.m., at Pale Alto Junior Museum. Program: Dr. Lawrence Swan of San Francisco State College will present an illustrated lecture on the University of California 1954 Expedition to the Himalayas.

Board Meeting: Monday, May 9th, after regular meeting, at Palo Alte Junior Museum.

JUNE

Annual Meeting: Monday, June 13th, at Junier Museum at Alum Rock Park, San Jose.

4:00 p.m. - Informal, no-leader field trip. Meet at picnic tables near the Junior Museum.

6:30 p.m. - No-host picnic supper at tables near the Junior Museum; each member bring his own food. Coffee, cream, and sugar will be provided by the Social Committee; each member bring his own cup.

7:15 p.m. - Beard meeting at the picnic area.

7:30 p.m. - Annual Meeting at Junior Museum. Annual Reports of Officers and Committee Chairmen. Nomination and Election of Officers for 1955-1956. Program by staff of Junior Museum. Mr. Sam Smoker and Mr. Larry Moitazo. Subject: "Flying Mousetrape"———with two films on birds of prey; with hawks and owls in person. Hear how our birds of prey relate to conservation.

MAY-JUNE CALENDAR

FIELD TRIPS

Don't forget the wild flower trip to the east side of Mt. Hamilton Saturday, April 30th, with Dr. Carl Sharsmith. The recent rains have brightened our prospects for a good wild flower display. Meet at 9:00 a.m. on top of Mt. Hamilton, at parking area at the look-out by the Lick Observatory. Bring lunch.

MAY

Sunday, May 8th, to the Hatton Ranch in Calera Canyon, through courtesy of Mrs. Louise Hatton. Mr. and Mrs. Charles Anderson, who will lead the trip, promise wild flowers, fossil rocks, and fine birding. Meet the Andersons at 9:00 a.m. on Salinas. Monterey Highway, about 9 miles south of Salinas, at intersection of Corral de Tierra Road. Bring lunch.

Wednesday Morning, May 11th, to the beautiful grounds at Montalvo, where there are many paths to explore for birds. Meet the leaders, Mr. and Mrs. Clyde Prusman, at 8:00 a.m. at main entrance gate, on Saratoga-Los Gatos Road, near Saratoga.

Week-end Camping Trip, May 14th and 15th, to Big Sur and Point Lobos Reserve state parks. Meet Saturday at 11:00 a.m. in front of Big Sur Lodge, at entrance to Big Sur State Park. A short morning walk on a Nature Trail along the Big Sur River is planned. We hope to find there a Water Ouzel's nest. In the afternoon there will be a longer walk up the canyon, Wild flowers and birds should be at their best. On Sunday we shall visit Point Lobos Reserve, especially to see the sea otters which are being seen there regularly. Members who are not interested in an overnight camping trip, can meet us in the Point Lobos Reserve at the Whalers' Cove at 10:30 a.m. Bring lunch.

Saturday, May 21st, to Searsville Lake, with Les Sleeper, to search for and record nesting birds in that area, as our part in the Cooperative Nesting Survey. After the survey we will go to Mr. and Mrs. Sleeper's garden in Menlo Park for our picnic lunch. Meet at 8:00 a.m. at S.P.Station in Palo Alto. Bring lunch,

Wednesday Morning, May 25th, to the home of Mr. and Mrs. John Harville on Ravine Road, where birds come to feed trays just as they did when the Sibleys lived there. Meet at 8:15 a.m. at Quito Fire Station on Saratoga-Los Gates Road, about half-way between Saratoga and Los Gates.

Memorial Day Week-end, May 28th, 29th, and 30th. If you would be interested in a camping trip to Chews Ridge in the Santa Lucia Mountains in Monterey County, write Mrs. Herbert C. Wittgenstein, 15355 Bellecourt, Los Gatos, or phone her evenings, ELgato 4-9420.

JUNE

Saturday, June 4th, to "Cloud Top," the home of Mrs. R. Lisle Shore, near the summit of the Santa Cruz Highway. Hermit Thrushes, Tolmie Warblers, and Western Tanagers nest there; Meet at 8:00 a.m. in front of Lyndon Hotel in center of Les Gatos. Bring lunch.

Wednesday Morning, June 8th, to Huddart Park. Mrs. Marjorie Davis and Miss Emily Smith are scouting the new roads and trails in this attractive county park. Meet at 8.30 a.m. in Woodside at Caldwell's Store.

Sunday, June 12th, a trip with Mr. Frank Duveneck whose hospitality we enjoyed on the March Steld trip to Hidden Villa Banch. It was on that trip that Mr. Duveneck agreed to lead us up a beautiful canyon he knows about in the Santa Lucia Mourtains, off Highway 1, south of Carmel. Meet Mr. Duveneck at 9:00 a.m. at the parking low at the entrance to Point Lobos Reserve State Park. Bring lunch,

MAY-JUNE CALENDAR

FIELD TRIPS

JUNE

Sunday, June 19th, to "Summus Mons," on the Mt. Umunhum-Loma Prieta ridge, where Miss Frances Dieterich has a cabin overlooking Los Gatos and the whole of Santa Clara Valley. The bush lupines will probably be in fine flower, and there may be Bell's Sparrows to see. Meet Miss Dieterich at 8:00 a.m. in front of the Lyndon Hotel in the center of Los Gatos. Bring lunch.

Wednesday Morning, June 22nd, to Castle Rock on Castle Rock Ridge, where the season is much later than down in the valley. Meet at 8:30 a.m. at the Saratoga Gap, where the Saratoga-Big Basin Road crosses the Skyline Blvd.

Manette Wittgenstein Chairman, Field Trip Comm.

SEASONAL OBSERVATIONS (reported at April Regular Meeting)

Al Wool reported that on a visit to the "frog pond" on Alameda Creek in the middle of March he had seen the pond swarming with thousands of spawning Pacific Newts. Two weeks later the number of newts was greatly reduced; and a great many garter snakes were present. Al counted seventy-eight. Some of the snakes were observed swimming in the water preying on the scattered salamanders.

John Harville found a strange, unidentified-to-date aquatic insect larva which eats strands of algae like spaghetti, passing a strand through its legs until the end is reached and then reversing direction and shoving the long thread into its stomach.

NEWS AND VIEWS FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

Item No. 1 - - - What did the Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society do to remind the citizens of our County of the significance of Arbor Day (March 7th), or to acquaint them with the fact that Audubon Week (April 24th-30th) and Audubon Day (April 26th) in 1955 commemorate the Golden Anniversary of the National Audubon Society?

The Paso Robles Audubon Society organized a tree planting ceremony at the San Luis Obispo County Fair Grounds.

It is too late for SCVAS to do anything about Audubon Week and Day, but the celebration of the golden anniversary continues through December.

General theme of the observation is "Fifty Years of Conservation Progress." During its lifetime the National Audubon Society has been in the forefront of the movement to conserve North America's natural resources.

Special objective of the • observation is "Save Our National Bird--the Bald Eagle." Since its founding the National Audubon Society has frequently campaigned vigorously to protect species of wildlife that are threatened with extinction or seriously reduced in numbers. Our national emblem,
the bald eagle, is not yet in danger of extinction, NAS reports, but its
population has been decimated by illegal shooting and alteration of its
habitat. It is estimated that today there may be fewer than 1,000 pairs of
bald eagles in the United States. NAS points out that unless effective
action can be taken to stem the decrease of our national bird, we may before
long face the prospect of being represented by an extinct emblem. That would
place the United States in the position of having denied freedom to the
symbol of its freedom. The National Audubon Society is currently conducting
a nation-wide inventory of bald eagles in the hope of obtaining valuable data
that will be a guide for future action.

Dees any member consider it worthwhile to discuss the possibility of organizing an anniversary exhibit for the Santa Clara County Fair, September 12th-18th? Reports from other Audubon groups indicate that the

NEWS AND VIEWS FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

Item No. 1 (continued) county fair is an excellent opportunity to find prospective members; to distribute information concerning the Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society and the National Audubon Society and their joint conservation program; to advertise the 1955-1956 Audubon Screen Tours and to sall season tickets. Almost a quarter million admission tickets were sold at the 1954 Fair, and officials anticipate a new record attendance at the 1955 extravaganza.

Booth space, either in the General Exhibits tent or the School tent, is available without cost to our Society. Could an exhibit be developed by our members which would highlight the conservation achievements of the National Audubon Society during the past fifty years? Could our Society grow in members and program by telling and showing the citizens of Santa Clara County what we are trying to do?

Item No. 2 - - - Knowing that most of you read or heard the account of the disastrous fire at the Audubon Sanctuary in the El Monte area, your editor pro tem dispatched a letter to Bill Goodall, Pacific Coast Representative for the National Audubon Society, inquiring concerning the situation there. Bill writes, "I visited the Audubon Center Sunday (April 17th) and found that the fire had taken ALL of the vegetation, many of the trees and seemingly all animal life. A few birds fly around overhead but of course the many nests that were there are gone. The account in the paper was quite accurate. Fortunately, none of the buildings and no individuals were harmed. Perhaps the outstanding feature is the fact that Alma Stultz and her staff are carrying on as before. Saturday, over 150 adults attended a leadership training institute. The schools will continue to send out their classes and the devastation wrought by the fire will be an 'on the spot object lesson,' vivid in its grimness. Naturally, plans are underway to re-establish cover and to 'build back' the area. It will take time and ingenuity and support."

Bill Goodall reports that already three Branches have sent contributions as an indication of their desire to support this program, and others have sent messages of encouragement.

The SCVAS joins other Branches in an expression of sympathy to the leaders at El Monte, and an expression of interest in the plans to rehabilitate the area. Congratulations, Alma Stultz and your staff, for carrying on the important work, and best wishes for a successful rebuilding of the sanctuary!

Item No. 3 - - - (reprints from THE FLYING EGRET, a bulletin for Branches and Affiliates of the National Audubon Society)

Singlair Boosts Conservation - During the month of March the Sinclair Oil
Company sponsored a series of full-page advertisements in eight national magazines saluting the National Audubon Society on its Golden Anniversary and paying tribute to the Everglades National Park. Recognition is given to the important part the Society played in the creation of this park. Other conservation organizations that have been working for the welfare of the national parks will also be saluted by Sinclair.

The purpose of the Sinclair advertisements is to acquaint the public with the necessity to maintain park standards and to encourage travel to the many parks which abound in natural beauty and wildlife. Each advertisement carries the message "A Sinclair conservation message to encourage Americans to see—and save—their national parks." We suggest that all Audubon organizations express their appreciation to Mr. P. C. Spencer, President, Sinclair Oil Corporation, 600 Fifth Avenue, New York 20, N.Y.

Birds in Arizona - The March issue of "Arizona Highways" has 16 pages of beautiful photographs in color plus 14 pages of text and black and white pictures of birds. There is an interesting commentary. Copies are available at newsstands for 35¢. Address of the publication is Phoenix, Arizona.

Birds of Our Land - Twelve beautiful reproductions of Roger Tory Peterson's paintings of birds illustrate a 1955 calendar entitled "Birds of Our Land." These calendars may be obtained free from your local Morrell meat dealer or by sending 20¢ in stamps to John Morrell and Co., Advertising Department, Ottumwa, Iowa.

NEWS AND VIEWS FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

Item No. 3 - - - (reprints from THE FLYING EGRET, a bulletin for Branches and Affiliates of the National Audubon Society) (continued)

Study Effect of Dam - The Sacraments Audubon Society has set up a plan for studying an area before and after flooding takes place. Records are being compiled on the plants, birds, and other animals now found in this area. The same is being done for an adjoining similar area as a control study. A comparative survey will be made after the dam site has been flooded.

The results of this project should provide an excellent opportunity for publicity for the Society.

Good International Relations - On a trip to the ocean the Sacramento Audubon Society took, as guests, six students from foreign countries who are attending the local junior college. They report that it was a most interesting and enlightening experience for everyone and the students were most enthusiastic about this adventure which was completely new to them.

Are there any students from foreign countries in your city? Inviting them to your meetings and field trips would be a wonderful way to show them an important side of American life.

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San Jose State College, San Jose

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Circulation Manager . Mrs. Lester Brubaker, 191 Mountain View Ave., San Jose

MEMBERSHIP ROSTER

Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society

Distribution

Santa Clara County Agnew 1 Campbell 1 Cupertino 4 Los Altos 12	San Mateo County Atherton 2 Menlo Park 18 Redwood City 2 San Mateo 1
Los Gatos 41 Morgan Hill 3 Mauntain View 4	23
Palo Alto 41 San Jose 49	Santa Cruz County Boulder Creek 1
Santa Clara 7 Saratoga 8	Mt. Hermon 3 Santa Cruz 2
Stanford 8 Sunnyvale 1 180	6
	Alameda County Niles 1 Oakland 1 2

Monterey County Salinas 2

San Francisco County
San Francisco 3

TOTAL 216

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MEMBERSHIP ROSTER

Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society

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MEMBERSHIP ROSTER

Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society

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N.B. The names for the Membership Roster were taken from the Circulation Manager's file as of April 24th. If your name is listed for the incorrect city, it is possible that the Society has an incorrect address for you.

No distinction is made in the Membership Roster concerning Local and Joint Members. A study of the types of membership can be made later.

Are you surprised at the relative standing of the cities in and out of the County with reference to membership? Are there any cities whose membership totals. seem to be lower than they should be? What can be done to remedy the situation?

Goodwin J. Knight Governor TRUE COPY

(seal)

State of California Governor's Office Sacramento

April 21, 1955

The National Audubon Society is dedicated to increasing public understanding and knowledge of the importance of conservation of natural resources. In their educational programs, the members of this organization have displayed great resourcefulness and ingenuity in advancing the worthwhile cause they espouse. Audubon nature study projects have gained great popularity in California and have been of great value in our school classrooms. Hundreds of people, children as well as adults, have come to realize the tremendous importance of conservation practices through the work of this erganization.

During the week of April 24 through April 30, 1955, the Golden Anniversary of the founding of the National Audubon Society is being observed throughout the United States. I hope that Californians will join in paying tribute to this pioneer organization which for 50 years has been in the forefront of the movement to encourage wise use of our great natural treasures.

(signed) Goodwin J. Knight Governor of California

Governor of California

N.B. The above release from the Pacific Coast Office of the National Audubon
Society arrived at your editor's desk as this stencil was being readied
to run. Thus, its appearance at the end of the May-June proceedings.