

THE AVOCET

 Bulletin of the Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society, Inc.

ANNOUNCEMENT

A word of explanation is in order concerning the appearance of a July-August THE AVOCET. During June it was discovered that important information awaited publication. To hold the material until the September-October issue of THE AVOCET would have delayed your receipt of vital facts and opinions upon which our 1955-1956 program will be based. Therefore, the Board of Directors directed the Editorial Committee and the Publication Staff to prepare this issue.

REPORTS FROM THE ANNUAL MEETING

INCORPORATION

Articles of Incorporation of Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society were endorsed and filed in the office of the Secretary of State of the State of California on May 20, 1955, and the Seal of the State of California was affixed on May 24, 1955.

At the June Board of Directors' meeting all members in good standing were accepted as members of the Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society, Inc.

ELECTION OF 1955-1956 BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS

President	- Mr. John P. Harville
Vice-President	- Dr. L. R. Mewaldt
Secretary	- Miss Elsie D. Hoeck
Treasurer	- Mrs. Charles J. Zwaal
Board of Directors	- Dr. Wilhelm Flugge
	Mr. Wilbur F. Luick
	Mr. William R. Ouderkirk
	Mrs. Homer E. Peterson
	Miss Lynn Robbins

FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR 1954-1955

Three banking accounts are maintained by the Society, namely: a commercial checking account, a savings account, and an account for Audubon Screen Tours in the Graduate Manager's Office at San Jose State College. Mrs. Charles Zwaal, Treasurer, is responsible for the first two accounts, and the co-chairmen of AST, Dr. Matt Vessel and Dr. Arnold Applegarth, are responsible for the latter account.

Savings Account

Balance 5/30/55	\$852.82
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Audubon Screen Tours Account

Net proceeds after payment of all bills for 1954-1955 and sharing of profit with NAS is \$235.38.

REPORTS FROM THE ANNUAL MEETING

FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR 1954-1955

Commercial Checking Account

Balance 6/7/54		\$552.88
Receipts during 1954-1955		
dues	\$346.53	
special	15.50	
refund	18.00	
		<u>380.03</u>
		\$932.91
Disbursements during 1954-1955		
overhaul of mimeograph machine	\$ 27.98	
THE AVOCET	175.70	
rental of hall	12.00	
refreshments	26.46	
gift to El Monte Audubon Sanctuary	25.00	
		<u>\$285.14</u>
Balance 5/30/55		\$647.77

MEMBERSHIP

		- 136 joint
Total 6/13/55	219	
		- 83 local

During 1954-1955 21 new members have been added, of whom 18 are joint members and 3 local members. One of the three local members maintains a joint membership in the Golden Gate Audubon Society.

HONORARY LIFE MEMBERSHIP VOTED MR. HENRI G. HILL

In appreciation of Mr. Henri G. Hill's legal assistance and counsel in the processing of the incorporation of the Society, a resolution creating an honorary life membership for him was adopted.

1955 SANTA CLARA COUNTY FAIR, SEPTEMBER 12-18

The Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society, Inc. will reserve booth space in the Schools tent and create an exhibit commemorating the Golden Anniversary of the National Audubon Society at the 1955 Santa Clara County Fair, September 12-18.

1954-1955 AUDUBON SCREEN TOURS

The 1954-1955 Screen Tours Program has been completed and after all bills have been paid our share of the proceeds is \$235.38. A few observations might be made at this point.

First an admonition. The most striking thing about the program is that under the present conditions the Screen Tour series could hardly break even if it wasn't for the number of college students attending. We at the college think the series sufficiently worthwhile that we require our elementary students to attend. But how about you Audubon members - - how many of you have tried to sell the series to your neighbor or friend? The tabula-

REPORTS FROM THE ANNUAL MEETING

1954-1955 AUDUBON SCREEN TOURS

tion of tickets shows that only 69 adult season's tickets were sold and the students' season's tickets totalled 329. Further, more than half of the single admission tickets were sold to students.

The Screen Tour program was begun as an Audubon Society project using the college name only as a co-sponsor. The college, however, is contributing more than its share of the load. The task of managing the lecture program at the college auditorium also falls on the same people year after year. Certainly there are dozens of people in the Society who could contribute their time to help with some of the routine duties.

A commendation should go to all of the loyal ticket sellers, collectors, and assistants at the lecture programs. These people have willingly served in spite of their numbers.

Last of all a recommendation. We suggest that three or more scholarships of \$15.00 each be awarded to deserving college students who may use this money for part payment of a session at the Audubon Camp or the West Coast Nature School. The remaining money from the Screen Tours should be earmarked for Conservation Education projects only.

We wish to take this opportunity to thank all of you who have helped with the Screen Tour Program in any way. And if you feel hurt by the admonition above, remember that we are just getting underway with the Screen Tours for next year. Offer your services to the President of the Society and promote the program.

Respectfully submitted,
M.F.Vessel and A.G.Applegarth,
Co-chairmen

A REMINDER

Local members' dues of one dollar fifty cents (\$1.50) became due and payable July 1st. Please send your money to the Treasurer, Mrs. Charles J. Zwaal, 478 Clifton Avenue, San Jose 28. If you will take the initiative and mail your dues, you will save Fannie Zwaal considerable time and effort not having to send you a dues reminder.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I wish you all could have been at our June 30 Board meeting to see the enthusiasm with which your Officers and Board of Directors tackled the problems of the year ahead. With your help, this should be a fine year for the Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society, and for three big reasons:

1. We have had splendid response from people we have asked to serve as Chairmen of our action committees. Four have returned for another tour of duty, and for them some equivalent of Purple Heart or Oak-leaf Cluster should be in order! Mrs. Wittgenstein will again tackle the very important and difficult job of Field Trip organization. Mrs. Snow will continue her fine work with the Membership Committee. Mrs. Peterson will organize activities of the Social Committee. You are reading this because Will Luick is continuing his excellent work with the Publications Committee. They and our new Committee Chairmen are undertaking difficult and time-consuming work for the Society. May I salute them, in your name.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

2. You are going to help with committee work when called upon. This is an assumption, of course, but based on some good evidence. We had wonderful support at our Annual Meeting from volunteers willing to help with our booth at the County Fair. Only with support from everyone can our committees accomplish the jobs they have undertaken--jobs which will bring pleasure to and reflect credit upon our entire Society. Which Committee would you like to assist? Let the Chairman or a member of the Board hear from you!

3. We have undertaken some most interesting projects for the coming year, about which you will hear more very soon. We are going to prepare and man a booth at the County Fair, in conjunction with the Junior Museum. Thousands of people will learn about our Screen Tours program and our field trip activities--this year our Screen Tours should be the biggest ever, as result. Our Education Committee is assuming the leadership on this important project, and many of you have said you would help with it. Our Conservation Committee, with Miss Emily Smith and Mr. William Ouderkirk as Co-chairmen, is beginning work on development of a wild-life refuge at Mohtalvo. This new activity will mean much to our Society and to this Valley--here is a conservation project we can do something about personally! Our Screen Tours Committee and Field Trips Committee have their regular projects underway, and as always, we rely upon them to carry forward the activities which are the heart of the Society's program.

How will all these fine hopes look to us a year from now? The answer lies with each of you. No job seems too large when the goals are worthwhile, and when good friends can work together toward them. In that spirit, your Board of Directors and Committee Chairmen have accepted their responsibilities.

1955-1956 Committee Chairmen

Auditing	Dr. Marion Kirkwood
Nominating	Miss Lynn Robbins
Membership	Mrs. Irving Snow
Program	Dr. Richard Mewaldt
Educational	Miss Lola Erikson
Conservation	Mr. William Ouderkirk and Miss Emily Smith
Field Trip	Mrs. Langford Smith and Mrs. Herbert Wittgenstein
Social	Mrs. Homer Peterson
Publicity	Mrs. Roy McRae
Editorial	Mr. Wilbur Luick
By-Laws	Mr. Wilbur Luick
Fiscal Policy	Dr. Richard Mewaldt
Screen Tours	Dr. Arnold Applegarth and Dr. Matt Vessel

John P. Harville

JULY-AUGUST CALENDAR

MEETINGS

JULY-AUGUST

Regular Meeting: There are no regular meetings of the Society scheduled during July and August.

JULY-AUGUST CALENDAR

MEETINGS

JULY-AUGUST

Board Meeting: Time and place of meetings will be decided by the President after he has determined when a quorum can be assured. The Secretary will send a notice or telephone Board members.

FIELD TRIPS

JULY

Wednesday Morning, July 20th, to the outskirts of Redwood City, with Mrs. Ransom Davis. Through the courtesy of Mrs. David Bohannon, visit the beautiful garden at 115 Oakford Road, also neighboring woodland. Meet at 8:45 a.m. at intersection of Alameda de Las Pulgas and Woodside Road.

Saturday, July 23rd, to Table Rock Beach, north of Santa Cruz, for a mystery trip, to be led by Miss Emily Smith. The trip will start from the Ranger's Station at Natural Bridges Beach State Park at 7:45 a.m. promptly, to take advantage of a low tide to explore a sea cave. Bring lunch and rubbers. To reach the State Park, drive north on Highway 1 for about 2 miles from center of Santa Cruz and turn left on Cliff Drive. The Ranger's Station is only a short distance from the highway.

AUGUST

Sunday, August 14th, to Big Basin State Park. John Harville is planning this trip in the style of the Audubon Camp field trips; he has been a staff member at the California Audubon Camp, as most of you know. Especially invited to join the party for the walk on the beautiful and cool trails are "beginners," those who fancy themselves "rank amateurs" in the art and skill of observing on field trips. Meet the leader at 8:30 a.m. at Saratoga Gap, where the Saratoga-Big Basin Road crosses the Skyline Blvd. Bring lunch.

Wednesday Morning, August 17th, to the vanishing salt marshes near Alviso, to see the migrating shore birds that have returned from their breeding grounds in the north. Mrs. Etta Smith is the leader. Meet at Alviso Elementary School at 8:00 a.m.

Dorothy Smith and Manette Wittgenstein
Co-chairmen of the Field Trip Committee

NEWS AND VIEWS FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

SHOULD CALIFORNIA REVISE ITS PROTECTION LAWS FOR HAWKS AND OWLS?

The members who attended the Annual Meeting of the Society at the Junior Museum at Alum Rock Park in June were rewarded with an instructive and interesting program concerning birds of prey. Mr. Sam Smoker and Mr. Larry Moitozo effectively presented their information and showed their hawks and owls. Two films concluded the program.

The conservation implications of the subject "Flying Mousetraps" point to an examination of the California law protecting some of our hawks and owls, and to a comparison of California law with that of other states.

NEWS AND VIEWS FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

SHOULD CALIFORNIA REVISE ITS PROTECTION LAWS FOR HAWKS AND OWLS?

Section 1175 of the Fish and Game Code establishes the following as predatory birds: "blue jay, English or European house sparrow, great horned owl, sharp-shinned hawk, Cooper's hawk, duck hawk, house finch (commonly known as California linnet), crow, black-billed magpie, shrike or butcher bird, white pelican, shag or cormorant, and, in Districts 1,2,3,4, and 4 3/4, the blackbirds." Section 1176 provides that "predatory birds may be taken at any time," the assumption being that possession of a hunting license makes legal the killing of the listed predatory birds. Santa Clara County is located in District 3.

According to an information bulletin published by the National Audubon Society, most states now have laws which protect the buteos or soaring hawks but which leave the accipiters or fast-flying hawks unprotected. In most cases, NAS maintains, the only persons who can distinguish between protected and unprotected hawks are those who would not shoot them anyway. NAS states that few of these laws have been enforced because the violator simply states that he thought he was shooting an unprotected species and either the warden or the court is unwilling to take action.

For some years the National Audubon Society has recommended the adoption of a law which provides protection for all hawks and owls except that, "when in the act of destroying poultry," hawks may be destroyed.

Perhaps you noticed in your May-June, 1955, issue of Audubon Magazine, on page 110, the announcement to the effect that the State Legislature of Indiana recently amended its bird protection law so that it is now unlawful to shoot any species of hawk or owl in that state. An exception in the law permits the killing of hawks and owls only by land occupants who can justify claims of predation on poultry by these birds. Audubon Magazine notes that "Indiana thus becomes the third state to protect legally all birds of prey," Connecticut having become the first in 1951, followed by Michigan in 1954. Because hawks and owls are not protected by federal law, under the Migratory Bird Treaties with Canada and Mexico, their legal protection depends upon state law.

Did you know that nine states fail to protect any hawks or owls (except eagles and ospreys in some instances), namely: Arkansas, Georgia, Idaho, Maine, Maryland, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Rhode Island, and Virginia?

If you accept the recommendation of the National Audubon Society concerning a law which provides protection for all hawks and owls, except where a land occupant can justify claims of predation on poultry by these birds, you may be ready to consider ways and means of persuading our State Legislators to change California law. In the Assembly the chairman of the Fish and Game Committee is Frank P. Belotti of Eureka, and in the Senate the chairman is Ed. C. Johnson of Marysville. Although the 1955 legislative session has concluded, it is time to begin the campaign for a change in the law which provides protection for predatory birds, namely, Sections 1175 and 1176.

from

Circular No. 26, "Western Hawks," has been obtained /: the Pacific Coast Office of NAS, and is enclosed for you to read and study.

NEWS AND VIEWS FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

SHOULD CALIFORNIA REVISE ITS PROTECTION LAWS FOR HAWKS AND OWLS?

In the next issue of THE AVOCET consideration will be given to how to conduct a hawk and owl campaign. If you wish to express an opinion concerning the course of action our Conservation Committee and Society should take, send your statement to the editor before August 20th.

CONGRATULATIONS, MR. PRESIDENT!

The cover photograph on the May-June, 1955, issue of Audubon Magazine was taken at California Audubon Camp by John Harville, Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society's new prexy.

THE WOOLS HAVE BEEN IN OUR EYES

Did you notice the feature story in the June 30th issue of the San Jose News concerning the Al Wool family's pet sparrow hawk?

The magazine section of the San Jose Mercury-News for July 12th carried a color photograph of a fledgling Golden Eagle holding a king snake as the cover page, and a feature story, "They're For The Birds," together with half a dozen pictures showing Al Wool, Homer Peterson, and Eric Thorsen in action as they pursue their hobby of photographing natural history on 16 mm. movie film. Al's selection as an official bird counter for the Audubon Society, and presentation of his moving pictures at Audubon conventions, are mentioned in the article.

REPRINTS FROM THE FLYING EGRET (A BULLETIN FOR BRANCHES AND AFFILIATES OF THE NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY)

'Flying Egret' Pins for Members

The National Audubon Society announces that attractive pins can now be purchased at the Pacific Coast Office. These pins bear a reproduction of the popular flying egret emblem. The white egret is set on a background of hard-fired blue enamel. Prices of the pins are: sterling silver, \$2.00; gold-filled, \$2.00; 10 karat gold, \$5.00. These prices include federal tax. The pins are one-half inch in diameter and have a safety clasp. Inscribed on the back are the words: "National Audubon Society Member." The pins are available to National Audubon Members only. Pacific Coast Office is located at 2426 Bancroft Way in Berkeley.

United Conservation Fund, Inc.

The National Audubon Society believes that you should be advised that it is not participating in the fund-raising drive under the above title, and that, to its knowledge, the following other national conservation organizations have not joined in it either: American Forestry Association, American Nature Association, Conservation Education Association, The Conservation Foundation, Izaak Walton League of America, National Wildlife Federation, and Soil Conservation Society of America.

N.B. A new Publication Staff is in the process of being organized. Will Luick will be the editor and cut the stencils; Dr. and Mrs. Dick Mewaldt will operate the mimeograph machine; and, Mrs. Lester Brubaker will handle circulation responsibilities.