

The Avocet

Volume IV Number 5

November--December 1957

WATERS OF SAN FRANCISCO BAY STILL BEING POLLUTED

San Francisco Bay was once filled with marine life in abundant variety--striped bass, perch, smelt, even salmon and steelhead. In the shallow South Bay where sunlight warmed the waters to the bottom spawned plankton, shrimp, and small fish at the bottom of the marine "food chain". The sky was black with flights of water fowl.

But, as the Peninsula's population multiplies, people use the Bay more and more as a dumping ground. Sewage and industrial wastes drain there; trash piles up in the mudflats. The rotten egg odor of hydrogen sulfide gas rises from the polluted waters--particularly in August and September when canneries run at capacity. Hundreds of striped bass, and thousands of smelt, perch, and smaller fish wash ashore--killed by water pollution. Diseases traceable to the same cause periodically cut the population of water fowl.

As early as 1922, an amusement park at Coyote Point in San Mateo was closed because the beach was polluted. In postwar years the drive to do something definite about the situation was intensified. In 1950 the S. F. Bay Regional Water Pollution Control Board insisted that cities build sewage treatment plants. A total of some \$130 million have been spent since then on treatment plant construction by Bay cities and Moffett Field.

In September, three surveys of water pollution and related air pollution were made. Using the 80-ft. "Albacore" as a floating laboratory (1) samples of air, water, and bottom muds were taken at various phases of tide for 2 full days around the clock, (2) operators of sewage treatment plants took quality samples of treated effluents dumped into sloughs, (3) Menlo Park hoped to prove its treatment plant was not producing the H₂S odor which periodically drifts over Menlo Park and Atherton. In spite of treatment plants, fish are still being killed, and house paint from East Palo Alto to San Jose is discolored by the gasses which arise partly from industrial processes and oil-burning furnaces. The biggest acute problem is probably in the South end of the Bay because (1) its shallowness reduces tidal mixing action which elsewhere dilutes and carries away pollutants (2) canneries discharging wastes cluster around San Jose.

The goal of the survey is to check on whether the two cities with the biggest problems--Sunnyvale and San Jose--are meeting control board requirements, and nobody thinks they are. Heavy loads of cannery waste add immensely to a city's disposal job, and fruit acids--so strong they can eat up concrete walls--can't be removed by standard processes.

How clean San Francisco Bay will be in years ahead depends largely on how people want to use it and



whether conservationists can make anyone care whether wildlife uses it. Right now, the control board's purity standards call for protection of such uses as fishing, boating, and duck hunting. (Must every aspect of nature have a human use?) The Reber plan would create a fresh water lake of the South Bay. For swimming areas, effluents must be put through a secondary (expensive) treatment for disinfection. There is even a fanciful plan to develop the entire shoreline from Palo Alto to Alviso for recreational use if all Bay cities build secondary treatment plants.

Preliminary hearings were held in September, and the subject will remain lively until the Bay is cleaned up. The Audubon Society was represented at hearings by Mrs. John L. McBride--Conservation Chairman, Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society and Past President, Los Angeles Audubon Society. It is reassuring to know that our hopes for a beautiful Bay, a home for water birds and marine life of all kinds, rests in such experienced hands.

COMING EVENTS AT A GLANCE

Regular Meetings:

Mon. Nov. 18 8:00 p.m. Junior Museum, Palo Alto
No regular meeting in December. Help with the Christmas Bird Count instead!

Board Meetings:

Mon. Nov. 18 7:00 p.m.

Screen Tour:

Fri. Nov. 22 8:00 p.m. Auditorium, San Jose State College

Field Trips:

Sat. Nov. 9 8:30 a.m. Alum Rock Park
Sat. & Sun. Nov. 9-10 10 a.m. Grey Lodge State Waterfowl Refuge
Sacramento Federal Waterfowl Refuge
Wed. Nov. 13 8:30 a.m. Old Section of Oak Hill Cemetery
Sun. Nov. 24 9:00 a.m. Hidden Villa Ranch
Sun. Dec. 8 ----- Sacramento Federal Waterfowl Refuge
Wed. Dec. 11 9:00 a.m. Portola Valley area
Sat. Dec. 14 9:00 a.m. Santa Cruz Natural Bridges State Park

Special Event:

Sun. Dec. 29 7:30 a.m. Annual Christmas Bird Count

NOVEMBER-DECEMBER CALENDAR

Regular Meetings:

Monday, November 18, 1957, Palo Alto Junior Museum, 8:00 p.m.
Mr. Donald Edward McHenry, retired Chief Naturalist of Yosemite National Park, will tell us the experiences of "A Naturalist in Washington, D. C.". This discussion of an unusual aspect of the Park Service will be illustrated by color slides.

Screen Tour:

Friday, November 22, 1957, Morris Dailey Auditorium, San Jose State College, 8:00 p.m. Murl Duesing will present "Adventure in Africa",

a color motion picture of an entire wildlife community on the move in search for water--wildebeeste, gazelle, zebra, ostrich, and baboon. From beginning to end a vivid and gripping account by a masterful speaker. (Tickets: 90¢ general, 50¢ student admission. Seats not reserved.)

Field Trips:

Saturday, November 9, to Alum Rock Park. Meet at 8:30 a.m. on Alum Rock Avenue at Miguelito Road (near San Jose Country Club). Bring lunch. Leader: Mrs. Grace Brubaker (CL8-2289).

Saturday and Sunday, November 9 and 10, to Grey Lodge State Waterfowl Refuge and Sacramento Federal Waterfowl Refuge. Now is the time to see this spectacular concentration of ducks and other water birds. Literally millions of birds are there--in an area considered by the National Audubon Society for Guided Tours (such as those offered in Florida). This is a joint trip with Golden Gate and Mt. Diablo Audubon Societies. Those who want to make the overnight trip should make reservations at once at a motel or hotel in or near Willows, such as the Willows Motel. Meet at 10:00 a.m. Saturday at Grey Lodge State Waterfowl Refuge. For detailed itinerary and directions call the leader, Harry Adamson (ATLantic3-2164) or the local coordinator, Miss Mary Meehan (WH8-4949).

Wednesday Morning, November 13, to the old section of Oak Hill Cemetery and the hillslope beyond. Meet at 8:30 a.m. at entrance to the cemetery on U. S. 101, about three miles south of San Jose. Leaders: Dr. Evelyn Case (CH3-2467) and Miss Lillian Gorham (UN7-9539).

Sunday, November 24, to Hidden Villa Ranch in the hills west of Los Altos. Meet at 9:00 a.m. at the olive grove at the entrance. Follow signs to Adobe Creek Lodge. The ranch is about a mile further on the same side of Moody Road. Bring lunch. Leaders: Mr. and Mrs. Emmanuel Taylor (FR8-3219).

Sunday, December 8, to Sacramento Federal Waterfowl Refuge. A one-day trip, or overnight arrangements can be made at Willows. If you prefer to go with the Sacramento Audubon Society that day, contact the leader, Mr. L. Robert Cunningham, 2700 Creekside Lane, Sacramento, Cal. (IV9-3909). If you would like to visit the refuge independently on the 8th or on some other day, please contact Miss Mary Meehan, 1014 Clark Ave., Mt. View, Cal. (WH8-4949). She has detailed maps, suggested accommodations, etc.)

Wednesday Morning, December 11, to Portola Valley area (Ormondale Ranch and Morshead estate). Meet at 9:00 a.m. at Portola Valley School (a mile or more beyond junction of Alpine and Portola Roads). Leader: Mrs. Shepard Tucker (DA2-9457).

Saturday, December 14, to Santa Cruz Natural Bridges State Park and Twin Lakes State Park. Meet at the Lyndon Hotel in Los Gatos at 9:00 a.m. Bring lunch. Leaders: Dr. and Mrs. Herbert Wittgenstein (EL4-9420).

Sunday, December 29, Annual Christmas Bird Count. We have a large and growing membership; for this count we need all of you who can spend a whole day in the field. Details on next page.

THE 1957 CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT----SUNDAY, DECEMBER 29

MEETING PLACE: In East San Jose, at the home of Frances and Dick Mewaldt, 4150 Golf Drive (CL8-7491). Everyone be there at 7:30 a.m. Bring lunch. Tally of the count will be at 4:30 p.m. at the Mewaldt's. Refreshments will be served during the tally.

COUNT AREA: Same as in past years--a circular area, 15 miles in diameter. The center is northeast of city limits at junction of Mabury Rd. and Capitol Avenue.

SECTORS: The count area will be divided into five sectors, as follows:

- A. Alviso Sector, bounded on east by State Highway 17 (old Oakland Highway) and on south by Bayshore Highway. Bayshore Highway inside this sector.
- B. Southwest Sector; bounded on north and east by Bayshore Highway. Bayshore Highway, south of Alum Rock Ave., inside this sector.
- C. Evergreen Sector, bounded by Bayshore Highway, Alum Rock Ave., and Mt. Hamilton Road. Mt. Hamilton Rd. inside this sector.
- D. Alum Rock Sector, bounded on south and west by Mt. Hamilton Rd., Alum Rock Avenue, and Bayshore Highway; on north by Capitol Ave. and Sierra Rd. Alum Rock Ave., Bayshore and Oakland Highways, and Capitol Ave. are all inside this sector.
- E. Calaveras Sector, bounded by Sierra Rd., Capitol Ave., and old Oakland Highway. Sierra Rd. and Oakland Highway inside this sector.

SECTOR LEADERS:

- A. (Alviso) Dr. Henry Weston, 349 N. Richlee Drive, Campbell (FR8-3836).
- B. (Southwest) Mrs. Angelina Snow, 21, 441 Roaring Water Way, Los Gatos (EL4-1811), Mrs. Fannie Zwaal, 478 Clifton Ave., San Jose 28 (CY2-2060), Miss Harriet Mundy, 757 Tennyson Ave., Palo Alto (DA5-1192).
- C. (Evergreen) Mr. and Mrs. Emmanuel Taylor, 14, 311 Quito Rd., Saratoga (FR8-3219).
- D. (Alum Rock) Jim Peterson and Mrs. Grace Brubaker, 191 Mt. View Ave., San Jose (CL8-2289).
- E. (Calaveras) Albert J. Wool, Rt. 2, Box 728, San Jose (AM2-2577).

Each leader is responsible for planning the itinerary within his sector. (If you know where there is good birding in a sector, let the leader know.) At the meeting place, on the day of the count, the assembled bird counters will divide into groups and go with whichever sector they wish. If you know now which sector you want to join, phone or drop a card to the leader. It will be a big help in planning the itinerary if the leader knows beforehand how many observers (and cars)

he can count on for his sector. If you have further questions, call Dr. Mewaldt (CL8-7491).

RECORDS: One person in each group will act as scribe, to record the counts of each species of wild bird positively identified. In making estimates of large numbers, indicate the probable error, for example: Coot, 2000₊₃₀₀. If unable to estimate degree of accuracy, record estimate as: Coot, 2000 est. In adding estimates to actual counts in final tally, indicate accuracy in this way: Coot, 2137 (2000 + 300, 173). This shows that of the total number of Coots reported (2173), 173 were actually counted and the rest estimated.

Record hours and mileage spent on foot and by car by each group in the sector. As weather conditions can effect results, keep record of weather (minimum and maximum temperatures, wind direction and approximate velocity, cloud cover, etc.). Because habitats are important in evaluating species counts, record habitats visited (salt marsh, canyon stream, oak woodland, grassland, golf course, etc.) and percentage of time spent in each habitat.

NEW MEMBERS

Our membership has been growing unusually fast. The following new members we welcome and invite to join us on the Christmas Bird Count, on field trips, and at meetings.

| | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------|
| Mrs. Doris Yankley | 1437 Weaver Drive | San Jose 25 |
| Dr. H. T. Harvey | 716 Garner Court | Santa Clara |
| Mr. & Mrs. Wm. Forsythe | 375 Olive Street | Menlo Park |
| Mr. & Mrs. C.B. Chrisman | 654 Georgia Ave. | Palo Alto |
| Mr. John S. Perkins | 792 Southhampton Drive | Palo Alto |
| Miss Genevieve Moran | 1909 Manhattan Ave., Apt. 7 | Palo Alto |
| Miss Ramona Gene Ross | 1909 Manhattan Ave., Apt. 7 | Palo Alto |
| Mrs. C. Donald Shane | Lick Observatory, Mt. Hamilton | |
| Dr. Dwight M. Bissell | 1457 Shasta Ave. | San Jose 26 |
| Mrs. H. B. Dornblaser | 168 Villa Ave. | Los Gatos |
| Mr. Ernest F. Moser | P. O. Box 892 | Gilroy |
| Mrs. Marie V. Brennan | 208A West 36th Ave. | San Mateo |
| Mr. F. J. Parker | Box 742 | Los Gatos |
| Mrs. Roy O. Hoffman | 1996 Channing Ave. | Palo Alto |
| Dr. Philip Haims | 1790 Phantom Ave. | San Jose |
| Mrs. Leota E. Ahlstrom | 873 Laverne Way | Los Altos |
| Mrs. Edith R. Wirtoner | Lick Observatory, Mt. Hamilton | |
| Miss Ellinor Sidenius | 129 Emerson Street | Palo Alto |
| Mr. Mark Massi | 2011 Sharon Road | Menlo Park |

RICHARDSON'S BAY WILDLIFE REFUGE

The National Audubon Society (through its Marin Branch) and the Marin Conservation League are actively cooperating with the Richardson Bay Foundation to establish and maintain a wildlife refuge in Richardson Bay between Belvedere and Strawberry Hill. This is a beautiful area--a favorite of egrets and countless other water birds. Perhaps it is not too hopeless to dream that someday San Francisco Bay (one of the world's most impressive harbors) will be one refuge, with its water and the air above it as clean as the Spanish explorers found it.

OUR SANCTUARY IS POSTED

On Saturday, October 5, 1957, signs were posted protecting the Audubon sanctuary in the salt marshes south of Dumbarton Bridge. (It is as yet unnamed.) Under the direction of Francis H. Goraj, land and water crews worked from 9:30 to 2:30 to complete the job--which last year required two days. Mr. Goraj is Field Trip Chairman and Member of the Board of Directors, Santa Clara County Audubon Society, and Camping Chairman of Palo Alto Boy Scout Troop 54. The boat crew included Explorer Scouts Robert Ballou, Assistant Scoutmaster, David and Robert Coats, Peter Da Silva, and Thomas Silver. Land party members were Mr. and Mrs. Harley Bothwell, Dr. Arthur Furst, Mrs. Francis Goraj, Dr. Thomas Harvey, Mr. John Todd, Mr. Robert Wood, and Mr. Todd Newberry.

A wonderful lunch (hot casserole, salads, sour French bread, cake, hot coffee and cocoa) rewarded the party after a drizzly, cool morning. Creators of this vital aspect of posting were Mrs. Ann Peterson, member of Board of Directors, Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society, and Mrs. Fanny Zwaal, Treasurer and Board member.

The California duck-hunting season this year is a continuous season of 95 days--Oct. 12 to Jan. 14. With a duck limit of 6 birds per day (plus three bonus pintail or widgeon), it is apparent that our sanctuary is needed!

CAN YOU FIND A HOME FOR OUR SANCTUARY WARDEN?

Mrs. John O. Larson, Jr., wife of our Sanctuary Warden, gave birth to a 6 lb. 3 oz. daughter on October 13. Her name is Leah Jean. She and her brother (age 14), with their parents, need a temporary home in this area while Mr. Larson patrols during duck-hunting season. Living quarters are needed from mid-November until Jan. 14. If you know a place (possibly the home of a winter vacationer) please contact at once

Miss Mary Meehan
1014 Clark Ave.
Mt. View, California
(WH8-4949)

MORE NEW COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN FOR 1957--58

| | |
|--------------|-----------------------|
| Conservation | Mrs. John L. McBride |
| Education | Mr. Robert Woods |
| Screen Tours | Dr. Arnold Applegarth |
| Social | To be appointed. |

AUDUBON DAILY FIELD CARD
CHECK LIST FOR BIRDS OF THE PACIFIC STATES

The 1957 revision of this card will be available at regular meetings of our local society and on field trips--thanks to Miss Harriet Mundy. They are 5¢ each or 6 for 25¢. This is an important service to members and other interested persons--since the Berkeley office of the National Audubon Society will sell only a minimum of 25 cards per order. Please do not write to her for them.

A NEW BIRD-WATCHING AREA

An excellent spot to watch water birds has been reported by Mrs. Elsa Thorsen and Mrs. Etta Smith. It is a pool, recently formed by highway construction, at the intersection of the Santa Clara-Alviso Road and Highway 9. It is subject to tidal flow and much frequented by a variety of water birds except at the highest tides. There is room to park off the Alviso Road.

BABY-SITTERS FOR FIELD TRIPS!

Many of our Audubon members with young children, including many graduate students at San Jose State College, find it difficult or impossible to go on field trips. Jane Goraj (Publicity Chairman, Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society) thought it would be a good idea for the Society to arrange for all young couples interested a baby-sitting set-up in the area where any given field trip was taking place. After Jane discussed this with Ken Hansen of the San Jose Mercury-News, he wrote up an article which helped a great deal to launch the project. Many girls and women phoned to offer their help as paid baby-sitters on field trip weekends. Here is the beginning of the list:

| | |
|--|--|
| Carol Hackbarth (15 yrs.) 11, 282 Farndon Ave. Mt. View (Y07-7680) | Mrs. Leota Ahlstrom 873 Laverne Way Los Altos (WH8-2137) |
|--|--|

| | |
|---|--|
| Colette Horal (14 yrs.) 2356 Bray Ave. Santa Clara (AX6-6884) | Ann Cook (14 yrs.) 679 N. Genevieve Lane San Jose (CH8-2419) |
|---|--|

Faye McMurry (a grandmother)
228 S. Rengstorff Ave.
Mt. View (Y07-2366)

SEQUOIA AUDUBON SOCIETY SCREEN TOUR SCHEDULE

These programs are given in the San Mateo High School Auditorium at 8:00 p.m.

Mon. Nov. 18 Murl Deusing in Adventure in Africa
Thurs. Jan. 23 Cleveland P. Grant in Yukon Indian Summer
Mon. Feb. 17 Olin Sewall Pettingill, Jr. in Penguin Summer
Thurs. April 10 Telford H. Work in Monsoon Mosaic

NORTH COUNTY MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN

Mrs. Marion K. Kirkwood, 249 Lowell Ave., Palo Alto (DA3-7395) will assist the membership chairman, Mrs. Irving Snow of Los Gatos, in taking new North Santa Clara County memberships. She will have information about joining the National Audubon Society and can be easily reached by prospective North County members.

WANTED--A FIELD TRIP REPORTS EDITOR FOR THE AVOCET

Field trip reports have been coming in--some even left over from summer--but Avocet readers have been wondering, "Where are the birds?" Will someone volunteer an hour or two a month to edit these reports for publication? Editing means listing the birds in the order of Peterson's "Field Guide to Western Birds"--using the most recent names.

Call Joyce Todd if you can help. (DA2-1787) Any field trip reports still held by leaders may be sent to the Editor, 912 Roble Ridge, Palo Alto.

REMINDER: PLEASE GET IN ALL MATERIAL TO EDITORS--INCLUDING THE SEASONAL OBSERVATIONS EDITOR--BY THE 15TH OF THE MONTH PRECEDING AN AVOCET ISSUE. NEXT DEADLINE IS DECEMBER 15.

CURRENT BOOKS AND ARTICLES ON NATURAL HISTORY

Put some of these on your Christmas list.

Allen, Robert Porter. On the Trail of the Vanishing Birds. 1957, \$4.50 (Mr. Allen is research director of National Audubon Society and is responsible for the survival of our rare birds.)

Bleitz, Don. "Birds of Our Land". Saturday Evening Post, Sept. 14, 1957. (A portfolio of beautiful color photographs, with text.)

Butcher, Devereux. Exploring our National Parks and Monuments. Fifth Edition. 16 pp. color photographs, hundreds in black and white. \$3.45.

Coble, Mary Ferguson. Introduction to Ornithological Nomenclature. American Book Institute, 427 West 5th St., Los Angeles 13, Calif. 1956. \$1.50

Cruickshank, Helen G. (ed.) John and William Bartram's America. (18th century naturalists) \$5.00

Fisher, James. Wonderful World of the Sea. (Story of the seas--beautifully illustrated.) 1957. \$2.95

Gilliard, E. Thomas. "A Stone Age Naturalist". Natural History, Sept. 1957. (An astonishing tale by an American ornithologist about a Neolithic student of birds in New Guinea.)

Hall, Leonard. Country Year--A Journal of The Seasons at Possum Trot Farm. \$3.50

Hood, Mary V. Outdoor Hazards, Real and Fancied. (Reliable and fun to read.)

Hylander, Clarence J. The Young Naturalist Series. (\$3 or \$3.50 each)
Animals in Fur
Sea and Shore
Animals in Armor
Trees and Trails

Krutch, Joseph Wood. Great American Nature Writing. (An anthology--good to read aloud.) 1950. \$5.00.

Murie, Adolph. "Gulls and Mice in McKinley Park". The Living Wilderness, Spring, 1957.

Olson, Sigurd F. The Singing Wilderness. \$4.00.

Payne, Theodore (compiler) California Native Plants Desirable for Gardens and Sanctuaries. (5¢) Obtainable from Miss Ida Kizler,

3323 $\frac{1}{4}$ Rowena Ave., Los Angeles 27, Calif.

Ripley, Dillon, A Paddling of Ducks. \$6.00 (Autobiographical adventures of a naturalist.)

Smith, Gordon S. "Casanova of the Marsh". Nature Magazine, August-September, 1957. (Red-winged Blackbirds.)

Sprunt, Jr., Alexander. "Sea, Sand and Sky--Fort Jefferson National Monument". National Parks Magazine, July-Sept, 1957. (Sooty and Noddy Terns in Florida.)

Witherspoon, Patricia Bailey. "Shorebird of the Prairie". Natural History, September, 1957. (The story and pictures of a Long-Billed Curlew nesting on the Colorado prairie.)

The books are available in local bookstores or from
Service Department
National Audubon Society
2426 Bancroft Way
Berkeley 4, Calif.

LEGISLATION PENDING

The Wilderness Bill (S1176) introduced into the Senate by Senator Hubert Humphrey of Minnesota is high on the agenda of most conservation organizations in the country. It will preserve the status quo of the various officially designated wilderness areas of the country by Act of Congress which at present are protected only by the administrative authority of the Secretaries of Agriculture and of the Interior. There is nothing in the Federal Statutes that would prevent any or all of these areas from being thrown open to commercial development, if pressure on these two Secretaries should be strong enough to persuade them to take such action. The people of the United States have already lost forever 53,000 scenic wilderness acres from the Three Sisters Wilderness area of Oregon--recently opened to logging by the Secretary of Agriculture. Under the new bill, Congress could unlock any area if overriding national needs arose, but "it is a safeguard for the American people against a too rapid melting away of our heritage of primeval forest and mountain". Watch for this bill in the next session of Congress. Help it pass.

NOTES FROM BIRD WATCHERS

With the coming of autumn the migratory land birds were on their way to wintering grounds in California and farther south. The first report that WHITE-CROWNED SPARROWS had reached our area came from Dick Mewaldt. On Sept. 6 he saw two first-year birds of the race pugetensis on the lawn at his home, east of San Jose--a very early date, he said. Not until Sept. 18 were White-Crowned Sparrows again reported. On the field trip that day to Stevens Creek Park, Dorothy Smith spotted two together, one of them an adult bird. The next day, at my home in Saratoga, I saw an immature bird in company with a Golden-Crowned Sparrow. And on Sept. 20 Joyce Todd watched a White-Crowned Sparrow taking a shower in her garden in Palo Alto. The GOLDEN-CROWNED SPARROWS were apparently arriving in Santa Clara County at about the same time as the White-Crowns. My first Golden-Crown, just one silent bird, was on the lawn Sept. 17. Catherine Lintott saw one at her home near Los Gatos

on Sept. 21 and also on the following day, and on the 23rd there were two. During the remainder of Sept. the Golden and White-Crowned Sparrows gradually increased in numbers. Not until the first storm of the season were there more than a dozen at any one time on my lawn, where I scatter baby-chick scratch for them. On October 10, after rain the night before, I counted 26, mostly Golden-crowns. A very special Golden-crowned Sparrow, which I recognize as an individual because of the unusual pattern of its song, was back that day for its fifth winter in my neighborhood--back from nesting grounds which could be as far away as Alaska!

Migratory birds on their wintering grounds are commonly designated as "winter visitants", and on their nesting grounds, as "summer residents." Birds which do not truly migrate, such as House Finches, Brown Towhees and many others, are just "residents". Golden-crowned Sparrows, which nest north of California, are winter visitants in our state. Some birds can have both statuses in California because the state extends so far north and south and has such varied topography. Ruby-crowned Kinglets can be summer residents in the higher mountains of California and winter residents in the lowlands. Following are more reports of "first dates" for our winter-visitant birds: RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH, Sept 24 and several times since then, Saratoga (Herbert Wittgenstein); RUBY-CROWNED KINGLET, Sept. 25, one and on Oct. 10, two together, Saratoga (Emily Smith); CEDAR WAXWING, Sept. 27, six in fig tree, Saratoga (E.S.) and Sept. 29, flock of at least 30 birds, some of them darting out, flycatcher fashion, from cottonwoods along San Lorenzo River near Felton (Fanny Zwaal); HERMIT THRUSH, Oct. 3, at bird bath, east of San Jose (Grace Brubaker) and two fussing at each other daily since Oct. 12, Saratoga (E.S.); (Red-breasted Sapsucker) YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKER, Oct. 6 near Los Gatos (E.S.); AUDUBON'S WARBLER, Oct. 11, Palo Alto (Harriet Mundy); WHITE-THROATED SPARROW, Oct. 12 and 13, Saratoga (Manette Wittgenstein); FOX SPARROW, Oct. 16, on feed tray, Santa Cruz Mts., (Lina Snow), Oct. 17, Saratoga (E.S.), and on Oct. 18, Boronda Farm near Menlo Park (Field Trip); VARIOUS THRUSH, Oct. 18, on feed tray, Santa Cruz Mts. (Lina Snow).

Most of the summer-resident birds in Santa Clara County spend the winter south of the Mexican Border, some as far south as South America. The following "last dates" for some of our summer residents could have been for birds which nested north of our area and were passing through on their way south: BLACK-HEADED GROSBEAK, Sept. 6, Saratoga (E.S.); WESTERN WOOD PEWEE, Sept. 16, Stevens Creek Park (Field Trip); (Russet-backed) SWAINSON'S THRUSH, Sept. 25, near Saratoga (E.S.); WESTERN FLYCATCHER, Sept. 25, Palo Alto (Harriet Mundy); WESTERN TANAGER, Sept. 13 and Oct. 10, Saratoga (E.S.); HOODED ORIOLE, Oct. 13, with black on chin and throat, Santa Clara (Evelyn Case); BARN SWALLOW, Oct. 13, one among many VIOLET-GREEN SWALLOWS, Searsville Lake (Field Trip); VAUX'S SWIFT, Oct. 13, at least one among Violet-green Swallows, Westridge near Menlo Park (Field Trip) and Oct. 4, more than 20 among migrating swallows, Saratoga (E.S. , who now has two nests from the two chimneys in Los Gatos where Vaux's Swifts nested this past summer--the nests made of match-size twigs glued together with saliva!). A (Calaveras) NASHVILLE WARBLER, which is a summer resident in the Sierra Nevada and elsewhere northward and occasionally migrates through our area was seen by Elsa and Eric Thorsen at their home near Alviso on Sept. 4.

WHITE-TAILED KITES merit a separate paragraph. Charlotte McBride saw one just south of Sunnyvale, on the west side of Bayshore Highway,

on Sept. 26; and
over a field near

Brubaker
Alviso.

Smith
Una Dr.
ca, Cal.

R'S NOTES

Senator Neuberger (D.-Ore.) depl es man's cruelty to fur-bearing animals in his bill to prohibit the use of toothed steel traps and other "instruments of medieval torture", as he calls them, on federal lands. Fur coats, like egret plumes, should perhaps be outlawed except where the fur is ranch-raised.

Attractive window stickers and bumper strips: "Follow the birds-- to British Columbia".

Arnold Small (Los Angeles Audubon Society) in The Western Tanager found it difficult to convince his British amateur ornithologist friend that California Condors are very scarce and seldom seen. On August 24, they saw 25 to 30 Condors "at or near the summit of Mt. Pinos. As many as 17 Condors were visible at one time. Some Condors were in view almost continuously from about 12:30 p.m. until 3:30 p.m., many coming very close. They may have withdrawn from the Sespe Canyon area due to the chaparral fire in that vicinity."

After nearly a decade of bowing to a small but vociferous local opposition, Congress passed a bill setting up a National Wildlife Refuge for the protection of the rare subspecies of whitetail deer that inhabits only the Florida Keyes.

SANTA CLARA VALLEY AUDUBON SOCIETY INC.-BRANCH OF NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY

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