

# The Avocet

Volume V Number 3

March, 1958

## WHERE SHOULD MANAGEMENT STOP?

"The problem today is not survival in the wilderness - but survival of the wilderness." (Wilderness Travel, Olympic National Park pamphlet.)

One of man's most distinguishing characteristics is that while other forms of life may thrive by adapting themselves to their environment, man thrives by adapting his environment to himself. Man thinks of himself not as a creature of the earth, but as master of it. He is, however, just one of many animal populations dependent upon the earth for existence, and the changes he has wrought in the earth have gone very deep. In the 1800's alone, we have used up forever or beyond repair products nature has taken eons to make. Now, despite our earlier delusions we must squarely face the fact that our resources are not unlimited.

The idea of conservation by intelligent management grew from small beginnings fifty years ago. But now, before we have learned to manage our already developed lands, we are attempting management in our undeveloped areas. This practice raises some serious questions, not only for conservationists but for everyone:

1. Are all of our present concepts of management consistent with the fundamental patterns of nature? One exponent of pure management in our forests says that "nature is never right". But ecologists say that, right or wrong, nature can be very dangerous to human life when tampered with.
2. How long does it take to judge the total effect of our management methods? Early experimental success is often very misleading. German foresters felt that a pure stand of spruce would be desirable. At first the experiment was judged a huge success, but the forest eventually died, for it was discovered later that other species are needed to grow with spruce for its survival.
3. Our most important question is simply, where should management stop? Will every insect epidemic have to be controlled, every fire extinguished, and finally every inch managed? The scenic and esthetic losses will be immeasurable. Even more disturbing, we may have lost our natural controls forever. Must we have such total management? Is there no choice between outright exploitation for immediate economic gain, and "multiple use" for our remaining undeveloped lands? Future generations need and will appreciate our gift to them of undisturbed areas of the earth, as much as we can still provide. We assert the right of the pre-human world to survive.

-----Condensed from Peggy and Edgar Wayburn's article of same title in Sierra Club Bulletin, January, 1958, by J. Todd.



MARCH CALENDAR

## Regular Meeting:

Monday, March 10, at Palo Alto Junior Museum (Middlefield Road) at 8:00 p.m. Mrs. Ralph D. Robinson will tell us about "Running the Rivers of the Dinosaur"--illustrated with color slides. Conservationists are working to give Dinosaur National Monument the status of National Park.

## Board Meeting:

Monday, March 10, at Palo Alto Junior Museum, at 7:00 p.m.

## Field Trips:

Wednesday Morning, March 12, to Holly Lodge Farm, Woodside. Meet at 9:00 a.m. at Caldwell's Store, Woodside. Leader, Mrs. Marjorie Davis (DA2-8586).

Sunday, March 16, to Moss Landing. Meet at 9:00 a.m. at the junction of Highway 1 with Construction Road (north of the stone bridge over Elkhorn Slough). Construction Road leads toward the ocean. Bring lunch and interested friends. Leader: Miss Marjorie Van Scoyoc (DA4-1210).

Wednesday Morning, March 26, to Woodhill Ranch and elsewhere along Prospect Road in the western foothills. Meet at 8:30 a.m. at intersection of Saratoga-Sunnyvale Road (Calif. 9) and Prospect Road, about halfway between Saratoga and Cupertino. Leaders: Dr. and Mrs. James A. Cutting (AL2-4214).

Saturday, March 29, work party to spray and begin on the Nature Trail at Montalvo Wildlife Sanctuary. Meet at 9:00 a.m. at the parking lot to the right of the Villa. Bring work clothes, shovels, mattocks, pruning shears and pruning saws. Mr. Harley Bothwell will be in charge of spraying. To help the hot lunch planners please phone Mrs. Homer Paterson (AM2-1714) or Frank Goraj (DA5-8847) in advance. Frank can answer any questions you may have about the project.

-----Frank Goraj, Field Trip Chairman

HAVASU LAKE NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

Would you like to see it?

The Field Trip Committee has been asked to arrange a trip to Havasu Lake National Wildlife Refuge, which extends for 60 miles along both sides of the Colorado River in Arizona and California. The area is administered by the Fish and Wildlife Service (U.S. Dept. of Interior) and is a unit in the chain of refuges of the Pacific flyway extending from Canada to Mexico. The Topock Swamp makes up the northern portion of the refuge; below the Swamp the refuge narrows into Mohave Canyon, then opens into the wider area of Havasu Lake which reaches to Parker Dam at its southern end. Just above Parker Dam the Bill Williams arm of the lake reaches to the Bill Williams delta. Bird life is rich and varied: Double-crested Cormorants and Great Blue Herons nest in portions of the refuge, Common and Snowy Egrets

breed in the Topock Swamp, Harris' Hawks are permanent residents. Labeled "Permanent Residents--common" are such birds as the Road Runner, Gila Woodpecker, Ladder-backed Woodpecker, Vermillion Flycatcher, Verdin, Crissal Thrasher, Black-tailed Gnatcatcher, Phainopepla, etc. If you would be interested in making such a Field Trip, which would require 3-4 days over a vacation weekend, please contact the Field Trip Chairman: Francis H. Goraj, 675 Florales Drive, Palo Alto (DA5-8847). We will see if enough people want to do it before involving the Society in arrangements.

-----F. G.

### NEW MEMBERS

We are pleased to add these new people to our growing membership list:

Miss Elizabeth Von Rosslor	19361 Mountain Way	Los Gatos
Mrs. Horace Hinds, Jr.	342 N. Rosanna St.	Gilroy
Mr. Roy E. Danby	132 Del Monte Ave.	Los Altos
Mr. C. E. Purviance	228 Seale Avenue	Palo Alto
Mrs. Roy E. Miller	1813 Patio Drive	San Jose

There have been many requests for information about the Audubon Society. This form should make it easy for members to help others learn about our work.

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Please send me information about the National Audubon Society and details concerning membership:

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to: Mrs. Irving Snow, Membership Chairman  
21,441 Roaring Water Way  
Los Gatos, California

### OUR LIVELY PUBLICITY COMMITTEE NEEDS YOU!

The pressure of her work and her classes has forced one member of our Committee to resign. Will you help us by filling her place or asking a friend to do so? The job is sending out the monthly Field Trip notices to newspapers. All you need to know is how to type. We have been doing very well up to now, with the papers publishing most of our notices. With the help of one more person, we hope to carry on for the remaining months.

Cordially,

Jane Goraj, Publicity Chairman (DA5-8847)

FISH AND GAME CODE REVISIONS  
 "HAWKS AND OWLS"

by Edwin R. Pickett, of Sacramento Audubon Society  
 (The Avocet has been too lengthy before now  
 to include this vital summary.....J.T.)

Assembly Bill 2851, introduced by Assemblyman MacBride, at the request of the writer acting for the Audubon Societies, was passed by both Houses of the Legislature and signed by the Governor and became effective September 11th.

While we have referred to it as the Hawk and Owl Bill, it actually went a great deal further. It was in effect a revision of several sections of the Code which were badly in need of modernization. The word predatory is eliminated from all sections of the Code and the word non-protected is substituted. We have been trying to get away from this usage and hope this is a firm step in that direction. The main points of interest to our members is the reclassification of birds and mammals.

There are five classifications of birds as follows.

1. Migratory Game Birds - This classification includes Ducks, Geese, Doves, Pigeons and all other species over which the Federal Government has control.
2. Resident Game Birds - This category includes the Exotic Doves, various species of Quail, Grouse, Partridges and Pheasants, etc. The California Fish and Game Commission has control over this category.
3. Fully Protected Birds - The fully protected birds are California Condors, Bald Eagles, White-tailed Kites and Trumpeter Swans. These cannot be taken for any purpose.
4. Non-Protected Birds - This list now is limited to English Sparrows, Crows, Black-billed Magpies, Scrub Jays, Stellar's Jays and Starlings.
5. Protected Non-Game - All birds not in any of the above categories are now known as protected non-game birds. It is unlawful to take or possess any protected non-game bird except as provided by rules and regulations adopted by the Secretary of Interior under the provisions of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. Protected non-game birds not covered by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, which are found to be injuring growing crops or property, may be killed by the owner or tenant of the premises. This is the category which protects all the Hawks and Owls as well as all other species that are not already protected under the Migratory Bird Act.

The Act also reclassifies mammals into the following classification: Game, Fur Bearing, Non-Protected and Fully Protected. The fully protected mammals are the Sea Otter, Guadalupe, Fur Seal, Seal Elephant and Mountain Sheep. In addition to this, several controversial animals such as the Raccoon, Beaver, Badger, Ring-tailed Cat and Muskrat have

been taken from the unprotected list and put in the fur bearing classification, and in this way, the Fish and Game Commission will exercise jurisdiction and either allow open season or no season, dependent upon conditions.

It is not possible to give more than a sketchy outline of what the Bill covers but the new Fish and Game Code which the Department expects to have in the hands of the public before the end of the year will have all these new Code provisions. The matter is further complicated by the fact that the entire Fish and Game Code was revised at the last session of the Legislature and these changes have to be fitted into that revision.

### MOSS LANDING AND RICHARDSON'S BAY

Moss Landing, on the California coast south of Watsonville, is one of the very few remaining salt marsh habitats in California, and it should be made a Wildlife Refuge. An ecological survey of the Elkhorn Slough area will be made in the near future, sponsored in part by the Monterey Peninsula Audubon Society. Santa Clara Valley members have an opportunity to visit the area on the March 16 Field Trip.

The San Francisco Chronicle for Sunday, January 12, reports that Marin County conservationists have won their long fight to preserve an undeveloped area of the Tiburon peninsula and adjoining Belvedere Island. The Marin Conservation League and Richardson Bay Foundation have extended their options to 690 acres in Richardson Bay tidelands on which real estate developers had wanted to build 2500 tract homes. Much of the \$200,000 needed for the purchase has been secured -- \$55,000 as a down payment coming from the bond issue recently approved by voters of Belvedere. The National Audubon Society will contribute generously. John H. Baker, President of N.A.S., will be the speaker at Marin Conservation League, March 7, 1958, 6:30 p.m., College of Marin, on "The Surge of Desire to Establish Wildlife Sanctuaries".

-----J. T.

### NOTES FROM BIRD WATCHERS

The winter has been mild, and there has been enough rain to put thick carpets of bright yellow mustard and oxalis in many orchards. Everybody has been noticing the unusually large numbers of Robins and of Cedar Waxwings. And now the bird watcher with an attentive ear is hearing songs of Plain Titmouse, California Thrasher, Song Sparrow, and other resident birds which are getting ready for the nesting season. In my neighborhood there has been much titmouse talk--chitters, trills, and various calls--since before Christmas. I would so like to know what it is all about! I know only that Left-Yellow's mate of last fall (The Avocet, Vol. V, No. 1, P. 5) has disappeared, and that Right-Red has come back to her nesting territory of last year and apparently has accepted Left-Yellow as her mate--the same titmouse which drove her and Right-Blue out last September!



The Anna's Hummingbird is usually the first of our resident birds to start nest-building. On January 5 Evelyn Case, in her garden near Santa Clara, saw a female gather seed "fluff" from a Coyote Brush and carry it off. And in my garden, on the 15th, another pulled cotton from the top of dead flower stalks of Japanese Anemone plants.

The first report of a spring arrival came from Lina Snow. On January 21 and again on the 24th, she saw a male Allen's Hummingbird, back from Mexico, feeding at flowers of the manzanita bushes at her home in the Santa Cruz Mts. On the 24th it swung into its "pendulum" flight, with spread of reddish brown tail; but no female was visible.

The following miscellaneous notes are crowded into one paragraph to save space. CANADA GOOSE - On Dec. 30 "not less than 500 geese" came overhead from the SE and settled on Crystal Springs Reservoir, "all facing south, necks erect, ... just resting." (Marjorie Fraser). BONAPARTE'S GULL - About 200, on salt pond off east approach to Dumbarton Bridge, Dec. 2, "feeding somewhat as do phalaropes" (Antoinette Hillbrand). And at least that many in same area, Feb. 16 (E.D.S.). WHITE-TAILED KITE - Two, by Alviso School, morning of Dec. 4, and one in afternoon near junction of Trimble Rd. and Oakland Highway (Grace Brubaker). Anne Peterson saw two by same school on Dec. 2. RED-SHOULDERED HAWK - "Pair setting up residence in my little forest" in Los Altos (Lynn Robbins, in letter dated Jan. 6). KISKADEE FLYCATCHER - One seen recently in San Jose by Dr. Tom Harvey of San Jose State College (reported by Dr. Dick Mewaldt). ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER - One at suet feeder, Palo Alto, Dec. 27 (Harriet Mundy). TOWNSEND'S WARBLER - One among Audubon's Warblers in eucalyptus tree, Montalvo Wildlife Sanctuary, in Saratoga, Jan. 22 (Roberta Wright). TOWNSEND'S SOLITAIRE - One, in small leafless Ginkgo, only 12 ft. from me, at my home in Saratoga, Jan. 15. WHITE-THROATED SPARROW - One, Los Trancos Woods Rd., in San Mateo Co., Dec. 1 (Bob Wood). One on feed tray in Los Gatos, Jan. 9, and occasionally since then (Alberta Edell). One, at Ernest Woon's home in Ben Lomond, Jan. 31 (Dr. Dick Mewaldt). And one has been seen frequently at the Herbert Wittgensteins' home in Saratoga since first reported Oct. 12. HARRIS'S SPARROW - After reporting both a Harris's Sparrow and a White-throated Sparrow at the Christmas Bird Count tally Dr. Dick Mewaldt added that earlier in December, at Pigeon Point in San Mateo Co., he and Dr. Henry Weston had caught in a mist net, for banding purposes, one of each of these rather rare sparrows, along with Golden-crowned and White-crowned sparrows--four species of the genus Zonotrichia in one netting!

-----Emily D. Smith  
19651 Glen Una Dr., Saratoga

(Editor's Note: The KISKADEE FLYCATCHER reported above is also called a DERBY FLYCATCHER. He has been wintering at and around 1164 Roycott Drive, off Lincoln Avenue, in the Willow Glen section of San Jose, although he is supposed to be in the Lower Rio Grande Valley, Texas. Residents of the Roycott Drive area are friendly, it has been reported, if you are interested in meeting this unusual bird.---J.T.)

## EDITOR'S NOTES

Reports on the beautiful new Ano Nuevo State Park and on the tragic delays which have plagued the proposed Butano State Park will appear next month.

Correction: In last month's list of Christmas Bird count participants, "Jim Peterson" should read "Jim Furinton". Please accept my apologies.

The Palo Alto Times for Jan. 31, 1958 reports a heavy influx of starlings into California. They used to confine their visits to the winter months, but one nest was recently found. Farmers are concerned, since they consider the bird a threat to crops, but ordinarily starlings prefer colder, more northern climates for nesting, and therefore may not become a nuisance here.

-----J.T.

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