

The Avocet

Volume V Number 10

November 1958

MEET OUR NEW PRESIDENT

Mrs. John L. McBride of Los Altos has consented to be our President for the current year. We are very proud to have the leadership of such a very able and very busy person. Charlotte is an expert on those complex birds--hawks and owls--a noted amateur ornithologist. After a period as Registrar of the Los Angeles Audubon Society, she became President. Her work with that organization and with the El Monte teaching center has been recognized by National Audubon Society. After moving to Los Altos during her term as President, she flew to Los Angeles twice a month to conduct board and regular meetings. She attends the National Audubon Convention yearly. We thank you, Charlotte, for accepting this job on top of a very busy schedule.

---J. T.

CONVENTION

The Convention of the National Audubon Society in New York will be held this year from November 8 to November 11. As usual, the climax of the convention is the Annual Dinner on the evening of the last day when Santa Clara Valley's own Albert J. Wool will present his striking film, "Ranch and Range". We are mighty pleased with you, Al!

----C.A.McB.

POINT REYES PARK PROPOSAL

The National Park Service is urging establishment of a seashore recreation area along the coast of the Point Reyes Peninsula in Marin County. Newspapers and conservation organizations in San Francisco and Marin Co. responded to the report with immediate enthusiasm, but strong opposition has already developed from dairy ranchers in the area. The Park would contain some 28,000 acres, room for beach and inland camping, sailing, swimming, hiking, nature study. There is a very great variety of plant life and an abundant bird and animal life. Take time to explore this beautiful area now and ask yourself whether it is worth saving for a time when, by official calculation, California will be jammed with nearly four times its present population.

---Harold Gilliam, Sierra Club Bulletin 9/58

COMING EVENTS AT A GLANCE

Mon. Nov. 3	8:00 p.m.	Screen Tour, San Jose
Wed. Nov. 5	10:00 a.m.	Palo Alto Yacht Harbor
Sun. Nov. 9	8:30 a.m.	Dumbarton Bridge
Mon. Nov. 17	8:00 p.m.	Palo Alto Jr. Museum
Wed. Nov. 19	8:30 a.m.	Ladera Area
Sun. Nov. 23	9:00 a.m.	Santa Cruz



NOVEMBER CALENDAR

Regular Meeting:

Monday, November 17, 8:00 p.m. at Palo Alto Junior Museum, Middlefield Road, Palo Alto. Mr. Donald H. Fry will present a lecture on "Birds and Mammals of Western Uganda", illustrated with color slides made during his stay in Africa.

Field Trips:

Wednesday, November 5, 10:00 a.m. at Palo Alto Yacht Harbor. The hour is late because of low tide. Our Audubon warden, John O. Larson, will lead the trip. For further information call Virginia Bothwell (DA2-1209).

Sunday, November 9, 8:30 a.m. at Dumbarton Bridge Salt Marsh Sanctuary. Meet at Hiller Helicopter plant on Willow Road. Bring lunch. Leader: Les Sleeper (DA3-9370).

Wednesday, November 19, 8:30 a.m. Meet at Ladera Shopping Center across from Merrivale Antique Shop. The trip is planned for a nearby area. Leader: Virginia Bothwell (DA2-1209).

Sunday, November 23, 9:00 a.m. to Santa Cruz. Meet at the Lyndon Hotel in Los Gatos. Bring Lunch. Leaders: Dr. and Mrs. Herbert Wittgenstein (EL4-9420). --Emmanuel Taylor, Field Trip Chmn. (FR4-3219)

Screen Tour:

Monday, November 3, "Ranch of the Purple Flowers" with Robert C. Hermes. All Screen Tours are at Morris Dailey Auditorium, San Jose State College, 8:00 p.m. Mr. Hermes will show Venezuelan wildlife in color and action. An extensive and vivid array of birds, the tree-climbing anteater, the strange little pecuri, the beautiful Venezuelan deer, red howler monkeys--filmed in the Orinoco Basin. If you don't already have season tickets, single admissions are available at the door on the night of performance.

ASILOMAR

Have you made your request for reservations for the Biennial Convention at Asilomar, March 21-24? Available accomodations are growing scarcer by the week. Featured speaker and guest participant will be Roger Tory Peterson. Information from West Coast Office, National Audubon Society, 2426 Bancroft Way, Berkeley, California.

----J. T.

WORK SHOP

Please keep in mind the date: January 10. The Sixth Annual Meeting of Northern California Audubon Branches and Affiliates will be held at Mills College. This is always an informative workshop. Those of you who wish to attend please contact me for further details or for transportation if it is needed. Those of us who attended last year found it both interesting and enjoyable.

---Charlotte McBride

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WH8-2335

NOTES FROM AFIELD

The South San Francisco Bay Sanctuary is the locality for this month's outstanding record, even though it dates away back to August 7. On that day John Sinton of Stanford saw a Black Rail at the east end of the railroad bridge along the edge of the marsh. (Audubon Warden John O. Larson reports a Black Rail seen Oct. 5 --J.T.). Prospective sign-posters take notice and sign up with Frank Goraj (see the October Avocet, page 60).

No albatrosses were seen but the boat trip from Santa Cruz on September 22 was highly successful. Sooty and Pink-footed Shearwaters were common as might be expected but the ten to fifteen New Zealand Shearwaters were a welcome surprise. Petrels were common, also, with 50 to 100 Blacks and smaller numbers of Ashy and Fork-tailed. Common Murre, Marbled Murrelet, Sabine's Gull, Northern Phalarope, Parasitic Jaeger, Brown Pelican, and Brandt's Cormorant rounded out the list. After the boat docked some of us drove to Wood's Lagoon on East Cliff Drive (Santa Cruz) and found the Elegant Tern seen there previously by many persons. The last noteworthy bird of that day was an Osprey soaring over the sea cliffs north of Davenport.

Charles and Fanny Zwaal report a list of 32 species seen on the September 28th field trip to Henry Cowell Redwoods State Park. Audubon's Warbler, Swainson's Thrush, Fygmy Nuthatch, Townsend's Warbler, Winter Wren, and Green Heron were among the birds seen.

Several dates have been received from Harriet Mundy of lingering summer residents that are worthy of mention, being later than dates given here last month. She reports a Yellow Warbler on September 21 and a Western Flycatcher on September 29, both in Palo Alto. Her Audubon's Warbler on September 26, also in Palo Alto, is the earliest date received so far. Other "firsts" seen in Portola Valley by Bob Wood are: Hermit Thrush on October 8, Fox Sparrow on October 12, Cedar Waxwing on October 18. (These "firsts" dates are undoubtedly not always the earliest, but your earlier records can't get here by themselves.)

In response to last month's question concerning observations on the sleeping habits of birds, Charles and Emma Scarlott report a Chickadee that picked an unusual sleeping place on the porch of their Portola Valley home - in the conical depression at the end of a rolled-up bamboo curtain!

Another response to last month's column comes from Syd Harrison who explains the occurrence of Yellow-billed Magpies in San Francisco's Lafayette Square. It turns out that some friends of his living in that vicinity released the birds after keeping them as pets.

--- Robert Wood
1007 Los Trancos Road
Menlo Park
ULmar 1-1237

EDITOR'S NOTES

Mrs. Lee Ellis, one of our newest field trip leaders, reports ten members birding around Searsville Lake on a recent Wednesday morning trip. They observed 37 species, but felt that an earlier time (7:00 or 7:30 a.m.) would have revealed even more. If Audubonites can go owling at Inverness at 4:00 a.m. (and they do!), I suppose we should not cavil at 7:00.

Call Mary Meehan (WH8-4949) if you would like to see the great concentration of water birds at the State and Federal Refuges near Willows. Birds number near 5,000,000 at the height of the migration period. We could tie in with trips of neighboring Audubon Societies who are planning to go there in November.

Mrs. Wells of Los Altos suggests that we visit the Barn Owls at 426 Palo Alto Avenue, Palo Alto, bordering San Francisquito Creek. They nest in a palm in front of the home of Mrs. Margaret Johnson, who is fond of the owls and does not mind visitors watching them. There are two young owls, whose parents fare forth around 5:00 p.m. to hunt.

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The Whooping Crane flock has begun its long migration from Canada to Texas. Hunters are once again being urged, "Don't Shoot Any Large White Bird". There is still hope of saving this species if everybody will be careful.

On Nov. 10 a hearing will be held in San Francisco on the proposal to establish a national wilderness preservation policy and program. This has just been announced by Sen. James E. Murray, Chairman of Senate Interior and Insular Affairs Committee. Persons desiring to testify for or against the proposals are requested to notify Sen. Murray as early as possible at Room 224, Senate Office Bldg., Washington, D.C. Further arrangements will be announced later.

Palo Alto officials are discussing plans for a $4\frac{1}{2}$ square mile huge city "mountain park" in the foothills between Los Altos Hills and Stanford lands.

Living Birds of the World by E. Thomas Gilliard, Associate Curator of Birds, American Museum of Natural History, is a beautiful new book containing 217 color plates. The cover bird is an Avocet in breeding plumage, and the price is still pre-pub.--\$9.95.

The U. S. Dept. of Agriculture has declared its intention to give additional protection to California's Bristlecone Pines, believed to be the oldest living things. At least 100 are rated 4,000 years old. Many more range between 3 and 4,000. The Dept. of Interior has requested withdrawal of about 26,700 acres in Inyo and Mono Counties as a botanical area, to be closed to any form of exploitation that would endanger the lives of these trees.

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