

# The Avocet

Volume VI Number 2

February 1959

## FLASH

Asilomar

Reservations

GOING --- GOING but NOT QUITE GONE! Yes, a few beds, chairs and dining-room table space still remain. So send in your reservation TODAY or write for it. The address :

National Audubon Society  
2425 Bancroft Way  
Berkeley 4, California

March 21 to March 24 will be days to remember at the Audubon Convention.

---William N. Goodall  
West Coast Representative

## EDUCATION COMMITTEE REPORT

(We are pleased to publish this first report from one of the Society's most important and active committees. To date these energetic and well-organized souls have met only once!---J. M.)

1. Two nature walks with the Boy Scout Troop led by Ray Keyes, Palo Alto : one to Montalvo, the other to So. San Francisco Bay Sanctuaries.
2. One meeting of this troop jointly with another, addressed by our Sanctuary Warden, John C. Larson, Jr., with slides of the Audubon Sanctuary at Green Island, Texas.
3. One nature walk to the Wolcott Ranch in Los Altos Hills.
4. One nature walk with Bluebirds to the Wolcott Ranch.
5. Materials loaned to Bluebirds for their own project, Palo Alto.

---Jane and Frank Goraj

## COMING EVENTS AT A GLANCE

Mon. Feb. 2	7:30 p.m.	Board Meeting, Palo Alto
Sun. Feb. 8	8:30 a.m.	Chesbro Reservoir
Wed. Feb. 11	8:30 a.m.	Boronda Farm
Wed. Feb. 11	8:00 p.m.	Morris Dailey Auditorium, San Jose
Mon. Feb. 16	8:00 p.m.	Regular Meeting, Palo Alto
Sun. Feb. 22	9:00 a.m.	Evergreen
Wed. Feb. 25	8:30 a.m.	Searsville Lake



February Calendar

## Board Meeting :

Monday, February 2, at Palo Alto Jr. Museum, 7:30 p.m.

## Regular Meeting :

Monday, February 16, at Palo Alto Jr. Museum, 8:00 p.m. Bob Woods will show his own slides of "The New England Year". We will see plants and animals in color - changing with the seasons.

## Screen Tour :

Wednesday, February 11, at Morris Dailey Auditorium, San Jose State College, 8:00 p.m. Leonard Hall will present Waterway Wildlife - a colorful panorama of many wild creatures harbored and nurtured by a Midwestern watershed. Included are muskrats, white-tailed deer, least bittern, Canada geese, rock bass, cottontail rabbits, red foxes, mink and crayfish. Karl Maslowski's spectacular photography accompanied by effective sound recordings of waterway dwellers, and an informative narrative and forceful conservation message by Leonard Hall of Caledonia, Missouri make this a superlative Screen Tour program. Tickets may be purchased at the door.

## Field Trips :

Sunday, February 8, to the Chesbro Reservoir Area. Meet at 8:30 a.m. at the Almaden Union School at Almaden Road and Downer Avenue. Bring lunch. Leaders: Mr. and Mrs. Charles Zwaal (CY2-2060).

Wednesday Morning, February 11, to Boronda Farm, south of Menlo Park. Meet at 8:30 a.m. at the Ladera Shopping Center on Alpine Road. Leader: Mrs. Virginia Bothwell (DA 2-1209).

Sunday, February 22, to Yerba Buena and Vista Villa Roads area. Meet at 9:00 a.m. at the old school in Evergreen. Bring lunch. Leaders: Mr. and Mrs. Emmanuel Taylor (FR 8 -3219).

Wednesday Morning, February 25, to Searsville Lake, west of Stanford University. Meet at 8:30 a.m. at entrance gate, near junction of Sand Hill and Portola Roads. There is an entrance fee of 25 cents. Leader: Miss Marjorie Fraser (EM 6-6846).

---Emmanuel Taylor  
Field Trip Chairman

New Members

A warm welcome to the following new members :

Adm. Ransom Kirby Davis	1140 San Mateo Dr.	Menlo Park
Mr. Robert L. Fuller	4309 Collins Court	Mt. View
Mr. & Mrs. L. A. Hawkinson	21525 Old Mine Road	Los Gatos
Mr. Bill Jonas	913 Delbert Way, Apt. 5	San Jose 27
Dr. Dorothy Kaucher	143 Bella Vista Avenue	Los Gatos
Miss Mildred Kaucher	143 Bella Vista Avenue	Los Gatos
Mrs. Karole Kinne	142 West 22nd Avenue	San Mateo
Miss Hildreth L. Kotsch	16196 Highland Drive	San Jose 27
Mrs. Phil C. Neal	578 Mirada Avenue	Stanford
Mr. & Mrs. Charles Scarlott	150 Stonegate Road	Menlo Park
Mr. Max Uribe	14410 Cancouver Court	San Jose 27

We hope you will enjoy our meetings and field trips and that you will join in working toward Audubon objectives; the Society deserves your active support.

---Mrs. Irving Snow  
Membership Chairman

### 1958 CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

On Sunday 21 December 1958, the Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society made its annual Christmas Bird Count. The "San Jose, California" count was directed by Emmanuel Taylor and Emily Smith; L. Richard Mewaldt was the compiler.

As usual, the count was made in a 15-mile diameter circle centering at Capitol Avenue and Maybury Road in East San Jose. Estimates of time spent by the 38 observers in 12 parties follow: grassland and pasture 17%, deciduous orchard 17%, canyon stream 15%, salt water marsh 13%, cultivated crop lands 10%, oak woodland 7%, formal parks 7%, town suburbs 6%, chaparral 3%, fresh water marsh 2%, fresh water lake 2%, valley stream 1%. The count was made from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Although it was one of the driest and warmest seasons in the history of the area, there was low overcast, rain, and fog in varying amounts throughout the count period. The temperature varied from 51° to 56°; the wind was 0 to 5 miles per hour from the southwest.

The 122 species recorded represents the largest number recorded in a Christmas Count in our census area. Previous highs were in 1951 and in 1957 when 115 were recorded. A total of 57,845 individual birds is substantially higher than the 45,512 of last year. Perhaps the most significant observations were the 103 Starlings in the Alviso sector and the seven in the Alum Rock sector. This species will probably appear in greater and greater numbers each winter for several years. In a few years it will probably become established as a nesting species. The comparatively large numbers of Golden-crowned Kinglets in contrast to the small numbers of Robins are also worthy of note. The former arrived early in the season and have since been seen repeatedly throughout the San Francisco Bay Region. The mild fall and winter seasons probably account in part for the comparatively few Robins. Several species which are seldom seen in our counts include the American Bittern, Green Heron, Black-throated Gray Warbler, Grasshopper Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow, and Harris' Sparrow.

The 1958 sector leaders and party members were as follows:

Alviso: Henry G. Weston, Richard Flower, Bob Fuller, Mervin Guintoli, Thomas Harvey.

Southwest: Angelina Snow, Lloyd M. Case, Evelyn Case, Emily Connery, Elsie D. Hoeck, Wilbur Luick, Charles Zwaal, Fanny Zwaal.

Evergreen: Emmanuel Taylor, Florence Durfee, Alberta Edell, Frank Goraj, Jane Goraj, Agnes Prusman, Clyde Prusman, Mary Shane, Emily Smith, Mary Taylor.

Alum Rock: Robert Wood, Virginia Bothwell, Grace Brubaker, Karen Brubaker, Ernest Friedlander, Stoner Haven, John Sinton.

Alaveras: Al Wool, Neil Dickinson, Joe Dickinson, Bill Mewaldt, L. Richard Mewaldt, Bob Row, Chuck Scarlott, Les Sleeper.

More than fifty persons participated in the summary starting at 5 p.m. at the home of Fran and Dick Mewaldt in East San Jose. Refreshments were arranged by the Social Committee.

SPECIES	Alviso Sector	S.W. Sector	Evergr. Sector	Alum R. Sector	Calv. Sect.	All Sectors
Eared Grebe	3540	-	-	-	-	3540
Pied-billed Grebe	-	-	1	-	6	7
Double-crested Cormorant	2	-	-	-	-	2
Great Blue Heron	4	-	-	-	2	6
Green Heron	-	-	-	1	-	1
Common Egret	10	-	-	-	-	10
Snowy Egret	4	-	-	1	-	5
American Bittern	-	-	-	1	-	1
Canada Goose	-	-	-	-	705	705
Snowy Goose	-	-	1	-	-	1
Mallard	-	-	-	-	6	6
Pintail	10	-	11	-	-	21
Green-winged Teal	-	-	-	-	3	3
Cinnamon Teal	1	-	-	-	-	1
American Widgeon	129	-	-	-	-	129
Shoveler	54	-	-	-	140	194
Wood Duck	-	5	-	-	-	5
Ring-necked Duck	-	-	19	-	3	22
Lesser Scaup	10	-	-	-	-	10
Common Goldeneye	-	-	-	-	5	5
Ruddy Duck	84	-	86	-	22	192
duck (sp.)	12	-	-	-	-	12
White-tailed Kite	2	2	-	-	3	7
Sharp-shinned Hawk	-	-	-	1	1	2
Cooper's Hawk	-	-	-	-	2	2
Red-tailed Hawk	2	1	3	2	21	29
Red-shouldered Hawk	1	-	-	-	-	1
Golden Eagle	-	-	-	-	1	1
Sparrow Hawk	13	6	16	4	46	85
California Quail	-	72	98	4	54	228
Ring-necked Pheasant	5	-	-	-	4	9
American Coot	1330	-	513	-	650	2493
Killdeer	82	83	26	9	157	357
Black-bellied Plover	100	-	-	-	-	100
Common Snipe	1	-	-	4	1	6
Long-billed Curlew	17	-	-	-	-	17
Spotted Sandpiper	4	-	-	1	-	5
Willet	68	-	-	-	-	68
Greater Yellowlegs	9	-	2	-	2	13
Least Sandpiper	139	-	-	-	-	139
Dunlin	232	-	-	-	-	232
Short-billed Dowitcher	197	-	-	-	-	197
Long-billed Dowitcher	41	-	-	-	6	47
Western Sandpiper	175	-	-	-	6	181
American Avocet	149	-	-	-	-	149
sandpiper (sp.)	375	-	-	-	-	375
Glaucous-winged Gull	20	-	-	-	-	20
Western Gull	-	6	-	-	-	6
Herring Gull	3000	-	-	-	-	3000
California Gull	-	12	35	-	150	197
Ring-billed Gull	3440	-	-	-	915	4355
Bonaparte's Gull	72	-	-	-	-	72
gull (sp.)	11,500	161	-	43	1500	13,204

SPECIES	Alviso Sector	S.W. Sector	Evergr. Sector	Alum R. Sector	Calv. Sect.	All Sectors
Forster's Tern	60	-	-	-	-	60
Mourning Dove	13	9	20	-	73	115
Barn Owl	-	-	-	1	-	1
Screech Owl	-	-	-	-	2	2
Great-horned Owl	-	-	-	-	1	1
Burrowing Owl	9	-	-	-	4	13
Anna's Hummingbird	-	6	2	7	-	15
Belted Kingfisher	1	-	-	2	3	6
Red-shafted Flicker	7	34	41	19	57	158
Acorn Woodpecker	-	10	11	-	7	28
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	-	-	4	3	1	8
Hairy Woodpecker	-	2	-	1	1	4
Downy Woodpecker	-	-	2	7	3	12
Nuttall's Woodpecker	-	-	-	5	6	11
Black Phoebe	4	10	16	7	14	51
Say's Phoebe	2	-	4	-	6	12
Horned Lark	-	-	-	-	15	15
Steller's Jay	-	1	7	17	12	37
Scrub Jay	-	69	72	33	50	224
Yellow-billed Magpie	1	-	13	13	145	172
Common Crow	-	2	10	2	50	64
Chestnut-backed Chickadee	-	12	25	20	21	78
Plain Titmouse	-	4	23	17	27	71
Common Bushtit	-	45	34	82	142	303
White-breasted Nuthatch	-	2	8	4	4	18
Red-breasted Nuthatch	-	-	-	-	8	8
Brown Creeper	-	-	1	3	-	4
Wrentit	-	-	2	12	2	16
Winter Wren	-	-	-	3	1	4
Bewick's Wren	-	1	1	13	5	20
Long-billed Marsh Wren	-	-	-	-	3	3
Cañon Wren	-	-	-	1	-	1
Mockingbird	7	41	24	20	14	106
California Thrasher	-	1	1	7	-	9
Robin	-	85	77	24	8	194
Varied Thrush	-	2	16	36	27	81
Hermit Thrush	-	5	14	44	10	73
Western Bluebird	-	1	14	-	38	53
Golden-crowned Kinglet	2	2	-	34	1	39
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	1	5	10	98	42	156
Water Pipit	93	202	18	38	226	577
Cedar Waxwing	-	86	28	30	-	144
Loggerhead Shrike	10	6	13	2	24	55
Starling	103	-	-	7	-	110
Hutton's Vireo	1	-	3	1	-	5
Black-throated Gray Warbler	-	-	-	1	-	1
Audubon's Warbler	18	140	888	145	99	1290
Townsend's Warbler	-	1	-	1	-	2
House Sparrow	110	66	283	181	429	1069
Western Meadowlark	96	12	270	13	355	746
Red-winged Blackbird	2	75	-	-	952	1029
Brewer's Blackbird	1175	1553	1423	410	2294	6855

SPECIES	Alviso Sector	S.W. Sector	Evergr. Sector	Alum R. Sector	Calv. Sect.	All Sectors
Purple Finch	-	-	-	-	2	2
House Finch	514	352	1092	56	1851	3865
Pine Siskin	-	-	-	5	18	23
American Goldfinch	-	13	101	-	35	149
Lesser Goldfinch	94	140	620	184	308	1346
Lawrence's Goldfinch	3	-	-	-	-	3
Rufous-sided Towhee	2	6	15	10	12	45
Brown Towhee	5	73	91	42	70	281
Savannah Sparrow	21	-	200	-	171	392
Grasshopper Sparrow	-	1	-	-	-	1
Lark Sparrow	-	25	54	-	101	180
Rufous-crowned Sparrow	-	-	-	4	3	7
Oregon Junco	3	75	113	70	311	572
Harris' Sparrow	-	-	-	-	1	1
White-crowned Sparrow	85	637	1906	372	1432	4432
Golden-crowned Sparrow	63	68	1007	128	515	1781
White-throated Sparrow	-	-	-	1	-	1
Fox Sparrow	3	7	2	23	12	47
Lincoln's Sparrow	-	-	-	20	-	20
Song Sparrow	44	12	4	26	7	93
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Total number birds	27,386	4247	9394	2376	14,442	57,845
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Total number species	65	52	58	64	82	122
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---L. Richard Mewaldt, Compiler