

The Avocet

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NEW PUBLICITY CHAIRMAN

We are pleased to report the appointment as Publicity Chairman of Mrs. W. Ray McCann, Palo Alto (DA 6-8584). Mr. and Mrs. McCann were active members of the Audubon Society in New York State before moving here. Now the newspapers will put us on the map again!

-----J.T.

LET'S PASS THE WILDERNESS BILL THIS TIME

The Wilderness Bill has been written and rewritten to meet the objectors of all the Federal services involved. Field hearings have been held, and the record of arguments for and against the bill is complete. Now we must prevail on the committees of the U.S. Senate and House which have the bill in charge to send it to the floor of their respective houses for a vote. Now is the time to come to the aid of the Wilderness Bill again. Let's pass it in the 86th Congress. Write to Senators Thomas H. Kuchel and Clair Engle, Rep. Charles Gubser, Senate (or House) Office Bldg., Washington 25, D.C. to start the bill moving.

-----Edgar Wayburn
Trustees for Conservation
3/18/59

COMING EVENTS AT A GLANCE

Sat. April 4	8:30 a.m.	Alum Rock Park
Mon. April 6	8:00 p.m.	Palo Alto Junior Museum
Wed. April 8	8:30 a.m.	Moorshead Estate
Sat. April 11	9:00 a.m.	Villa Montalvo
Tues. April 14	8:00 p.m.	Morris Daily Auditorium
Sat. April 18	9:00 a.m.	Searsville Lake
Wed. April 22	8:30 a.m.	Stevens Creek Canyon
Sat. May 3	9:00 a.m.	Hidden Villa Ranch

APRIL CALENDAR

Regular Meeting:

Monday, April 6, 8:00 p.m., Palo Alto Junior Museum, Middlefield Road, Palo Alto. Dr. Carl Shiresmith, San Jose State College, will present an illustrated lecture on California plants. We are privileged to have his help in learning to identify the many beautiful trees and shrubs of California



Field Trips:

Saturday, April 4, to Alum Rock Park with Grace Brubaker as leader. Phone CL 8-2289. Meet at quarry on Penitencia Creek Road at 8:30. Bring lunch.

Wednesday Morning, April 8, to the Moorshead Estate in Portola Valley. Meet at 8:30 a.m. at the Portola Valley Shopping Center, north and across the road from the Portola Valley Grammar School. Leaders: Rear Admiral and Mrs. Charles D. Williams (DA 3-0787).

Saturday, April 11, to the nature trail at Villa Montalvo. This is an invitation to all members and their friends, young and old, who are interested in maintaining and enlarging the nature trail at Montalvo. Bring your work clothes, shovels, mattocks, pruning shears and other tools. Meet at 9:00 a.m. at the parking lot to the right of the Villa. Bring lunch. Leader Frank Goraj (DA 5-8847).

Saturday, April 18, to Searsville Lake on Sandhill Road with Mr. and Mrs. C. A. Scarlott. Meet at Lake entrance at 9:00 a.m. Bring lunch. (Phone UL 1-7926).

Wednesday Morning, April 22, to Stevens Creek Canyon, in the foothills of the Santa Cruz Mountains, west and south from Cupertino. Meet at 8:30 a.m. at the parking area at Stevens Creek Reservoir. Leader: Dr. Evelyn Case (CH 3-2467).

Saturday, April 25. Another work day with Frank Goraj at Villa Montalvo, as on April 11th.

Saturday, May 3. A day at the Hidden Villa Ranch of Frank and Josephine Duveneck in the Los Altos Hills. Meet at the entrance to the ranch on Moody Road at 9:00 a.m. just beyond Adobe Creek Lodge. Bring lunch and be prepared to meet old friends as everybody will be there. Leaders: Mr. and Mrs. W. R. McCann (Phone DA 6-8584).

-----Field Trip Committee
Emmanuel Taylor, Chairman
Virginia Bothwell, Emily Smith

Screen Tour:

Tuesday, April 14, 8:00 p.m., Morris Dailey Auditorium, San Jose State College. Arthur A. Allen will present his color motion picture "East and West from Hudson Bay". Mr. Allen, distinguished professor of Cornell University, Ithaca, New York, captures sight and sound of bird life in Labrador, Hudson Bay tundra and Yukon delta. Puffins, guillemots and red-throated loons; ptarmigan and golden plover, dowitchers and godwits; whistling swans, emperor geese and long-tailed jaegers; strange songs and wild calls of the arctic summer. Share in the first discovery of a nest long sought by ornithologists. Exciting exploration for everyone. Tickets are available at the door.

President's Report

On February 26 the second meeting of the South Bay Shore Area Technical Study Conference was held. This Conference is sponsored by the Alameda County Planning Department in cooperation with the Santa Clara and San Mateo County Planning Departments.

The first conference dealt with the technical aspects of the problem and involved engineers and technical experts from various regulatory and research agencies concerned with the Bay: Dept. of Public Health, Geological Survey, Div. of Fish and Wildlife, Div. of Highways, Dept. of Water Resources, Div. of Beaches and Parks, Water pollution and others.

The second conference included those organizations with a more direct financial involvement in the development of our shore areas. Mr. Robert Williams, Planning Director for Alameda County, asked that the Audubon Society send a representative, as he felt "the conference may benefit from the contributions you can make as a non-financial interest concerned with the aesthetic, recreational and wildlife aspects of the Bay, and we realize these latter aspects can be overlooked in the concentration upon engineering and financial facets - unless they are adequately represented". As Mr. Wm. Goodall was in Arizona, I appeared and spoke for the Audubon Societies.

This is a long range program and very worth while. Now is the time to plan so that in the next seventy-five years or so the greatest potential use of the Bay may be made, with all areas working together that the beauty of the Bay might not be destroyed. So far there have been three plans presented, but these are not final. There will be a great amount of fill for housing, etc., with plans for small yacht harbors and recreational areas. The biggest problem is that of water pollution, with flood control running a close second.

The Agenda of the 2nd Conference

1. Introduction and review of research to date
2. Consideration of the role of government in shore area development control and planning
3. Discussion of the future research and planning necessary for the maximum benefit to all parties concerned with shore area development
4. Presentation and critical discussion of study plans

As I said before this is long range planning, and certainly it is very encouraging. So often in the past no thought has been taken of the future and its needs. There are two more conferences scheduled for the future, and we have been asked to have a representative attend these, so we will keep you informed as to future developments.

---Charlotte McBride

Audubon Scholarship Winner

The committee considering applicants for scholarships to West Coast School of Nature Study at Death Valley this March have awarded the Audubon Scholarship to Miss Nancy Lee Stutznegger of San Jose State College. She has more than ordinary ability and as a prospective teacher she should be valuable to the Audubon cause. Her application lists an impressive number of scholastic honors, school offices held, scientific and musical interests. She apparently loves nature and wants to communicate that feeling to her students.

---Eva McRae, Chairman
Audubon Scholarship Committee

Report of the Education Committee

- I. Our collection of educational materials is started now. We own one set of 25 bird slides, together with the box of cards describing them. The Committee lends them, with or without a speaker, to groups interested.
- II. Mrs. Howard Wolcott's 4th Grade at Fortola School spent a week (1) preparing short talks to accompany the borrowed bird slides, and (2) giving these talks and showing the slides to other grades which invited them. They then decided that they would like to own their own set of slides, and so the following week they (1) made and sold cupcakes to raise the needed \$10, (2) continued giving the talks and showing the slides to all other interested grades in their school and in their district and (3) raised all the money needed and sent for their own set of slides. They have \$4 left, and plan to set up an aquarium. Mrs. Wolcott reports they have truly learned in the most meaningful way about profit and loss, how a thermostat operates, how cupcakes are made and packaged, and many more concepts, all through this experience.
- III. Meanwhile Mr. Warren Turner has made the first promising contact in an effort to bring Audubon materials to the teachers in the Palo Alto School District.
- IV. Mrs. Marion Kirkwood very thoughtfully asked for the name of a young person interested in nature activity, and sent her Audubon magazine to a young High School lad, Bruce Schill, who appreciated it. This could be the beginning of a very important educational activity.

---Jane and Frank Goraj,
Education Chairmen

Notes from Afield

Bob Woods points out a bit sadly that he cannot produce a column of bird observations all by himself. He is program chairman for our Society, besides spending all his days at the Palo Alto Junior Museum working constantly to educate children about nature and conservation. We think a smart way to help him is to address a post card to him, place it in a conspicuous place on one's desk and jot down on it any birds or bird-doings (with dates) observed during a month. Then simply mail the card toward the end of each month. We all are pleased

when we see a bird newly arrived from a distant place or observe the behavior of birds in an interesting situation. Why not share these experiences? They can be of considerable scientific interest, if carefully recorded. Send to

Mr. Robert Woods
1007 Los Trancos Road
Menlo Park, Calif.
(UL 1-1237)

Rough Trip -- Good Birding

Bird students from Stanford University, their friends, and several Monterey Peninsula enthusiasts, all under the leadership of Laidlaw Williams, spent several hours at sea on Jan. 25 in rough weather watching pelagic birds.

The rhinoceros auklet and the kittiwake were present in great numbers all day. Conspicuous by its absence was the Cassin's auklet. Highlights were close views of the blackfooted albatross, Pacific fulmer, and sooty shearwater. Three of the albatross were seen at one time as they circled the boat and followed us to within about three miles of shore. At least one of these albatross had white on the rump, not usual. Another unusual color phenomenon was a Heerman's gull with white wing patches. Such color pattern among these gulls occurs only once in several thousand individuals. An ashy petrel was attracted to our ground suet and came within fifty yards of the boat, flitting on the water's surface momentarily. Another uncommon sight was a red-breasted merganser about five miles out at sea. The short-billed gull, which should have been present in large numbers, wasn't seen until we re-entered the harbor at Monterey. Other birds seen at sea were: red-throated loon, arctic loon, California murre, and ancient murrelet.

Grey whales spouted several hundred yards off our starboard bow, a sea lion was found 12 miles out, and a group of Pacific white-sided dolphins cavorted about the boat.

---Milton Frincke
Sanderling, March 1959,
Monterey Peninsula Audubon Soc.

Editor's Notes

Available at every regular meeting are the monthly publications of all the other Audubon branches and affiliates in the West. A new one is the Nature-News-Notes of the Utah Nature Study Society, whose headquarters are in Salt Lake City. It is a lively group, active in schools and communities in promoting nature study and conservation.

---J.T.

The Oregon Audubon Society has introduced into the Oregon Legislature a bill to protect hawks and owls patterned on the so-called "Model Hawk Law" favored by the National Audubon Society. Apparently the bill has the approval of State Game Director Phil Schneider.

---J.T.

There is growing concern over the careless exploration and devastation of tide-pools along our Peninsula coastline, especially at Moss Beach. After large biology classes from all the high schools in

the area have combed the pools, and weekend visitors by the score have poked about in the pools, turning over stones to find something unusual, the scene is somewhat disheartening. Let's urge good conservation practice in refraining from taking live specimens away from the tide pools and in replacing all rocks turned over during the investigation to their original position. It takes several years for nature to replace the life destroyed by leaving a rock overturned.
-----J.T.

The Point Lobos League, a Monterey Peninsula conservation organization that did much toward establishing Point Lobos State Park and Carmel River Beach State Park, is asking help from you in protecting the shoreline highway (State Highway 1) between Carmel and San Simeon from the threat of freeway construction. Frederick Law Olmstead, Salinas landscape architect, called this coastline "the most outstanding example on the coast of California of picturesque rock and surf scenery". Senate Bill 480, now before the State Legislature, would legalize the wholesale destruction of the natural beauty for which this coast is famous. Write your state legislators protesting the inclusion of the Carmel-San Simeon section in the bill.
-----J.T.

In our newest state, Hawaii, the nearly extinct Nene Goose now is reported to have a chance for survival. In 1950, there were only 17 birds known in the wild. Hawaii took action to protect the Nene and called upon ranchers for help. Now there are about 50 wild birds, and 50 in pens on the island being handled by a biologist from the Board of Forestry and Agriculture.

-----Conservation News 1/1/59

One of the big mysteries which has been plaguing zoologists is the "why" of bird migration. Dr. L. Richard "Dick" Mewaldt, Associate Professor of Zoology at San Jose State College, (Past Editor of The Avocet), is the college's chief bird watcher. His research in that field will be aided by a recent grant of \$20,000.

-----The Quail, Mt. Diablo
Audubon Society 2/59

Public officials are worried about the increasing number of rabies cases reported in wild animals, physicians learned at the California Medical Convention in San Francisco. The increase is a matter of concern because it can't be controlled, and more and more people are going to the wilds on camping trips. Five years ago 85% of reported rabies cases were found in dogs, but last year only four rabid dogs were found and more than 200 cases of rabies in wild animals -- skunks, bats, and foxes. Since laboratory analysis of rabies is more accurate when scientists are able to observe the living animal, a person bitten should make an attempt to capture the animal. Failing that, it should be killed. Early Pasteur treatment is vital, and was given last year to 3000 Californians.

-----Palo Alto Times 2/26/59

