

The Avocet

Volume VI Number 45

May 1959

C O R R E C T I O N -- Please Note!

Sunday, May 3 is our first May field trip. Meet at the Duveneck's Hidden Valley Ranch at 9:00 a.m. The entrance is on Moody Road just beyond Adobe Creek Lodge. Bring lunch. Leaders: Mr. and Mrs. W. R. McCann (DA 6-8584).

Save The Sea Lions From Slaughter

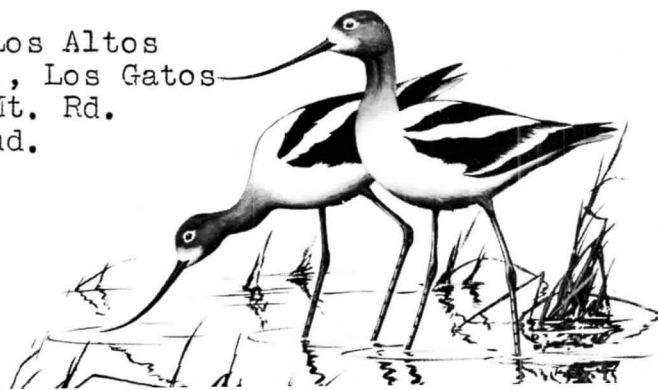
The California Senate Fish and Game Committee approved a resolution introduced by Sen. Slattery on 4/7/59 authorizing the Fish and Game Department to trim California's 19,000 sea lion population to 5,000. The salmon industry has been urging the sea lion massacre, claiming the beasts prey on salmon as the fish head for their spawning grounds. Industry spokesmen, unsuccessful with a bill to permit unlimited shooting of sea lions suggested depth bombs, as a neat, easy and cheap way to kill sea lions. (This appalling business has apparently been supported also by pet food canners - who would get their product free.---J.T.). The San Francisco Chronicle printed a strong editorial with the same title as above. Marine biologists describe this contemplated carnage as "sickening from a moral viewpoint, and from a biological viewpoint abhorrent". Awareness of the proposal, it is hoped, will create a public outcry loud and violent enough to dissuade the Assembly from sanctioning such a wanton butchery. Scientific studies reveal that the sea lion diet consists of 75% of fish that are not food fish. The sea lion consumes large quantities of lampreys and other voracious destroyers of food fish. It is significant that excellent fishing is to be found around Ano Nuevo Island and other rocks inhabited by herds of sea lions. Sea lions must not be removed from the protected mammal list. The convenient excuse for this kind of barbarous and possibly dangerous violence against the balance of nature is found in the claim that it is war against predators that deplete fishing resources. Who can prove it? Bud Boyd, the Chronicle's woodsman, notes that blame is placed on every predator except man, the great predator. As a Society and as individuals we should advise Senators and Assemblymen of our views (Sen. John F. Thompson, Santa Clara County, Assemblymen Clark Bradley, Bruce F. Allen, Carl Britschgi, etc.).

---Palo Alto Times 4/8

---S.F. Chronicle 4/13

COMING EVENTS AT A GLANCE

Sun. May 3	9:00 a.m.	Hidden Valley Ranch, Los Altos
Mon. May 11	8:00 p.m.	Art. Association Bldg., Los Gatos
Wed. May 13	8:15 a.m.	Huddart Park, King's Mt. Rd.
Wed. May 13	8:00 p.m.	Sequoia High School Aud.
Sun. May 17	9:30 a.m.	Point Lobos Reserve State Pk.
Wed. May 27	8:00 a.m.	Castle Rock Ridge



MAY CALENDARRegular Meeting:

Monday, May 11, 8:00 p.m., Art Association Building, Los Gatos. Several members will show slides of the lesser-known western national parks and monuments. The Art Building is located about half-way between Los Gatos and Saratoga, just off the Los Gatos-Saratoga Road. If you are coming from Saratoga turn right onto Austin Way at the county fire station. The Art. Building is about one block beyond the station.

Field Trips:

Sunday, May 3 - see correction notice first page.

Wednesday Morning, May 13, to Huddart Park on King's Mountain Road, west from Woodside. Meet at 8:15 a.m. at Caldwell's General Store in Woodside, or join the group at the parking area in Huddart Park at 8:30 a.m. Leader: Mrs. Virginia Bothwell (DA 2-1209).

Sunday, May 17, to Point Lobos Reserve State Park. Meet at the entrance to the park at 9:30 a.m. Bring lunch. Leaders: Mr. and Mrs. Emmanuel Taylor (FR 8-3219).

Wednesday Morning, May 27, to Castle Rock Ridge in the Santa Cruz Mts. Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the Saratoga Gap, junction of Saratoga-Big Basin Road and Skyline Blv. (Highways 9 and 5). Leader: Miss Lillian (Peg) Gorham (UN 7-9539).

Special Event:

Wednesday, May 13. 8:00 p.m., Mrs. Laurel Reynolds, nationally known photographer and lecturer, will show her motion picture in color at the Sequoia High School Auditorium, Broadway at El Camino Real, Redwood City. Tickets at \$1.00 and \$2.00 are available. These pictures of birds and other wildlife from the West Indies to Alaska are noted for their beauty and technical excellence. "The New World Rediscovered" is the title, retracing the journeys of some of the great explorers of the New World. The proceeds benefit the Woodside Priory Landscaping Project. For tickets write or telephone:

Woodside Priory Benefit
49 McCormick Lane
Atherton, California
DA 3-6403 Or DA 6-2270

--- Mrs. Isenberg

NATIONAL PROBLEM IN MARIN FOCUS

Marin's newly created wildlife sanctuary near Tiburon on Richardson's Bay is not the peaceful haven for migratory waterfowl which was envisioned by its supporters. Noise made by small boats is frightening many of the more timid birds away. This is, of course, part of a national conflict of interests between the devotees of water sports and the conservationists. Uncontrolled water skiing on the lakes created by federal dams is ruining them for waterfowl conservation. Some kind of legislation is needed to protect the birds and at the same time give a degree of freedom to the sports minded. The Marin Conservation League is anxious to reach some kind of compromise concerning motor-boating in the Richardson's Bay Sanctuary. This seems sensible to us. What good is a sanctuary without the Birds?

---Independent Journal and
 ---Redwood Log,
 Marin Audubon Society 12/58

NEW MEMBERS

We extend a cordial welcome to the following new members:

Mrs. C. H. Spencer, 10950 So. Stevens Creek Rd., Monte Vista, Cal.
 Dr. Glenn Bradt, P.O. Box 232, Aptos, Cal.
 Mrs. Rapp Brush, 248 Encinal Ave., Menlo Park, Cal.
 Mrs. C. S. Williamson, 15854 Poppy Lane, Los Gatos, Cal.

---Mrs. Irving Snow,
 Membership Chairman

New Name Cards and Holders

Last month most of you received with the Avocet an attractive card imprinted with "Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society" and a cut of our bird, the Avocet, in his current spring plumage. Best of all, your name is there and will best identify you if worn to all Audubon meetings and field trips. Plastic holders with a clasp on the back, to protect the card and for pinning purposes, are available for 25¢ at meetings and field trips, or by mail from Mrs. Charles Zwaal, 478 Clifton Avenue, San Jose 28, California. At the April 6 meeting nearly everyone bought and wore the holder - a real contribution toward a friendlier, more inviting society.

---J. Todd

CAMP UNALAYEE - Trinity National Forest

Camp Unalayee, held for ten years past at the Duveneck's Hidden Villa Ranch, where you will visit on Sunday, May 3, needs more room. It has the opportunity to purchase a new location in one of the West's last remaining wild life areas, convenient and usable most of the year. It is Hidden Valley Ranch on the South Fork of the Trinity River, in Northern California. The Cherokee Indian word "Unalayee" expresses the spirit and reality of the fellowship of man. In idyllic surroundings, far from the pressures of urban life, boys and girls, 10 to 16, of many backgrounds gain a breadth of outlook that stimulates them to become better citizens in a democracy. Under expert counseling, in two-week camp sessions, they live, play, think and work together. The new

site, surrounded by the Trinity National Forest, is ideal for nature camping for many years to come. Hidden Valley is 420 acres of verdant, almost untouched wilderness, including a beautiful, tumbling river. It is 14 miles from the nearest community. Founded in 1949 by the American Friends Service Committee, The Camp Unalayee Association is a non-profit corporation of parents and educators whose sole purpose is to bring new opportunity to youth. The camp Director, Bruce McNeil of Palo Alto, hopes that contributions will cover the necessary immediate outlay of \$30,000. Remember, this will be a wildlife sanctuary, as well as a tee-age retreat of great value. Contributions are tax-deductible. Mail them to:

Camp Unalayee Association
Cyril J. Clark, Treasurer
Bank of California, Town & Country Branch
Palo Alto, California

---J. Todd

NOTES FROM AFIELD

Two corrections, please. The 500 Killdeers reported on page 18 of the March Avocet should have read "50 Killdeers". The three Stilt Sandpipers seen by Angelina Snow, Fanny Zwaal, and Archie Williams on March 23 at Pacific Grove and reported by Fanny at the April 6 meeting are an unusual bird in California, in contradiction to my confused opinion at the time.

Spring Arrivals: Will Luick takes the prize for reporting the earliest oriole, a male Bullock's in San Jose on March 17. Evelyn Case saw a male on March 31 in Santa Clara and on April 2 Fanny Zwaal had a male in San Jose. The first Hooded Orioles turned up in San Jose - Grace Brubaker reports a male on March 21 and Fanny Zwaal saw another on April 4. Bob Wood watched a female pecking at abutilon flowers on April 22 in Portola Valley. He also reports a Black-headed Grosbeak on April 12 in the same area; Angelina Snow saw one on the 13th in Los Gatos and an Olive-sided Flycatcher on April 9. Bob Wood had an Olive-sided on April 13 in Portola Valley, but Bob Row's Feb. 28 record at Stanford beats them all. Emily Smith reports the earliest Western Flycatcher on March 22 near Salinas, also two at Montalvo in Saratoga on the 24th. The Feb. 25th Searsville field trip led by Marjorie Fraser saw two Tree Swallows and five Violet-green Swallows. Emily Smith had the earliest reported Warbling Vireo, two of them singing on March 24 at Montalvo. Bob Wood saw and heard a Solitary Vireo on the 28th in Portola Valley and had a Yellow Warbler there on April 18. Three Orange-crowned Warblers were heard singing vigorously at Montalvo on March 7 by Emily Smith; she had a singing Chipping Sparrow in Uvas Valley on April 7. Loring Dales reports a Rufous Hummingbird at Stanford on Feb. 23 and the Montalvo field trip on March 25 saw several Allen's Hummingbirds.

Alberta Edell's wintering White-throated Sparrow in Los Gatos was last seen on April 10, but Catherine Lintott's bird (also in Los Gatos) was still present on the 15th. Miss Edell's wintering Black-headed Grosbeak last put in an appearance on April 6. Emily Smith writes that she has recently identified at least 14 Myrtle Warblers caught in her banding traps baited with avocado.

An older record but an unusual one is Kay McCann's Clapper Rail at Searsville Lake on Jan. 4. Al Wool located a White-tailed Kite nest near Milpitas and two Golden Eagle nests in the vicinity of Calaveras Reservoir, all on March 15.

My thanks to all of you who contributed to the abundant field notes. Keep them coming!

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

EDITOR'S NOTES

Miss Mary Meehan reported (much more promptly than I am!) that over 40 members of our local Audubon Society attended the West Coast Convention at Asilomar. There was so much to see and do - but she felt Roger Tory Peterson was star of the show, followed by the heads of the National organization, Mr. Baker and Mr. Buchheister. -- J.T.

The Utah Nature Study Society reminds us of the Annual meeting of the Western Section of the American Nature Study Society to be held in San Diego June 18-19. Its parent organization, the American Association for the Advancement of Science, was started in 1908 by Liberty Hyde Bailey. The program is excellent - with emphasis on teaching nature study and conservation in schools. -- J.T.

Federal park service teams, after a year-long survey, recommended preservation of the few undeveloped Pacific Coast seashore areas still left in the wilderness state. Five areas they felt deserve national park status, including (in California) San Miguel and Santa Cruz islands off the southern coast and Point Reyes Peninsula north of San Francisco. They also recommended that coastline now under military jurisdiction be opened to public use as soon as it is declared surplus and that prompt action be taken to halt pollution from sewage and industrial waste.

---Palo Alto Times 3/23/59

New Members: thank you for filling out the questionnaire you received upon joining. We are pleased that most of you took time from busy lives to let us know why and how you choose to work for Audubon objectives. We appreciate your interest. -- J.T.

Assisting Mrs. W. R. McCann, Publicity Chairman, are Mrs. Stanley C. Hall and Mrs. Philip D. La Riviere. This energetic trio sees to it that our meetings and field trips go into all county newspapers of any size - a really ambitious undertaking! --- J.T.

A clipping sent us by Dr. Amy N. Stannard of Palo Alto was the work of the Publicity Committee. A $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch headline "Audubon Society Toils at Villa" and an article tells of Frank Goraj's two maintenance sessions on the Nature Trail at Montalvo. Included also was the announcement of the last Screen Tour for this season. The article appeared on 4/9 in the Peninsula Shopping News. --- J.T.

The Wilderness Bill is facing its first vote since it was first discussed ten years ago. Late in May or possibly in early June, the

Senate Interior Committee is expected to decide whether to send the bill to the floor for a vote. The bill would set aside some 50,000,000 acres, about 2% of the land area of the U.S. as wilderness - which man could visit, but not remain in. He could look at the giant trees and wild animals, but he could not take them away. Conservationists have made a very effective appeal for this bill - in fact, they outnumber the opposition who, in turn, have more political power. The bill is full of compromises in an effort to get both conservationists and commercial interests behind it. There is little doubt that the bill would pass if it ever reached the Senate floor. However, the Senate Interior Committee is made up entirely of senators living west of the Mississippi, where lies 3/4 of the land to be included in the wilderness system. They feel they have the most to lose.

---Palo Alto Times 4/15/59