

# The Avocet

Volume VI Number 6

June 1959

## President's Message

I wish to thank all those who worked for the society this year. A very sincere thank you to the board and all the chairmen and their committees. I have enjoyed working with you.

-----Charlette McBride  
(Telegram 5/16 from  
Albuquerque, New Mexico)

## Santa Clara County's Key Plan to Preserve Open Space

There will be three homes, three subdivisions, three schools, three shopping centers by 1985 for every one Santa Clara County has today, county officials estimate. That projection has prompted the county planning department to propose a key plan to preserve as much open space as possible. They are thinking of three kinds of space: agricultural, functional, park and recreation. A brief breakdown:

Agricultural space - 50,000 Greenbeth Zone acres are not enough. Farm production from the valley's fertile soil is dwindling. More farm land must be preserved to feed the 2 million people who will be in the county 15 years from now. Public purchase of development rights may be necessary to safeguard this land.

Functional space - Cultural and educational institutions like Stanford University, Saratoga's Montalvo Art Center, Lick Observatory on Mt. Hamilton should be models for "generous allotments of open space" in future compuses and centers. Watersheds must be protected to allow only low intensity development because they produce valuable water. Golf courses, airports and civic centers can be spots of greenery in the urban sprawl.

Park and recreation spaces - These include mountain, valley floor, marine and reservoir parks, stream-side preserves, recreation roads and trailways. These should increase from 17,000 acres now to some 60,000 in 25 years.

The planners conclude" "It is especially important that as much land as possible be acquired now while it is still available and comparatively inexpensive. We who live in Santa Clara Valley have been handed a magnificent environment as a heritage and trust. It is our privilege and duty to keep its beauty intact and its open space available for....generations to come."

-----Robert Burgess  
Palo Alto Times 4/10, 5/22

## COMING EVENTS AT A GLANCE

Sat. June 6	9:00 a.m.	Moss Landing
Wed. June 10	8:00 a.m.	Butano Ridge
Mon. June 15	4-10 p.m.	Annual Meeting, Montalvo
Sun. June 21	8:00 a.m.	Villa Montalvo
Mon. June 22	7:30 a.m.	Santa Cruz Municipal Wharf



June CalendarSpecial Event: Annual Albatross Expedition

Monday, June 22, 7:30 a.m., Santa Cruz Municipal Wharf. Trip conducted by Leavitt McQuesten of Santa Cruz Bird Club. Free parking in Stagnaro's Parking Lot. Tickets \$1.50. Tickets must be purchased before June 15 from Avocet Editor. There only ten available to this society. Three years ago in June, the group had 26 Albatrosses floating close to the boat and many in the air! It is always a very special trip. -----Viola Anderson  
1015 Connely St., Salinas, Cal.

Annual Meeting:

Monday, June 15, Annual Meeting of the Society at Villa Montalvo.

Everyone who can come around 4:00 p.m. will enjoy some good company and excellent birding. We will have supper at 6:00 p.m. Bring your own hot or cold meal, whatever suits your fancy, and hot coffee will be served by the Social Committee. The annual meeting will begin at 8:00 p.m. Committee heads will be expected to present reports orally and also in writing to the President. The Education Committee under Jane Goraj will present the program: examples of what has been done by Audubon enthusiasts in this area with school children, Scout and Bluebird groups. They have created so much interest and enthusiasm that more of us are needed to help fill the requests for Audubon materials and leadership.

Villa Montalvo is about  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile along the highway from Saratoga to Los Gatos. -----J.T.

The Wednesday field trip, June 10. will be a special all-day trip to Butano Ridge in San Mateo County to see wild rhododendrons and other interesting plants as well as birds. Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the Saratoga Gap where Big Basin Road crosses Skyline Blvd. (Highways 9 and 5). From the Gap to the rhododendrons is some 20 miles, about half of which is over unsurfaced road--dusty but not difficult driving. The return trip can be made by way of Pescadero. Bring lunch.  
Leaders: Mrs. R. Wesley Wright (DA 3-3809) and Miss Emily Smith (EL 4-2494).

Sunday, June 21, to Villa Montalvo. Meet in parking lot to the right of the Villa at 8:00 a.m. Bring lunch.  
-----Emmanuel Taylor (FR 8-3219)  
Field Trip Chairman

New Members

A cordial welcome to:

Mrs. Dorothy E. Hunt      4111 Trout Gulch      Aptos  
Mr. Leonard J. Lawrence    Route 6, Box 418      San Jose

-----Mrs. Angeline Snow  
Membership Chairman

Report of Education Committee

The Education Committee is delighted to report that the Howard Wolcotts guided 2 groups of Bluebirds on a Nature Walk through their area, and the Frank Gorajs joined with the Wolcotts in guiding a third group of Bluebirds since our last report. Also, this past week Mrs. Warren Turner set up a display table of Audubon nature items for the Girl Scout Leadership on two successive mornings, enjoyed by almost 150 women leaders. Mr. Turner showed bird slides the second morning. On July 9 Mrs. John L. McBride and Jane Goraj plan to give a talk and set up a display for the Menlo Park Library's Children's Summer Program. We have been requested by the Girl Scouts to give them a day or two on July 8 and 9 to lead Nature Walks for their girls at Searsville Lake, and by the Campfire Girls to do the same, for any length of time, from June 15-19, and 22-26--but we lack enough available people to help them out. Is there anyone who would be interested in leading these groups of young girls in Nature Walks on these dates? Please call

Francis and Jane Goraj (DA 5-8847)  
675 Florales Dr., Palo Alto.

Editor's Notes

Mr. Teynham Woodward, Los Altos Audubon member, is very much concerned over the proposal, due to come up soon before the Palo Alto City Council, that all land from the western city limit to Skyline Blvd. be annexed to the city of Palo Alto and become subject to home subdivision and other urban development. He owns some 150 acres on the Skyline and has always protected its natural beauty and wildlife, rejecting repeated offers to log it. A neighbor has sold his trees, which include beautiful old redwoods and firs, and they are now being cut. Several other Audubon members have land along the Skyline and hope to keep it beautiful and unspoiled. As Mr. Woodward points out, the land is a valuable watershed, very steep in places, and not at all suitable for subdivision. Although the new city park is a pleasing way to protect that portion of the foothills just west of the city, rumor has it that the presence of the park will make the introduction of city utilities a simple matter and consequently make possible subdivision surrounding the park. The Skyline in lower San Mateo Co. and in Santa Clara Co. is wooded--it must not be made into a sea of houses as it has been toward San Francisco.

-----J.T.

It is still not too late to reserve a place in Audubon Camp of California. The sessions are:

June 21 - July 4

July 5 - July 18

July 19 - August 1

August 2 - August 15

August 16 - August 29

at Sugar Bowl Lodge in the High Sierra. All information about the camp and reservations are available from National Audubon Society  
2426 Bancroft Way, Berkeley 4, Calif.

Mary Meehan just returned from a vacation in the Hawaiian Islands with two on-the-spot bits of news from our brand new state: (1) The Hawaii Audubon Society, under publication date of March, 1959, has

brought out in convenient form a handbook of Hawaiian Birds. (2) During April, 1959, the Territorial Legislature meeting at Honolulu appropriated \$16,000 for the preservation and restoration of the Nene Goose, the official bird of the Territory.

The only far-west project of the Nature Conservancy is the Northern California Coast Range Preserve, a 6500 acre tract in Mendocino Co. It contains a 5000 acre untouched watershed with a dense forest of Douglas fir, redwood, and other trees rimmed by woodland and chaparral. Here is found about the last stand of coastal Douglas fir left in California. Some 3000 very valuable acres are being acquired through the generosity of Mr. and Mrs. Heath Angelo. A campaign to raise the balance has begun.

-----J.T.

The National Parks Association is vigorously opposing the building of a so-called "Shrine of the Ages" close to the brink of the Grand Canyon. For many years conservationists have urged the removal of buildings and facilities from the edge of the Grand Canyon, in order to restore the primeval beauty of the scene for the enjoyment of travelers. As the old commercial establishments on the rim outlive their usefulness, they will be relocated farther back. Objections to this proposal should be sent to Honorable Fred A. Seaton, Secretary of the Interior, Washington 25, D.C.

-----J.T.

The Defenders of Furbearers, whose secretary is Devereux Butcher, author of Seeing America's Wildlife in Our National Refuges, has undertaken what I imagine is a unique cause: inspection of Roadside Zoos. If you have ever stopped at one of these places, of which there are too many, you may have seen ravens and magpies in small pens, 'possums and racoons in even smaller pens, and often the most miserable inhabitant of all -- a fox. Not all amateur zoos are poor, but many need plenty of improvement.

-----J.T.

An inter-county effort to make sure Junipero Serra Freeway is a thing of beauty has begun. The eight-lane freeway will run along the eastern side of the Peninsula foothills. Planning Director Frank Skillman, who calls this section "the most outstandingly....beautiful of the Bay Area", says the freeway needs special design treatment. He advocates preservation of natural beauty, following natural land contours as much as possible, landscaping with native plants to obliterate construction grading.

-----J.T.

The local Sierra Club bulletin, the "Loma Prieta", has a new format -- very neat and trim. In return for their printing of our sea lion story, we are grateful to copy their Good News about the Butano: After years and years of hoping, it is gratifying to be able to announce that the State Park Commission has purchased 1907 acres of land in the Butano Forest. Between 1100 and 1200 acres are virgin timber, the remaining portion is second growth." -----Loma Prieta, 5/59  
(Our June 10 field trip will take you near or into this area. J.T.)

Rustic Los Altos Hills will change its creek banks into ribbons of parkland. Instead of a concrete-lined ditch (the fate of Matedero Creek east of El Camino Real), the town will have "a native, wild ribbon of trees." The land will be made available through flood control

easements, outright gifts of creekside land, etc. Francis Duveneck has already offered a creekside acre of his land, free, to start the project.  
-----Palo Alto Times 5/8/59

A letter (5/1) from Mrs. Guy Milner, San Rafael Audubon member: "The article on our Richardson Bay Sanctuary situation you used bears repeating, and thanks." Motor boats and water-skiers are still a problem there.  
-----J.T.

#### Notes from Afield

The latest reported Golden-crowned Sparrow was seen on May 3 by the field trippers to the Duveneck Ranch in Los Altos. Other late dates were sent in by Catherine Lintott (one on April 27 in Los Gatos) and by Emily Smith (one on the 28th in Saratoga). The latter bird was caught in a banding trap and found to have been one she banded originally in February 1954.

Catherine Lintott's wintering White-throated Sparrow was last seen at her Los Gatos home on April 23. She also reports several Caspian Terns fishing in Vasona Reservoir.

Churck Scarlott, who led the Searsville Lake field trip on April 18, sent in a list of 33 different species seen. A Black-crowned Night Heron was the prize; Yellow Warbler, Barn Swallow, and Hermit Thrush were among those reported.

The April 22nd field trip to Stevens Creek Dam and Park, led by Evelyn Case, listed 37 birds. Among them were Caspian Tern, Ash-throated Flycatcher, House Wren, Wilson's (Piliolated) Warbler, Western Tanager, and Lazuli Bunting.

Forty-one species were listed by the May third field trip to the Duveneck Ranch in Los Altos led by Kay McCann. Some of their "best birds" were Western Wood Pewee, Swainson's Thrush, Black-throated Gray and Wilson's Warblers.

Emily Smith's usual monthly notes include two records of lingering wintering birds. A flock of seven or eight Cedar Waxwings had been seen occasionally up to May 14 at her Saratoga home and on May 18 she saw seven Canada Geese at Crystal Springs Reser oir. Two Vaux's Swifts have been flying together in her neighborhood during the first half of May. On April 23 a Lazuli Bunting sang on a telephone wire by her house and on the 27th a Yellow-breasted Chat sang in her yard. She writes further: "A pair of Hooded Orioles nested in a fan palm at Lawrence Earle's place in Los Gatos, 1957 and 1958. (In 1957, male was yellow; in 1958, orange.) This year Mr. Earle reported a pair nesting again at his place, but in a valley oak instead of in the palm. The nest, of palm fibers, is in a clump of leaves at the end of a slender pendulous branch which swings dizzily these windy days. The pair were feeding audible nestlings when I saw them May 14. The male this year is more brilliant than last year's male."

Bob Wood reports from Los Trancos Woods in Portola Valley an Ash-throated Flycatcher, White-throated Swift, Lazuli Bunting, and Wilson's and Black-throated Gray Warblers on April 25, a pair of Black-headed Grosbeaks feeding on loquat fruits on May 19, and a male Western Tanager on May 17. Another male tanager, killed against a window in Palo Alto, was brought in to the Junior Museum there on May 19.

-----Robert Wood  
1007 Los Trancos Road  
Menlo Park (UL 1-1237)

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