

# The Avocet

Volume VI Number 7

Summer 1959

## Our Greatest National Park

The National Park Service Committee recommends a new national park in the northern Cascades which could "outrank in its scenic, recreational, and wildlife values, any existing national park and any other possibility for such a park within the United States". It is in the Lake Chelan-Glacier Peak area, part of which now has some protection, but is in constant danger from logging, mining, dams, highways and underplanned overdevelopment. It can be beautiful, unspoiled forest, or tomorrow's desolation. Conservationists do not oppose logging - in the right places. This is not the right place, and we cannot accept attempts to hide ugly destruction with high-sounding clichés. We don't need the timber and pulp that badly. One needs to see the fine photographs of Ansel Adams, Philip Hyde, Alan Steck and others to know the beauties of the area - or better, go there in person as a relief from the crowds in Yosemite and Yellowstone. Many of us have already seen the Sierra Club film "Wilderness Alps of Stehekin". It should be shown in all schools, churches, clubs - to build public pressure for this new park. It is available from Sierra Club, 1050 Mills Tower, San Francisco. Support, if you can, the North Cascades Conservation Council, 3215 East 103rd Street, Seattle, Washington, organized specifically to protect and preserve Washington's Northern Cascades. Membership starts at \$2 per year.

--- J. Todd

## COMING EVENTS AT A GLANCE

Fri. July 24	7:30 a.m.	Santa Cruz Natural Bridges Beach State Park
Sat. Aug. 1	6:30 a.m.	Alum Rock Park
Wed. Aug. 12	8:30 a.m.	Fortola State Park
Wed. Aug. 26	8:00 a.m.	San Francisco Bay Marshes and Ponds



SUMMER CALENDAR

No regular meetings until September. Board members will be notified by postcard of any summer meetings.

Field Trips:

Friday, July 24, to beaches near Santa Cruz. Trip will start in Santa Cruz, from Natural Bridges Beach State Park at 7:30 a.m. Promptly, to take advantage of a low tide for some tide pool exploration. The Park is near the west end of West Cliff Drive. Follow State Highway 1 out Mission Street to the 2400 block and turn left at El Dranel Motel; then follow the signs to the Park and parking area. Bring lunch; also overshoes, for tide pools are wet places. Leader: Miss Emily Smith (EL 4 -2494).

Saturday, August 1. For the early birds. Meet at 6:30 a.m., or earlier if you wish, in Alum Rock Park. Drive to the end of the road in the park, cross the little bridge, turn left and drive as far as road permits. Breakfast at 7:00 a.m. Bring your own victuals. Leaders: Mr. and Mrs. Emmanuel Taylor (FR 8-3219).

Wednesday, August 12, to Fortola State Park, among the redwoods near the headwaters of Pescadero Creek in San Mateo County. Meet at 8:30 a.m. on Skyline Boulevard (State Highway 5) at its junction with Alpine Road. Bring lunch. Leader: Mrs. Virginia Bothwell (DA 2-1209).

Wednesday Morning, August 26, to marshes and salt ponds near south end of San Francisco Bay, to check on the arrival of migrating shore birds. Meet at 8:00 a.m., in Palo Alto, at Hiller Helicopters, 1350 Willow Road (approaching Dumbarton Bridge). Leader: Les Sleeper (DA 3-9370).

---Field Trip Committee:  
Mr. Emmanuel Taylor, Chmn.  
Miss Emily Smith

Expedition Albatross

Leavitt McQuesten's offshore trip June 22 from Santa Cruz to see albatrosses was very rewarding. On a sport-fishing boat we left the wharf at 7:30 a.m., with fog all around us. Dimly we could see a few Heermann's Gulls, already north from their nesting grounds on islands off Mexico, and several Pigeon Guillemots. But the fog was thinning, fortunately, by the time we were far enough out to see offshore birds. The first to be sighted was a large flock of shearwaters resting on the water. When the pilot slowed the boat down the birds took off in groups and we could see they were Sooty Shearwaters. Farther out several Pink-footed Shearwaters were identified by Howard Cogswell and other experts. Soon petrels were seen skimming over the water - two blackish species, the Black Petrel and the smaller Ashy Petrel, and a really ashy one, the Fort-tailed Petrel - all close enough to be positively identified by the experts.

When we were out about twelve miles from shore the boat slowed down and circled about in quiet water and good light. To attract albatrosses pieces of fish and squid were thrown out on the water. Soon shearwaters and petrels, and one Western Gull were flying about; and then, suddenly, a call: "Albatross far out!" But it proved to be a shearwater. A little later the same voice called again "Albatross at nine o'clock!" (To the initiated the hour indicated in which direction to look.) This time there was no mistaking the majestic, eagle-size bird, gliding skilfully on wide-spread, saber-like wings. For the photographers on the boat it was a field day! And soon there were ten Black-footed Albatrosses gobbling the refuse fish. Even on our return to Santa Cruz, one was seen following the boat to within four miles of the shore.

As we got off the boat at noon, Viola and Charles Anderson, who came to the wharf to greet us, said we all looked as if we had had a successful trip. (We did!)

---Manette Wittgenstein and  
Emily Smith

Local Members : Dues Time Again

To all who are local members only of the Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society (not joint members of National and local): Dues of \$2.00 became due July 1 payable to the Treasurer, Mrs. Charles J. Zwaal, 478 Clifton Ave., San Jose 28, Calif. Please mail the dues promptly, to save our sending you a special reminder.

---Fannie Zwaal,  
Treasurer.

TREASURER'S REPORT  
June 1, 1958 - May 31, 1959

<u>Income</u>		<u>Expense</u>	
Balance 5/31/58	\$ 563.12	<u>Avocet</u>	\$ 338.
Dues	566.55	Publicity Committee	9.40
Subscription	2.50	Nominating "	9.50
Treasurer's Refund	.70	Membership "	5.00
Name card holders	17.00	Field Trip "	7.00
Screen Tours	17.76	Educational "	6.74
		Treasurer	3.98
		Secretary	3.00
		Conservation Chairman	5.40
		Villa Montalvo signs	62.61
		So. S.F. Bay Sanctuary signs	12.06
		Stationery for Society	22.67
		Paper & envelopes for Screen Tours	22.68
		Sales Tax on supplies	5.60
		Name cards and holders	30.10
		Palo Alto Chamber of Com. Seeds	10.00
		P.A. Jr. Museum )gift	
		Alum Rock Jr. Museum)books	10.00
		1 Scholarship West Coast Nature School	15.00
		Christmas Bird Count	19.00
		Club House Rental	5.00
		Refreshments	5.00
			<u>\$ 607.85</u>
		Transferred to Savings	260.00
			<u>\$ 867.85</u>
		Balance 5/31/59	299.78
	<u>\$1167.63</u>		<u>\$1167.63</u>

Savings Account:

Balance 5/31/58	\$1733.68
Interest	34.66
Transferred from Checking Acct.	260.00
Interest	<u>39.69</u>
 Total in Savings	 <u>\$2068.03</u> =====

## Statement of Funds as of

June 1, 1959	
Balance in Savings	\$2068.03
Balance in checking	<u>299.78</u>
Total on hand	<u>\$2367.81</u> =====

Mrs. Charles Zwaal, Treasurer  
Mr. M. R. Kirkwood, Auditor

NEW MEMBERS

We extend a cordial welcome to the following members, some of whom are old friends back again. Their continued support we greatly appreciate.

Reinstated:

Mr. Frank Cantu	974 Florence Lane, Menlo Park
Miss Florence Wood	337 Tennyson Ave., Palo Alto
Mr. & Mrs. Ronald A. Tanner	728 Citron Ave., Sunnyvale

New:

Dr. & Mrs. Max Bakalinsky	3765 Wright Place, Palo Alto
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---Mrs. Irving Snow,  
Membership Chairman

Report on the June Annual Meeting

The Society's annual meeting at Montalvo on June 15 was blessed with a lovely warm evening and a wonderful view down the immense lawns and gardens to the sparkling lights of the cities below. Our Society is proud of its work in establishing Montalvo as a wildlife sanctuary. We should watch for more like opportunities - to preserve relatively small areas of local natural beauty before they disappear forever.

President Charlotte McBride conducted the business meeting, and Jane Goraj, Chairman of the Education Committee, presented the program for the evening. Written and verbal yearly reports were given by all chairmen. Changes in the Board of Directors were announced as follows: Robert Wood, Roberta Wright, Joyce Todd are leaving the Board; replacing them are Mr. W. R. McCann, Miss Harriet Munday, Dr. S. C. Woodward, all of whom will serve three-year terms. The other members constituting the Board are Charlotte McBride, Fannie Zwaal, Tom Harvey, Lola Erickson, Admiral Williams, Emmanuel Taylor. Committee Chairmen may attend Board meetings and vote.

Miss Mary Meehan showed us the new check list of Hawaiian birds she discovered on a recent trip there. It is an attractive booklet, available for \$1.70 (including postage and handling) from

Hawaii Audubon Society  
Box 5032  
Honolulu 14, Hawaii

Mrs. Goraj had prepared a colorful table display of Audubon Junior Club materials and an exhibit of the work done by the Club in Mrs. H. Wolcott's fourth grade class in Portola Valley School. Tom Harvey and Jane Goraj told us flannel board stories - good stories and extra fine story-tellers! A movie "The Window" revealed how teachers can stimulate children's love of nature, and how natural beauties and their conservation can constitute a teaching unit - leading to further reading, scientific experiment, creative thinking.

New officers for 1959-1960 will be announced in the September Avocet. Notes from Afield will be resumed at that time, and contributions, summer travel notes, bird observations, are due by August 15. Please!

---Joyce Todd,  
Editor

EDITOR'S NOTES

The Palo Alto City Council on 6/22 authorized the 3904 acres Foothills #3 annexation extending city boundaries to Skyline Blvd. over protests by three property owners, including Audubon member Teynham Woodward. The public works committee will study future zoning and application of city ordinances to the mountainous, rural area.

---P.A. Times 6/23

Palo Alto Audubon members, unable to halt this land grab, can at least have some voice in conserving the wild, watershed lands; do let council members know how you feel about the situation.--J.T.

The U.S. Forest Service is asking Congress for appropriations to start its conservation program concentrating on tree cutting and planting, fire roads and trails.

---P.A. Times 7/7

Now, in mid-summer, is an excellent time to reflect on the dearth of forest fires in the Santa Cruz Mountains. Most people who have lived near the mountains for some time remember the bad fires that ruined hundreds or even thousands of acres of forest land nearly every summer. The red glow and oppressive smoke hanging over the valleys, and the good chance of being drafted into a fire-line if you happened to be driving by, seem to be gone forever. Fire watchers and superior equipment of the Forest Service have kept fires small. What, I wonder, will in time become of the fire-dependent plants - Knobcone pine and various manzanitas? -- J.T.

Anyone who has lived in the desert will be interested to learn of The Desert Protective Council, Inc., P.O. Box 716, Banning, California. They propose a "Sanctuary for Wildlife in the San Jacinto-Santa Rosa Mountains". The area includes low desert floors and mountains rising to ten thousand feet. A series of unique water holes supports the largest herd of desert big horn sheep in California; and the rugged canyons of the sheep ranges, with their ocotillo, agave, and cactus, are a remarkable contrast to the park-like coniferous forests of the high basins. Administration will be under the California Department of Natural Resources. ---J.T.