

The Avocet

Volume VI Number 8

September, 1959

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The first meeting of the new Board elected to serve during 1959-1960 was held at Miss Harriet Mundy's. At this time the most important item on the agenda was the selection of new officers, chosen from the Board consisting of nine directors. General plans were made for the current year. Discussed at some length was our ability to scatter our meetings over a wider territory -- Palo Alto, San Jose, Los Gatos, and somewhere in the eastern sector such as the Spring Valley Golf Club. We now have our own projector and a start toward our own collection of slides. Two sets of slides were purchased during the past year. This coming year we hope to purchase a screen and a case for the new projector. It was decided a special committee should be appointed to take charge of the new Audubon Bulletin Board soon to be erected at the Palo Alto Yacht Harbor. We should begin to work toward a good collection of pictures of summer and winter visitors as well as the homesteaders. Any one having pictures appropriate for this use and willing to give them to the Society and anyone interested in working on the committee, please contact me at 25441 Crescent Lane, Los Altos (WH 8-2335).

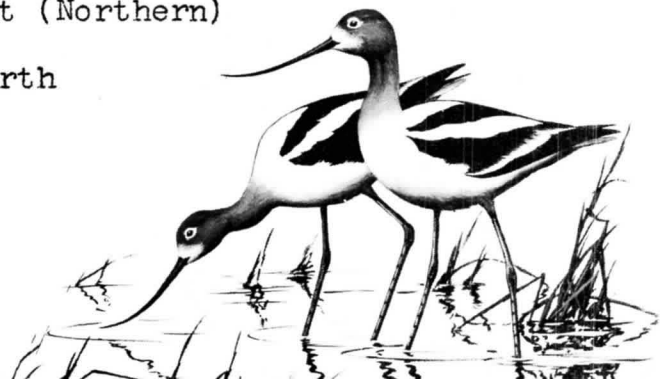
Following is a list of the officers who will be serving this year:

President.....Mrs. John L. McBride
Vice President...Dr. H. T. Harvey
Secretary.....To be announced
Treasurer.....Mrs. Chas. J. Zwaal
Director.....Miss Harriet Mundy
Director.....Dr. S. C. Woodward
Director.....Mr. W. R. McCann
Director.....Miss Lola Erickson
Director.....Admiral Chas. Williams
Director.....Mr. Emmanuel Taylor

Chairmen

Historian.....Miss Emily Smith
Program.....Dr. S.C. Woodward & Adm. Chas. Williams
(co-chairmen)
Conservation.....Mrs. John C. McQueen
Field Trips.....Mr. Emmanuel Taylor
Education.....Mr. and Mrs. Francis Goraj (co-chairmen)
Editorial.....Mrs. John E. Todd
Publicity.....Mrs. W. R. McCann
Membership.....Mrs. Angelina Snow (Southern)
Mrs. Roberta Wright (Northern)
Auditor.....Dr. M.R. Kirkwood
Screen Tours.....Dr. Arnold Applegarth
Sanctuary.....Mr. Francis Goraj
Social.....To be announced
Scholarship.....To be announced

---Charlotte McBride



SEPTEMBER CALENDAR

Regular Meeting: Monday, September 14, 8:00 p.m., Palo Alto Junior Museum, Middlefield Road, Palo Alto. Several members have been contacted and will show color slides of nature subjects. Any other member who has slides to display, please call either Dr. Woodward (DA 3-0231) or Adm. Williams (DA 3-0787). Refreshments will be served at this first social evening of the new Audubon year.

Board Meeting: Monday, September 14, 7:00 p.m., before the regular meeting. This is important.

Field Trips

Sunday, September 13, Point Lobos State Park. Meet at park entrance at 9:30 a.m. Bring lunch. Leaders: Frank and Jane Goraj (DA 5-8847).

Wednesday Morning, September 23, to the Palo Alto Yacht Harbor, at east end of Embarcadero Road, for more shore bird watching during this migration season. Also to see (we hope) the new Audubon Bulletin Board which the Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society is preparing for this area. Meet at 8:30 a.m. by the duck pond. Leader: Mrs. R. Wesley Wright (DA 3-3809).

Sunday, September 27, Dumbarton Bridge Salt Marshes. Meet at Hiller Helicopter plant on Willow Road, Palo Alto at 8:30 a.m. Leader: Les Sleeper (DA 3-9370).

-----Emmanuel Taylor,
Field Trip Chairman

REPORT FROM THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

July was an active month for your Education Committee. During the week of July 6 the Girl Scout group encamped at Searsville Lake, under the leadership of Mrs. Frank L. Freiburger, Jr., used our materials with the guidance of Mrs. Virginia Bothwell. Mrs. Freiburger passed the materials on to the Girl Scout leader for the next week's encampment - thus two large groups of around 150 girls each made use of them - and, later on, to a Palo Alto first grade teacher, who used them during the rest period at a swimming party held for her class.

On July 9 Mrs. Charlotte McBride and Mrs. Jane Goraj presented a program to children ranging in age from about 7 to 13 years at the Menlo Park Library - unexpectedly and delightfully assisted by Les Sleeper, who came to see what we were up to and ended by joining the Education Committee. He was promptly drafted to do a program or two himself by the Menlo Park friends of the Library's Mrs. William Gropp. The series of programs beyond pure reading which were featured at the Library this summer for the children was her idea.

On July 11 Admiral Charles Williams, Eagle Scout Explorer Robert Ballou and Mrs. Jane Goraj presented a program to the Y.M.C.A. in San Jose to boys ranging in age from about 8 to 14. Mr. Ballou, Associate Advisor to Explorer Post 54, showed slides and spoke on a Survival Hike in the Sierra made by his group this past spring. All programs and material were well received, and invitations for the future are expected.

We wish to express our thanks for the assistance of the Palo Alto Junior Museum, where Robert Wood is Curator of Natural Science; they have lent us beautiful mounted birds and skins in plastic tubes which have improved our programs enormously.

After the June meeting of the Society, the Education Committee was made the richer through the services of two fine ladies: Dr. Evelyn Case and Miss Elaine Todd. Both volunteered to cut out flannel board stories. The flannel board stories are good stories, and audiences appreciate them. But it is most time-consuming to cut out the figures required for telling the story. Thus these offers were accepted with the deepest gratitude. Elaine has now brought in two sets of story figures and is working on one which is an Indian legend explaining the Big Dipper.

The Education Committee welcomes all members who might like to join us. We meet two or three times per year and can use practically any skill you may offer: scissor and paste work, typing, talking, leading nature walks, etc. Maybe you have slides of trees, plants, animals etc. you would like to lend us. Do contact us if our work interests you at all.

-----Mr. and Mrs. Francis H. Goraj,
Co-Chairmen, Education Committee

AN INVITATION

Golden Gate Audubon Society invites you to participate in a salute to Mr. John Baker, past president of National Audubon Society, who will be the principal speaker at a catered supper (barbecued chicken) to be held on Thursday, September 24, 6:00 p.m., at the home of Dr. and Mrs. T. Eric Reynolds, 140 Estates Drive (off Park Blvd.), Piedmont. The price of the supper is \$3.50 per person.

-----Mrs. Louise Muhler, Chairman,
5774 Scarborough Drive,
Oakland (KE 2-7916)

BOOK REVIEW

Nature Stories from the Vienna Woods by Lillè Koenig, Thomas Y. Crowell Company, New York. This is a charming book which will be enjoyed by everybody who enjoyed reading King Solomon's Ring. The young author is not only a noted biologist dedicated to the study of animal behavior but is also an artist in her own right.

In his introduction to the book, Konrad Lorenz writes: "The love of living creatures, the pure enjoyment of their beauty which have inspired Lilli Koenig's work, her exact observations as well as her artistic sketches, must be intelligible to everyone not deaf or blind to the wonders of nature."

-----Manette Wittgenstein

SCREEN TOURS

Detailed information will be available later, but we wanted to make certain no one will miss the October 2 tour. Again, all films will be shown at Morris Dailey Auditorium in San Jose at 8:00 p.m. Tickets are available at the door.

Friday, October 2, Laurel Reynolds - The New World Discovered

Tuesday, October 27, Emerson Scott - Rocky Mountain Rambles

Wednesday, January 20, Howard L. Owans - The Land the Glaciers Forgot

Monday, March 21, G. Clifford Carl - Secrets of the Sea

-----Fanny Zwaal

EDITOR'S NOTES

Helping me condense news for this column, beginning in this issue, is my Mother, Mrs. T.W. Todd, 945 Matadero Ave., Palo Alto (DA 2-0853). She is a retired mathematics teacher and gets to the meat of things in a hurry!

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Robert F. Stroud, linguist, world-famed authority on bird diseases and perhaps the longest tenant of solitary confinement in history, has left Alcatraz. (See Thomas E. Gaddis: Birdman of Alcatraz, Signet paperback, 50¢.) He was quietly transferred several weeks ago to the Federal Medical Center at Springfield, Mo. Pressure on Washington by sympathizers will continue since Stroud has not yet been permitted to pursue his old work on bird pathology.

-----San Francisco Chronicle
July 22, 1959

INSPECTION OF ROADSIDE ZOOS

We have made great progress in this project. As a result of inspection and reports from several members of Defenders of Wildlife in Florida, three such places have been closed and one other going into another business. The fresh water Fish and Game Commission and Humane Societies are still working with us on this project. We have received two generous contributions from California to be used for inspection in California and we are waiting for inspection reports from our members. Keep this project in mind as you travel on your vacation. Go in and

inspect these places, take pictures, or make sketches and send us your report. We shall follow up and correct all reports of crew or inadequate care of all wildlife in these places.

-----Defenders of Wildlife

Rules designed to cut the kill of wild ducks during the 1959-60 hunting season are the most restrictive for duck hunters since 1947, according to the Dept. of the Interior. They reduce the season length and shooting hours and drastically limit the legal take of diving species. Duck production has been very low because of drought conditions in the usual northern breeding grounds. This curtailment, however, will be felt largely in the East and Midwest, not on the Pacific Flyway.

-----Palo Alto Times 8/16/59

George J. Schlocker, geologist in charge of the U.S. Geological Survey in Menlo Park, recently decried the building of homes, schools and roads on the San Andreas fault - "one of the world's most treacherous earthquake faults". Subdivisions and schools are being built directly over the fault line and on filled land nearby. He considered it fortunate that so much of the fault zone in San Mateo Co. is within the San Francisco water preserve where building is barred. Displacements at the fault line in 1906 ranged from 6 - 10 feet on the Peninsula and up to 21 feet at Olema. Present movements along the fault line, about 2 inches per year, are tearing apart a winery in Hollister. As for vibrations, it makes little difference if the structure is in the fault zone, or miles distant. Filled land is particularly weak.

-----Palo Alto Times 8/26/59

Fred Eissler of the Sierra Club Anti-Litter Committee reports that the Sierra Nevada cleanup campaign is going "great guns" this summer. The idea to bring out any non-combustible containers taken into back country is working. National Forest and Park Service agencies are cooperating in the program. National Park Service employees packing in to back country are setting an example by bringing potential litter back out. Inyo National Forest administrators have assigned two men for each ranger district to collect trash. Eastern and Western High Sierra Packers Associations have agreed to haul litter out on return trips and to transport federal workers and their equipment without charge. Several local chapters of the Sierra Club are planning cleanup days. Meanwhile the Sierra Club is conducting an extensive educational campaign which features "Hector", a garbage-loving cousin of "Smokey", the fire-fighting bear, and his son.

---Conservation News
National Wildlife Federation
8/15/59

Because his bill to regulate billboards had been amended till -- as its author said: "The only thing it conserves is billboards.", Senator John F. McCarthy advocated its "resounding defeat".

With the advice and approval of the California Roadside Council, he has launched a drive to place a measure similar to his original bill on the ballot.

The bill, intended to conserve the more beautiful stretches of California scenery, did not impose any real hardship on the billboard industry; but that industry denies the right of the public who pay the cost of highways to decide what it may look at when using them.

The billboard industry has exerted tremendous pressure on the legislature, but -- says McCarthy -- "It is quite another thing to pressure 15 millions."

It will require roughly 400,000 signatures to qualify his measure for the ballot. Who signs?

-----California Roadside Council
5/22/59