

# The Avocet

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## Autumn Guide to the Pacific Flyway

(This well-illustrated article should attract much attention. Sunset magazine has a very large circulation in the Western States, Alaska, and Hawaii.--J.T.) A few of the main points: "...the urge to move farther south is strong. The flight resumes, now mostly over country man has made hostile to wildlife. Most of the marshes, givers of sustenance and sanctuary, have been drowned or dried up by reclamation and river control projects. Practically all of those that are left - or that have been restored to a semblance of their original appearance - must be "managed" in order to accommodate millions of waterfowl in dense concentrations that seldom occurred when the West was wild." "On the diked-in remnants of Tule and Lower Klamath Lakes, more than half of all the waterfowl in the West - some 6,000,000 ducks and 700,000 geese - will rest at once, in a concentration unknown anywhere else on earth. It's a spectacular picture, but not a pretty one in the eyes of wildlife management experts. It bespeaks not so much an abundance of birds as a lack of room for them; as the West's natural, unmanaged habitat continues to dwindle, more and more migrating ducks and geese are forced into the confines of Federal, state and private refuges. And the most important refuges continue to shrink. Where there is unnatural crowding, there is sure to be botulism. The birds' human guardians have farmed thousands of acres of barley and left it standing to keep the birds on refuge land as long as possible. Otherwise rice farmers, in order to finish their harvest, may feel they have to frighten the birds away with sirens and skyrockets." "The refuge - or at least part of it - is no longer sanctuary when hunting season begins, but this is the hunter's legal reward for providing the money that buys and maintains the refuges." "Happily for the birds, some of the refuges - and parts of almost all the others - are difficult for humans to reach, even with a boat."

---Sunset Magazine, Nov. 1959

### Coming Events at a Glance

Sat. Nov. 7	9:00 a.m.	Pinnacles National Monument
Mon. Nov. 9	8:00 pm.m	Palo Alto Junior Museum
Wed. Nov. 18	8:30 a.m.	Los Altos Hills area
Sun. Nov. 22	9:00 a.m.	"Coon Hollow" - Evergreen
Sun. Dec. 6	9:00 a.m.	Los Banos Game Refuge



NOVEMBER CALENDAR

Regular Meeting: Monday, November 9 at Palo Alto Junior Museum, Middlefield Road, Palo Alto, 8:00 p.m. Mr. Ivan Sutton will present his color motion pictures of Florida wildlife and photographs of nature in the Southwest.

Field Trips:

Saturday, November 7 to the Pinnacles National Monument. Meet near the entrance to the Park at 9:00 a.m.. Bring lunch. Leaders: Mary and Emmanuel Taylor (FR 8 -3219).

Wednesday, November 18 to George Morell's primitive foothill area described in October Avocet. Come prepared to hike and explore. Meet at 8:30 a.m. (weather permitting) at entrance of Duveneck's Hidden Villa Ranch on Moody Road, just beyond Adobe Creek Lodge. Leader: Mrs. Edah Bakalinsky (DA 5-0686).

Sunday, November 22 for a trip around the Evergreen area and along San Felipe Road to "Coon Hollow". Meet by the old Evergreen School at the corner of White Rd. and Aborn Rd. opposite firehouse at 9:00 a.m. Bring lunch. Leaders: Mary and Emmanuel Taylor (FR 8-3219).

Sunday, December 6 - With the Santa Cruz Bird Club to the Los Banos Game Refuge. We meet at Tiny's Restaurant in Los Banos at 9:00am. Bring lunch. For more information call Emmanuel Taylor (FR8-3219).

The Christmas Bird Count Needs You!

The annual bird count for this year will be taken on Sunday, January 3rd. Will all who are interested in joining in the count please drop a card or telephone giving area preference, if any, to

Miss Emily Smith  
19651 Glen Una Drive  
Saratoga Tel. EL 4 -2494

or

Emmanuel Taylor  
14311 Quito Road  
Saratoga Tel. FR 8-3219

Our Christmas Bird Count is fun, as well as work. Everybody is eager to make a large count and to spot as many different species as possible. Accounts of these annual affairs make very good reading - as well as adding to the amateur and professional ornithologists' information. Roger Tory Peterson tells his Christmas count adventures in various books, and widely distributed newspapers like the New York Times and the Christian Science Monitor seem to have a soft place in their hearts for the Christmas count (as well as for other Audubon activities). A special thrill or two is bound to occur in the totaling process - when everyone gathers in some kind soul's warm house (over coffee and cookies) to pool the counts. You need not have the longest Life-List in the local Society to feel at home on the Christmas Count. New members can be very helpful, indeed, and will probably learn more on this one occasion than upon any other field trip. It is a plain fact that the more people who participate, the higher the count and the more exhaustive the list of species. Decide now to come. You may even choose your favorite area. See you there!

---J.T.

NEW MEMBERS

We welcome the following new members:

Mrs. Raymond Lockwood	639 Arboleda Dr. Los Altos
Mr. Oliver F. Hitchcock	15060 Kennedy Rd. Los Altos
Mr. and Mrs. Frank Menke	P.O. Box 414, Menlo Park

--- Mrs. Irving Snow,  
Membership Chairman

Christmas Is Coming!

Seeking the unusual gift for the outdoor enthusiast? Send for SPECIAL gift lists from the Conservation Resource Center, 2426 Bancroft Way, Berkeley 4, California. REMEMBER, any purchase helps support the wide conservation programs of the National Audubon Society.

---Bill Goodall  
West Coast Representative  
National Audubon Society

Is Next Summer!

"PLAN NOW for a HIGH SIERRA ADVENTURE in 1960. Bring a friend and attend the Audubon Camp of California. Five two week sessions between June 19 and August 27. Descriptive information available through Audubon Camp, 2426 Bancroft Way, Berkeley 4, California."

NOTES FROM AFIELD

It is interesting to receive reports of winter visitors and note how they seem to suddenly appear throughout our area in ones or twos, then gradually build up in numbers. Dorothy Smith saw her first Golden-crowned Sparrow on September 16 in Los Gatos; Chuck Scarlott reports one from Portola Valley on the 17th, the same day that Catherine Lintott saw hers in Los Gatos (reported in the October AVOCET); Emily Smith's first record for her Saratoga home was the 21st; Atherton's earliest record was a bird seen by Roberta Wright on the 24th.

Single White-crowned Sparrows turned up in Portola Valley on September 18 (Emma Scarlott) and in Saratoga on the 21st (Emily Smith). A Lincoln's Sparrow appeared at the Scarlotts' in Portola Valley on September 10 and a Fox Sparrow at Emily Smith's in Saratoga on the 30th. Catherine Lintott reports an Audubon's Warbler on October 1 in Los Gatos and a Townsend's Warbler drank at Angelina Snow's birdbath in Los Gatos on September 26. An early flock of seven Cedar Waxwings was seen during a concert at the Masson Vineyard on August 30th by Emily Smith. Emma Scarlott saw 24 in Portola Valley on September 18 and Catherine Lintott had a flock of about 12 on October 1 in Los Gatos. The earliest Ruby-crowned Kinglet was reported by the Scarlotts in Portola Valley on September 18; Hermit Thrush by Emily Smith in Saratoga on the 12th; Vaux's Swift on the 18th, also by Emily Smith in Saratoga.

The Palo Alto dump, near the yacht harbor, is evidently a good place to see White-tailed Kites. Kay McCann saw 17 there on September 20 at about 5 p.m. and the field trip on the 23rd counted three.

Elegant Terns were seen again this fall at Wood's Lagoon in Santa Cruz. Emily Smith saw at least 100 there on September 9, and 14 on October 11. Chuck Scarlott reports a pair of Ringed Turtle Doves at his place in Portola Valley during August and September. These birds have become established around Los Angeles; Chuck's birds may have been escapees from someone's aviary. A dead Poor-will was picked up on the road in Portola Valley and turned over to Bob Wood on October 16.

Frank and Jane Goraj's field trip to Point Lobos State Park on September 13 listed a total of 26 species. Their "specials" were Black Oystercatcher, Black Turnstone, Pygmy Nuthatch, and Sea Otter. Roberta Wright's field trip to the Palo Alto Yacht Harbor on the 23rd produced 31 species, including the already-mentioned kites, also Savannah Sparrow, Clapper Rail, and six kinds of shorebirds. On the previous day she saw a Say's Phoebe while scouting the area. The trip to Henry Cowell State Park on October 11, led by Charles and Fanny Zwaal, turned up 34 species, including Spotted Sandpiper, Pygmy Nuthatch, Winter Wren, and Fox Sparrow. The October 14th field trip to Stevens Creek Reservoir and Park was led by Evelyn Case. Among the 30 different birds recorded were Brown Creeper, Hermit Thrush, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, and Townsend's Warbler.

How many of you transplanted Easterners find these western birds more difficult to attract by aqueaking or pishing? If it is not just

my imagination, how about some attempts explanation? I recently had better luck than usual, attracting ten species in one excited mob, with the following minimum estimates: 10 Bushtits, 6 Chickadees, 5 Townsend's Warblers, 3 Hermit Thrushes, 2 Wrentits, 2 Bewick's Wrens, 2 Titmice, and 1 Rufous-sided Towhee, Brown Creeper, and Junco. It would be interesting to hear of other successes.

---Robert Wood  
1007 Los Trancos Rd.  
Menlo Park  
ULmar 1-1237

ELEGANT TERN -- Thalasseus elegans (Gambel)

On a recent visit to the Pacific Grove Museum of Natural History, we interrogated the curator, "Anything interesting in these parts?" "Yes", came a ready and enthusiastic answer, "One Thousand Elegant Terns in July, in the sloughs back of Moss Landing! Now, early October, there are about 75 remaining." Three were collected; two skins, and one mounted for the specimen cabinet. It is a middle-sized tern, with a rosy flush to the breast and black feet. It breeds in the Gulf of California.

---Mary Meehan, Mountain View

EDITOR'S NOTES

The 55th Annual Convention of the National Audubon Society will be held this year in New York City on November 7-10. A few of our members usually attend. Can we expect a brief written report this time? We would enjoy it.

--- J.T.

The State of California proposes purchase of the 18,000 acre Bull Creek watershed to save some of the state's most famous redwoods, including California's tallest tree. The magnificent Rockefeller Forest in Humboldt County is within inches of losing hundreds of 300-ft. trees lining the eroding banks of Bull Creek. Charles de Turk, Chief of the Division of Beaches and Parks, blamed careless logging and fires for the extremely heavy stream flow and extensive erosion. In addition to a program of reforestation and installation of water check structures, the state would open the watershed to camping and picnicking.

--- Palo Alto Times  
October, 1959

Castle Rock Memorial Park, soon to become a public park, is a living memorial to the late Peninsula industrialist and conservationist, Dr. Russell Varian. The park is a majestic sweep of madrones, moss-covered oaks and firs sprawling along a 3100 ft. ridge off Summit Road, about three miles south of the junction of Skyline Blvd. and the Saratoga-Big Basin Road. Castle Rock itself is 80 feet high, its lower levels full of wonderful caves for children to explore. Dr. Varian, a Sierra Club member of many years' standing, camped at Castle Rock in his boyhood and always loved the area. The park will ultimately contain 500 to 600 acres - purchased by Mrs. Varian and the Sierra Club.

---Palo Alto Times  
October 24, 1959

The four square miles of the new Palo Alto Hills annexation which lie farthest out, extending around and beyond Black Mountain, have been zoned by the city as an agricultural conservation district- establishing the minimum lot size at 5 acres. The district is intended to permit reasonable use of the property while encouraging retention of the land in its natural state as much as possible.

---Palo Alto Times  
October 15, 1959

The Monterey Bay Chapter of the Nature Conservancy held a brief and informal meeting in Garrapata Canyon recently followed by a hike of three miles round trip along Garrapata Creek to a beautiful red-wood grove that the Nature Conservancy hopes to purchase for the use of San Francisco State College as an outdoor biological laboratory. The college is joining the Nature Conservancy in the fund-raising effort.

Members of the Audubon Society and their friends who are interested in the objectives of the Nature Conservancy were invited to join the meeting and hike.

---Edward Graves  
Monterey Peninsula Audubon Soc.