

The Avocet

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Northern California Coast Range Preserve

Allen H. Morgan, Executive Vice-President, Massachusetts Audubon Society, is responsible for the statement now so widely quoted by conservation groups over the country: "What we save in the next few years is all that will ever be saved". Audubon Wildlife Sanctuaries are an important part of this natural preserve. A relatively young group, The Nature Conservancy, has likewise been acquiring "living museums" - 18 nature areas in 6 states so far, with 21 others in process of acquisition. This society has made the down payment of \$25,000 on the Northern California Coast Range Preserve of redwoods. Ultimately they hope to complete purchase of 6500 acres in this Mendocino County area. See the January 1960 article in Reader's Digest - "Save A Beauty Spot for America":....."loggers and roadbuilders have all but wiped out the Coast Range wilderness. Yet, by happy fate, they have left untouched the whole of the drainage basin of the Elder River. At the heart of this project is a tract of some 3000 acres sold to Nature Conservancy by its generous owner (Mr. Heath Angelo, Wilderness Road, Branscombe, Calif.) at a price that is but a small fraction of its actual value. The Conservancy hopes to lease additional tracts of adjoining land. The total project will involve much money. But think what it will bring: the whole undisturbed natural basin of a river, from its source to its mouth!" Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society and Marin Audubon Society have each recently contributed \$33 for an acre in the Preserve.

Contributions in any amount from individuals are especially welcome now since only \$15,000 of the \$25,000 due on May 7 has been raised. The address:

Nature Conservancy
Western Regional Office
1711-A Grove Street
Berkeley 9, California

---J. Todd

COMING EVENTS AT A GLANCE

Sat. March 5	9:30 a.m.	Alviso
Mon. March 14	8:00 p.m.	Palo Alto Jr. Museum
Wed. March 16	8:30 a.m.	Vasona Reservoir
Mon. March 21	8:00 p.m.	San Jose State College
Sun. March 27	9:30 a.m.	Hidden Valley Ranch
Wed. March 30	8:30 a.m.	Palo Alto Yacht Harbor



March CalendarRegular Meetings

Monday, March 14, Palo Alto Junior Museum, Middlefield Road, Palo Alto, at 8:00 p.m. Mr. Irving Tailleux from the United States Geological Survey, Menlo Park, will tell us about Alaska, with special reference to its abundant wildlife. He has selected color slides from a very extensive collection.

Field Trips:

Saturday, March 5, to Alviso with Harriet Mundy as leader. Meet at Alviso Elementary School at 9:30 a.m. (DA 5-1192).

Wednesday Morning, March 16, to the Vasona Reservoir area on the north side of Los Gatos, where county park is being planned. This is a repeat trip, by request, hoping it down not rain this time. Meet at 8:30 a.m. at home of Mr. and Mrs. Edward M. Lintott, 17150 Buena Vista Ave. (Turn east from Santa Clara-Los Gatos Rd. a mile north of Saratoga Rd. and only a short way beyond Villa Felice restaurant.) Leader: Mrs. Catherine Lintott (EL 4-9664).

Sunday, March 27, to the Hidden Villa Ranch of Frank and Josephine Duveneck in the Los Altos Hills. Meet at the entrance to the ranch on Moody Road just beyond Adobe Creek Lodge at 9:30 a.m. Leaders: Mr. and Mrs. W. R. McCann (DA 4-1380).

Wednesday Morning, March 30, to the Palo Alto Yacht Harbor area at the east end of Embarcadero Road (east from Bayshore Highway). Meet at 8:30 a.m. at the duck pond in Bixbee Park in this area. Leader: Miss Harriet Mundy (DA 5-1192).

Screen Tour:

Monday, March 21, at 8:00 p.m. in the Morris Dailey Auditorium, San Jose State College. Dr. G. Clifford Carl will present "Secrets of the Sea". Dr. Carl, Director of the Provincial Museum, Victoria, British Columbia, is noted for his research in the mysteries of the sea - the life within it and along its shores. Motion pictures in natural color of such fascinating creatures as sea urchins, starfish, octopus, fur seals, humpback whales and varied sea birds that make up the intricate web and pattern of our marine heritage. This is the last tour in the current series. Don't miss it! Tickets are available at the door.

Don't Forget the Wilderness Bill - S 1123

The Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs of the U.S. Senate will act soon on the Wilderness Bill. Senator Thomas Kuchel, according to the National Parks Association, is an undecided member of the Committee. The bill in its present form has been amended to meet all possible objections. It has the support of all major conservation organizations. An air mail note or night letter now to Senator Kuchel can help a great deal.

San Francisco International Nature Slide Exhibition
sponsored by Photochrome Club of S.F.

Nature color slides from an international array of photographers will be exhibited throughout the Bay Area by the Photochrome Club of San Francisco beginning March 16.

The showing will last about 1½ hours and will include color slides of birds, insects, mammals, flowers, fungi and lichen, as well as scenes of nature in general. Commentary will accompany the showing.

The exhibition is aiming to promote naturalness, educational value and artistry in nature photography. The top award in the exhibition will be given for the slide which, in the opinion of the judges, best illustrates the relationship of a living subject to its environment or habitat.

Phyllis Lindley, National Audubon Society staff member, will be among those on the panel of selection.

Admission is free at all showings and the public is cordially invited to attend a session of outstanding nature color slide photography.

The Exhibition will take place Sunday, March 20 at 3 p.m. in the Rosicrucian Museum, San Jose, with the Light and Shadow Club as host. Call the Avocet Editor (DA 2-1787) for other dates and places in the Bay Area.
---J.T.

Sanctuaries and Income Tax

You have probably received by now the annual request of National Audubon for Sanctuary Fund contributions. Financial support of this kind literally keeps nature alive in beautiful areas that might otherwise be hopelessly over-civilized by now. Please give generously, and deduct the gift on your income tax return.

---J.T.

Summer is Coming!

Audubon Camp of California will open again for several sessions this summer. If you have never had the pleasure of spending a week or two there, why not go this year? Further details will be available shortly in the Avocet, or write or phone the Audubon branch office in Berkeley now.

Every Audubon member's dream trip, the Audubon Wildlife Tour through the Everglades National Park in Florida will be available this year in five different "packages". I have a schedule if you need one.

Alaska would like to have us enjoy some of the most beautiful, unspoiled country left on this continent: Camp Denali, a wilderness resort in the McKinley Park region of Alaska, is offering three special sessions this summer that may be of interest to Audubon members. The Wilderness Workshop, June 20-30, is set up along the line of Audubon Camps, to explore and study the nature lore of the Arctic-Alpine Tundra. Tundra Treks, Aug. 10-22, will attract those interested in taking the back country of McKinley Park and the adjacent Kantishna region from comfortable base camps along the McKinley Park Road. The Shutter Safari is designed for the serious wildlife photographer who wants to record the spectacular animal and bird life along with the mountain scenery for which McKinley Park is famous. For those just interested in a relaxing vacation in this region, the regular facilities

f Camp Denali will be open to all from July 1 to August 8. For brochure and other information write Camp Denali, Box 526, College, Alaska.

--- J.T.

NOTES FROM AFIELD

Let's catch up on some field trip reports first. Away back on the seventh of November we joined the Santa Cruz Bird Club on a joint field trip to Pinnacles National Monument. Twenty-nine species of birds were seen: Nuttall's Woodpecker, Black-throated Gray Warbler, and White-throated Swift were some of the more noteworthy. Virginia Bothwell reports a list of 27 birds that included a Sharp-shinned Hawk and Townsend's Warbler seen on the November 18 trip to the Wolcott Ranch in Los Altos. Crow and Say's Phoebe were among the 37 species seen by Emmanuel Taylor's field trip to Evergreen and Coon Hollow on November 22.

Another joint trip with the Santa Cruz Bird Club took place on December 6. About a dozen cars of enthusiastic bird-watchers listed 59 different birds at the Los Banos state game refuge. Large birds were a particular attraction; everyone enjoyed approximately 75 White Pelicans, 30 Whistling Swans, and 125 Sandhill Cranes. Also listed were a Red-necked Grebe, American Rough-legged Hawk, Horned Owl, and Long-billed Marsh Wren.

The December 9 field trip to Searsville Lake, led by Mrs. Stanley Hall and Virginia Bothwell, recorded 41 species. Their "prizes" were a female Redhead, Red-shouldered Hawk, five Violet-green Swallows, Long-billed Marsh Wren, and Yellowthroat. Tom Harvey's trip of January 16 to Villa Montalvo saw Band-tailed Pigeon, House Wren, and Townsend's Warbler among its total of 23 birds. Canyon Wren and White-throated Swift were seen by members of the Prusmans' field trip to Alum Rock Park on January 27. Their total list was 27.

A Cooper's Hawk was listed among the 33 birds seen on the February 6 trip to the Wolcott Ranch in Los Altos, led by the Wolcotts, while the trip to Vasona Reservoir on the tenth listed 34 birds. Reported by Catherine Lintott were a pair of White-tailed Kites, a nest-building California Thrasher, many Myrtle Warblers, and a White-throated Sparrow.

The Barrow's Goldeneye, hybrid or whatever (see the January Field Notes), has been reported as being present more or less regularly at the Palo Alto duck pond through January and February by several persons. Its head is purple but the black on the sides is only a little more extensive than on the Common with which it often associates, even to the point of courting a presumed Common female in company with three Common males.

White-tailed Kites are regular enough in the area bounded by Bayshore, Embarcadero Road, and the bay (in Palo Alto) so that anyone wishing to make this bird's acquaintance should be able to do so with a little perseverance. If you are not familiar with it, look for a gull-like bird that hovers like a Sparrow Hawk. Harriet Mundy saw three Kites and two Bitterns in that area on January 26. Mrs. Thomas Taylor reports a Kite at Stanford's Lake Lagunita on several dates in late December and early January.

Manette Wittgenstein saw a dozen Gadwalls at Crystal Springs Reservoir on February 6. A good place where one can often see them close to the road during the winter months is the small inlet just a few dozen yards north of where Skyline Drive crosses to the east side of the reservoir. Earl Albertson reports a Black-necked Stilt on January 2 and six Tree Swallows on February 13 at the western approach to Dumbarton Bridge, also a Starling the same day at the Palo Alto Yacht Harbor.

Bob Wood doesn't have any reportable birds but he did see a chipmunk scurry across Los Trancos Woods Road on January 23. Do any of you readers know of local areas where chipmunks are common, where you can regularly see several or more that have not been artificially concentrated by a feeding station? And how regularly do you see them in the winter months?

Acacias are blooming, buckeye leaves are unfolding, and mourning cloak butterflies are out in the warm sunshine. We should have reports of spring arrivals by next time.

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

EDITOR'S NOTES

A vast stand (520 acres) of virgin redwoods adjoining Big Basin State Park will be logged, starting this spring. Negotiations to purchase the land as an addition to the State Park were dropped when the state could not meet the asking price of \$700,000. John H. Knight, Chief of the State Division of Beaches and Parks said \$500,000 was appropriated in 1956 to buy this property. It has never been spent. A resident of the area said the property is 5 miles from present camping grounds seldom entered by hikers. (P.A. Times 1/27). A strong letter of protest (P.A. Times 2/1) by a Menlo Park geologist points out that the land is traversed by Sunset Trail - along which thousands of persons are led by park naturalists during the summer months. Berry Creek Falls, the loveliest part of the mountains, is in the center of the area to be cut. The beauty of a virgin forest is lost forever when it is cut. Can we do something to stop this? ---J.T.

Word has been received from Roger Tory Peterson that he is finishing his new Western Bird Book and it should go to the printers by February. This book will be a great improvement over the old one since it will be up-to-date on all species and data, all illustrations are new, and the book will be, in Mr. Peterson's words, "even a bit more polished than the new European book, except for the lack of thumbnail maps". Western Canada and Alaska will be included in the book, with Hawaii added as an appendix.

---Vermilion Flycatcher, 1/60

Robert Ruark, writer, hunter and African traveler, recently commented on having given up big-game hunting, saying, "I've just lost the taste for seeing things die". He now takes pictures of the big animals. ("Time" 26-X-59)

---Whittier Observer, 1/60

State Park - Tentative plans are being studied to develop a 4,000 acre park on federal land adjacent to the Golden Gate Bridge. The proposed Golden Gateway Park would comprise most of Forts Baker, Barry and Cronkite on the Marin County Coast and extend from Yacht Harbor to Sutro Baths along the San Francisco shoreline. It would join the present Seal Rock State Park. The first step suggested by State Park Chief Chas. A De Turk would be purchase of some 300 acres of Forts Baker and Cronkite recently declared surplus federal property. He said federal officials have promised to declare the land "historical, thus enabling the state to buy it for a nominal sum.

--- The Sequoia, 1/60

The National Park Service is being urged to study proposals of six California counties for the first national parkway west of the Mississippi River. The completed parkway would form a 200-mile drive of scenic and historic interest from San Francisco Bay to San Simeon, the site of a state historical monument, the Hearst Castle. The National Park Service, in a Pacific Coast recreation area survey last year recommended preservation of the spectacular natural beauty along the coast highway. A national parkway would assure preservation.

---P.A. Times 2/1/60

Congress has been asked to and doubtless will provide \$22,800,000 to aid national forests. Stressing the need for conservation and development of the nation's timber resources which are expected to pay for the program, the Forest Service chief said many other values would be produced. Production of more and better water would follow protection of forest watersheds, for instance.

---P.A. Times 2/12/60

An unusually constructive Forum letter (P.A. Times 2/15) suggests a way to build in a beautiful natural area without burying our foothills under "ranch-type houses whose picture windows overlook a sea of shake roofs and concrete patios". Sarah R. Hornig deplures what is happening to the wonderful open spaces which give the Peninsula its unique character. Near Auburn, in rolling wooded foothill country similar to our foothills, a developer with foresight and a conscience is developing an area of 360 acres. It is roughly an oval. The outside of this oval is laid out in acre lots, two deep, with a road between. This uses up 160 acres. The inner part, 200 acres of beautiful wooded land, with a winding creek and three lakes, belongs jointly to all the property owners. Under a new California law, it is dedicated to the state, can never be developed, and is taxed at agricultural value.

---P.A. Times 2/15

Several Santa Clara Valley Audubon members participated in the Tomales Bay Christmas Count held (like ours) on January 3, 1960. Phyllis Lindley, of Berkeley, sent us a copy of the count results, which record 164 species (one more than the San Diego total). Thirty-nine observers counted about 53,380 individuals on a clear cold day. Of special interest were some 1850 Red-throated Loons, 7651 Brandt's Cormorants, a Bald Eagle, a Spotted Owl, 2492 Water Pipits, 6 Red Crossbills, and a Green-tailed Towhee.

---J.T.