

# The Avocet

Volume VII Number 6

June, 1960

## Audubon Society Moves to Protect Bay Lands

The following resolution was adopted by the Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society on May 2, 1960.

Whereas the tide and marsh-lands of California are rapidly disappearing and few accessible areas remain for scientific study and recreation, and

Whereas the tidelands support plants and wildlife that cannot exist in any other environment, and

Whereas the bay-lands owned by the City of Palo Alto are virtually the only public lands in Santa Clara County with Bay-frontage, and

Whereas these lands are on the Pacific Flyway and maintain a great variety of water and wading birds;

Therefore be it resolved that the Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society recommends that a suitable portion of the land in the vicinity of the Palo Alto Yacht Harbor be set aside in its natural state for the preservation of this wildlife habitat for educational use, or non-commercial recreation and as a heritage for future generations.

This resolution has been endorsed by the Conservation Committee of the San Jose State College, the Golden Gate Audubon Society, the Sequoia Audubon Society of San Mateo County and the Nature Conservancy.

---Charlotte McBride

## President's Parting Message

I wish to thank everyone who worked for the Society during the past year: members of the Board, the chairmen and their committees and all others who have given so much of their time and effort. I hope each of you has a wonderful time this summer and good birding wherever you go.

## Coming Events at a Glance

Sat. June 11	9:00 A.M.	Finnacles National Monument
Mon. June 13	4-10 P.M.	Annual Meeting Montalvo
Mon. June 20	7:30 A.M.	Santa Cruz Offshore
Wed. June 22	8:30 A.M.	Huddart Park
Sun. June 26	9:00 A.M.	Uvas Dam



June CalendarAnnual Meeting:

Monday, June 13, 1960, at Montalvo, a wildlife sanctuary and cultural center about a half mile from Saratoga on the Saratoga-Los Gatos Highway. Come whenever you can. The schedule is:

4:00 P.M. Birding

6:00 P.M. Picnic Lunch

8:00 P.M. Business Meeting and Entertainment.

Officers for the year 1960-61 will be elected, and committee chairmen will present annual reports. (They should have written reports prepared for the President, please.) Admiral Charles Williams, Program Chairman, has arranged for us to see the wonderful film created by Laurel Reynolds and Mindy Willis, An Island in Time. It was made in the Point Reyes area destined to become a national park. The film was made for the Sierra Club, whose members realized that a great picture study of the area would be one of the best means of gaining public support for the park.

Field Trips:

Saturday, June 11, to Pinnacles National Monument. Meet at entrance to the park at 9:00 A.M. Bring lunch. Leader: Emmanuel Taylor (FR 8-3219)

Monday, June 20, Santa Cruz Offshore trip, sponsored by Leavitt McQuesten. We go 12 miles offshore from Stagnaro Landing, Municipal Wharf, leaving at 7:30 A.M. Return at noon the same day. Preparation: Come warmly dressed, bring blanket, overcoat, binoculars and lunch. Parking is free, and the boat is Coast Guard inspected. Call me for tickets (DA 2-1787). I can mail them to you. Please reserve them as soon as possible. \$1.50 per person. ---J. Todd

Wednesday Morning, June 22, to Huddart Park area. Meet at 8:30 A.M. at Woodside Store (Old Tripp Store) on King's Mountain Road, west from Woodside. Leader: Mrs. Virginia Bothwell (DA 2-1209).

Sunday, June 26, to the Uvas area. Meet at 9:00 A.M. at the Almaden Union School on Almaden Road near Downer Avenue. Bring lunch. Leader: Mrs. Caroline Davis (Cy 7-7219).

We Have a Bird Nurse!

Mrs. Tom Dolan  
123 Hillside  
Menlo Park, California  
(Phone DA 2-5302)

Mrs. Dolan has successfully raised young birds of several species and has tended injured ones, too. When I mentioned that S.C.V.A.S. has always needed someone to care for unfortunate birds referred to us, she volunteered to take them on. Thank you, Mrs. Dolan. We are very happy to find someone in this world who still has time and patience!  
---J. Todd

HAVE YOU SEEN OUR BULLETIN BOARD?

Our Society owes a debt of gratitude to Harley Bothwell for the Bulletin Board at the Palo Alto Yacht Harbor. Not only did Mr. Bothwell construct the board, but he designed it and worked out the necessary specifications required by the City of Palo Alto. Those who have been to the Yacht Harbor in the last several months know that it is a very sturdy, well-made board, as well as a handsome one. We all say, "Thank you" for the time, effort and energy given by Harley Bothwell to this project.  
---Charlotte McBride

New Members

We welcome the following new members during May:

Mr. Edwin M. Zimmerman	767 Santa Ynez	Stanford
Mr. and Mrs. Robert J. Debs	3486 Murdock Court	Palo Alto
Mr. Edell Gustafson	2341 Bailey Court	San Jose
Mr. Oliver I. Allen	490 Orange Court	Los Altos

--- Angeline W. Snow, Membership  
Chairman

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 become due July 1, payable to the Treasurer, Mrs. Charles J. Zwaal, 478 Clifton Avenue, San Jose 28, California. Please mail dues promptly to save our sending you a special reminder.

---Fanny Zwaal, Treasurer

Notes from Afield

Bob Row of Stanford has again contributed a number of interesting records from the Searsville Lake area where he is doing extensive field work. On April 29 he saw 200-plus Tricolored Blackbirds, two Pigmy Nuthatches, and a Black-crowned Night Heron; on the 30th, four Spotted Sandpipers; May 1, Ash-throated Flycatcher; May 5, 30 Vaux's Swifts and a White-throated Swift; May 10, a male Horned Grebe in

breeding plumage. On May 7 he had six Purple Martins at Half Moon Bay. Bob has also passed along several records from Todd Newberry: a nestling Red-breasted Nuthatch and a Black-throated Gray Warbler, both along Corte Madera Creek near Searsville Lake, and a Townsend's Warbler at Searsville Lake, all on May 1. On the evening of May 10 Bob Wood heard a Poor-will calling repeatedly at Los Trancos Woods in Portola Valley.

Emily Smith sends in some "firsts" for her Saratoga neighborhood: Warbling Vireo on March 24, Solitary Vireo on April 1, Western Flycatcher on the 2nd, Black-headed Grosbeak on the 5th, Brown-headed Cowbird on the 6th, Wilson's Warbler on the 10th, Black-throated Gray Warbler on the 15th, Western Tanager on the 26th, Olive-sided Flycatcher on May 7. She still had a Golden-crowned Sparrow at her home on May 9. Vaux' Swifts returned to her chimney on April 16, and later in the month she saw one enter carrying a twig.

The Sequoia Audubon Society's boat trip to the Farallons on May 1 was a pleasant excursion. Western Gulls, Common Murres, Pigeon Guillemots, and Brandt's Cormorants were the most numerous birds about the islands with lesser numbers of Pelagic Cormorants and Tufted Puffins. Two flocks of Eared Grebes, about 40 altogether, were seen close to the rocky shore, and two Black Oystercatchers were observed on the rocks. During the trip out and back, Murres and migrating Arctic Loons were seen frequently. Others on the list were Sooty and Pink-footed Shearwater, Black Brant, Marbled Godwit, Bonaparte's Gull, Forster's Tern, and a single Black-footed Albatross.

---Robert Wood, 1007 Los Trancos Rd.  
Menlo Park (Phone UL 0-1237)

#### Editor's Notes

WHERE IN THIS WORLD can you pick up the telephone, dial, and listen to an HOURLY REPORT on where the latest birds have been sighted? --BOSTON--by dialing KENmore 6-4050. "The late George Apley would have enjoyed this service and would have probably dashed off to whatever bluff, harbor, or swamp had interesting species."

---Mary Meehan

WEST COAST AUDUBON BRANCHES AND AFFILIATES announce the second Nature Photography Salon to be displayed at Asilomar Convention in March, 1961. Each branch is asked to submit 3 photographs for each of the following five categories: 1) Plant life; 2) Bird life; 3) Vertebrate life (other than birds); 4) Invertebrate life (insects, spiders, marine life, etc.); 5) Habitat scenes, physiographic land forms, other earth science subjects. Entries must be black-and-white prints only, and participants must be members of the branch or affiliate presenting their work. Remember this as you take your vacation pictures this summer. Preliminary judging will be held locally. If you want more details on formal entry conditions, phone me (DA 2-1787).

---J. Todd

"Woe unto them that join house to house, that lay field to field, till there be no place, that they may be placed alone in the midst of the earth."  
 ---Isaiah 5:8

Progress must preserve beauty. "We have seen many an historic and irreplaceable structure pounded into rubble to make way for a freeway or parking place. We have watched parks shrink and open spaces vanish---all in the name of 'progress'. It is alleged, with obvious logic, that we must provide means for bringing people into the city and for storing their automobiles, must keep revenue-yielding properties on the tax roll. These are sound arguments---when not followed to excess. They could, if blindly heeded, lead to a kind of civic suicide. For a city---must be more than a garage or a producer of tax moneys, lest it acquire drabness and monotony to a degree which no longer attracts visitors or holds residents."

---Editor, San Francisco Chronicle

DAWN REDWOOD---Have you ever seen one? There is a magnificent 12-year-old labeled specimen, 54½ ft. in height (deciduous) located on the Waverley Street side of the Palo Alto Post Office. This particular tree grew from a seed brought from China by the famous expedition made to the interior of China in 1947 by Dr. Ralph Chaney, paleontologist, of the University of California. Heretofore, the Dawn Redwood was known only as a fossil until the remarkable discovery of a live stand by a Chinese forester during War II and reported by him to his chief of the Department of the Interior at the Nationalist capital at Chungking. It will be well worth your while to see this particular tree so proudly showing its new spring foliage. It is the second tallest tree which grew from that original collection of seeds.  
 ---Mary Meehan

Rep. Charles S. Gubser (R - Gilroy) announced this week that he has introduced a bill directing the National Park Service to make a route feasibility survey for the proposed Skyline National Parkway. "This is some of the most beautiful country in the world," Gubser commented. "Unless steps are taken now to preserve its natural beauty, commercialism will ruin it for all time."

---Palo Alto Times 4/13

The City of San Francisco has told San Mateo County that it opposes a proposed new road through the Crystal Springs Lake watershed. John O'Marie, manager of the Water Company's Peninsula Division, said the road as planned would be a severe pollution hazard to the lake. The road projected would extend Edgewood Road at Canada and the Skyline.  
 ---Palo Alto Times 4/27

#### CHEMICAL PESTICIDES COORDINATION ACT

A bill to avert the serious and unnecessary losses of fish and wildlife that have occurred in many areas as a result of the careless or uninformed use of chemical pesticides has been introduced to Congress by Leonard G. Wolf of Iowa. This bill known as H.R.11502 will provide for advance consultation with federal and state wildlife agencies before federal agencies can initiate or finance chemical pesticide programs.  
 ---J. Todd

THE SANTA CLARA VALLEY AUDUBON SOCIETY  
BRANCH OF THE NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY  
1959 - 1960

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Southern: Mrs. Irving Snow (EL 4-1811)  
21441 Roaring Water Way  
Los Gatos

Pacific Coast Office  
National Audubon Society  
2426 Bancroft Way  
Berkeley 4, Calif.

Local meetings are held on the second Monday evenings of the month at 8 p.m. at various locations.

In general weekend field trips are held on the first and third weekends in the month either Saturday or Sunday.

Usually the week-day field trips are held on the second and fourth Wednesdays at 8:30 a.m. and are usually half day trips.

Our publication is the Avocet, price \$1.00 per year. It appears monthly, except for the summer when there is only one issue published.