

# The Avocet

Volume VII Number 7

September, 1960

## PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Your Board of Directors has a way of being most persuasive and, against my better judgement, has elected me president. I've warned them that there are many now in the Society who can do a much better job and be of greater inspiration to the rest of you.

We've made an agreement, however. They shall, I know, and you will, I hope, help me to do the things that are needful to:

Keep the Society as an active, interested group of good people.  
Help make the meetings such that no member will intentionally miss one.

Broaden the appeal of the local Society to bring more of the young people into active participation.

We're a strong group when it comes to membership, on the rolls. Some 300 strong. We're more than solvent, financially. There will be no appeal for money, no "membership drives".

At the next meeting, on September 12th, we want to talk informally among ourselves about what we can do as a group in order to accomplish these aims of ours and to chart a course for 1960-1961.

Will you give the idea some thought, bring your thoughts to the meeting to give us ideas?

---Charles D. Williams

## Falconry as a Hobby

I hope all members will keep a sharp eye out for individuals who want to catch hawks for training in falconry. There is a big new interest in hawking, especially in the Stanford area, which has revealed gross ignorance of the law. No hawk may be taken for this purpose until a "20 license has been obtained from the State Dept. of Fish and Game, which has an office in San Francisco. The prospective trainer should first learn how to care for a wild bird of this kind to avoid foolish and inhumane loss of these fine predators. Licensed hawk owners are required to report violations they may see, and Audubon members likewise have that obligation.

---Joyce Todd

## Coming Events at a Glance

Sat. Sept. 10	9:00 a.m.	Henry Cowell State Park
Mon. Sept. 12	8:00 p.m.	Palo Alto Jr. Museum
Wed. Sept. 14	9:00 a.m.	Beach Parks, Santa Cruz
Sun. Sept. 18	9:00 a.m.	Mt. Madonna State Park
Wed. Sept. 28	9:00 a.m.	Palo Alto Yacht Harbor



Regular Meeting: Monday, September 12, 8:00 p.m. Palo Alto Junior Museum, Middlefield Road, Palo Alto. Come to meet old and new friends at this kickoff meeting of the new year. Let's share our ideas in planning for the coming year. Express yourself, with the help of refreshments and enjoy the new summer slides (or old favorites) members will bring. Your outdoor pictures we love to admire. If you can bring some, please call Charles Williams (DA 3-0787) or Harriet Mundy (DA 5-1192).

Field Trips are what most of our members like best about the local Society. Don't miss a trip because there seems to be no leader specified. A leader will appear - chosen from a training group now learning the finer points of leadership.

Saturday, September 10, to Henry Cowell State Park on Highway 9 near Felton. Meet at the park parking lot at 9:00 a.m. Bring lunch.

Wednesday Morning, September 14, to lagoons and beaches along East Cliff Drive, Santa Cruz, for water birds. Meet at 9:00 a.m. at Twin Lakes Beach State Park parking area (East Cliff Dr., between 4th and 5th Ave.). If interested in birding in the afternoon, bring lunch. For any further information about the trip, phone Emily Smith (EL 4-2494).

Sunday, September 18, to Mt. Madonna State Park. Meet at the entrance to the park on Hecker Pass Road (Route 9) at 9:00 a.m. Bring lunch.

Wednesday Morning, September 28, to Palo Alto Yacht Harbor area, at east end of Embarcadero Road (east from Bayshore Highway), to look for marsh and shore birds. Meet at 9:00 a.m. at the duck pond in Bixbee Park in that area (and don't forget to look at our Audubon Bulletin Board near the pond). For any further information about the trip telephone Virginia Bothwell (DA 2-1209).

---Emmanuel Taylor, Field Trip  
Chairman

---Emily Smith, Wednesday trips.

New Members

We are pleased to welcome these people to our society. We thank them for their interest and support.

Miss May H. Daily	836 S. 12th St., San Jose 12
Mr. E. Lee Sansum	1534 Walnut Dr., Palo Alto
Mr. Claude E. Smith	P.O. Box 489, Saratoga
Mr. Francis Rutherford	13150 E. Sunset Drive, Los Altos
Mr. & Mrs. W. G. Stone	10416 Sterling Ave., Cupertino
Mr. Olney Smith	1919 Adele Place, San Jose 25
Mr. W. R. Lockett	22905 Old Santa Cruz Highway, Los Gatos
Mr. & Mrs. David T. Hackett	1035 Emerson St., Palo Alto
Miss Hazel Freeman	1011 Asbury St., San Jose 26
Miss Leota Ahlstrom	873 Laverne Way, Los Altos

(Changed from local to National membership.)

---Angelina W. Snow  
Membership Chairman

West Coast Nature School Scholarships

In accordance with instructions received, four scholarships were awarded to the Mount Lassen session of the West Coast School of Nature Study. These are paid for direct from surplus of the Audubon Screen Tours upon authorization by Dr. A. G. Applegarth. They were awarded as follows:

Mrs. Doris Fuller, 693 Spencer Avenue, San Jose, a mother of four children who has returned to S.J.S.C. expecting to earn a teaching credential. She is highly recommended by her instructors.

Leland Van Fossen, 420 So. 4th Street, San Jose, a graduate of S.J.S.C. who will be teaching in Andrew Hill High School next year. He has been working half time for the Science Education Department the past year (as a technical assistant) and has been very helpful to all in the department.

Barbara J. Veerkamp (from Placerville) 92 North 5th Street, San Jose, a junior here who is working for a General Elementary teaching credential. She has been working as a student assistant for Dr. Gale and he speaks very highly of her.

Roberta Ann Paton (from Los Angeles), 1054 Ranchero Way, San Jose, who is here working for a Kindergarten-Primary credential. She is a senior, working to pay her own way through school, and seems to be very enthusiastic about her future as a teacher.

---Eva McRae  
Chairman, Scholarship Committee

Editor's Notes

We are especially glad to have with us Mr. Earl A. Albertson, long active in the Sacramento Audubon Society. He is a skilled observer of birds, and we hope to see him often at meetings and on field trips. Probably some of his observations will help Bob Wood in writing Notes Afield every month!

--- J.T.

After much anguish and many last-minute pleas from hundreds of groups and individuals, the most scenic virgin redwoods west of Big Basin Park will be saved from the woodsman's ax. Negotiations by the State Division of Beaches & Parks with Big Creek Timber Co. are now under way. Armed with an appropriation of \$500,000, state officials plan to purchase waterfalls and fish and game areas along Berry Creek and the west fork of Waddell Creek. Logging will be restricted to "fringe" areas away from Berry Creek trail. Letters of encouragement and approval are in order to Governor Edmund Brown and to State Senator Donald Grunsky, 130 Rogers Ave., Watsonville.

---Palo Alto Times 8/18 & 8/25

A long-range plan for using the Crystal Springs watershed for recreation, including swimming, fishing and sail boating on the lower lake, is being considered by the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors. San Francisco has opposed opening of the watershed area to the public, claiming such a move would tend to contaminate the water. Recreation Director Robert Shaw of San Mateo County also proposes golf courses, hiking and riding trails. An art center and open air theater is proposed near the present Pulgas Water Temple. San Francisco feels the plan is too far-reaching to be considered now.

---Palo Alto Times 8/29

The Sierra Club has just finished its third annual clean-up in the mountains - 4 tons of rubbish packed out by mule and hauled by truck to city dumps. Much of the litter was cans - hence the slogan "You can take them with you". Fred Eissler of the Club says, "People are loving this wilderness back country to death". Lynn Robins of our Society worked with the group.

---Palo Alto Times 8/22/60

Maintenance of at least a portion of Palo Alto baylands area as a bird sanctuary was urged by Mrs. Alice N. Silberling, president of the Garden Club of Palo Alto. "Palo Alto has in its baylands one of the few remaining habitats of natural tidal marsh and mudflat upon which thousands of wading birds depend for their very existence," Mrs. Silberling wrote. "If we allow these areas to be drained and filled, as has been done along so much of the bay shoreline, we will be furthering the destruction of these species, part of the natural heritage of generations to come." Mrs. Silberling praised the council for purchasing a park site in the foothills "as an island of natural beauty in our increasingly urban community. We, the Garden Club of Palo Alto, urge you to do the same for our bay shoreline," she wrote. "It is easily accessible to the rest of the city and could be a spot of inestimable value as an educational and recreational resource."

---Palo Alto Times 6/7/60

Our bird nurse, Mrs. Tom Dolan (DA 2-5302), reminds me that many of our members will be interested in having Roger Tory Peterson's Field Guide to the Birds of Texas, published by the Texas Fish and Game Commission, Austin, Texas. They will send you a copy of this beautiful and exhaustive work (commissioned by them) for \$3.00. It will not be released for general publication for some three years, and then at a much higher price.

---J. Todd

A discarded hair net provides the perfect solution in attaching chunks of beef fat to post, limb or trunk without its crumbling and falling to the ground. The hair net holds the food securely, yet gives the birds free access to it.

---Audubon Warbler (Oregon)  
May, 1960

California's High Sierra is the subject of a series of six lectures to be presented in Berkeley and San Francisco this fall by the University of California Extension. The illustrated talks on the famous mountain range will be given by scholars in the fields of history, geography, geology, anthropology and physiology.

"The High Sierra" begins in San Francisco on Tuesday, October 4 at 8 p.m. at the Extension Center, 55 Laguna Street. The Berkeley series starts Thursday, October 6, at 8 p.m. in room 155 Dwinelle Hall.

Series tickets for the High Sierra lectures are now on sale at the University of California Extension, 2441 Bancroft Way, Berkeley 4 (THornwall 5-6000, local 2221). General admission for the series is \$9.00. Student admission is \$5.00.

THE SANTA CLARA VALLEY AUDUBON SOCIETY  
BRANCH OF THE NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY

1960 - 1961

President: Mr. Charles D. Williams (DA 3-0787)  
148 Goya Road, Menlo Park

Vice President: Dr. Evelyn H. Case (CH 3-2467)  
2586 Homestead Rd., Santa Clara

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25611 Elizabeth Ave., Los Altos Hills

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(Correspondence) 700 Stanford Ave., Menlo Park

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478 Clifton Ave., San Jose 28

Field Trip Chairman: Mr. Emmanuel Taylor (FR 8-3219)  
14311 Quito Road, Saratoga

Membership Chairman:  
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540 Fletcher Dr., Atherton  
Southern: Mrs. Irving Snow (EL 4-1811)  
21441 Roaring Water Way, Los Gatos

Pacific Coast Office  
National Audubon Society  
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 most often half day trips.

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