

The Avocet

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Better Than Hollywood

The National Audubon Society, operator of what may be the world's largest lecture circuit, has announced that its touring staff of 35 speakers will make 1,265 appearances before audiences expected to total nearly a half-million people during the next nine months.

The famous "Audubon Screen Tours" consist of motion pictures of wildlife and wild areas and accompanying, live lectures presented by the naturalist-photographers who made the films.

Lecture series have been booked this year in 211 cities of the United States, Canada, Bermuda and the Bahama Islands, according to Bruce Murray, director of the Screen Tour program. The local sponsors include universities and colleges, churches, nature history museums, local Audubon societies and other conservation groups, garden clubs, youth organizations and civic associations.

Purpose of the Audubon film-lecture program, now beginning its 18th season, is "to further the knowledge and understanding of wildlife, plant, soil and water resources in relation to human progress," Society President Carl W. Buchheister said.

Good Neighbors

It has been recently announced from the White House and from Ottawa that committees have been formed by both nations to establish a common policy of administration for the protection of the wilderness area in northern Minnesota and western Ontario. First steps to preserve this wonderful Quetico-Superior region were taken in 1909 - in the United States by Theodore Roosevelt. Here lie 10,000,000 (ten million) acres of lakes, rivers, and forests - the only international canoe country in mid-continent.

--- Christian Science Monitor 6/17

Coming Events at a Glance

Mon. Oct. 3	8:00 p.m.	Board Meeting, Santa Clara
Sun. Oct. 9	9:00 a.m.	Natural Bridges State Park
Wed. Oct. 12	8:30 a.m.	Stevens Creek County Park
Thurs. Oct. 13	8:00 p.m.	Morris Dailey Auditorium, San José
Sun. Oct. 23	9:00 a.m.	Alviso
Wed. Oct. 26	8:30 a.m.	Searsville Lake
Sat. Nov. 5	9:00 a.m.	Alum Rock Park



October Calendar

Regular Meeting: None this month because of Screen Tour date, Oct. 13. Don't miss this first Screen Tour. You will enjoy every one in the new series.

Board Meeting:

Monday, October 3, 1960 at 8:00 p.m. Meet at the home of Dr. Thomas Harvey, 716 Garner Court, Santa Clara.

Screen Tour:

Thursday, October 13, 1960 at 8:00 p.m. Morris Dailey Auditorium, San Jose. In Florida a beautiful river flows southward to the sea. Called Wakulla, the Indians' word for "mysterious waters", it is a river of the crying bird - where the limpkin wails a kind of music as basically Dixieland as that of Basin Street. River of mystery, of wildlife wonders, of the limpkin's wail...the Wakulla, filmed in color by naturalist Allan Cruickshank of Rockledge, Florida.

Field Trips:

Sunday, October 9, 1960. Meet at 9:00 a.m. at Natural Bridges State Park, north of Santa Cruz, for a trip to Ward's Lagoon and other beaches along the coast. Bring lunch.

Wednesday Morning, October 12, 1960, to Stevens Creek County Park, in the foothills of the Santa Cruz Mts., southwest of Cupertino. Meet at 8:30 a.m. in the parking area at Stevens Creek Reservoir, out Mountain View-Stevens Creek Road. Leader: Mrs. Langford W. Smith (EL 4-4674).

Sunday, October 23, 1960, to Alviso. Meet at Alviso Elementary School at 9:00 a.m.. Bring lunch.

Wednesday Morning, October 26, 1960, to Searsville Lake, west of Stanford University. Meet at 8:30 a.m. at entrance gate, near junction of Sandhill and Portola roads. There is an entrance fee of 25 cents. Leader: Mrs. Walter Ray McCann (DA 4-1380).

Saturday, November 5, 1960, to Alum Rock Park. Drive east through San Jose on Alum Rock Avenue. Meet at Junior Museum at 9:00 a.m. Bring lunch.

---Emmanuel Taylor, Field Trip
Chairman

---Emily Smith & Virginia Bothwell,
Wednesday Trips.

Leadership Training

The Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society plans to offer a training program for field trip leaders. It will be held on alternate Saturday mornings, October 15 and October 29, so as not to conflict with presently scheduled field trips. The time and place of meeting will be announced later.

The instructors will be Miss Emily Smith and Dr. H. Tom Harvey who will present lectures and discussions on field trip techniques and content. In addition, time will be spent in the field applying these ideas.

Those interested in attending should so indicate by writing a letter to Tom Harvey, 716 Garner Court, Santa Clara, Calif. Include your reasons for desiring this course, as a committee will select 15 people for this program. Please include your address and telephone number so that you can be contacted. If you are unable to participate at this time, perhaps additional offerings of this service will be given later on.

---J. Todd.

Audubon Screen Tours
Fifteenth Season in San José

Place: Morris Dailey Auditorium, San José State College.

Time : 8:00 p.m.

Tickets:	<u>Season</u>	\$3.00
	(5 Audubon Screen Tours)	
	Single Admission	.90

<u>Students:</u>		
Season Ticket		2.00
Single Admission		.50
Children (under 12)		
accompanied by adult		.25

Tickets are obtainable at: S.221
San José State College
Cypress 4-6414, Ext. 2457
8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Monday through Friday

NOTES FROM AFIELD

And who else has seen a Golden-crowned Sparrow this fall? Two of them came to my bird-bath this morning, September 22.

On June 6 while waiting for a traffic light to change at Stanford I heard a chattering that took a moment to be recognized as that of a White-throated Swift. I looked up and saw a pair of swifts spiralling earthward in a mating flight. One bird separated and swooped away just above the moving traffic, the other was just "pulling out" when a car bumped it. Fortunately there was a break in the traffic and I was able to stop in the middle of the street and hastily scoop it up. I expected it to be dead but instead it clung to my finger with its heavily clawed feet. It made no effort to fly so I put it in my

lunch bag and took it home. During the twenty-minute ride, it scrambled around inside the bag and several times gave its piercing, chattering call that I first heard at Bryce Canyon and still associate with the wide open spaces. When I arrived home everyone gathered around as I took it from the bag. It clung to my finger for a moment, then shot off across the fields.

Earl Albertson reports seeing four Marbled Murrelets on July 24 along the coast near the Santa Clara-San Mateo County line. That is the bird whose nest has never been located; it is suspected to nest inland in dense forest. Earl also saw Sooty Shearwaters streaming northward from Pescadero Point to Miramar, a distance of 18 miles, and on August 12 near the east of Dumbarton Bridge 200-plus White Pelicans.

Emmanuel Taylor has sent in check-lists from two of the more recent field trips. On September 10 a group of field trippers saw 36 species of birds at Henry Cowell State Park. Among the birds seen were Green Heron, Winter Wren, Orange-crowned and Townsend's Warblers. Twenty-three different birds were seen on September 18 at Mount Madonna State Park. Included were Band-tailed Pigeon, Crow, and Pygmy Nuthatch.

---Robert Wood
1007 Los Trancos Road
Portola Valley
ULmar 1-1237

EDITOR'S NOTES

Publicity Chairman for this year is Mr. John R. Brokenshire, 102 So. 23rd St., San José. He will see that field trips and screen tours are announced in all the newspapers of the area. Information on any other activity to be publicized should be given to him well in advance since many papers have early deadlines.

---J.T.

Bob Wood will give us a short talk at each meeting on current migrations and what birds to expect during the coming month or so. We need someone to volunteer to describe these birds and lead a short discussion on habits and habitat. Who will help us?

---C.W.

We thank the new members who have sent in their questionnaires so promptly. We need these to help us give members more of what they want; to let us have a much better idea of the potentials within our membership, and to allow us to put the right people in places where they will be happy and feel useful.

---C.W.

Our September meeting was a lively one, lots of enthusiastic people with good ideas. We welcomed Mr. Williams as new President, Dr. Case, new Vice President, our new secretaries, Mrs. Wolcott and Mrs. Menke. The latter, in a newly created office, is a big help to our ability to transact business. We are again grateful to those hardworking leaders - Bob Wood, Jane and Frank Goraj, Lynn Robins. Miss Robins is chairman of a newly formed group, the Youth Committee, who will represent and encourage the interests of the younger generation in the society.

---J.T.

The Postscript Session of Congress, it seemed clear as this was written, is unlikely to add much to the conservation of the 86th Congress. There was still a good chance the Senate would act on U.S. ratification of the International Convention for Prevention of Pollution of the Seas by Oil. This would be a significant step forward.

The Dingell-Gross Bill (H.R. 12533) to make stiffer penalties for market-hunters was expected to become law after House approval of minor Senate amendments. This is not a major bill, but a measure needed in waterfowl conservation.

But as this issue goes to press there appeared little or no chance for the creation of a Padre Island, Cape Cod, Point Reyes or Oregon Dunes national seashore. The Wilderness Bill, the Pesticides Coordination Bill, the Arctic Wildlife Range, and the C. & O. Canal Park Bill - all were unlikely to be pried out of committee pigeonholes in this Congress.

--J.T.

Acquisition of long needed additions to Mt. Tamalpais State Park is progressing at various stages. One of these areas is the Kent property in Steep Ravine, connecting Mt. Tamalpais and Stinson Beach State Park by means of Warm Spring region, a long time recreation area closed to public use. The well-known Lone Tree Spring is now within Tamalpais Park, a part of the recently acquired 30 acres wooded area near Old Mine Trail and Pan Toll. Negotiations are continuing on some proposed additions.

--Redwood Log 9/60

The Santa Maria Valley Sportsmen's Association has notified the Santa Barbara County Supervisors that it is ending its ten-year hunt for predators which brought in one dollar for each coyote and bobcat killed, fifty cents for each weasel, and fifteen cents for each crow. Paul Sword, the Association secretary, says that killing them is not considered good conservation practice, that predators 'can be counted on to wipe out the sick and the weak game'.

---Desert Protective Council

A series of wildflower sanctuaries is being created in a pioneering action by Los Angeles County officials. Tax delinquent lands that have reverted to public ownership have been placed under jurisdiction of the Los Angeles County Parks and Recreation Department as wildflower reserves. The Southern California Chapter of The Nature Conservancy has worked actively with the County in this project, and participated in the dedication of the first preserve on April 30. This was the 320-acre Butte Wildflower Sanctuary, only 50 miles from the vast urban area of Los Angeles. This timely action will help save the flamboyant seasonal displays of desert wildflowers, which are being rapidly wiped out in Los Angeles County. The Conservancy's Southern California Chapter is cooperation in plans to utilize the area for botanical research. The Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors deserves commendation for this far-sighted action in setting aside County-owned lands as living museums for its citizens.

---J.T.