

# The Avocet

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## Wilderness Wanted

California boasts the finest park system of any in the nation, but, big as it is, it isn't big enough. Officials say that were it twice its present size, it still wouldn't be big enough. The parks are just a sample of what recreation is meaning in California. Their basic significance, obviously, is the growing way city people are looking for windows on the mountains and the seas, windows that add scope and adventure to daily living. California is making plans which the federal government and the other states are watching.

"California Public Outdoor Recreation Plan - Part I, is a 20-year projection whose chairman was DeWitt Nelson, state Director of Natural Resources. Mr. Nelson calls its report the first comprehensive attempt made in this country to plan for meeting statewide recreational needs on an intergovernmental basis.

Part II is due this fall, and will provide more details and documentation. The proposals are destined for controversy. Some people will say it favors tents over trailers, boats over fishing. Other people will say it costs too much. But, as Mr. Nelson says, this is the wholesome way of the democratic process. He recently told a legislative interim committee that in his judgment the plan presents an economical solution to the challenge. California has 15,000,000 people now. It will probably have twice as many by 1980. The challenge is to make the natural resources of outdoor wonder yield their best for everybody in the most effective way.

Elmer C. Aldrich, chief of California's Division of Parks, furnished another view of the cost factor. "Sometimes we wonder," Mr. Aldrich said, "if the public really wants cheap government. We believe that from the reactions of thousands of people representing recreation interests, what they really want is maximum services provided by government at the cheapest cost possible." Most people think of California as a ready-made playground. It is. But its stellar attractions aren't as simple to come by as they used to be. Popular enthusiasm for outdoors recreation seems to be scaled to the grandeur of the state. And why not? There are still many people of the hardy sort who prize the wilderness and love to escape conventional comforts. But hundreds of thousands of California urbanites view the outdoors in a different way. They think in terms of small-boat harbors, public golf courses, public beaches, riding trails, trailer parks, camps, picnic spots. They want excellent custodial service and modern sanitary facilities. They gladly pay small fees and observe the rules, but they think of public recreation as a modern necessity which should be tax-supported, just as streets and schools are.

State expenditure is inevitable, of course. But Mr. Nelson says that the key to great California achievement in this field is coordination of state, county, city, and federal efforts. Los Angeles County, he points out, already spends more on recreation than the state. Already the national parks and national forests, the state park system, the state beaches, the county and city recreation programs



make much of California's treasure available. Another remarkable contributor which the Public Outdoor Recreation Plan seeks to encourage is private enterprise. In the view of these men and many others, a statewide recreation plan has become just as imperative as the state water plan and the state highway plan. It is, they contend, an indispensable factor for resourceful land use. It is an even more vital factor for the enrichment of human life.

---Kimmis Hendrick  
Christian Science Monitor  
11/10/60

### Coming Events at a Glance

Sun. Dec. 4	9:00 a.m.	Calaveras Reservoir
Mon. Dec. 12	8:00 p.m.	Board Meeting - Palo Alto
Wed. Dec. 14	8:30 a.m.	Williams Street Park, San Jose
Sat. Dec. 17	9:00 a.m.	Mt. Hermon
Sat. Dec. 31	7:30 a.m.	Christmas Bird Count
Mon. Jan 9	8:00 p.m.	Screen Tour - San Jose

### December Calendar

Regular Meeting: None in December because of the Christmas Bird Count.

#### Board Meeting:

Monday, December 12, at 8:00 p.m. at the home of Miss Harriet Mundy, 757 Tennyson Ave., Palo Alto (DA 5-1192). A report from this and all future board meetings will be given at general meetings - a move the membership will appreciate.

#### Screen Tour:

Monday, January 9, at 8:00 p.m. Morris Dailey Auditorium, San Jose State College. Bert Harwell presents Canada, Sea to Sea. Tickets available at the door. Returning again to Canada's wilderness areas, Bert Harwell of Berkeley, California, presents the culmination of his whole series of color films on its vast and varied splendors. Aided by rugged terrain and climate, Canada remains a great reservoir of wildlife: along both coasts the oceanic birds; in the Rockies and over the tundra, game birds and animals; and songbirds, all across the land.

#### Field Trips:

Sunday, December 4, to Calaveras Reservoir area. Meet at 9:00 a.m. at Calaveras Road and Oakland Highway 17 in Milpitas. Bring lunch. Leaders: Mr. and Mrs. Albert Wool.

SATURDAY  
Wednesday Morning, December 14, a trip to Mount Hermon. Meet at the Mount Hermon Recreation Park at 9:00 a.m. Take Route 17 and turn right 1 mile south of Scotts Valley. Proceed along the Mount Hermon Road 2.3 miles. Bring lunch. Leaders: Mr. and Mrs. Charles Zwaal (CY 2-2060).

Saturday, December 31, Annual Christmas Bird Count, Meeting place: East San Jose, at the home of Frances and Richard Newaldt, 4150 Golf Drive (CL 8-7491). Everyone be there at 7:30 a.m. Bring lunch. Reconvene at 4:30 p.m. SHARP at Newaldts'. Refreshments will be served during the tally.

Count Area: Same as in past years - a circular area, 15 miles in diameter. The center is northeast of city limits at junction of Mabury Road and Capitol Avenue.

Sectors: The count area will be divided into five sectors, as follows:

- A. Alviso Sector, bounded on east by State Highway 17 (old Oakland Highway) and on south by Bayshore Highway. Bayshore Highway is inside this sector.
- B. Southwest Sector, bounded on north and east by Bayshore Highway, Bayshore Highway, south of Alum Rock Avenue, inside this sector.
- C. Evergreen Sector, bounded by Bayshore Highway, Alum Rock Avenue, and Mt. Hamilton Road. Mt. Hamilton Road inside this sector.
- D. Alum Rock Sector, bounded on south and west by Mt. Hamilton Road, Alum Rock Avenue, and Bayshore Highway; on north by Capitol Avenue and Sierra Road. Alum Rock Avenue, Bayshore Highway and Oakland Highway, and Capitol Avenue are all inside this sector.
- E. Calaveras Sector, bounded by Sierra Road, Capital Avenue, and old Oakland Highway. Sierra Road and Oakland Highway inside this sector.

Sector Leaders:

- A. (Alviso) Dr. Henry Weston, 349 N. Richlee Drive, Campbell (ES 7-6384).
- B. (Southwest) Mrs. Angelina Snow, 21441 Roaring Water Way, Los Gatos (EL 4-1811), Mrs. Fannie Zwaal, 478 Clifton Avenue, San Jose 28 (CY 2-2060).
- C. (Evergreen) Mr. and Mrs. Emmanuel Taylor, 14311 Quito Road, Saratoga (DR 9-3424).
- D. (Alum Rock) Mrs. Grace Brubaker, 191 Mountain View Avenue, San Jose (CL 8-2289).
- E. (Calaveras) Albert J. Wool, Box 68, La Honda

Each leader is responsible for planning the itinerary within his sector. (If you know where there is good birding in a sector, let the leader know.) At the meeting place, on the day of the count, the assembled bird counters will divide into groups and go with whichever sector they wish. If you know now which sector you want to join, telephone or drop a card to the leader. It will be a big help in planning the itinerary if the leader knows beforehand how many observers (and cars) he can count on for his sector. If you have further questions, call Dr. Mewaldt (CL-8-7491).

Records:

One person in each group will act as scribe, to record the counts of each species of wild bird positively identified. In making estimates of large numbers, indicate the probable error, for example, Coot, 2000  $\pm$  300. If unable to estimate degree of accuracy, record estimate as Coot, 2000 est. In adding estimates to actual counts in final tally, indicate accuracy in this way: Coot, 2137 (2000  $\pm$  300, 173). This shows that of the total number of Coots reported (2173), 173 were actually counted and the rest estimated.

Record hours and mileage spent on foot and by car by each group in the sector. As weather conditions can affect results, keep record of weather (minimum and maximum temperatures, wind direction and approximate velocity, cloud cover, etc.). Because habitats are important in evaluating species counts, record habitats visited (salt marsh, canyon stream, oak woodland, grassland, golf course, etc.) and percentage of time spent in each habitat.

---Emmanuel Taylor, Field Trip  
Chairman (DR 9-3424)

(Don't let that last paragraph scare you. Only the record-keeper has to be that formal. New counters are welcomed with open arms. We need you!!  
---J.T.)

Notes From Afield

Catherine Lintott has a White-throated Sparrow again this fall. It first appeared at her Los Gatos home on October 18 wearing a Fish and Wildlife Service aluminum band on its leg. She hopes to capture it to check its number and determine whether it is the same bird that Emily Smith banded there last year.

On October 16 Oliver Allen saw a Tropical Kingbird at Twin Lakes State Park in Santa Cruz. He adds the information that three others were seen by the Golden Gate Audubon Society's field trip to Tomales Bay on the 22nd. Last year on November 1 the Wittgensteins saw one at Moss Landing. It would appear that the fall is the time to look for this northward-wandering flycatcher whose usual range extends from southeastern Arizona south into Mexico. This "wrong-way" migration of the Tropical Kingbird has its counterpart in the Western Kingbird, which frequently turns up in the fall in the coastal areas of southern New England.

Mr. Allen also reports seeing from 1500 to 2000 White Pelicans near the east end of Dumbarton Bridge toward the end of October. Now that the causeway has been widened in sections on either side of the bridge it is possible to park one's car off the pavement and see the flocks of shorebirds that previously had to be passed by due to the lack of parking facilities. I was out there on November 20 and walked along the dike that extends from the east end of the bridge over toward the railroad bridge and the sanctuary. Red Phalaropes, Bonaparte's Gulls, Willets, Dunlins, Western and Least Sandpipers, and Black-necked Stilts were numerous; there were a few Semipalmated and Black-bellied Plovers, Black Turnstones, Hudsonian Curlews, Dowitchers, and Avocets. In a clump of dried anise on the railroad embankment were a male and

two female Yellowthroats. In the marsh bordering the causeway west of the bridge a Clapper Rail was chattering and a White-tailed Kite perched on a tall weed.

Kay McCann reports that the October 26 field trip to Searsville Lake listed 40 species of birds. Violet-green Swallows were still present and Hermit Thrush and Ruby-crowned Kinglet were among the recent arrivals. Mrs. McCann also saw Swainson's Thrush and Fox Sparrows there on the 16th.

An apparent off-season nesting of the Plain Titmouse is reported by Earl Albertson. A co-worker at the Geological Survey in Menlo Park called his attention to a titmouse that was carrying food to a hole in a bay tree from which the sounds of young birds could be heard. These activities were observed from October 10 to 18. Mr. Albertson also sends results of a recent weekend hunting by 'scope for pelagic birds around Monterey. He reports that shearwaters were fairly common, most of them being Sooties with a single Pink-foot on November 12 and a Fulmar on the 13th, both at Point Pinos. Also at Point Pinos were many flocks of Red Phalaropes numbering into the thousands with small numbers of them all along the coast from Moss Landing to Carmel. On the 12th he saw an Ancient Murrelet from the Monterey Municipal Pier, and on the next day three Black Oystercatchers at Point Pinos, a Ruddy Turnstone at Monterey, and two Elegant Terns at Moss Landing.

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

#### Finally! A San Jose Meeting Spot.

The members of the Society in San Jose, headed by our treasurer, Mrs. Zwaal, have arranged for particularly fine quarters for the monthly meetings that are held in the southern area. The room in the Rosegarden Branch of the San Jose Library is new, bright and well adapted to the needs of the Society. It is easily reached and parking facilities are good. We want to congratulate Mrs. Zwaal and the others who worked with her in solving the problem of holding our meetings in San Jose.

---Charles Williams,  
President

No Editor's Notes this month. Be sure to read carefully the details of the Christmas Bird Count.

---J.T.

#### A Library for the Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society

At the first session of the field-trip leadership class it became apparent that the Society was very much in need of a library. The matter was discussed at the next Board Meeting and it was resolved to set up a special fund for that purpose. Anyone desiring to do so may send donations marked "Library Fund" to the treasurer, Mrs. Fannie Zwaal, 478 Clifton Ave., San Jose 28.

---Emmanuel Taylor, Field Trip  
Chairman

Committee Chairmen, S.C.V. Audubon Society

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 Education: Mr. and Mrs. Francis Goraj  
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 675 Florales Dr., Palo Alto  
 Social: Mrs. Ransom Davis  
 1140 San Mateo Dr., Menlo Park

---Mr. Charles Williams,  
 President

Sanctuary News

That area of the South San Francisco Bay Area Sanctuaries which has been traditionally posted by members of Explorer Post 54 of Palo Alto, under the direction of the Sanctuary Committee Chairman, has been completely reposted this fall. Those participating were six Explorer Scouts, Oliver Allen, and Paul Williams of Portola Valley who furnished a boat for use in posting the water's edge.

Mr. Cliff McGeehee of 905 Cherry St., Belmont, California (Telephone: LYtell 3-0323) will serve as Assistant Warden under John O. Larson, Jr., who is at Richardson's Bay in Marin County as Educational and Interpretive Director. Mr. McGeehee will assist in guiding any planned groups that might wish to visit the Sanctuary Area.

---Francis H. Goraj,  
 Chairman Sanctuary Committee

Field Trip to Searsville Lake, Wednesday, October 26, 1960

Fourteen people took part in a hike to Searsville on October 26. The day was clear, warm and sunny, and we all enjoyed being out in such weather. We walked along the shore of the Lake past the bridge and turned into the area where the heronry had been. One Great Blue Heron still seems to go to this old area, but otherwise it appears to be defunct. We had three new people with us who seemed to enjoy our activities also.

We saw 40 species of birds. The week before, on October 16, while my husband and I were walking in the area we saw four others, one being a late Swanson's Thrush seen in conjunction with a Hermit

Thrush. We also saw flocks of Robins, apparently migrating toward evening, about 100 in all, and 2 American Egrets homeward bound. We flushed several Fox Sparrows in the rushes along the lake edge.

On the field trip we saw several Violet-Green Swallows in flight circling around, 2 Red-tailed Hawks and a Turkey Vulture, a flock of small birds including a Townsend's Warbler, seen by all, a White-breasted Nuthatch, Hutton's Vireo, Brown Creeper, Chickadees and Plain Titmouse. Bewick's Wren and Ruby-crowned Kinglet were heard scolding and we came upon a flock of Bush Tits twice. We had a good view of a Yellow Legs as well as of many Killdeer and Black Phoebe near the bridge. Two Dowitchers appeared there later. The Kingfisher appeared, and a flock of duck, including Mallards and Baldpates flew over; we later saw two Ruddy Ducks on the Lake. A Wren Tit came more than once to see us and to be seen. Both Stellars Jay and the California Scrub Jay scolded us. The sparrows we saw included White-crowned, Golden-crowned and Song.

We were pleased to identify a Herring Gull in the distance (with Miss Emily Smith's help and information as to distinguishing features).

---Mrs. W. Ray McCann

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

1960 - 1961

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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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