

The Avocet

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\$14 Million Area Beach, Park Plan Urged

State park officials today outlined a five-year, \$162 million plan, for state beaches and parks, including more than \$14 million for Peninsula, Santa Cruz and Monterey County projects. The plan, presented to Gov. Edmund G. Brown by the State Division of Beaches and Parks, proposes present facilities be more than doubled and urged a start "before costs are beyond reason."

Included in the proposal are \$14 million for Big Basin Redwoods State Park in Santa Cruz County, \$4.5 million for Santa Cruz Beaches and \$4.25 for San Mateo beaches. An addition of 2,500 acres of "outstanding scenic river valley and wooded hillsides" is planned in Big Basin. The Santa Cruz beaches project would have the largest single expenditure in the entire program. Division officials said the "beaches are the finest in northern California." At San Mateo Beaches State Park along Highway 1, the division proposes the addition of 1,000 acres to the 242 already in the park. The addition will be along the shoreline at Montara, Half Moon Bay and Pescadero. Charles A. DeTurk, beaches and parks division chief, said the work could be completed within five years if the legislature provides funds and if other agencies cooperate. He asked abandonment of the current method of financing park expansion through a special fund made up primarily of state tidelands oil royalties and which therefore has fluctuated from year to year. It has been declining steadily in recent years. Instead, DeTurk suggested the legislature should act directly on park appropriations, taking them from the state's general tax funds. He also suggested bond financing as an alternative. DeTurk urged close cooperation with the federal government in making surplus land available for state park use. DeTurk said a key aim is to provide enough facilities to permit California families to vacation at a state park rather than be turned away by a "full" sign - often the case with the present limited camping facilities. En Route camping parks would be another feature, such as a proposed series along State Highway 49 through the Mother Lode mining area and U.S. 101 on the route of the Spanish missions.

---Palo Alto Times 1/2/61

Coming, Events at a Glance

Sat. Jan. 14	8:00-11:00 a.m.	Stanford
Mon. Jan. 16	8:00 p.m.	Palo Alto Jr. Museum
Wed. Jan. 18	9:00 a.m.	Mt. Hermon & Felton
Sun. Jan. 22	9:00 a.m.	Searsville Lake



January Calendar

No Board Meeting in January.

Regular Meeting:

Monday, January 16, at Palo Alto Junior Museum, Middlefield Road, Palo Alto. Tom Harvey will lead a panel group discussion on conservation problems. Time: 8:00 p.m.

Leadership Training Course:

Saturday, January 14, at the home of Mr. Warren Turner, 646 Alvarado Row, Stanford. Time: 8-11 a.m.. For more information see article elsewhere in this issue or communicate with Dr. Evelyn Case, 2586 Homestead Road, Santa Clara (CH 3-2467).

Field Trips:

Wednesday Morning, January 18, to Mount Hermon and Felton, hoping the Red Crossbills and Evening Grosbeaks, seen on the field trip to this area less than a month ago, will still be there. Meet at 9:00 a.m. at the parking area near Mount Hermon Post Office. From the Los Gatos-Santa Cruz Highway (State 17) turn right at Camp Evers, about 16 miles south from Los Gatos. Bring lunch because this Wednesday Morning trip may last into the afternoon. Leaders: Adist Boylan (ED 5-4995) and Emily Smith (EL 4-2494).

Sunday, January 22, to Searsville Lake, west of Stanford University. Meet at 9:00 a.m. at the entrance gate, near junction of Sand Hill Road and Portola Road. Entrance fee 25 cents. Leader: Oliver Allen (WH 8-5639).

DR. EVELYN H. CASE, M.D., Vice-President of S.C.V.A.S.

Dr. Case was born in upper New York State and moved to Santa Clara at the end of World War I.

She attended the College of Pacific, in San Jose at that time, and married a classmate, Lloyd N. Case. Later she graduated from Stanford University Medical School and practiced medicine, specializing in anaesthesiology.

Retiring from medicine in 1953, she and Lloyd moved from Oakland to the home they had planned and built next to the Homestead Nursery, begun with her brother-in-law at the end of World War II.

Given a membership in the National Audubon Society for a Christmas present, she joined the local society and her interest and activity in birding has continued to grow ever since, until she is at present an ardent conservationist as well as an enthusiastic birder.

She and her husband spend as many of their week-ends and short holidays as possible on birding trips in this general area, roaming farther afield when time allows. Last year they spent the two-week Christmas vacation driving to Mazatlan, Mexico, on a leisurely trip that was "strictly for the birds". By driving relatively short distances each day, exploring interesting side-roads and stopping to investigate whenever they saw interesting birds, they piled up quite a number of exciting "firsts" for themselves. This year they also went afield during the week before Christmas, visiting the National Wildlife Refuge and the two State Refuges at the southern end of the Salton

Sea, returning home by way of the Joshua Tree National Monument, where some of their enthusiasm in birding spilled over into an interest in "shrubbing".

---J.T.

December Board Meeting Notes

President Charles Williams and Dr. S. C. Woodward are working on a plan to share program ideas and personnel with neighboring Audubon Societies. Probably we should reimburse program speakers for travel expenses. Stanford University will have the Audubon Screen Tours next year - a major accomplishment of our society. The Tours will probably be presented at Stanford in the late afternoon. It was suggested that the deadline for the Avocet be the 20th of the month. Plans for the formal dedication of the Nature Trail at Montalvo were discussed; the time may coincide with the annual meeting in June.

---J.T.

S.C.V.A.S. Leadership Training Course

The Leadership course for those interested in Field Trip leading continues to be an inspiration to learners and leaders alike. At the first meeting with fourteen in attendance the techniques of field trip leading were presented and discussion followed. Several suggestions, such as starting on time and having two people responsible for each trip so that one could wait for late comers, were made. A short field trip to introduce additional nature knowledge and specifically to learn how to use a key for the identification of trees was then taken.

The group met again Nov. 19th for an introduction to basic Ecology which will serve as the theme for the remaining two meetings. The interdependence of living things on their physical and living environments was discussed.

Food chains, food webs and the significance of the pyramid of numbers were concepts which were considered, with several examples coming from the way birds demonstrate these interdependences. One of the remaining meetings will be devoted to studying the changes which occur in the numbers of organisms, migration, succession and dispersal. The other meeting will consider how different areas vary in the life they support, the factors which account for the differences and the adaptations of the organisms which enable them to survive the adverse conditions of their preferred habitats.

It is hoped that this course is providing the background information on what to present on a field trip as well as how to present it. We hope to repeat a similar program in the spring, if there are others who wish to participate. It would help in our planning if those of you who are interested would drop a line to Dr. E. Case, 2586 Homestead Road, Santa Clara.

---T. Harvey

Dr. Thomas Harvey -

As one of your board members, Tom Harvey is completing his third year of service. He is an Associate Professor of Biology at San Jose State College and during the last four summers has been an Instructor at the Audubon Camp of California. Among his varied interests are hiking, volleyball, reading, insect study and, of course, bird watching. Nature philosophers most influential in helping formulate his ideas of conservation are Henry Thoreau and Aldo Leopold. --- J.T.

New Members

We are very glad to welcome the following new members:

Mrs. Lawrence H. Easterling	915 Laurel Avenue	San Mateo
Mrs. W. S. Johnson	987 Westridge Drive	Portola Valley
Mr. W. A. S. Clayton	677 Linden Avenue	Los Altos
Mr. Rex E. Marsh	1807 Harmil Way	San Jose 25

---Mrs. Irving Snow
Membership Chairman

Notes from Afield

The best news at this time seems to be the arrival of several irregular northern visitors: Evening Grosbeak, Red Crossbill, and American Rough-legged Hawk. The December 17 field trip saw 15 Crossbills feeding in alders at Henry Cowell State Park south of Felton and 16 Grosbeaks at Mount Hermon. Emily Smith reports seeing the same Grosbeaks on the 15th and having three Crossbills at her Saratoga home on the 23rd. Rough-legs were seen on November 27 by Earl Albertson, two along the coast highway at Half Moon Bay, and by Bob Wood and others on December 4, one on the same highway near Ano Nuevo Point and three in a field north of Lake Lucerne on the road to Pescadero. In the same field during the last hour of daylight, we saw four species of hawks and two of owls: Red-tail, 6 Marsh, 3 Kites, 3 Rough-legs, Burrowing, and a minimum of 6 Short-eared Owls.

While on the subject of hawks, Oliver Allen has sent in an interesting summary of his White-tailed Kite observations: June 20 one at Uvas Dam, October 23 two at Alviso and one at Dumbarton Bridge, November 20 three east of Gilroy, December 7 two at Vasona Reservoir, December 11 two in Evergreen. Finding a kite is not now the task it was only a few years ago.

Earl Albertson reports seeing three Knots at Moss Landing on December 10 and 80 Starlings on November 27 near the Half Moon Bay airport. During the Christmas weekend I saw many small flocks of Starlings along the highway in the vicinity of the Sacramento National Wildlife Refuge. Oliver Allen recorded 55 Greater Yellowlegs, 31 Killdeer, and two Green Herons at Los Alamitos Reservoir in San Jose on December 5 and three Snipe and a Gallinule on Coyote Creek south of the county fairgrounds on the 14th. He and Bob Fuller had two Whistling Swans at Crystal Springs Reservoir on November 24 and three Lewis's Woodpeckers near Gilroy on December 4. While this last report is not in territory usually covered by AVOCET readers, it is worth passing on: a single White-faced Ibis was spotted by the Wittgensteins on November 12 while driving on the freeway south of San Luis Obispo. Perhaps a bird list indicative of this day and age would be of those birds seen while traveling at 50 m.p.h. or better. I'll hold out, though, for a list of birds seen at sunrise from my sleeping bag.

---Robert Wood, 1007 Los Trancos Rd.
Portola Valley, ULmar 1-1237

Editor's Notes

The Utah Construction & Mining Company has offered to reclaim some 112 acres of Alviso's baylands just one week after a similar offer was rejected in Palo Alto (involving development of 600 acres of city-owned bay lands for light industry and business).

---Palo Alto Times 11/22

New Books

<u>The Wonders I See</u>	Lippincott	\$5.00
<u>Teaching Science through Conservation</u>	McGraw	\$7.50
<u>Things to Do in Science and Conservation</u>	Interstate	\$2.50
<u>Familiar Insects of America</u>	Harper	\$4.95
<u>Web of Nature</u>	Doubleday	\$2.95
<u>Grasses (juvenile)</u>	Walck	\$2.75
<u>Land, Wood and Water</u>	Fleet	\$4.95
<u>Land for the Future</u>	Johns Hopkins	\$8.50
<u>This Land of Ours</u>	Macmillan	\$4.95
<u>Hummingbirds</u>	Doubleday	\$22.50
<u>Birds in Color</u>	University of Minnesota	\$5.95

---J.T.