

# The Avocet

Volume VIII Number 3

March, 1961

## You Can Save Berry Creek Falls in Big Basin

This is our last chance to save the virgin redwoods and beautiful waterfalls west of Big Basin. I would like to quote from a recent letter in the Palo Alto Times from Mr. William H. Boyer, 23484 Belvoir Drive, Los Altos: "It is usually not known that the state preserves (redwoods) constitute less than 10 per cent of the remaining old growth redwood, about 3 per cent of the original stand. Over 90 per cent of these giant, irreplaceable trees are privately owned, and nearly all are scheduled to be cut. Each day hundreds of these ancient trees fall, never again to provide their incomparable beauty. The programs of "selective cutting" and "tree farming", so widely publicized by the lumber companies, in fact result in the most rapid destruction of the beauty of the redwoods that has ever taken place. These are programs of economic conservation, not esthetic conservation, which in practice mean cutting out the giant, old redwood as rapidly as possible to accelerate the "board feet" of growth of the smaller trees. The whole program is based on how to get the most money out of continuous redwood lumbering. The esthetic results resemble the shelled beach-heads of South Pacific islands after wartime invasions. The point is that we are in the rapid process of depriving ourselves and future generations of some of the world's greatest natural beauty. If we decide now that money is more important than beauty, we will find later that the beauty we have sold can no longer be bought for any price. It is not necessary to stop redwood lumbering, but it is necessary to restrict it primarily to second growth trees and old growth of distinctly secondary esthetic value. This can be achieved through public purchase, if enough people contact their state or federal representatives."

Land costs are rising, and the additional money required to purchase the western Big Basin lands was omitted from this year's budget. Please write or wire Gov. Edmund G. Brown at once to ask for the additional appropriation and immediate purchase. Also contact the Sierra Club Conservation Chairman if you can help further. He is Mr. R. Kurt Manning, 2958 Barkley Ave., Santa Clara (AX 6-6326). "We will not save one square inch of wilderness nor one giant redwood by merely talking among ourselves. We must inform and inspire others--especially those who have a deciding vote on the last vestiges of our wilderness."

## Coming Events at a Glance

Sat. Mar. 4	9:30 a.m.	Richardson Bay Sanctuary
Mon. Mar. 6	8:00 p.m.	Menlo Park
Wed. Mar. 8	8:30 a.m.	Saratoga Hills
Mon. Mar. 13	8:00 p.m.	Palo Alto Junior Museum
Wed. Mar. 15	8:00 p.m.	San Jose Screen Tour
Sun. Mar. 19	9:00 a.m.	Hidden Villa Ranch
Sat.-Tues. Mar. 25-28		Audubon Convention at Asilomar, Pacific Grove.



March Calendar

Board Meeting: Monday, March 6, at 8:00 p.m. at the home of President Charles Williams, 148 Goya Rd., Menlo Park (DA 3-0787).

Regular Meeting: Monday, March 13, at 8:00 p.m. at the Palo Alto Jr. Museum on Middlefield Rd. We shall see a beautiful color film on California wildflowers - courtesy of the Richfield Oil Co., who gives away free wildflower seed packets every year.

Screen Tour: Wednesday, March 15, at 8:00 p.m., Morris Dailey Auditorium, San Jose. Tickets are available at the door. Roger Tory Peterson will present Wild Europe. The Old World has other treasures than those in its museums, cathedrals and palaces. There are wild areas, too, that have been preserved as outdoor show pieces. Roger Tory Peterson of Old Lyme, Connecticut, has filmed much of wild Europe in color. . . spectacular gatherings of oyster catchers; ruffs in dancing display; the hoopoe with its fantastic headdress; storks on the Rhine; the bee-eater; gigantic griffon; and the red kite.

Field Trips:

Saturday, March 4, a trip to Richardson Bay. We will meet at 9:30 a.m. at the first parking area after crossing Richardson Bay Bridge. The meeting place is approximately 7 miles north of Golden Gate Bridge on Route 101. Our leader will be John O. Larson, and his wife informs us that there will be hot coffee for everyone. Bring lunch.

Wednesday Morning, March 8, to the LaJeunesse ranch and neighboring properties in the Saratoga Hills area. Meet at 8:30 a.m. at the new Saratoga High School on Saratoga-Sunnyvale Road (Highway 9) between Herriman Ave. and Williams St. If the morning is rainy the trip will be postponed a week, meeting Wednesday, March 15, same time and place. Leader: Margaret Henderson (UN 7-4304).

Sunday, March 19, to Hidden Villa Ranch in the Los Altos hills as the guests of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Duveneck. We are hoping that members will bring friends along on this trip so that they may learn more of the objectives of the Audubon Society, and of our hosts, in the field of nature conservation. Meet at the ranch on Moody Rd. just beyond Adobe Creek Lodge at 9:00 a.m. Bring lunch. Leaders: Mr. and Mrs. W. R. McCann (DA 4-1380).

New Members

We welcome with pleasure the following new members:

Mr. & Mrs. Glenn Vail	17348 East Vineland Ave., Los Gatos
Mr. Donald E. Schmoltdt	11170 Cañon Vista Dr., San Jose 27
Mrs. Harold Olsen	440 Golden Oak Dr., Menlo Park
Mr. Franklin Sunzeri	5445 Alum Rock Ave., San Jose

---Mrs. Angelina Snow  
Membership Chairman

A REQUEST FOR DEAD BIRDS

I am looking for specimens of local birds (Robins and Cedar Waxwings excepted) that may fly into your picture windows (or do themselves in in some other manner) to skeletonize and send to the University of Michigan Museum of Zoology and to an avian paleontologist at the University of Florida in exchange for bird skulls to add to my collection.

--Robert Wood  
DA 3-1306 ext. 80

CONSERVATION ISSUES - 1961

WILDERNESS BILL. We expect the Wilderness Bill to be reintroduced into the new Congress. This bill is the keystone of our conservation effort. It would limit the power of any federal bureau, such as the Forest Service, to tamper with wilderness by allowing Congress to review any proposed changes. Furthermore, it would require public hearings on all such changes. The bill itself will not create any new wilderness or destroy any present wilderness. Also, it does not set up any new government agency but simply establishes a unified policy for wilderness and a system of wilderness areas to be administered by the agencies under whose cognizance they already fall. During 1960 alone the Forest Service removed protection from over 300,000 acres of wilderness without heeding public sentiment, and in some cases without holding hearings at all. Under the Wilderness Bill the people could have expressed their views on these wilderness deletions at hearings and could have prevented such deletions through their elected representatives in Congress. Senate Bill S.174 and similar bills (4 of them) already introduced into the House of Representatives (2/22).

UPPER COLORADO RIVER BASIN. The Upper Colorado River Basin has been the battleground for those states which developed water rights subsequent to Hoover Dam. In claiming these rights, they haven't been very thoughtful of conservation. Their first attempt to build Echo Park Dam in Dinosaur N.M. brought a swift reaction from conservationists. The reclamation act prohibited the invasion of any national park or monument in the basin by a dam or even a reservoir. Presently the reclamationists are trying to violate this provision by withholding funds for the protection of Rainbow Bridge N.M. in southern Utah. This area will soon be flooded by the Glen Canyon Dam reservoir. We are asking, on the basis of the vital principle involved, the statute already on the books, and in order to save the world's finest natural bridge, that some protection be provided before it is too late. Sen. Moss of Utah has also introduced a bill changing the present law to allow invasion of both Rainbow and Dinosaur. This bill must be defeated.

NATIONAL PARKS & SEASHORES. Numerous national parks and seashore proposals fell by the wayside in the last Congress. The most spectacular and the wildest of these areas is the North Cascades in Washington where the Forest Service has blocked the National Park Service from even making a study. A region of shining glaciers, rugged ridges, humid rain forests grading up to flower-studded alpine meadows, mighty volcanic Glacier Peak and magnificent Lake Chelan, it would make our finest wilderness park. We are also supporting a proposed Cascades Volcanic N.P. in the Three Sisters Area in Oregon. This large volcanic area encompasses numerous high peaks and is essentially wilderness. At the same time we have recognized that our beautiful seashores are not being preserved. National Seashore bills have been introduced for Pt. Reyes, the Channel Islands, Oregon Dunes, Cape Flattery, and Cape Cod. National seashores will allow a greater variety of recreational uses than do national parks, including some hunting. Pt. Reyes, of particular interest to us, is a beautiful green seascape of highly varied scenery and potential recreational uses. It will soon be readily accessible to all of the Bay Area by road. It is a large enough area to accommodate several million recreationists a year. A favorable Senate hearing and approval by the Sec. of the Interior both enhance its chances for preservation, but Congress has yet to act on this or any other park bill. The Channel Islands include Santa Cruz and San Miguel Islands off the coast of Southern California which are of considerable recreational, biological, and historical interest.

\* Please keep the following list - and use it often for letters and telegrams. They are a powerful influence:

Names and Addresses of Solons  
1961-1962

United States Senators from California

Thomas H. Kuchel	Address:	Senate Office Building
Clair Engle		Washington 25, D.C.

Congressmen from the Bay Area and Environs

<u>Name</u>		<u>District</u>
Charles S. Gubser	-	Santa Clara, Santa Cruz & San Benito
J. Arthur Younger	-	San Mateo County Counties

Address:  
House Office Building  
Washington 25, D.C.

State Solons

<u>County</u>	<u>Senator</u>	<u>Assemblyman</u>
N. San Mateo	Richard J. Dolwig	Louis Francis
S. San Mateo	" "	Carl A. Eritschgi
N. Santa Clara	John F. Thompson	Clark L. Bradley
S. Santa Clara	" "	Bruce F. Allen
Santa Cruz	Donald L. Grunsky	Glenn E. Coolidge

Address:  
State Capitol  
Sacramento, Calif.

Secretary of the Interior: Stewart L. Udall  
Washington 25, D.C.

Forms of address: Dear Mr. Secretary,  
Dear Senator \_\_\_\_\_,

-- Lynn Robbins  
Conservation Chairman

Dr. Kenneth Hutton is New Board Member

We have a valuable new board member - a young assistant professor of biology at San Jose State College. Dr. Hutton was born in Chicago, took his B.S. degree at Kalamazoo, Michigan, and M.S. and Ph.D. degrees at Purdue. Before coming to San Jose he taught at Tulane in New Orleans for three years. His specialty is the physiology of turtles, and he hopes to do further research in his favorite field. He has joined the Audubon Society because of a strong interest in conservation, and we are fortunate to have his professional help and advice.

--J.T.

Miss Elsie Hoeck - Circulation Manager

One of the biggest jobs in our local Society, a demanding job full of all sorts of ornery detail, has been handled smoothly and efficiently for some three years now by Elsie Hoeck. She was born in Alameda, California, and graduated from the University of California at Berkeley and San Francisco with a B.S. degree in Nursing Education. She left Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio, with a Certificate in Public Health Nursing. Following this preparation she worked for some time in Santa Barbara as a Public Health Nurse and Instructor of Nurses. In 1945 she became a Second Lieutenant in the United States Army Nurses Corps. After the war, Elsie came to San Jose State College to teach, where she is now assistant professor of health and hygiene. In Santa Barbara she had memberships in the local bird club and the city's excellent Museum of Natural History. At San Jose, she joined the Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society in 1947, serving as president in 1953 and as secretary for the next two years. She has attended two sessions at Audubon Camp of California and is an enthusiastic booster for the Camp.

-- J.T.

NOTES FROM AFIELD

Winter visitors are still in the news. Evening Grosbeaks are reported by Fanny Zwaal; a pair came to her bird bath in San Jose on December 27 and a female visited several times on the following day. Margaret Leach on Skyline Boulevard in Woodside saw several groups of Red Crossbills during the last months of 1960 - flocks of 30 on November 10 and 19, and 15 on December 16. She also saw a Golden Eagle perched atop a tree on January 4 on Skyline just south of the Old La Honda intersection. The American Rough-legged Hawk seen by Earl Albertson regularly during the fall on the Coast Highway near Half Moon Bay was again recorded by him on December 31 and January 1.

Emily Smith heard a Plain Titmouse singing on January 2 and a White-breasted Nuthatch on January 21. Charlotte Kenna saw her earliest Allen's Hummingbird on February 5 at her Los Gatos home. She also reports a female Red Crossbill for January 28. Bob Wood saw a White-throated Sparrow among a flock of White-crowns at the Palo Alto Junior Museum on January 23 and watched a Robin, Mockingbird, Hermit and Varied Thrush, and two Wrentits dining on pyracantha berries on January 29 at Los Trancos Woods.

Oliver Allen reports the following observations: two Sora Rails on December 30 at the pond across Alpine Road from Searsville Lake, an unusually large number of Snipe - 29 - at Camp Evers on January 21, six Gallinules on February 19 and one Virginia Rail and three Soras on the 20th on Coyote Creek near Bayshore, 20 White-throated Swifts at Alum Rock Park and a flock of 200 blackbirds most of which were

Tricolored south of Evergreen also on the 20th, and on the 21st a female Wood Duck at the Palo Alto yacht harbor. Other records from the yacht harbor are sent in by Earl Albertson. He saw 30 Starlings and several Mew Gulls there on January 7 and a Bittern on December 31 and January 7.

The field trip to Searsville Lake on January 22 led by Oliver Allen saw a total of 53 species. Among them were nine species of ducks and a Yellow-shafted Flicker.

Birds seem to get into a variety of predicaments as these anecdotes illustrate. Anna Richardson writes of an English Sparrow that she found - and released uninjured - with a leg caught between two vertical strips of a redwood fence. Harley Bothwell rescued a Bewick's Wren from a one-sided game of "cat and mouse". Several Stanford workers found a Horned Owl tangled in a barbed wire fence. One wing was permanently injured so that the bird now occupies a cage at the Palo Alto Junior Museum.

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

#### EDITOR'S NOTES

The name of Dr. L. Richard Mewaldt as compiler was inadvertently left off the end of his Christmas Bird Count report in the February issue. His report is the most ambitious and exhaustive I have seen - and I have seen all the other Christmas Count tallies from Oregon to Arizona. We appreciate your hard work, Dr. Mewaldt. (And the stencil set-up and accurate number typing done by Mrs. Castner and Miss Rulofson are likewise a beautiful job!).

Mrs. Manette Wittgenstein recommends that we read two books by one of those working hardest to save the wildlife of Africa: Grzimek, No Room for Wild Animals and Serineti Shall Not Die (a new book published by Dutton on Grzimek's attempts to save a refuge). Mrs. Wittgenstein has given the first book to the fledgling library of the Society - which has as yet no home.

#### Audubon Camp of California

Five two-week sessions starting June 25 - ending September 2 in the High Sierra near Donner Pass. For all men and women who enjoy the outdoors. Minimum age 18. Total fee for two-week session \$110.00 for meals, housing, all field trips and registration. An inspiring two weeks of field trips extraordinary, evening lectures, etc. Write to Audubon Camp, 2426 Bancroft Way, Berkeley 4, California, for registration blank. If you prefer Audubon Camp of Maine, Wisconsin, or Connecticut, write to Audubon Camps, 1130 Fifth Avenue, New York 28, N.Y.

New Species to be on the Watch for: French and Spanish Red-legged Partridges, Barbary Partridges and Turkish Chukkers. At a recent meeting of the California Fish and Game Commission a policy was set up covering the introduction of exotic non-resident game birds into the State. The new game bird policy calls for the commission to attempt to establish, through experimental introductions, exotic non-resident game species in game deficient areas of the State.

Plants would be made in those regions where it appears a high degree of hunting and recreation can result. Species used would be those which "give promise of adaptability without undue conflict with native wildlife and agriculture".

-- Mary Meehan

Storks: European, black and white (*Ciconia ciconia*). On a recent visit to Europe our group had the distinct pleasure of observing two nesting storks. The first was on a country road just north of Lisbon. The female stork had a nest on the open top of a chimney on an old cottage. The other nest was located on a stork pole in the main park of Madrid. This female was clearly visible with two nestlings. It was apparently a protected nest. The stork pole was located among a grove of trees bordering a park driveway. The stork pole was a tree that had been stripped of all foliage and only the stark branches remained; the nest itself was located on what was the top of the main trunk. It is encouraging to observe that there is some sense of conservation, as the European stork is fast diminishing in numbers.

--Mary Meehan (WH 8-4949)

Note: All Avocet contributors please send me material for the April issue at least by March 15. Our hardworking typists will be out of town later in the month and must have the rough draft by March 20. Thank you. (The typists also thnk you! JRC & CCR)

--J. Todd

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

1960 - 1961

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148 Goya Road, Menlo Park

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2586 Homestead Rd., Santa Clara

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25611 Elizabeth Ave., Los Altos Hills

Executive Secretary: Mrs. Christina Menke (DA 3-0231)  
(Correspondence) 700 Stanford Ave., Menlo Park

Treasurer: Mrs. Charles J. Zwaal (CY 2-2060)  
478 Clifton Ave., San Jose 28

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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  
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 most often half day trips.

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