

The Avocet

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The New Frontier in Conservation

President Kennedy sent to Congress February 23 a message which outlined in both broad and specific terms a comprehensive program for the conservation and use of America's natural resources. Among his specific recommendations: Prompt enactment of the Wilderness Bill, establishment of national seashore parks, stronger programs for the control of water pollution and air pollution, accelerated acquisition of wetlands, and better care of the public domain lands. He called for an end to contradictory programs between federal agencies such as the present senseless situation that sees the Department of Agriculture spending money for drainage and pesticide projects that kill wildlife while the Department of Interior tries to save the marshes and protect wildlife. The Kennedy message on natural resources deserves the careful reading of every citizen. If your newspaper didn't print it in full, ask your Congressman to send you a copy.

Bald Eagle Film in Production

The Laboratory of Ornithology of Cornell University has announced it has in the making a motion picture covering the habits, behavior, and present predicament of this magnificent bird. Cooperating in production of the film, to be in color and with sound, are the National Park Service and Fish and Wildlife Service, the National Audubon Society, Florida Audubon Society, and the American Museum of Natural History. The new film will be a memorial to the late Charles Broley, known the world over as the "Eagle Man". His banding and studies of the eagle over 25 years contributed greatly to our knowledge of the species and provided a fund of facts that will be drawn upon heavily in the continental bald eagle project recently launched by the National Audubon Society. His daughter, Jean Broley Patric, donated to the Laboratory all her father's films and records. Dr. Arthur A. Allen, honorary Director, and Bayard W. Read, a member of the Laboratory, have contributed film and will collaborate in editing the motion picture. Mr. Read has recently been in Alaska photographing the concentrations of bald eagles in that area. It is expected the film will be ready for distribution on a rental or sale basis by next autumn.

--National Audubon Society News
Releases.

Coming Events at a Glance

Mon. Apr. 3	8:00 p.m.	Board Meeting, Santa Clara
Mon. Apr. 10	8:00 p.m.	San Jose Branch Library
Wed. Apr. 12	8:30 a.m.	Saratoga
Sat. Apr. 15	8:00 a.m.	Alum Rock Park
Fri. Apr. 21	8:00 p.m.	San Jose State College
Wed. Apr. 26	8:30 a.m.	Crystal Springs Lake
Fri. & Sat. Apr. 28 & 29		See Next Page Mount Diablo



April Calendar

Board Meeting: Monday, April 3 at the home of Dr. Evelyn H. Case, 2586 Homestead Rd., Santa Clara (CH 3-2467). The meeting will begin at 8:00 p.m. sharp.

Regular Meeting: Monday, April 10, at 8:00 p.m. at the Rosegarden Branch of San Jose Public Library, Dana & Naglee Streets. Dr. L. Richard Mewaldt of San Jose State College, a former board member and editor for Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society, will lecture on the White-crowned Sparrow. He has been studying this sparrow for several years - using mist nets and other modern aids to ornithology. The membership has been looking forward to this result of Dr. Mewaldt's study for a long time. Don't miss it!

Screen Tour: Friday, April 21, 8:00 p.m. at Morris Dailey Auditorium, San Jose State College. Tickets are available at the door. Patricia Bailey Witherspoon, housewife, author and naturalist of Denver, Colorado will show "Kangaroo Continent", which presents astonishing color motion pictures of Australian wildlife. Animals that lay eggs - the duck-billed platypus and the spiny echidna; koalas, Australian "teddy bears" come to life; bounding kangaroos; the emu of crossword puzzle fame; all share the spotlight in this story of the continent "down under" where even the ordinary is picturesque, the extraordinary unbelievable.

Field Trips:

Wednesday Morning, April 12, to the George P. Peterson property near the upper end of Sanborn Road, in the hills back of Saratoga. Meet at 8:30 a.m. in Saratoga, in the parking lot of the Saratoga Village shopping center on Big Basin Way. Leaders: Mr. & Mrs. Harless Moser (UN 7-4255).

Saturday, April ⁸~~15~~, a trip to Alum Rock Park east of San Jose on Alum Rock Avenue. Meet at the Youth Science Institute at 8:00 a.m. Leaders: Emmanuel and Mary Taylor (DR 9-3424).

Wednesday Morning, April 26, to the Bunker Hill Road area, near Crystal Springs Lake. Meet at 8:30 a.m. at the Las Pulgas Water Temple on Canada Road, about 5 miles north of Woodside. Leader: Mrs. Virginia Bothwell (DA 2-1209).

Friday Evening and Saturday, April 28 and 29, we are invited to join with the Santa Cruz Bird Club on an over-night trip to Mt. Diablo. There will be an owl prowl Friday night. Early Saturday morning, 6:30 a.m., wake up for the dawn chorus and birding by ear. After breakfast a regular birding trip will start at 9:00 a.m.. The warblers should be migrating at this time. Over-night camping charge is \$1.00 and remember - it can be cold at night, so come prepared. For further details call Emmanuel Taylor (DR 9-3424).

Spring Leadership Training Course

The training course for field trip leaders that was so successful in the fall will be offered again this spring by Dr. Tom Harvey of San Jose State College and Miss Emily Smith, former teacher there. Dr. Harvey states that about half the course content deals with the methods of field trip leadership and about half is devoted to natural history information. As Extension Course Science Education 180, the course can earn for you a unit of college credit from San Jose State. Dates for the course are planned to be April 15, April 29, May 13, May 27, June 10. Size of the class is limited to 15 members and non-members as registration permits. The first meeting on April 15 will be at the Youth Science Institute (formerly the Junior Museum) at Alum Rock Park, San Jose, at 8:00 a.m., but the locale may change after that. The fee for the course is \$7.50. If taken for credit an additional fee of \$2.50 goes to San Jose State. For more details and registration, please call Dr. Evelyn Case, 2586 Homestead Rd., Santa Clara (CH 3-2457).

--J. T.

New Members

We are sorry that we misspelled the name of one of the new members last month. Note the correct spelling, please: "Mrs. Harold Olesen".

We welcome the following new members this month:

Mrs. Lloyd Robinson	550 Mariposa Ave., Mountain View
Mrs. Alice Cox	3544 Constance Drive, San Jose 28
Mr. Kenneth Kitajima	2129 Randolph Drive #3, San Jose 28
Mr. Paul Ford	552 Military Way, Palo Alto

---Mrs. Angelina Snow
Membership Chairman

Charles D. Williams

Mr. Charles D. Williams was born in Cleveland, Ohio, before the turn of the century and in the shadow of the Episcopal Cathedral where his father was Dean. The family later moved to Detroit when his father became Bishop of Michigan. There Charles found himself mathematically in the middle of a family of nine lively children - with four older sisters (as well as all the good ladies of the Diocese) to "keep him in line". After Detroit University School, he attended Asheville Prep. in North Carolina, Kengan College (Ohio), and M.I.T. for graduate work. In April, 1917, he graduated from Kengan and immediately joined the Navy for flight training. In World War I he served in England, Ireland and France and in many other stations between then and his last World War II billet as Chief of Staff, Fleet Air Wing One, Okinawa. At the war's end he returned to shore duty in the District of Columbia, retiring in 1950. Mr. Williams helped raise and launch four children, who in turn have presented him with 11 grandsons and 3 grand-daughters. Mr. and Mrs. Williams put 46,000 kilometers on a small French car in 1950-51 cruising around most of Europe and North Africa where they saw and talked with many "birders" from all parts of the world - finding them all most interesting people. He then spent five years helping to make jet aircraft engines in Detroit, retired

again in 1956, came to California and bought a lot. At this point he took a 9 months' trip around the world to be sure there was no better place to live, found none, so came home to Menlo Park and built a house. On Audubon bird walks here he again found Audubon members living up to his highest expectations, so has served them as board member and currently as president.

---C.W.

Audubon Camp Scholarships Available

The Audubon Camp of California, held at the Sugar Bowl facilities on Donner Summit, will again be conducting five 2-week sessions beginning next June 25th. Scholarships valued at \$55.00, paying half of the regular expenses, are available. This school offers the opportunity to gain first-hand information about the geology, plants, and animals of the scenic Sierra Nevada. Two hours of college credit may be earned by participants. Applicants must be 18 years of age or older. Anyone desiring further information regarding the Camp and the scholarships should write Dr. K. E. Hutton, Dept. of Biological Sciences, San Jose State College, San Jose, California

Santa Clara Valley Audubon Scholarships
for Death Valley West Coast Nature School

These have been awarded to the following San Jose State College students:

Barbara Bainbridge	Kenneth Bone
Dena M. Dare	Edw. J. Keller
Mrs. Arlene Kruse	Maureen McTigue
Mrs. Shirley Reinius	Errol Williams
Judy Yamada	(Madeline Ilse - Scholarship from Mr. Theron Fox)

--- K.H.

Editor's Notes

THE WILDERNESS, A WARNING - Justice William O. Douglas. We have only a little time in which to prevent our remaining natural heritage from being fed into the hungry maw of the industrial machine. Some of the unmarked face of America's wilderness must be left as a refuge for man--as a place where he can escape the roar of machines and once more get on understanding terms with the universe.

Beneath a fine picture of two of the jolly birds, one reads: "Reports from Australia are that new settlers are shooting the friendly kookaburra, also known as the laughing jackass. Kookaburras inhabit open country in the Blue Mountains. The sociable birds' extraordinary laughing note, perhaps the most familiar sound in the Australian bush, is the source of their nickname. Strict conservation laws are designed to protect the bird which is a popular pet among frontier families.

---Palo Alto Times 1/28

Respond as generously as you can to National Audubon's Sanctuary Fund appeal. Maintaining wildlife sanctuaries and acquiring more of them is one of the most vital activities of the society. We can see their value right here in San Francisco Bay - and the need for more in the Bay and among the redwoods. ---J.T.

"Birdman of Alcatraz", the story of Robert Stroud, is being made into a motion picture, with Burt Lancaster in the title role. His mission is to free a prisoner he has never seen. Stroud has been in the nation's toughest prisons for over 50 years, 43 of them in solitary confinement. He is also a self-taught genius specializing in the diseases of birds. Thomas E. Gaddis' biography of Stroud came out 5 years ago, but the film version is only now being made after several delays. Gaddis said Federal Prison Director James V. Bennett has tried to stop the filming. Producer Harold Hecht, however, decided to ignore the federal pressure. For the film, it cost \$150 for workmen to construct a copy of Stroud's first birdcage which he made with a razor blade from an apple box over seven patient months. The work is "shaping into a vigorous social commentary on the penal system in America".

---Christian Science Monitor 1/11

Camp Denali

For those interested in the nature lore of the Arctic-Alpine environment of the new state of Alaska, Camp Denali, located on the North Boundary of McKinley Park, will again conduct their "Wilderness Workshop" to explore, enjoy, and understand the tundra world of the north. After nine years of operation as a wilderness resort, Camp Denali last summer began to feature special sessions to attract the Alaskan visitor looking for more than the conventional tourist approach to a vacation. Not attempting to be as academic as the Audubon camps, the Wilderness Workshop program is informal, unregimented and flexible to meet the special interests of the participants. The owners and operators of Camp Denali, Woody and Ginny Wood and Celia Hunter, report that last season's participants in the Workshop were Audubon members 100%. The Woods and Miss Hunter presented a feature program on Alaska at the March Audubon Convention at Asilomar, California. In addition to the Wilderness Workshop, two other special sessions will be featured by Camp Denali this coming summer. They are the "Tundra Treks", to explore the back country of McKinley Park by foot from base camps, and the "Shutter Safari", for the serious wildlife photographer willing and capable of leaving the road to "capture" the spectacular wildlife of this region on film. Further information can be obtained by writing Camp Denali, Box 526, College, Alaska.

Those interested in "A Vacation on Horseback in the Mountains" will want to know more about The Wilderness Society's projected trips in the western states. Ask for their description of "A Way to the Wilderness". (2144 P Street, N.W., Washington 7, D.C.).

The Delta is a Western Everglades

In the Delta, the marshy confluence of the Sacramento and San Joaquin Rivers, boaters, fishermen and hunters have a labyrinth of better than 1,000 miles of rivers, sloughs, bays and coves for their outdoor delight. The area, in addition to being a scenic wonderland, is liberally studded with small towns, boat harbors and liveries and anchorages. It is a breeding ground for striped bass, and a thoroughfare for steelhead, salmon, shad and sturgeon. It also supports heavy upland game and waterfowl population. When in the name of flood control, Army Engineers and the State Reclamation Board began systematically stripping Delta levees of all trees and growths, The Examiner

leapt to the forefront of a battle to protect the recreational values of an area known nationally as "the Everglades of the West". As a result, at the present time, stripping operations have virtually ground to a halt, and protective legislation has been proposed at both the State and Federal levels.-W.R.

---S.F. Examiner 2/3

Who needs or wants a complete membership list of the local Society? When an up-to-date one is ready we can send you one. Please send your request to the editor.

The Seventh Biennial Wilderness Conference is coming April 7 & 8, 1961 to the Sheraton-Palace Hotel, San Francisco. The theme: The American Heritage of Wilderness. There is no comparable conservation meeting anywhere in the world. If you would like to go, call the editor for details.

Let your state and national representatives know how you feel about fresh air and greenery. Then, let them know again. Letters from individuals are a big factor in influencing legislative action. Again the main issues: Wilderness Bill, Point Reyes National Park, Rainbow Bridge, Big Basin.

---J.T.