

The Avocet

Volume VIII Number 5

May, 1961

President's Message

Asilomar was a great success this year. Our branch had an attendance of more than thirty-two, over ten percent of the membership. All with whom I talked thought the program an excellent one and the associations warm and comfortable.

Senate Bill 353 (Hunting in State Parks) has been rewritten, owing largely to pressure brought by Audubon members and friends, and the more objectionable features removed. A policy statement from the National Society is quoted for all members' information: "The Society is not opposed to hunting in National or State Forests or wildlife management areas or on other public lands which have been established or set aside for recreational hunting. Parks do not fit into this category. We would also oppose the opening of Parks to the sale or leasing of homesites as inconsistent with Park purposes and as a dangerous foot-in-the-door for other commercial invasions." California Senator Thomas H. Kuchel is a member of the Senate Interior Committee, which will vote soon on the Wilderness Bill. Several letters to him from California, urging him to support S. 174, without amendment, would be very timely right now. If you have an interest in conservation, PLEASE ACT NOW. ---Charles Williams, President

Pacific Coast Conference

The Pacific Coast Conference of the National Audubon Society (Asilomar, March 25 to 28) was one of the best I have ever attended. The theme, Tundra to Tropics, aroused particular interest because everyone realized that the beauties and conservation problems of the two new states, Alaska and Hawaii, were to be the main concern of the meeting. Very excellent speakers with fine pictures made us feel that we had visited both states. Mr. Olans Murie, Dr. Bucheister and Dr. Peterson gave inspiring talks on conservation in general. If we needed rallying for the cause to which we are primarily committed, we surely received it. Perhaps for many the highlight of the meeting was actually being able to buy the long awaited new Peterson Guide, and all agreed that it was well worth waiting for. We came home with a great feeling of satisfaction. ---Angelina Show

Coming Events at a Glance

Mon. May 1	8:00 P.M.	Menlo Park
Sun. May 7	9:00 A.M.	Pilarcitos Lake
Mon. May 8	8:00 P.M.	Palo Alto Junior Museum
Wed. May 10	8:30 A.M.	Stevens Creek Reservoir
Sun. May 21	9:30 A.M.	Point Lobos State Park
Wed. May 24	9:00 A.M.	Westridge
Mon. June 19	7:30 A.M.	Santa Cruz Wharf



May Calendar

Board Meeting: Monday, May 1, 8:00 P.M. at the home of President Charles Williams, 148 Goya Road, Menlo Park (DA 3-0787).

Regular Meeting: Monday, May 8, 8:00 P.M., Palo Alto Junior Museum, Middlefield Road, Palo Alto. Al Wool will show his motion pictures of the California Condor -- only a small portion of which he has released before. He will tell us about the Condor and something about how the film was made. Mr. Wool is an Audubon Screen Tour lecturer showing his "Ranch and Range" and has another film in preparation for National Audubon. Don't miss the program opener: two of Jane Goraj's young speech students will show slides of owls and tell us about how owls live.

Special Event: Monday, June 19, 7:30 A.M., Leavitt McQuesten's Albatross trip, 12 miles offshore from Stagnaros' landing, Municipal Wharf, Santa Cruz. Return at 11:30 A.M., same day. I have 10 tickets, \$1.50 each, which can be bought by mail or at the next meeting -- in any case, before June 1, please. This trip always has its thrills -- albatross, other pelagic birds, and even whales. Tickets from J. Todd (DA 2-1787).

Field Trips;

Sunday, May 7, Pilarcitos Lake and Stone Dam on the San Francisco watershed lands. Mr. John E. O'Marie of the San Francisco Water Company very kindly permits us each year to visit this beautiful country. All who participate in this trip must come prepared to stay throughout the entire trip. Meet at the Los Pulgas Water Temple on Canada Road, 5 miles north of Woodside, at 9:00 A.M. Bring lunch. ---Leader, Mark Massie.

Wednesday Morning, May 10, to Stevens Creek Canyon, in foothills of the Santa Cruz Mts., southwest of Cupertino. Meet at 8:30 A.M. in the parking area at Stevens Creek Reservoir. Leader: Catherine Lintott (EL 6-4264).

Sunday, May 21, to Point Lobos Reserve State Park. Meet at the entrance to the park about 1½ miles south of Carmel on Route 1 at 9:30 A.M. Bring lunch. Leaders: Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Case (CH 3-2467).

Wednesday Morning, May 24, to the Westridge area, south of Menlo Park. Meet at 9:00 A.M. at Portola Valley Shopping Center, north and across the road from Portola Valley Grammar School on Portola Road. Leader: Virginia Bothwell (DA 2-1209).

---Emmanuel Taylor
Field Trip Chairman

New Members

We are sorry that we listed one of the new members as Mrs. Lloyd Robinson instead of Mr. last month. It was just a typographical error; all the records are correct.

Dr. Sheldon C. Woodward, 617 Westridge Drive, Menlo Park, has held a national membership in Sequoia Audubon Society and a local membership in our society. He has now transferred his national membership to Santa Clara Valley.

We are glad to welcome the following new members:

Mrs. Edwin M. Zimmerman	767 Santa Inez	Stanford University
Mrs. E. H. Swift	Toute 1, Box 54A	Gilroy
Miss Wilma Thompson	758 Pollard Road	Campbell
Mrs. Bruce Deal	833 East Meadow Dr.	Palo Alto
Mr. Robert A. Ryder	14515 Big Basin Way	Saratoga

---Mrs. Angelina Snow
Membership Chairman

Get the Wilderness Bill out of Committee

If you have misplaced or given away the names and addresses of solons, additional copies may be obtained from Elsie Hoeck, 1311 Cristina, San Jose. Right now is the critical time for the Wilderness Bill. It was introduced in the Senate by Clinton P. Anderson, who is Chairman of the Senate Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs, where the bill now languishes, awaiting approval by that group before it can be acted on by the Senate. Senator Anderson (Senate Office Building, Washington 25, D.C.) needs bushel baskets of mail from individuals urging the preservation of wilderness. You may wonder why this is necessary if President Kennedy and Secretary of the Interior Udall are for it, the chairman of the committee is behind it and on all sides we hear of prominent people like Justice Douglas urging its passage. Senate committee members are hard-headed people, and they must be convinced that the majority of the people will benefit from wilderness preservation. Lumber, mining, grazing and water power advocates are numerous, organized, vocal, have abundant financial backing, and are missing no opportunity to insist that preservation of wilderness will serve only a selfish minority of youthful athletes. This is not true. Wilderness, by its very existence, benefits all of mankind, including the bedridden and city-bound who have no chance of ever directly seeing wilderness. Vicarious enjoyment can be as fine as actual experience in some situations.

So, help those who are serving our interests. Back them up; let them know you do care; stand up and be counted for wilderness by writing a letter. Now is the time. The Forest Service is withdrawing magnificent land from wilderness status at an alarming rate. Under the present system, they need consult no one but themselves in order to allow logging of beautiful areas.

Get the Wilderness Bill out of committee and before the legislators. All that's necessary is a short paragraph stating that you believe already established wilderness should remain inviolate unless individual changes are authorized by Congress, not decreed at the whim of district foresters.

The same or similar letter should go to Representative Wayne Aspinall, Chairman of the House Committee on Internal and Insular Affairs (House Office Building, Washington 25, D.C.), and to Senators Kuchel and Engle and Representatives Gubser and Younger.

---Lynn Robbins
Conservation Chairman

Mr. and Mrs. Francis Goraj
Education Chairmen

Frank grew up in Auburn, New York, the fourth boy in a family of ten children. He does not recall any outstanding interest in nature until much later in life although, looking back, he sees that it was actually there underneath. After eleven years in the Navy, he was stationed as an Aviation Machinist's Mate at Moffett Field after World War II, where he began to notice birds nesting around the hangars. Soon he enrolled in San Jose Adult School, where he had a course in Natural Science which really aroused his latent interest in the out-of-doors and, he believes, changed his whole philosophy of life. He joined the local Audubon Society; then he went to Audubon Camp of California, where he met his wife. Naturally, the two became active in the Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society, with Frank as Field Trip Chairman, a Director, then Sanctuary and Education Committee Chairman - which post he holds today. Frank works as an Engineering Aid in the U.S. Geological Survey in Menlo Park and has begun a college course, majoring in the natural sciences, coincident with his work.

Jane Taylor Goraj grew up in Buffalo, New York, graduated from Wellesley College and Bank Street College of Education, spent her early adult life in little theatre and radio, and then went into teaching. In 1948, she and her young son moved to San Francisco, where she originated the Jane Todd radio program on KCBS. After six years of broadcasting, she married Frank and retired. She, too, has been active with the Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society, as a Director, Publicity Chairman, and now Co-Chairman of the Education Committee. Now, after completing her Master's program at San Jose State College, she is a Speech and Hearing Therapist in the Los Altos Public School District - where her children learn a good deal about nature while they are correcting their speech! ---J. T. Goraj

Migration Research

Dr. Richard Mewaldt introduced us to his research on White-crowned Sparrows at the meeting on April 10. He began by showing a series of pictorial slides of various areas where these birds nest and a few slides on the use of the mist net.

He pointed out that these sparrows in captivity show a restlessness as migration time approaches; and since this species migrates north to nest, their movements were directed to the north. By increasing day length by artificial light, "spring" was produced in December. These conditions brought on the restlessness and migration urge. All movements of the sparrows were automatically recorded.

Some work has been done, he said, to indicate that these birds are aided in "direction finding" by the moon.

The talk was most enthusiastically received and discussed.

---Dr. Evelyn Case

Notes from Afield

Shall we start with the spring arrivals? Fanny Zwaal saw her first Hooded and Bullock's Orioles (both males) of the season at her San Jose home on March 30. She has to share her "first" Bullock's with Will Luick, also of San Jose, who saw his a half hour before Fanny's observation. Don Schmoltdt reports a Bullock's Oriole at Alum Rock Park on January 21, a Poor-will calling there on February 24 and 25, and an Allen's Hummingbird near the part on the 10th of February. Mrs. Hillebrand saw a Rufous Hummingbird in Palo Alto on the 27th; Oliver Allen had two Blue-gray Gnatcatchers at Alum Rock Park on April 8. Bob Wood's firsts include Orange-crowned Warbler on March 9, Wilson's Warbler on the 16th, Violet-green Swallow on the 18th, Chipping Sparrow on April 8, Olive-sided Flycatcher on the 16th, Warbling Vireo on the 17th, all at Los Trancos Woods in Portola Valley.

Kay McCann's field trip to the Duveneck Ranch in Los Altos Hills on March 19 found two nesting pairs of Black Phoebes. On the same day, the Wittgensteins found Say's Phoebes nesting in a mailbox beside the road south of Hollister. The nest contained two young birds. On April 8 at Alum Rock Park, Oliver Allen watched a Rough-winged Swallow excavating a nesting hole in a bank near Penitencia Creek.

Don Schmoltdt sends in some additional records from Alum Rock Park. Last December 31, he saw an albino Golden-crowned Sparrow, and on January 15, a Brown Towhee with a white tail. On February 22, he heard a Pygmy Owl; on the 25th, he had six Barn Owls, five Great Horned Owls, and two Screech Owls.

Starlings are the subject of a note from Rex Marsh. In early March, he observed an estimated 10,000 of the birds returning to a roosting area south of Eureka. On the 9th near Santa Rosa, he saw another huge aggregation of Starlings that had been estimated at a half million birds several weeks earlier. And we think we have too many Starlings around here!

On March 18, Earl Albertson and Oliver Allen saw White-throated Swifts, Canyon Wrens, and about 20 Rough-winged Swallows at Alum Rock Park. At Cherry Flat Reservoir up back of the park, they

counted about a hundred Common Mergansers and a male Ring-necked Duck. Later that day on the dikes between Dumbarton Bridge and the sanctuary, they saw a Ruddy Turnstone, two Snowy Plovers, and about 15 Knots.

The field trip to Mission San Juan Bautista and Fremont Peak on February 19 recorded 35 species of birds. Among the total were Rufous-crowned Sparrow, Barn Owl, and many flocks of Band-tailed Pigeons. The March 19 trip to the Duvenecks' Ranch in Los Altos Hills saw 30 different birds, including Orange-crowned and Townsend's Warblers and at least six Evening Grosbeaks.

---Robert Wood, 1107 Los Trancos Rd.
Portola Valley, ULMar 1-1237

Editor's Notes

A postcard from long-time members Clara and Laura Hinze - now living in Medford, Oregon: "Thank you for the Avocet which comes to us here. Meadowlarks seem to be the most intimate birds here and we love the rollicking song as we go out for walks. We often flush pheasants and yesterday heard quail. We have a marvelous view from our hilltop, with orchards in bloom, and feel very much at home." My year of Geography from Miss Clara years ago at San Jose State is one of the few courses I haven't forgotten! ---J.T.

A two-week seminar for the study of plant and animal life in the High Sierra will be presented at Camp White Wolf in Yosemite Park July 8-21 by University of California Extension.

This unique, out-doors classroom will feature lectures and field trips conducted by members of the faculty at Stanford University and Mills College.

Camp White Wolf is located near Tioga Pass, at 8,000 feet elevation, where the opportunities for studying the wild life of the region are considered unusually good. Accommodations range from public camping grounds to cabins with private bath.

During the first week, July 8 to July 14, the lecturer in residence will be Howard Cogswell, Assistant Professor of Biological Sciences at Mills College. Field trips and lectures during this period will emphasize a study of bird life in the area.

The second week's program, July 15-21, will be conducted by John H. Thomas, acting Assistant Professor of Biology at Stanford University. Thomas is Assistant Curator of Dudley Herbarium at Stanford and is Treasurer and Business Manager of the California Botanical Society. He has written Flora of the Santa Cruz Mountains of California, Stanford, 1961, \$8.50. His talks and field trips will be mainly concerned with the plant life of the High Sierra.

Participants may enroll for both weeks or for one week. Further information and application for enrollment may be obtained from the Department of Conferences, University Extension, University of California, Berkeley 4, California.

Anyone interested in seeing the film lectures shown by Peninsula Nature Club should contact them at 550 Mariposa Avenue, Mountain View (YO 7-0693). Their March program was Carl Eklund's The Penguin Egg and I.G.Y., but I have no listing of other films. Tickets are \$1.00 single, \$2.25 family. ---J.T.

A new bill #AB 355 introduced in the California legislature provides for the permanent hunting of deer with bow and arrow. This is to replace the previous law that expired as of January 1, 1961, which provided special archery deer hunting seasons, prior to the regular deer hunting seasons for gunners. The new bill would make these special, privileged archery seasons permanently established in the game code of California.

The intent of this bill would appear to be to provide fun for those persons who like to use live animals as targets to prove their prowess as mighty hunters. To satisfy this ego, no regard is given to the suffering and crippling of hundreds of deer that must carry the arrows in their bodies and spend weeks in agony before finally succumbing to their injuries. A well placed arrow will cause an animal to bleed to death. The best an archer can hope for is to inflict a wound from which the animal will eventually die, thereby committing each living thing they hit to a slow painful death.

State your position on bill #Ab 355 to your assemblyman or senator. ---Defenders of Wildlife

Let's Save the Bald Eagle

Report your sightings to the National Audubon Society, 2426 Bancroft Way, Berkeley 4, California. Support the Continental Bald Eagle Project.