

# The Avocet

Volume VIII Number 6

June, 1961

## Our Annual Meeting - June 5 - Montalvo

The annual meeting, this year, is at a place that is pleasant and at a time that ought to be convenient for everyone. As in the past it's an opportunity for our members to meet for a comfortable, leisurely picnic supper at a beautiful time of day. I'll promise that the business meeting afterward will be brief, since we have an interesting program to follow.

The officers and committee chairmen have a duty to perform in reporting to you the results of their stewardship over the past year and you, in turn, should want to know how we have been getting on. Then, and this is most important, there are three new directors to elect who are to help run the show for the following year. The directors will then elect the new officers.

Here's democracy for you. Let's not let an organized minority run the show. Turn out. You'll have pleasant company.

--- Charles D. Williams  
President

## Growth of Human Population and Wildlife Protection

From an address by George Deymour of the Dept. of Fish and Game of the State of California.

It is becoming increasingly important that all the people of California take a more positive part in making sure that natural resources are properly managed. They must be managed in such a manner that the growth in human population does not destroy all the habitat of fish and game or spoil the whole of California's great outdoors, because the outdoors means so much to so many people. History tells us that the rise and fall of nearly every civilization could be attributed to the squandering of its natural resources. Thoughtful men have stated that any country that expects to remain a power in the world today must not exhaust its renewable resources. But there is more than an economic or recreational value. There is a spiritual value in living things.

California still has her renowned beauty. There is still an abundance of wildlife, enough for everyone to enjoy. It must be kept this way, for if our countryside continues to be thoughtlessly stripped to make room for more "civilization" our future race will surely be impoverished.

--- George E. Hastings  
Western Tanager 4/61

## Coming Events at a Glance

Th. June 4	9:00 a.m.	Chesbro Dam
Fri. June 5	6-9:00 p.m.	Montalvo, Saratoga
Wed. June 14	8:30 a.m.	Castle Rock Ridge
Sun. June 18	9:00 a.m.	Hoss Beach
Mon. June 19	7:30 a.m.	Santa Cruz Wharf



June Calendar

Annual Meeting: Monday, June 5, at 6:00 p.m. at Montalvo. This wild-life refuge and cultural center is about 4 mile from Saratoga on the Saratoga-Los Gatos Highway. There will be a picnic supper at 6:00 p.m. (bring your own) and the meeting will start when everyone is through eating - about 7:00 to 7:30. If you can come earlier in the afternoon, you'll find Montalvo a wonderful place for birding. For the annual meeting we shall have Dr. John Harville, Associate Professor of Biology, San Jose State, former president of Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society. His subject: "A Naturalist's Glimpse of Alaska".

Field Trips:

Sunday, June 4, to Chesbro Dam. Meet at the Almaden Union High School on Almaden Road near Downer Avenue at 9:00 a.m. Bring lunch. Leaders: Mr. and Mrs. Charles Zwaal (CY 2-2060).

Wednesday Morning, June 14, to Castle Rock Ridge in the Santa Cruz Mountains. Meet at 8:30 a.m. at Saratoga Gap, at the junction of Saratoga-Big Basin Road and Skyline Blvd. (Highways 9 and 5). Leader: Margaret Henderson (UN 7 -4304).

Sunday, June 18, to Moss Beach on Route 1, seven miles north of Half Moon Bay. Meet at Moss Beach at 9:00 a.m. Bring lunch. Leaders: Mr. and Mrs. Emmanuel Taylor (DR 9-3424).

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 still have 8 tickets, \$1.50 each, which can be bought by mail or at the Annual Meeting - in any case, before June 10, please. This trip always has its thrills - albatross, other pelagic birds, and even whales. The tickets may be had from J. Todd (DA 2-1787).

---Emmanuel Taylor  
Field Trip Chairman

Local Members : Dues Time Again.

To all who are Local Members only of the Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society (not Joint Members of National and Local): Dues of \$2.00 become due July 1, payable to the Treasurer, Mrs. Charles J. Zwaal, 478 Clifton Avenue, San Jose 28, California. Please mail dues promptly to save our sending you a special reminder.

--- Fanny Zwaal, Treasurer

Audubon Camp of California Opens June 25

There are five tow-week sessions ("110 per person), starting June 25 and ending September 21, at Norden - where you can enjoy field trips, experiences, and activities you will always remember and treasure. From mountain, meadow, and desert you will acquire "Nature knowledge for a lifetime". For complete details, write to Audubon Camp, 2426 Bancroft Way, Berkeley 4, California.

New Members

We are glad to welcome the following new members:

Miss Bethel D. Dearborn	480 Margarita Ave., Palo Alto
Mrs. Alan L. Havens	2249 Cherrystone Dr., San Jose
Mrs. Carol Kopcsak	1212 Parkinsan Ave., Palo Alto
Mr. & Mrs. Alvin L. Boyd	2539 Bray Ave., Santa Clara
	--- Angelina Snow
	Membership Chairman

Pilarcitos Lake - Stone Dam Field Trip

The Audubon Society field trip to the secluded Pilarcitos Lake and Stone Dam area on May 7 was led by Mark Massie. Prior to leaving the Las Pulgas Water Temple the group listened to tape-recorded calls of birds that might be heard and were furnished a checklist of birds and flowers which might be seen during the trip.

Some time was spent at the popular Bunker Hill site where Miss Emily Smith gave details of botanical interest to the group before going into the San Francisco Water Department property.

Due to the impassability of the roads the caravan was forced to stay on the main road leading from San Andreas Dam to Stone Dam. Although still muddy we were fortunate in losing no cars. The seclusion was somewhat broken by about 50 members of Los Vaqueros and their beautiful horses.

The following is a partial list of the 48 bird species and 81 flowering plants seen:

Water Temple: Great Blue Heron, California Quail, Redwinged Blackbird, Black Phoebe; Bolsa Flower.

Crystal Springs Lake: Eared and Pied-Billed Grebes, American Coot, Western Meadowlark, House Finch, American Gold Finch; Blue Dicks, Filaree.

Bunker Hill: Killdeer, Allen's and Anna's Hummingbirds, Violet-green Swallow, Plain Titmouse, Wrentit, Bewick's Wren, Hutton's and Warbling Vireos, Black-Headed Grosbeak, Pine Siskin, Song Sparrow, Brown Towhee; White Globe Lily, Pink Wild Onion, Wild Iris, Blue-Eyed Grass, California Buttercup, Blue Larkspur, Lupine, Bull Mal-low, Cow Parsnip, Purple Sanicle, Owl's Clover, Broom-Rape, Wind

Poppy, Bellardia, Clintonia, Yellow Mimulus, Gilia, Linanthus.

San Andreas Dam Area: Golden-Crowned Sparrow, Common Loon, Turkey Vulture, Red-Tailed Hawk, Red-Shafted Flicker, Olive-Sided Flycatcher, Chestnut-Backed Chickadee, Orange-Crowned and Wilson's Warblers, Purple Finch, Rufous-sided Towhee, Oregon Junco, Bush-tit; Zygadene, Red Columbine, Star Flower, Bush-Monkey Flower.

Pilarcitos Lake-Stone Dam Area: Band-Tailed Pigeon, Belted Kingfisher, Winter Wren, Western Flycatcher, Pigmy Nuthatch, Crossbill; Fairy Bells, Meadow Rue, Bleeding Hearts, Milkmaids, Fringe Cups, Salmonberry, Romanzoffia, Bitter Cherry, and California Bee Plant.  
--- Leota E. Ahlstrom

### Notes From Afield

Emily Smith has sent in a sequel to the Wittgensteins' report of a Say's Phoebe nest with two young in an abandoned mailbox near Pinnacles Monument, that was mentioned in the last AVOCET. On April 15 Miss Emily found three eggs in the same mailbox, evidently a second nesting. She reports the arrival on April 13 of two Vaux's Swifts to take up nesting for the third year in the chimney of her Saratoga home. During a heavy shower on the evening of April 25, 18 Vaux's Swifts came down a chimney into a living room in Los Gatos. Other records sent by Miss Emily are: Swainson's Thrush calling on May 9 at Stevens Creek Park; a flock of about 12 Cedar Waxwings still roosting nightly in her avocado tree as of May 16; both an Audubon's and Myrtle Warbler in nuptial plumage singing at Alum Rock Park on April 10; a singing Lazuli Bunting on April 26 on Bunker Hill Road near Crystal Springs Reservoir.

Mrs. Boylan's Red Crossbills, seven of them, were last seen on April 27. They had been coming to her bird bath in Mount Hermon since November 3. Mary Shore's crossbills were last seen around her home on the Los Gatos - Santa Cruz Highway on April 28. She had first seen them on November 5. The field trip to Crystal Springs Reservoir on May 7 saw a flock of 25 Red Crossbills.

The Goldsmiths in Los Gatos saw their last Golden-Crowned Sparrow on April 22, while Mary Shores had her last two on May 5. The Wittgensteins in Saratoga also saw their last on the same day. Catherine Lintott saw her last White-Crowned Sparrow at her Los Gatos home overlooking Vasona Reservoir on April 23 and her last Golden-Crowned on the 27th. She saw two Caspian Terns on April 1 and reports Ash-Throated Flycatchers nesting in her bird house in mid-May.

On May 1 at Stevens Creek Oliver Allen saw a Black-Throated Gray Warbler and a nesting pair of Hermit Warblers, a bird that rarely nests in the Santa Cruz Mountains. On the 9th at Moss Landing he saw 4 Baird's Sandpipers, 12 Ruddy Turnstones, and 32 Eared Grebes. On May 12 and 18 he found a roosting Pigmy Owl in Los Altos and, while he was unable to locate it a few days later, he would be glad to assist others wishing to look for it if they call him at WH 8-5369.

The field trip to Stevens Creek Park on May 10, led by Catherine Lintott, saw a total of 43 species of birds. They found two Black Phoebe nests, saw an Olive-Sided Flycatcher, two Great Horned Owls, and a male Warbling Vireo singing on the next.

Last weekend, May 19-21, I had the privilege of joining a group from San Jose's Youth Science Institute on a field trip to the Mojave Desert. Our campsite, a few miles northeast of the town of Mojave, was in an isolated grove of trees which attracted a variety of birds, many of them migrants. Some of the latter were Black-Throated Gray, MacGillivray's and Wilson's Warblers; Western Tanager, Yellow-Breasted Chat, Black-Headed Grosbeak, and two small flocks of Vaux's Swifts. The more interesting resident species were Raven, LeConte's Thrasher, Prairie Falcon, Verdin, Phainopepla, and Black-Throated Sparrow.

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

### Editor's Notes

Unless there is urgent business to communicate this summer, this will be the last AVOCET until the September issue. Don't forget to keep after your legislators on key conservation issues, and please, if you can, send me brief notes about your vacation - if it takes you into wilderness areas. Other members like to know where you went and what you saw.

Timely work by the Audubon Societies of California helped bring about the satisfactory revision of a bill which would have opened state parks to hunting and summer homesite leasing. As amended the bill would permit no hunting in existing or future State Parks although new "recreational areas" might be established in the future to include this purpose. The homesite idea was killed.

--- Conservation Guide 5/1

Although the pesticide hucksters are pushing their patent medicines hard to municipal officials throughout the north central states, an increasing number of cities, like DeKalb, Illinois, are steering clear of the DDT treatment for three very good reasons: 1) DDT is not checking spread of tree disease; 2) strict sanitation - prompt removal of affected trees - works better; and 3) songbird losses are too high a price to pay for a program that fails anyway.

--- Conservation Guide 12/1/60

Persons wishing to help directly in saving wetlands for wildlife can do so by buying a Duck Stamp which will be mounted on a special certificate signed by Secretary of the Interior Stewart L. Udall. The Duck Stamp is the annual license required of waterfowl hunters. But the hunting season is over, so purchases made now are truly contributions for conservation. Receipts are earmarked by law for wetlands acquisition. Send check or money order for \$3 to the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife, Washington 25, D.C.

---Conservation Guide 4/1

New York, N.Y. - The Student Conservation Program, which has made it possible for students to work on several national parks in the western states, will not be sponsored by the National Park Association this year. However, because of the value of the program, the National Park Service has announced that it will take an active part in the program so that it may be continued. Applications are being



received and screened by a committee at this time. Qualified Students may apply to the Student Conservation Program of the National Park Service, Room 922, 50 Rockefeller Plaza, New York 20, N.Y.

--- Conservation News 5/1

Supreme Court Justice William O. Douglas, new Sierra Club Director and author of the best-selling My Wilderness, deplores present tendencies to neglect wilderness trails, while developing roads to make accessible a region that then ceases to be wilderness.

--- J.T.

In view of demands from an increasing human population upon a resource which has definite limitations in quantity, the re-use of water for all purposes is exceedingly important. If water is to be used for all purposes, it must have a high standard of quality. Water pollution control, then, is one of the major resource problems facing the nation today.

---National Wildlife Federation  
2/14/61

The Reed Rogers Da Fonta Wild Life Sanctuary in Marin County will not be just for the birds, the president of the National Audubon Society said last week. Carl W. Buchheister said the refuge will be used as a center for wildlife studies and for public recreation. The sanctuary is located on 645 acres of tidelands south of Greenwood Beach between Belvedere and Strawberry Point. The site includes nine acres surrounding a little knoll on the shoreline. In a grove of eucalyptus and cypress trees at the base of the knoll stands the old Lyford house which will be used to teach school children and adults about botany and wildlife. Its library will be open to the public. The land was assembled by the Richardson Bay Wild Life Sanctuary Foundation, which, in turn, deeded the property to the Audubon Society. It raised \$200,000 by public subscription, by bond issue, by county contribution and by sale of a piece of land to the State Division of Highways. "Some people have called this area the most expensive bird cage in the world," said Buchheister. "That is not the case, for its uses will be varied and will be available to all who choose to come to it."

--- S.F. Chronicle 5/20

Within a few years, the secretary of the interior predicts, California will have a new national park - the Channel Islands. There are eight. On a clear day, most can be seen from the coast. But it's doubtful that most people could name one besides famed Santa Catalina, whose Avalon is a world-famed tourist attraction. "I'm tremendously excited by the Channel Islands as a national park," Interior Secretary Stewart L. Udall said recently in San Francisco. "Legislation on the islands probably will be introduced in this session of Congress. Udall promised Gov. Brown his department would study the island park proposal. He suggested banning motor traffic on the islands to duplicate early California atmosphere.

A 1959 report for the National Park System declared: "The Channel Islands constitute the greatest single remaining opportunity for the conservation and preservation of representative seashore values, including biology, geology, history, archeology, paleontology, wilderness and recreation." All but Santa Catalina are closed to casual visitors. Most have Air Force, Navy or Coast Guard installations. Three have giant cattle ranches. If the National Park plan goes through the public will be able to visit an island chain rich in history, wildlife fishing and adventure.

--- Palo Alto Times 4/21

"The progress of true civilization is best shown by the increasing thought which each generation takes for the good of those who are to come after . . . An aesthetic as well as economic factor is involved in the problem of conservation. Poor, indeed, is the conservation which does not also include beauty."

--- Theodore Roosevelt

We needed an S.R.O. sign last meeting for Al Wool's California Condor films. Everyone was thrilled by the giant birds - and as much by the photographer's skill in capturing their every move. Lots of questions were asked and answered - ending on an encouraging note: Mr. Wool feels that there are probably more condors living than the official count of some 60. We liked the youth and enthusiasm of Jane Goraj's three students - who told us about owls and how they've been studying those birds.

--- J.T.

If you are one of those persons who says "What good does it do to write letters", you may be surprised to learn that when again this year (1960) the herd of Tule Elk in Owens Valley was threatened by those wishing to hunt the animals, it required less than 300 letters to cause the authorities to deny the would-be hunters.

--- Wandering Father Nov/Dec '60

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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