

The Avocet

Volume VIII Number 7

September, 1961

President's Message

After the June meeting the new board of directors, whom you elected, held an organization meeting and elected me for another term as your president. I consider it as a vote of confidence and, naturally, it's a comfort. But we have work to do.

At the annual meeting we reviewed our progress, found areas in which we have done well and others where we need to work harder in the coming year:

Achievements: The screen tours have come to Stanford; the National Society is providing help in broadening our base of membership; the Harvey-Smith course in leadership is off to a fine start; the Avocet continues to be the bright, informative, readable paper that it is.

Here's where we need more work: coordination with other Bay Area groups in working for conservation; following up the membership efforts of the National Society; supporting the Stanford Screen Tours; helping the committee with the Santa Clara County Check List; more membership participation in the programs for the regular meetings; more public participation in those field trips to which the public is invited.

Long term goals: an Audubon library; a regular meeting place; separate branches for the northern and southern areas of the valley with close coordination between the two groups.

The officers and committee chairmen have decided to expand the "workin'" organization of the society. This will not only share the expanding work load but also provide an opportunity for more of you to find out how interesting it can be, and how rewarding. The Board of Directors and the committee chairmen are always eager to get constructive suggestions from you. Please help us to make the society a friendly group of people, interested in the fauna and flora about us and stalwart in promoting the constructive phases of conservation.

--- Charles Williams

Coming Events at a Glance

Wed. Sept. 6	8:00 p.m.	Menlo Park
Mon. Sept. 11	8:00 p.m.	San Jose
Wed. Sept. 13	9:00 a.m.	Santa Cruz
Sun. Sept. 17	8:30 a.m.	Dumbarton Bridge
Wed. Sept. 27	8:30 a.m.	Searsville Lake



September Calendar

Board Meeting: Wednesday, Sept. 6 at 8:00 p.m. at the home of President Charles D. Williams, 148 Goya Road, Menlo Park (DA 3-0707).

Regular Meeting: Monday, Sept. 11, at 8:00 p.m. at Rose Garden Branch, San Jose City Library - at the corner of Dana and Naglee Streets. Members will show slides taken during summer vacation - outdoor subjects reflecting the current interests of the photographers. Please call Dr. Sheldon Woodward (DA 3-0231) soon, if you can share your pictures with us. He wants to be sure all the right equipment is ready.

Field Trips:

Wednesday Morning, September 13, to lagoons and beaches along East Cliff Drive, Santa Cruz. Meet at 9:00 a.m. at parking area, Twin Lakes Beach State Park (East Cliff Dr., between 4th Ave. and 5th Ave.). Leaders: Catherine Lintott (DL 3-4264) and Eve Case (CH 3-2467).

Sunday, September 17, to the marshes and salt ponds in the vicinity of Dunbarton Bridge. Meet at 8:30 a.m. in Menlo Park on Hamilton Ave., near corner of Willow Road (across from the Hiller Aircraft Corp.). Bring lunch. The tide should be just right. Leader: Oliver Allen (WH 8-5639).

Wednesday Morning, September 27, to Searsville Lake, west of Stanford University. Meet at 8:30 a.m. at the entrance gate, near the junction of Sand Hill Road and Portola Road. Entrance fee 25 cents. Leader: Virginia Bothwell (DA 2-1209).

New Members

We are very happy to welcome the following new members. We are especially pleased to find that three former members have rejoined. Welcome home!

Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd E. Nyberg	2151 Barbara Dr., Palo Alto
Mr. Albert W. Lutus	15254 Clydelle Ave., San Jose 4
Mrs. Chas. H. Scull	745 La Para Ave., Palo Alto
Mr. and Mrs. E. J. Johnson	P.O. Box 553, Cupertino
Mr. and Mrs. H. W. Pennypacker	12875 Woodmont Dr., Saratoga
Mrs. Jessie A. Holley	13728 Howen Dr., Saratoga
Miss Janet Miller	21444 Roaring Water Way, Los Gatos
Mrs. Esther Ellis	Box 786, Los Gatos
Mrs. Charles Weeks	Box 522, Menlo Park
Mrs. Mary Schwarz	17801 Kilkenny Road, Los Gatos
Mrs. R. W. Wallace	680 Lowell Ave., Palo Alto
Miss Masako Ishida	1112 E. Robway Ave., Campbell
Mr. Robert L. Grimm	1494 Lupton Ave., San Jose 25
Mr. and Mrs. W. R. Henderson	P.O. Box 2012 East Station, Sta. Cruz.

We are sorry to announce the death of our long-time member, Mr. F.T. Tourtillot. Many of us remember many happy hours at his ranch.

---Angelina Snow
Membership Chairman

Summer Field Trip Report

Thirty members checked the birds in the Moss Landing district between showers on Saturday, August 19th. Forty-seven species were listed in the lagoon area, the salt marshes and McClusky Slough. The find of the day was a third year male King Eider near the mouth of Elkhorn Slough. This bird was first seen on February 11 of this year. It has been observed from time to time since that date.

--- Charles Anderson, leader
(Salinas)

West Coast Nature School Scholarships

Seven San Jose State College students were awarded tuition scholarships, valued at \$16.00 each, to West Coast Nature School sessions held at the beginning of the summer. At the school the students earned one semester hour of college credit while studying the birds, trees, insects, wild flowers, mammals, and geology of the area. Miss Verle Raab attended the one-week session held at Sequoia National Park. Those attending the session held at Fallen Leaf Lake (near Lake Tahoe) were: Charles Greenleaf, Jerry Houseman, Joan Peters, Pam Ratto, Bobby Tinett, and Ron Knause.

Audubon Camp of California Scholarships

At the beginning of the summer three scholarships, each valued at \$55.00 and paying one-half of the normal expenses of a two week session of the Audubon Camp of California on Donner Summit, were awarded by the Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society. The recipients

were:

Jean Wendt of Los Gatos
Peggy E. Benham of Sunnyvale
Pearl Tennyson of Berkeley

Each of these is a school teacher who will be able to pass along much of the information she gained to her students.

Another scholarship from an anonymous member of the Society was presented to Janet Cooper - a teacher in the Tri-County Science-Conservation Program.

---Kenneth E. Hutton, Chairman
Scholarship Committee

Bird Notes

Bob Wood, of Los Trancos Woods, has just received a grant from the National Science Foundation to Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore for banding and study of penguins in the Antarctic. He will be on that remote continent from early October to mid-February - during the Antarctic summer. A period of orientation at the University will precede the journey, and a time following will be devoted to pooling information and writing up conclusions from the study. Bob's family, meanwhile, will move to the Sacramento Valley where Mrs. Wood will finish her work toward a teaching credential.

We'd like to thank Bob for his long and diligent service editing bird observations for S.C.V.A.S. (plus tending to the P.A. Yacht Harbor Audubon bulletin board) and to wish him the greatest success in his new field. He has promised to send us a couple of on-the-spot penguin reports during the winter.

Who, meanwhile, would like to carry on? The column is usually made up of your own monthly observations plus those sent to you by members. Please call Mr. Williams (DA 3-0787) or the Editor (DA 2-1707)

--- J. Todd

Editor's Notes

From Mrs. D. E. Richardson, 685 Georgia Ave., Palo Alto come two publications new to me: 1) a pamphlet on swamps, marshes and bogs from The Garden Club of America Conservation Committee in New York; 2) The Chirp, bulletin of the John Burroughs Natural History Society, published in Lomontville, New York. Both are well-written and informative. I'll try to bring them to a meeting soon. Mrs. Richardson is now the proud possessor of Dawson's "Birds of California" - a rare, out-of-print set which deserves to be reprinted soon. In June, in her garden, she rescued a baby brown towhee from a cat. "For two nights we put him in his nest in a deep flower pot and hung him up among the fuchsias. Now he is big enough so the parents can get him up and perching above cat level. He is thriving. Simple pleasures, I guess, but I wish more people could enjoy birds as I do." I think more people are taking up bird study, and if raising a baby towhee is "simple", I am simpler - having lost every one I've tried to help!

---J.T.

A relatively new and very good conservation paper, with news about problems and legislation concerning wilderness areas throughout

the United States is : National Wildlands News
2607 Connecticut Ave.,
Washington 8, D.C.

The subscription rate is \$2.00 per year.
---J.T.

From Dr. Amy H. Stannard, 1018 Fulton St., Palo Alto come some notes on the book by Lucy Kennedy, Mr. Audubon's Lucy. "Noting that both the youthful Audubon and the family into which he married had estates in the vicinity of Norristown, Pa. I commented on the book to a friend who lives in that city now. He promptly delved into some of the archives of Montgomery County, and sent me the enclosed extracts." Dr. Arthur P. Noyes writes, "Perhaps Lucy Kennedy mentioned in her book the fact that 'Mill Grove', the home of Audubon, was purchased in 1951 by Montgomery County, Pa. The small community located about six or seven miles from the Hospital is known as Audubon. The History of Montgomery County contains the following statement: 'Arrangements have been completed for the purchase of Mill Grove. The first home in America of John James Audubon, naturalist and ornithologist, it will be preserved as an Audubon museum and developed as a county, state and national shrine to accumulate and exhibit the works of the celebrated man. The woodland tracts on the ninety-five acre farm fronting on the Perkiomen Creek in Lower Providence Township will be set aside as a bird sanctuary. There is ample acreage available for recreational purposes also, but it is proposed to maintain the integrity of the Mill Grove Farm property on which the mansion was built in 1761.'"

The History of Montgomery County further reveals that lead ore was mined on Mill Grove Farm shortly after the Revolution and that young Audubon was a clerk of the mining company for a time. John Penn, last provincial governor of Pennsylvania, bought it in the fateful year 1776 and later sold it to Audubon's father, a wealthy French merchant, planter and slave trader. It was here that young John James got interested in American birds which he was to paint so wonderfully.

The Wilderness Bill (S.174) has finally been reported out of committee and can come up for discussion on the Senate floor at almost any time. Senator Kuchel of California has come out in favor of it, but Senator Clair Engle is apparently still wavering. Write and send telegrams to help convince him. Address: Senate Office Bldg.
Washington 25, D.C.