

The Avocet

Volume VIII Number 9

November, 1961

Help Point Reyes through the House

Preservation of the Point Reyes peninsula as a national seashore park was virtually assured on 9/7/61 when the Senate passed a bill authorizing purchase of 53,000 acres there. The Senate bill places a \$14 million limit on spending for land, but no limit on other development costs.

The measure now goes to the House. Representative Clem Miller (Dem.-Calif.), who has led the long House campaign for establishment of the park, said he expects final passage of the bill early in 1962. Senator Clair Engle (Dem.-Calif.) said the Senate action assured final approval of the national seashore. "I am delighted," he told The Chronicle. "Today's action means preservation of this unspoiled seashore area for the Nation, the State and people of the San Francisco Bay Area."

The Senate bill, although technically embracing the entire 53,000-acre site, specifies that a 26,000-acre pastoral and ranching zone shall not be acquired by the National Park service without the consent of the owners so long as it remains in its natural state or is used exclusively for ranching and dairying. The Bill also leaves an additional 4000 acres in private ownership for use of two radio stations and a large religious retreat.

The Duck Cove area on Tomales Bay, embracing a number of summer cottages, likewise will be excluded from Federal acquisition as long as it is maintained for private, noncommercial residential use. Under the measure, however, any of these lands can be acquired by the National Park Service once "present uses" are discontinued.

Dr. Joel Gustafson, associate director of the California Academy of Sciences and president of the Point Reyes Foundation, called yesterday's Senate action a great victory. Gustafson said Representative Wayne Aspinall (Dem-Colo.) of the House Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs has indicated that if the Marin Supervisors give their approval of the project it will receive "quicker attention in the House." S.F. Chronicle 9/8/61

Coming Events at a Glance

Fri. Nov. 3 4:30 pm Cubberly Auditorium, Stanford
Sun. Nov. 5 8:30 am Dumbarton Bridge area
Mon. Nov. 6 8:00 pm Board Meeting, Stanford
Wed. Nov. 8 9:00 am Villa Montalvo
Mon. Nov. 13 8:00 pm San Jose Branch Library
Sat. Nov. 18 9:00 am Twin Lakes, Santa Cruz
Wed. Nov. 22 9:00 am Stanford Campus
Wed. Nov. 29 8:00 pm Morris Dailey Aud., San Jose
Sun. Dec. 3 9:00 am Los Banos



November Calendar

Board Meeting: Monday, November 6, at 8:00 p.m. at the home of Mr. Warren Turner, 646 Alvarado Row, Stanford University. (DA 5-7777)

Regular Meeting: Monday, November 13, at 8:00 pm. at the Rosegarden Branch, San Jose Public Library, corner of Dana and Naglee Streets in San Jose. "Birds in our Backyard is the title of the delightful color motion picture to be featured at the November meeting of the Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society. This film will be presented by Mrs. A. E. Montgomery of the Sequoia Audubon Society, who showed her picture this past summer to an enthusiastic audience at the Audubon Camp of California. The Montgomerys live at 2270 Summit Drive, Hillsborough, and at that location many of the pictures were taken. Included also will be sequences filmed in Colorado. Closeups of birds are featured through."

Dr. John P. Harville
Program Chairman
EL 4-2070 (home phone)

Field Trips:

Sunday, November 5, to the marshes and salt ponds near Dumbarton Bridge. Take Willow Road in Menlo Park, go east on Bridge approach to west end of bridge. Park on graded area to left side of road. Meet at 8:30 a.m. Bring lunch. Leader: Les Sleeper.

Wednesday Morning, November 8, to the beautiful grounds of Villa Montalvo, to see what the Nature Trail has to offer these fall days. Montalvo Road is on west side of Saratoga-Los Gatos Road, about half a mile from center of Saratoga. Following Montalvo Road, it is a little less than a mile to the Villa. Meet at 9:00 a.m. in lot marked PARKING I, which is on north side of Villa. Leader: Miss Emily Smith (EL 4-2494).

Saturday, November 18. To Santa Cruz, Twin Lakes. Meet at the Lyndon Hotel, Los Gatos, at 9:00 a.m. Bring lunch. Leaders: Herbert and Nanette Wittgenstein.

Wednesday Morning, November 22, to Stanford University campus. Enter the campus at El Camino Real and Galvez St. (across from Embarcadero Road). From Galvez St., after passing the Arboretum, turn right at Pine Ave.; and then, after one block, turn right again at Lasuen St. and park in the eucalyptus grove. The meeting time is 9:00 a.m. Leader: Mrs. Ray McCann (DA 4-1380 or DA 2-1209).

Sunday, December 3, to Los Banos. Meet at Tiny's in Los Banos at 9:00 a.m. (Trip formerly planned for Nov. 26.) Bring lunch. Leader: Vern Yadon. This is our interclub trip with the Santa Cruz Society.

Screen Tours:

Friday, November 3, at 4:30 p.m. in Cubberley Auditorium, Education Building, Escondido Rd. and Lasuen St., Stanford University, Fran William Hall will present Puerto Rico, U.S.A., a natural history tour from coral reefs of the turquoise Caribbean to verdant mountain-top rain forests. The wildlife bounty captured on color film by Fran William Hall of Northfield, Minn., includes tropical fish, colorful insects, rare Puerto Rican parrots, giant iguana lizards, brown boobies, hermit crabs and wild orchids viewed against backgrounds of breathtaking tropical beauty. Tickets are available at the door.

Wednesday, November 29, at 8:00 p.m. at Morris Dailey Auditorium, San Jose State College, Fran William Hall will present Puerto Rico, U.S.A. Tickets will be available at the door.

Can You Help Our Telephone Committee?

Our society has needed a telephone committee for a long time. I think more and more uses will be found for it as time goes on: alerts for quick action on legislation, anything important that missed the Avocet, rare bird alerts, etc. Such a committee certainly makes for better communication among the membership and saves toll calls in a district as large as ours. Please call, if you can help: Mrs. W. H. Pillow, 675 Crange Ave., Los Altos (WH 8-1300).

Education Committee's Junior Audubon Project
Needs Typist

An outcome of Dr. Tom Harvey's classes in field trip leadership and nature study earlier this year is the guide for Junior Audubon work written by Mr. and Mrs. Frank Goraj, Mr. Warren Turner and Mrs. Norman Conradson of our Education Committee. The work is in the form of one-hour lesson plans -- a very usable arrangement for the instructor. Mrs. Conradson, a busy teacher and homemaker, is completing the draft now "in a legible hand" but simply does not have the time to type it. A phone call to her at DA 5-2512, or postcard to 255 Edlee St., Palo Alto, will be very much appreciated. ---J.T.

Membership Committee Announced

Mrs. Irving W. Snow (Chairman), 21441 Roaring Water Way, Los Gatos
 Mrs. John Henderson (Asst. Chairman), 20570 Canyon View Dr., Saratoga
 Mrs. W. R. McCann, 783 Garland Drive, Palo Alto
 Mrs. M. R. Kirkwood, 249 Lovell Avenue, Palo Alto
 Mrs. Edward Yocco, P.O. Box 326, Los Gatos
 Miss Elsie Hoeck (in charge of Student Membership), Tower Hall 39A,
 Department of Health and Hygiene, San Jose State College

Membership blanks and information can be obtained from any member of the committee. Applicants for student membership, please contact Miss Hoeck in her office.

New Members

We give a hearty welcome to the following new members:

Miss Martha Smiley	2105 Princeton Avenue	Palo Alto
Miss Mary Kimball	632 University Drive	Menlo Park
Miss Mary L. Eggleston	735 North Third Street	San Jose
Mrs. G. E. McCasland	924 Moreno Avenue	Palo Alto

---Mrs. Irving Snow, Membership Chairman

Christman Bird Count - 1961

It is time now to begin thinking and preparing for this annual event which takes place all over the United States and Canada. Would all who are interested and wish to join in the count, please phone or drop a car to:

Co-Chairmen

Mr. Howard B. Wolcott (WH 3-6821)	Dr. Evelyn Case (CH 3-2467)
25511 Elizabeth Ave.	25861 Homestead Road
Los Altos Hills	Santa Clara

Notes from Afield

The following observations are of interest for various reasons: some constitute records of less common birds for the area; many indicate the seasonal migration.

Ashy Petrel. 10/7 One Pescadero Point EA. (Flying just beyond breakers. Probably this close to shore owing to strong winds.)

Gadwall. 10/7 One Crystal Springs Reservoir EA. (For the past three winters they have been observed continually in the lower reservoir near the point where Skyline Boulevard passes between the upper and lower reservoirs.)

White-Tailed Kite. One recently Moffett Field BW.
10/17 P A Baylands HI.

Red-Tailed Hawk. 10/9 Twenty-five! Princeton to Santa Cruz CA.

Sparrow Hawk. 10/9 Thirty! Princeton to Santa Cruz CA.

Rough-Legged Hawk. 10/14 One Pinnacles CA.

Csprey. 7/6 - Early August. Pair Leach Ranch, Skyline Boulevard, Woodside ML.

Elegant Tern. 10/7 Eight Moss Landing EA.

Roadrunner. Several observations a few months ago. Emerald Lake section of Redwood City BND.

Pygmy Owl. 10/14 One Pinnacles Ca, H & CS.

Saw-Whet Owl. 10/14 One Pinnacles CA, H & CS.

Vaux's Swift. Departure date: 10/2. Observed entering chimney each night 9/14 - 10/1 ES.

- White-Throated Swift. 10/13 100 (est.) Pinnacles CA.
- Costa's Hummingbird. 10/17 One Leach Ranch. Driven off by "local"
Annas ML.
- Lewis Woodpecker. 10/13 One Leach Ranch ML.
- Tropical Kingbird. 10/9 One Princeton CA.
- Eastern Kingbird. 9/30 One Princeton EA.
- Black Phoebe. 10/9 Five Princeton to Santa Cruz CA.
- Says's Phoebe. 9/30 Two Princeton EA. 10/9 Four Princeton to
Santa Cruz CA.
- Clark's Nutcracker. 10/15 One Zayante (near Felton) AB, O A.
- Hermit Thrush. 10/2 Saratoga ES. 10/7 Alum Rock ET. 10/9 Menlo
Park CLS. 10/20 Palo Alto HM. ET & RS reported greater con-
centrations of hermits in Alum Rock Park on 10/7, 10/10 & 10/11
than they had seen anywhere before. 10/14 "Pinnacles over-run
with hermits -- all but two observed to be of Dwarf-Hermit
CA. 10/21 4 seen together Big Basin; many other singles JT.
- Varied Thrush. 10/11 Two Alum Rock SCFT.
- Water Pipit. 9/30 One Pillar Point EA. 10/23 in numbers Dumbar-
ton CA.
- Cedar Waxwings. 9/3 Twenty Saratoga CES. 9/28 Four Santa Clara
EC. 10/1 Seven Saratoga ES. 10/3 Flock Willow Glen EH.
10/22 Flock Palo Alto HM.
- Audubon Warbler. One each in home locality: from 9/26 - 10/8 in this
order: EH, ES, ET, HM.
- Myrtle Warbler. 10/14 One Saratoga ES.
- Townsend's Warbler. 10/17 One East San Jose GB.
- Pine Siskin. 10/13 Flock Saratoga ES.
- American Goldfinch. 10/14 Flock Saratoga ES.
- Slate-Colored Junco. 10/15 One Saratoga ES.
- White-Throated Sparrow. 10/7 One East San Jose E McR.
- Fox Sparrow. 9/30 One Santa Clara EC. 10/2 One Saratoga ES.
- October Observations at Alum Rock Park. 10/7 Field Trip led by
Mr. and Mrs. Emanuel Taylor. Miss Emily Smith survey on 10/10.
10/11 Field Trip led by Mr. & Mrs. Clyde Prusman.
Sharp-Shinned, Cooper's, Red-Tailed Hawks; Coot; Anna's Hummingbird;
Belted Kingfisher; Red-Shafted Flicker; Acorn Woodpecker; Y-B Sap-
sucker; Nuttall's Woodpecker; Black Phoebe; Western (?) Flycatcher;
Stellar's & Scrub Jays; Chestnut-Backed Chickadee; Plain Titmouse;
Common Bushtit; W-B Nuthatch; Wrentit; Dipper; Bewick's Wren; Canon
Wren; Mockingbird; California Thrasher; Varied Thrush; Hermit Thrush;
R-C Kinglet; Hutton's Vireo; House Finch; Lesser Goldfinch; Rufous-
Sided & Brown Towhee; Rufous-Crowned Sparrow; Oregon Junco; Golden-
Crowned, Fox & Song Sparrows.

Late September Observations at Searsville Lake. Scouting on 9/25; Field Trip on 9/27 led by Mrs. Virginia Bothwell.

P-B Grebe; G-B Heron; Pintail; Ruddy Duck; Osprey; California Quail; Coot; Killdeer; California Gull; Mourning Dove; Belted Kingfisher; R-S Flicker; Acorn, Lewis Woodpeckers; Yellow & Red Phase Sapsuckers; Downy; Black Phoebe; Barn Swallow; Scrub Jay; Plain Titmouse; Common Bushtit; W-B Nuthatch; Brown Creeper; Wrentit; House, Bewick's Wrens; Hermit Thrush; Western Bluebird; Hutton's Vireo; Orange-Crowned, Audubon's, Wilson's Warblers; Meadowlark; Red-Winged, Brewer's Blackbirds; Purple Finch; House Finch; Pine Siskin; American, Lesser Goldfinches; Rufous-Sided, Brown Towhees; Oregon Junco; W-c, G-C, Song Sparrows; and one grey fox!

October Additions for Dumbarton and Baylands: Eared Grebe; B-C Night Heron; Shoveler; White-Tailed Kite; Cooper's Hawk; Dunlin; Water Pipit. CA counted over 100 egrets, mostly common, on two ponds; and over 300 D-C Cormorants on PGE towers and adjoining walkway. Sources: BND, IM, CA.

Highlights of Monterey Boat Trip. On 10/7 CA, CS and RF, along with 34 other birders, one from Austin, Texas, put out onto a rough sea at Monterey and saw the following species, among others less spectacular: B-F Albatross; Fulmar; Pink-Footed, New Zealand, Sooty, Slender-Billed & Manx Shearwaters; Fork-Tailed, Ashy and Black Petrels; Pomarine and Parasitic Jaeger; and Skua. Only a very few auklets were seen, and no murrelets.

Owls. Oliver Allen advises that moonlight nights are the best for hearing owls, and that dawn is about the best time of all. Don't slam the car door. He passes on the advice from Prof. Howard Cogswell that one should hoot for five minutes or so before giving up on Pygmy Owls. CA has occasionally heard three different species at once. BND reported seeing a Great-Horned Owl putting on a courtship display in full daylight (early morning).

White-Throated Sparrows. At least one of our members, Mrs. McRae, has already seen one this season. CA passes on the advice from Guy McCaskie that a good possibility for finding one is the meticulous inspection of Golden-Crowned flocks.

Unusual. ML gives a daily handout to a Scrub Jay with a badly crippled right leg. ML also has a peculiar Meadowlark -- the middle part of his song is missing. ET's Alum Rock party was treated to seeing a Red-Tailed Hawk hover practically motionless as would a Sparrow Hawk or Kite.

Dynamic Species. Let's keep track of the rate of increase of Starlings in this area. Please send me your estimates of numbers you have observed in Santa Clara Valley over the past few years. BW of San Jose advises that the extinction of the White-Tailed Kite had been predicted by Dawson for the Santa Clara Valley, and he notes with pleasure its continuance here. He also states that the Scrub Jay became a dooryard bird in Metropolitan San Jose only a few years ago. What other species have changed markedly their distribution in this area?

PLEASE SEND your monthly observation records for: Alum Rock, Dumbarton & Baylands, Séarsville, Santa Cruz (specify area), and any other area where you regularly bird. Also, please send accounts of your observations of the less common species, seasonal arrivals, late hangers-on, and unusual behavior patterns.

---Bob Fuller, 335 Webster St., PaloAlto (DA 5-2575)

Key to observers: AB - Mrs. John Boylan; BND - Dr. B. Neil Dickinson; FW - B. W., San Jose; CES - Mr. Claude Smith; CS - Mr. Carlyle Sather; LA - Mr. Earl Albertson; EC - Dr. Eve Case; EH - Miss Elsie Hoeck; EMcR - Mrs. Eva McRae; ES - Miss Emily Smith; ET - Mr. & Mrs. Emmanuel Taylor; GB - Mrs. Grace Brubaker; H&CS - Mr. & Mrs. Carlyle Sather; HM - Miss Harriet Mundy; ML - Mrs. Margaret B. Leach; CA - Mr. Oliver Allen; RF - Mr. Robert Fuller.

Editor's Notes

I would like to thank all contributors for sending everything in so promptly this month. It saves many frantic last-minute phone calls.

* * * * *

---J.T.

Marin Audubon Society, in its October issue of the Redwood Log, announces that the "membership now stands at 447, which is more than triple the figure of eighteen months ago." Congratulations, Marvelous Marin!

* * * * *

---J.T.

Dwight Warner, of Pinnacles National Monument, related to Cliver Allen the following interesting account of migratory birds present on Santa Barbara Island, located about 60 miles off Santa Monica. This island of rugged terrain has no plants larger than the cactus, coriopsis, and ice plant. On a recent expedition to the island to exterminate the artificial rabbit population, Mr. Warner found Acorn Woodpeckers, Green-Tailed Towhees, Rufous-Sided Towhees, Kingfishers, Song Sparrows, Golden and Yellow Warblers, Sparrow Hawks and Rock Doves. Incidentally, the once-teeming population of Belgian Hares, introduced as an emergency wartime food supply, has been reduced to the point where only 4 were found during this expedition. (Telephoned to RLF by CA in 9/61.)

* * * * *

The long-awaited revision of the Annotated Field List - BIRDS OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA by Robert L. Pyle and Arnold Small is now available from the Los Angeles Audubon Society, 7377 Santa Monica Blvd., Los Angeles for \$1.15 postpaid. The newly compiled graphs and notes outline the seasonal status and distribution of more than 400 species which occur in southern California. Valuable guides as to where and when to seek out particular species are offered, together with a map and notes on the best bird-finding areas in southern California. The Los Angeles Audubon Society is proud to have published this fine work, and proceeds from sales will be used to further the work of the society.

The state accepted a gift of 1,800 acres of land along the coast south of Monterey, given by Helen Brown of Monterey in memory of Julia Pfeiffer Burns, a pioneer of the Big Sur area south of Carmel. It will be called the "Julia Pfeiffer Burns State Park". Gov. Brown praised the donor, saying she "has demonstrated her friendship for the people of her state in a manner that will never be forgotten." The park, with two miles of ocean front, is situated 10 miles south of Pfeiffer Big Sur State Park. Eventually, it will contain camping and picnicking facilities and possibly a museum. These will be located on the east side of Highway 1. Mrs. Brown specified that no building must be built on the west or ocean side of the highway.

---Palo Alto Times 9/15

*** **

The almost extinct whooping cranes have something to whoop about -- four little whoopers. The new birds were spotted September 13 in the Sass river area of the Canadian northwest territories by members of the Canadian Wildlife Service, the Interior Department said yesterday. The whooper flock last year totaled 36, including six babies. The current number will not be known until the birds arrive at their winter nesting grounds at the Arkansas Wildlife refuge in Texas.

---San Francisco Chronicle 9/28

*** **

Wallace Stegner, author and director of Stanford University's creative writing program, was appointed yesterday as a special assistant to Secretary of the Interior Stewart L. Udall. Udall said the writer will be assigned special conservation studies, which are expected to be completed within 120 days. The Secretary added that the talents of other regional writers, such as Paul Horgan of New Mexico and Leonard Hall, Missouri conservation columnist, will be similarly employed on short-term research.

---San Francisco Chronicle 9/26

Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society

Branch of

National Audubon Society

1961 - 1962

President: Mr. Charles D. Williams
148 Goya Road, Menlo Park (DA 3-0787)

Vice President: Dr. Evelyn H. Case
2586 Homestead Road, Santa Clara (CH 3-2467)

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

Secretary: Mrs. Howard B. Wolcott
25611 Elizabeth Ave., Los Altos Hills (WH 8-6821)

Membership
Chairman: Mrs. Irving Snow
21441 Roaring Water Way, Los Gatos (EL 4-1811)

Pacific Coast Office
National Audubon Society
2426 Bancroft Way
Berkeley 4, California

The Avocet

Our publication appears monthly except in July and August.
It is \$2.00 a year for non-members. Copy, preferably typed, is re-
quested by the 20th of each month.

Editor: Mrs. John E. Todd
912 Roble Ridge, Palo Alto (DA 2-1787)

Circulation
Manager: Miss Elsie Hoeck
1311 Cristina, San Jose (CY 3-5668)

Typists: Mrs. Jane R. Castner
Miss Carol C. Rulofson
112 Murray Court, Redwood City (EM 6-2514)

Mimeographers: Mr. and Mrs. Emmanuel Taylor
14311 Quito Road, Saratoga (DR 9-3424)