

# The Avocet

Volume IX Number 2

February, 1962

## Wildlife under Glose Study in Stanford's Jasper Ridge Area

Paul Ehrlich has "fits" every time he finds youngsters chasing butterflies, on Stanford University's Jasper ridge. It's not because he doesn't like children. It's just because those particular butterflies are the subjects of a long-term study of evolution in a natural situation which Ehrlich, as assistant professor of biological sciences at Stanford, is conducting on the ridge. The 735-acre biological experimental area in the foothills west of the university campus and adjacent to Searsville Lake is a gigantic outdoor laboratory for Ehrlich and other members of the biological science department. The area, relatively untouched by the development and growth which surrounds it, has been used for biological research since Stanford opened. A second study concerns myxomatosis virus in the ridge's brush rabbit population and is under the direction of Dr. David Regnery, associate professor of biology. One of the biology department's biggest problems is trying to keep the ridge just as it is. "The less that is done to change the area, the more valuable it becomes" for biological studies, he says, adding that local land developers don't share this view. A redwood forest, streambank broad-leaved forest, oak savannah, chaparral, open grassland, sandstone ledges and outcrops, freshwater marshland, intermittent streams, permanent pools and a freshwater lake are found within the confines of the 735-acre experimental area. An equally great variety of animal life is found on the ridge. The aim of the biology department is to keep the ridge as untouched by human progress as possible so that students and scientists will be able to study organisms as they live, reproduce and die in a natural state, Regnery explains. Recently the university closed the ridge area to outsiders in an effort to prevent further destruction to plants and small animals. Stanford is extremely fortunate to have the ridge area, Regnery states, for many universities have been forced to go many miles from campus to purchase small parcels of land in a natural state for biological studies.

---Mary Grant, P.A. Times, 5/31/61

### Coming Events at a Glance

Sat.	Feb. 3)		
Sun.	Feb. 4)	2:00 P.M.	Sacramento National Wildlife Refuge
Tues.	Feb. 6	8:00 P.M.	Palo Alto - Board Meeting
Sat.	Feb. 10	9:15 A.M.	Palo Alto Yacht Harbor
Mon.	Feb. 12	8:00 P.M.	San Jose - Regular Meeting
Wed.	Feb. 14	9:00 A.M.	Alum Rock Park
Sat.	Feb. 17	9:00 A.M.	Evergreen Area
Wed.	Feb. 28	9:30 A.M.	Los Altos Hills
Sun.	Mar. 4	9:00 A.M.	Los Altos Hills





February Calendar

Board Meeting: Tuesday, February 6, at 8:00 P.M. at the home of Miss Harriet Mundy, 757 Tennyson Avenue, Palo Alto (DA 5-1192)

Regular Meeting: Monday, February 12, at 8:00 P.M. at Rosegarden Branch, San Jose Public Library, Dana and Naglee Streets, San Jose. Bill Goodall, Western Representative of the National Audubon Society, will discuss National's program for 1962 and give us a general progress report. He will show the Bald Eagle film made by the Society to inform the public of the bird's dwindling numbers and to enlist help in saving it.

Field Trips:

Saturday and Sunday, February 3 and 4, to Sacramento National Wildlife Refuge. Saturday's field trip will start at 2:00 P.M. Meet on road between highway and park headquarters. (There is good birding in the adjacent pond.) Take highway 40 past the Nut Tree, then turn left at Winters cutoff. Proceed north past the town of Williams. The refuge is just south of the town of Willows, where there are several motels close by. Plans for Sunday birding will be made at the close of Saturday's trip. Members of the Alta California Audubon Society will be present; Mr. Caber, director of the Refuge, plans to welcome us. Leaders will be the Cases (AK 5-2410) and the Wolcotts (WF 8-6821).

Saturday, February 10, to Palo Alto Yacht Harbor. Meet at 9:15 A.M. Take Bayshore Freeway to Embarcadero turnoff, then go east on Embarcadero to Palo Alto Yacht Harbor. Meet by the Duck Pond. This field trip will be open to the public, and we welcome a good turnout. We trust that members will wear their name tags and introduce themselves to the visitors. Here is a good time to recruit new members. Miss Harriet Mundy will be in charge. If weather is poor, call Miss Mundy at DA 5-1192 between 7:30 and 9:00 A.M. to be sure the field trip will be held.

Wednesday Morning, February 14, to Alum Rock Park, about seven miles

east from the center of San Jose, out Alum Rock Avenue. Meet at 9:00 A.M. in the park at the Youth Science Institute (formerly the Junio Museum). In Alum Rock Canyon spring comes early for mosses and ferns, and Anna's Hummingbirds may be nesting in early February although the days can still be chilly in the park. Leader: Mrs. Langford W. Smith (EL 4-4674).

Saturday, February 17, to the Evergreen Area near San Jose. Meet at 9:00 A.M. at the corner of White Road and Aborn Road at the former site of the Evergreen School. Bring lunch. Leaders: Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Pillow (WF 8-1300).

Wednesday, February 23, to the Wolcott Ranch, "The Fair Hill", 26511 Altamont, Los Altos Hills. See directions under March 4 trip. Leader: Kay McCann (DA 4-1330) or call Virginia Bothwell (DA 2-1200) if you need more information.

Sunday, March 4, to Wolcott's Ranch, 26511 Altamont, Los Altos Hills. Meet at 9:00 A.M. To get there take El Camino Real to Page Mill Road. Drive toward the hills for about 6 miles up Page Mill Road. Turn left at Altamont. The Wolcott Ranch is one mile from Page Mill Road at the corner of Altamont and Taaffe. Leaders: Margaret and Howard Wolcott.

### Field Trip Plans for the Future

Your filed trip committee attempts to schedule a variety of trips with the hope that a wide range of wildlife can be seen. Usually, four Wednesdays, the first Sunday and the third Saturday. Since the weekend trips take the major part of a day, it has been suggested that a schedule of coming events be published to help members plan for those of particular interest. Plans have already been made for the following:

Saturday, March 17, Moss Landing and Monterey area  
Saturday, April 7, Dumbarton Bridge, Menlo Park  
Sunday, April 22, Crystal Springs Lakes, Woodside  
Sunday, May 6, Wool Ranch, La Honda  
Saturday, May 19, Davenport area, Santa Cruz  
Sunday, June 3, Pt. Lobos, Carmel  
Saturday, June 16, Chesboro Dam and other dam sites, Almaden  
Sunday, July 1, Searsville Lake, Woodside  
Saturday, July 21, Dumbarton Bridge, Menlo Park  
Sunday, August 5, Moorshead Ranch, Portola Valley  
Saturday, August 18, Moss Landing and Watsonville area  
No trips yet scheduled for September.

Your committee appreciates your recommendations and suggestions. Information about the suggestions for Wednesday trips would be made to Miss Emily Smith (EL 4-2424) or Mrs. Virginia Bothwell (DA 2-1200). Inquiry and suggestions for Saturday and Sunday trips should be made to Eve Case (AA 6-2410) or Howard Wolcott (WH 8-6821).

Screen Tours: None in February. The next film at Stanford is on Monday, March 5; the next in San Jose is on Tuesday, March 13. Details will appear in March Avocet. ---J.T.

### President's Message

The membership would like to thank Charles and Mimi Doe for their fine program in January. It was the result of thoughtful and beautiful work - in hard-to-get-at places. Their entertainment prompted an especially good spirit in the meeting.

Audubon prints some of you wanted have arrived and will be available at the next meeting. ---Charles Williams

### Barcain Rates for Brief Telegrams to Congress

You can now send a Western Union telegraph message to the President for just 75 cents - if you can say it in 15 words or less. The same goes for messages to the vice president, your senator or your

congressman. And Western Union will include your complete name, address, title and organization at no extra cost. Western Union said the new service, offered starting today at all Western Union offices in the continental United States on an "experimental basis" is designed to "afford a convenient and economical way for citizens to express their views". Called Personal Opinion Message, the new service will enable a citizen in San Francisco to save \$1.15 on the cost of a 15-word telegram to one of his representatives in Washington.

--- Harriet Mundy (from a late January S.F. paper)

### New Members

We are very glad to welcome the following new members:

Mrs. M. T. Nichols (subscriber)	321 Knickerbocker Drive	Sunnyvale
Mrs. James F. Marshall	840 College Avenue	Menlo Park
Dr. and Mrs. Herbert Grench	2828 South Court,	Palo Alto

The membership committee is glad to announce that a new name has been added to its roster:

Mr. Robert A. Ryder                      14515 Big Basin Way                      Saratoga

---Angelina Snow, Membership Chairman

Correction: Instead of Mr. Jan Cook, our new member's name is Mrs. Jan Cook (Mrs. Lawrence H. Cook). She would like to know some of our other members from Atherton and vicinity, who perhaps could take her to an occasional meeting or field trip since her driving is restricted to short jaunts. Her phone is EM 8-3489.

---J.T.

### Christmas Bird Count

The 1961 "San Jose, California" Christmas Bird Count of the Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society was made between 5:30 A.M. and 4:30 P.M. on Saturday, December 30, 1961. The count was directed by Evelyn Case and Howard Wolcott. Fifty-six persons participated in the count and assembled between 4:00 and 6:00 P.M. for the summary at the East San Jose home of Fran and Dick Mewaldt. Refreshments were arranged and served by the Social Committee.

The traditional count area is within the 15-mile diameter circle whose center is at Capitol Avenue and Maybury Road in East San Jose. Estimates of time spent and distances traveled by the 56 observers in 18 parties included 114 party-hours (59 on foot and 55 by car) and 425 party miles (49 on foot and 376 by car). The day was dominated by fog and low clouds in the valley; areas above 1000 feet in the mountains of the easterly sectors were clear. Temperatures varied from 34° to 57° in the valley, but rose to more than 65° in areas above the overcast. The light variable winds varied from 0 to 10 m.p.h. The previous week was clear and dry. Although rainfall for the season was near normal, the rainfall deficit of the previous two years was

evident in generally poor pond water levels and stream flow. Approximate time spent in the several habitats was: canyon stream, 20%; deciduous orchard, 19%; grassland and pasture, 17%; valley stream, 10%; oak woodland, 7%; salt water marsh, 5%; cultivated croplands, 5%; formal parks, 5%; town suburbs, 5%; fresh water lakes and ponds, 3%; fresh water marsh, 1%; dumps, 1%.

A new high of 139 species (50,407 individuals) may be compared to 130 species (50,458) in 1960, 125 species (44,689) in 1959, and 122 species (57,845) in 1958 (see Avocet 3(2):10 for summary back to 1953). Our new high in species may be attributed to the new high in number of participants and in the increased skill of many of the observers. Total numbers were down only slightly from last year. I suspect that clear weather in the valley would have resulted in a total count at least 10% greater.

The most unusual bird was a Sage Thrasher observed at length by Henry Weston, Tom Harvey, Ed Harrington and Robert Smith on sanitary fill (dump) in the Alviso Sector. Thirty Bohemian Waxwings and two White-throated Sparrows were seen during the count period but not on the day of the count. The count of 202 Starlings (1960, 255; 1959, 98; 1958, 110; and earlier years, none) was somewhat lower than I expected. The poor visibility may have prevented detection of the larger numbers of wintering birds thought to be present this year. (Henry Weston and his students found six breeding pairs of Starlings at Oak Hill Cemetery in the spring of 1961. Breeding birds have also been reported from Gilroy.)

As usual, the Alviso sector recorded the largest number of birds -- 17,315. This is more than 10,000 less than in 1958. There has been a decrease each year since 1958 in spite of more thorough coverage of the sector, especially in 1961.

Table 1

Numbers of selected species observed 1956-1961 in the San Jose, California Christmas Bird Count.

<u>Species</u>	<u>1961</u>	<u>1960</u>	<u>1959</u>	<u>1958</u>	<u>1957</u>	<u>1956</u>
Sparrow Hawk	72	73	48	65	111	48
Mourning Dove	487	311	32	115	65	60
Anna Hummingbird	38	33	30	15	11	12
Mockingbird	160	123	92	106	117	72
Robin	3058	650	1602	194	2717	1543
Varied Thrush	13	91	10	31	48	1
Hermit Thrush	147	136	95	73	99	12
Cedar Waxwing	454	162	57	144	352	28
Starling	202	255	98	110	0	0
Audubon's Warbler	195	776	624	1290	460	530

<u>Species</u>	<u>1961</u>	<u>1960</u>	<u>1959</u>	<u>1958</u>	<u>1957</u>	<u>1956</u>
Western Meadowlark	1816	1245	509	746	811	427
House Finch	2136	1716	1188	3865	1940	1356
Brown Towhee	308	200	243	281	186	157
Oregon Junco	804	718	921	572	566	516
White-crowned Sparrow	3690	2442	2470	4432	2612	1530
Golden-crowned Sparrow	2107	1332	1551	1781	1620	566
Song Sparrow	56	98	51	93	74	90
Party hours	114	104	97	84	81	49
Parties	18	15	14	12	12	7
Observers	56	47	45	33	34	25
Weather	Fog in Valley	Clear	Clear	Fog and rain	Fog and clouds	Clear

Table 1 has been placed in this article to provide bases for discussion. Variation in numbers from one year to the next may be chiefly due to one factor, but usually must be explained by a complex of factors.

The 1961 Sector Leaders and their teams were as follows:

- Alviso: Henry G. Weston, Evelyn Case, Elloyd Case, Edward Harrington, Tom Harvey, Harriet Mundy, Ann Peterson and Robert Smith.
- Southwest: Angelina Snow, Mrs. Charles Anderson, Dorthea Batchelder, John Henderson, Margaret Henderson, Jan Luick, Will Luick, Rebecca Turner, Warren Turner, Ruth Vail, Glenn Vail, Howard Wolcott, M. Wolcott, Charles Zwaal, Fanny Zwaal.
- Evergreen: William H. Pillow, Farley Bothwell, Virginia Bothwell, Angelo Cortopassi, Bob Fuller, Frank Goraj, Pearl Harwood, Donald McLean, Eva McLae, Bernice Pillow, Agnes Prusman, Clyde Prusman, Emily Smith and Wilma Thompson.
- Alum Rock: Philip Gordon and Grace Brubaker, Mike Brokenshire, Tom Bryant, Tony Maggi, Victor Maggi, Harvey Roerade, Richard Sandkuhle, Don Schmoldt and Roy Wallace.
- Calaveras: Al Wool, Bert Ball, John Henderson, Jr., Bill Newaldt, L. Richard Newaldt, Les Sleeper, Nell Sleeper, Dorothy Woll and Howard Wool.

Table 2

Summary of the San Jose, California, 1961 Christmas Bird Count by Sector

<u>Species</u>	<u>Alviso Sector</u>	<u>South-west Sector</u>	<u>Ever-green Sector</u>	<u>Alum Rock Sector</u>	<u>Calae veras Sector</u>	<u>All Sectors</u>
Hared Grebe	662	-	-	-	-	662
Pied-billed Grebe	-	-	2	-	4	6

Species	Alviso Sector	South-west Sector	Ever-green Sector	Alum Rock Sector	Cala-veras Sector	All Sectors
Double-crested Cormorant	-	-	-	-	1	1
Great Blue Heron	1	-	2	-	1	4
Common Egret	2	-	-	-	-	2
Snowy Egret	11	-	-	-	-	11
Black-crowned Night Heron	1	-	1	-	-	2
Whistling Swan	-	-	-	-	3	3
Canada Goose	-	-	112	-	425	537
White-fronted Goose	-	-	6	-	-	6
Snow Goose	3	-	-	-	-	3
Goose Spp.	-	-	-	25	-	25
Mallard	9	-	-	-	3	12
Pintail	54	-	3	-	-	57
Green-winged Teal	18	-	2	1	-	21
American Widgeon	-	-	-	-	50	50
Shoveler	1750	-	-	-	-	1750
Canvasback	-	-	8	-	-	8
Lesser Scaup	12	-	2	-	-	14
Bufflehead	-	-	3	7	-	10
Ruddy Duck	153	-	144	43	40	300
Common Merganser	-	-	6	42	-	48
Red-breasted Merganser	-	-	-	-	8	8
Turkey Vulture	-	-	2	-	1	3
White-tailed Kite	3	2	-	-	-	5
Sharp-shinned Hawk	-	-	3	1	2	6
Cooper's Hawk	-	-	1	1	1	3
Red-tailed Hawk	8	3	18	14	20	63
Golden Eagle	-	-	-	-	2	2
Marsh Hawk	1	1	-	-	-	2
Prairie Falcon	-	-	-	-	1	1
Sparrow Hawk	23	11	15	1	22	72
Hawks, Spp.	-	1	-	2	-	3
California Quail	22	173	217	23	46	491
Ring-necked Pheasant	10	1	-	-	21	32
American Coot	514	-	37	-	473	1024
Killdeer	75	30	15	3	269	392
Black-bellied Plover	17	-	-	-	-	17
Common Snipe	1	1	1	-	1	4
Long-billed Curlew	16	-	-	1	19	36
Whimbrel	4	-	-	-	-	4
Spotted Sandpiper	-	-	2	-	1	3
Willet	60	1	-	-	-	61
Greater Yellowlegs	5	-	2	1	2	10
Red Phalarope	1	-	-	-	-	1
Least Sandpiper	236	-	4	-	-	290
Dunlin	191	-	-	-	-	191
Dowitcher, Spp.	140	-	-	-	-	140
Long-billed Dowitcher	-	-	1	-	-	1
Western Sandpiper	745	-	-	-	-	745
American Avocet	104	-	-	-	-	104
Glaucous-winged Gull	45	-	-	-	-	45
Western Gull	-	4	-	-	-	4
Herring Gull	3481	-	-	-	-	3481



Species	Alviseo Sector	South-west Sector	Ever-green Sector	Alum Rock Sector	Calaveras Sector	All Sectors
California Gull	2	4	-	-	-	6
Ring-billed Gull	3440	13	-	-	224	3677
Bonaparte's Gull	414	-	-	-	-	414
Gulls, Spp.	1385	6	-	19	1625	3035
Forster's Tern	-	1	-	-	-	1
Caspian Tern	3	-	-	-	-	3
Band-tailed Pigeon	-	-	2	12	-	14
Mourning Dove	50	301	112	10	14	487
Barn Owl	-	-	-	6	-	6
Screech Owl	-	-	-	1	-	1
Great Horned Owl	-	-	-	12	-	12
Pygmy Owl	-	-	-	-	1	1
Burrowing Owl	7	-	-	-	2	9
White-throated Swift	-	-	-	-	45	45
Anna's Hummingbird	3	23	4	6	2	38
Belted Kingfisher	1	1	-	2	1	5
Red-shafted Flicker	17	72	45	33	21	195
Hybrid Flicker	-	-	2	-	-	2
Acorn Woodpecker	-	14	22	25	23	34
Lewis' Woodpecker	-	-	-	-	1	1
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	1	6	7	5	2	21
Hairy Woodpecker	-	-	-	-	2	2
Downy Woodpecker	-	2	-	2	2	6
Nuttall's Woodpecker	-	-	5	17	6	23
Black Phoebe	2	5	6	5	3	21
Say's Phoebe	-	2	4	-	5	11
Horned Lark	3	-	-	-	57	60
Steller's Jay	-	-	2	45	19	66
Scrub Jay	3	69	77	77	64	290
Yellow-bellied Magpie	1	-	82	11	70	164
Common Crow	-	5	18	1	172	196
Chestnut-backed Chickadee	1	12	8	23	16	60
Plain Titmouse	-	6	17	27	9	59
Common Bushtit	-	34	50	67	-	151
White-breasted Nuthatch	-	-	1	7	7	15
Red-breasted Nuthatch	1	-	-	-	-	1
Brown Creeper	-	1	-	3	2	6
Wrentit	-	-	1	16	2	19
Dipper	-	-	-	-	2	2
House Wren	-	-	-	1	-	1
Winter Wren	1	1	-	1	-	3
Bewick's Wren	-	5	1	13	4	23
Canon Wren	-	-	-	5	-	5
Rock Wren	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mockingbird	25	89	28	8	10	160
California Thrasher	-	2	1	3	1	7
Sage Thrasher	1	-	-	-	-	1
Robin	81	1392	318	492	775	3058
Varied Thrush	-	6	2	4	1	13
Hermit Thrush	7	33	27	64	16	147
Western Bluebird	-	5	46	7	77	135

<u>Species</u>	<u>Alviso Sector</u>	<u>South-west Sector</u>	<u>Ever-green Sector</u>	<u>Alum Rock Sector</u>	<u>Cala-veras Sector</u>	<u>All Sectors</u>
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	-	-	-	-	1	1
Golden-crowned Kinglet	-	1	-	1	-	2
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	5	4	3	19	7	38
Water Pipit	99	203	19	2	40	363
Cedar Waxwing	-	118	275	61	-	454
Loggerhead Shrike	15	7	18	-	9	49
Starling	149	20	29	-	4	202
Hutton's Vireo	-	2	1	-	1	4
Myrtle Warbler	-	1	12	-	-	13
Audubon's Warbler	58	81	28	26	2	195
Black-throated Gray Warbler	-	-	-	1	-	1
Townsend's Warbler	-	1	-	1	-	2
Yellow-throated Warbler	1	-	-	-	-	1
House Sparrow	191	349	1144	210	8	902
Western Meadowlark	119	140	557	5	995	1816
Redwinged Blackbird	16	28	2650	9	732	3435
Tricolored Blackbird	-	30	17	-	-	47
Brewer's Blackbird	450	1696	2888	133	1634	6801
Brown-headed Cowbird	3	-	1	-	2	6
Evening Grosbeak	1	1	-	-	-	2
Purple Finch	-	7	3	12	2	24
House Finch	812	632	382	158	152	2136
American Goldfinch	293	176	100	7	-	576
Lesser Goldfinch	510	462	310	141	631	2054
Lawrence's Goldfinch	-	77	6	-	-	83
Goldfinch, Spp.	120	-	-	-	-	120
Rufous-sided Towhee	3	10	18	16	15	62
Brown Towhee	8	161	71	40	28	308
Savannah Sparrow	42	7	9	-	46	104
Lark Sparrow	-	-	124	-	25	149
Rufous-crowned Sparrow	-	-	-	-	7	7
Oregon Junco	3	89	326	76	400	894
Chipping Sparrow	-	-	2	-	-	2
White-crowned Sparrow	364	384	1311	1120	511	3690
Golden-crowned Sparrow	151	910	453	227	366	2107
Fox Sparrow	9	45	2	12	7	75
Lincoln's Sparrow	-	-	1	-	-	1
Song Sparrow	16	16	3	19	2	56
Total Number Birds	17315	8008	11262	3496	10326	50407
Total Number Species	78	65	82	66	83	139

--- Dr. L. Richard Mewaldt, Compiler

Notes from Afield

Palo Alto Yacht Harbor, Bay Lands, Dumbarton: FULMAR 12/23 one PA Harbor EA. AMERICAN BITTERN 1/13 one PA Baylands NM. WHISTLING SWAN 12/23 seven Diken pond 1 mile north Moffett EA. GADWALL 1/13 Pair PA Baylands NM. GREEN-WINGED TEAL 1/16 PA Baylands CA. CINNABON TEAL

1/16 PA Baylands CA. WOOD DUCK 1/13, 1/15, 1/16 Pair PA Harbor MM, HM, CA and others. GREATER SCAUP 1/16 Common Dumbarton CA. RED-BREASTED MERGANSER 1/16 Twenty-five Dumbarton CA. COMMON SNIPPE 1/13 One PA Baylands HM. MEW GULL 1/8 PA Harbor CA. NORTHERN SHRIKE 1/15 One PA Harbor CA.

Interesting Miscellaneous Observations: FULMAR 1/6 Six in half hour at Pescadero Pt. EA. 1/21 Fewer in Monterey Harbor than previously, but still common. CA. TRUMPETER SWAN (Probable) 1/14 Tomales Peninsula OA. SNOW GEESE 1/6 Twenty-one overhead Pescadero EA. RING-NECKED DUCKS 1/21 Ten Steven's Creek Reservoir G&LR. BARROW'S GOLDEN-EYE 1/14 Abbott's Lagoon CA. HOODED MERGANSER 1/4 Four Freedom Pond CA. FERRUGINOUS HAWK 1/9 Two Panoche Valley CA. PIGEON HAWK 1/23 One Stierlin Road, SW of Bayshore Hwy CA. CHUKAR October One Robert's Road near bridge over Los Gatos Creek MR. WANDERING TATTLER 1/21 One Asilomar Beach State Park CA. ROCK SANDPIPER 1/14 Sonoma Coast State Park CA. BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKE 1/21 Five Asilomar CA. RHINOCEROS AUKLET 1/21 Several small flocks Pacific Grove CA. PYGMY OWL 1/20 One Mt. Hermon OA. SHORT-EARED OWL 1/7 Four at a /time Bean Hollow Beach Plateau CA, RF. EASTERN PHOEBE 1/13 One Inverness CA. ALBINO ROBIN January One Los Altos yard CA. TOWNSEND'S SOLITAIRE 1/3-1/17 One Los Gatos Cemetery MR. YELLOWTHROAT 1/18 Newark Sanctuary OA. BROWN-HEADED COWBIRD 1/6 Three North end of Stierlin Road near the Bay EA. EVENING GROSBEAK 1/10 Fifteen to twenty Menlo Park yard RC. WHITE-THROATED SPARROW Wintering One Los Gatos yard CL. BAIRD'S SPARROW (Not completely sure) 1/20 Two Sawyer Camp Road K&RM.

Mount Hermon Trip on January 7, 1962

Mrs. Fanny Zwaal and Mrs. Adist Boylan led 30 enthusiastic birders on a very rewarding field trip at Mt. Hermon and Henry Cowell State Park on January 7. Among the 41 species logged by the leaders were: WHITE PELICAN (overhead), COOPER'S and RED-TAILED HAWKS, BAND-TAILED PIGEON, PYGMY OWL, CLARK'S NUTCRACKER, PYGMY NUTHATCH, BROWN CREEPER, WRENTIT, VARIED THRUSH, EVENING GROSBEAK, PURPLE FINCH and PINE SISKIN.

Palo Alto Christmas Count on December 28, 1961.

For the third consecutive year, a group from the U.S. Geological Survey in Menlo Park conducted a Palo Alto count centered at Page Mill Road and Junipero Serra Blvd. This year they had five separate field parties and recorded 115 species. Their 88 BLACK-NECKED STILTS seen near Dumbarton are likely to be more stilts than any other US count will have this year. (Their 60 stilts were not exceeded last year.) They were fortunate enough to find a RED CROSSBILL in their area. ---Information from EA

Egrets Feeding on Dry Field

Capt. Richard Armour reported his interesting observation of from one or two up to about fifty COMMON EGRETS feeding daily through December on a 50-acre alfalfa field near Moffett runways. On two different occasions, he observed an egret capture and eat a live mouse. He also saw an egret catch what appeared to be a salamander. ---Contact through CM

Far Afield

EA and CA, on separate trips, saw the by-now-famous BALTIMORE ORIOLE at Santa Barbara, CA, also reported seeing five CONDORS in that area of California; and he saw many birds we do not have here during his trip, which extended to the Mexican border and into Arizona.

SHARE

We are entering an exciting season for birding. Let us be alert, and let us share our more interesting observations with our friends. Among other details, please include five basic facts: SPECIES, DATE, QUANTITY, LOCATION, OBSERVER. Please send your reports for the next Avocet in time for their compilation on February 20.

---Compiler: Bob Fuller  
835 Webster Street  
Palo Alto  
DA 5-9575

Key to Initials

- |      |                             |    |                            |
|------|-----------------------------|----|----------------------------|
| CL   | Mrs. Catherine Lintott      | MN | Mark Nesbit, Harbor Master |
| CM   | Mrs. John McBride           | MR | Mrs. Mary Y. Rugh          |
| EA   | Earl Albertson              | CA | Cliver Allen               |
| GLR  | Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Robinson | RC | Richard Canida             |
| HM   | Miss Harriet Hundy          | RF | Bob Fuller                 |
| K&RM | Mr. and Mrs. Ray McCann     |    |                            |

HOW TO WRITE A LETTER TO YOUR CONGRESSMAN

Your elected representatives in Congress primarily are intelligent, busy men, working for the benefit of you, the citizen. It is impossible, obviously, for any one man to keep fully informed on everything. They must constantly ask advice and be guided by the informed opinions of others, both in and out of government service. In this connection they especially appreciate the views of their constituents back home on matters of national concern.

If you as an individual do not write them occasionally, expressing your wishes on important pending legislation, you have no one to blame but yourself if opposing views win out. Congressmen also like to receive letters of commendation.

Many of us fail to write our Congressmen because we can't decide just what to say, how to say it, and where to send it. We therefore suggest following this simple procedure.

1. Know the names of your two Senators and your Representatives.
2. Address them as "Dear Senator or Dear Congressman (his last name here)". When Congress is in session, your Senator's address is "Senate Office Building, Washington 25, D.C.", and your Representative's address is "House Office Building, Washington 25, D.C."
3. Identify yourself - your name and address and your personal interest in the issue. If possible, refer to the Bill Number.
4. State in a few words the principal reasons why you are for or against the issue.
5. Ask them to present your views to members of the appropriate Committee handling the legislation.
6. Ask them to advise you what their present personal views are in the matter.

Write your Senators and Congressmen whether they belong to the same political party as you or not. Most of them will answer; but don't be disturbed if they do not. Your written views will still have great influence.

Listed below are the names and some home addresses of your Senators and Congressmen.

SENATORS

Thomas H. Kuchel  
315 So. Claudina  
Anaheim, Calif.

Clair Engle  
1010 Jackson St.  
Red Bluff, Calif.

CONGRESSMEN

Charles Gubser  
280 No. Princevalle  
Gilroy, Calif.

J. Arthur Younger  
23 Second Avenue  
San Mateo, Calif.

STATE SENATORS

Santa Clara Co.:  
John F. Thompson

San Mateo Co.:  
Richard F. Dolwig  
ADDRESS:  
State Senate,  
Sacramento, Calif.

ASSEMBLYMEN:

Palo Alto - Clark L. Bradley  
San Jose - Bruce F. Allen

ADDRESS:  
State Assembly,  
Sacramento, Calif.

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 Rd., Santa Clara (AX 6-2410)

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)

<u>Conservation Resource Center</u>	<u>Office of Western Representative</u>
National Audubon Society	National Audubon Society
2426 Bancroft Way	1000 North Durfee Ave.
Berkeley 4, California	El Monte, California

The Avocet

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