

*new mimeograph
machine*

The Avocet

Volume IX Number 3

March, 1962

Atom Versus Nature at Bodega Bay

Curving into the ocean some 45 miles north of the Golden Gate is the magnificent granite promontory of Bodega Head. It bounds Bodega Bay on the north and encloses the picturesque little fishing port of Bodega Harbor. Around the head itself, bettering waves over the milenniums have carved fantastic cliffs, coves and rock forms, small sand beaches that come and go with the seasons, sea stacks and caverns and rocky islets just offshore. In the spring, the rolling hills and swales on top of the head are masses of wildflowers - acre after acre of blue lupine and California poppies and some of the finest displays of brilliant yellow lupine on the coast, "tree lupine" whose abundant yellow-spike blossoms rise as high as a man's head. From the high points of the head, there are sweeping vistas of the long curving shoreline stretching southward to Tomales Bay. Conservationists who had long hoped that Bodega Head would be preserved as a public park were delighted when in 1955 it was included in the State Park Master Plan. In the following year, the Legislature appropriated funds for its purchase. But partly because the cost of the land was greater than anticipated, there was a delay in acquiring the property. Meanwhile, the National Park Service, in a survey of both U.S. coasts to determine what areas of the vanishing shorelines might be saved for scenic value and public recreation, designated Bodega Head as one of the unspoiled pieces of coastline that should be preserved as a park. From the standpoint of park officials and conservationists, the delay was fatal. In the interim, the Pacific Gas and Electric Company purchased the tip of the head and began condemnation proceedings on the adjacent land for the purpose of building there a giant power plant fueled by a nuclear reactor. It now appears that the atomic age is about to come to Bodega Head. What cannot be disputed is that if the plant (or anything else on this scale) is built, Bodega Head will be forever lost as a park - a place where it is possible to experience the natural beauty of the coastline and escape the blight of commercialization and industrialization that has gobbled up much of the California coast. Here is one more argument for an over-all State Development Plan to save what is left.

---Harold Gilliam
S.F. Chronicle 2/11/62

Coming Events at a Glance

Sun. Mar. 4	9:00 a.m.	Los Altos Hills
Mon. Mar. 5	4:30 p.m.	Stanford University
Mon. Mar. 12	8:00 p.m.	Palo Alto Jr. Museum
Tues. Mar. 13	8:00 p.m.	San Jose State College
Wed. Mar. 14	9:00 a.m.	Vasona Reservoir
Sat. Mar. 17	9:00 a.m.	Moss Landing
Wed. Mar. 28	8:30 a.m.	Ranch - Foothill Park Area
Sat. Apr. 7	9:00 a.m.	Dumbarton Bridge



March Calendar

Regular Meeting:

Monday, March 12, at 8:00 p.m. Palo Alto Junior Museum on Middlefield Road. Miss Harriet Mundy will present Bird Wings and Tourist Tales-Europe, 1961. Much of Harriet's time was spent in Spain and Portugal, fascinating places, and she is always a lively and entertaining speaker.

Field Trips:

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.

Wednesday Morning, March 14, to the Vasona Reservoir area, just north of Los Gatos, where work on a county park has already begun. Meet at 9:00 a.m. at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Edward Lintott, 17150 Buena Vista Ave. (where a White-throated Sparrow is wintering). From Santa Clara-Los Gatos Rd. turn east onto Buena Vista Ave. about a mile north of Saratoga Ave. and only a short distance beyond the Villa Felice Restaurant sign. Leader: Catherine Lintott (EL 6-4264)

Saturday, March 17, to Moss Landing to look for early spring migrants. Meet on Jetty Road at 9:00 a.m. just off Monterey Highway (north of Yacht Harbor). Leader: Mrs. Charles Anderson of Salinas. Bring lunch.

Wednesday, March 28, at 8:30 a.m., to a ranch in the Foothill Park area. Meet at Ladera Shopping Center, south from Menlo Park on Alpine Road. Leaders: Virginia and Harley Bothwell (DA 2-1209).

Saturday, April 7, to Dumbarton Bridge, East Palo Alto. Take Bayshore Freeway to Dumbarton Bridge turnoff. Proceed East to parking strip on left side of road just west of bridge. Meet at 9:00 a.m. Les Sleeper will be the leader.

---Howard Wolcott,
Field Trip Chairman

Screen Tours:

Monday, March 5, Laurel Reynolds will present The New World Rediscovered. The film will be shown at 4:30 p.m. in Cubberley Auditorium, Education Building, Escondido Rd. and Lasuen St., Stanford University. Tickets are available at the door. The Age of Discovery is over, but rediscovery will never end. Laurel Reynolds of Piedmont, California, has journeyed over a large part of the Western Hemisphere, filming the natural world as it must have appeared to the explorers centuries ago. Spectacular birds of the West Indies...Texas coastal wildlife...whales sounding and leaping in remote lagoons... sea otters at Monterey...and Alaska, our last frontier, where bear still fish for salmon.

Tuesday, March 13, Cleveland P. Grant will present Heart of the Wild. This color motion picture can be seen at 8:00 p.m. at Morris

Dailey Auditorium, San Jose State College. Tickets are available at the door. This film goes straight to the heart of the problem of saving our wildlife - providing adequate living conditions. Nesting vegetation for many of our waterfowl is fast disappearing. Shore birds, song birds, and big game animals need their marshes, potholes, beaches and mountain ranges to survive. Cleve and Ruth Grant of Mineral Point, Wisconsin, have spent years in the Manitoba marshes and Rocky Mountains to produce this superb and important film.

Progress

The Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society is now the proud owner of a new mimeograph. The old one was tenderly nursed long past its natural lifespan by Mr. Emmanuel Taylor. The Avocet should be more readable now - and easier to produce.

---J.T.

New Members

We are glad to welcome the following new members:

Mr. & Mrs. Norman Kirshen (Student Members)	17735 Bucknall Rd., Saratoga
Mr. Richard Herndon	1554 Walnut Drive, Palo Alto
Mr. George S. Haight	173 Kirk Ave., San Jose 27
Mr. & Mrs. Malcolm Ordway	321 West 9th St., Gilroy
Mrs. William Johnson	191 Meadow Drive, Portola Valley
Mrs. Daisy Bates	16201 Stevens Creek Canyon Rd., Cupertino
Miss Jane Sanders Nevin	1643 Woodland Ave., Palo Alto
Mr. & Mrs. Mark C. Nesbit	2500 Embarcadero Rd., Palo Alto

-- Angelina Snow
Membership Chairman

Important Announcement

Audubon Camp of California has been cancelled for the summer, 1962, season. I haven't the details yet; more next month.

---J.T.

Our Growing Library

The S.C.V.A.S. now has a small library, gifts from three members: Miss Florence Wood, Miss Lillian Gorham and Mr. Curt Dietz. Until we have a permanent place for them they are housed at the home of Eve and Lloyd Case, 2586 Homestead Rd., Santa Clara. Included are books on birds, trees and general nature subjects. With this nucleus, it is hoped that other members may wish to add books or funds. The Library Fund now amounts to \$112.

---Eve Case

Name Holders

If you need more plastic name holders for the Audubon name cards distributed last year (and still available), send 10¢ to Mrs. Fanny Zwaal, 478 Clifton Ave., San Jose 28. Please include a 4¢ stamp. She will have them at meetings, too.

---J.T.

Notes from Afield

- FULMARS 2/18 Still common at Monterey Harbor. LR
- AMERICAN BITTERN 1/28 One PA Baylands. HM
1/27,28 Ten Sacramento Refuge. OA
- WOOD DUCKS Mid-Feb Pair still at PA Yacht Harbor. AG
- REDHEAD 2/19 Five Palo Alto Baylands. HM
- COMMON MERGANSER 1/21 Two McCluskey Slough (North of Moss Landing).
EA
- RED-SHOULDERED HAWKS 2/12 Pair Los Altos. LR, OA
(LR reports Stellar Jays imitate their calls.)
- PIGEON HAWK Jan, Feb One Perches regularly on TV antenna in
Willow Glen. DM
- CLAPPER RAIL 2/4 Ten during a single pan of 'scope. Newark Sanctu-
ary. OA & GGFT
- VIRGINIA RAIL 2/4 At least eight Newark Sanctuary. OA & GGFT
- SORA RAIL 2/4 Several Newark Sanctuary. OA & GGFT
- BLACK RAIL 2/4 One Newark Sanctuary.. ASG, OA
- COMMON SNIPE 1/29 Four Abraham Lincoln High School lawn (San Jose).
F&CZ
- BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKE 1/21 One Point Pinos. EA
- LONG-EARED OWLS 1/21 CS, 1/27 OA Eleven in one pine tree! North
of Courtland. CS suggests "any member needing this
species for list should contact Golden Gate, Marin,
or Sacramento Audubon for appropriate trip".
- RUFUS HUMMINGBIRD 2/16 One Willow Glen. DM
(This species should migrate through this area in
late February and in March.)
- HORNED LARKS 1/28 Five PA Baylands. HM
- TREE SWALLOWS 2/14 Six Vasona Reservoir. CL
(Cliff and Violet Green Swallows are also due.)
- CROWS----in Los Altos! 2/12 Two First ones observed there in
eleven years of residence. LR
- ALBINO ROBINS 1/21 (Partial) One Still at Alum Rock. EA
2/4 (Nearly pure white) One Rosicrucian Park. F&CZ
- TOWNSEND'S SOLITAIRE February Several birders saw Mary Rugh's
Solitaire at the Los Gatos Cemetery. MR
- BOHEMIAN WAXWINGS January & February Forty-odd occasionally
Willow Glen. DM
- FLY-CATCHER 1/7 One would have been wintering in

BLACK-HEADED GROSBEAK 1/7 One Should have been wintering in Mexico instead of at a Willow Glen feeder. DM

EVENING GROSBEEKS January Several occasionally. San Jose. F&CZ

LAWRENCE'S GOLDFINCH Current Small flock still visiting garden occasionally (since 11/16/61). Santa Clara. EC

Banded WHITE-CROWNED (PUGET SOUND) SPARROW 1/1 Banded 8/26/59 at Vancouver, B.C. Trapped in San Jose and now matriculated at San Jose State. LRM

WHITE-THROATED SPARROWS January One each San Jose & Berryessa. LRM

LINCOLN'S SPARROW Late December and thereafter One San Jose. MH

Foothill Park Trip.- On 1/24 Mrs. Virginia Bothwell led a trip through Palo Alto Foothill Park. Snow still remained in shady areas. No unusual species were seen, but two unblemished dead birds, a thrasher and a hermit thrush, were found.

Sacramento Trip.- The trip to the Sacramento Refuge had to be canceled due to heavy fog. However, OA on 1/27 & 1/28, HM on 2/2 & 2/3, and CS on 2/3 visited the refuge independently. The compiler put together the following list of more interesting species seen by one or more of these observers: WHISTLING SWAN; several races of CANADA GEESE; BLACK ERANT; EMPEROR, WHITE-FRONTED, SNOW, and ROSS GEESE; ten AMERICAN BITTERNs; EUROPEAN WIDGEON; and twenty GALLINULES. In addition, OA observed at the nearby Gray Lodge State Waterfowl Management Area: SANDHILL CRANES, four GREAT-HORNED OWLS, thirteen LEWIS WOODPECKERS, and, in a half-acre field, fifty jackrabbits!

Sunset Beach.- The Wittgensteins found a flock of LONG-BILLED DOWITCHERS, one COMMON SNIFE, and two SORA RAILS among other birds at the roadside ponds in Sunset Beach State Park on 28 January.

Evergreen Trip.- The Pillows led approximately 18 SCVAS members on a trip near Evergreen on 17 February. The bright sunshine on the wet spring countryside and the abundance of singing birds made for a most pleasant trip. While the 41 species observed did not include any rarities, there were some very interesting observations. For example, a Red-Shafted Flicker perched long enough nearby to permit all to observe it leisurely through a telescope. Lark Sparrows, Western-Bluebirds, and a Yellow-Bellied ("Red-Breasted") Sapsucker were seen. A singing Bewick Wren was heard for about 20 minutes and then seen, still singing.

Flickers.- It pays to keep on the lookout for Hybrid and Yellow-Shafted Flickers if you do not have them on your list yet. Hybrids have been seen frequently this past winter and Yellow-Shafted may not be as rare here as we have thought. OA and RF observed one Yellow-Shafted repeatedly in a field near Lake Lucerne (by Bean Hollow Beach) on 1/7. Mrs. Hillebrand and Mrs. Reynolds have had a Yellow-Shafted Flicker at their home in Palo Alto throughout January and February.

Key to Initials Used in Notes Afield.-

AG	Allen Greer	HM	Harriet Mundy
ASG	Alex Griesman	MH	M. F. Hopkins
CL	Catherine Lintott	MR	Mary Rugh
CS	Carlyle Sather	LR	Lynn Robbins
DM	Don McLean	LRM	Dr. Dick Mewaldt
EA	Earl Albertson	OA	Oliver Allen
EC	Dr. Eve Case	RF	Bob Fuller
F&CZ	Fanny & Charles Zwaal		
GGFT	2/4 Golden Gate Audubon field trip attended by OA & RF.		

Please send your observations to the compiler, Bob Fuller, 835 Webster Street, Palo Alto (DA 5-9575) by the next-to-the-last Saturday of each month for inclusion in the next Avocet.

JANUARY FIELD TRIP TO RICHARDSON'S BAY SANCTUARY.

On Saturday, January 20, 1962, in spite of an unfortunate misunderstanding of place-names and the resulting confusion regarding the location of the meeting place, quite a number of our members enjoyed the field trip to the Richardson's Bay area and the Audubon Sanctuary near Belvedere.

We were met at the northern end of the Richardson's Bay Bridge by our leader, Mrs. Elizabeth ("Betty") Lennon of the Marin County Society. Betty led the caravan along a route that included spots that were new to many of us, and which provided us with very interesting birding.

The western end of the pedestrian bridge across the San Rafael Highway immediately north of the Richardson's Bay Bridge is just high enough to provide an excellent view of the shallow backwaters to the west. On these waters individuals of most of the species of waterfowl wintering on the Bay are apt to be found. They include Great Blue Herons; both of the Egrets; three and sometimes four species of grebes; and duck: Ruddies, Canvasbacks, Pintails, Spoonbills, Scaup, Bald-pates, Buffleheads, and, for good measure, a Merganser or two. An item of extra interest at this point was a compact group of Avocets and a gathering of gulls, including at least four different species.

On the edge of the lagoon on the east side of the highway, Snowy Egrets ignored us and our binoculars and stalked their food only a few yards away from us. On the road around the lagoon to Strawberry Point, a tree-full of Meadowlarks temporarily stole the show from the shore-birds and waterfowl.

When we finally arrived at the Sanctuary, Warden John Larson and his wife had HOT coffee waiting for us! This was, indeed, the "non-avian" highlight of the trip. John's "pets", a large number of Pintails, were on the beach just below the house, waiting to be fed! (I wish I could understand Pintail-talk, because they were undoubtedly saying things about "that guy who doesn't get down here with our hand-out!")

Luncheon on the "Terrace", with the several thousands of ducks, etc., on the bay in front of us, was most enjoyable.

Many, many thanks to Betty Lennon for leading us along such a pleasant and productive route and sharing with us her knowledge of where to find the birds. Also to the Larsons for their warm welcome and generous hospitality.

---Mr. & Mrs. Lloyd N. Case

Field Trip, Feb. 10th. - In spite of the dreadful weather ten newcomers showed up at the Yacht Harbor. They came from Menlo Park, Palo Alto, Redwood City, Sunnyvale and San Jose. Those who telephoned were told the trip would not be held. All this proves first, that the leader must show up or arrange to have someone on the spot, secondly, that there must be a great demand for this kind of activity, not to mention an untapped reservoir for new members. Am planning to repeat this trip on Feb. 24th.

---Harriet Mundy

Editor's Notes

A book that many bird-lovers will welcome is Bird Doctor, by Katherine Tottenham (Nelson, \$3.00). If you have come upon a wounded bird, a stranded nestling, or a bird oil-bound by sea pollution, and have wanted to help it, this book will tell you how to go about it. Mrs. Tottenham is widely known for her television and radio appearances.

---J.T.

Unless California acts now to acquire and develop more land for recreational use, it may never be able to do so, Governor Edmund G. Brown declared yesterday. In an address, the Governor said that land for future use by the public "will never be as abundant or economical as it is now". He urged support of a \$100 million park bond issue which he has asked the Legislature to put on the general election ballot in November. "We cannot allow land which truly belongs to the public to slip away into private hands," Brown declared.

---S.F. Chronicle, 2/15/62

"AMERICA THE BEAUTIFUL - AND ITS DESECRATORS" -- an article by Vance Packard in the Atlantic Magazine for August, 1961, has been called to our attention. Mr. Packard says the five greatest desecrators of beauty in our country are (1), auto junk yards; (2) billboard advertising and signs painted on rocks, hillsides, etc.; (3) electronic accessories such as powerlines, towers and aerials; (4) planned eyesores--the tendency to guide growth toward ugliness, lack of graciousness, and bareness (no green things); and (5), water pollution. Sound familiar? A constant battle against such conditions is the only answer.

---San Diego Audubon Society 1/62

A Stanford Research Institute group is trying to find out what kind of a noise annoys a herring gull. Or a starling or a pheasant, for that matter. The Institute has been recruited to find new ways of getting rid of various birds that menace airport runways, rocket launching sites, agricultural crops and the clean decks of ships. The United States Department of Interior's Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife is sponsoring the research. Dr. Vincent Salmon, SRI acoustics expert, Eugene Spurlock, a physicist, and Dr. Leon Otis, an animal psychologist are doing the work. They are studying mating calls, danger calls, and even food calls to look for "non-destructive scattering methods". The SRI team must perform a lot of basic research into bird behavior before they can hope for success. "But if we can somehow learn to think like birds, we should be able to solve the problem," Dr. Salmon said.

---S.F. Chronicle 1/14/62

"Conservationists lose much of their effectiveness if they dwell perpetually in a 'valle ombroso' and are perennial prophets of gloom. The conservation movement has in fact made tremendous strides in the

last fifty years. The annual meeting of the California Conservation Council at the California Academy of Sciences, Oct. 26-28, 1961, pointed this up. There has been a widespread growth of the concept of conservation; a man may be for it - or just possibly, against it - but he knows what it means. Along with this there has been a growing consciousness on the part of the average citizen that conservation of natural resources - of woods and water and soil and wildlife - or recreational and scenic area - all of this means something to him."

---From PACIFIC DISCOVERY Dec. 1961

Wilderness Act, S. 174-- No really new arguments turned up at any of the recent hearings. As in the past, much of the opposition testimony was based on misinformation about what the legislation would do. Facts have a difficult time catching up with untruths. The subcommittee headed by Congresswoman Gracie Pfof of Idaho is expected to hold additional hearings in Washington after the first of the year. Elliott Barker, executive secretary of the New Mexico Wildlife and Conservation Association, said, "The opponents seem to overlook the fact that the lands involved are public property. They belong to all the people. The fact that an extremely segment of the public--stockmen, lumbermen, miners, etc.--- are permitted to carry on commercial enterprises on the national forests and public domain lands gives them no right to dictate what shall be done with a small remnant of wilderness type."

Noting that "proponents of wilderness preservation are often accused by commercial interests of being selfish," Barker said: "With 92 percent of the national forest area available for regulated commercialization--mining, lumbering, road and dam building, summer homes and developed recreation areas, I ask who is being selfish--these interests who now have 92 per cent of the national forest area and want the other 8 per cent, or those who would preserve 8 per cent of it?"

--Conservation News, 11/15/61

Express your opinion at once to Hon. Wayne Aspinwall, Chairman, House Interior and Insular Affairs Committee and to your representatives in the House. The bill has passed the Senate.

---J.T.

Wampler Trail Trips, Box 45, Berkeley 1, California now has special trips for wildflower lovers and birdwatchers. I have the details, or write directly.

---J.T.

"THE SAVE THE AMERICAN RIVER ASSOCIATION", is the current sponsored by the Sacramento Audubon Society. Persons interested in preserving the area along the beautiful American River for recreational and educational activities may send their membership \$1.00 to Membership Chairman, "Save the American River Association", Fulton-El Camino Park District Office, 3101 Cottage Way, Sacramento, California and they will be kept informed on progress of the undertaking.

Irrigation groups in northern California and Oregon are again pushing a substitute bill that would open Tule Lake National Wildlife Refuge to farming or homesteading. Letters right now to Senator Kuchel, urging him to stand firm on S. 1988, would be most helpful. Write also to Senator Clair Engle and your Representative, asking them to support S. 1988 and oppose the irrigators' grab for Tule Lake.

--Carl W. Buchheister, Pres. N.A.S.

If Rainbow Bridge National Monument is to be saved from the rising waters of Glen Canyon Dam, Congress must appropriate funds so that the Secretary of the Interior can protect the area. If the Monument is ruined, the way will be open for desecration of other "safe" holdings.

---National Wildlands News 1/12/62

United States National Monument

National Wildlands News

1962 - 1963

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1961 - 1962

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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.

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912 Roble Ridge, Palo Alto (DA 2-1787)

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1311 Cristina, San Jose (CY 3-5668)

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