

The Avocet

Volume IX Number 6

June, 1962

President's Message

Elsewhere in this issue of the Avocet, our good editor has made announcement of the annual meeting. It will be most informal: picnic supper on the terrace overlooking the beautiful grounds; a walk up the nature trail lead by "Smitty", who has done so much work on it, (this for the energetic); a chance to relax in beautiful surroundings for the less athletic; a bit of good birding just before sunset. The following business meeting is important.

We have had a good year, a board that has worked hard and devotedly in the interest of your society, committee chairmen who are fine and interesting people in their own right. You will want to hear their reports, and they know enough about annual meeting audiences to make them bright and to the point. We'll get you home early.

Remember, however, that you'll be saddled with the new directors for three years. Be sure that they are wise choices and, if you have any member whom you prefer, don't hesitate to make a nomination from the floor. It is a good nominating committee and has the best interests of the society in mind; but, after all, you members are running the Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society.

---Charles Williams

Be Sure to Vote on June 5

Proposition 5, a state bond issue of \$150,000,000 for beaches and parks, is on the June 5 ballot. We enclose an information sheet to help you understand what is at stake. A 51% majority is needed.

Peninsula Conservationists, a new group, is sponsoring Philip Flint, an ardent conservationist, for Supervisor in the North District of Santa Clara County.

---J.T.

Coming Events at a Glance

Sun. June 3	9:00 A.M.	Pt. Lobos State Park
Wed. June 6	8:30 A.M.	Mount Hermon
Mon. June 11	5:30-9:30 P.M.	Montalvo
Sat. June 16	9:00 A.M.	Chesboro Dam
Mon. June 18	7:30 A.M.	Santa Cruz Wharf
Sun. July 1	9:00 A.M.	Searsville Lake
Sat. July 21	9:00 A.M.	Dumbarton Bridge
Sun. Aug. 5	9:00 A.M.	Morshead Ranch
Sat. Aug. 18	9:00 A.M.	Moss Landing



June Calendar

Monday, June 11, Annual Meeting at Montalvo, a wildlife sanctuary and cultural center about a half mile from Saratoga on the Saratoga-Los Gatos Highway.

5:30 to 7:00 Picnic dinner (bring your own)

7:00 to 8:00 Nature walk led by Claude Smith up the newly refurbished trail

8:00 Business meeting

(Committee Chairmen, please have a brief report ready.) There is no definite time to come, but we'll start supper about 6:00. Those who come late, or who prefer flat ground and birding about the grounds, can relax. There will be normal speaker, slide or movie program. It would keep us out too late, Mr. William says!

Special Event:

Monday, June 13, 7:30 A.M., Mr. Leavitt McQuesten's annual offshore birding trip, leaving Stagnaro's Landing, Municipal Wharf, Santa Cruz. The boat will return about 11:30 A.M. the same day. I still have tickets. Call Joyce Todd (DA 2-1787).

A 14-year old student member, who lives on Granada Court in Santa Clara, has reserved a ticket in the hope that someone who is going on the trip (and lives somewhere near) can provide transportation. Any volunteers?--J.T.)

Field Trips:

Sunday, June 3, to Pt. Lobos Reserve State Park. Meet at the entrance at 9:00 A.M. This year we will visit a new area, a delightful and easy Nature Trail from the Entrance to "Coal Chute Point", overlooking "The Pit", on the east side of Whaler's Cove. Then we will drive to the large parking area, from where we will take another Nature Trail past The Veteran Cypress, through "The Pass" to East Grove, overlooking Bluefish Cove. After lunch, there will be ample time for a walk to the point overlooking Bird Island with its pelicans and cormorants, plus the gulls' nests usually found alongside the trail. Leaders: Lloyd and Eve Case (AX 6-2410).

Wednesday Morning, June 6, to Mount Hermon, in the Santa Cruz Mountains. (There's a slight chance of still seeing a Clark's Nutcracker!) Meet at 8:30 A.M. at the parking area near the Mount Hermon Post Office. Leaders: Mrs. Adist Boylan (ED 5-4995) and Miss Emily Smith (EL 4-2494).

Saturday, June 16, to Chesboro Dam. Meet at 9:00 A.M. at Almaden Road, San Jose. Leaders: Mr. and Mrs. Charles Zwaal. Bring lunch.

Sunday, July 1, to Searsville Lake. Meet at 9:00 A.M. at the front gate of Searsville Lake on Sandhill Road. Leader: Warren Turner. Bring lunch.

Saturday, July 21, to Dumbarton Bridge. Meet at the parking lot on the left just before the west end of the bridge at 9:00 A.M. Bring lunch. Leader to be chosen later.

Sunday, August 5, to the Morshead Ranch. Meet at the Portola School on Portola Road (Portola Valley) at 9:00 A.M. Bring lunch. Leaders: Charles Williams and Harriet Mundy.

Saturday, August 13, to Moss Landing. Meet at 9:00 A.M. on Jetty Road just off Monterey Highway (north of Yacht Harbor). Bring lunch. For information, call Howard Wolcott (WH 8-6821) or Eve Case (AK 6-2410).

NEW MEMBERS

Mrs. Angelina Snow has left O'Connor Hospital, San Jose, for further care at Campbell Convalescent Hospital, 3580 Payne Avenue, San Jose. Fanny Zwaal visited her recently and reports she is doing very well and is "so cheerful". Mrs. Snow herself says, "I can hop on one foot with pretty fair ease in the walker. I am to have crutches soon, they say. It's quite an experience!" Please heed her appeal:

"For the first time since I have been Membership Charman, I have been able to assemble an adequate Membership Committee. These people are representative of our territory, are well informed, and well equipped with information, application blanks, etc. My plea here is for the membership to make use of them. If any one finds a good prospect, send the name to the committee member nearest the prospect's home. He will be served with efficiency. Please give this committee a chance to function."

(I am repeating their names...J.T.)

Membership Committee

Mrs. Irving W. Snow (Chairman) 21441 Roaring Water Way, Los Gatos
(EL 4-1811)
Mrs. John Henderson (Asst. Charman), 20570 Canyon View Dr., Saratoga
(UN 7-4304)
Mrs. W.R. McCann, 783 Garland Drive, Palo Alto (DA 4-1380)
Mrs. M.R. Kirkwood, 249 Lowell Avenue, Palo Alto (DA 3-7395)
Mrs. Edward Yocco, P.C. Box 326, Los Gatos (354-9069)
Mr. Robert A. Ryder, P.C. Box 461 or 14515 Big Basin Way, Saratoga
(UN 7-3903)
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.

We are glad to welcome the following new members:

Mr. Stewart Gray, Route 1, Box 126, Day Road, Gilroy
Mr. and Mrs. R. D. Steffey, 839 Richardson Court, Palo Alto
Mr. and Mrs. Eugene V. Riebe, 826 College Avenue, Palo Alto
Mr. and Mrs. Robert A. DeCon, 1821 Stanford Avenue, Menlo Park
---Angelina Snow, Membership
Chairman

VETERANS HOSPITAL NATURE CLUB

The Board of Directors, upon request, has agreed to sponsor for one year a Nature Club at the Veterans Administration Hospital, Menlo Park. Several members have volunteered to help. We shall hear more from them this fall. ---J.T.

NEW BOARD MEMBERS FOR 1962-3

The Nominating Committee, including Tom Harvey, Howard Wolcott and Lloyd Case, reports the appointment of two new Board members for next year: Miss Wilma Thompson and Mr. Robert Fuller. The committee will have chosen a third member by Annual Meeting time.

---J.T.

THE JOHN HOPKINS UNIVERSITY
Baltimore, Maryland, U.S.A.

Department of Pathobiology

May 6, 1962

Dear Joyce,

It was nice to hear from you and know that the SCVAS is getting along well.

I have been back since late March, in fact I was in Palo Alto very briefly the day you wrote your letter. Had two weeks in Orland with the family and have been here a month now. I have resigned from the museum (Palo Alto) as I expect to go south for another season and may stay on at Hopkins indefinitely. I'm coming out to Calif. toward the end of June to sell the house and move everyone to Baltimore. It will be a hectic time but I will try to drop in and say hello.

Banding penguins is just plain hard work but netting skuas out of the air is a real sport. I had a wonderful time and look forward to another season. The part of Antarctica around the U.S. bases has great numbers of penguins (Adelies) but few speies. The trip up to New Zealand by icebreaker was rough but birdy. Had three species of albatross, incl. the wandering, and about ten shearwaters, petrels, etc., plus many that were unidentifiable.

This part of May is the height of the eastern migration season, which I haven't enjoyed since 1954. Ten to fifteen species of warblers are about average for one day of not-too-hectic bird-watching. I think I need to be migratory, also, spending spring and summer here and fall and winter in Palo Alto.

Sincerely,

Bd Wood

HC SUMMER AVOCET

There will be no issues for July and August, 1962. However, you will note that Howard Wolcott has generously provided field trips through the summer. Material for September should reach me by Aug. 20.

---J. Todd

BOOKS FOR SUMMER READING

I wonder whether some of the AVOCET readers would like the names of 4 or 5 nature books for summer reading. These books are all in the Palo Alto Public Library next to the City Hall.

BIRDS ACROSS THE SKY - Florence Page Jaques - Harper Bros.
This is a book to own. Beautifully written and the illustrations by her husband, Francis Lee Jaques, are exquisite.

WILD WINGS - Frank S. Stuart - McGraw Hill Co.
A description of a pintail duck's migration north and return. Either Mr. Stuart made the trip with the pintail or they had a long conversation when the pintail returned because the descriptions of events and happenings are so real.

MY WILDERNESS - William C. Douglas - Doubleday & Co., Inc.
Eight or so favorite "stomping" grounds of Mr. Douglas in western United States and Alaska are pinpointed and described. Illustrations by Francis Lee Jaques are a joy.

FOOTNOTES ON NATURE - John Kieran - Doubleday & Co., Inc.
Humor is notable in this book. Here is an illustration: "A male cowbird puffs out its throat, bows awkwardly and gives off the ridiculous song that always reminds me of the English dish of cabbage and beef that they call 'bubble and squeak'."

DRIFTWOOD VALLEY - Theodora C. Stanwell - Fletcher
A talented young couple collecting biology specimens for a Canadian Museum live more than two years in the wilds of north central British Columbia. It is written in diary form and holds the reader's interest from the very start.
---Warren M. Turner

DUES TIME AGAIN FOR LOCAL MEMBERS

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

WEST COAST NATURE SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIPS

A total of 19 San Jose State College students have been awarded tuition scholarships, valued at \$16.00 each, to West Coast Nature School sessions this year. The students who attended the Easter Vacation session at Death Valley were Robert Brownlee, Lurlie Dowling, Joan Elstran, Carol Hensel, Ann Horton, Judith Lenino, Elaine Morris, Robin Oakley, Carolyn Strelo, Sharon Shuman, Diane Tilton and Martha Tunheim.

The remainder of the scholarships were awarded to students who will attend sessions to be held during the early part of the summer at

Mammoth Lakes, Yosemite or Asilomar. The recipients are Jean Frost, Judith Herb, Patricia Lawless, Austin Lucero, Lillian Richards, Carolyn Strelo and Nikki Wing. Each one week session allows the student to earn one hour of college credit while studying the birds, trees, insects, wild flowers, mammals and geology of the area. Dr. H. Thomas Harvey is the newly appointed director of the School.

---Kenneth Hutton
San Jose State College

Notes from Afield

25 April Trip to Stevens Creek Reservoir and Park. Connie Hinds and Eve Case report the spring birds were in full song for this trip and the wild flowers and ferns were abundant. The 20 birders found nests of ROBINS, BULLOCK'S CRIOLES, BLACK-HEADED GROSBEAKS, and SOLITARY VIRECS. The group was treated to good views of the BLACK-THROATED GRAY WARBLER. Forty species of birds, twenty-two species of flowers, and five species of ferns were listed.

9 May Trip to Castle Rock. Emily Smith and Mrs. John Henderson led this trip along the summit of the Santa Cruz Mountains. They found it a chilly but rewarding walk as the whole group was able to see a MacGILLIBRAY'S WARBLER and hear the calls of the RED-BREADED NUTHATCH. Other warblers observed include: BLACK-THROATED GRAY, AUDUBON, ORANGE-CROWNED, WILSON'S, and HERMIT. In all, 29 species were noted.

19 May Trip to Hoover Ranch (Rancho del Cso). Viola Anderson recorded 36 species on this trip, which was attended by members of the Santa Cruz and Monterey groups along with our own. Mrs. Anderson noted that while the number of species observed was about the same this spring as in 1960 and 60, five species observed in both previous years were not recorded on this date. Nine other species noted in one or the other of the two years, but not both, were not recorded this year. VAUX'S and WHITE-THROATED SWIFTS, BARN SWALLOWS, WINTER WRENS, and WHITE-CROWNED SPARROWS, seen this year, had not been noted in either of the two previous years. Most participants had an opportunity to study the SWAINSON'S THRUSH, WARBLING VIRECS and WILSON'S WARBLERS were very abundant along the road by Waddell Creek. The ranch on #1 Highway was the home of the late Theodore Hoover, and it received its Spanish name because of the grizzly bears once found in the area. Our thanks to Mrs. Hulda McLean for the privilege of again sharing the ranch with her. --V.A.)

Mrs. Anderson and several other participants, acting on her information, viewed the many RED and NORTHERN PHALAROPES in breeding plumage in the vicinity of Moss Landing on this same date.

Miscellaneous Observations. Earl Albertson, on an interesting trip on May 5, observed among the more usual species a SOLITARY VIREC in Stevens Creek Park, a LAZULI BUNTING in the Carmel River Valley, a female RED PHALAROPE in breeding plumage and two GREEN HERONS on the pond at Point Pinos, a flock of six KNOTS at Moss Landing, and flying over the salt ponds at Moss Landing the only BLACK TERN he has seen at Moss. He observed no SOCTY SHEARWATERS in the Carmel-Monterey area, but saw hundreds of them offshore from Moss Landing in the late afternoon.

Viola Anderson reports the same gulls that gave her group a headache in June, 1959, are back in the Monterey-Moss Landing area. Pure white, they are larger than Californias and smaller than W-sterns. She wonders whether they may be ICELAND or KUNLIEN'S GULLS. Any suggestions?

Bill Lockett writes from his home on the northerly side of the summit of the Santa Cruz Mountains that he has had about 30 BANDTAILED PIGEONS roosting in the nearby redwoods. He discovered a WESTERN Tanager roosting in one redwood with about ten pigeons. After hearing them for some time, he finally spotted two pairs of BLACK-HEADED GROS-BEAKS near his home. During the past two or three weeks, 15 to 20 ACORN WOODPECKERS and a LEWIS WOODPECKER have been living in his vicinity.

Catherine Lintott reports her WHITE-THROATED SPARROW was last seen on 27 April. Her ASH-THROATED FLYCATCHERS were still adding to the nest but apparently not incubating on 13 May.

Joyce Todd saw her first (life bird) LEWIS WOODPECKER on 6 May on Alpine Road. She had a flock of Cedar Waxwings on May 2.

Mark Hopkins observed three WESTERN TANAGERS, a BULLOCK'S ORICLE and a BLACK-HEADED GROSBEAK in Alum Rock Park on 25 April.

Debbie and Norman Kirshen have been observing a female ORCHARD ORICLE in their orchard in Campbell. They also have seen a WESTERN Tanager in Campbell.

Dorothy Taylor reports the HOODED ORICLES are still resident at the 1300 blk of University Avenue in Palo Alto.

Did anyone notice my discrepancies last month? The Brown Thrasher should have been a California; and the Scoters, White-Winged and Surf rather than Common. Thanks for your notes about these.

---Bob Fuller (DA 5-0575)

335 Webster Street, Palo Alto

Editor's Notes

The Tule-Klamath Refuge Bill, S. 1038, was reported favorably May 1 by the Senate Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs. This important measure to assure the future of the vital complex of refuges along the California-Oregon line, is now on the Senate calendar and ready for floor action. The House has yet to consider this legislation but its steady progress raises hopes that it may become law in this session

---Aud. Conservation Guide 5/1/562

There have been stories in the newspapers about a film, "The Birds", being produced by Alfred Hitchcock at Tomales Bay. Based on a classic, allegorical tale by Daphen Du Maurier, it depicts birds as vicious villains and killers of people. There are signs Hitchcock has been trying to get Audubon societies to protest for his own publicity purposes. NAS will sidestep such an obvious trap. Incidentally, one of Hitchcock's men was arrested and paid a fine of \$400 for trapping the wrong kinds of birds under a federal permit.

---Aud. Cons. Guide 5/15/62

The Save the Redwoods League will donate a 6000-acre forest to the State for addition to the Humboldt Redwoods State Park, Governor Brown has announced. The land, part of the Rockefeller forest, contains some of the world's tallest trees. The Governor called it "one of the world's greatest stands of trees." The land is needed for work on

curbing erosion on Bull Creek Flat below, where about 700 trees have been destroyed since 1955. "This is a magnificent acquisition," Brown said in a statement. "It represents another important step in the preservation of the great redwood forests of Northern California. Now one can only hope that the disaster which has threatened the Rockefeller forest for so many years will not come until we can reforest and engineer the lands so as to minimize great flooding on Bull Creek," Brown said.

---S.F. Chronicle, 4/8/62

Three hundred red, blue and green tinted sparrows, shipped here (Baton Rouge, La.) from California, fluttered from their crates today in a game of organized confusion. The organizers are bird research scientists. The confused were supposed to be the golden crown and white crown sparrows captured by ornithologists at San Jose State College. Splotches of gay colored feathers, along with leg bands, will help amateur and professional bird watchers observe the bird's migration habits. The scientists hope interested persons over the United States and Canada will help them keep track of the birds. They want to know if the birds' migration habits will be frustrated by their removal to Louisiana at the time the birds normally migrate to the Pacific Northwest for summertime nesting. The Office of Naval Research is sponsoring the project. Dr. Richard Newaldt of San Jose State is the main investigator. Dr. Robert J. Newman, curator of the Louisiana State University Zoology Museum, is co-investigator. Dr. Newman received the birds from Newaldt and took them to an area near the Mississippi River levee here for release. Three other batches of 50 birds each were loosed here earlier - in October, December and February. The confusion game is aimed at learning mysteries of bird migration in general through basic research. The scientists want to see what the birds will do under different conditions.

---Palo Alto Times, 4/14/62

Hearings were opened on May 21 to consider the P.G.E. plan to build a \$61 million nuclear power plant on Bodega Head. Opposition is formidable. At least 150 demonstrative scientists, fishermen, politicians and other angry nature lovers appeared on the first day. P.G.E. admitted that its plans for recreational use of land around the site were written only very recently at the request of P.G.E. defense counsel. Apparently, further hearings will be necessary before the issue is settled. Once again: State Public Utilities Commission, Gas and Electric Branch, 455 Golden Gate Avenue, San Francisco, Calif. ---J.T.

Two brothers and their sister have turned down a \$4 million offer by private developers for a forest tract so that it may become a State park. The three, Herman, Agnes and Andrew Marks, pioneer residents of Monterey county, have asked only that the 9600-acre park become a memorial to their mother, Nesine Marks. They started buying the 9600-acre forest tract many years ago to preserve its virgin beauty. It is described as wild and beautiful today as when it was first seen by Father Juan Crespi in 1796. The area, on Aptos and Soquel creeks near Monterey Bay, is on the master plan for ultimate acquisition by the State Division of Beaches and Parks. Animated by a deep love of nature, the Marks family began acquiring land on the old Soquel Rancho in Santa Cruz county and some time ago made an outright gift to the State of 120 acres to be added to Point Lobos State Park. They turned down \$300,000 for this site.

---S.F. Chronicle, 4/10/62

Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society
Branch of
National Audubon Society

1961 - 1962

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