

The Avocet

Volume IX Number 8

October, 1962

President's Message

Audubon President Mr. Carl W. Buchheister states so well--"We have dedicated ourselves to the pleasant task of opening the eyes of young and old that all may come to cherish and enjoy the beauty of the earth which is our home, and share in conserving its wonders forever." Indeed our Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society is dedicated to a pleasant task. Our concern is how best to carry out this pleasant task. One way is to extend our conservation message to more people. We plan to do this by considerably increasing the size of our membership. There is a constantly increasing group of perceptive families living in our Santa Clara Valley who sense the wisdom of nature's design and who sense too the intricate web of life. We would like to search out these people and extend to them an invitation to join our society. Plans are now being formulated to do this. After the Board of Directors' meeting on September 24 we can give you more details about these plans. Another way to extend our conservation message to more people is to equip our education committee with good tools to work with so that we may offer a variety of nature programs to service clubs, youth organizations and adult organizations such as PTA and Garden Clubs. There will also be more details on these plans in the AVOCET after the Board of Directors approve.

-- Warren M. Turner

Nuclear Plan to Create Harbor Killed

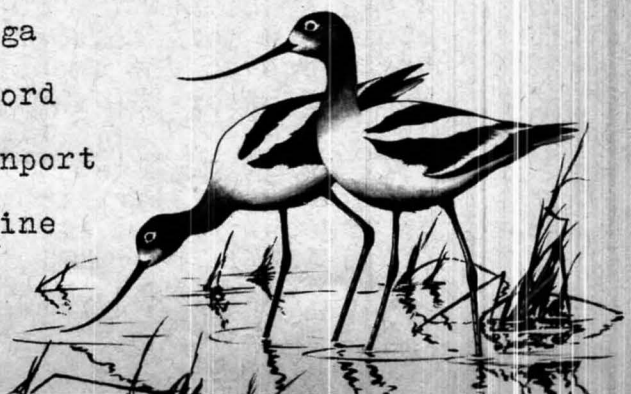
A controversial plan to blast an artificial harbor in the Alaskan coastline with nuclear explosives has been shelved, the Atomic Energy Commission disclosed. The big excavation job, known as "Project Chariot", has been under study at Livermore since 1957, and the AEC has already spent nearly \$4 million on it. The Chariot project generated enormous heat among Alaskan conservationists and organizations concerned with Eskimo welfare. It also proved to be a touchy subject in Geneva discussions with the Soviets, who charged that a series of nuclear blasts across the Bering Sea from them might cause fallout problems in Siberia

--S.F. Chronicle 8/25/62

(This would have doomed thousands upon thousands of nesting sites, where cliffs to be destroyed usually are alive with birds. --J.T.)

Coming Events at a Glance

Mon. Oct. 1	8:00 p.m.	Community Center, Palo Alto
Sat. Oct. 6	9:00 a.m.	Santa Cruz Area
Wed. Oct. 10	8:30 a.m.	Camp Stuart, Saratoga
Sun. Oct. 14	9:00 a.m.	Alum Rock Park
Mon. Oct. 15	4:15 p.m.	Cubberly Aud. Stanford
Thur. Oct. 18	8:00 p.m.	Morris Dailey Aud.
Sat. Oct. 20	9:00 a.m.	McCrary Ranch, Davenport
Wed. Oct. 24	9:00 a.m.	Stanford Campus
Sat. Nov. 3	9:00 a.m.	Woodward Ranch, Skyline



October Calendar

Regular Meeting:

Monday, October 1, at 8:00 p.m. in Room R, Community Center Building, Palo Alto. Dr. Eve Case, who has a nursery in Santa Clara, will speak on Planting to Attract Birds to Your Garden. A short color film from National Audubon, Song Birds in Your Garden, will help develop your own sanctuary. The Center is at the corner of Middlefield Road and Melville Ave.

-- Kay McCann
Program Chairman

Field Trips:

Saturday, October 6, Santa Cruz area. Take the Los Gatos-Santa Cruz Highway (#17) to Scott's Valley (about 20 miles from Los Gatos). Turn off at Scott's Valley and meet at the Danish Inn at 9:00 am. Bring lunch. Tom Harvey and Jeannette Wallace will be the leaders. (DA 3-7331)

Wednesday Morning, October 10, to Camp Stuart on El Sereno Ridge, southwest of Saratoga. (Yes, Claude Smith's "Eyrle.") Camp Stuart, near upper end of Bohlmann Road, is three miles from the Saratoga Library, corner of Saratoga-Los Gatos Road and Oak St. From the Library drive along Oak Street to Madronia Cemetery where Bohlmann Road begins. Then look for Audubon Field Trip signs which Claude will have set up. At Camp Stuart there will be opportunity to see the many different species of cone-bearing trees which have been planted there. The cones are ripening now and dropping their seeds. Meeting time at the Camp will be 8:30am. Leader: Claude Smith (UN 7-3629).

Sunday, October 14, to Alum Rock Park to look for the return of winter visitants. Meet at 9:00 a.m. at the parking area opposite the Junior Museum. This trip is open to the public. Leaders: Mr. & Mrs. Clyde Prussman (EL 6-3844).

Saturday, October 20, by invitation of the Santa Cruz Bird Club to their field trip to the McCrary Ranch on Swanton Road. Meet at 9:00 a.m. at Waddell Beach on Highway #1, north of Davenport. At 9:30 we shall proceed to the McCrary Ranch for birding and a picnic lunch. This ranch was homesteaded by Mrs. McCrary's Grandparents when Indians were the only neighbors. Big Creek runs through the ranch and was used to produce the first electricity for Santa Cruz.

-- Florence Haas
Field Trip Chairman

Wednesday, October 24, to Stanford University campus. Meet at 9:00 a.m. on Lasuen St. between Memorail Way and Pine on the west side of Frost Amphitheater. The Stanford campus constitutes an unusual habitat - many foreign trees and shrubs - and is a good spot for beginners to get acquainted with our local birds. Leader: Mrs. Helen Proctor (DA 1-2741), or call Virginia Bothwell (DA 2-1209).

Saturday, November 3, to the Teynham Woodward Ranch on Skyline Blvd. and possibly the City of Sunnyvale Mountain Park. Meet at 9:00am. at Page Mill Road and Skyline Blvd. Leader: Virginia Bothwell (DA 2-1209).

Screen Tours:

Monday, October 15, at 4:15 p.m. Charles T. Hotchkiss will present Teton Trails. The magnificent Teton Range which lifts abruptly from the valley to a height of over 7,000 feet, bordering Jackson Hole, Wyoming, provides a striking backdrop for this colorful film produced and narrated by Charles T. Hotchkiss of Homestead, Florida. Intimate visits with unusual birds and other animals weave a dramatic story of life in a land of awesome beauty. A fitting climax is the breathtaking climb up the Grand Teton, the highest peak in the range.

This is our second season at Stanford, and again the film will be shown in Cubberley Auditorium, Education Bilding, Escondido Road and Lasuen St., on the campus. Season ticket is \$3 for 5 films. Single admission is 75¢. Student rates are \$2 season, 50¢ single. Tickets are obtainable at Tressider Union Ticket Office.

Thursday, October 18, at 8:00 p.m. Morris Dailey Auditorium, San Jose State College. Charles T. Hotchkiss will present Teton Trails described above. Season ticket for 5 films is \$3, family season ticket \$5, single 90¢. Student rates: \$2 season, 50¢ single, children under 12 with adult, 25¢. Tickets from Mrs. Fanny Zwaal, 478 Clifton Ave., San Jose 28.

Audubon Camp

This summer many thousands of miles were covered in an intensive search for a new Camp home in the West. Sites and facilities in Arizona-Utah-Wyoming-Oregon-Washington and, of course, California were visited and surveyed. But in most instances accommodations were far too limited without extensive developments, or the sites did not lend themselves to a rich teaching experience. While we do know the location and facilities at Sugar Bowl Lodge will be difficult to duplicate, we feel certain there is a "place waiting". Yes, we have thought about the possibility of building our own accommodations should a site become available, but this would require a financial undertaking of considerable magnitude. It may be the only answer. In the meantime, the search will continue and your continuing suggestions and guidance will be more than welcome, always.

Lest We Forget:

As near as the telephone or a 4-cent stamp, the Audubon Conservation Resource Center is ready to serve your nature and conservation needs. All of the newest and best in publications, visual aids and gifts constantly fill the tables and book cases at the Center. And MOST important, your purchases help the wide educational conservation programs of your National Audubon Society. We hope to see you or hear from you at 2426 Bancroft Way, Berkeley 4, California.

-- Bill Goodall
Western Representative

New Members

A cordial welcome to the following new members:

Mrs. B. R. Reinertsen	1187 Laureles Dr., Los Altos
Mrs. Wm. Wendt	101 Broadway, Los Gatos
Mr. & Mrs. Norman A. Kirshen	17735 Bucknall Rd., Saratoga
Mr. & Mrs. James L. Weaver	534 Victory Ave., Mtn. View

Mrs. O. La Grange		5 Lester St., Apt. 2, San Jose 25
Mr. & Mrs. John J. Carolan		1850 Willow Road, Palo Alto
Mr. & Mrs. Victor Reis	Summer:	1496 Berheley Ave., Baldwin, N.Y.
	Winter:	384 Calcaterra Place, Palo Alto
Mr. John E. Coleman		1185 Happy Valley Ave., San Jose 29
Mr. & Mrs. Rollin L. Wilson		1652 Bel Air Ave., San Jose 26

-- Mrs. Irving Snow
Membership Chairman

A Look at Ourselves

As I handed over the gavel to Warren Turner, I felt that I owed the members a "State of the Society" message.

The Society has prospered:

our cash position has increased even though we have spent over \$ 700 on new equipment and special contributions and have bought another acre of land;

membership has grown notably but active participation in Society activities has increased even faster to the point of forcing us to seek new quarters;

the influence of the Society is reaching more and more into the lives of the younger generation;

in conservation we have won some of our battles.

Those of you who came to the annual meeting, (and more than 60 turned out) heard the reports of the committee chairmen. They pointed out both the tangible and, to me more important, the intangible accomplishments of the past year. The tangibles are worthy of the efforts of our committees and the help that they have had from the members. The intangibles show in the fine spirit of cooperation, warmth of feeling and spreading influence of the group. As Mrs. Snow said in her annual report: "of one thing I am sure, that no one can be a member of Audubon, for even a short time, and ever after be indifferent to the cause of conservation."

The standing committees, under the guidance of first rate chairmen, are becoming organized in depth, are more influential and show fine performance in their respective fields. The special committees have served the Society well. The AVOCET staff, those loyal souls who month after month spend hours over the tedious task of "getting out the paper", certainly deserve special recognition. The fine quality of the paper is their reward.

The purpose and aims of the Society are becoming increasingly clear in their broader scope. Audubon is a group of forward-looking people, doing constructive things and this idea is taking the place of a former, all-too-restrictive image in the eyes of the public. In our own goals that we set for ourselves we are progressing, in a modest way, toward their attainment.

Your directors are fine people, devoted to the aims of Audubon, work well together and, I hope, enjoy it. To put it mildly, our board meetings have not been a cold example of the rules laid down by Mr. Roberts. The gavel has been rarely used. Sometimes we get vastly confused as to what we are talking about. You all have chosen wisely in your

selection of board members, however, and they, above all, are responsible for what I believe to be the real successes of the past year.

It is with a feeling of warmth and affection that I leave the group and pass on the active guidance to Warren Turner, your new president. He is a much better qualified "Auduboner" than I and I know that he will have your enthusiastic support.

-- Charles Williams
Past President

September Board Report

The Board of Directors held its first meeting of the year at Claude Smith's Mountaintop at Camp Stuart. The Board members and their families enjoyed a "cook out" supper after which the meeting was called to order.

The new Directors - Wilma Thompson, Bob Fuller and John Henderson - were welcomed.

The Chairmen of the Education and Conservation Committees outlined their plans for the coming year.

When the use of Diane Conradson's "Nature Guide" was discussed, it was apparent that members considered it should be used by permanent groups such as Scouts and Campfire Girls for a trial period. Any member wishing to borrow a copy may secure it from Mrs. Conradson, 255 Edlee St., Palo Alto.

The Audubon Wildlife Screen Tours, sponsored jointly by San Jose State College and the Society, result in an income for the Society. The question was raised whether to continue with Stanford University as co-sponsor for the Palo Alto Tours or try S.C.V.A.S. sponsorship using a larger auditorium and receiving greater net proceeds. Now we receive nothing from Stanford and the auditorium is limited to 500 people. The discussion is to be continued at subsequent meetings.

Progress reports were given on Sibley's "Birds of the Bay Area" and Harvey and Weston's "Checklist of the Birds of Santa Clara Valley".

At present when a film is shown at meetings it is rented, as is also the projector. The subject of the Society's buying a projector and films to use in meetings and for lending to groups for educational purposes, was discussed.

Each year we gain in membership even with the inevitable losses. Bob Fuller presented a preliminary plan to increase membership, at a somewhat accelerated rate, in order to reach more people with our conservation message and to increase our income from dues.

-- Dr. Evelyn Case

A Busy Committee Needs Help

Are you an ACTIVE Audubon member? Or merely a participant...The Education Committee needs members who will be ACTIVE as little as two hours per year. We need members who will present one program during the year on any subject, from shore birds to nature photography. We need members who will present programs to Junior Audubon Groups. We need members interested in working with youth groups--Scouts, YMCA, Campfire Girls, etc.--who will help the leaders and councils to plan effective nature programs.

The small group of ACTIVE people who form the Education Committee cannot easily handle all the educational activities planned for the coming year. Your special interest will fit into our program. New members are welcome to help. Will YOU give a few hours of your time to

help us interest others? Write or call Diane Conradson, 255 Edlee Ave., Palo Alto, DA 5-2512.

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Silent Spring, by Rachel Carson, recently reviewed in the Audubon magazine, is now on sale. Miss Carson discusses the widespread use of insecticides and their poisonous effects on all wildlife and man. She not only documents the disastrous results of their usage, but suggests a remedy. This book is the October Book-of-the-Month Club choice, and one every Audubon member should read and ponder.

-- Diane R. Conradson
Education Committee Chairman

CONSERVATION NOTES

THE WILDERNESS BILL IS STILL IN DANGER!

A SUBSTITUTE WILDERNESS BILL was reported Aug. 30 by the House Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs in a form so badly mangled as to be unacceptable to conservationists. Among other objectionable features, it would extend the time allowed for prospecting, mining and oil drilling from ten to twenty-five years. In addition, the Committee passed a resolution directing its chairman to seek floor action under "Suspension of the Rules", a procedure which would prevent consideration of corrective amendments. If the Bill can be brought to the floor under the regular rules, the measure can be restored by amendments expected to be offered by conservation leaders in the House.

Opposition is disproportionately strong in the Interior Committee, since most of its members come from the Western states where commercial users of public lands are particularly influential in political affairs. Conservationists are asking Speaker John McCormack and other House leaders to schedule the Wilderness Bill under its regular rules. Congress adjourns soon, and **TIME IS SHORT!**

MORE CHEERFUL NEWS

U.S. Senate Bill #543, provides for a study of, and some funds for, assisting in the purchase of waterfront or tideland areas important nationally as unique, beautiful, historical or recreational sites. Although San Francisco Bay was not listed as a possible site, Governor Brown has indicated that if there is evidence of sufficient interest, he will act to request that this bill be amended to include San Francisco Bay. It should be kept in mind that seventy percent of the Bay is less than twelve (12) feet deep, and therefore is susceptible to reclamation and permanent destruction unless it is included in long-run programs such as this. Do you have "sufficient interest"?

MOVE TO STOP LOGGING IN THE CASCADES.

Close to home is the action of Congressman Thomas M. Pelly of Washington requesting a temporary halt in the logging of perimeter forests of Washington's Northern Cascades, the better to permit an evaluation of the area as a possible national park.

We commend him for his action, and wish him success.

-- Lloyd N. Case
Conservation Chairman

NOTES FROM AFIELD

I. Nearby Coast

Earl Albertson reported the following observations for the Monterey-Moss Landing area, August 4 and 5. A few BONAPARTE'S GULLS, at least 4 ELEGANT TERNS, 3 KNOTS, all at Moss. No shearwaters were observed from the area until late afternoon on the fifth when a steady stream of SOOTY SHEARWATERS were to be seen offshore from Moss. BAIRD'S SANDPIPERS are reportedly usually found at the Carmel River mouth in August, but Earl found none during an hour's search on 8/4. (The September Avocet listed Oliver Allen's sighting of a Baird's there on 7/21.)

Catherine Lintott scouted on 9/17 and led a field trip on 9/19 along the coast from Palm Beach to Twin Lakes. Emily Smith, Rebecca Turner, Manette Wittgenstein, Carol Zabel, and Claude Smith participated. 41 species were observed, including SHOVELERS, PINTAILS, SEMI-PALMATED and SNOWY PLOVERS, one LONG-BILLED CURLEW, NORTHERN PHALAROPES, ELEGANT TERNS, one WHITE-TAILED KITE, one dead specimen and streams of flying SOOTY SHEARWATERS, over 200 BROWN PELICANS, GREATER and LESSER YELLOWLEGS, and a WESTERN GREBE. Catherine saw more than 24 ELEGANT TERNS near Palm Beach on the 17th. When she took her group there on the 19th, more than 200 PELICANS had taken over the area and only two elegant terns were to be seen.

Oliver Allen reported 20 COMMON, 1 FORSTER'S, 1 ROYAL, and 1 CASPIAN TERN; 1 KNOT; and 2 SAY'S PHOEBES at the mouth of the Pajaro River near Watsonville on 9/22. He advised that BLUE-WINGED TEAL are reported at Point Pinos Lighthouse pond. He saw VESPER SPARROWS at Bean Hollow Beach Plateau (near Pescadero).

II. Nearby Bay

The birding continues to be excellent in the Dumbarton area. Oliver Allen identified one GOLDEN PLOVER there on 8/29. (Both he and I have checked out a good many Black-Bellied Plovers since without finding a Golden.) The SHOVELERS and PINTAILS were abundant by 9/3. On that date I walked along a dike parallel to a line of 397 resting WHITE PELICANS. The flock was reported as considerably larger earlier in the day.

Virginia Bothwell led 21 birders at the Palo Alto Yacht Harbor on 5 September. The 30 species noted included: PIED-BILLED GREBE, RUDY DUCK, RING-NECKED PHEASANT, CLAPPER RAIL (heard), BLACK-NECKED STILT, VIOLET-GREEN and BARN SWALLOWS.

Harriet Mundy led a trip at the Yacht Harbor on Saturday, 9/15, that was expressly to acquaint newcomers with the birds to be found along the Palo Alto bayshore. Unfortunately, there were no newcomers present, but, at least, the 25 regulars enjoyed some good birding south of the Harbor. WHITE PELICANS, immature BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT HERONS, TURKEY VULTURES, two WHITE-TAILED KITES, a SPARROW HAWK, six RING-NECKED PHEASANT, and a CLAPPER RAIL (heard), were among the 32 species observed. Swallows were seen feeding young.

III. Return Of The White- And
Golden-Crowned Sparrows

- 9/17 One WHITE-CROWNED. Los Gatos. Emmanuel Taylor.
9/18 One, 9/19 two, 9/20 several WHITE-CROWNED. Santa Clara, Eve Case.
9/20 Two GOLDEN-CROWNED. Palo Alto. Joyce Todd.
9/20, 9/21 Two each GOLDEN-CROWNED. Two days later than last year.
Saratoga. Emily Smith.
9/22 Two GOLDEN-CROWNED. Los Gatos. Catherine Lintott.

IV. Starlings

STARLINGS become ever more common in this area. Joyce Todd reports she had her first glimpse of this species on 9/18 when over 20 dined on her figs.

On 8/25 Harley Bothwell captured a speckled gray bird which could not fly. He took it home where he and Virginia identified it as their first starling. Harley built a cage for it so it could be cared for and exhibited, but the bird suddenly died the next day.

In September Emmanuel Taylor observed over 250 starlings at the Pierce Dairy Farm in Almaden.

V. Miscellaneous

Emily Smith's triangle of CALIFORNIA THRASHERS (two females and one male) are in their third year at her home. She first observed that the molt had begun on July 28 when the male was seen to be missing two central tail feathers. After more than a month of molting, they were observed to be in full new plumage about mid-September.

Emmanuel Taylor recently saw three WHITE TAILED KITES where the Chesbro Trip participants observed seven on 16 June. Mannie and Mary recently observed a SCREECH OWL and a HAWK OWL near their home in Saratoga.

Joyce and John Todd have been hearing a GREAT HORNED OWL once a week or so near their home in Palo Alto.

Oliver Allen observed a YELLOW-BILLED CUCKOO at the junction of the San Joaquin and Tuolumne Rivers on 9/10.

Eve Case had transient WESTERN WOOD PEWEES and WESTERN FLYCAT-CHERS at her Santa Clara home during September.

Betty and John von Rossler have written about the wildlife around their home near Los Gatos. One July afternoon there were 5 pair of mature QUAIL, an extra cock, 6 broods of young, all adding up to 61 quail! Sixteen STELLER'S JAYS, 5 FLICKERS, and eight other species were observed as well as chipmunks, rabbits, and grey squirrels. They often see a black-tail doe and her twin fawns, a grey fox, and three raccoons, including one who scratches on the door for supper.

Bob Fuller compiles the Notes From Afield. Please give him your material and suggestions for the next month's Notes prior to 20 October. His address is 835 Webster St., Palo Alto, Tel.: DA 5-9575.

Our young contributor of bird observations from 1621 Channing Ave., Palo Alto is now identified as Russell Greenberg. On Aug. 29 he wrote me, "I saw a Loggerhead Shrike and its nest with eggs in it at the Palo Alto Municipal Golf course 4th hole. And at Moss Beach we saw a flock of Black Turnstones." Thanks, Russell, and why not send your monthly notes to Mr. Fuller (whose address is above) so that he can work them into his column?

--J.T.

Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society
Branch of
National Audubon Society

1962 - 1963

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Wilma Thompson	Treasurer	758 Pollard Rd., Los Gatos	FR8-4333
John R. Brokenshire	Director	102 S. 23rd St., San Jose #27	293-6289
Robert L. Fuller	Director	835 Webster St., Palo Alto	DA5-9575
Kenneth E. Hutton	Director	1145 Amarillo St., Palo Alto	327-0368
Claude Smith	Director	P.O. Box 489, Saratoga	UN7-3629
John Henderson	Director	20570 Canyon View Drive, Saratoga	UN7-4304

Membership Mrs. Irving Snow
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The Avocet

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