

President's Message

I know a person who a year ago gave a National Audubon Society membership subscription as a Christmas gift. I also know that this gift has given much pleasure this past year. In case any one is interested, a membership costs \$6.50 for one person--\$10 for husband and wife. This covers dues to the National Society and to our Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society; also includes the National Audubon Magazine and the local AVOCET.

Mrs. Irving Snow, 21441 Roaring Water Way, Los Gatos can make all arrangements for you. Either write to her or telephone EL 4-1811.

Warm Christmas and New Year Greetings and good birding
December 30 and in all of 1963.

-- Warren M. Turner

The Doctors Take on Pesticides

Rachel Carson's theory that man is planting the seeds of his own destruction by chemically altering his environment got powerful support from a panel of local scientists. In her book, "Silent Spring", Miss Carson contends that the insecticides we use to eliminate the pests around us are actually poisoning the food we eat and the air we breathe. Or, as Dr. J. Ralph Audy said during a discussion at the San Francisco Medical Society, "the most dangerous thing we do is simplify things - replace the complex with enormous uniformity..." Dr. Audy is director of the Hooper Foundation for Medical Research and is a professor of tropical medicine and human ecology at the University of California School of Medicine. Dr. Douglas G. Campbell, associate professor of psychiatry at the UC Medical School, said that by attempting to exterminate insects, we are bringing about a "subtle method of self-destruction". He described a number of patients thought to be suffering from psychosomatic disorders. Dr. Campbell eventually found that all of the patients were either avid gardeners or agricultural workers. They all used pesticides. They were, in fact, "cases of pesticide poisoning mistakenly diagnosed as neurotics," he said. The poison we spill into the air comes not only from pesticides, Dr. Chauncey D. Leake said. It also comes from "our millions of autos burning gasoline into carbon dioxide". And at the same time, we are destroying the plants that could "dissipate that poison," said Dr. Leake, who is professor emeritus of pharmacology at Ohio State University and a lecturer in the UC Medical School. "I would put in 10 trees for every auto, 100 trees for every truck and 100,000 trees for every jet," he said. And yet, "blithely we are destroying the green things as fast as we can". It is, the panelists concluded, a form of suicide.--Ron Fichte

S.F. Chronicle 11/9

COMING EVENTS AT A GLANCE

- Mon. Dec. 10 4:15 p.m. Stanford University
- Mon. Dec. 10 8:00 p.m. San Jose State College
- Sun. Dec. 30 7:30 a.m. Christmas Bird Count.
- Sat. Jan. 5 9:00 a.m. Richardson's Bay.
- Wed. Jan. 2 7:30 p.m. Directors' Meeting.



December Calendar

Directors' Meeting: None in December.

Wednesday, January 2, 7:30 p.m., at the home of Dr. Evelyn Case, 2586 Homestead Road, Santa Clara.

Regular Meeting: None in December. Details of January 7 meeting in the next Avocet.

Field Trips: (No Wednesday trips in December)

Sunday, December 30, Annual Christmas Bird Count.

Meeting Place: East San Jose at the home of Frances and Richard Mewaldt, 4150 Golf Drive (CL 8-7491). Everyone be there by 7:30 a.m. Bring lunch. Reconvene at 4:30 p.m. sharp at the Mewaldts. Refreshments will be served during the tally.

Count Area: Same as in past years - a circular area 15 miles in diameter. The center is northeast of city limits at the junction of Mabury Rd. and Capitol Ave.

Sectors: The count area will be divided into five sectors:

- A. Alviso Sector, bounded on the east by State Highway 17 (old Oakland Highway) and on the south by Bayshore Highway. Bayshore Highway is inside this sector.
- B. Southwest Sector, bounded on the north and east by Bayshore Highway. Bayshore Highway, south of Alum Rock Ave., is inside this sector.
- C. Evergreen Sector, bounded by Bayshore Highway, Alum Rock Ave. and Mt. Hamilton Rd. Mt. Hamilton Road is inside this sector.
- D. Alum Rock Sector, bounded on south and west by Mt. Hamilton Rd., Alum Rock Ave. and Bayshore Highway; on the north by Capitol Ave. and Sierra Road. Alum Rock Ave., Bayshore Highway, Oakland Highway and Capitol Ave. are all inside this sector.
- E. Calaveras Sector, bounded by Sierra Rd., Capitol Ave. and old Oakland Highway. Sierra Rd. and Oakland Highway inside this sector.

Sector Leaders:

- A. (Alviso) - Dr. Henry Weston, 14700 Golf Links Dr., Los Gatos (356 - 5936)
- B. (Southwest) - Mrs. Irving Snow, 21441 Roaring Water Way, Los Gatos (EL 4- 1811)
- C. (Evergreen) - Mr. & Mrs. Emmanuel Taylor, 14311 Quito Rd., Saratoga (DR 9-3424)
- D. (Alum Rock) - Mr. Phil Gordon, 37758 Elmore Ct., Fremont (793-6391)
- E. (Calaveras) - Mr. Albert J. Wool, Box 68, La Honda (PI 7-0317)

Each leader is responsible for planning the itinerary within his sector. (If you know where there is good birding within a sector, let the leader know.) At the meeting place, on the day of the count, the assembled bird counters will divide into groups and go with whichever leader they wish. If you know now which sector you wish to join telephone or write the leader. It will be a big help in planning the itinerary if the leader knows beforehand how many observers (and cars) he can count on for his sector. If you have any questions call Eve Case (243-2467), Howard Wolcott (WH 8-6821) or one of the leaders.

Records: One person in each group will act as recorder and will record the counts of each species of wild bird positively identified.

In making estimates of large numbers, indicate the probable error; for example: 2000 \pm 300. If unable to estimate degree of accuracy, record estimate as: 2000 est.

In adding estimates to actual counts, in the final tally, indicate accuracy in this way: Coot 2137; (2000 \pm 300. 173) This shows that of the total number of 2173 coots reported, 173 were actually counted and the rest estimated.

Record (1) hours and (2) mileage spent on (1) foot (2) by car, by each group of the sector.

As weather conditions affect results, keep a record of the weather:

minimum and maximum temperatures;

wind direction and approximate velocity;

cloud cover - % of sky covered by clouds;

additional pertinent notes, as fog, rain, sun, etc.

Because habitats are important in evaluating species counts, record the habitats visited, such as salt marsh, canyon stream, oak woodland, grassland, golf course, etc. Give percentage of time spent in each habitat.

Saturday January 5, to Richardson's Bay. Meet at 9:00 a.m. at service station on right side of road just north of Richardson's Bay Bridge (near Mill Valley). This bridge is approximately six miles north of Golden Gate Bridge on Highway U.S. 101. Bring lunch. Leaders: Ralph Trullinger and John Brokenshire (293-6289).

-- Howard Wolcott

Field Trip Chairman

Screen Tours:

Monday, December 10, at 4:15 p.m. at Cubberley Auditorium, Education Building, Escondido Road and Lasuen Street, Stanford University. Walter Breckenridge presents Island Treasure - dramatic history of an island wilderness far up the Mississippi River. The caribou give way to white-tailed deer; the bald eagle to the great horned owl; snowshoe rabbit to cottontail. A veritable "treasure island" of songbirds, game birds, animals and plant life common to the United States and Canada, presented in color motion pictures by Dr. Breckenridge of Minneapolis. Tickets for this second season are available at Tressider Union Ticket Office.

Monday, December 10, at 8:00 p.m. at Morris Dailey Auditorium, San Jose State College. Dr. Breckenridge will again speak and show his film Island Treasure.

New Members

We give a hearty welcome to the following new members:

Mr. C.V. Barnhill	Crothers Memorial, Stanford
Pauline S. Opler	923 Ironwood, San Jose 25
Mrs. Jo Ann Gholson	877 Lonna Lane, San Jose 29
Mr. Newell F. Ford	244 Santa Rita Ave., Palo Alto
Miss Wanda E. Dee	649 Mills Ave., Los Altos
Mr & Mrs. Harwood Warrimer	19120 Monte Vista Ave., Saratoga

-- The Membership Committee

1962 National Convention

Members who attended the National Audubon Convention in Corpus Christi, Texas, in November, have nothing but admiration for the staff and speakers. Bill Goodall, our Western Representative, outdid even himself and was everywhere at once. Watch the Audubon Magazine for publication of the most significant papers.

-- Joyce Todd

Highlights of the Nov. Meeting of Board of Directors

Mrs. Conradson reported that the Nature Guide was being received well by groups interested in youth education.

A set of Dawson's Birds of California has been donated to the Society Library.

The first copies of the new edition of Sibley's Birds of the South San Francisco Bay Region were shown. They will be available at monthly meetings.

Two films were shown on our new projector with the thought that they might be suitable to acquire for use in education. As it was late, no action was taken.

Bill Goodall has asked our Society to be host for refreshments on the Sunday afternoon of the Asilomar Conference in April.

It was voted to have an S.C.V.A.S. telephone listing for the north and south county areas.

Also a decision was reached to have some kind of nature subject exhibit at each monthly meeting.

--Eve Case

Committee for Green Foothills

President: Wallace Stegner

Objectives:

1. To protect and preserve what still remains of the natural character of the foothills and mountains in the general area from Black Mountain to Kings Mountain.
2. To create a wide public and governmental awareness of and concern for the preservation of this area in essentially its natural state.
3. To take immediate and forceful action to stop urbanization and commercial exploitation of this irreplaceable asset to all the residents of the mid-peninsula.

Committee for Green Foothills
P.O. Box 11511, Station A
Palo Alto, California

Telephones: DA 4-4633, DA 5 -5377

Does The Shoe Fit?

Vacation in the High Sierras! The Palo Alto Boy Scout Council would like to have either a full time or several part time field trip guides or naturalists to help at its summer camp at Huntington Lake, California. The full time naturalist would work from June 16 to August 23, 1963, and be paid a full salary. The part time guides would volunteer their services from several days to weeks, receiving free food and lodging. In both positions, a tent cabin and three meals per day in the camp dining room would be provided for the family of the naturalist at a cost of about \$1.50 per person per day. The

volunteer guide would spend part or all of his vacation at the camp and take the scouts on nature hikes, teach conservation, or do whatever he wished. The full time, salaried naturalist would have a more specific program. If you are interested in this wonderful opportunity, call John Marshall, Scout House, Palo Alto at DA 3-2447. (Sorry - this applies to men only, but you wives can persuade your husbands to volunteer so you can have a cooking-free vacation!)

The Education Committee is receiving more requests for trips and programs than it can fulfill without calling repeatedly upon the same few people. If anyone would volunteer to lead trips or give simple programs once a month, particularly during the week days, it will help us very much in our education program. Please write or call Diane Conradson, 255 Edlee, Palo Alto, DA 5-2512.

Have You Moved?

Members who change addresses are urgently requested to send their new address to the Registrar, Mrs. Fanny E. Zwaal, 478 Clifton Ave., San Jose 28 or to the Circulation Manager, Miss Elsie Hoeck, 1311 Cristina Ave., San Jose 25. Otherwise you will fail to receive the Avocet, since it is Third Class Mail and is not forwarded nor returned to sender.

--Fanny Zwaal

Conservation Notes

The following is rewritten, by permission, from the latest issue of the Sierra Club Bulletin. Editor Bruce M. Kilgore wrote, in part: "...We are particularly impressed by two contrasting statements from Congressmen - one an expression of strong support for the wilderness principle by Charles Gubser of California's Tenth District" (Rep. Gubser's San Jose office address is 201 Bank of America Bldg., San Jose 13.)..."Mr. Gubser said in a note to his constituents: "...Nature is almost a spiritual thing to many of us. We have no desire to inflict our spiritual beliefs upon others who prefer concrete pavement and city parks to the wide open spaces. But we do feel that we are entitled to the preservation of some natural wilderness before the rest of society ruins it for all time. We feel that future generations also have the right to see some of what God created as He created it, without highways and beer cans, road signs, gas stations, junk yards, and taverns...."

The other statement referred to was one by Wayne N. Aspinall, Chairman of the House Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs, presented at the White House Conference on Conservation. Mr. Aspinall said, in part: "...To me this is what conservation has meant: accepting all the material resources that nature is capable of providing, taking those natural resources where they are, and developing them for the best use of the people as a whole.....Congress will continue to equate conservation with wise use; will not put out of reach resources that may be required for our national continuance; and that all the resources will be managed for the benefit of the many and not the few."

Congressman Wayne Aspinall won the anti-wilderness battle in the 87th Congress. And the Wilderness Bill and the American public lost. For there were not enough Charlie Gubser's in Congress. But Congressmen can change. Their constituents can bring about this change - either in the outlook of a man or in the man himself. Everyone has a constitutional right - and a moral obligation - to know what his Congressman

thinks about wilderness (and any other conservation issue), and in turn to let him know what the constituent thinks. The opponents of wilderness exercised this right forcefully, as the results of the 87th Congress made clear.

Let us make sure that the 88th Congress is not so strongly influenced by a one-sided presentation of the public's concern about wilderness.

The Golden Eagle Bill:

The Golden Eagle Bill is now law, part of the "Amended Bald Eagle Act". It was signed by President Kennedy at the White House, on October 24, 1962

Whooping Cranes:

No juvenile Whooping Cranes came down from the Canadian breeding grounds in this last fall migration. It is thought by the experts who are involved with the management and preservation of the "Whoopers" that the failure to breed successfully was due to unusual and severe weather conditions on the breeding grounds.

The Aransas Wildlife Refuge reports 36 adults wintering on the refuge. Numerous pairs of these, plus a few singles, totalling up to some 23 individuals were seen by Auduboners who made the boat trip to the Aransas Refuge as part of the program of the 58th Annual Convention At Corpus Christi, Nov. 10-14.

No Rachel Carson Reprints:

In October, it was announced that reprints of the Rachel Carson articles in "Audubon Magazine", from her book Silent Spring, would be available. Because of certain agreements, the reprints cannot be made. At Corpus Christi, President Buchheister urged everyone to buy the book and read it in its entirety. It can be purchased from the Audubon Resource Center, 2426 Bancroft Way, Berkeley 4 - or it can be borrowed from the library at the Cases'. Telephone AX 6-2410, except between 1:00 and 3:00 p.m.

Book Notes:

Our Society's eagerly awaited reprints of Dr. Charles G. Sibley's book, The Birds of the South San Francisco Bay Region, are now available, after a great deal of devoted effort on the part of Mr. & Mrs. Emmanuel Taylor.

While it was originally issued in 1952, it is still, for the present, at least, the best available book on distribution in the South Bay region. Dr. Sibley gave us permission to include a number of additional sections on Avian Ecology, Distribution, Bird Migration, and Bird Behavior. These sections add a great deal of value to the book for the local birder.

The book is contained within tough and durable covers, is bound with a plastic binding which allows the opened pages to lie flat - a tremendous improvement over the previous stapled binding. This binding is due entirely to the efforts of "Manny" Taylor and his wife. They deserve a unanimous vote of thanks for their terrific job in mimeographing, assembling, and binding these books. Speaking for the entire membership - THANK YOU, Mr. & Mrs. Taylor.

Copies will be available at the regular monthly meetings (present price \$1.00) or can be obtained, in the Palo Alto area from Pres. Warren Turner, DA 5-7777; in the Los Gatos-Saratoga area from Emmanuel Taylor, DR 9-3424; or in the San Jose-Santa Clara area from Eve Case, AX 6-2410.

--Lloyd N. Case

Notes From Afield

Past Field Trips

October 24 - Stanford University. Sixteen persons led by Helen Proctor saw 19 bird species in the Mausoleum area under a high fog during a trip designed to acquaint new birders with local birds.

November 3 - Teynham Woodward Ranch on Skyline Blvd. Twenty-one people on a warm sunny morning above the heavy valley fog saw, besides 24 birds, many muskmelon-sized puffball fungi and beautiful ferns. Leader: Virginia Bothwell.

November 14 - Stevens Creek. Fifteen birders with Margaret Henderson walked from Camp Sycamore to the top of Lookout Mt. and saw a new record low of seven birds, but plenty of maidenhair fern.

November 18 - Mt. Hermon. With leaders Adist Boylan and Fanny Zwaal, eighteen people saw 20 species in one of our favorite areas.

Observations

LAPLAND LONGSPUR - 1 Point Reyes October 22

TROPICAL INGBIRD - 1 Princeton October 25. These birds migrate northward in late September and October, after their breeding season and then return southward soon. On November 9 Don McLean saw 2 on a telephone wire along the highway 3 miles south of Pigeon Pt. light-house.

HARLEQUIN DUCK - 1 female in surf off Cypress Pt., 17 Mile Drive October 26. Lynn Robbins with Professor and Mrs. Viro Wynn-Edwards of Aberdeen, Scotland.

BLACKPOLL WARBLER - 1 Pt. Reyes October 28 - Richard Stallcup, Marie Mans, Grace Miller, Paul De Benedictis, Roy Fisk, OIA.

BALD EAGLE - 2 young in south section of Sacramento National Wildlife Refuge for 1 3/4 hours as they flew low among the flushed ducks and geese looking for a dead, sick or wounded bird to eat. They also perched in trees or on the ground - November 4.

HARRIS SPARROW - 1 at residence of Don McLean in Willow Glen - on November 5.

OSPREY, BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKE - 1 each Waddell Beach Nov. 9 - Don McLean.

BROWN THRASHER - 1 at feeder of Mr. & Mrs. William L. Chenery, 2 miles south of Big Sur State Park, October 20 to November 15. Seen and photographed November 15 by Dr. Ron Branson and Vern Yadon.

ELEGANT TERN - 1 still at Moss Landing November 16. Most terns present were FORSTER'S with a very few COMMON.

December Attractions

The waterfowl refuges will be better this month than in November.

SACRAMENTO NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE - 3 BLUE GEESE were seen last December 6 by a small group from San Francisco. The tame EMPEROR GOOSE flew away last spring, so any you might see will be wild! YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRDS are resident year-round in a limited area of the south section.

TOMALES and BODEGA BAY will be greatly increased in duck population. Watch for OLDSQUAW DUCKS among the large SCOTER flocks in the bays.

DUMBARTON - channel under the bridge will be collecting ducks. The second half of the split hunting season is open from December 8 to January 6. The RAIL situation in this area will be improving. On November 12 from the railroad at our sanctuary, in one sweep of his telescope, Earl Albertson counted 65 CLAPPER RAILS roosting above the exceptionally high tide. On the day before, a comparable number was

seen in the Golden Gate Audubon-maintained Newark Sanctuary. Lynn Robbins who was with us estimated there might be twice this many, counting those not immediately visible. The CLAPPER are resident there. The tiny BLACK RAIL was seen last winter during two very high tides. Later on November 12, there were over 200 KNOTS on the mud as the tide receded near the San Francisco water service pump house.

MONTEREY BAY and MOSS LANDING. Watch these places during storms as described in the November Avocet.

PANOCHÉ VALLEY should still be good for FERRUGINOUS HAWK and possible LONGSPUR.

WHITE MOUNTAINS east of Bishop still did not have the birds expected on Thanksgiving week-end, as apparently the states to the north-east have not had sufficiently severe weather to drive them into this area where Don McLean, in other years, has found BLACK ROSY FINCH, LAPLAND, MCGOWN'S and CHESTNUT COLLARED LONGSPURS, and TREE and HARRIS SPARROWS. The trip this time yielded only SAGE GROUSE (many) in a dependable location near Convict Lake and a GOLDEN EAGLE at Deep Springs Lake.

--Oliver I. Allen.
490 Orange Ave., Los Altos
948-5639