

The Avocet

Volume X Number 7

September, 1963

President's Message

Progress in the Right Direction Department: A special Palo Alto committee on Baylands, subcommittee of the Mayor's Citizens' Advisory Committee on Parks and Recreation, has recommended establishment of a marshlands park on the Palo Alto baylands. This happened at a meeting July 30, which your president attended with Miss Lucy Evans of the society's Conservation Committee.

The recommendation, presented by Major Nichols, chairman of the subcommittee, was approved by the committee as a whole without a dissenting vote.

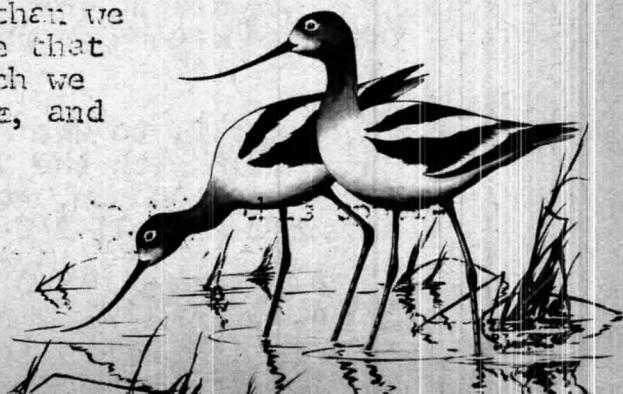
Major Nichols' committee recommended that a strip of the marshland extending from the end of the mudflats back 300 to 400 yards, and in length from Cooley Landing in San Mateo County on the north to Sand Point on the south, be established in perpetuity as a wildlife refuge. The committee proposed also construction of appropriate walks or paths to make the area accessible for bird watchers.

Your president expressed appreciation in behalf of the Audubon Society for what obviously is a step in the right direction. We have nothing there now, and approval of this recommendation will insure that part of the area at least will be preserved in its natural state. Your president pointed out to the committee that the wildlife which inhabits the Palo Alto area might not be so happy -- at present wildlife has the whole waterfront area. In the future it appears wildlife may be restricted to this particular strip.

Earlier in the summer the undersigned joined with Dr. Tom Harvey and Conservation Committee Chairman Lloyd Case in the preparation of recommendations to the Santa Clara County Planning Commission, urging that four other baylands areas farther south, totalling about 350 acres, be preserved in their natural state for the protection of bird and plant life.

Expressing Hope Department: It is your president's fervent hope that the increase in dues will not be allowed to stunt our growth nor cramp our style. President Buchheister has advised us that regular memberships are up to \$8.50 from \$6.50 and that husband-wife memberships are now family memberships (any two) and are up to \$12.50 from \$10.00. Other categories are up also. There's a silver lining in the situation, literally, for our own society. We get half the increase, i.e., \$1.00 more per member for our own use than we received formerly. I hope we can demonstrate that we feel so strongly about the things for which we stand that we'll take this increase in stride, and that our growth will continue -- unabated.

Worth Repeating Department: "I would like to take this opportunity to thank (the Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society) for the scholarship which enabled me to attend the



Field Studies in Natural History School (of San Jose State College) at Mount Lassen National Park. I enjoyed my trip very much...learned quite a lot. This trip has encouraged me to sign up next Easter for the Field Studies at Death Valley. I realize the fine opportunities of learning in these situations."-signed by Penelope Silva, winner of one of several of our society's scholarships made possible by funds from annual screen tours.

Good News Department: Lloyd Case, chairman of our Committee on Conservation and Legislation, is recuperating satisfactorily from a serious illness and operation which curtailed his summer's activities considerably. He'll understand it's the recuperation that's the good news, for which his Audubon Society friends are very happy.

--John R. Brokenshire

Coming Events at a Glance

Wed. Sept. 4	5:45 p.m.	Board Meeting
Sat. Sept. 7	9:00 a.m.	Hoover Ranch
Mon. Sept. 9	8:00 p.m.	San Jose
Wed. Sept. 11	8:30 a.m.	Alviso
Sun. Sept. 22	9:00 a.m.	Moss Landing
Wed. Sept. 25	10:00 a.m.	Portola Road area

September Calendar

Board Meeting:

Wednesday, Sept. 4: Meeting of board members, committee chairmen, husbands and wives, with Director Claude Smith playing host at his Saratoga "Eyre". "Cook-out" dinner about 5:45, meeting follows. Details already in hands of directors and committee chairmen.

Regular Meeting:

Monday, Sept. 9: First Meeting of Year: Dr. Eve Case, vice president of the society, starts the new year for us with what promises to be a fascinating account, with pictures, of her Panama bird watching expedition this summer. One of the favored few accepted to accompany Dr. Ernest Edwards, University of Pacific ornithologist, on his summer exploration of jungles and mountains, Dr. Case recorded an even 150 new birds, experienced cloud forests and rain forests and is prepared to tell us all about it.

Second feature, at no increase in price, the motion picture Marshland Is Not Wasteland, produced by Roy Wilcox, with Daniel Merriman, director Bingham Oceanographic Laboratory of Yale University, as collaborator.

As usual, Rosegarden Branch of the San Jose Public Library, Dana and Naglee Streets, 8:00 p.m.

Field Trips:

Saturday, Sept. 7, to the Hoover Ranch near Davenport. This is a joint trip with the Santa Cruz Bird Club. Meet at Waddell Beach at 9:00 a.m. to leave at 9:30 sharp for the ranch. For information call 243-2467.

Wednesday Morning, Sept. 11, to marshes and salt ponds at Alviso, where the fall migration of shore birds should be nearing its peak. Meet in front of George Mayne School in Alviso, on the San Jose-Alviso Road (which is an extension of San Jose's North First Street). Please meet in time to start the trip at 8:30 a.m. and bring a scope if you have one. Leader: Mrs. Eva McRae (258-3011).

Sunday, Sept. 22, Viola Anderson will lead us on a Moss Landing trip. Tide is best on that day. Meet at Jetty Road at 9:00 a.m. Bring lunch. Will visit the salt flats for Phalaropes. For information call 243-2467.

Wednesday, Sept 25, to a particularly choice area in Portola Valley. Meet at the Village Square Shopping Center on Portola Road at 10:00 a.m. Bring lunch if you wish since the hour is later than usual. Leader: Virginia Bothwell (DA 2-1209).

Monthly Meetings: Generally for the coming year, San Jose meetings will be on the second Monday of the month, and Palo Alto meetings on the second Wednesday. Here's the schedule of dates for the year:

<u>San Jose</u>	<u>Palo Alto</u>
Monday, September 9	Wednesday, October 9
Wednesday, November 13	Wednesday, January 8
Monday, February 10	Wednesday, March 11
Monday, April 13	Wednesday, May 13
<u>Annual Meeting: Monday, June 8</u>	

New Members

A hearty welcome to the following new members! To former members who have returned, a glad "Welcome Home"!

Mr. and Mrs. J.R. Masson	2230 Amherst St., Palo Alto
Mrs. Margaret Landry	206 Hamilton Ave., Mountain View
Miss Megan Landry) Student Members	
Miss Elissa Landry)	
Miss Dorothy J. Kenney	816 S. 11th St., # 9, San Jose 12
Miss Lillian E. Gorham	200 S. Rimpan Blvd., Los Angeles 12
Mr. George C. Marshall, Jr.	4752 Hamilton Ave. Apt. 12, San Jose 30
Dr. Herbert Wittgenstein	15355 Bellecourt, Saratoga
Miss Laura Fitinghoff	1225 Hedding St., San Jose
Mr. and Mrs. John I. Walker	1818 Emerson St., Palo Alto
Mrs. Evelyn A. Sturm	P.O. Box 243, Los Altos
Miss Nancy Storm	182 Encinal Ave., Atherton
Prof. David M. Potter	13606 Page Mill Rd., Los Altos
Mr. Grant Hoyt	2261 Columbia St., Palo Alto
Mrs. Richard Herndon	1554 Walnut Dr., Palo Alto
Mrs. Mary Miller	2130 Mills Ave., Menlo Park
Mrs. Ruth B. Canoles	605 Hillsborough Blvd., Hillsborough
	--Angelina Snow, Membership Chairman

Committee Chairmen - 1963-64

Conservation & Legislation	Lloyd Case, 2566 Homestead Rd. Santa Clara	243-2467
Education	Diane Conradson, 255 Edlee St. Palo Alto	325-2512
Field Notes	Ralph Trullinger, 1960 Santa Cruz Menlo Park	321-3995
Field Trips	Howard B. Wolcott, 25511 Altamont Los Altos Hills	943-6821
	Emily D. Smith, 19651 Glen Una Dr. Saratoga	354-2504
	Virginia Bothwell, 2487 Illinois St East Palo Alto	322-1200
Finance & Auditing	Warren Turner, 646 Alvarado Row Stanford	325-7777
Historian	Warren Turner, 646 Alvarado Row Stanford	325-7777
Membership	Mrs. Irving Snow, 21441 Roaring Waters Way, Los Gatos	354-1811
Programs	Mrs. Kay McCann, 783 Garland Dr, Palo Alto	324-1380
Registrar	Mrs. Fanny Zwaal, 473 Clifton Av. San Jose	292-2000
Sanctuary	William H. Pillow, 675 Orange Av. Los Altos	943-1300
Publicity	J.R. Brockschire, 102 S. 23rd St. San Jose	293-6289
Screen Tours - San Jose	Dr. A.G. Applegarth, 2028 Langsford Ave., San Jose	269-3662
Screen Tours - Stanford	Chas. D. Williams, 140 Goya Rd. Menlo Park	323-1787
Social (South)	Mrs. Caroline Davis, 1201 Pedro St. San Jose	297-7219
Social (North)		
Telephone	Mrs. W.H. Pillow, 675 Orange Ave. Los Altos	943-1300

Financial Report

June 1, 1962, to June 30, 1963

	Beginning 6-1-62	Ending 6-30-63
Building Fund	\$ 69.00	\$ 94.00
Library Fund	166.70	179.70
Savings Account	2,313.04	2,395.75
Commercial Checking Account	<u>281.45</u>	<u>534.80*</u>
Total	\$2,835.19	\$3,204.25

* Note: Checking account contains \$200.00 earmarked only for purchase of a color and sound 16 mm moving picture.

Expenditures Included

Cost of publishing the AVOCET	\$ 391.47
Gifts to Condor Fund, Canyon Ranch, Nature Conservancy, Student Scholarships	435.00
Purchase of Projector and Screen	326.40
Purchase of Nature Film NATURE NEXT DOOR	275.60
Reimburse expenses to officers and committee chairmen	101.00
Printing, rentals, Bird Count, pamphlets	<u>281.50</u>
Total	\$1,900.97

Receipts Came from

Dues and subscriptions	990.72
Gifts from members	540.00
Screen Tours and savings interest	597.71
Sales of books, book plates, cards	<u>152.61</u>
Total	\$2,281.11

--Mr. Kirkwood & Mr. Turner
Auditors

Conservation Notes

UVAS CANYON PARK IS A MUST. The San Jose Mercury-News for Sunday, August 4, carried an excellent editorial under the caption "UVAS CANYON DEVELOPMENT IS A 'MUST'". The editorial points out that "the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors is being extremely short-sighted in refusing to add 153 acres to the county's Uvas Canyon Park for the nominal sum of \$35,000...."

The reluctance is based on the scarcity of money, but as the editorial points out, the real issue is not primarily one of money, but one of philosophy. The Supervisors believe that, in general, county parks and recreation areas should be developed as rapidly as they are acquired. That is acceptable, but the over-all effect of our rapidly increasing population should not be ignored when considering the acquisition of lands for parks and recreation areas. In a decade or so the population will have spread over much of the areas that are now available, such as this Uvas Canyon Park addition. Another fallacy in the "waiting program" is that when the road into the park is improved and extended, the 153 acres now available for \$35,000 will increase in value and the taxpayers of the county will have to pay much more for it.

We should all do what we can to point out to the Board that the old saying about the time and tide waiting for no man applies equally to tides of population.

INSECTICIDES still continue to take their toll, while authorities delay action "until studies can be made"! It didn't take much "study" to trace the cause of death of 10,000 fish in Yolo County (August 2, 1963) to a laborer (employed by Farm Air, a Natoma crop dusting company) who had dumped excess "Endrin" into a drainage ditch north of Woodland, thus polluting water that runs into Tule Canal.

A report from lower Yakima Valley, Washington, dated August 4, states that two crop-dusting planes were applying tetraethyl

pyrophosphate to a hop field. A farmer in the area noticed a "white cloud sort of hanging near the ground". When he investigated, five of his cows were dead, ten others were in difficulty. Thirty-eight men, women and children, residents of an area of a little more than a square mile, were hospitalized.

Do we have to start killing people, as well as wildlife, before state and federal law-makers will realize that insecticides are dangerous and must be controlled effectively?

TULE LAKE - KLAMATH BASIN WILD LIFE REFUGES have been assured by a bill passed by the Senate (July 15). Sponsored by California Senators Kuchel (Rep.) and Engle (Dem.), the bill makes wildlife conservation paramount to all other uses of 133,000 acres of public land in the Klamath Basin of California and Oregon. Adopted by the Senate, the bill has been presented to the Congressional Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs, -- where it could still die, unless conservationists give it active support.

A spokesman for Sen. Kuchel's office pointed out that four members of the committee are Californians, and he further stated that "these men could get the job done in a hurry if they wish."

The men referred to are Congressmen Harold P. Johnson (Roseville), Ed Roybal (Los Angeles), Craig Hosmer (Long Beach) and Pat Martin (Riverside). These men do not represent our own area, unfortunately, but our local Representative, Hon. Charles S. Gubser (House Office Building, Washington 25, D.C.) is an ardent supporter of conservation measures (particularly the Wilderness Bill). His conservation-minded constituents should do more than just "hope" that he will try to persuade the members of the Committee that the Klamath Bill is of vital importance to all wildfowl that use the Pacific Flyway, and that their own areas will benefit if the measure is reported favorably out of committee.

THE WILDERNESS BILL? Yes, it is still questionable!

Have you been noticing the "CONGRESSIONAL BOXSCORE" as published from time to time in the San Jose Mercury-News? It shows that the bill is still in the same position that it was in at the end of the 87th Congress. Unless conservationists stir up a fight and get it brought up before the Committee, it will be a lost cause, again. The chairman of the Committee is an avowed opponent of the Bill, and will try again to smother it.

"National Wildlife" for Aug.-Sept. (published by National Wildlife Federation) contains a most enlightening map of the National Wilderness Preservation System. It shows clearly how very important the Wilderness Bill is to the Western States, and to California in particular. East of the 100th meridian there are only 15 areas to be included or considered under the Wilderness Act. West of that line (and not including 12 areas in Alaska) there are a total of 123 such areas, 27 of which are in California. (Arizona and Colorado are tied for second place, with 16 each.)

I In California we would have 7 National Forest areas included on passage, 11 National Forest primitive areas included but subject to review, and 9 Areas of the National Park System units which may be designated Wilderness after review.

This is a heritage which we cannot afford to lose for our future generations, but lose it we surely shall unless we do more than sit back and "hope". It is very easy to say "Let George do it!" But has it ever occurred to you that maybe "George" is fully occupied with his own "chores"?

Since the Wilderness Bill is now in a House Committee, we must give our active support to our own Representative, Hon. Chas. Gubser.
--Lloyd H. Case

Notes from Afield

Foothill Park Trip, May 25

Although the walk was a little strenuous, a good time was had by all. It was most interesting to have a first-hand preview of this property. A total of 22 species of birds were identified plus numerous wild flowers. Besides the birds and wild flowers, the nest of a Turret Spider was seen. A Western Fence Lizard (Blue-bellied Lizard) was also observed.

The following is a list of the birds identified: Mourning Dove (2), Anna's Hummingbird (1 female), Western Flycatcher (2), Western Wood Pewee (6), Violet-green Swallow (2), Cliff Swallow (3), Steller's Jay (1), Chestnut-backed Chickadee (12 est.), Plain Titmouse (1), Wrentit (several heard), Redwinged Blackbird (4 +), Brewer's Blackbird (6+), Yellow Warbler (2), Western Meadowlark (several heard), Black-headed Grosbeak (1), House Finch (2), Lesser Goldfinch (1), Rufous-sided Towhee (several heard and 1 seen), Oregon Junco (3), Song Sparrow (2).

Duveneck Ranch Trip, May 22

A group of 12 observers and guests identified a total of 33 species of birds. Besides the birds several species of wild plants and flowers were seen. Especially fine was a large field of Wind Poppies. The weather was overcast and cool.

The following is a list of the birds identified: California Quail (1 heard), Band-tailed Pigeon (1), Anna's Hummingbird (1), Red-shafted Flicker (1), Downy Woodpecker (1), Ash-throated Flycatcher (1), Black Phoebe (2), Western Flycatcher (1), Olive-sided Flycatcher (1 heard), Violet-green Swallow (1), Steller's Jay (2), Chestnut-backed Chickadee (1), Common Bushtit (2), Wrentit (1 heard), House Wren (1 heard), California Thrasher (1 heard), Robin (1), Swainson's Thrush (1 heard), Cedar Waxwing (1 flock estimated at 50), Warbling Vireo (1), Orange-crowned Warbler (1 seen and 5 heard), Wilson's Warbler (1 female), House Sparrow (several), Bullock's Oriole (1), Brewer's Blackbird (1), House Finch (several heard), American Goldfinch (1), Lesser Goldfinch (1 flock), Rufous-sided Towhee (1 seen, 2 heard), Brown Towhee (2), Oregon Junco (1), Song Sparrow (1).

Plant life observed: Wind Poppies, Yucca in full bloom, Cream Bush, Blue Waterleaf, Starflower, Woodland Star, Ithuriel's Spear, Yellow Phacelia, Bee Plant, Wild Delphinium, Pitcher Sage, a large patch of Clarkia, many Coffee Ferns. Leader Ray McCann.

Audubon Canyon Ranch Trip, June 1

A total of 45 observers turned out for this trip on which 44 species of birds were identified. The first part of the 4 1/2 mile trail was rather steep, which made going somewhat strenuous. At one spot the trail ran out, and we were confronted with an open field of grass and the question of which way to go. A couple of scouts were sent out and the trail was soon found again. We have been told that this spot

will be marked in the future. The outstanding attraction was the view over the rookery of Egrets and Herons with binoculars and scopes. The young, though almost full-grown, were seen in the nests while being fed. The weather was sunny and warm.

The following is a list of the birds identified: Double-crested Cormorant (1), Great Blue Heron (30), Common Egret (40), Black-crowned Night Heron (1), Osprey (1), California Quail (6), Long-billed Curlew (6), Willet (50+), Caspian Tern (6), Mourning Dove (1), Anna's Hummingbird (3), Red-shafted Flicker (1), Ash-throated Flycatcher (1), Western Flycatcher (1), Western Wood Pewee (3), Olive-sided Flycatcher (1 heard), Violet-green Swallow (1), Barn Swallow (1), Cliff Swallow (4), Steller's Jay (12), Common Raven (1), Common Crow (2), Chestnut-backed Chickadee (23), Wrentit (1), Bewick's Wren (1), Robin (2), Hermit Thrush (1 heard), Hutton's Vireo (1), Warbling Vireo (1), Orange-crowned Warbler (2), Yellow Warbler (1), Wilson's Warbler (4), Red-winged Blackbird (10), Brewer's Blackbird (10+), Black-headed Grosbeak (1), Purple Finch (5), Rufous-sided Towhee (1), Oregon Junco (6), Song Sparrow (2).

Frost Amphitheater Trip, August 3

This was really more of a horticultural trip than a birding trip. Approximately 45 to 50 species of tree and shrubs were seen but only nine species of birds. Twenty people enjoyed this trip. It was led by Mr. Hood of the Palo Alto Park Department. The weather started out rather cool but was warm and sunny before the trip concluded.

The following is a list of the birds identified: American Kestrel (1), Mourning Dove, Acorn Woodpecker (5), Scrub Jay, Chestnut-backed Chickadee (2), California Thrasher (1), Robin (2), Brewer's Blackbird (not counted but many all over the amphitheater lawn), Brown Towhee (1).

The following is a list of most of the trees and shrubs seen. These are not in any particular order but just as I wrote them down. Names are both common and scientific: London Plane Tree, Native Sycamore, Juniper, Coast Live Oak, Big Leaf Maple, Deodar Cedar, Azara Macrophyllia, Beach, Prunus Pacardii, Trident Maple (*Acer Berginiatum*), Horse Chestnut, Prunus Lionii and *Integrifolia*, Bay Laurel, Copper Beach, Linden, Olive, Carolina Jasmine, Japanese Privet, Cleander, Spruce, Buckeye, Portuguese Laurel, Cork Oak, Sweetgum, Locust, Sequoia Gigantea, Pittosporum, Magnolia, Elm, Yew, Pines (several species), Tanbark Oak, Holly, Toyon, Cyprus, Dawn Redwood (*Metasequoia*), Eucalyptus, Crab Apple, Gingo, American Chestnut, Hop, Corn, Beans, Hawthorn, Tulip Tree, Dogwood.

Miscellaneous Observations

From Catherine Lintott, May 17

A pair of Ash-throated Flycatchers are again building a nest in the house reserved for them. Also for the first time I have a pair of Violet-green Swallows building in one of my houses. It has been an exciting spring with Titmice, Nuthatches, Thrashers, and Towhees bringing their young to the bird bath.

From Joe Wissel, May 26 and June 24

Black-headed Grosbeak (2) male and female at the Willows-Skyland Ave. out of Los Gatos May 26. Chestnut-backed Chickadee, about a dozen, same date, same location. Western Tanager, one male about a half mile from the Willows, same date. I was very lucky to see some birds on a recent trip: American Cystercatcher (75) June 12, Holy Lock, Scotland; Pied Wagtail (2) June 12, Holy Lock, Scotland; Lapwing (2), June 12, Holy Lock, Scotland; Wood Pigeon, Chaffinch, Green Finch, Robin (English), Spotted Flycatcher, Jay, Blue Tit, Great Tit, Rook, Jackdaw,

Carrion Crow, Nuthatch, Cliffchaff and Green Woodpecker, June 15-16, Wimbledon Common and various London parks.

From Herbert Wittgenstein, June 5

On June 1 and 2 Miss Marion Fruhling of 10730 Black Road, Los Gatos, saw one pair of Chuckar in her yard. She succeeded in taking four color pictures with a telescopic lens. I saw the pictures and they show clearly the male Chuckar on the roof.

From the Wittgensteins, August 4

In June in our backyard: a Wren Tit feeding a baby Cowbird. July 27, Moss Landing Jetty Road, Elegant Tern (about 20), Wilson's Phalarope (2).

From the Wolcotts, first part of June

Chuckar, one pair at Fair Hill, 26511 Altamont, Los Altos.

From Warren Turner, August 10

On a trip to our cabin at Fallen Leaf Lake June 16 to July 1, we saw many birds familiar from previous years of birding there. Two species stand out as particularly enjoyable: Cassin's Purple Finch (Cassin's Finch), 12; Mountain Blue Birds, 2 (a pair). Both species were against a background of white snow. As usual, there were at least 4 Fox Sparrow nests around our cabin, with male birds singly madly. At least two Western Tanagers were nesting nearby. Perhaps six Steller's Jays came to our feeding tray each day. We do not know where they nest. We saw two Green-tailed Towhees while on a hike up a mountain side. We can only remember seeing one Wilson's Warbler. Usually they are quite common. There are always Brown Creepers, at least 2, and Red-breasted Nuthatches climbing our Silver Fir trees near our porch. We saw and heard an estimated six Western Wood Pewees and an equal number of Olive-sided Flycatchers on dead tree branches high above us. We missed seeing our Water Ouzel this year and were disappointed.

Csprey (3), Jenner, June 1, Howard Wolcott; (2), Pudding Creek just north of Fort Bragg from the Skunk Train May 22, Ralph Trullinger. Green Heron (1), Pudding Creek, May 22, Ralph Trullinger.

Late Observations:

6/11 Horned Lark, Palo Alto Yacht Harbor; 7/24 Rufous-sided Towhee, very young and tailless, full of energy, Noble Ridge, J. Todd. 8/16, all at Palo Alto Yacht Harbor: 1 Curlew, several Marbled Godwits, 1 Dunlin, several Black-bellied Plovers (breeding and non-breeding plumage), Dowitchers, Willets, Forster's Terns, Sandpipers in flight. Earlier: many Avocets, 5 Black-necked Stilts and some Phalaropes in the Yacht Harbor area doomed to be filled for a parking lot, Harriet Mundy.

POINT LOBOS FIELD TRIP, June 16

This trip, led by Lloyd and Eve Case, was enjoyable on three counts: 1) weather, 2) birds and 3) wildflowers. The forenoon was spent in two areas not previously visited by our group on regular field trips.

Our first walk started from the Cypress Grove Parking Area and followed the trail out to Point Lobos. Along this trail the White-crowned Sparrows constantly flitted about in the trail-side bushes, finally to emerge, perch on the top of a bush and sing lustily in defense of invaded territory. When we invaders were not frightened away, they calmly remained, singing and doing a bit of "people-watching" as we passed them. From the high point above Sea Lion Cove, binoculars and 'scopes revealed quite a number of pups among the sea-lions on the rocks which mark the southern limit of their breeding grounds.

On the cliffs above the cove, a number of Cormorants on their nests could be plainly seen from the trail which leads along the edge of the cliff. The large number of wildflowers in bloom afforded plenty of opportunity for botanizing along the trail over Sand Hill, which leads through an area entirely different in type of habitat from the other areas of the Reserve.

After driving to the parking area at the end of Southshore Drive, we walked back along the road to the trail leading off to Mound Meadow. Following this trail, and then cutting back along the Pine Ridge Trail, we were first in meadow and then in pine forest. Along this trail, from start to finish, birds were usually heard first and then found only by patient and diligent searching, while wildflowers were blooming in profusion all along the trail. Regardless of how they are said to sound, the birds in the forest area seemed to be saying to us, "You don't know where I am!" On the brush-covered southern slope of Vierra's Knoll, a Spotted Towhee and a Red-shafted Flicker played coy and hard-to-find for several minutes, but they were finally located.

Bird Island, of course, was heavily populated with Brandt's and Pelagic Cormorants, with quite a good-sized colony of Brown Pelicans that seemed content to remain haughtily aloof from the raucous and quarrelsome cormorants. Several Harbor Seals, with young, were hauled out on the rocks along the shore, taking their noontime snooze.

No report of a trip to Point Lobos is complete without mention of the Sea Otters. It is quite encouraging to see their increase in numbers and once again to see them feeding and playing in the surf along the drive from Pacific Grove's "Lover's Point" to the lighthouse at Point Pinos. Actually, they are apt to be more numerous in this area than in the kelp-rafts off the Point Lobos Reserve. But remember, at first glance they can be mistaken for the bulbous end of floating kelp -- and vice versa.

The leaders hope that "you-all" will come again next year. P.S. We saw and identified almost as many birds as wildflowers, and we identified more than half of the flowers listed in Ken Legg's nooklet "Wildflowers of Point Lobos Reserve"!

Editor's Notes

Biologists issued a plea in behalf of "vanishing species", addressing it to earth's fiercest predator, man. They appealed to his economic self-interest, to his moral sense, and to the delight and scientific knowledge he derives from creatures of the wild. In recent times the great extinguisher of species has been not nature but man. In a symposium at the 16th International Congress of Zoology, scientists said that in 99.9% of the tragedies which wipe out whole species today, man is the villain. Ian Cowan of the University of British Columbia said, "We don't own the world. We hold a life rental on it. It is our responsibility to turn it over to our descendants in at least as good condition as when we got it, preferably better." Species are destroyed by direct slaughter, destruction of habitats through stream pollution, the felling of forests, or indiscriminate use of poisons.

--from Harriet Mundy (Palo Alto Times 3/23/63)

A Bay Area Committee headed by Los Altos Mayor James P. Thurber is trying to find out what the 9-county area should have in the way of recreational facilities. They report, "The distribution of the land reserve is such as to form a girdle of green around the metropolitan area. This combined with a center of blue, tends to assure amenity

for the urban ring which lies between." Planners want a green belt around land and a bay usable for recreation. "The bay can be very valuable if you get it cleaned up," Thurber said. He and his committee are definitely opposed to plans to fill in huge areas of the bay as "we need the water to balance the heavy use of dry land for recreation."
--from Harriet Mundy (Palo Alto Times 3/22

CONSERVATION IS NOT ENOUGH.

To live healthily and successfully on the land, we must also live with it. We must be part not only of the human community, but of the whole community; we must acknowledge some sort of oneness not only with our civilization, but also with the natural as well as the man-made community. Ours is not only "one earth",...it is not a sentimental but a grimly literal fact that unless we share this terrestrial globe with creatures other than ourselves, we shall not be able to live on it for long....
--Joseph Wood Krutch, Sierra Club

EROSION HITS DELTA LEVEES

The wanton rape of delta, river and slough levees a couple of years ago by the mad axemen of the Army Engineers and local reclamation districts has finally produced - as predicted by opposition sportsmen's groups - a most ugly illegitimate offspring - erosion.

Proponents of the stripping had insisted that trees and other foliage weaken levees, and menace flood control.

By the time prominent boatman Dick Boswell and the Pacific Interclub Yacht Association succeeded in getting a temporary halt in stripping operations riverbank trees had become a near-extinct species. Now an experimental replanting program is supposedly under way in four small areas, each said to be seeded with different type growths.

Many stretches of bare levee were left to bake in the summer sun without the application on earth-holding rock surfaces. No money was available in some districts, not even enough to clear away the fallen trees washed into the navigational channels.

So powerful season currents crept up the banks, furnishing boaters with uncharted underwater obstructions, and sweeping away tons of unprotected sand from the dikes. Consequently the erosion problem has grown so serious on certain levees that there now looms the possibility of closing the roads that line their tops.

Only too well aware of the threatened emergency, the Sacramento County Board of Supervisors adopted a resolution demanding immediate repair of the levees before the roads washed away. The board implored the State Reclamation Board to replant trees to protect levees from eroding.

State 24, main artery through the Sacramento delta region, is said to be imperiled on Grand Island, north of the Isleton bridge. Supervisor S. Henry Kloss attributed the levee cave-ins directly to the wholesale tree stripping, citing that foliage had prevented erosion since the early days of the earthen barriers.

Boswell's comment was a great big "I told you so."

--Jack Schmale

San Francisco Chronicle 5/24/63

SANTA CLARA VALLEY AUDUBON SOCIETY
Branch of
National Audubon Society
1963 - 1964

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