

The Avocet

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SECOND ILLUSTRATED REPORT ON HIS WORK WITH WHITE-CROWNED AND GOLDEN-CROWNED SPARROWS TO BE GIVEN FOR SAN JOSE GROUP BY DR. L. RICHARD MEWALDT WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 13

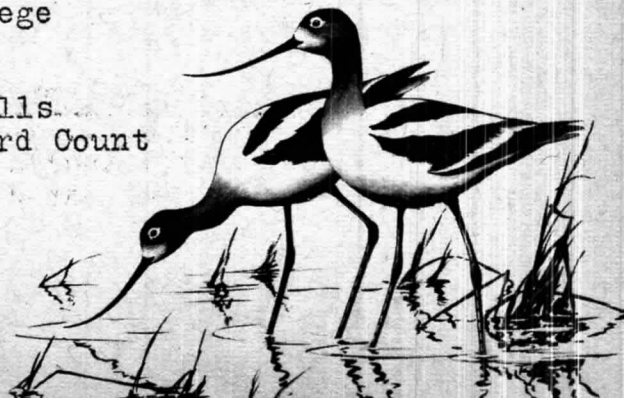
San Jose members of the Audubon Society will have an opportunity Wednesday evening, November 13, to hear Dr. L. Richard Mewaldt's fascinating report on his work with the White-Crowned and Golden-Crowned Sparrows. The Palo Alto audience which heard him last month counted his illustrated talk one of the most interesting the Society has had in years. Dr. Mewaldt will speak at the usual meeting place, the Rose-garden Branch of the San Jose Public Library, Dana and Naglee Streets, at 8:00 p.m.

As was pointed out in last month's Avocet, Dr. Mewaldt will recount details of the research upon which he has been engaged for several years in a report he titles "Displaced-Crowned Sparrows Return to San Jose". As all are aware, White-Crowns taken by airplane from San Jose and released at Baton Rouge have returned in significant numbers to Dr. Mewaldt's backyard -- but by way of their breeding grounds in Washington and British Columbia. What is not yet known is what has happened to another contingent of birds, likewise taken from Dr. Mewaldt's backyard, but released last winter and spring in Maryland. This was 2400 miles from San Jose as against the 1800 miles the Louisiana group had to travel. Now if the White-Crowns released in Maryland return to San Jose by way of the northern breeding grounds, they can be expected here on their winter migration -- which means Dr. Mewaldt may be able to report some arrivals by the time of his November talk.

The research upon which Dr. Mewaldt is engaged is financed by the National Science Foundation and the Office of Naval Research. The study seeks to measure the ability of the birds to navigate successfully over long distances, and to determine, if possible, how they are able to do this.

Coming Events at a Glance

Mon.	Nov. 4	8:00 p.m.	Stanford University
Sat.	Nov. 9	9:00 a.m.	San Francisquito Creek
Wed.	Nov. 13	8:30 a.m.	Los Gatos
Wed.	Nov. 13	8:00 p.m.	San Jose
Tues.	Nov. 19	4:15 p.m.	Stanford University
Tues.	Nov. 19	8:00 p.m.	San Jose State College
Wed.	Nov. 20	9:00 a.m.	Searsville Lake
Sun.	Nov. 24	9:00 a.m.	Alum Rock Park
Sat.	Dec. 14	9:00 a.m.	Dumbarton-Coyote Hills
Sun.	Dec. 22	7:30 a.m.	Annual Christmas Bird Count



President's Message

Hats off to Dr. Mewaldt!

His illustrated talk at the Palo Alto meeting last month on his work with White-crowned and Golden-crowned Sparrows, all hands agreed, made the meeting one of the four-star variety.

Dr. Mewaldt tells the story over again for the San Jose group at the November meeting (see announcement on page 1), and with some important additions if the Maryland contingent of White-crowns is heard from. We'll probably have to fetch out more chairs again - and that's good!

DEPARTMENT OF INTERESTING POSSIBILITIES: Bill Goodall, genial Western Representative of the National Audubon Society, has asked the Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society to provide certain information to help him decide, or the National Audubon Society's Board of Directors to decide, where the annual convention of the National Audubon Society will go in 1966.

The conclave will be held in California thtt year, but where will be determined largely by field trip resources available and ability to accommodate the numbers the national convention attracts.

There are those of us who contemplate with some consternation the possibility of playing host to a national convention, but we're providing the information about hotel accommodations and meeting places and field trip resources, nevertheless.

Whether it's to host the whole convention, provide leaders for a field trip or two, or simply to attend, the Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society looks forward with pleasure to haveing the parent organization in California in 1966.

WORTH REPEATING DEPARTMENT: Under the headlines "Byxbee Park Plans Exhumed to Hold off Businessmen" in the San Jose Mercury of Friday, October 18, the following: "Palo Alto - A tempting ghunk of empty land at the yacht harbor is the object of a power struggle between citizens favoring commercial interests and conservationists.

"A move to earmark part of the 1,700-acre area for commercial use has been defeated by the Citizens Advisory Committee on Parks and Recreation. Instead, the committee has dusted off the almost forgotten plan for Byxbee Park, first conceived in 1920....The Committee has recommended that the area be rededicated for park purposes."

Congratulations and more power to Lucy Evans, Harriet Mundy, Kay McCann and others who have long been redoubtable champions of the move to preserve the baylands in their natural state.

DEPARTMENT OF APPRECIATION: A hearty "thank you" to Chester P. Lyons of Victoria, B.C., for the highly entertaining fashion in which he started off our annual Audubon Wildlife Film series in October - both at Palo Alto and San Jose.

---J. R. Brokenshire

November Calendar

Board Meeting: Monday, November 4, at the home of Past President Warren Turner, 646 Alvarado Row, Stanford University. Husbands, wives and committee chairmen invited. Meet at 8:00 P.M.

Regular Meeting: Wednesday, November 13, 8:00 P.M., Rosegarden Branch, San Jose Public Library, Dana and Naglee Streets. Dr. E. Richard Mewaldt in illustrated lecture, "Displaced -Crowned Sparrows Return to San Jose".

Field Trips:

Saturday, November 9. Meet at 9:00 A.M. at the Palo Alto Yacht Harbor Duck Pond. We will observe birds along San Francisquito Creek. Leader: Ralph Trullinger (854-4201). (Note change in meeting place.)

Wednesday Morning, November 13, to the Robert R. Taylors' ranch, 22951 Summit Road, in the Santa Cruz Mountains. On this mountain-top ranch are an apple orchard, a beautiful grove of Coast Redwoods and chaparral. Meet at the intersection of Summit Road and the old Santa Cruz Highway. From Los Gatos, on Highway 17, it is not quite seven miles to Summit Road. Turn left and follow Summit Road a mile or so to the old highway. Meet in time to start the trip at 8:30 A.M. Leaders: Mrs. Taylor (354-6513) and Mrs. Lintott (356-4264).

Wednesday, November 20, to Searsville Lake. Meet at the gate at 9:00 A.M. Birding is particularly rewarding here, where one finds a rare combination of field, lake, woodland and chaparral habitat. There is a 25¢ admission charge. Leader: Mrs. Luther Crane (321-3195), or for information call Virginia Bothwell (322-1209).

Sunday, November 24, to Alum Rock Park and vicinity. We are working for permission to enter an especially choice area for birds. Meet at the parking area near the Youth Science Institute (formerly Junior Museum) at 9:00 A.M. sharp. Leader: Don Schmoldt (258-3913).

Saturday, December 14, to Dumbarton-Coyote Hills area. Les and Nellie Sleeper will lead the trip. Meet at 9:00 A.M. at the west end of Dumbarton Bridge, using parking strip on north side of road.

Sunday, December 22, 7:30 A.M., Annual Christmas Bird Count. Complete details will be in December Avocet. Looking toward Christmas, our local Society's imprinted post cards, book plates and check lists make good Christmas gifts. (Call Eve Case - 243-2467). The Berkeley Audubon office is open Saturdays 11:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M., from now until Christmas. Their book stock on natural history subjects is unusually good; also, fine stationery, children's games, etc. All profits go to conservation.

Screen Tours:

Tuesday, November 19, at 4:15 P.M., Cubberley Auditorium, Education Building, Escondido Road and Lasuen Street, Stanford University. This is the third season for Audubon Tours at Stanford. Walter Berlet will present "The Living Wilderness". This film features

spectacular close-up photography of wildlife. We see a striking array of the creatures that roam the vast wilderness areas of western United States, through the lens of Walter Berlet of Casper, Wyoming. Here are moose, elk, bighorn and bison; black bear and grizzly, marmot and mountain lion, as well as a wide variety of bird life. A vivid story of the wilderness, narrated by a keen conservationist. Tickets are available at the door.

Tuesday, November 19, at 8:00 P.M., in the Main Gym, on San Carlos Street, San Jose State College. Walter Berlet will show "The Living Wilderness". Tickets are available at the door.

New Members

We are delighted to welcome the following new members:

Mr. James G. Kable	1121 Fairview Ave., San Jose 25
Mr. and Mrs. C.R. Stanley	27660 Central Dr., Los Altos Hills
Mr. William Wendt	101 Broadway, Los Gatos
Mss. Emelie G. Curtis	1627 Holbrook Dr., San Jose
Mrs. Ray Lyman Wilbur, Jr.	2190 Barbara Dr., Palo Alto
	---Angelina Snow, Membership Chairman

Conservation Notes

"WHY?" Several times in the recent past I have been asked something like this: "Why should an Audubon member, whose interest and relaxation lie in bird-watching, be concerned with any of the multitudinous problems of conservation, the constant fight to protect this or that?"

Why, indeed? Why can't we just enjoy the fall migrants that are passing through our area from day to day? Why can't we just have the pleasure of a field trip and the thrill that we get from seeing birds that have been absent from our area since early spring?

We can, if we wish to live in the present, opportunists without a thought for the very near future! If we visit one of our nearby State or National Wildlife Refuges, what are our prospects for a successful day? Information received October 8 stated that over two million ducks and geese had already been counted on the Tule Lake-Lower Klamath marshlands, and that more birds were arriving daily. The count is expected to go over four million within a short time. Over 200,000 geese were in the area between Tule Lake and Clear Lake, 20 miles to the east. This is better news than we have had from that area for several years. A very large percentage of these birds come south, stopping to feed and rest at the various refuges along their route. We stand a very good chance of seeing larger numbers of wildfowl at any of the refuges than we did last year.

With this happy situation existing, why should we get involved in political hassels such as the "Tule Lake-Klamath Basin Bill", or the "Rampart Dam" project way up in northern Alaska? (ANSWER): Because agricultural interests, ignoring the existence of tremendous surpluses, have their beady eyes on the Tule-Klamath Basin and want to lower the water level to below that minimum which is required for the safety, health and welfare of the wildfowl, in order to "reclaim" the land.

In addition to these avaricious agriculturists, there are busy builders who want to "develop" the area into residential tracts. More people, who could just as well be located in other areas, except for the fact that the "developers" can build on land like this more cheaply - and thus make more profit - than they can on land that is not so convenient for their purpose!

In this connection it is very interesting to note that, just a short time ago, vested interests were successful in draining and "reclaiming" vast areas of wet-lands in our north-central states, but owing to efforts of active conservationists, the Government has bought up those areas and is restoring them to their original condition of marsh and wet-lands. Of course, WE, the taxpayers, are now paying for the restoration and our own shortsightedness for allowing the draining in the first place. We must realize that bulldozers can be infinitely more dangerous to wildlife than shotguns or rifles. When a 'dozer destroys a habitat, it means the elimination of an entire local population; the shotguns and rifles eliminate only individuals; and, with our existing game laws, this small percentage does not endanger the species. But when the 'dozer moves in, birds and animals move out! Move out to where? Neighboring areas are probably already supporting all that they can; so, in many cases, they move into extinction.

Have you read Silent Spring? Even if you have not, you are surely aware of the disastrous effect on wildlife of the aerial spraying of large areas with deadly insecticides, especially those containing DDT, a poison that does not break down but accumulates until, in many cases, it becomes lethal. The tragedy is that so many of the creatures that are destroyed are not "target" creatures, and that their death was only "accidental" as far as officialdom is concerned. But: they are just as dead as the targets!

"WHY?": The answer is as simple as "A - B - C":
"A" - for "Avaricious Agriculturists" (to differentiate them
. . . from the conscientious growers of necessary crops;
"B" - for "Busy Builders", whose interests lie in low costs, quick
. . . turn-over and the high-profit "fast buck";
"C" - for "Creeping Chemicals", whose disastrous effect is not
. . . going to be seen immediately but is inevitable, as accumulating evidence shows.

HAVE YOU BOUGHT A DUCK STAMP? The \$3.00 helps protect northern breeding areas.

"TO WHAT WHOM": Another question that is frequently asked: "To whom can I express my personal opinion on controversial conservation issues in which I am interested?"

The answer depends upon where you live and the nature of the issue. Perhaps this list will help:

Palo Alto Yacht Harbor Trip, October 20th. This trip was led by Bill and Bernice Pillow and was attended by 22 observers. We met at the duck pond and then walked out to the launching ramp. After a while here we walked back along the new road and went out on the dike as far as the airport. Some controversy existed as to the species of Phalarope we were observing, but it was finally agreed that they were Red Phalarope in various stages of plumage change. One of the highlights was the female Wood Duck at the duck pond. The Whitefronted Goose at the duck pond has a clipped wing. This is most unfortunate for the bird, but will offer those of you who are interested a chance to observe one at close range. After the main trip a few of us went out through the dump to overlook the baylands. The outstanding observation here was three White-tailed Kites.

<u>Birds Seen</u>	<u>Moss Landing</u>	<u>Isenberg Ranch</u>	<u>P.A. Yacht Harbor</u>	<u>Other Source</u>
Western Grebe	1			
Pied-billed Grebe	some			
Brown Pelican	hundreds			
Great Blue Heron	6		5+	
Black-crowned Night Heron	1 immature		1 immature	
Black Brant	1			
Ducks, unidentified	22			
Rudy Ducks	many	3	many	
American Coot	some	17	many	
Snowy Plover	some			
Black-bellied Plover	some		10	
Long-billed Curlew	several		1	
Whimbrel	1			
Willet	some		many	
Least Sandpiper	some			
Dunlin	some		many	
Dowitcher	some		5+	
Western Sandpiper	some		many	
Marbled Godwit	several		10 + flock est. 30	
Sanderling	few			
American Avocet	some		many	
Black-necked Stilt	some			
Northern Phalarope	some			
Parasitic Jaeger	1 immature 1 light phase			
Western Gull	some		1	
California Gull	some		2	
Ring-billed Gull	some		many	
Heerman's Gull	some			
Forster's Tern	some		several	
Common Tern	some			
Royal Tern	some			
Elegant Tern	some			
Caspian Tern	some			
Black Phoebe	some	2		
Say's Phoebe	some	1		RT 10-13 1 Newark Sanctuary
Horned Lark	some			

<u>Birds Seen</u>	<u>Moss Landing</u>	<u>Isenberg Ranch</u>	<u>P.A. Yacht Harbor</u>	<u>Other Source</u>
Barn Swallow	some			
Western Meadowlark	some	6+	2	
Brewer's Blackbird	some	2 large flocks	several flocks	
House Finch	some	1 small flock	1	
Savannah Sparrow	some		1	
California Quail		1 flock flushed (?)		
Mourning Dove		several heard		
Anna's Hummingbird		Est. 50		
Belted Kingfisher		1 male		
Belted Kingfisher		2		
Red-shafted Flicker		5		LRD
Bewick's Wren		1		
Robin		several		
Western Bluebird		5		
Redwinged Blackbird		several large flocks & many heard singing among cattails in ponds	several flocks	
Lesser Goldfinch		some		
Oregon Junco		4		LRD 7 PK
Song Sparrow		1		
White Pelican			7	
Common Egret			1+ (30-40 were seen in distance but 2 species could not be separated)	10-13 RT
Snowy Egret			4+	
White-fronted Goose			1	10-13 RT
Mallards			many	
Pintail			4	
Teal			5 (either Blue-winged or Cinnamon)	
Wood Duck			1 female	
White-tailed Kite			3	
Ring-necked Pheasant			2	
Clapper Rail			several heard	10-13 RT
Killdeer			several	
Greater Yellowlegs			1	
Red Phalarope			6	
Loggerhead Shrike			3	
House Sparrow			many	
American Goldfinch			Est. 5	
Rufous Hummingbird				LRD
Calliope Hummingbird				LRD
Hairy Woodpecker				LRD

Birds Seen	Other Sources	
Clark's Nutcracker	LRD	4 PK 7-30
Mountain Chickadee	LRD	
Red-breasted Nuthatch	LRD	1 PK 7-30 1 HM 10-14
Townsend's Solitaire	LRD	
Warbling Vireo	LRD	
Pine Srosbeak	LRD	
Gray-crowned Rosy Finch	LRD	did not see white patch on head
Pine Siskin	LRD	3 PK 8-2 200 HB 10-12
Green-tailed Towhee	2 PK 7-30	ate from her hand on 2 occasions
Purple Finch	3 PK 7-30	
Pygmy Nuthatch	2 PK 7-30	
White-crowned Sparrow	8 PK 7-30	ACR 10-10 late for P.A.
	3 MT 9-19	
Wilson's Warbler	2 PK 8-2	
Sapsucker	ACR 10-1	
Audubon's Warbler	ACR 10-9	arrived in Palo Alto
Golden-crowned Sparrow	ACR 10-17	late for P. A.
	RT 1 9-21,	several 10-13
Fox Sparrow	VB 9-26	RT 10-13

Identification of Other Sources

LRD - Love R. David, list of birds seen in Upper Rock Creek Area above Long Lake (Sierra Nevada near Bishop) August, 1963.

PK - Phyllis Klein: 7-30, Twin Lakes, Carson Pass, Sierra Mountains, California; 8-2, Cable Creek, Carson Pass

ACR - Mrs. Anna C. Richardson, 685 Georgia Avenue, Palo Alto. 10-1 Sapsucker started drilling our Chinese elms. He now has all three trees running with sap with hummers, bees, butterflies and warblers enjoying it. Through the summer we enjoyed a family of Hooded Orioles drinking from the hummingbird feeders. A pair of Titmice also use the feeders although they come mostly for sunflower seeds.

RT - Ralph Trullinger: 10-13, 6 Common Egret west of Dumbarton Bridge and 1 Palo Alto Yacht Harbor; White-fronted Goose at duck pond, Palo Alto Yacht Harbor, with its right wing clipped and unable to fly; Clapper Rail at Newark Sanctuary, also Golden-crowned Sparrow. 9-21, 1 Golden-crowned Sparrow near the mouth of San Francisquito Creek.

HM - Harriet Mundy: 10-14 1 Red-breasted Nuthatch in a magnolia tree at 757 Tennyson, Palo Alto, observed from a distance of 4 feet, seemed very tame, did not reappear.

HB - Harley Bothwell, 10-12 200 Pine Siskin, Marthen's ranch feeding on dry thistles.

MT - Mary Taylor, Saratoga.

Vb - Virginia Bothwell, 1 Fox Sparrow in dark phase in my yard at 2489 Illinois Street, East Palo Alto on a hot day bathing and scratching happily. He was gone next day and has not come back.

Send observations to Ralph R. Trullinger, 1960 Santa Cruz Ave, Menlo Park, Calif. 94026

Editor's Notes:

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THE OREGON DUNES NATIONAL SEASHORE bill, Senator Maurine Neuberger's S.1137, may soon clear the Senate Public Lands Subcommittee. We have information the Subcommittee has reached preliminary agreement on boundaries for the new National Park area. By its action, according to reports, the Subcommittee will reduce the area from the 42,000 acres proposed by Mrs. Neuberger to 35,000 acres with a total shoreline about 31 miles in length.

Audubon Conservation Guide 10/15/63

Secretary of the Interior Udall will make a major address at the opening session of the National Audubon Society's 59th Annual Convention in Miami Saturday morning, November 9. The Secretary also will deliver the principal speech Friday afternoon, November 8, at a dedication of the Key Deer National Wildlife Refuge. The dedication ceremony will be held at the Refuge on Big Pine Key, about 125 miles wouthwest of Miami.

Audubon Conservation Guide 10/15/63

If we are not careful, we shall leave our children a legacy of billion-dollar roads leading nowhere except to other congested places like those left behind. We are building ourselves an asphalt treadmill and allowing the green areas of our nation to disappear. General Omar Bradley.

Whittier Observer 10/63

Copies of the President's Science Advisory Committee report, "Use of Pesticides", may be purchased fro 15 cents each from the Supt. of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington 25, D.C. As a sequel to Silent Spring, the Houghton Mifflin Company plans to publish a book on poison-free gardening. Another publisher will produce a paperback edition of Silent Spring.

California Tomorrow, which issued California Going, Going... has a new pamphlet, The Phantom Cities of California. A free single copy can be obtained by writing to California Tomorrow, 334 Forum Bldg., Sacramento 14, California.

The Marin Conservation League is in the process of purchasing two parcels of the Bay off the Marin shoreline now owned by the Utah Mining and Construction Company. This action permanently to preserve the Bay needs more support. To date, one parcel of 18 acres has been secured for \$3,650. The second parcel can be obtained if \$14,800 is raised before April, 1964. The Save San Francisco Bay Association has voted \$250 for this purpose and they believe others may want to send contributions (tax-deductible). Checks should be made payable to the Bay Purcahse Fund, Marin Conservation League, P.O. Box 437, Ross, Calif.