

The Avocet

Volume XI Number 4

April, 1964

EARLY PUBLICATIONS IN LIMITED NUMBER TO BE DISTRIBUTED AT APRIL
AND MAY MEETINGS -- AND SOCIETY NOW HAS OFFICIAL HISTORY
President's Message

Free Gift Department: Miss Emily Smith, first secretary of the Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society, and a tower of strength to the organization through the years, is making available to members interested, two publications which have historic as well as intrinsic value for members of the society.

The publications are numbers 1, 2, 3 and 4 of Vol. I of the Wren-Tit, the society's first publication and predecessor of the present Avocet. Although issued during the year 1929, the information these numbers carry are as interesting and timely now as then -- on nesting sites of cliff and barn swallows, feeding visits and other reactions of the nesting Anna Hummingbird, Finches, and Elms, and so on.

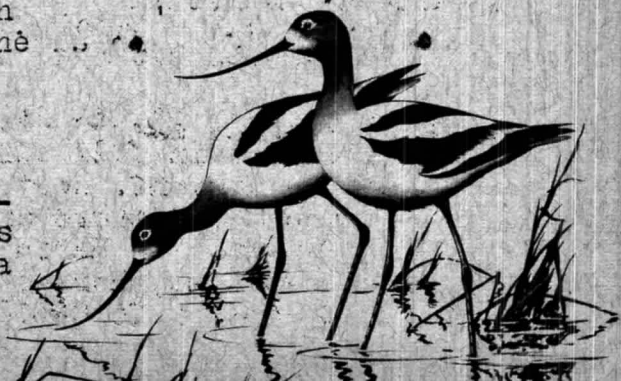
The other publication is the 132-page Vol. 1, No. 2 of Western Nature Study dated April, 1930, the entire issue entitled and devoted to "Birds". There are six chapters by Dr. Gayle Pickwell, San Jose State College ornithologist now deceased, on such subjects as "Bird Orders and Families", "The Homes of Birds", "Bird Adaptations", "The Travels of Birds", and so on. This publication also has a Bird List compiled by Miss Emily Smith, "Some Common Birds to Look for in Central California". Listed are all-year-round residents, "Summer Residents" and "Transients".

Twelve sets of the four numbers of the Wren-Tit and 12 copies of the issue of Western Nature Study on "Birds" will go to the first to ask for them at the meeting of the society Monday evening, April 13, in the Rosegarden Branch of the San Jose Public Library. The same number of each will be available at the Palo Alto meeting of the society Wednesday, May 13.

Miss Smith points out that through the years she has already given these publications to various members of the society. In view of the limited number left, please make sure you do not already have them, if you plan to be among the fortunate ones who'll get the copies remaining.

Another Publication: Warren Turner, immediate past president, has just completed a labor of love that enriches the Santa Clara Valley Society with an exceedingly interesting and scholarly 25-page history of the society from its birth at the Saratoga Inn January 8, 1925 up to June 30th, 1962 when Admiral Charles D. Williams completed his two years as president.

In the first two pages are detailed a record of "an excellent meal for the insignificant price of 25 cents"; Miss Emily Smith's summer of study at Yosemite preparing to be a nature guide and a debate before the society



on the subject "Are English Sparrows More Harmful Than Beneficial?"

The author explains he has undertaken with the "warmth of anecdote and achievement and personal news" to clothe what would otherwise be a pretty bare skeleton detailing growth and change through the years. All who have been privileged to examine the result are agreed he has succeeded admirably. Congratulations, Historian Warren Turner!

It's just a thought, but with some volunteer typists, and our own mimeograph machine, it's conceivable that this history might be duplicated and distributed at, say the cost of the paper, plus 10 per cent for the society's library fund. The author would probably forego the usual royalty. If you would be interested in having a copy, please make it known to me or any of the directors.

-- J. R. Brokenshire

Coming Events at a Glance

Sun. April 5	9:00 a.m.	Pilarcitos Lake and Stone Dam
Mon. April 6	4:15 p.m.	Stanford University
Mon. April 6	8:00 p.m.	San Jose State College
Wed. April 8	8:30 a.m.	Saratoga
Mon. April 13	8:00 p.m.	San Jose
Wed. April 22	8:30 a.m.	Sawyer's Camp Road
Sat. April 25	9:00 a.m.	Steven's Creek Park

April Calendar

Regular Meeting:

Monday, April 13, at 8:00 p.m. at Rosegarden Branch San Jose Public Library, Dana and Naglee Streets, San Jose. Lloyd Case will show color slides of Joshua Tree National Monument (if rains come in the next 2 weeks to provide desert flowers to supplement his set of bird pictures). If the flowers fail to appear, we shall see slides from High Sierra and other trips.

Field Trips:

Sunday, April 5, at 9:00 a.m. to Pilarcitos Lake and Stone Dam on the San Francisco Watershed Reserve. Meet at Las Pulgas Water Temple on Canada Road, about 5 miles north of Woodside. Bring lunch (all day trip). Leaders: Mark and Leota Massie.

Wednesday, April 8, to Camp Stuart in Saratoga. Included with the birding will be some interesting geology of the region, plus the antics of Tarzan and Jane, two resident squirrels. Meet at 8:30 a.m. at the corner of 6th Street and Big Basin Way in Saratoga. Leader: Claude Smith (867-3629) or call Margaret Henderson at 867-4304.

Wednesday, April 22, to Sawyer's Camp Road. Meet at 8:30 a.m. at Las Pulgas Water Temple on Canada Road, about 5 miles north of Woodside. Lunch is optional. Leader: Virginia Bothwell (322-1209).

Saturday, April 25, to Steven's Creek Dam and Park. Nesting and singing should be in full swing, and there is always hope of finding a choice migrant. Meet at the Dam at 9:00 a.m. The trip terminates at noon, but there are lunch areas in the park for those wishing to remain. The Marin County Society will join us. Leaders: Lloyd and Eve Case, Horace and Connie Hinds. For information call CH 3-2467 or YO 8-4782.

Screen Tours:

Monday, April 6, at 4:15 p.m., Cubberly Auditorium, Stanford University. Alfred G. Etter presents "Awake to Nature". Life works out its designs in a country creek, in the north woods, and in the suburbs. Turtles munch blackberries while herons stalk frogs. Cross-bills lick salt and moose parade in the mist of Isle Royale. Horned larks nest by the sidewalk, but robins no longer sing. How much change can man force on nature? This impressively documented film, based on Dr. Alfred Etter's own experiences in Missouri and Michigan, will help you decide.

(I have had various reports on availability of tickets at the door. At some of the earlier tours, members tried and were disappointed. More recently, I was told that vacant seats do occur and last-minute ticket buyers can sometimes slide in after all. For this last tour of the season, if you have time and feel adventurous, let me know if you make it!---J.T.)

Monday, April 6, at 8:00 p.m., Men's Gym, San Jose State College. Alfred G. Etter will present "Awake to Nature". Tickets are available at the door.

New Members

We are glad to welcome the following new members:

Mrs. Lea Fairchild	500 Mountain View Alviso Rd., Space 100 Mountain View.
Miss Mary Lofton Simpson	280 Waverley Street, Menlo Park
Mr. James D. Roberts	5572 Blossom Terrace Court, San Jose
Mrs. Mary-Lyle Remple	922 Webster Street, Palo Alto
Mrs. Lincoln E. Higbee	1260 Pitman Ave., Palo Alto
Mr. & Mrs. Alec Beckstead	122 Pecora Way, Menlo Park
Mrs. Jacqueline M. Davis	909 Lois Ave., Sunnyvale

-- Mrs. Angelina Snow
Membership Chairman

Would You Enjoy This?

Someone, young or old, who would like to spend a week in the Sierra this summer will be given transportation, lodging and meals in exchange for helping beginners (children and parents) to see nature about them. There is swimming (in a pool), hiking, camp fire singing, and plenty of leisure. The camp is near Coarse Gold and Oakhurst. If you are interested, details are available from:

Virginia Bothwell (322-1209)
or Diane Conradson (327-2512)

Complaint Department

When the Avocet was first mailed from San Jose, nearly everyone received it in a day or two. Now, with the enormous population growth and overworked post offices, several members have complained that 5-7 days elapse after mailing before the paper is received - resulting in missed field trips and other disappointments. Whether our new bulk mailing will make matters worse will soon be known. We regret past inconvenience to members, and shall try to print some dates ahead, and in general, try to mail earlier.

There were misleading statements in the invitation to the Grasslands field trip on March 14 & 15, led by Howard Leach of Sacramento

Audubon Society. The phone number provided did not have ready details on the trip, resulting in needless toll expense. "Camping available" meant only a few sites - some 40 miles away. Since the Avocet editor cannot possibly check all this, other Audubon chapters will, I hope, check their invitations more carefully for possible problems to out-of-towners.

-- J. Todd

Department of Hilarious Understatement

Diane Conradson of Edler Street, Palo Alto swears this is true: Last night, February 27, at 2:15 a.m. my neighbor was awakened by a loud noise. She looked out to see a large dark brown goose honking loudly, walking down the middle of the street, east bound. Following the goose was a cat, stalking her. Behind the cat was a police security guard from Rickey's, who thought the goose was an escaping swan. Last in the noisy procession was a German waitress, who wanted to catch it, too, probably for culinary purposes. The honking goose turned at a corner, northbound, and disappeared, still pursued by cat, security guard, and waitress.

This tale, maybe, is a real "wild goose chase"? -- J.T.

March Board Meeting

The minutes were read by Secretary Eva McCrae and approved. Fanny Zwaal read the Treasurer's report and observed that we have not been adversely affected by the National Audubon dues rise. It was discovered that President Brokenshire writes a personal letter to each new member (typed by Mrs. Victor Reis of Saratoga) discussing our activities and inviting new members to participate. Bulk mailing of the Avocet will result in savings for 1964, greater savings in the future. Lloyd Case displayed the new Avocet address page he will have run off at his college. Eva McCrae showed pen and ink drawings by Tom Rodgers (now of Chico State College) paid for by SCVAS - to be included in a projected Birds of Alum Rock Park.

We saw maps showing location of proposed walks, bridges, dike improvements at Palo Alto Yacht Harbor. Dr. Tom Harvey will take this material to Mr. Byxbee of Palo Alto City Council. Cooperation from boating groups, especially El Toro sailors, has been sought to lessen conflict during migration periods of birds and boats on the lagoon encircling the duck pond.

There was discussion of ABAG's weak stand on S.F. Bay Fill Moratorium. San Mateo County feels it should run its own affairs and intends to fill 32 square miles of baylands shortly. Bay cities are jealous of their autonomy. ABAG stands for Association of Bay Area Governments.

Bill Goodall sent a model city ordinance declaring a given town a sanctuary - for birds, bird and plant life or wildlife in general. Santa Ana is now an official bird sanctuary. Although all birds, except starlings and jays are protected anyway within city limits, the ordinance "dramatizes the value of birds, gives desirable publicity, etc."

Diane Conradson asked for an instructor to help Girl Scout leaders learn about natural history. This person need not be an expert. The session is on Thursday, April 16, at 9:30 a.m. for 1½ hours. Call 327-2512 if you can serve.

-- J. Todd

Audubon Scholarships go to Young Teachers

Ten tuition scholarships valued at \$20 each have been awarded to the following students at San Jose State College in order to facilitate their attendance at the Death Valley session of the Field Studies in Natural History held during spring vacation: Margaret Bevans, Catherine Collins, James Corbin, Evelyn English, Ronalee Delos, Cynthia Herman, Kenneth Kilborn, Richard Perry, Judith Remley, and Gayle Winters. It is hoped that these persons will have a rewarding experience and will pass their enthusiasm and the knowledge they gain also to students and friends. Director of the school is Dr. H. Thomas Harvey.

-- Kenneth E. Hutton
Scholarship Chairman
San Jose State College

Transportation Needed by Little House Members

If you live near Little House, Menlo Park (the nationally known senior citizen group), three or four interested people would appreciate your taking them to Audubon meetings, screen tours, or field trips occasionally. They are active, letter-writing conservationists - but do not have cars. If you can help please call Diane Conradson (327-2512).

Bulletin Background

Ten years ago now, the AVOCET was born.

The March, 1954, Society "Bulletin" stated that a new name for the publication was being considered. To quote: "The Editorial Committee, Will Luick, Chairman, received a list of 17 names submitted by various members participating in the contest to select a title for the Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society Bulletin".

Four names were finally chosen and members were asked to select their favorite.

The Avocet.

The member submitting this entry gave this explanation: "This idea is not original with me. It was suggested by Dr. Sibley, who called my attention to the fact that this bird, in a black and white sketch, would be an attractive illustration--used either in flight or standing".

The American Kestrel.

This title referred to Dawson's "Birds of California" and the member gave the following explanation, quoted in part--"You are now probably wondering what in Bunker Hill is an American Kestrel. This name is altogether too uncommon a title for the pretty little falcon we seldom fail to see hovering over a field, or perched on a fence post. It is the sparrow hawk, an ugly name for such a beneficial bird. Our Societys' calling this hawk an 'American Kestrel' would help toward the better welfare of this bird".

The Chat.

No comment by member except to say - "See pages 160 and 150 in Peterson".

The Kite.

No comment by member except to say - "See pages 34 and 45 in Peterson".

The deadline for balloting was set for April 15, 1954. The winner was to receive a copy of Olin Seward Pettingill Jr.'s book, "A Guide to Bird Finding West of the Mississippi".

The winner: Mrs. Eva McRae's entry THE AVOCET.
Next Best: THE CHAT, proposed by Nanette and Herbert Wittgenstein.

Mrs. Charles Doe was editor at the time this change of name was made.

Vol. 2 Number 1 of the AVOCET dated January-February, 1955 contained this announcement:

"Beginning with this issue, the AVOCET will be published bi-monthly. The change has been made in the interests of economy and to announce the schedule of field trips, meetings and screen tours earlier than has been possible in the past." In January, 1958, the AVOCET returned to monthly publication.

Other editros after Mrs. Doe:

Mr. Will Luick 1955-1956

Dr. L.R. Mewaldt 1956-1957

Mrs. Joyce Todd 1957 to present time.

---Warren M. Turner
Historian

CONSERVATION NOTES

I hate reading articles about legislation! But I know that without proper legislation, "conservation" becomes "conversation"! So, I urge you to read carefully the articles on Wilderness and on the Rampart Dam in the March-April AUDUBON MAGAZINE. And, after readin, - DO SOMETHING!

Every one of a dozen organizations dedicated to conservation urges immediate action on the Wilderness Bill. A memorandum from our own "Bill Goodall says: "Knowing that the members and friends of your Organization are seeking guidance and information on the various Wilderness Bill proposals, I felt that the recommendations prepared by The Wilderness Society, after consultations with other leading conservation groups, would be helpful". Bill referred to a four-page bulletin, which I have tried to summarize:

1- STATUS: The Wilderness Bill appears to be scheduled for enactment this year. Excellently conducted hearings were overwhelmingly favorable toward Congressional action to preserve wilderness.

2- THE QUESTION: "What kind of bill will the Committee approve?"

Attention is being directed toward "The Dingell Bill" (H.R.9162). But the leaders of conservation organizations agree that there is a great need for certain amendments to H.R.9162...There are a number of omissions, and one serious change has been made. It would be a tragic ending to the long Wilderness Bill struggle to protect wilderness if this bill should be passed without amendments. The most needed amendments are:

1.- DO NOT ALLOW MINING IN THE WILDERNESS.

H.R.9162 does allow mining, prospecting, and staking out of mining claims to continue for ten years, wherever it is now allowed. The mining provisions set forth in Section 4(d)(2) should be replaced with a provision for Presidential permission for mining "where and when needed".

2.- PROTECT THE AREAS BEING REVIEWED FOR WILDERNESS PRESERVATION.

H.R.9162 does give immediate protection to certain desirable wilderness areas, and it does provide that certain other areas are

to be reviewed for protection; but it does not provide for the protection, in status quo, of these latter areas, until such time as Congress shall act upon them. Two amendments needed:

- 1) regarding primitive areas, to be added at the end of Section 3(b), and
- 2) one regarding park and refuge areas, to be added at the end of Section 3(c).

In each case, the addition to the end of these sections should be so worded as to secure status quo protection for the areas being reviewed, until Congress acts on them.

3. MAKE THE BILL'S PROVISIONS APPLY TO PRIMITIVE, PARK, AND REFUGE AREAS.

An important part of the Wilderness Bill is in the sections that set up guide lines for administering the areas of wilderness being preserved, prescribe proper uses, and provide for certain essential features of a wilderness preservation program. H.R.9162 makes such provisions applicable only to national forest wilderness, wild, and canoe areas; it fails to provide for their application to the primitive, park, and refuge areas that will be established in the future following reviews.

The objective is to make the Wilderness Bill provide, once and for all, for all the areas that are to be protected as wilderness in accordance with its provisions.

4. IMPORTANT WILDERNESS BILL PROVISIONS SHOULD NOT BE LOST

Three noncontroversial, important provisions that are, at present, missing from the Bill, should be restored by amendments:

- 1) at the end of Section 4(a): require that accommodations and installations in all park and monument areas should be incident to use of the areas in their natural conditions.
- 2) At the end of Section 4(b): set forth the recreational, scenic, scientific conservation, and historical uses of wilderness, and require that all use be in harmony, both in kind and degree, with the wilderness.
- 3) At the end of Section 5(e): state explicitly that contributions for the wilderness program would be deductible from income, for tax purposes.

WHAT TO DO NOW? Well, The Wilderness Society and other conservation organizations are asking their members to write to their own Congressmen and ask them to urge their colleagues on the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs to act promptly on the revised Wilderness Bill, and to make sure that these amendments are adopted.

ON THE "HOME FRONT", can you do anything to help the village of Woodside prevent the despoliation of our green hills by the steel-tower power line that the AEC wants to run across the hills?

-- L.N. Case

NOTES FROM AFIELD

Please send your observations to me in time for me to compile them and send them on to the editor of the Avocet by the 20th of each month. Include the following information: species, quantity, location, date, observer.

Compiler: Ralph Trullinger
1960 Santa Cruz Ave.
Menlo Park, Calif. 94026
(854-4201)

In the interest of conserving space in the Avocet we are going to try discontinuing the list of individual species of birds following the write-up of each field trip. A record of the birds seen will be kept and available to those interested at each monthly meeting. These also will be kept for posterity in our library. I know there will be varying opinions about this new procedure. Your comments for or against are invited and will be appreciated. Send them to the compiler named above.

Robert Taylor Ranch Trip, Los Gatos, February 12.

There was quite a group at the Taylor ranch - 18 adults and 2 children. It was chilly at first with a little wind, but we kept on the sunny side until later when we had a wonderful walk through the redwoods. There had been heavy winds the day before and the ground was strewn with redwood tips and branches. Mrs. Taylor was ill, unfortunately, and could not come with us. A total of 13 species were observed. Of the two Fox Sparrows seen, one was perched high in a deciduous tree which apparently is quite unusual. Many Cedar Waxwings and Pine Siskins were observed. Leader: Catherine Lintott.

Stanford Campus Trip, February 26.

(The following report was sent directly to me, instead of to Ralph Trullinger. The complete list is included, since there was no time to consult with Ralph on condensing it.---J.T.)
Twenty people met for a sunny morning of birding on the Stanford Campus, mostly in the wooded sections. On the regular trip and the scouting trip thirty-seven species were observed:

California Quail	Chestnut-backed Chickadee
California Thrasher	Audubon's Warbler
Mockingbird	Band-tailed Pigeon
Robin	Golden-crowned Sparrow
Rufous-sided Towhee	Common Bushtit
Brown Towhee	Fox Sparrow
Scrub Jay	Red-shafted Flicker
Acorn Woodpecker	Western Meadowlark
Red-winged Blackbird	Red-tailed Hawk
Brewer's Blackbird	Song Sparrow
White-crowned Sparrow	Purple Finch
House Finch	Pine Siskin
Mourning Dove	House Sparrow
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	Oregon Junco
Plain Titmouse	Anna's Hummingbird
Brown Creeper	Downy Woodpecker
White-breasted Nuthatch	Myrtle Warbler
Turkey Vulture	California Gull
Red-breasted Sapsucker	

Leader: Bernice Pillow

Dumbarton Bridge Area Trip, March 7.

We met and birded first at the west end of Dumbarton Bridge. In this area Water Pipits were all around us. Several pair of Cinnamon Teal were especially colorful, and one pair was observed coming in for a landing with the sun at our backs, their blue wing patches shining brightly. Through a scope we observed a Red-breasted Merganser.

Next we drove across the bridge and along the dike to the area of the sanctuary. Here on the mud flats were observed two Ruddy Turnstones and one Black-bellied Plover, all in breeding plumage. Several Black-bellied Plovers were also seen in non-breeding plumage.

From the railroad tracks bordering the sanctuary we were treated to many fine long views of Clapper Rails. The sun was at our backs for observing one Rail and its colors were the most brilliant any of us had ever seen.

While driving back from the sanctuary along the dike, we saw several more Ruddy Turnstones. Much to our surprise we saw one Black Turnstone and one Whimbrel. The Black Turnstone flew away from us with the sun on his back, presenting a most striking pattern. As the Whimbrel turned his head, the stripes on it flashed in the sun. The trip was attended by 15 people who observed a total of 38 species. The weather was sunny and started out warm, but a chilly wind came up before we adjourned.

Leaders: Jane and Frank Goraj

Grasslands Field Trip, March 14 and 15.

This trip was at the invitation of the Sacramento Audubon Society and was led by Howard Leach. A large number of people from various Societies were present. People were divided into two groups, one going north and the other going south the first day. The second day these were switched so that everybody had an opportunity to see the whole area. A very few Black-crowned Nigh Herons were observed to have arrived at the rookery at the Los Banos Refuge. Some of the more interesting observations were: American Bittern, White-tailed Kite, Black-necked Stilt, Nutalls, Woodpecker, Long-billed Marsh Wren. Several Sandhill Cranes flew over and landed in the far distance. If some of the observers had not seen them fly over and land, the cranes would have been too far away to identify. I am going to contact more people to see if I can add a few more birds to the list, but a minimum of 60 species were observed.--R.T.

(Typist's note: In an effort to assist Mr. Trullinger, let it be said that on the first afternoon - Saturday - the groups which went south saw many of the most incomparably beautiful Avocets in breeding plumage. On Sunday morning at the Rookery on San Luis Island we noted a goodly number of Great Blue Herons and Common Egrets nesting in what looked like over-crowded skyscraper accommodations. We also saw many Black-crowned Night Heron and very brilliantly blue Western Bluebirds besides a good variety of the different types of swallows. --C.C.R.)

From Maurice V. Barnhill III:

My observations of ducks on Lake Lagunita continue as follows:

Date	2/7/64	2/12/64	2/21/64	2/27/64	3/4/64	3/7/64
Depth Gauge Reading	32.5	32.5	32.5	32	32	
Time of Count	9:55	10:05	10:15	9:40	9:50	13:35
	10:25	10:55	11:00	10:35	10:50	14:25
Pied-billed Grebe	1	3(1)	5(1)	4(1)	6(1)	1
Redhead	1m	1m		3m 1f	1m 1f	
Ring-necked duck, male	12(2)	14(2)	1	44(2)	79(3)*	
female	10(4)	11(2)		30(2)	49(2)*	
Canvasback, female	6(2)	6(2)	6(2)	6(2)	5(1)	
Scaup, <u>sp.</u> , male	13(3)	12(4)	11(5)	14(3)	9(5)	11(3)
female	3(1)	6(3)	11(5)	15(3)	11(6)	7(3)
Goldeneye, <u>sp.</u> , female				2	2(1)	1
Bufflehead, male	10(4)	5(3)	11(3)	12(3)	5(2)	5(1)
female	10(4)	10(4)	18(3)	16(3)	3(1)	6(1)
Ruddy Duck	41(3)	51(6)	54(2)	54(3)	46(1)	52(4)
Mallard				1m*1f*		
Cinnamon Teal			1m	1m	3m	3m 1f
American Coot	12(3)	11(3)	23(3)	20(3)	23(3)	22(2)
Gull, <u>spp.</u>	78(5)	23(1)	14(2)	28(1)	13	162(10)

The numbers in parentheses are estimated uncertainties; numbers with an asterisk mean birds that left the lake during the count. See also last month's count. M = male; f = female.

While the number of Buffleheads decreased abruptly on January 23 and less sharply on March 4, and the Ring-necked Ducks have been quite variable with a definite indication of movement in flocks, both Canvas-back and American Coot showed remarkably steady numbers over several trips.

Moreover, if you graph the number of Ruddy Ducks against time, you get a reasonably smooth curve. Mathematically, the expression " $N/55 \text{ equals } 1 - \exp(-.062t)$," where t is the number of days past January 4, represents the observations rather well (the numbers are tentative; the mathematics represents a curve that rises sharply from zero and then levels off to one). However, there are deviations from this curve which are significantly larger than the average counting uncertainty and which may reflect either the tendency of ducks to flock, an underestimated counting error, or a choice of the wrong function for N .

A rough graph of male and female Scaup is similar but indicates a slightly different form for the curve; probably all three graphs would be fit by similar curves with different numbers. I have not yet completed the analysis. No other species have been present in enough numbers to allow an analysis.

CORRECTION: The Common Goldeneye reported last month should have been recorded as Goldeneye, sp.

From Fanny Zwaal: Feb. 25 - Will Luick of 1027 Camino Ricardo, San Jose (Willow Glen Area) saw 4 Evening Grosbeaks feeding on the seeds of a Box Elder tree across the street from his home. He saw them each morning and this morning, Feb. 29, he called to say there were 10 Evening Grosbeaks feeding in the same tree. On Thursday, Miss Emily Smith and I were there and saw two of the birds at noontime.

From Mr. and Mrs. McCann: Feb. 2 - observed two Common Gallinule, on Lake Merced. (Sorry I missed getting this in last month's Avocet -RT)

From Barbara Taylor and Emelie Curtis: March 4 - On the road between Lick Observatory and Patterson, a dozen or more Lewis Woodpeckers, numberless Western Bluebirds, one Roadrunner, one Raven, many Say's Phoebes and Rock Wrens, and Clarke's Nutcracker. At the Los Banos Refuge, same date, a flock of nine Sandhill Cranes flying over, Ibis.

From Claude Smith: March 10 - One Lesser Yellowlegs, Vasona Reservoir.

From Even Case: March 13 - I am seeing a Myrtle Warbler every few days. Have had several small (10+) flocks of Lawrence's Goldfinches in the past two weeks. Several small flocks of Brown-headed Cowbirds in the past week. Pine Siskins still come in small numbers. They are eating seeds of the Pine.

-- Ralph Trullinger
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