

The Avocet

Volume XI Number 8

October, 1964

. . . and 'way up high
the birds fly Southward
down the sky.

--Anon.

October's bright blue skies are gradually hazing over as Summer slowly eases into Fall. The hillsides show patches of red and yellow leaves to blend readily with the gold of the grasses. Birds are flocking in the fields and marshes. The deserted shores of summer are again scenes of "peep" activity. There is a tang of fall in the crisp morning air.

At our September meeting the new board members were introduced as they gave their reports. Mrs. Diane Conradson, Education Chairman, reported on her booklet, "An Introduction to the Palo Alto Baylands," to be published soon by the Palo Alto Chamber of Commerce. Our new Editor, Mrs. Florence La Riviere, stated that the "History of the Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society," written by Warren Turner, will be available soon. Mr. Lloyd Case introduced Mr. Ken Robison, Ranger of the 650 acre Santa Teresa County Park, who described the park's facilities, plants, animals, birds and terrain. Eve Case had an interesting display of plant, shrub, and tree specimens from the park. John Larson, Warden at our Richardson Bay sanctuary, reported on the fall migrants beginning to appear in the area.

Plan to be at our interesting program, Monday, October 12, 8:00 P.M. at the Community Center in Palo Alto.

Mrs. L. E. Cisne
President

October Calendar

Board Meeting

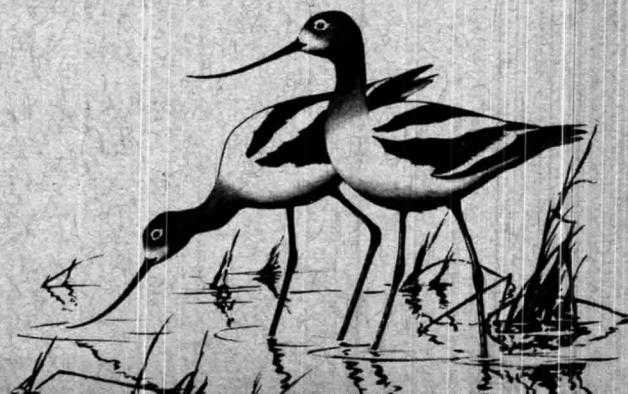
Mon., October 5, 7:30 P.M. Jill Cisne's, 1868 Bret Harte, Palo Alto.

General Meeting

Mon., October 12, 8:00 P.M. Dr. Tom Harvey, Room R, Palo Alto Community Center, 1305 Middlefield Road. See details below.

Coming Events At a Glance

Mon.	Oct.	5	7:30 P.M.	Cisne's (Board)
Wed.	Oct.	7	8:30 A.M.	Villa Montalvo
Sat.	Oct.	10	9:00 A.M.	Dumbarton Bridge
Mon.	Oct.	12	8:00 P.M.	Palo Alto General Meeting
Wed.	Oct.	21	9:00 A.M.	Ladera
Fri.	Oct.	23	Screen Tour	4:15 P.M. Palo Alto 8:00 P.M. San Jose
Sun.	Oct.	25	Santa Teresa	



Field Trips

- Wed., October 7 to Villa Montalvo in Saratoga. The interesting trees and plants are marked for easy identification, and we hope to see early wintering birds. Meet at 8:30 A.M. in the first parking area adjacent to the Villa. The entrance to Montalvo is shown by a sign about half a mile from the center of Saratoga on the Saratoga-Los Gatos Road. Leader: Mr. Claude Smith, 867-3629.
- Sat., October 10 to Dumbarton Bridge. Meet at the west end of the bridge at 9:00 A.M. Leader: Mr. Ralph Trullinger, 854-4201.
- Wed., October 21 to the foothills. Meet at the Ladera Shopping Center, 9:00 A.M. Prepare to walk. Leader: Mrs. Virginia Bothwell, 322-1209.
- Sun., October 25 to Santa Teresa, a new county park. The habitat--grassy slopes, chaparral, and wooded canyons. Come prepared for hiking. It may be chilly. The park is off the Monterey Highway south of I.B.M. Going south the park sign and turnoff are on the right opposite the Swan Lake Motel. Meet at the parking lot inside the park. Bring lunch. There are picnic tables and grills. Leaders: Ken Robison, Lloyd and Eve Case, 243-2467.

Screen Tour

- Fri., October 23. "Ranch Life and Wild Life" by Albert Wool. 4:15 P.M. Stanford University. 8:00 P.M. San Jose State College. See details below.

General Meeting

The general meeting will be held on October 12 at 8:00 P.M. at the Palo Alto Community Center. Bring your friends and neighbors to this meeting to increase interest in preserving the baylands.

Dr. Tom Harvey, Professor of Biology at San Jose State College, will speak on the topic, "The Baylands, Going, Going . . ." Dr. Harvey has been working hard with Audubon members and other interested persons in trying to persuade the City of Palo Alto to set aside a substantial section of its baylands as a wild-life sanctuary and nature study center. His talk, which is informative and entertaining, will be the official start of our theme for this year: Determining and Maintaining a Proper Balance Between Urbanization and Preservation in the San Francisco Bay Area and Santa Clara Valley. You'll be hearing more about this theme later!

Audubon Wildlife Film

On Friday, October 23, 1964, Albert J. Wool of La Honda will present "Ranch Life and Wildlife." Albert Wool's 1300-acre cattle ranch in the Santa Cruz Mountains of California (at which members of the Society were guests last June) attracts a wonderful variety of wildlife. In and around its towering redwoods, rolling hills, and clear mountain streams, we find the bobcat and

black-tailed deer, golden eagle and hummingbird, pond turtle and rainbow trout-- each playing a vital role in the life of the ranch. Here is a film portrait of life close to the earth--always new, interesting, and deeply satisfying.

This is the first of a series of five films to be shown at Cubberley Auditorium on the Stanford campus and at the Concert Hall at San Jose State College, Seventh Street, between San Carlos Street and San Fernando. Information on tickets will be mailed to members. Tickets are obtainable in San Jose from Mrs. Fanny Zwaal, 487 Clifton Avenue, San Jose, CY 2-2060, or at the Box Office the night of entertainment, or at Stanford from the Tresidder Union Ticket Office, 321-2300, extension 4317.

Some Chips Off the Old Block

A West Bend thirty-cup automatic coffee percolator can be had for only eight books of Blue Chip stamps. Eva McRae, Eve Case, Fanny Zwaal and Jill Cisne have contributed four of the books. Would anyone like to contribute one of the four remaining necessary books for the San Jose Urn? If so, send them to Mrs. Eva McRae, 55 Manning Avenue, San Jose.

A Mirro-matic thirty-five cup automatic percolator can be had for only six and three-quarter books of S & H green stamps in Palo Alto. Anyone in the North County area wishing to contribute a book or the three-quarter of a book, please send it to Joyce Todd, 954 Matadero Avenue, Palo Alto.

Who will win this Coffee-Klak? Will San Jose or Palo Alto be without a "pot" in the month of November? Be sure to read the next issue of the Avocet! Any book not needed will be returned.

Four Leaf Clovers ARE Lucky

After a visit to the Audubon Canyon Ranch near Bolinas, the joint conservation project of the Golden Gate and Marin County Audubon Societies, the Ross Valley 4-H Club decided to pay for one acre of the project.

This group of 30 youngsters, ranging in age from 10 to 19, will collect 444 Blue Chip stamp books to raise the necessary \$800.00. The Stamp Company will redeem the stamps for half again their face value for a conservation project such as this.

Madam, can you spare a book or loose stamps??? If so, send them to these enthusiastic youngsters!!!

Ross Valley 4-H Club
C/O Agriculture Extension Service
Civic Center
San Rafael, California

Our stamps are off to these kids!!!

A String for Your Finger

Don't forget to send Miss Felin or Mrs. Masson your bird lists of your garden or unscheduled bird trips. (See the September Avocet page 61). This will be particularly important in December on Christmas Census day.

Aloha

The President of the Honolulu Audubon Society, Mr. William M. Ord, and Mrs. Ord, en route from his home in Birmingham, England, stopped over in Palo Alto to visit Mrs. Ord's parents, and to confer with Mr. and Mrs. Warren Turner and Mrs. L. E. Cisne. The Ords spent four days in the field for birds of this area, one of them with the John Larsons up on Richardson's Bay. Mrs. Ord accompanied Mrs. Carl W. Buckheister, our National President, on his trip to Midway Island. The May-June issue of the Audubon Magazine carries the story of this adventure.

New Members

We are very happy to welcome the following new members:

Mr. John W. Flavin, Jr.	2205 Santa Cruz Highway, Los Gatos, Cal.
Dr. J. Lyndon York	423 Pope Street, Menlo Park, California
Mr. Douglas Claypole	898 Forest Lane, Alamo, Cal., 94507
Mr. David Aitken	289 Chestnut St., San Francisco, 94133
Miss Kristen Henry	2349 Carlton Ave., San Jose, Cal. 95124

--Angelina Snow, Membership Chairman

Support Our Bayland Project

The Palo Alto Bayland Study, prepared by the Planning Department of the City of Palo Alto was finished and presented to the City Council August 20, 1964. The study contains background material, past and present plans, and many fine maps of the area in which we are interested.

A land use map, based on this study will soon be presented by the Planning Commission to the City Council. We, as a conservation group, can signify by our presence at City Hall that we are supporting our Society's request for a Bayland Wildlife Refuge.

On April 20th of this year, Dr. Tom Harvey, on behalf of our Society, asked the Palo Alto City Council for a Nature Study Center staffed by a Naturalist, walkways through the marshes, and a Wildlife Sanctuary large enough to support the life cycles of the salt marsh and tideland plant and animals.

Please watch for the date when this vital matter will be considered. We need your help.

Wet Paint

Mr. W. H. Pillow, Sanctuary Chairman, has just finished painting the bulletin board at the Palo Alto Yacht Harbor. Check over your bird prints. Have you any of birds that might be seen on the Baylands? Would you be willing to loan them for display? If so, call Jill Cisne, 321-3195.

Notes from Afield

From Joe Wissel

Here are some birds I saw in July in the Florida Keys and Everglades National Park: Anhinga, Magnificent Frigate Bird, Great White Heron, Reddish Egret, Roseate Spoonbill, Swallow-tailed Kite, Chuck-Wills-Widow, Pileated Woodpecker, Gray Kingbird, White-crowned Pigeon.

Claude Smith reports the first Cedar Waxwings of the season at Camp Stuart on September 6.

From the Turners at Fallen Leaf Lake

The weather is near perfect here. We notice the softness of the September sunlight as contrasted with the brilliant light in July and August. The fox sparrows, western tanagers, Wilson's warblers, and others that nested here have migrated. There have not been as many mountain Bluebirds this year.

A pair of belted kingfishers "rattle" up and down the creek; the white-headed woodpeckers are working in the Jeffrey Pines. A flock of about fifty mountain Chickadees pass busily in the nearby trees; a flock of Oregon Juncos are feeding around the porch steps; the noisy Steller's jays are on the porch railing.

Occasionally we see the following and a few others: Green-tailed Towhee, Evening Grosbeak, Water Ouzel, Red-breasted Nuthatch, White-breasted Nuthatch, Brown Creeper, Turkey Vulture, Olive-sided Flycatcher, Mountain Quail.

Ralph R. Trullinger, Compiler. Send observations: 1960 Santa Cruz Avenue, Menlo Park, California, 94026. Phone: 854-4201.

Library Notes

It may be that many of our new members are not aware of the fact that our society has a "Five-foot Shelf of Books," mainly pertaining to birds, wild-life, and nature in general. Borrowing arrangements may be made by telephoning Eve or Lloyd Case at CH 3-2467 at about six o'clock in the evening, please.

Incidentally, we have had these books in our care for quite a long time; and, if anyone in a more central location, or in the Palo Alto area, would like to take over as "librarian," we would be glad to arrange for the change.

(P.S. The reference to a "Five-foot Shelf" is literally true at the present time, but the library is slowly but steadily growing.)

--Lloyd N. Case

September Board Meeting Notes

S.C.V.A.S. board met at Claude Smith's "Eyrie" in Saratoga on September 9, 1964. Members came early to bird, prepare dinners over glowing coals, or just to enjoy the view.

Secretary Eva McRae's minutes of the June annual meeting at Alum Rock Park were accepted as printed in September Avocet.

John Brokenshire told of presenting to the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors an Audubon resolution opposing the annual payment of \$7000 for killing wild animals in the Mt. Hamilton area. The Santa Clara County Cattlemen's Association strongly believes in this "predator control," so the contract was renewed with the federal government for more paid hunting. Supervisor Ed Levin voted for our position.

The proposed 1964-1965 budget for the Society, presented by Fanny Zwaal and Jill Cisne, was accepted.

Dr. Herbert Grench, program chairman, discussed his theme for the year-- the "proper balance between urbanization and preservation in the Bay Area." Since rate of growth on the peninsula has slowed down, now is the time to stop to consider what we really want. Dr. Grench has scheduled Mel Scott, noted writer on San Francisco Bay, for a December 14 special meeting in Palo Alto. Nearby Audubon chapters, other local conservation groups, and the general public will be invited to attend. William Penn Mott, well-known East Bay conservationist, will speak in March or April.

Lloyd Case, Chairman of the Conservation Committee, told of local members' work on a survey for the California Fish and Game Commission. Information now being gathered should provide the good, factual background needed when wild areas must be defended. Mr. Case urged that we use, and spread the word about Santa Teresa County Park. The county is reluctant to spend money improving parks it owns, or to acquire more areas, if presently established parks are not used.

Avocet editor Florence La Riviere will let the treasurer know the cost of typing September's Avocet. A volunteer from the membership of the Society would cut production cost. White paper will be available soon for a new look.

Education Chairman Diane Conradson asked for slides of any western Swallows. She has purchased a film on the life story of the Anna's Hummingbird with funds given to S.C.V.A.S. for such a purpose. Her book, Introduction to the Palo Alto Baylands, will be published by the Palo Alto Chamber of Commerce when photographs to illustrate it are ready. (Photographer-naturalist Howard King of San Carlos, whose work has been featured in Sierra Club and Save-the-Redwoods League publications, has taken the job, happily wielding a telephoto lens "a mile long"--"for the birds."--J.T.) The book will resemble Trees of Palo Alto, an excellent guide to fine native and garden species in the city, published a few years ago.

Registrar Fanny Zwaal reported funds due us by N.A.S. are slow, but nearly all local members are now paid up. Membership brochures are very helpful, and the board moved that more will be printed when needed, distributed to schools, etc.

Lloyd Case reported Warren Turner's History of S.C.V.A.S. (100 copies) will sell for \$1.00--thus paying for itself.

Conservation Notes

At long last, conservationists have achieved one of the objectives for which they have worked for many years, against strong and bitter opposition: "THE WILDERNESS BILL," in a slightly compromised form, has finally been passed and signed by President Johnson.

Also of great importance to us who live in California and so greatly enjoy the vast numbers of wildfowl that use the Pacific Flyway, is the passing of the Tule-Klamath Lake Basin bill that will protect that area as a Wildfowl Refuge. It, too, is a compromise bill; but it appears to be a satisfactory compromise; and since Senator Kuchel is pleased with it, we can be sure that it is going to be an improvement over previous conditions.

The signing of these bills does not mean that we can sit back and take the attitude that "all is well with our Little Nell!" There have been too many cases where, in a few years, the "nibblings" of vested interests have made vast inroads into the original sanctuary or refuge area that was set aside. We must make sure that the provisions of these measures are not ignored, and that the specified areas are not exploited by vested interests.

THE RAMPART DAM is still a controversial issue, and one which we cannot ignore while we are feeling satisfied with recent successes. Even though the proposed dam is far away in northern Alaska, it does concern us because of the terrific impact which it would have on the hundreds of thousands (if not millions) of our Pacific Flyway ducks and geese that breed and nest in that area. I am convinced that the total overall LOSS would far surpass the local economic gains resulting from the flooding of such a vast area, with its consequent elimination of so much wildlife, and the total destruction of habitats that are essential to their existence. I urge you to carefully read every newspaper article and editorial on this subject (they are numerous), and then: let your conscience guide your pen!

As conservationists, we (collectively) concern ourselves with the preservation of open spaces for parks and recreational areas. At the same time, only a relatively small handful of our membership has even taken advantage of the trails, picnic areas, and the delightful birding in our SANTA TERESA COUNTY PARK. The trails are very easy walking but call for good shoes. There is also a wide road to the top of Coyote Peak, passing favorite resting places of deer, feeding areas of quail, and wooded areas at the head of ravines, where the birding is delightful. On three consecutive Sunday mornings, Eve and I have had wonderful birding in these areas, and we are looking forward to more exciting mornings there during the migration periods.

To reach Santa Teresa Park drive south from San Jose (on either South First Street, or the 101 Highway) past the I.B.M. plant. About two miles south of I.B.M., watch for the SWAN LAKE MOTEL with its large sign on the left (east) side of the highway. Slow down, because the turnoff is only a block or so beyond! The regulation green-and-white sign indicates the road, on the right hand side of the highway. Turn right and drive almost two miles toward the hills, to the public golf course. Turn left into the road at the near edge of the golf course, and you have arrived! Drive around the hill to the right of the Club House, and you will see the large parking area and an acre or so of green lawn. Walk across the lawn to the picnic tables, from which you can take any one of a number of pleasant trails.

It seems obvious that if we want more parks and nature-areas, we must shown an active interest in using what we already have.

-- Lloyd N. Case,
Conservation Chairman

Avocet

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