

The Avocet

Volume XII Number 4

April 1965

William Penn Mott, Jr.

"SONG OF THE CRICKET"

Monday, April 12, 8:00 P.M.

San Jose State College, Science Building, Room 142

William Penn Mott, Jr., General Manager, East Bay Regional Park District; President, Save San Francisco Bay Association; Vice President, California Conservation Council; Director, United Bay Area Crusade; Director and Secretary, Oakland Y.M.C.A.; and much, much more. Mr. Mott is well-known in the Bay Area for his visionary leadership in planning and acquiring park and recreational facilities.

This is the seventh program relating to the theme: "Recognizing and Obtaining the Proper Balance between Preservation and Urbanization in the Santa Clara Valley and San Francisco Bay Region."

Please make every effort to attend this outstanding program. North County residents in need of transportation, call Miss Harriet Munday, DA 5-1192, preferably between 8:00 and 9:00 A.M.

April Calendar

Board Meeting

Monday, April 5, 7:30 P.M. at 2828 South Court, Palo Alto.

General Meeting

Monday, April 12, 8:00 P.M. San Jose State. See above. Note location.

Screen Tour

Friday, April 23, 8:00 P.M. Concert Hall, San Jose State College, Mr. Eben McMillen presents "The Land that I Love."

Palo Alto City Council Meetings

Monday, April 5, and Monday, April 26, 7:30 P.M., Palo Alto City Hall. The City Council is giving its thoughtful consideration to future use of its vital and beautiful Baylands. Your presence at these meetings will express your interest and keep you informed.

Coming Events At A Glance

Sun.	Apr.	4	9:00 A.M.	Spring Valley Lake
Mon.	Apr.	5	7:30 P.M.	2828 South Court, Palo Alto (Board)
Mon.	Apr.	5	7:30 P.M.	Palo Alto City Council
Mon.	Apr.	12	8:00 P.M.	San Jose State College
Wed.	Apr.	14	9:00 A.M.	Pilarcitos Lake
Wed.	Apr.	21	9:00 A.M.	Stevens Creek Park
Fri.	Apr.	23	8:00 P.M.	San Jose Screen Tour
Sun.	Apr.	25	9:00 A.M.	Uvas Canyon
Mon.	Apr.	26	7:30 P.M.	Palo Alto City Council



Field Trips

Sunday, April 4, 9:00 A.M. Spring Valley Lake and Pilarcitos Lake. Take Skyline Blvd. to Spring Valley Dam. Go west on dirt road just north of dam. Group will meet at gate to Sawyer's camp. Bring lunch. Be prepared to stay until about 3:00 P.M. Leaders: Mark and Leota Massey. For further information call Ralph Trullinger, 854-4201.

Wednesday, April 14 to Pilaratos Lake on San Francisco Water Department property. Meet at Pulgas Water Temple on Canada Road at 9:00 A.M. Bring lunch and children and plan to spend all day. Leader: Kay McCann, 327-4138.

Wednesday, April 21, 9:00 A.M. sharp to explore Stevens Creek Park for spring flowers and birds. Meet in the parking area by the dam. For further information call Miss Emily Smith, EL 4-2494 or Mary Rugh, 354-8433.

Sunday, April 25, 9:00 A.M. Uvas Canyon County Park. Bring lunch. This will be a trip to look for spring birds and flowers in open areas and to walk in wooded areas. The park can be reached from the North County by driving south on U.S. 101 (Bayshore) to Bailey Avenue just south of Coyote; turn right and follow Bailey to its termination at McKean Road; turn left and follow McKean (Uvas) Road for approximately $6\frac{1}{2}$ miles to Croy Road; turn right and follow Croy to its termination at the park.

From South San Jose and West Valley the park can be reached by taking Almaden Road, McKean (Uvas) Road and Croy Road. Leader, Roy Cameron, 867-9309.

DUNLIN

Erolia alpina, or Red-backed Sandpiper

The sands, shores, and ready wilderness finds vocal expression in the flight notes of many shore birds. . . the Dunlin. . . its legions and the marvelous unison of its aerial evolutions. . . contributes importantly to the character of the open shore.

--Henry M. Hall, A Gathering of Shore Birds, Devin Adair, pp. 162-163.

The "peeps" along all shores express the surge, the excitement, the light-hearted freshness that is Spring. The upland passerines, too, are trouping gaily northward in orderly, purposeful progression. Here and there one hears the full vibrant song of a bird who has found his niche. Overhead the Falcons and Accipiters glide on motionless wings on every convenient thermal as they migrate. In a hollow tree, a fuzzy set of owls are being fed.

ABAG of Hope for a Better Bay

At our March meeting, Mayor James P. Thurber, Jr., of Los Altos, gave a brief history of ABAG--its purposes, progress, inadequacies, maturation, and future plans.

In 1960, agreeing that this should have begun 50 years ago, a group of concerned mayors and supervisors from nine counties around the Bay, met with Mayor Hutchinson in Berkeley, to face the problems of population growth and the inability of man to learn to live with and to respect his natural surroundings.

In 1961, the Association of Bay Area Governments was formed. This voluntary organization of city and county representatives, with no legal power to enforce decisions, came together to plan the future use without further abuse of the Bay.

A two-year inventory was taken of every park of over 100 acres and all open space, county by county. This data was then charted against a population map. What recreational areas were needed, now and in the future? Where should they be? What types were needed? Who should control them? How should they be financed? This part of the study produced a set of principles and standards for recreational facilities in the Bay Area:

1. Park systems should be connected by scenic roads, waterways, hiking and biking trails, and green corridors.
2. Bodies of water should be controlled for optimum uses.
3. Diversified parks should serve the needs of the entire region.
4. Scenic and historic areas should be conserved.
5. Wildlife areas should be designated.
6. Motor vehicle traffic should be kept to a minimum.
7. Biological, geological, and horticultural resources should be reserved for education.
8. Ecological balances should be retained between park and surrounding areas.
9. Commercial development should be kept at a minimum, compatible with the park system.
10. Construction within parks should be subject to review by a controlling agency.

After four years of effort ABAG found that rigid adherence to the principles of home rule is just not possible or realistic as far as Bay Area problems are concerned; however, the Association worked, grew, and matured to meet the real responsibilities in regional development.

In 1964, with a few minor modifications, the McAteer Bill, calling for the establishment of a San Francisco Bay Commission of 29 members, to control filling of the Bay under State authority, was endorsed by ABAG.

ABAG was extremely active in the formation and passage of the "Beach and Park Recreation and Historical Facilities Bond Act" of 1964, and the program for the distribution of funds, and is determined that maximum benefits accrue in the Bay Area. Thurber encouraged the Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society to continue to be heard loud and clear and as often as possible on conservation and park needs. Our aims are mutual--conservation.

Mrs. Luther E. Cisne
President

Board Notes

The S.C.V.A.S. Board met at the home of Diane Conradson in Palo Alto.

Harold Gilliam's T.V. interview before the business meeting should have convinced many that: (1) We don't want the bay filled; (2) We do need to preserve good farm soils; (3) We need to be aware of earthquake hazards. One day the San Andreas fault will shake us up again.

The sum of \$200 will be paid into Save San Francisco Bay Association's film fund. Mrs. Reynolds and Mrs. Willis, who did "Island in Time," will begin work on the film about April 1--a project much needed to publicize the values and beauties of the bay. Vast and ruinous fills are planned--more than ever now since industrialists fear a fill moratorium and want to begin at once.

We will pay three half-scholarships (\$62.50 each) to Audubon Camp of the West. Bill Goodall, Western Representative, has already chosen Mr. Rupard Parker, a ranger from Coe State Park at Morgan Hill, as first recipient.

Diane Conradson still needs help: 327-2512. The Education Committee is vitally important; one person cannot keep up with the demands now made for help and instruction.

Dr. L. Richard Mewaldt of San Jose State College presented his plans for a Point Reyes Bird Observatory. He said such centers have flourished in Europe for a long time. Ornithologists there do not need a shotgun to place their identifications in the literature. Other functions of such an observatory are study, preservation, informing the public on the biology of birds in general. In the United States, only waterfowl have been so carefully watched. At the Point Reyes center, banding of birds and study of the movements of birds can be extended from waterfowl to small birds and shorebirds. Point Reyes has the greatest variety of these birds to be found anywhere on the West Coast. The geography and cover of our newest National Seashore attract birds in great number and variety.

The Point Reyes Bird Observatory, incorporated in March 1965, has already hired a professional biologist. In time a staff, graduate students, and amateur observers will assemble. The Western Bird Banding Association is its parent organization, and the center will take over as nucleus the buildings of the Heinz Ranch on Point Reyes. A permanent one to three hundred acre reserve will be arranged with the National Park Service. One of the major objectives will be to study the dynamics of bird migration and population. The project has the full and enthusiastic support of the National Park Service--who will use some of the findings in their interpretive program.

The National Science Foundation will be approached for financial help; interim assistance of about \$500 a month is needed. The Point Reyes Bird Observatory is already a going corporation with tax exempt status. Brochures, slides, and other fund raising materials are shaping up. Since Point Reyes National Seashore is so new, the Observatory will be granted a prime location in the Master Plan now being drawn.

S.C.V.A.S. Board voted \$500 to assist the project--payable April 15. Members or friends who wish to implement this remarkable center will have the heartfelt thanks of: Point Reyes Bird Observatory, C/O Dr. L. Richard Mewaldt, San Jose State College, San Jose, California.

Notes from Afield

Moss Landing, Salinas River Mouth Trip -- February 14

This was a joint trip between our society and the Santa Cruz Bird Club. A total of 32 species of birds were listed. Ducks were conspicuous by their absence. Leader: Viola Anderson.

Duveneck Ranch Trip -- February 24.

Twenty people gathered for an interesting trip on a sunny, pleasant morning. A few spring flowers were in bloom, and others gave signs of blooming soon. The group identified 30 species of birds. Leader: Bernice Pillow.

Schwann Lake Trip -- February 28.

Twenty people attended this trip. We birded first at the ocean and the end of the lake bordering the ocean. Here we were fortunate to see a Spotted Sandpiper. It was in an intermediate plumage having shoulder patches and beginning to get its spots. We next journeyed by car and foot to the other end of the lake then back for lunch to the beach at the ocean. A total of 29 species were recorded by the group. Leader: Eve Case.

George Peterson Ranch Trip -- March 10.

We birded in Madronia Cemetery before going to the ranch and got most of our bird list there. At the ranch we walked part way up the mountain through redwoods, Douglas fir and big leaf maple. Claude Smith was most helpful on plants and ecology. The 15 people in the group saw 23 bird species. Leader: Margaret Henderson.

The Orange-crowned Warbler came to the syrup feeder at Mrs. Lintotts in Los Gatos for the last time the early morning of February 18.

--Ralph Trullinger
Field Note Compiler

Answers to San Francisco Bay Quiz

1. The State of California.
2. About half.
3. About 450.
4. Reduced amount of water results in hotter summers and colder winters.
5. Alviso.
6. North wind tends to pile up water at Alviso.
7. Some absorb it and excrete it. Some absorb it and die off.
8. 2-3 weeks.
9. The company dredges oyster shell from the floor of the bay in that area and uses it in making cement.

Answers to San Francisco Bay Quiz (continued)

10. Natural reservoirs in sloughs--almost never connecting directly with a slough, but filled by tides that rise over the levels of the marsh and emptied only by evaporation. They were the natural "salt-pans" of the early salt industry. Few are left now.
11. Canvasback Duck.
12. Marsh Hawk, White-tailed Kite, Sparrow-Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, Shrike, Short-eared Owl, Burrowing Owl.
13. Pickle weed and Cord grass.
14. Horse or Ribbed Mussel.
15. Red bellied harvest mouse and the vagrant shrew.
16. Earthquake damage to buildings on fill is potentially a very great danger.
17. Bacteria (red), alga (green-yellow), and fine silt.
18. \$18 million a year. The investment of commercial fishing dependent on the catch is \$30 million.
19. Up to 30,000 birds per mile.
20. About 15 feet.

New Members

We welcome the following new members:

- | | |
|----------------------------|---|
| Mrs. Mary McCain | |
| Miss Katherine Koos | |
| Miss Merrily McCain | |
| Miss Cynthia McCain | 855 Nisqually Drive, Sunnyvale. |
| Mrs. D. V. Thomas | 460 Gerona Drive, Stanford. |
| Mr. John M. Raymond | 895 San Mateo Drive, Menlo Park. |
| Mr. Claude A. Lock | 411 Los Ninos Way, Los Altos. |
| Mrs. L. M. Lockwood | 2120 Edgewood Drive, Palo Alto. |
| Mrs. John H. Helmer | 260 So. Balsamina Way, Menlo Park. |
| Mr. Gilbert N. Ball | 14911 Freman, San Jose. |
| Mr. Bryan C. Arnold | 1426 Meadow Lane, Mountain View. |
| Miss Agnes M. Bangs | 18030 Arlee Drive, Monte Sereno. |
| Mr. and Mrs. John Burton | 1921 Camino de las Robles, Menlo Park. |
| Mrs. R. F. Nylander | 14890 Baranga Lane, Saratoga. |
| Mrs. Donald F. Radke | 15255 Peach Hill Road, Saratoga. |
| Mrs. R. V. Wallace | 255 N. California Ave., Apt. 3, Menlo Park. |
| Barbara W. Abraham | 151 Calderon Ave., #152, Mt. View. |
| Miss Elaine Brinker | 585 Jackson Drive, Palo Alto. |
| Mrs. Verle Elaine Hatfield | 377 Diablo Court, Palo Alto. |

Student Members:

- | | |
|-------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Mr. William T. Kenyon | 710 Northampton Ave., Palo Alto. |
| Miss Carol Lynn Collins | 853 N. Seventeenth St., San Jose 12. |

--Angelina Snow
Membership Chairman

Conservation Notes

THE CALIFORNIA CONDOR still needs our help! With all of the recent publicity on the seriousness of the threat of the proposed Topatopa Dam to the continued existence of the California Condor, it is our obligation, as Californians and members of Audubon, to take an active part in the effort to prevent the opening up, even temporarily, of the area that has been set aside as Condor Sanctuary. We must keep ourselves informed of the situation as it develops, and we must act! Since we are now concerned with a project, and not legislation, we can write either as Audubon members or as individuals. We should express our opinions to the President (The White House, Washington 25, D. C.); to the Secretary of the Interior, Stewart L. Udall; to Senators and to Representatives in Washington; and to our state legislators. In a "Campaign of Education" we should each write our personal friends explaining our concern and asking them to support our efforts. Cannot we each get 10 (or at least 5) of our friends to write to the above-mentioned people on behalf of our largest bird?

Speaking of "education," thanks to our Chairman of Education, I have just finished reading an extremely interesting and informative book, California Condor, Vanishing American, by Dick Smith and Robert Eaton. Written in a very readable style, the book tells of the Condor's origins, its symbolic associations with earliest man, its place in our history, and its fight for survival. The book is available at the Palo Alto Public Library, and should be classed as a must for reading by anyone who is interested in this remarkable bird which has survived since Pleistocene time.

NATURE PRESERVES:

After the years of strenuous effort to get a "Wilderness Bill," it is indeed gratifying to note that 16 "nature preserves" in 6 western states have been set aside in a public-lands withdrawal order by the Secretary of the Interior, Stewart L. Udall. Ranging in size from 22 to 1,500 acres, these protected areas include unusual plant communities and geologic formations of high scientific interest; in some cases they will safeguard rare species.

A New Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Fish and Wildlife has been appointed by President Johnson. He is Dr. Stanley A. Cain, a distinguished ecologist and educator who for the past eleven years has been professor of conservation and chairman of the School of Natural Resources at the University of Michigan. (Remember to write to him when you are writing conservation letters! Washington 25, D.C.)

THE COLORADO RIVER IS STILL THREATENED!

Did you read or hear President Johnson's recent Message to Congress on natural beauty? Did you read in the San Francisco Chronicle Harold Gilliam's column which hailed it as the most remarkable presidential message on conservation since Theodore Roosevelt's time? Both the message and the column were stimulating and encouraging.

BUT, at the same time that conservationists were regarding that message with relief and optimism, representatives of California and Arizona were drawing up a compact on the division of the Colorado River water. The accord was announced and preliminary legislation introduced.

Conservation Notes (continued)

While accord is desirable, it now turns out that this accord is based on the construction of the highly controversial Bridge and Marble Canyon Dams on the Colorado River. There is an increasing pressure for the construction of more and more destructive dams which will wipe out forever the sweeping grandeur of many miles of the Colorado River.

Shall we let it go or shall we do something, anything, about it?

A REDWOOD NATIONAL PARK is now more than just a dream--it is a definite possibility if we who care are willing to express our desires for such a park. In response to a request from President Johnson via Secretary of the Interior, the National Park Service has recommended a 53,600 acre park in southern Del Norte and northern Humboldt counties. This Redwood National Park would be formed by adding the Redwood Creek drainage to the existing Prairie Creek Park. It is to be noted that the Redwood Creek drainage area contains the world's tallest redwood trees.

This is a conservation project that deserves our active and energetic cooperation and support.

ANOTHER NEW THREAT TO THE SHRINKING BAY is the application of the Port Authority of the City of Oakland to the U.S. Corps of Engineers for a revision of federal pier and bulkhead lines which would permit the filling of 130 acres to form a peninsula extending some 3,000 feet into deeper water. In "common language" this area would extend about 8 or 10 blocks into the bay, along a frontage of about five blocks.

Considering the effort to get a moratorium on the filling of the bay shores until a satisfactory Master Plan has been agreed upon, we should express our individual opinions to: Colonel Robert H. Allan (U.S. Corps of Engineers; 100 McAllister Street, San Francisco); to the Secretary of the Army (Washington, D.C.); and to national senators and representatives. It would not all be amiss to write to your California Senator and Assemblyman!

--Lloyd N. Case
Conservation Chairman

Birds in the Hand

Dr. L. R. Mewaldt, a S.C.V.A.S. member, who is nationally known for his study of migration routes by the banding and releasing of White-crowned and Gold-crowned Sparrows, announced a fascinating project being set up in connection with the new National Park on Point Reyes. He will give us a report at our April 12 meeting, Room 142 Science Building, San Jose State College. Don't miss it! Hear how you, too, can be a bird banding participant.

Mr. Curt Dietz

We are sorry to announce the death of Mr. Curt Dietz last month in Lafayette. Our Society is grateful for his long participation in its activities. He led field trips, worked on Christmas Counts, and donated books to our library. We extend our sympathy to Mrs. Dietz.

One Day of Birding on the Island of Kauai

March 5, 1965. We left our beach-side cottage on the south coast of Kauai Island in a rented car at about 8:00 A.M. Our destination was the Kilauea Light house situated on a high rock promontory at the extreme north-east corner of Kauai Island. There was to be one stop at Anahole Bay and beach on the east coast of the Island.

We had been informed there might be a "Wandering Tattler" on the Anahole Beach. At least it had been seen there a year ago. We found the side road leading to the beach and wound our way for nearly a mile to reach it. The beach at first glance was a beauty! Just one lone fisherman with his net stood on the reef amid white, crashing breakers. We were busy for a couple of minutes getting our field glasses and locking the car. Then as we turned to search the beach, right straight in front of us at the water's edge in the quiet lagoon was the Wandering Tattler, looking just exactly like his picture in Peterson. The long, sturdy, straight bill was probing into the soft sand for food. We could hardly believe our eyes at such good luck. Later it was joined by its mate and both birds flew off as another car approached. Their flight was rapid and graceful.

Later as we approached our destination at Kilauea Light House in our car we saw perhaps 20-30 graceful white birds with black wing tips and strikingly red legs and feet, soaring around the east side of the promontory. There was a drop of 200 feet to the ocean. After parking the car and walking toward the guard rail, we became aware of similar birds sitting on nests just beyond the guard rail. The nests were made of small twigs and were located a foot or two above the ground on a mound or low bush. Then we realized we were seeing a rookery (or colony) of ocean birds called "Red-footed Boobys." There were perhaps 200 nests ranging down a slope. All nests were filled with roosting birds. Some were so close to our guard rail we could touch them. They did not seem to fear us and looked as curiously at us as we did at them. We watched a male bird gracefully descend and alight on the edge of a nest and present a small twig to the sitting female. She promptly tucked it into other twigs of the nest. We judged the nests were newly built, or refurnished, for we could see no evidence of eggs yet. Occasionally we would see overhead a large, dark colored bird with angled wings and deeply forked tail. This was the "Great Frigate Bird." It is usually to be found where there are fish-eating birds like the Boobys, because the Frigate Bird steals the fish from the Booby after it has been caught.

The Hawaiians call the Frigate Bird "Iwa," which means thief.

We expected also to see Wedge-tailed Shearwaters in the same general area according to reports. We learned from the Coast Guard sergeant that these birds had not yet arrived for nesting but were expected in late March or early April. We saw holes in the earth (on the west side of the promontory) that had been dug last year and used as nests. The Shearwaters are seldom seen near land in the daylight. Only at night are the birds on land to dig their burrows or raise the babies. Strangely, these birds have almost no legs and cannot fly from level ground. They have to topple off cliffs such as surround the light house in order to begin flight.

So, the Boobys nested on one side of the promontory on a narrow, sloping cliffside and the Shearwaters on the opposite side. Most of the male Boobys must have been at sea fishing for only a few birds constantly and gracefully circled the rookery. We also saw a Red-tailed Tropic Bird flying in great circles along the west coast side of the cliffs.

Our final new bird for the day was discovered flying through the air. We had not seen a single native Hawaiian duck in all our travels; and here it was a little, brown duck streaking like a jet not very far above us. It was in the rice growing area of Hanalei and perhaps we would have found others if we had taken time to look.

We have only mentioned birds seen on this 5th day of March, but we also talked with people, visited lovely beaches, did some picture taking, bought some groceries and returned to our cozy cottage at 8:00 P.M., after a gorgeous day, long to be remembered.

Red-tailed Tropic Bird

Red-footed Booby

Brown Booby

Pomarine Jaeger

Black-crowned Night Heron

Chinese Pheasant

Common Gallinule

Bristle-thighed Curlew

Golden Plover

Ruddy Turnstone

Short-eared Owl

Barred Dove

Western Meadowlark

Omao Thrush

Skylark

"Kentucky" Cardinal

Strawberry Finch

Indian Myna

Apapane

Rice Bird

Japanese White-eye

Rice Bird

Amakihi

Great Frigate Bird

Cattle Egret

Hawaiian Duck

California Quail

American Coot

Black-necked Stilt

Wandering Tattler

Sanderling

Spotted Dove

Mocking Bird

Chinese Thrush

Shama Thrush

Red Crested Brazilian Cardinal

House Finch

House Sparrow

Iiwi

Elpaco (Wren)

Anianiau

--Rebecca and Warren Turner