

# The Avocet

Volume XII Number 7

September 1965

## THE YEAR AHEAD

Welcome again to a new Audubon season! I am grateful for the opportunity to be your president this year; I hope to serve your interests adequately. It won't be easy to approach the outstanding job which Jill Cisne did last year.

This season you can look forward to varied programs for our monthly meetings. Howard Shellhammer, our new program chairman, is anxious to provide the enjoyable and easy-to-take nature programs mixed with the more "hard-core" conservation features.

At our first meeting (please see the announcement below for new meeting nights and places) Lloyd and Eve Case will collaborate to present just such a varied program.

You should feel very proud of your Society. I think that it is beginning to emerge in this area as an even more important conservation force. There are at least two good reasons for this. First, we have made a constant, concerted effort in the last two years to convince the City of Palo Alto that it should set aside part of its baylands as a wildlife refuge and nature study area. This has paid off in two ways: Palo Alto may indeed set up a marshland preserve, and also, the Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society has received enormous publicity from this endeavor. Secondly, the series of conservation programs for the public, which the board supported so well last season, has done much to further a favorable public image which is essential if we are to be a truly effective conservation organization.

At the October meeting I will present a definite program for the coming year. It will include not only increased community activity on our part but also an enhancement of our enjoyment of the out-of-doors as a group.

I welcome your suggestions and your help. There is a job for everyone in our organization. Please feel free to call me at any time and share your comments and thoughts (DAI-7994).

Herb Grench  
President

### Coming Events At A Glance

Sat. Sept. 11	9:00 A.M.	Dumbarton Bridge
Wed. 15	9:00 A.M.	Montalvo
Thurs. 16	6:00 P.M.	Saratoga (Board)
Sat. 18	9:00 A.M.	Moss Landing
Wed. 29	9:00 A.M.	P.A. Yacht Harbor
Wed. Oct. 6	8:00 P.M.	P.A. (General Meeting)



September-October Calendar

Board Meeting

Thurs., Sept. 16, at Claude Smith's in the Saratoga hills. Bring spouse. Bring your food--a bed of coals will be ready at 6:00 P.M. for cooking. The road will be marked with Audubon signs from the cemetery at Sixth and Oak Sts., Saratoga. Come early to explore and bird. Questions? Call 867-3629 evenings 5:30 to 7:00.

General Meeting

Wed., Oct. 6, 8:00 P.M. P. A. Coop Meeting Room, 200 California Ave., Palo Alto (2nd floor, across parking lot from market). Featured will be a joint presentation by the Cases. Lloyd will entertain with a slide show of the beautiful Audubon camp of Wisconsin. Eve will describe the tremendous project of the Fish and Game Commission in which the local Audubon Societies have taken extensive semi-monthly bird censuses on San Francisco Bay. Here is your opportunity to learn how Audubon members have made an invaluable contribution to a public agency, supplying scientific records that will be of interest in themselves, and will demonstrate the incalculable value of the bay to wildlife. Come and hear Eve relate her personal experiences census-taking.

Field Trips

Sat., Sept. 11. Meet at the west end of Dumbarton Bridge at 9:00 A.M. Leader: Ralph Trullinger, 854-4201.

Wed., Sept. 15. Villa Montalvo, Saratoga. This is an excellent place to become familiar with trees and shrubs as all are identified. Meet at 9:00 A.M. in the first parking area adjacent to the Villa. Entrance to Montalvo is shown by a sign about half a mile from the center of Saratoga on the Saratoga-Los Gatos Rd. Leaders: Mr. and Mrs. Prusman, 356-3844.

Sat., Sept. 18. Meet at Jetty Road in Moss Landing at 9:00 A.M. Bring lunch. Leader: Viola Anderson, 243-2467.

Wed., Sept. 29. Meet at the Duck Pond, Palo Alto Yacht Harbor at 9:00 A.M. Leader: Kay McCann, 327-4138.

Battle of the Baylands

The Palo Alto Citizens' Advisory Committee on the Baylands (Diane Conradson and Florence LaRiviere of this Society are members) has voted to recommend to the City Council that the Palo Alto marshlands be dedicated as a wildlife preserve, with walkways, observation platforms, and a nature center staffed by a naturalist. At this same time, the Society's proposals have had the added support of the following letter received in August by the City Council:

Aug. 6, 1965

Gentlemen:

In view of the pending report of your recently appointed Citizens' Advisory Committee on the Baylands (of Palo Alto), permit us to express our deep concern for the preservation of salt marshes of the San Francisco Bay area. The tremendous value of these wetlands to fish and wildlife, including many marine species, becomes more apparent each day as our biological knowledge accumulates.

The suggested dedication of these salt marshes as a natural area, with the eventual incorporation of an interpretive center for the education and enjoyment of Californians, and others, would, we believe, serve the best interests of the Bay areas over the years. Of course, the preservation of these marshes is of immediate importance, for once filled or drained, wetlands are irrecoverable.

Federal assistance in outdoor recreation is available, as the enclosed booklet so titled explains. In addition, the newly established Land and Water Conservation Fund offers assistance to States, and through States to other public agencies for the planning, acquisition, and development of outdoor recreation areas and facilities. The new program is described in the enclosed fact sheet. Mr. Hugo Fisher, Administrator, The Resources Agency, Room 1020, State Capitol, Sacramento, California 95814, should be contacted for additional information.

For years, we have worked for a coordinated land-use program in the Bay area. We take the position that piecemeal reclamation of these tidelands, marshes, and submerged lands should be prohibited until such a plan is adopted. Use of the marshes as described above would nicely fit into these overall objectives which must be attained.

We urge the consideration that salt marshes of the Palo Alto area be totally preserved, when evaluating the forthcoming report on the baylands.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) Stewart Udall

Secretary of the Interior

Palo Alto City Council  
Palo Alto, Calif. 94300  
Encs. (2)

General Meetings

This year's general meetings will be held the first Wednesday of the month. Those in the South County will be held at the Security Savings and Loan Friendship Room located at 2830 Alum Rock Ave., San Jose, at 8:00 P.M. on Nov. 3, 1965, Jan. 5, 1966, March 2, 1966 and May 4, 1966.

North County meeting will be held at 8:00 P.M. at the Palo Alto Coop Meeting Room, 2nd floor of the office building (across the parking lot from the market) 200 California Ave., Palo Alto, on October 6, 1965, Dec. 1, 1965, February 2, 1966 and April 6, 1966.

Please mark these dates on your calendars now!

### Notes from Afield

#### Echo Mountain Ranch - May 12 (On Bear Creek Rd. in Santa Cruz Mountains)

32 species of birds were observed at this fascinating summer camp for children. One Hutton's Vireo obligingly preened in full view of the party of 19 people.

On two different scouting trips Mrs. Lintott, Mrs. Henderson and I had the pleasure of hearing singing bay trees--the trees did not sing for us on May 12. We could not figure out how the sound was being made, because we saw no trees rubbing together in the breeze. Mr. Winger and I went back later and did find two spindly little trees rubbing together, performing the entire symphony. It was a beautiful experience, even though the mystery was solved by the simple answer we expected in the first place.

A very special thanks to the Barnett's for permitting us to walk along the trails and by the stream on their lovely Echo Mtn. Ranch. Leader: Edna Winger.

#### Calaveras Reservoir - May 16

44 species of birds were reported at this interesting area. Among the first to be seen was the rare Rufous-crowned Sparrow which perched at great length atop fence posts, sang their sweet thin lark-like songs, and even copulated before the startled (some binocularized) eyes of the close observers. Horned Larks, Lark Sparrows and Ash-throated Flycatchers were also seen in the same habitat of high open rounded hills. Later fine views were had of the Hooded Oriole, Lazuli Bunting, Say's Phoebe, Western Kingbird, Rough-winged Swallow and the White-throated Swift dipping water from stream. A productive spring day!

Leaders: Dr. Joe Greenberg and Russell Greenberg

#### Foothill Park - May 19

28 species of birds were seen by a party of six. Park naturalist, Mr. Babarocco, expressed interest in our getting up a check list of birds of the park. Most notable birds were: Downey Woodpecker, Lazuli Bunting, Thrasher, Warbling Vireo and all three Goldfinches--Lesser, Amer. and Lawrence.

Leader: Kay McCann

#### Dumbarton Bridge - June 5

19 species of birds were observed by 8 people on cool, overcast day. Tide was low. We birded first at west end of bridge, then walked out to the sanctuary by railroad bridge. Of interest were Snowy Plover, Black-necked Stilt and White-winged Scoter.

Leader: Ralph Trullinger

Castle Rock Ridge and Varian Reservation - June 9

31 species of birds were seen. 22 persons enjoyed beautiful scenery, trees, shrubs and wildflowers on an interesting morning which started cold and foggy and ended in warm sunshine. Notable sightings were: White-crowned Sparrow, Pine Siskin, Solitary Vireo, Purple Finch.

Leader: Claude Smith

Los Altos Hills, Wolcott Ranch - June 23

33 species were recorded by 8 observers; the day was sunny, pleasantly cool and calm. Of special interest were: Ring-necked Pheasant, Swainson's Thrush, Ash-throated Flycatcher, Bewick's Wren nesting in Wolcott house above window, Downey Woodpeckers, Wilson's, Orange-crowned Warblers, Black-headed Grosbeak, Thrasher.

Leader: Kay McCann

Point Lobos - June 27

20 species of birds were enjoyed at this beautiful, unique reserve on a warm, sunny day. The striking White-tailed Kite and friend Kingfisher grandly ushered in the day's listing. At "Guillemot Rock" fine views were had of nesting Brandt and Pelagic Cormorants, Pigeon Guillemot and Western Gulls with their downy young of varying sizes. Noted along with the plants, trees, and Indian lore of this area were a family of Pygmy Nuthatches, White-throated Swifts, Western Flycatchers, Rufous-sided Towhee and a raft of the amusing Sea Otter. Bird Island supported en masse the nesting Cormorants, Western Gulls and stately Brown Pelican.

Leaders: Lloyd and Eve Case

May to July - one Parakeet, white with yellow crown and black on wings, residing and feeding on my grounds. Keeps company with English Sparrow.--Mrs. C. Weeks, Atherton (An escaped green Parakeet in Utica, N. Y., also flocked with English Sparrow--E. Curtis)

May 5 - Castle Rock: 1 MacGillivray's Warbler, 2 Nashville Warblers--Eleanor Radke, E. Curtis

May 8 - Half Moon Bay to Santa Cruz: 15 Whimbrel in group, 5000 plus migrating Shearwaters, 300 plus Loons, 1 Yellowthroat. --Eleanor Radke, E. Curtis

May 19 - Hamilton Mtn.: Lawrence's Goldfinch (same date as one at Foothill), Lewis' Woodpecker--C. Smith, D. Bates, E. Case, E. Curtis

May 24 - near Anderson Reservoir: 2 Wood Ducks (would appreciate any reports on nesting or feeding Wood Ducks in this region)--E. Curtis

May 30 - King's Canyon: 2 Hermit Warblers, 2 Black-throated Gray Warblers, 2 Red Crossbills--E. Curtis

June 6 - Alturas, California: Yellow-headed Blackbirds

Burns, Oregon: Sage Hens--Barbara and Bob Taylor

(Mrs.) Emelie Curtis, Field Note Compiler

New Members

We welcome the participation of the following new members:

Ruth and Oscar Bundman 12655 La Cresta Dr. Los Altos Hills, Calif.	Mrs. M.K. Hack(student) 3337 Burnham Terrace Palo Alto, Calif.	Miss Margaret Sherrill 14290 Paul Ave. Saratoga, Calif.
Mrs. Laurence E. Cooley 19890 Glen Brae Dr. Saratoga, Calif. 95070	Mr. Mark Hauswald 953 W. Cardinal Dr. Sunnyvale, Calif.	Miss Margaret Strickland 508 Military Way (student) Palo Alto, Calif.
Mrs. Mary L. Eggleston 1450 Oakland Rd. Apt. 156, San Jose, Cal.	Mrs. Dorothea Reznicek 75741 Orange Blossom Dr. Los Gatos, Cal. 95070	Dr. Richard F. Thaw 2273 Booksin San Jose, Calif.

Mrs. Angelina Snow, Membership Chairman

Invitation from the Sierra Club

Please come and bring others to a Conservation-Legislation Panel discussion at 7:30 P.M., Sept. 17 at Bishop School, 450 Sunnyvale Ave., Sunnyvale. Dr. William Siri is the moderator. Hon. Alquist, Milias, and Bretschgi are on the panel.

The Shape of Our Future

The Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society is one of the sponsors of a regional conference to be held on Saturday, Oct. 9, 1965, from 9:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M. at Foothill College, Los Altos Hills, on "The Shape of Our Future."

This is an outstanding meeting bringing together engineers, builders, elected and appointed public officials and conservationists to discuss transportation systems and urban developments and their effects on the natural setting. Emphasis will be on practical aspects of planning for the future. Some of the participants are Wallace Stegner, Garrett Eckbo, William Wheaton, Joseph Houghteling, John T. Knox, John C. Becket, Harold Wise, James Thurber, Leslie Carbert.

Your \$5.00 fee (includes lunch) may be paid in advance to:

Mrs. John Ewing, Treas.  
San Mateo, Santa Clara Counties Conference  
27811 Lupine Rd.  
Los Altos Hills, Calif. 948-0651

Please state at the time of registration your affiliation with the Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society.

Wildlife Screen Tours

The first wildlife film of the season, "Nature's Plans and Puzzles" by C. P. Lyons will be presented at San Jose State College on Oct. 25, 1965. The North County series will be handled by Mr. LeVau Shugart of the Science Dept., Palo Alto High School. Information on that series will be forthcoming.

### Conservation Notes

Since the previous issue of THE AVOCET, the wheels of "progress" have continued to grind away, some controversial conservation issues have been brought to a head, some remain controversial; some issues have been won by the conservationists, and some have been lost.

The cause of the CALIFORNIA CONDOR is receiving support that is encouraging. Governor Brown (On July 22) signed into law a bill doubling the penalties for harming condors. Maximum penalties now are one year in jail, or a fine of \$1,000, or both.

The Federal Bureau of Fish Hatcheries and Wildlife has urged a two-year delay in the construction of the TOPATOPA DAM and its two reservoirs which would be directly under a major flight pattern of the Condors, and near a nesting area. This is, of course, only a moratorium; the United Water Conservation District states that its \$66.8 million water project is "not dead".

THE McATEER BILL, which controls further filling of San Francisco Bay pending creation of a master plan for shoreline development, was signed into law on July 22, BUT, since it does not become effective until Sept. 17, there are a few areas in which bits of the tideland are being nibbled away, before the protection becomes effective. In the small community of Brisbane, 500 of the 1800 registered voters were so incensed with the approval (by the mayor and two council men) of a contract for continued dumping of garbage in the Bay, that they started recall proceedings against the mayor and the two councilmen. Bravo, Brisbane!

This problem of filling-in, and of pollution of bay waters, is now so much of a public issue and of such great importance, finally, that one has only to watch carefully the daily newspapers for the latest developments.

THE GRAND CANYON OF THE COLORADO still needs active help from those of us who do not want to see further damage done in that area! The Bureau of Reclamation wants to build two dams: Bridge Canyon and Marble Canyon.

While Marble Canyon is 12.5 miles upstream from the Grand Canyon National Park, it would flood the first of the spectacular series of gorges with their revealing exhibit of the region's geological history.

Bridge Canyon would create a 93-mile long reservoir that would flood the inner gorge throughout the Grand Canyon National Monument and for 13 miles into the National Park. Please read that last sentence again and try to visualize the "Reclaimed" (?) Grand Canyon of the Colorado. Action on this dam has been postponed--but ONLY "postponed". Floyd Dominy, Commissioner of the Bureau of Reclamation has stated that "Bridge Canyon is by no means dead."

As pointed out by the Committee on Natural Resources, these dams, either or both, would save no water, nor add any to the already over-developed Colorado. On the contrary, they would waste water through evaporation. Their sole

purpose is to produce hydro electric power which the government would sell to subsidize the Central Arizona Irrigation Project.

Two points that might be accented in objection to this project are:

1. Modern fuel burning plants can produce cheaper power than either of the proposed dams.

2. If it is necessary to subsidize the pumping of water from the Lower Colorado River into the central Arizona desert, we should subsidize it directly, not by sacrificing one of our greatest scenic assets and one of the "wonders of the world".

The fight to prevent this same bureau from building the Echo Park Dam in the Dinosaur National Monument took five years. The fight to save the Grand Canyon may take as long, but we must get started with it, NOW.

If, when you express your personal opinions to your Congressman, Senators, members of the House and the Senate Interior Committees, even to President Johnson, you can save yourself a lot of headache by not even trying to refer to any of the several bills by numbers, but by referring to the "LOWER COLORADO STORAGE PROJECT", and to the two dams by name.

There are plenty of additional issues that demand our attention, but let us concentrate on one at a time, each month, instead of spreading our efforts thinly over a confusing number of issues.

(Remember, the address of your Congressman is: House Office Bldg., Washington, D.C., and your Senators are at: Senate Office Bldg., Washington, D.C.)

L. N. Case, Conservation Chairman

#### Education Committee

A discussion of how Pteridophytes reproduce and a walk among the ferns at Stevens Creek Park, a description of the Hummingbirds' amazing metabolism, and a trip to watch him soar and swoop at Huddart Park--if these things interest you, sign up for Diane Conradson's adult education course, "Nature Study of the Bay Area", starting Sept. 14, 8:00 P.M., Room E4, Menlo Atherton High School, Middlefield and Ringwood, Menlo Park.

We need color slides of swallows. If you have any that could be copied, please call Mrs. Conradson at 327-2512.

#### Auditor's Report

Mr. Warren M. Turner has examined the financial records of the Society through May 30, 1965, and finds them "properly maintained and all monies carefully accounted for. There was every evidence of attention to detail. Total assets June 30, 1965, \$3,198.26, of which \$502.70 is earmarked for Pt. Reyes Project, Building and Library Funds. Main sources of income: dues, subscriptions and gifts. Main expenditures: for the AVOCET, gifts, scholarships and educational materials.



SANTA CLARA VALLEY AUDUBON SOCIETY  
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NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY

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Directors

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Conradson, Diane	McRae, Eva	Trullinger, Ralph
Grench, Herb	Shellhammer, Howard	Wolcott, Howard

Avocet

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SANTA CLARA VALLEY AUDUBON SOCIETY  
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NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY

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	Wenzel, Joseph

Notes

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453-2024	453 Tammann Lane Palo Alto	Mr. Philip La Riviere	Editor
454-2034	1911 Camino San Jose	Mr. Joe Eric Snow	Circulation
455-2044	1921 Santa Clara Saratoga	Mr. E. W. Zimmerman	Photographic