

# The Avocet

Volume XIII, Number 3

March, 1966

## "IN THE BEGINNING...."

Wednesday, March 2, 1966  
7:20 P.M.

Smorgas Table  
Sunnyvale

How's that for the title of our next program to be presented by Miss Harriet Mundy at our first dinner meeting of the year? "In the beginning...." is about volcanos, Iceland, Africa, - a slide show that promises to be both entertaining and different. To find out more about this program you will have to attend. It will be held at the Smorgas Table in Sunnyvale. You can have your pick of the usual smorgasboard or Mexican food and we will start eating at 7:20 P.M. The restaurant is located at 799 East El Camino Real on the right as you travel north and is between Wolf Road and Fair Oaks. We have a room reserved upstairs. You can have Mexican food upstairs or go through the line downstairs for the smorgasboard - all you can eat for \$1.70 - \$2.00.

Hope to see you at "In the beginning...." at 7:20 PM., Wednesday, March 2, at the Smorgas Table in Sunnyvale. This is a regular meeting combined with dinner and an excellent program presented by Miss Mundy.

### COMING EVENTS AT A GLANCE

Wed.,	Mar. 2	7:20 P.M.	Sunnyvale (General Meeting)
Sat,	Mar. 5		
Sun.,	Mar. 6		Morro Bay
Wed.,	Mar. 9	9:00 A.M.	Santa Teresa Park
Fri.,	Mar. 11	4:00 P.M.	P.A. (Screen Tour)
Mon.,	Mar. 14	8:00 P.M.	San Jose (Screen Tour)
Wed.,	Mar. 16	7:45 P.M.	Board Meeting
Sat.,	Mar. 19	9:00 A.M.	Morgan Hill
Sun.,	Mar. 20	9:00 A.M.	Searsville
Wed.,	Mar. 23	9:00 A.M.	Foothills Park



FINALLY -- A CONSERVATION COUNCIL

Last May we sponsored a panel discussion entitled "Cooperation in Conservation." On the panel were representatives from groups ranging from the League of Women Voters to the Sierra Club. The main results of the evening's program were:

1. That there should be increased communication and closer cooperation among the various groups, and
2. In order to achieve this, the concept of a Conservation Council should be explored.

A committee with representatives from the Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society, Sierra Club, Committee for Green Foothills and Citizens for Parks and Open Space has met many times since last May. Out of these meetings has emerged a proposed Conservation Council of San Mateo, Santa Clara and Santa Cruz Counties. A resume of the prospectus for the Council follows this message so I won't go into details here.

The steering committee is now sending letters to the various groups in the three counties introducing them to the Council and inviting their participation. Our society has already joined; in fact, our board of directors voted a founding grant of \$00 to help get the Council off to a good start. Membership is restricted to organizations, however, letters are also going to individuals soliciting their sponsorship of the Council. In order to raise our \$10,000 yearly budget, we are trying particularly to reach people who can contribute \$100 or more (tax-deductible). Once the Council is functioning, I feel the budget for future years will be easily met through member organizations and their contacts.

I hope our society contains several people who will be able to be sponsors of the Council. The address of the Council is 518 Byron Street, Palo Alto.

We have a chance here at long last to create the Voice for Conservation which will be heard and can help to correctly shape the environment of our area.

HERB GRECH, President  
321-7994

A Resume of the Prospectus  
of  
the Conservation Council of  
San Mateo, Santa Clara and Santa Cruz Counties

A Committee of individuals from existing conservation groups met to form a new educational and conservation organization and center to serve three counties which form a distinctive part of the entire Bay Area. Convictions that led to the planning of this program were:

(continued on page 28)

A Resume (continued from page 27)

1. We need greater understanding of the varied environments represented and more attention must be given to our surroundings with the increasing population.
2. To this end, an accelerated program of public education through newspapers, TV, and organization publications is vital and funds are not presently available.
3. The counties have an immediate need for the exchange of information, informing interested citizens, and coordination efforts of the organization.
4. There is, therefore, a need for a clearing house for up-to-date information -- a kind of central conservation intelligence agency.

The Committee recognizes the outstanding efforts of the existing conservation organizations, and feels that the need now is not for another one, but for the growth of the existing ones, and for greater cooperation between them. The proposed organization would be a service organization for all the groups:

We propose the establishment of a Center for collecting and disseminating all available data on subjects of concern to citizens who wish to create and maintain the best possible environment for living. The Center would issue an informational bulletin twice a month and special bulletins for emergencies. The bulletin would include:

1. Reports on current issues.
2. Hearing dates of legislative measures.
3. People to write, wire or phone.
4. Current projects and accomplishments of the existing organizations.
5. Fact sheets on specific areas and problems.
6. Items for future consideration.
7. New literature available, and
8. Other items.

Structure of the Organization

This would be a non-profit service organization of existing groups; it would not be an individual membership organization.

The Board of Directors, the policy-making body of the new group will consist of one representative appointed from each member organization, serving at the pleasure of his appointing organization. The Board will elect officers. The meetings will be open to the public and will be held when necessary, but no less frequently than once a month.

(continued on page 29)



A Resume (continued from page 28)

The Board will select an Executive Secretary who will operate the organization on a daily basis, collect information, and prepare each bulletin in draft form.

Each member of the Board will be assigned to edit the Bulletin drafts for one month on a rotating basis. The Bulletin's circulation will be to a list of officers and committee members specified by each of the member organizations, and will also be made available at cost on a subscription basis to interested individuals. Its distribution will be vigorously promoted.

One Board member shall be appointed Chairman of the telephone committee. He will obtain volunteers to call as many persons as possible to urge action such as writing, wiring, or phoning legislators on key issues.

Another member of the Board shall be appointed as Speaker Chairman. His job will be to compile a list of persons willing to appear at hearings and testify on behalf of conservation measures, and to arrange for assigning one of such persons to as many important hearings as possible.

Projects of its own will not be undertaken by the organization; projects of member organizations will be promoted. When a member organization assumes a given project, the Council shall obtain as much assistance as possible for it from individual members of other member groups. Project chairmen, appointed by the member organizations shall provide material to the Secretary for the Bulletin, and the Board member assigned to edit the Bulletin shall assist the Secretary in obtaining as much information as possible.

Action on hearings on which any member organization may wish to take a stand will be as follows: The Bulletin will be used to urge all interested individual subscribers to take action, and a member of the Speaker Committee shall be assigned to appear at the hearing. Members will be asked to write letters to the legislators concerned, will copies to the Council. The Secretary shall give these copies to the assigned speaker, who shall state that he represents the individuals and organizations whose letters he holds, and no other. Statements will not be made on behalf of the new organization but only for individuals and organizations expressly authorizing such statements.

An aim is the establishment of a central operating headquarters with a conservation "war room". It would be open to students, the public, and news people. Member groups will be encouraged to put on educational displays of current projects.

It is hoped that an Executive Secretary could be employed and the Bulletin issued during the first or second quarter of 1966. A yearly budget of \$10,200 is proposed, to be obtained by contributions from member organizations, and individuals and possibly by a grant from a local charitable foundation. Continuing support after the first year will come from member organizations. Anticipated expenses are, per month: Executive Secretary - \$350; Bulletin - \$100; Office - \$50; Telephone, telegraph, and postage - \$150; Office equipment and supplies - \$75; Regional travel, etc. - \$125.

Board Meeting

Fourteen members attended the SCVAS Board Meeting at the Shellhammer's home on January 19, 1966.

Mr. Case noted that reports sent to the California Fish and Game by the Audubon South Bay Census Team had produced good results and that letters of thanks had been sent to each member of the Team by the State Agency.

Mr. Case outlined a broad program for our Audubon Conservation Chairman. His committee should be in touch with the needs of each community through groups within each community and cognizant of the area as a whole, its marshlands, bay, and bills affecting conservation interests. Such a committee is also in need of coordination and supervision, perhaps facilitated by the projected Tri-County Organization. (See below.) Dr. Grench reluctantly accepted Mr. Case's resignation as Chairman, but it was appreciated that Mr. Case would continue to write for the Avocet on conservation matters.

There was a lengthy discussion of the new Tri-County Conservation Council. Present was Mr. Bill Goodall who mentioned that a California Conservation Council on a state-wide basis had been projected for communication between 35 member organizations and that conferences had been held at Pasadena and Riverside. Dr. Shellhammer mentioned that the Ford Foundation has contributed \$500,000 to nature conservancy. Dr. Harvey noted that such a Council would represent coordinated autonomy for conservation groups.

It was voted that a founding grant of \$400 be contributed to the Conservation Council by the SCVAS which will amount to about \$1.00 per member.

Mrs. Conradson reported that Dr. Wissel's program for "Parents Without Partners" group resulted in forty appreciative children and parents. The problem of obtaining enough people to assist in the education program remains acute with only four or five people available for two or three calls a week. A committee of Mrs. Conradson and Mrs. Wolcott was proposed, and, among other ideas it was suggested that those who took part in the California Fish and Game census would be especially well qualified as leaders for children's groups. Mr. Goodall suggested that if the education committee established an Audubon schedule for which various groups might sign up, and if these groups were responsible for telephoning and arranging for a trip, it would be less onerous and more rewarding for the participants. Mrs. Conradson had pointed out that one adult for seven or eight children is a desirable and peaceful ratio so that the need for participating Audubon members is considerable.

Mr. Case demonstrated the Swift spotting scope of the zoom type with sun-shade, large focussing ring, single eye-piece, 20 to 50 power with light tripod. The \$150-\$160 bill with the discount he obtained amounted to \$97.35. He also reported that the Cases' talk with slides to a group "Flower Friends" netted a \$10 donation. It was his wish that this amount be donated to Pt. Reyes Observatory which was so voted.

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March Calendar

General Meeting

Wednesday, March 2, 7:20 P.M. - Smorgas Table, Sunnyvale.  
(See first page.)

Board Meeting

Wednesday, March 16, 7:45 P.M. - Location to be announced.

Field Trips

Saturday and Sunday, March 5-6, to Morro Bay.

Meet at 10:00 A.M. at Tiny's in Los Banos. After a short visit to the Bird Refuge, we will travel south on Highway 33 where we may see large flocks of Geese, Horned Larks, and (hopefully) wintering Mountain Plovers. We will arrive in Morro Bay in time for dinner at the Golden Tee.

Sunday morning - birding along the Bay. Bring lunch for Saturday and telescopes! In case of bad weather the trip will be cancelled.

Leader: Manette Wittgenstein-354-9420

Wednesday, March 9, 9:00 A.M. - Santa Teresa Park

We will explore a habitat of grassy slopes, chaparral and wooded canyons. The park is off the Monterey Highway, south of I.B.M. The sign and turnoff are on the west side of the road opposite the Swan Lake Motel. Meet at the picnic parking lot inside the park at 9:00 A.M.

Leader: Catherine Lintott- 356-4264

Saturday, March 19, 9:00 A.M.- Henry Coe Memorial Park,

Morgan Hill. In this lovely ponderosa area we should see early migrants and resident Golden Eagles which just might perform their aerial barrel-rolls as it will be nesting time.

Meet at Nordstrom School two miles down East Dunne Avenue, which is left off Highway 101 at the third traffic light in Morgan Hill going south. Anderson Reservoir sign is indicated on highway. There is a park fee of 50¢ a car. Bring lunch.

Leader: Emelie Curtis - 779-2637

Sunday, March 20.- Searsville Lake. Meet at the entrance to the lake promptly at 9:00 A.M. There is a 25¢ per person entry fee. Bring lunch if you like; there are picnic areas.

Leader: Howard Wolcott - 321-6694

Wednesday, March 23 - Foothills Park - 9:00 A.M.

Meet at the entrance on Page Mill Road.

Leader: Miss Frances Felin - 322-0207

Screen Tours (See page 33)

March Calendar - Screen Tours (continued from page 32)

Friday, March 11, 4:00 P.M. - Palo Alto Senior High School Auditorium

Monday, March 14, 8:00 P.M. - Morris Daily Auditorium, San Jose State College.

"Stepping Stone to Australia"

Three islands of the Pacific Ocean have been of great importance in developing air routes to Australia. They include Oahu in the Hawaiian Islands; little Canton Island on the equator; and Viti Levu, the large island of the Fiji group. Rich in wildlife and local color, these islands come to life for Audubon viewers in a striking film presented by Patricia B. Witherspoon.

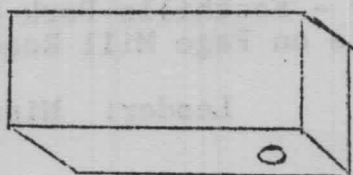
DON'T MISS THIS LAST FILM OF THE SEASON!

Hints on Housing

Have you ever put up a bird house, waited and watched, and gotten nothing but House Sparrows and House Finches? If you have Titmice or Nuthatches in your area and would like to provide a roosting or nesting house for them, but find it impossible to keep out the more aggressive species, put the entrance hole of your house on the bottom. They will be able to maneuver in and out, up-side-down and this will be one house the domineering House Sparrow will not be able to use. Be sure you do not leave a shelf on the top of the house or they will command this roosting spot and keep the Titmice from using the house. Use a rectangular shape, like a shoe box, and put the hole at one end. A 1 1/2" hole should provide ample entrance even for a fat Titmouse.

Close one end with wood screws, so that it may be opened easily for cleaning. Also put a tiny perch crosswise through the middle for roosting. Be sure you choose a cool spot to put your house. Remember baby birds cannot take exposure to the sun. The north or east side under the roof and against the eaves is usually a good location.

Titmouse or Nuthatch House



-- Evelyn Hester  
Monte Sereno



Notes from Afield

Mt. Hermon, January 12 - Leader, Mrs. Adist Boylan with Margaret Henderson as coordinator.

Twelve people showed up on a cold, crisp day and saw 25 species of mountain birds among which were: Varied and Hermit Thrushes, Pine Siskin, Purple Finch, Pygmy Nuthatch, Rufous-sided Towhee, Song and Golden-crowned Sparrows, Wrentit, and Downy Woodpecker (so elusive on the Christmas count). We warmed our frozen toes, and ate lunch in Mrs. Boylan's cozy cottage, and admired the variety of birds attracted to her garden by feeders.

Palo Alto Baylands, January 26 - Leader: Kay McCann

Sixteen observers, including several new members, were able to compare sizes, color, and details of all the common shorebirds which flock to the baylands. As it was high tide thousands were seen and all were excited at the great numbers. A total of 4272 individuals were seen including a good look at the Short-eared Owl flying back and forth, 25 Black-crowned night-Herons, several American Egrets and a Snowy Egret, such ducks as: Pintails, Shovellers, Cinnamon Teal, Goldeneye, Lesser and Greater Scaup, and the many Mallards and Coots. We also could compare the Mew Gull for similar size with Avocets. On the scouting trip, the 25th, were seen a pair of White-tailed Kites, 89 Long-billed Curlews, White Pelicans, two Starlings, and a Clapper Rail (which tickled one member). The sky was hazy and it was windy, but we all had a good time.

Chesbro Dam and Llagas Creek at Machado School, Morgan Hill, January 29 - Leaders: Emmanuel and Mary Taylor.

Despite cloudy and cool weather we had a good day of birding with forty-one species seen. Wood Ducks and Ruddy Ducks were observed on Chesbro Reservoir. We also saw a Golden Eagle, Sharp-shinned, Red-tail, and Sparrow Hawks at one spot. It was interesting to note how many among a flock of American Goldfinches were changing from their duller winter colors to the brighter hues of summer dress.

Other species seen in January:

One Bald Eagle at Calaveras Reservoir - Evelyn Hester.

One Myrtle Warbler with white throat and appropriate tail markings at Saratoga home. - Manette Wittgenstein.

One male Blue-winged Teal, and four Lesser Yellowlegs at the small ponds bordering the Freeway (Highway 17) at the Camden-Campbell turnoff. Also a Gadwal on the 29th of January. This area seems to be developing into a good birding spot.

Ed McClintock, Los Gatos

More Notes from Afield on page 35

Notes from Afield (continued from page 34)

The following records are from Joe, Doug and Russ Greenberg:

- November 20 - One Phainopepla in hills adjacent to Pinoche Valley.
- November 25 - Black-capped Chickadees near Regua, California; one Ruffed Grouse at Prairie Creek State Park; Rock Sandpipers on south jetty, Eureka.
- December 11 - Five Mountain Plovers near Merced National Wildlife Refuge.
- December 25 - Twenty-one White-tailed Kites over one field about one-half mile long on road between Hollister and Gilroy; One Roadrunner on western edge of Pinoche Valley.
- December 28 - Twenty-five Chukars at Tule Lake Refuge.
- December 29 - Seventy-two Bald Eagles at Lower Klamath Refuge. The best place to find large numbers of these magnificent birds is on the state-line highway, on the frozen water on the south side of the highway. They sit in large groups about 150 yards out on the ice.
- December 29 - Eighty-two Short-eared Owls at Lower Klamath Refuge, one Pigeon Hawk at Lower Klamath Refuge, eighteen Rough-legged Hawks, including one rare dark phase bird, at Lower Klamath and Tule Refuges, one Northern Shrike at Lower Klamath.
- December 30 - One European Widgeon at Sacramento Wildlife Refuge.
- December 31 - One Common Scoter off Duncan's Landing, Calif., one Perruginous Hawk at Inverness Ridge.
- January 1 - Fifteen Red Crossbills at Inverness Ridge.
- January 22 - Screech Owl and Spotted Owl on the Jepson Trail, Tomales State Park.
- January 23 - Fifteen tree Swallows at Lemintour Spit, Pt. Reyes National Seashore.

EMELIE G. CURTIS,  
Field Notes Compiler  
P.O. Box 307  
Morga Hill, California

"WANTED"

North County field trip planner. Duties are: plan one field trip per month, September through June, and help with the Christmas bird count. If interested contact Ralph Trullinger - 854-4201.

Audubon Camp Scholarships

The Palo Alto Garden Club is generously offering one complete or two half scholarships to Audubon Camp. Interested persons please call Shirley Booth - 948-0429.

Book Note

Donald R. Griffin's Bird Migration has received the 1965 Phi Beta Kappa Science Award. It was commissioned for the Doubleday-Anchor paperbound Science Study Series.

Avocet

Our publication appears monthly except July and August. It is \$2.00 a year for non-members. Copy is requested by the 10th.

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