

# The Avocet

Volume XIII, Number 5

May, 1966

## "ISLANDS OF GREEN"

Wednesday, May 4, 1966  
8:00 P.M.

Security Savings and Loan,  
Friendship Room, 2830 Alum Rock Ave.,  
San Jose

At our regular meeting for May, a new Audubon film, "Islands of Green," will be shown. The subject is green belts. If we are concerned about the problems of the effects of a burgeoning population on our land, we should certainly be interested in feasible solutions. Come to this meeting and learn about some of the exciting ideas that we might apply here. Don't miss it!

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### IS AVOCET WORTH A NICKEL TO YOU?

Zip codes are mandatory by next year for mail to qualify for the bulk rate. If we do not have yours, please send a postcard with it to:

Mrs. Fanny Zwaal  
478 Clifton  
San Jose, Calif. 95128

TODAY, PLEASE!!

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### COMING EVENTS AT A GLANCE

Wed.,	May 4	8:00 P.M.	San Jose (General Meeting)
Wed.,	May 11	9:00 A.M.	Stevens Creek
Sun.,	May 15	9:00 A.M.	La Honda
Wed.,	May 18	7:45 P.M.	Palo Alto (Board)
Sat.,	May 21	9:00 A.M.	Isenberg Ranch
Wed.,	May 25	8:30 A.M.	Duveneck Ranch



WHERE THE ACTION IS -- FROM THE FOOTHILLS TO THE BAY

There are recent developments in local planning and conservation which merit our attention. They are of particular interest because they represent inter-jurisdictional approaches to problems. First, we have the new Committee for Foothills Planning which consists of one member each from the planning commissions of Santa Clara County, San Mateo County, Palo Alto, Los Altos, Los Altos Hills, Portola Valley, Woodside and Menlo Park. Among the topics for discussion are land use in the foothills, traffic circulation, fire and flood control, trails systems, and recreation. The next meeting will be Thursday, May 5, at 7:45 P.M. at the Palo Alto City Hall.

The Committee for Foothills Planning will be an excellent body for considering Skyline Parkway (or Redwood National Highway) plans which have been pursued so vigorously by the Sierra Club and Committee for Green Foothills. The Parkway plans tie in with the concept of a West Bay Conservation District. The latter idea seems to be finally getting off the ground with a forthcoming meeting of interested individuals with William Penn Mott, Jr., who is general manager of the East Bay Regional Park District.

The last development I will mention is a meeting coming up soon between representatives from the Santa Clara County, Palo Alto (I am a delegate from Palo Alto), Mountain View, and Sunnyvale planning commissions. The purpose of this gathering will be to discuss the plans of each jurisdiction for its baylands. It is my hope that the use of the South Baylands will be planned in a coordinated manner to realize their greatest possibilities.

We can rejoice that the various jurisdictions are at least communicating with each other. A strong showing of public interest in and support of these joint efforts is imperative if much is to be accomplished.

HERB GRECH, President

SACRAMENTO INVITATION

Sacramento Audubon's Annual Dinner is Saturday, May 7, at American River Junior College. Mr. Philip Pennington is speaking on "Glen Canyon--Before and After." Dinner (7:00 P.M.) \$2.50 from R. F. Reynolds, 5311 Pleasant Drive, Sacramento, 95822. (Nature walk along Arcade Creek at 5:30 P.M.)

May Calendar

General Meeting

Wednesday, May 4, 8:00 P.M., "Islands of Green." (See first page).

Field Trips

Wednesday, May 11, 9:00 A.M., to Stevens Creek Park, one of our most prolific and beautiful places for birds and spring wild flowers. Meet in the main parking area by the dam. Leader: Mary Rugh - 354-8433.

Sunday, May 15, Al Wool Ranch, La Honda  
Meet in front of La Honda General Store at 9:00 A.M. Bring lunch. Leader: Al Wool - 747-0317.

Saturday, May 21, to the Isenberg Ranch.  
Meet at 9:00 A.M. at intersection of Page Mill Road and Skyline. Leader: Roy Cameron - 367-9309.

Wednesday, May 25, 8:30 A.M., to Duveneck Ranch, Hidden Villa, on Moody Road, Los Altos Hills. Drive out El Monte Road past Foothill College where Moody Road starts. Proceed on Moody past Adobe Creek Lodge to entrance gate which is plainly marked on the left. Meet inside gate in the olive grove. Leaders: Flora Houck - 327-4868 and Kay McCann - 327-4138.

Board Meeting

Wednesday, May 18, 7:45 P.M. - Conradson's, 4337 Miranda, Palo Alto, 941-2102. From El Camino Real drive west on Arastradero past the cemetery opposite Gunn High School to Miranda. Turn left. 4337 is on a cul-de-sac near the end of the street.

LOOKING AHEAD

Sunday, June 5. A trip to Point Reyes - Further information in the next Avocet.

Monday, June 13. The Albatross Expedition -- an offshore trip conducted by Levitt McQuesten. Stagnaro sport fishing boat will leave the Santa Cruz municipal wharf at 7:30 A.M. and return about noon. Destination -- 12 miles offshore. Reservations must be made in advance. Tickets (\$1.50) or information from V. Anderson, 227 Linden Street, Santa Cruz, California

NEW MEMBERS

We welcome our new members:

Frank Eaton (Student)  
2595 Painted Rock Drive  
Santa Clara, California

Mrs. Louis Fourcroy  
739 Marion Avenue  
Palo Alto, California

Mrs. Glen R. Christoffersen  
11316 Brook Place  
Mountain View, California 94040

Mrs. May T. Florman  
728 Cowper Street  
Palo Alto, California 94301

Mr. Edward Lamb  
5299 Alum Rock Avenue  
San Jose, California

Mrs. William B. Smyth  
19642 Charters Avenue  
Saratoga, California 95070

Chuck and Carolyn Tull  
P.O. Box 246  
Santa Clara, California 95050

Mr. Samuel V. Gunnison  
1126 Laurels Drive  
Los Altos, California 94022

Miss Barbara J. Barton  
472 Selby Lane  
Atherton, California 94025

Mr. Kenneth Prior  
4083 El Cerrito Place  
Palo Alto, California 94306

Mrs. Norma J. Summerville  
P.O. Box 184  
Los Altos, California 94022

Caroline Davis  
Membership Chairman

AUDUBON CONVENTION IN CALIFORNIA

The 62nd National Audubon Convention is in Sacramento this year. (Nov. 11 - 16) -- so close that we should be able to have a large group representing our own society.

Emphasis will be on "gleam" through the "gloom" that generally envelops conservationists. The theme is: "Silver Linings in Conservation: Chaos or Control." The program sounds great: Field trips with Allan Cruikshank and Roger Tory Peterson, a new wildlife film by Peterson, and a half-day program on Conservation Education. California's dilemma will receive special attention, with talks by Nathaniel and Margaret Owings, Congressman Jeffrey Cohelan, Edwin Z'berg, and Martin Litton, travel editor of Sunset Magazine. Field trips will be to outstanding wildlife areas in the Delta and Sierra Foothills regions.

All interested persons are invited, whether Audubon Members or not. To register and receive full information, send \$5.00 to:

Mrs. Duryea Morton  
Audubon Convention  
613 Riversville Road  
Greenwich, Connecticut 06830

CONSERVATION NOTES

THE REDWOOD NATIONAL PARK issue is at last squarely before the American people . . . and the park fight has reached full crisis with the introduction in Congress of the Administration bill for a redwood national park, says Dr. Edgar Wayburn. (Dr. Wayburn, Vice President and a Director of the Sierra Club, is in charge of the club's campaign for the establishment of a park in the Redwood Creek-Prairie Creek area of Humboldt County).

His article in the April issue of the Club's bulletin points out that the word "crisis" is used advisedly: ". . . after long and costly indecision and delay, the Department of the Interior has failed to endorse its first choice of two years ago for a redwood park in the Prairie Creek-Redwood Creek watershed (embodied in J. Cohelan's bill before Congress since last October) and has come out instead for a park at Mill Creek . . . a sorry substitute and a chance lost for all time."

Secretary Udall's choice of the Mill Creek Site seems incredible. It ignores the advice of his conservationist supporters, and the recommendation of his own experts in the Department of the Interior; it is a choice made without a personal visit to the area. This site would take in the watershed of Mill Creek in Del Norte County, and this area, outside of Jedediah Smith Redwoods State Park, is already about 75 percent

cut over, and logging is continuing steadily, on a year-round basis.

Some of the advantages of the larger, 90,000 acre park were mentioned in the previous Avocet. In case you have forgotten, let me remind you it would include:

9,000 acres of virgin growth now in Prairie Creek State Park;

33,000 acres of the finest remaining virgin forests: up Lost Man Creek, Little Lost Man Creek, and up Redwood Creek itself;

Forests that include the tallest known trees, and unexplored areas where still taller trees may be found;

Eighteen miles of spectacular coast and the last home of the relatively small band of Roosevelt Elk, the only survivors of the formerly large bands that roamed the entire redwood region.

In addition, there are numerous recreational features that make this area much more desirable than the Mill Creek park.

The Cohelan-Metcalf plans have been co-sponsored by 50 members of the House and the Senate; only 12 are backing the Mill Creek plan. This majority backing is not enough -- there must be hearings in this session of congress. The Chairman of the Interior committees must be informed of the urgency of this matter, of the personal opinions of individuals who are concerned with this issue. These Chairmen are (1) Chairman Wayne Aspinall, in the House, and (2) Chairman of the Interior Committee Henry M. Jackson, in the Senate.

Secretary Udall should be informed of popular disapproval of his Mill Creek plan.

President Johnson should be urged to reconsider and to lend his support to the proposed larger area.

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THE GRAND CANYON OF THE COLORADO IS STILL ENDANGERED, even though the Federal Power Commission cites a report to the Interior Department's Office of Coal Research that "suggests coal-produced power will be so much less expensive than electricity produced by southwestern dams that Congress could never approve the costly dams." However, Congress may just do that, unless conservationists act promptly.

The Denver Post, March 6, 1966, carried a full-page spread on the issue. Among the statements made are the following:

"To mutilate Grand Canyon and undermine the principle of park preservation would be bad enough at best. To do so when the sacrifice is neither necessary nor desirable would be an inexcusable act of wanton vandalism.

"Two dams are proposed for Grand Canyon . . . . one will back water into Grand Canyon National Monument; the other will cut the flow of the Colorado River through Grand Canyon National Park . . . .

"They will not be used to divert water; they will not conserve water; nor will they supply water to cities and dry lands. They will lose, by evaporation, enough water to supply a major city. Their sole purpose is funding of water relief for Arizona. They are hydroelectric dams only . . . .

"Due to progressive technological improvements, cost of generating private power will continue to drop rapidly; however, the cost of these dams will remain fixed at their present rate for their 50-year life expectancy.

"Other economically sound ways of financing Arizona water have not been adequately explored. If Grand Canyon National Park and Monument are to remain inviolate, power sources other than these dams are available and must be used.

"CONGRESS WILL RESPOND TO AN AROUSED PUBLIC . . . .

WRITE PRESIDENT JOHNSON

WRITE YOUR CONGRESSMAN

Write your newspapers, magazines, radio and TV stations . . . .  
TELL THEM IT'S YOUR GRAND CANYON AND YOU WANT IT LEFT AS IT IS." (End quotes).

THE POST PROPOSES AN EXCELLENT SLOGAN: "NOT BLIND OPPOSITION TO PROGRESS,  
BUT OPPOSITION TO BLIND PROGRESS."

I have more to say, but no more space in which to say it, this time;  
I will save it for a "starter" for the next issue.

L. N. Case

NOTES FROM AFIELD

Santa Teresa Park, March 9 - Leader, Catherine Lintott

The weather was cloudy with a cold wind, but nice in sheltered areas. The park was beautiful with lots of fern, and the laurel and buckeye in bloom. Among the 22 species seen were: White-tailed Kites, Audubon and Orange-crowned Warblers, Varied Thrush, Hairy Woodpecker, Scaup, Bufflehead, Say's and Black Phoebes, and Golden and White-crowned Sparrows.

Coe Memorial Park, March 19 - Leader, Emelie Curtis

A sunny but cool day was enjoyed at this park that is 3,000 feet above sea level. The Golden Eagles cooperated by appearing promptly at the thermal-producing cliffs by Anderson Reservoir. In the same area was an immature Redtail which can be recognized

by its buteo silhouette, the dark band across the belly, the "see-through" primary feathers in the wrist area, and the brown tail of muted bars. Along the winding road and at the park were seen 38 species, some of which were: an uncooperative Shrike, Purple Finch, Orange-crowned Warblers, White-throated Swifts, Band-tailed Pigeons, Allen's Hummingbird, and a Blue-gray Gnatcatcher that was identified by Carlyle Sather and Manie Taylor.



Immature Redtail

Searsville, March 20 - Leader, Howard Wolcott

The many new birders on this trip had a wonderful opportunity to see a variety of interesting birds, totaling 45 species. Outstanding among them were: Great Blue Heron, Ring-necked Greater and Lesser Scaup, and Ruddy Ducks; Cooper's, Red-tailed, Red-shouldered, and Sparrow Hawks; Barn, Cliff, and Violet-green Swallows; Brown Creeper, Hutton's Vireo, Yellowthroat, Wilson's Warbler, and American Goldfinch.

Palo Alto Foothills Park, Leaders, Kay McCann and Frances Felin

On March 22 and 23, both clear, spring days with little wind, some haze in the valley, we met at 9 A.M.

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On the scheduled trip 19 people, including one very small member, birded along the chamise trail starting near the pond. Some 28 species of birds were identified, most by sight, some by sound, an intermittent chorus of tree frogs, a wood rat nest, mule deer and cotton-tails were additional embellishments, and a long tailed pussy cat roaming the hillside was at first enthusiastically proclaimed the park resident bob-cat. Virginia Bothwell contributed interesting bits of natural history of the plants along the trail.

Duvenek Ranch, April 3 - Leaders, Ray and Kay McCann

Twenty-six members and guests turned out for the Sunday field trip on a beautiful, sunny day. There were four leaders, Mr. Frank Duvenek, Sr., Virginia Bothwell, Ray and Kay McCann. The groups ranged from about twelve who went with Mr. Duvenek to three who went on a climb up Black Mountain with Ray McCann. There were many wildflowers in bloom such as: Sessile trillium, toothwort, hound's tongue, mission bells, coral root, zygadine, indian warrior, and buttercups. Mr. Duvenek's magnificent Japanese cherry tree was unusually full of blossoms and everyone enjoyed it.

There were 39 species recorded, the most interesting being: Western Flycatcher, Hutton's Vireo, Warbling Vireo, singing profusely; Orange-crowned, Townsend's and Wilson's Warblers; Black-headed Grosbeak, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Downy and Hairy Woodpeckers, White-throated Swifts, and Band-tailed Pigeons.

Morro Bay, March 5 & 6 - Leader, Manette Wittgenstein

Two cars and a camper met at Los Banos and paid a short visit to the refuge where they saw huge flocks of geese (Canada and Snow), White Pelicans, several species of ducks, Egrets, Bittern, Gallinule, Marsh Hawk, and Long-billed Marsh Wren. Mr. and Mrs. Sather spotted Mountain Plover near Blackwell's Corner.

Morro Bay was teeming with birds. Large numbers of Black Brant enjoyed the perfect spring morning and the end of the hunting season by parading along the shore, taking short flights, and returning again. White and Brown pelicans, loons, grebes, scoters, ducks (mostly Teals), several species of shorebirds in large numbers, Herons and Egrets were observed at close range. On the grounds of the Golden Tea Lodge we discovered a Great Blue Heron rookery.

It was a very enjoyable weekend. Sixty species were recorded.

FIELD NOTES

From: Joe, Doug, Russ Greenberg, and Russ Griswold:

February 20 - Osprey, north of Eureka

February 28 - Two pairs Blue-winged Teal at Palo Alto Yacht Harbor

March 5 - One pair Blue-winged Teal at Camden ponds.

From Doug Greenberg:

March 7 - One Glaucous Gull: at Palo Alto Yacht Harbor, seen in sitting position at distance of 5 yards with 7 x 35 binoculars. It has a light eye, yellow bill with red spot. In flight (at one time overhead) the gull was quite large and had white primaries. It was seen two days earlier in same area by Ted Chandik and Dave DeSanta.

March 18 - Sage Grouse strutting at Honey Lake Refuge by J. D., R. Greenberg

Feb. 25 - White-winged Scoter at Camden ponds by E. McClintock

March 6 - Blue-winged Teal, snipe, sora, tree swallows at Camden ponds by E. McClintock

March 13 - Red-necked Grebe: yellow bill of right shape, squarish head shape, right size, by Evelyn Hester at Camden Ponds

March 19 - Female Orchard Oriole seen in a small eucalyptus tree on Aguajito Road near Carmel. Very small size, small bill, greyish back, all visible, by Doug and Russ Greenberg. (A difficult identification and I hope correct. Ahem--envious, E.G.C.) One Palm Warbler in developing spring plumage at Pacific Grove by Doug and Russ Greenberg. Also seen 1/30 and 4/2 or so.

March 20 - Rufous Hummingbird at Monte Sereno by Evelyn Hester

March 22 - Black-headed Grosbeak by Manje Taylor at Mt. Madonna Park

March 23 - Bullock's Oriole by the Zwaals in San Jose

March 25 - Hooded Oriole by the Zwaals in San Jose, and in South Palo Alto by F. L. & J. Goraj

March 31 - Four Lawrence's Goldfinch at Anderson Res. by E. Curtis.

Emélie G. Curtis  
P. O. Box 307, Morgan Hill  
Field Notes Comlier

(Editor's Note: Field Notes are unofficial communications for the interest of fellow members, and are not intended for scientific records.)

SANTA CLARA VALLEY AUDUBON CENSUS OF FOOTHILL PARK March 26, 1966  
BY HABITAT

BIRD	FIELD	WOODLAND	CHAPARRAL	MARCH	LAKE	OTHER	TOTAL
Great Blue Heron				1			1
Mallard					9		9
Ruddy Duck					1		1
Turkey Vulture						4	4
Sharp-shinned Hawk						1	1
Cooper's Hawk		2	2				4
Red-tailed Hawk		2	4			2	8
Sparrow Hawk	1						1
California Quail	15	6	8				29
Pheasant	1						1
Killdeer					1		1
Band-tailed Pigeon						26	26
Mourning Dove		2					2
Great Horned Owl		1					1
Anna's Hummingbird		14	9				23
Allen's Hummingbird		2	8				10
Red-shafted Flicker	2	7	2	1			12
Acorn Woodpecker			1				1
Hairy Woodpecker		2					2
Downey Woodpecker		8		1			9
Western Flycatcher		2					2
Violet-green Swallow						14	14
Tree Swallow						5	5
Cliff Swallow						35	35
Steller's Jay		62					62
Scrub Jay	2	31	59				92
Crow	2						2
Chickadee (Chestnut-backed)		106	9				115
Plain Titmouse		98	7				112
Bushtit		178	28				206
White-breasted Nuthatch		1					1
Brown Creeper		1					1
Wrentit		28	46	1			75
House Wren		2					2
Bewick's Wren		34	56				90
Mockingbird			1				1
Calif. Thrasher		19	26				45
Robin	9	3	1			1	14
Western Bluebird	24						24
Varied Thrush		30	1				31
Hermit Thrush		26					26
Swainson's Thrush		1					1
Blue-grey Gnatcatcher			1				1

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BIRD	FIELD	WOODLAND	CHAPARRAL	MARCH	LAKE	OTHER	TOTAL
Ruby-crowned Kinglet		75	1				76
Hutton's Vireo		9	2				11
Warbling Vireo		9					9
Orange-crowned Warbler		82	4				86
Audubon's Warbler	5	24					29
Townsend's Warbler		10					10
House Sparrow	3						3
Meadowlark	14						14
Purple Finch		1					1
House Finch	20		7				27
Lesser Goldfinch	75	26	12				113
Rufous-sided Towhee	1	47	27	4			79
Brown Towhee	1	28	26				55
Lark Sparrow			4				4
Sage Sparrow			1				1
Oregon Junco	5	167	27				199
White-crowned Sparrow			2				2
Golden-crowned Sparrow	2	44	25				81
Fox Sparrow		2					2
Song Sparrow	1	15	1				17
							<hr/>
						TOTAL	1922

There were 20 observers, 8 territories, 1921 individual birds and 63 species seen. Notable among the species seen were the Varied Thrushes and Fox Sparrows which are late; Warbling Vireo, Western Flycatcher, Orange-crowned Warbler, and Blue-grey Gnatcatcher which were early; and the Sage Sparrow and Blue-grey Gnatcatcher which are seldom seen.

Boronda Lake, Marsh and W. Coyote Trail - Howard and Margaret Wolcott  
 Toyon Trail - K. McCann, Dean Rinehart, Sue Rinehart, Mary Gulbrandsen  
 Chamise Trail, Vista Hill, E. Coyote Trail - Emelie Curtis, Florence  
 LaRiviere

Las Trampas Valley - Harriet Mundy, Joe, Doug and Russell Greenberg  
 Steepollow and Sunrise Trails - Ray McCann and Herb Grench  
 Trappers Trail and Madrone Trail - Ralph Trullinger, Frank and Jane Goraj  
 Wildhorse Valley - Joe, Doug, and Russell Greenberg  
 New Park Area - Bob Badaracco, Tom Harvey, and Diane Conradson

Number 11 of Ranger Badaracco's interesting "Nature Notes" describes the park birds.

Kay and Ray McCann, Census Leaders