

The Avocet

Volume XIII, Number 8

October, 1966

Monday, October 17
8:00 P.M.
Room "R"

Palo Alto Community Center
1305 Middlefield Road
Palo Alto, California

A Few Weeks in the Life of the Red-footed Booby

The charming and witty Warren Turner will present his slides and movie of ten weeks in the life of the Red-footed Booby, Sula-sula. Mr. & Mrs. Turner lived on the Island of Kauai earlier this year to produce this unusual record on film. The behavior of this bird is highly interesting, for example, nesting habits; some of the females apparently had mates who shared nesting responsibility, but others were alone, and were never seen to leave the nest in search of food, night or day, during the incubation period.

Don't miss this opportunity for knowledge you might never gain otherwise! Bring your friends!

1966 National Convention

Several people from our Society are attending the Audubon National Convention in Sacramento, November 11-16, but we would like to have many more. It is not too late! Audubon membership is not required, so invite your interested friends. This promises to be a wonderfully rewarding time. To register, send \$5.00 to: National Audubon Convention, 613 Riverville Road, Greenwich, Conn. 06830.

COMING EVENTS AT A GLANCE

Wed., Oct. 12	7:30 P.M.	Palo Alto (Board)
Wed., Oct. 12	9:00 A.M.	Los Gatos
Sat., Oct. 15	9:00 A.M.	Alum Rock Park
Mon., Oct. 17	8:00 P.M.	Palo Alto (General Meeting)
Fri., Oct. 21	4:00 P.M.	Palo Alto (film)
Sun., Oct. 23	9:00 A.M.	Dumbarton Bridge
Mon., Oct. 24	8:00 A.M.	San Jose (film)
Wed., Oct. 26	9:00 A.M.	Foothills Park



October Calendar

Board Meeting

Wednesday, Oct. 12, 7:30 P.M. at the Conradson's,
4337 Miranda Avenue, Palo Alto - Phone - 941-2102

General Meeting

Monday, Oct. 17, 8:00 P.M. - Palo Alto (See first page)

Field Trips

Wednesday, Oct. 12, 9:00 A.M. - First to Lintott residence,
17150 Buena Vista Avenue, Los Gatos - Second to Oak
Meadow Park, Los Gatos.

To Lintott's: From Los Gatos turn left on Santa Cruz Avenue,
(which becomes Winchester Boulevard) at its intersection with
Los Gatos-Saratoga Road, and drive about one mile, more or
less, just past Villa Felice, (big sign) to the first road
to the left. (The road sign is set rather far back because
of a culvert). The house is the last one on the left hand
side - almost hidden by trees.

From Freeway: Turn off at Lark Avenue, turn
right on Lark to Winchester Boulevard, turn left on Winchester
to Buena Vista, three streets up.

Leader: Mary Rugh - 354-8433

Saturday, Oct. 15, 9:00 A.M. - Alum Rock Park

Meet at 9:00 A.M. in the parking lot in front of the
Junior Museum. Bring lunch.

Leaders: Marie Siddens and
Fanny Zwaal - 292-2060

Sunday, Oct. 23 - Dumbarton Bridge -

Meet at 9:00 A.M. at the West end of the bridge, north
side of the road.

Leader: Warren Turner - 325-7777

Wednesday, Oct. 26 - Palo Alto's Foothills Park on Page Mill
Road, meet at the entrance at 9:00 A.M.

Leader: Kay McCann - 327-4138

Film Tours

Friday, Oct. 21 - Palo Alto Senior High School - 4:00 P.M.

Monday, Oct. 24 - San Jose State College - 8:00 P.M.

One of the highlights of the Audubon year, the wildlife
film series, begins this month. The opening showing is

"These things are Ours"

(See page 77 for details on this interesting film).

Film Tours "These things are Ours" (continued from Page 76)

Miss Mary Jane Dockeray, a geologist and nature lecturer on Michigan radio and television stations will narrate a beautiful film of Walter Berlet's. You will watch a forest grow from clusters of encrusted lichens on bare rock to the cool depths of mature woods. Also depicted is the wonderful process by which a monarch butterfly turns from a tiny, newly hatched larva to a beautiful adult, ready to join its fellows in autumn migration. Invite your friends!

Cost of season tickets is very reasonable. In San Jose phone Mrs. Charles Zwaal - 292-2060 for information, and in Palo Alto, the Auditor at Palo Alto Senior High School - 327-7100.

Conservation Notes

A NATIONAL REDWOODS PARK is the urgent conservation issue of particular importance to Californians. It is URGENT because while Congress has been debating the relative merits of the two proposed parks, the timber industries continued to cut redwoods within the area under consideration until a few days ago. It is of PARTICULAR IMPORTANCE to Californians because both of the controversial areas are in what is commonly called our "Redwood Empire"; one area has much more, in addition to its natural beauty, to offer anyone interested in studying, observing, or just enjoying plant and animal life.

The two proposed areas are (1) REDWOOD CREEK area, and (2) MILL CREEK area. A factual comparison of the two, without editorializing, is presented here, with the hope that it will give every Audubon member information on which to base his individual conservation activity.

THE REDWOOD CREEK AREA plan was introduced as "Senate Amendment 487"; it is the plan which is given all-out support by the Sierra Club, and by the National Audubon Society.

Location: Redwood Creek Area, in Humboldt County
Size: 90,000 acres, including 38,000 acres of virgin redwoods.
Cost: About \$150 million.

This is the area that was recommended by the National Park Service in their 1964 report and recommendation. This area contains the tallest known trees. At the public hearings held in Crescent City on June 17 and 18, by the Senate Interior Committee, Rudolf W. Becking, Humboldt State College Forester, announced that he had discovered a 387 foot coast redwood (17 feet higher than the previous record holder). This puts the four tallest known redwoods all in the Redwood Creek area.

Also contained within the Redwood Creek area are: (1) The largest mountain in the region, Rogers Peak; (2) The greatest elevational and climatic variations, which in turn offer the greater variety of features for the enjoyment of those visitors who are interested in the flora, fauna, and ecology of their surroundings; (3) With the adjacent watersheds and Prairie Creek State Park as part of a National Redwoods Park, this would be the only place where
(more on page 78)

Conservation Notes (continued from page 77)

redwoods grow in unbroken stands from the ridgetop to the sea.

Watershed: The Redwood Creek water-shed contains a great deal of virgin growth, beautiful enough to deserve protection.

THE MILL CREEK AREA plan, presented by Senator Kuchel as S-2962 is the plan that is also known as "The Administration Plan".

Location: The Mill Creek area and watershed, in Del Norte County.

Size: Approximately 45,000 acres.

Cost: Approximately \$56 to \$60 million, - or more.

This proposed park would include the present Jedediah Smith and the Del Norte Coast Redwood State Parks. The additional land that would be added to the present parks mentioned contains less than 8,000 acres of virgin redwoods.

Watershed: The watershed of this area would be managed so as to minimize damage to virgin redwoods down-slope in existing State Parks adjacent to it, but the watershed contains relatively little virgin growth that deserves protection on its own account.

On August 17, Mr. Carl W. Buchheister, President of National Audubon, appeared before the Senate Subcommittee on Parks and Recreation, by invitation. He pointed out that a choice between the two plans must be made in this second session of the 89th Congress; the debate could go on for years---until neither area would be worth saving. Mr. Buchheister put emphasis on the necessity of a choice, rather than urging the adoption of Amendment 487. He closed his remarks with the statement that, "whatever the choice of this Subcommittee, the National Audubon Society will support that choice with all the enthusiasm at its command. We urge you respectfully to made a choice".

Time is very short, the day of decision is getting closer, but there may still be time to let your Senator and your Congressman know your feelings in regard to this matter, as a citizen and a private individual. We cannot speak as Audubon members, since we are not speaking by invitation, but it is definitely time for us to speak up and be counted.

L. N. Case

Election Issue

Kay McCann suggests that members read with special care, Proposition #3 on the November ballot. It concerns a California Constitutional amendment introduced by Senator Fred Farr; its aim is to allow the legislature more control over assessment practices designed to conserve open space land for purposes of production of "food and fiber and also for the use and enjoyment of natural resources and scenic beauty".

NOTES FROM AFIELD

John M. Raymond, on an interesting trip across the country, observed the following species:

Red Crossbill at the Grand Canyon. Franklins Gull at Salt Lake. A Lark Bunting in Kansas, a Baltimore and Orchard Oriole in Louisiana, a Water Thrush in Virginia. A Prothonotary Warbler and Acadian Flycatcher in Seneca, Maryland, a Red-bellied Woodpecker at Audubon, Pa., a nesting Western Kingbird in Elko, Nevada, and a Williamson's Sapsucker in the High Sierra.

Warden Charlie Harris observed a Flamingo in July feeding along the shore of San Francisco Bay. (An escaped captive, no doubt. E.H.)

Interesting and uncommon species seen at home feeders and on individual field trips should be reported to the field note compiler either by note or phone. These are for the interest of fellow members and although accuracy should always be strived for, these notes are unofficial and not intended for scientific records. Please note dates as well as areas and other identifying information.

Mrs. Evelyn K. Hester, Field Notes
Compiler, 15015 Karl Avenue,
Monte Sereno, Calif. -
Phone 356-3728 (evenings)

Nancy Holmes is scheduling education committee talks and field trips.
Phone her at - 948-1854.

Exploring Our Baylands

Invest \$2.00 and receive hours of pleasure by buying Diane Conradson's book Exploring Our Baylands, just released by the National Press. Sections on plants, animals, and birds describe what lives in the baylands, and how. The book is illustrated with many beautiful photographs taken in the South Bay marshes. Increase your knowledge of pickleweed and Pygmy Blues, Clapper Rails and cord grass, and enjoy your next trip to the baylands twice as much! For your copy, send \$2.00 to the Palo Alto Chamber of Commerce, 725 University Avenue, Palo Alto, California.

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