

The Avocet

Volume XIV, Number 1

January, 1967

Monday, January 9
8:00 P.M.

Palo Alto Community Center
1305 Middlefield Road
Room "R"

"Water, Water; Everywhere it's the Problem"

A discussion of California's water problems with special emphasis on our own area, with FRED KUNKLE, Assistant Chief of the California District, Water Resources Division of the United States Geological Survey.

The United States Geological Survey's role in California water development is that of an impartial fact finding agency. Are you interested in subsidence, water quality, adequacy of supply, and our water future? If so, come out this evening to listen and ask questions!

BCDC Reports

On alternate Thursday evenings at 7:30 KQED broadcasts "The Bay Today and Tomorrow". The programs are based on Bay Conservation and Development Commission reports and should be of increasing interest as the commission makes further decisions on applications for fill or dredging.

Coming Events at a Glance

Sun., Jan. 8	9:00 A.M.	Marin County
Mon., Jan. 9	8:00 P.M.	Palo Alto (General Meeting)
Wed., Jan. 11	8:30 A.M.	Saratoga
Fri., Jan. 13	4:00 P.M.	Palo Alto (Screen Tour)
Mon., Jan. 16	8:00 P.M.	San Jose (Screen Tour)
Sat., Jan. 21	9:00 A.M.	Santa Teresa
Wed., Jan. 25	9:00 A.M.	Searsville



January Calendar

General Meeting

Monday, January 9, 8:00 P.M. Room "R", Palo Alto
Community Center, 1305 Middlefield Road.
(See first page)

Field Trips

Sunday, January 8, to Marin County.

Directions: Drive north on Highway 101. One-half mile beyond the Golden Gate bridge take the Sausalito turnoff to the right. Proceed to the second possible turn where the sign reads: U.S. Army, Fort Barry, Fort Baker, Fort Cronkhite. Make a left turn and wait at the tunnel for the green light. Go through the tunnel and meet at the parking area on the north side of the road just beyond the tunnel. (Meet at 9:00 A.M.) The trip will be in two legs: the first to Rodeo Lagoon, and the second to Richardson Bay and the Audubon Center where we will eat lunch.

Leader: Ralph Trullinger
Phone - 854-4201

Saturday, January 21, 9:00 A.M. to Santa Teresa Park
On Highway 101, a mile south of IBM, turn west on the road opposite the Swan Lake Motel. Proceed to the park. Make a left turn and continue, bearing right around the golf clubhouse. Meet at the parking lot by the large grassy area. We will be looking for the birds that winter there. Bring lunch if you wish.

Leaders: Lloyd & Eve Case
Phone: - 867-4748.

Wednesday, January 11,

A walk through old orchard and chaparral land in the Saratoga foothills. Meet at the corner of 6th and Big Basin Way in Saratoga at 8:30 A.M.

Leader: Margaret Henderson
Phone - 867-4304

Wednesday, January 25, 9:00 A.M. to Searsville Lake
Park at the entrance and walk in (admission 25¢ per person). Reach Searsville Lake by driving east on Sand Hill Road (Menlo Park), past Whiskey Hill Road (on the right). The next intersection on the left (one-half mile) is to the lake.

Leaders: Virginia Puddicombe
Phone - 327-0594 and Mary
Virginia Ulrich - Phone 851-0742

Screen Tours

Friday, January 13, 4:00 P.M. - Palo Alto High School Auditorium
Monday, January 16, 8:00 P.M. - San Jose State College,
Morris Daily Auditorium

See page 3 for more on Screen Tours and "Canada's Mountain Wilderness"

January Calendar - Screen Tours (continued from page 2)

"Canada's Mountain Wilderness"

The rufous hummingbird, the incredible harlequin duck of mountain streams, the giant blue grouse in courtship, Cooper's hawk and western tanager — all inhabitants of the Canadian Rockies — fill the screen in "Canada's Mountain Wilderness," by Edgar T. Jones of Edmonton, Alberta. Mountain sheep, goats, and elk are featured too, in a program which will delight all those who enjoy the out-of-doors, and who seek a respite from the hustle and bustle of everyday life.

Education Committee Report

The Committee wishes to thank Bill Anderson for his contribution of many lovely shorebird slides, including a closeup of Black-crowned Night Herons and a Willet on the wing flashing its black and white colors.

The Education Committee also wishes to thank Tom Harvey for his contribution of slides for our garden bird collection. This collection really needs contributions of such basics as Audubon Warblers and Brown Towhee's. Dr. Harvey supplied basic black-Brewer's Blackbirds.

During the month of October, the half dozen members of the Education Committee educated nearly 500 people, opening their eyes to birds in the open spaces around us, and opening their minds to the need for conserving these open spaces — 500 present and future votes for the values our society represents. Since we cannot draft your services, will you enlist in this Committee?

Diane Conradson

Phone - 948-1854 or 941-2102

The Vital Question of Regional Government

The Los Altos Branch of the American Association of University Women and the League of Women Voters of Los Altos-Los Altos Hills are jointly sponsoring a talk by Mr. Robert Miller on "Home Rule for the Bay Area: An Evolution or Revolution?" Mr. Miller is Vice-President of the Association of Bay Area Governments and Vice-Mayor of San Jose. He will discuss what ABAG does, what is being done to save the Bay, and the possibility of a trend toward regional government.

The public is invited to attend the meeting on Thursday, January 12, 8:00 P.M., at Springer School, 1120 Rose Avenue, Mountain View.

FIELD TRIP NOTES

Greco Island - Nov. 20 - Leader, Ralph Trullinger

The Sea Scout Ship "Fury" under threatening skies, landed at Greco Island with 12 birders aboard. Many interesting species were seen as we birded along the sloughs from the boat and walked along the catwalks on the island. There were four grebes: Horned, Eared, Western, and Pied-billed, as well as four herons: the Great Blue, the Common Egret, the Snowy Egret, and the Black-crowned Night Heron. We were also fortunate enough to see two Clapper Rails and a Dunlin.

Palo Alto Baylands - Nov. 30 - Leaders, Warren and Rebecca Turner

A warm sun, a well-attended trip and a large species count made for a successful trip into an area noted for its many shorebirds. Among the birds seen in abundance were Avocets, Willets, Dowitchers, Marbled Godwits, Least Sandpipers, Western Sandpipers, Western and California Gulls. One American Bittern, one Semi-palmated Plover, one Black-bellied Plover, two Mew Gulls, two Glaucous-winged Gulls, two Horned Larks, one Water Pipit, two Loggerhead Shrikes, 11 Long-billed Curlews, several Song and Savannah Sparrows helped boost the species total to 45 for this trip.

Individual Reports

- Nov. 12 - White-throated Sparrow, in Palo Alto -
Joe, Doug and Russ Greenberg
- Nov. (late) Peregrine Falcon, in Northern California -
Lloyd and Eve Case
- Nov. (late) Pigeon Hawk - Mary Schwarz
- Nov. 26 - Ross and Canada (Cackling) Geese - Ray and Kay McCann
- Nov. 27 - European Widgeon, at the Sacramento Wildlife Refuge -
Ray and Kay McCann

Mrs. Evelyn Hester, Field Notes Editor
15015 Karl Ave., Monte Sereno, Calif. 95030
Phone - 356-3728

A letter from Bill Goodall, Western Representative, National Audubon Society

Dear Audubon members and friends:

The National Audubon Convention has been laid to rest, but I hope the many stimulating talks and happy exchange of social patter with friends from everywhere, will linger pleasantly in your hearts and thoughts for a long time.

I have asked your Editor to let me use this bit of space so I may THANK YOU one and all for the support, interest and work contributed. It was truly a "Western Team Effort". As your Western Representative it is understandable that I felt rather strong personal involvements. Your wonderful spirit and participation fulfilled and exceeded my expectations. I am most grateful.

May we ALL meet again at ASILOMAR, on April 6 to 9, 1968, is my closing wish to you.

Bill Goodall

Audubon Convention

About twenty-five members of our local chapter attended the 62nd National Audubon Convention in Sacramento, November 11-15. The theme, "Silver Linings for Conservation," was beautifully illustrated by many colorful slides and motion pictures. Two full days were devoted to talks and pictures: Roger Tory Peterson presented the first showing of his film on the Galapagos Islands; Dr. Pettingill showed his film on New Zealand Wildlife; and Dr. Allan Cruickshank gave a new Audubon Wildlife Film lecture.

As a result of urging by Congressman Jeffery Cohelan, the National Audubon Society Board of Directors voted to change its stand about the Redwood Park and go on record requesting the larger piece of ground for the parksite.

The convention also offered two days of field trips with opportunities to visit the Sacramento National Wildlife Refuge, Gray Lodge, State Waterfowl Management Area, Sacramento and Joaquin Delta, Calaveras Big Trees and the American River Parkway. Fortunately the birds flocked by the thousands to see their sponsors. Particularly impressive in the waterfowl areas were the thousands of Snow Geese and the great varieties of ducks.

Our club contributed 50 pounds of dried apricots and 35 pounds of mixed nuts to the convention's Nibbles and Swallows hospitality program. These were quickly gobbled up by the hungry conventioners.

Howard Wolcott

New Members

A warm welcome to:

Mr. & Mrs. Albert B. Faris
2269 Montezuma Dr., Campbell, 95008

Mr. & Mrs. Thomas E. Haven
1010 Seymour Lane, Menlo Park, 94025

Mr. & Mrs. Charles S. Howard
437 Waverley St, Menlo Park, 94025

Arthur G. Myers
293 Marchmont Dr., Los Gatos, 95030

Mrs. Fannie S. Pargot
3632 Evergreen Dr., P.A., 94303

Mr. & Mrs. John W. Pollock
4043 Ben Lomond Dr., P.A., 94306

Dr. Dorothy G. Sproul
947 Embarcadero, P.A., 94303

Mrs. Alice Mendenhall
936 Boyce Ave., P.A., 94301

Mr. Raymond J. Fisher
314 Saratoga Ave. Los Gatos, 95030

Mrs. Eleanor B. Hopkins
159 Churchill, Palo Alto, 94301

Mrs. Hans J. Lane
1170 Hamilton St., P.A., 94301

Lincoln & Jean Norwood
4044 Amaranta Ave., P.A., 94306

Ida A. Perry
623 Middle Ave., Menlo Park, 94025

Mrs. Ruby Smock
121 Byron St., P.A., 94301

Mrs. R. D. Wallace
1037 Summit St., B-153
Evanston, Wyo. 82930

SOME ECOLOGICAL ASPECTS OF SAN FRANCISCO BAY

by H. Thomas Harvey

This article is continued from the December issue of The Avocet and was prepared by H. Thomas Harvey for the Bay Conservation and Development Commission.

Values Man's past and present use of natural habitats of the Bay for knowledge, natural resources, recreation and enjoyment depend on a complex interaction of physical factors and living organisms. One of the great natural values of the bay lies in its unique outdoor laboratories for study and research.

Many local colleges and universities have had, and now have, research projects in the Bay and its environs. All academic levels could use the Bay if greater access were available and natural areas were preserved for study. At San Jose State College in 1963, over 500 students of Natural Science had special research projects on scientific aspects of the bay. Also four faculty members were carrying on research based on natural phenomena of the bay habitat.

From the scientific literature it is clear that the bay and its intriguing habitats have served to challenge and interest numerous serious students. Basic studies on the evolution of birds by Marshall (1948), on the relationship of marsh plants to tides by Hinde (1954), and the numbers of shorebirds by Recher (1963), are a few examples. The Bay will probably increase in its importance as more students are made aware of its intrinsic worth as a study area.

Less tangible than these values are the social ones of esthetic appreciation and recreation. There are esthetic values of natural areas for painters, photographers and writers who either use such region as the basis for their creative works, or derive from them some sense of the relevancy of their work to the whole of nature.

These kinds of contributions to society are difficult to measure, but that they are of great value is not doubted except by the most deprived and insensitive person. Almost everyone has a lawn or garden, or even a pet, which is an economic liability, yet these things of great worth because of the sense of pleasure derived from them. Man also makes use of the Bay for recreational activities: hiking is greatly enjoyed by those who have access to the few trails; bird watching is entered into by several thousand people in the Bay Area. (The rolls of the Cooper Ornithological Society, National Audubon Society, and Bird Clubs around the Bay probably total over 5000 members.) Boating involves a great number of people (it is estimated that there are about 100,000 pleasure boats in the S. F. Bay Area.) The expenditures on boats, equipment, gasoline, and licenses are a multi-million dollar enterprise each year. Along with this activity is the possible increase in water contact sports if there is an improvement in the water quality.

This article will be continued in the February issue of The Avocet.

SANTA CLARA VALLEY AUDUBON SOCIETY
BRANCH OF
NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY

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