

# The Avocet

Volume XIV, Number 3

March, 1967

Monday, March 13  
7:30 P.M.

Ampex Cafeteria  
411 Broadway, Redwood City

## Native Trees and the Soils Beneath Them

This will be a joint meeting of our Society, the Committee for Green Foothills and the Western Horticultural Society.

The major characteristic trees of the hills will be on display, in actual samples of branches, in growing stock samples, and in photographs. The purpose is to familiarize everyone with our native trees, and to relate trees to problems of both conservation and land development. A question and answer period will follow the talks.

Both speakers are members of the faculty of the University of California at Berkeley; Geraldine Knight Scott, well-known Landscape Architect, lived in Palo Alto and practised in this area before moving her office to Berkeley in 1952. She has been a lecturer in the Department of Landscape Architecture ever since. She will describe the native trees, and give information and ideas gleaned from long experience and thoughtful observation of changes in the ecological relationships as people move into the hills. Mrs. Scott currently also directs work at the famous 10 acre Blake Estate, willed to the University for teaching and research. Here she is inaugurating courses, sometimes open to the public, where design problems are coordinated with actual maintenance. She is the wife of Mel Scott, also a faculty member at the University, and author of the definitive book The San Francisco Bay Area.

Dr. Esther Perry has for many years been the Director of the Soils Survey Laboratory of the Department of Agriculture at the University. She received her B. S. in Horticulture, a Masters Degree in Plant Pathology, and her Ph.D. in Soils Science. She will describe the typical soils that support plant growth in the Bay Area, and comment on the current uses to which they are subjected. She is a popular and colorful lecturer with a wealth of research and experience to draw from. She is an ardent foe of the erosion of our natural resources through uncongenial land uses. Dr. Perry will show slides and introduce the audience to the underground strata of soil structure, about which most of us know very little.

See page 18 for directions to Ampex Cafeteria

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### Coming Events at a Glance

Mon., Mar. 6	7:45 P.M.	P.A. (Board)
Wed., Mar. 8	8:30 A.M.	Saratoga
Sun., Mar. 12	9:00 A.M.	Searsville
Mon., Mar. 13	7:30 P.M.	R.W. City (Reg. meeting)
Fri., Mar. 17	4:00 P.M.	P.A. (Screen Tour)
Mon., Mar. 20	8:00 P.M.	S.J. (Screen Tour)
Wed., Mar. 22	9:00 A.M.	P.A. Baylands
Sat., Mar. 25	9:00 A.M.	Anderson Reservoir
Plus every Wednesday - 9:00 A.M. P.A. Baylands		



Directions to Ampex, for Regular Meeting, Monday, March 13, 7:30 P.M.

Northbound on Bayshore Freeway, pass the Ampex sign on the left, and turn off just beyond it, at Harbor Boulevard, Redwood City. Once off the Freeway, keep left toward Redwood City. At the first stop light (Broadway) turn left. Drive about 6/10 of a mile, pass the Ampex plant, and turn right into the second employees parking lot. Drive to the back of the building and turn right again into the parking lot. Park near the cafeteria which is the building just north of the pool and fountains.

March Calendar

Board Meeting

Monday, March 6, 7:45 P.M. - at the Wolcott's  
1030 Parkinson Avenue, Palo Alto - 321-6694.

General Meeting

Monday, March 13, 7:30 P.M.- Redwood City (See first page)

Field Trips

Wednesdays, March 1, 8, 15, 22 and 29 - 9:00 A.M.

Harriet Mundy will lead nature walks in the Palo Alto Baylands to introduce as many as possible to the special charms of this area and its wintering bird population. Meet her any Wednesday morning in March (barring rain) at the elevated parking lot at the east end of the boat berthing area.

The trip of March 22 will be the Society's regular field trip.

Leader - Harriet Mundy - Da5-1192

Wednesday, March 8, 8:30 A.M. - to Halcone Park, Saratoga  
Property recently acquired as a city park. Wooded land with Japanese buildings. Should be interesting.

Leaders - Bill and Kreena Smyth - 867-4532

Sunday, March 12, 9:00 A.M. - to Searsville Lake  
Please meet promptly at 9:00 at the gate. (Weston Sandhill Road to just west of Whiskey Hill Road). We will enter at 9:15 A.M. Admission charge is 25¢. Bring lunch if you like.

Leader - Howard Wolcott - 321-6694

Wednesday, March 22 (see above)

Saturday, March 25 - to Anderson Reservoir and Coe Park  
Meet at 9:00 A.M. at Nordstrom School, which is on East Duane two miles from Highway 101. (When you are traveling south on 101, Duane Avenue is the third traffic light in Morgan Hill, turn left.) Bring lunch if desired. Admission charge is 50¢.

Leader - Emily Curtis, Morgan Hill - 779-2637

Screen Tours - The final film of the year.

See page 19 for dates and times of showing of "Village Beneath the Sea"

March Calendar - Screen Tours (continued)

Friday, March 17, 4:00 P.M. - Palo Alto Senior High School Auditorium, Embarcadero and El Camino, Palo Alto.

Monday, March 20, 8:00 P.M. - Morris Daily Auditorium, San Jose State College Campus, San Jose.

Harry Pederson

"Village Beneath the Sea"

A small isolated coral formation is the heart of a village beneath the sea, inhabited by many bizarre citizens who live co-operatively in a fascinating aquatic community. Harry Pederson of McAllen, Texas, introduces to Audubon viewers the flying gurnard, who uses his fins like the wings of a plane, the neon gobies who operate a scale-cleaning service station, the barking jawfish, and other odd creatures, in a most unusual and colorful undersea adventure.

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FIELD TRIP NOTES

Marin County - January 8 - Leader, Ralph Truillinger

Grebes, Westerns by the thousand were seen on the ocean off Rodeo Lagoon. In the Lagoon they were sleeping with their necks tucked. Large flights of Surf Scoters were also seen out over the ocean. At our second stop at Richardson Bay we saw Greater Yellowlegs, a Mew Gull, Chestnut-backed Chickadees, a Black Phoebe, a Ruby-crowned Kinglet, and Water Pipits.

Saratoga - January 11 - Leader, Margaret Henderson

In an old Saratoga orchard along a woodland edge, 33 species were seen. Some of these were Bandtailed Pigeons, White-breasted Nuthatches, Song Sparrows, Purple Finches, Wrentits, Bewicks Wrens, a Hermit Thrush and Titmice.

Santa Teresa Park - January 22 - Leaders, Lloyd and Eve Case

The morning of the field trip brought a heavy, steady rain; it was obvious that the road we wished to follow would be both muddy and slippery, and that there would be but very little bird activity. However, the leaders, in accordance with long-established tradition, proceeded to the meeting place. On our scouting-trip we had seen a Red-throated Loon on the pond, and we had wondered if he had just dropped in for a short rest, or if he was going to stay for a while. This morning, bundled in rain-clothes, and with a fortitude born more of curiosity than of good judgment, we made our squashy way up the muddy road to the pond. The Loon was not there. As a measure of compensation we did see a Common Gallinule, which we had not seen on our scouting trip. Red-winged Blackbirds sang vociferously in the tules, and Song Sparrows darted hurriedly into their cover, and a couple of Pied-billed Grebes fed leisurely along the edge of the tule beds. Of course, the resident Mallards and the Coots were there, along with the pair of European Geese that have been given to the Park.

continued on page 20.



Field Trip Notes - Santa Teresa Park (continued)

As we splashed our way through the grass, back to our car, Emily Curtis arrived, in the rain. We sat in the car and talked about the scouting trip, - which had been much more satisfactory, and the birds that probably were still there. We had seen Meadowlarks, Brewer's Blackbirds, Ruddy Ducks, Golden-crowned Sparrows, White-crowned Sparrows, Hermit Thrushes, Bewick's Wrens, a Purple Finch, Red-shafter Flickers, House Finches, Ruby-crowned Kinglets, Brown Towhees, Audubon's Warblers, and had heard a Plain Titmouse and a Rock Wren.

A walk along the road, up the hill to the south of the picnic tables, will provide good birding, even in the winter, - if it isn't raining.

- L. Case -

Searsville - January 25 - Leaders, Mary Virginia Ulrich and Virginia Puddicombe

Despite a terrific storm and heavy rains a few days prior to the outing at Searsville Lake, the sky was primarily clear and the day cool. Oozy mud did not deter the progress of the group which enjoyed seeing several dozen Ring-necked ducks (on the lake and in the air), White-breasted Nuthatches, Ruby-crowned Kinglets and Pine Siskins! Wrentits, Bewicks Wrens, Downey Woodpeckers and California Thrashers were heard and spotted by a few of the 14 observers.

- M.U. and V.P. -

San Jose - February 8 - Leader, Fanny Zwaal

As the morning was a very foggy one there were few birders and few singing birds. Coming through the heavy fog though was the melodious call of the Meadow Lark. Some of the birds seen were Say's Phoebe, Cedar Wax-wings, Red-shafted Flickers, Oregon Juncos and many Robins.

Evelyn Hester  
Field Notes Editor  
15015 Karl Avenue  
Monte Sereno, Calif. 95030  
Telephone - 356-3728

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New Members

A warm welcome to:

Chris Brown (student)  
1201 Parkinson Avenue  
Palo Alto, Ca. 94301

Lyle C. Hansen  
2631 Cardinal Lane  
San Jose, Ca. 95125

Mr. and Mrs. Mark Levy  
136 Otis Avenue  
Woodside, Ca. 94062

Mr. John E. Cuddeback & family  
914 Colonial Lane  
Palo Alto, Ca. 94303

Allen Jamieson  
592 Channing Ave.  
Palo Alto, Ca. 94301

Mrs. Elizabeth W. Martin  
54 Churchill Ave.  
Palo Alto, Ca. 94306

-See page 21 for more new members-

New Members (continued from page 20)

Jean Pierre Hsu  
3266 Ramona Street  
Palo Alto, Ca. 94306

Mrs. Edward C. Wilson  
18611 Ambleside Lane  
Saratoga, Ca. 95070

- Caroline Davis,  
Membership Chairman -

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New Conservation Committee Forming

Last autumn I had thrust upon me the honor and obligation of the chairmanship of the Conservation Committee of the Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society. It is a position for which I have little talent, having only a peripheral knowledge of conservation problems and, unfortunately for me, an insubstantial acquaintance with members of the Society. I have only a zest for birding and a religious feeling about the obligations of man to protect more helpless being.

The last two months have been spent in the beginnings of my education for the job. What I have learned is that my predecessor, Lloyd Case, is irreplaceable. I have also learned that many dedicated people have done a magnificent job of preserving the baylands in Palo Alto. I also appreciate now that conservation is extremely complicated, with many conflicting human needs, some honorable, impinging on wild-life and interfering with its preservation.

Mainly, I have learned that I need help.

It was Lloyd Case's recommendation on relinquishing his formal duties in conservation, that to ease the burden of the chairman, the committee be organized into subcommittees, one for each of the four geographical areas of the Society's territory. Each area committee would be responsible for the conservation problems in its area and report to the committee overall chairman, who would be responsible to the board. The areas are: (1) San Jose, Santa Clara, Alviso, Milpitas, and Campbell; (2) Palo Alto, Los Altos, and Los Altos Hills; (3) Saratoga, Los Gatos, Cupertino, and Mote Sereno; (4) Mountain View and Sunnyvale. This list is not intended to be exclusive of the other communities in the area. Any member is invited to participate.

I am asking for volunteers to carry out the expressed purpose of the Audubon Society, the preservation of wildlife.

The National Society announces that the following bills of interest to conservationists have been introduced in Congress and are brought to your attention for letter writing purposes. HR 9, HR 30 and HR 722 propose one or two dams on the Colorado River in the region of the Grand Canyon; on the other hand, HR 1305 and HR 1272 enlarges the boundary of the Grand Canyon National Park and continues through 1969 a moratorium on licensing by the Federal Power Commission of dams in the Canyon. HR 2849 (Cohelan) and S514 (Metcalf) would establish a 90,000 acre Redwoods National Park in California. HR 25 (Dingell) bans filling and dredging of Estuaries. S119 and HR 90 the "Wild Rivers" bill calls for preserving certain (7) rivers of scenic importance. HR 480 (Dingell) extends for eight more years the acquisition by the Government of wet lands. HR 489 calls for a study of polar bears and walruses for conservation purposes. HR 481 bans the sale of wildlife refuge land for roads, etc. without the approval of the Migratory Bird Commission.

- Joseph Greenberg, 270 Kellogg, Palo Alto,  
Telephone 327-0329 94301

SOME ECOLOGICAL ASPECTS OF SAN FRANCISCO BAY

By H. Thomas Harvey

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

The water habitat not only supports invertebrates, microscopic plant and animal forms, and fish, but indirectly supports a great number and many kinds of wildfowl. Diving ducks in the main depend on invertebrate forms living in the mud. With webbed feet placed well back they are adapted to dive in as much as 8 to 10 feet of water to probe for food in the mud. The Canvasback for example depends on S.F. Bay as a wintering ground to the extent that during 1954 about 95% of the California population of this species was in S.F. Bay (U.S.F. & W. Ser., 1961). Other diving ducks found on the bay are Lesser Scaup, Greater Scaup, Surf Scoter, and Goldeneye. A variety of grebes and loons also are present, and feed by diving in the water for fish. Cormorants and mergansers obtain their sustenance in a similar fashion.

Man's use of the bay for recreational hunting or bird observing is dependent upon these forms of life which have adapted to the combination of physical factors and to each other over a period of countless millennia.

Man has modified this water habitat in two major ways and plans a third. We have diked off for salt production approximately 54,000 acres (Scott, 1963). Though still a water habitat, salt ponds constitute a collection of unique attributes, outstanding of course is the high salinity of as much as 17% (Carpelan, 1957). The salt ponds of lower salinities continue to serve as water habitat for many forms and have been in existence for so many years that they are of value to wildlife as resting areas when bay waters are rough, or as food sources for certain forms such as Avocets and Ruddy Ducks.

The second major modification of the bay waters is through the dumping of sewage, both domestic and commercial. The general problem of pollution is treated in another report, however, the effluents from these sources have had drastic effects of the flora and fauna of the bay. From studies by Filice (1958) it seems apparent that domestic pollutants near the outfalls of sewers decrease the number and kinds of mud dwelling invertebrates but at greater distances the number of organisms is increased due to the rich nutrient source. Commercial sewage generally decreases the number and kinds of organisms in its vicinity (Filice, 1959). It is generally agreed that pollutants have greatly contributed to the loss of the shrimp and oyster fisheries in S.F. Bay (Skinner, 1962; Aplin, 1965). To return these resources in sufficient quantities to once again be commercially valuable, the water quality will have to be improved. The coliform count, an index of human wastes, has been reported as high as 3 billion per liter (Storrs, 1963). This occurs in an area that was once a major site for the oyster industry.

The major modification now being developed which will have great impact on the ecological balance of the bay is the State of



California's Master Water Plan. The major impact to the waters of the bay will be through two significant alterations of present conditions. One is the effect of the peripheral canal on the quantity of relatively fresh water from the Sacramento and San Joaquin Rivers that flows into San Francisco Bay. The present average annual flow is estimated at 17.5 million acre feet (USDHEW, 1964). By the year 2020 it is estimated that the flow will be cut to about 2.5 million acre feet or to about 1/7 the present amount. The second possible outcome of this plan is the dumping of drain waters collected from the irrigated lands of the San Joaquin Valley. This water must be treated in some fashion or great quantities of nutrients, pesticides and herbicides will be added to bay waters. The reduced annual flow will modify the water environment, not only in the seasonal flushing action of the high winter runoff, but in the chemical constituents in the water. The probable effect is one of increased nutrients such as nitrogen and phosphorus (USDHEW, 1964) and thus increased algal growth and the probable attendant problems as organic material builds up. Some of these problems are: foul odors, algal scums on boats, and decreased oxygen in the water adversely affecting fish.

#### Mud flat Habitat

Though the mud flat habitat is not generally an esthetically pleasing area its vital role in the productivity of the bay is yet to be fully realized. A few quantitative studies have been made (Jones, 1961; Filice, 1958, 1959; Storrs, 1963, 1964, 1965) on bottom dwelling organisms, but the intertidal areas have yet to be adequately studied. However, much can be drawn from studies of similar habitats and indirectly from the myriad numbers of shorebirds, ducks and fish which depend on mud organisms for food. "These tidal flats provide a habitat for an abundant fauna that feeds upon materials brought in by the tide or upon organic detritus of the substrate" (Reid, 1961). Studies by Recher (1963) indicate that in the relatively small area of mud flats at Palo Alto over 1,000,000 shorebirds can be observed feeding on the flats during a winter season. In a single flock of Sandpipers Cogswell (1966) reported 13,200 birds resting at high tide. During feeding periods on the mudflats about 16 birds per acre were estimated by him to spread out to feed. Since the majority of Pacific Coast shorebirds migrate through the San Francisco Bay Area the numbers passing through the area and dependent on the mudflats for feeding grounds run into the millions. These birds are also included within the Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918 and as amended in 1926 to include the Convention between the United State of America and the United Mexican States for the protection of migratory birds. In these documents is included the statement "Whereas it is right and proper to protect the said migratory birds, whatever may be their origin, in the United States of America and the United Mexican States, in order that the species may not be exterminated". And in conclusion states ..... "And every article and clause therefore may be observed and fulfilled with good faith by the United States of America and the citizens thereof" (Roosevelt, 1937). It therefore seems incumbent upon us to see to it that migratory species are not moved toward extermination by destruction of their vital habitat. It has been estimated by Cogswell (1966) that as many as 70% of the shorebirds of the Pacific Flyway might be exterminated if the mudflats of the bay were destroyed. The mud flats in the bay comprise approximately 45,000 acres, based on the

Coast Geodetic Map, and therefore provide a major link in the migratory chain from wintering grounds to nesting grounds.

The mud flats vary from such fine waterlogged sediments that a 7 foot long 2 x 4 can be pushed by hand into them lengthwise, to sand and gravel areas. There are also a few places such as Coyote Pt., Point San Pablo, and Carquinez Stratis which are predominately rocky areas. These varieties of substrate contribute to the great variety of organisms which are adapted to such surfaces. The mud dwelling forms are faced with several biological problems. The major one is the reduced amount of available oxygen. And though there are over one hundred different kinds of mud-dwelling invertebrates reported from S.F. Bay they in general possess blood which can become saturated with oxygen at lower concentrations than those forms of better aerated habitats. And a few such as the mud clam can actually live without oxygen for over a week (Ricketts, 1948). In addition mud-dwellers either lead a very sedentary life and/or have special devices for the absorption of oxygen. For example certain marine worms such as the cirratulids possess fine thread-like gills which spread out on the surface of the mud for the absorption of oxygen from the water. Therefore, there are specialized organs and organisms fitted to the mud flat habitat which in turn serve as fish and wildfowl food.

This article will be concluded in the April issue of The Avocet.

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#### Wilderness Conference

The 10th Biennial Wilderness Conference will be held April 7, 8, and 10, 1967 at the Hilton Hotel, San Francisco. Its subject is "Wilderness and the Quality of American Life."

Further information in next month's Avocet or write to the Sierra Club, 1050 Mills Tower, San Francisco, 94104.

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#### With Thanks

The Education Committee wishes to express thanks for the gift of over 100 beautiful slides of local wild flowers. They are the donation of "Smitty", Mr. Claude Smith, formerly of the Saratoga Boy Scout Camp, now of 702 North Fawcett, Apartment 14, Tacoma, Washington, 98402.



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1966 CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

The 1966 San Jose, California, Christmas Bird Count sponsored by the Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society was made between 4:30 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. on Saturday, 31 December 1966. Ralph Trullinger directed the count with sector leaders H. T. Harvey, W. Luick, R. Cameron, D. Schmoldt and A. Wool. Forty-one persons participated in the count, and most assembled for the summary between 4:00 and 6:00 p.m. in the Friendship Room at the Security Savings Building in east San Jose. H. T. Harvey served as compiler at that time.

The traditional count area is within the 15-mile diameter circle whose center is at Capital Avenue and Maybury Road. Estimates of the time spent and distances traveled by the 41 observers in 19 parties included 166 party hours (103 on foot and 63 by car) and 572 party miles (83 on foot and 489 by car). The weather was generally clear with good visibility and 0-10 m.p.h. west winds. Temperatures varied from 32° to 65° F. during the count period. Total rainfall for the season was about normal but no precipitation had fallen since early December. Access to most areas visited was without problems.

Approximate time spent in the various habitats within the count area was close to previous year percentages.

Table 1.

Four-year summary of percent of time spent in various habitats during bird count period.

<u>Habitat</u>	<u>1966</u>	<u>1965</u>	<u>1964</u>	<u>1963</u>	<u>Four year average</u>
Saltwater marsh	6	5	3	3	4.3
Freshwater marsh	2	1	1	2	1.5
Deciduous orchard	20	15	14	12	15.3
Town suburbs	6	8	9	7	7.5
Grassland and pastures	20	17	22	22	20.3
Cultivated cropland	3	5	6	8	5.5
Oak woodland	6	10	10	9	8.8
Freshwater lake	2	5	4	5	3.8
Sanitary fill (dump)	2	3	2	3	2.5
Canyon stream	3	10	8	8	7.2
Valley stream	18	8	7	10	10.7
Chaparral	5	6	7	4	5.5
Formal parks	6	6	6	5	5.8
Bay salt water	1	1	1	2	1.3

A total of 130 species was recorded during the count period which is somewhat below the totals of the past several years. A total count of 61,321 individual birds is the third highest on record, just a little over 3,000 short of the 1965 high. Except for perhaps three species (Golden Plover, Baird's Sandpiper and Long-eared Owl) the count involved regularly seen winter birds. Some species recorded on

previous counts but not seen this year include Short-billed Dowitcher, Lesser Scaup, Wood Duck, Lawrence's Goldfinch, Snow Goose, Black-crowned Night Heron, Pigmy Owl, small plovers, rails, Roadrunner, terns, Myrtle's warbler and Lewis' Woodpecker.

Table 2

Eleven-year Summary of Counts 1956-1966

<u>Year</u>	<u>Species</u>	<u>Birds</u>	<u>Counters</u>	<u>Parties</u>	<u>weather</u>	<u>Party Hours</u>
1956	107	24,364	25	7	clear	49
1957	115	45,512	34	12	fog	81
1958	122	57,845	38	12	rain	84
1959	125	44,689	45	14	clear	97
1960	130	50,458	47	15	clear	104
1961	139	50,407	56	18	fog	114
1962	128	56,676	42	13	clear	92
1963	138	62,262	62	19	clear	144
1964	138	58,385	56	17	cloudy	116
1965	149	64,567	59	21	clear	141
1966	130	61,321	41	19	clear	166

Table 3

Number of Species by Sector 1957 - 1966

<u>Year</u>	<u>Alviso</u>	<u>Southwest</u>	<u>Evergreen</u>	<u>Alum Rock</u>	<u>Calaveras</u>	<u>All Sectors</u>
1957	66	47	63	64	78	115
1958	65	52	58	64	82	122
1959	54	51	69	68	84	125
1960	71	73	75	67	82	130
1961	78	65	82	66	83	139
1962	75	50	65	64	83	128
1963	90	52	68	78	93	138
1964	96	44	62	78	83	138
1965	107	52	62	84	88	149
1966	82	55	56	72	80	130

The 1966 sector leaders and their teams were as follows:

Alviso: H. T. Harvey, E. Curtis, M. Newman, H. Mundy, H. Wolcott,  
L. Case, E. Case, M. Wittgenstein, M. Leman

Southwest: W. Luick, Mrs. F. Zwall, Mr. Kirshen, Mrs. Kirshen,  
Mr. Henderson, Mrs. Henderson, J. Brokenshire, F. Pargot,  
J. Coleman.

Evergreen: R. Cameron, B. Cameron, Mr. Kidd, Mrs. Kidd, D. Thompson,  
B. Mackenzie.

Alum Rock: D. Schmoltdt, G. Mitchell, L. Moitozo, B. Burge,  
R. Sandkuhle, F. Sunzeri, C. Cheswell.

Calaveras: A. Wool, G. Ball, Mr. Sleeper, Mrs. Sleeper, W. Mewaldt,  
D. Deleuran, R. Lancaster, Mr. Hopkins, Mrs. Hopkins,  
T. Smock, J. Hsu

(Please forgive any omissions.)

I believe there is some room for increased efficiency in making our Christmas count. I would like to suggest that the President appoint a three-member Bird Count Committee to be in operation year-round. This committee should appoint permanent sector leaders early in the calendar year; together they should make detailed maps of each sector including not only roads, trails, etc. but also vegetation ground cover, habitats, percent coverage of each, and so forth. Perhaps good aerial photographs should be the place to start the mapping. The committee and the sector leaders should visit each sector (say early in the fall) and carefully lay out party routes and time to be devoted to each to assure maximum coverage in December. The sector leaders should be active year round, not just for a short period in December. More participants are needed: many more young people as well as adults should be approached and encouraged to be invited to participate whether they are members of the Society or not. A mid-fall newsletter or more properly a mid-fall progress report including count plans, sector assignments, date of count, etc. might be sent to the membership by the committee.

The date of the count should avoid conflict with dates of counts elsewhere in the Bay Area (Tomales Bay, Pt. Reyes, etc.) if at all possible, to permit participation by those interested in helping with more than one count.

Much could be done to increase our effectiveness: 1) include nocturnal birds by starting at dawn, 2) search salt marshes slowly and carefully for rails, 3) diligently study mudflat shore bird flocks, 4) devote more time to woodland birds (for example--owls), 5) check large flocks for unusual records (perhaps a White-throated Sparrow in a flock of 150 White-crowned Sparrows), 6) literally "beat" the brush to force birds out in the open where they can be seen, 7) count more individuals--we should come up with a total much higher than 60,000.

Certainly all participants should be encouraged (I would prefer to say trained) to keep more detailed, more accurate field notes on the day of the count. We had some difficulty in summarizing the 1966 count because of incomplete records.

Will the Audubon Society membership please send its reactions to the above thoughts to Dr. H. T. Harvey, President of the Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society, 716 Garner Ct., Santa Clara. Lets make next year's Christmas Bird Count the best on record!

Henry G. Weston, Jr.  
January 1967

Editor's Note: Audubon Societies that record 150 or more species seem to be considered the elite of the Christmas Counters. We can certainly join that group. The Los Angeles Audubon Society (whose count area includes downtown Los Angeles!) recorded 165 species. Largest numbers, about 200, were turned in by San Diego and Cocoa Beach, Florida.

Complete counts from all the United States are recorded in the April Audubon Field Notes. This publication is issued six times a year. Subscriptions, \$5./yr.--Service Dep't., National Audubon Society, 1130 Fifth Ave., New York, N.Y. 10026.



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 CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT - 1966  
 San Jose, California

<u>Species</u>	<u>Alviso</u>	<u>South- west</u>	<u>Ever- green</u>	<u>Alum Rock</u>	<u>Calaveras</u>	<u>Total</u>
Avocet	69	0	0	0	0	69
Bittern, American	1	0	0	0	0	1
Blackbird, Brewer's	897	3206	805	176	1900	6984
Red-winged	155	53	150	0	2210	2568
Bluebird, Mountain	0	0	0	10	0	10
Western	0	0	13	51	136	200
Bushtit	0	34	45	274	105	458
Chickadee, CB	3	21	29	48	30	131
Coot	477	0	350	7	270	1104
Cowbird	0	15	0	0	0	15
Cormorant, DC	3	0	0	0	1	4
Creeper	0	0	0	4	0	4
Crow	4	28	83	36	68	219
Curlew, LB	51	0	28	0	0	79
Dipper	0	0	0	0	4	4
Dove, Mourning	37	32	42	7	6	124
Dowitcher, Long-billed	79	0	0	0	0	79
Species ???	120	0	0	0	0	120
Duck, Bufflehead	0	0	0	3	6	9
Canvasback	44	0	44	0	4	92
Gadwall	0	0	0	1	0	1
Goldeneye, Common	0	0	0	1	0	1
Mallard	0	0	16	0	2	18
Merganser, Common	0	0	4	6	0	10
Pintail	39	0	0	0	1	40
Ring-necked	0	0	2	0	0	2
Ruddy	557	0	125	36	23	741
Shoveller	5611	0	0	0	0	5611
Teal, Cinnamon	2	0	0	0	0	2
Teal, Green-winged	44	0	0	0	0	44
Widgeon, American	22	0	0	0	0	22
Ducks, ssp.	900	0	12	0	0	912
Eagle, Golden	0	0	0	5	7	12
Finch, House	5853	185	88	114	235	6475
Purple	1	0	2	0	8	11
Godwit, Marbled	50	33	0	0	0	83
Goldfinch, Common	9	157	0	1	9	176
Lesser	52	312	283	243	244	1134
Goose, Canada	0	0	20	0	880	900
Grebe, Eared	4800	0	0	0	18	4818
Pied-billed	0	0	2	0	12	14
Western	4	0	0	0	0	4
Gull, Bonaparte's	1202	0	0	0	0	1202
California	371	1073	0	7	100	1551
Glaucous-winged	27	0	0	0	0	27
Herring	471	1	0	0	0	471
Ring-billed	1027	0	0	0	325	1352
Mew	75	0	0	0	2	77
Western	0	30	0	27	0	57
Gulls, spp.	4178	971	209	4	664	6026

<u>Species</u>	<u>Alviso</u>	<u>South<sup>29</sup>-west</u>	<u>Ever-green</u>	<u>Alum Rock</u>	<u>Calaveras</u>	<u>Total</u>
Hawk, Cooper's	1	1	0	0	1	3
Marsh	8	0	0	0	0	8
Red-tailed	5	4	9	32	25	75
Sharp-shinned	0	0	0	3	1	4
Sparrow	23	19	14	14	21	91
Hawk, spp.	1	0	1	0	0	2
Heron, Great Blue	1	0	1	1	0	3
Hummingbird, Anna's	1	23	15	13	6	58
Jay, Scrub	10	52	94	122	61	339
Steller's	0	0	3	66	13	82
Junco, Oregon	10	96	89	227	111	533
Killdeer	91	12	35	5	5	148
Kingfisher	0	0	0	1	2	3
Kinglet, Ruby-crowned	1	6	7	66	23	103
Kite, White-tailed	4	7	0	0	2	13
Lark, Horned	1	0	0	0	0	1
Magpie, Yellow-billed	0	2	47	20	79	148
Meadowlark	130	121	111	37	186	585
Mockingbird	17	98	33	14	26	188
Nuthatch, White-br.	0	0	0	35	8	43
Owl, Barn	0	0	0	1	0	1
Burrowing	6	2	0	1	0	9
Horned	0	0	0	10	1	11
Screech	0	0	0	2	0	2
Short-eared	2	0	0	0	0	2
Pelican, White	170	0	0	0	105	275
Pheasant, Ring-necked	5	5	0	1	0	11
Phoebe, Black	4	3	2	9	9	27
Say's	1	2	2	1	3	9
Pigeon, Band-tailed	0	0	0	1	6	7
Pipit, Water	26	72	2	0	37	113
Plover, Black-bellied	41	0	0	0	0	41
Quail, California	29	129	82	83	45	368
Raven	0	0	3	0	0	3
Robin	0	513	140	129	141	923
Sandpiper, Least	638	0	0	0	0	638
Dunlin	134	0	0	0	0	134
Western	1691	0	6	0	0	1697
Yellow-legs, Greater	9	0	0	0	0	9
Yellow-legs, Lesser	2	0	0	0	0	2
Sapsucker, YB	3	1	0	1	5	10
Shrike, Loggerhead	6	13	13	2	10	44
Siskin, Pine	0	0	0	0	30	30
Snipe, Common	0	0	0	0	3	3
Sparrow, Fox	2	26	0	0	0	28
Golden-crowned	152	178	101	201	222	854
House	210	299	186	33	180	908
Lark	0	0	0	0	65	65
Rufous-crowned	0	0	0	8	8	16
Savannah	47	0	0	1	0	48
Song	27	2	5	24	4	62
White-crowned	236	245	605	37	359	1482
Starling	3428	254	370	36	128	4216
Stilt, Black-nk.	1	0	0	0	0	1

<u>Species</u>	<u>Alviso</u>	<u>South-<sup>30</sup> west</u>	<u>Ever- green</u>	<u>Alum Rock</u>	<u>Cala- veras</u>	<u>Total</u>
Swift, White-th.	0	0	0	0	15	15
Thrasher, Calif.	0	3	0	12	0	15
Thrush, Hermit	1	6	3	38	17	65
Varied	0	2	1	75	4	82
Titmouse, Plain	0	3	2	42	17	64
Towhee, Brown	6	111	32	65	35	249
Rufous-sided	1	7	3	27	4	42
Vireo, Hutton's	0	0	0	7	0	7
Vulture, Turkey	0	0	0	0	4	4
Warbler, Audubon's	56	66	101	18	20	261
Orange-crowned	0	0	0	1	0	1
Yellow-throat	2	0	0	0	0	2
Waxwing, Cedar	0	309	72	0	0	381
Willet	457	0	0	0	0	457
Woodpecker, Acorn	1	8	15	89	39	152
Downy	0	3	3	11	4	21
Flicker, Red-shafted	22	54	14	28	43	176
Hairy	0	1	0	2	2	5
Nuttall's	0	0	0	8	7	15
Wren, Bewick's	3	8	3	23	2	39
Canyon	0	0	0	1	4	5
Long-billed Marsh	4	0	0	0	0	4
Rock	0	0	0	0	2	2
Winter	0	0	0	3	1	4
Wren-tit	0	2	1	20	22	45

Other Species

Egret, Common	4	0	0	0	0	4
Snowy	14	0	0	0	0	14
Plover, Golden	1	0	0	0	0	1
Sandpiper, Baird's	1	0	0	0	0	1
Sandpiper, spp.	1000	0	0	0	0	1000
Owl, Long-eared	0	0	0	0	1	1

Identified species = 130  
 Sp. unidentified = 5  
135 ±

Total individuals = 61321