

# The Avocet

Volume XIV, Number 5

May, 1967

## Regular Meeting

Monday Evening  
May 8  
4:00 p.m. - on

Palo Alto Foothills Park  
Page Mill Road, Palo Alto  
(4 miles West of Junipero Serra)

An evening of walking, eating, and entertainment.  
Come to any or all events.

4:00 p.m. - Meet at Vista Point to go for  
a walk on Coyote Trail.

6:00 p.m. - Meet at Oak Grove Group Picnic  
Area just past the Park Headquarters. Bring picnic dinner.  
Grills are available; no wood allowed - so bring charcoal.

8:00 p.m. - Meeting at Park Headquarters. Bob  
Badaracco, Chief Ranger, will tell about activities in the park  
and plans for the future. An added attraction will be the  
showing of a color, sound film made off the California coast  
of the behavior and life history of the elephant seal.

All members and guests invited. Questions??  
Call Kay McCann - 327-4138.

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## Norman Livermore to Speak in San Jose

Governor Reagan's Director of Natural Resources, Norman B.  
Livermore, will be a participant, along with representatives  
of the Sierra Club and other conservation groups, at a meeting  
to discuss the Redwood National Park controversy. The Youth  
Science Institute is sponsoring the affair which will be held  
in the Concert Hall of the Music Building, on Seventh Street,  
San Jose State College, 7:30 p.m., Friday, April 28.

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## Coming Events at a Glance

Mon., May 1,	6:45 P.M.	Palo Alto (Board)
Mon., May 8,	4:00 P.M.	on - Palo Alto (Reg. Meeting)
Wed., May 10,	8:30 A.M.	Stevens Creek
Sat., May 13,	9:00 A.M.	LaHonda
Wed., May 17,	9:00 A.M.	P.A. Foothills
Sun., May 21,	9:00 A.M.	Marin County
Wed., May 24.,	2:00 P.M.	Saratoga (Ladies)



May Calendar

Board Meeting

Monday, May 1, 6:45 P.M. Pot-luck dinner at the Conradson's, 4337 Miranda Avenue, Palo Alto, 941-2102.

Regular Meeting

Monday, May 8, 4:00 P.M. and later, Palo Alto Foothills Park. (See first page)

A Special Occasion

Wednesday, May 24. All ladies of the Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society are invited by Mrs. William B. Smyth to tea at her home at 2:00 P.M. to honor Mrs. Catherine Lintott who will present her outstanding paper on birds. Guests also are invited to present short papers. If you plan to attend, please call Mrs. Smyth by May 17 at 867-4532. She lives at 19642 Charters Avenue, Saratoga. Off Saratoga Avenue shortly beyond the Paul Masson Winery turn into the Arroyo Saratoga subdivision (marked by a sign); the Smyth home is at the corner of Glen Brae and Charters.

Field Trips

Wednesday, May 10 to Stevens Creek Park. Meet at the Stevens Creek Reservoir at 8:30 A.M. From the intersection of Stevens Creek Boulevard and Foothill go south on Foothill, which becomes Stevens Canyon Road. Bring lunch if desired.

Leader: Edna Wininger - AL2-3796

Saturday, May 13 to the Al Wool Ranch. Meet at 9:00 A.M. at the General Store in La Honda. Bring lunch.

Leaders: Mr. & Mrs. Wool - 747-0317

Wednesday, May 17 to the Palo Alto Foothills Park. (four miles west of Junipero Serra Freeway on Page Mill Road). Meet at the entrance to the park at 9:00 A.M.

Leader: Virginia Bothwell - 854-6458.

Sunday, May 21 to Audubon Canyon Ranch in Marin County. Meet at the Ranch (about three miles north of Stinson Beach on Highway 1) at 9:00 A.M. Bring lunch. A small amount of hiking will be involved. (This is the exciting nesting ground of the Egrets and Great Blue Herons - it affords a never-to-be-forgotten sight).

Leader: Ralph Trullinger - 854-4201

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"Don't fill the Bay with newspapers". Instead, deliver yours to the Holy Trinity Church, 330 Ravenswood, Menlo Park, Saturday or Sunday, May 27, 28. Our member, Mrs. Howard Crittenden, collected nine tons of paper a few months ago, and would like to keep that much again out of the bay and into the hands of re-processors.

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PARK CENSUS

Foothills Park Bird Census, March 11, 1967

There were 13 observers, who covered eight territories. Forty-nine species were observed with a total of 1179 individuals. This compares with the March 26, 1966, census when we had 20 observers, covered eight territories, observed 63 species with 1921 individuals. The later date and greater number of observers probably account for the difference. The day this year was clear and sunny directly after an overnight rain. It was cool and windless.

SPECIES

17 Mallards, 1 Ruddy Duck, 1 Brown Pelican (flying over), 4 Turkey Vultures, 1 Coopers Hawk, 2 Red-tailed Hawks, 1 Marsh Hawk, 3 Sparrow Hawks, 29 California Quails, 4 Coots, 3 Band-tailed Pigeons, 5 Mourning Doves, 2 Great Horned Owls, 14 Anna's Hummingbirds, 4 Allen's Hummingbirds, 1 Kingfisher, 13 Red-shafter Flickers, 2 Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers, 1 Black Phoebe, 37 Violet-green Swallows, 9 Steller's Jays, 6 Crows, 110 Chestnut-b Chickadees, 48 Plain Titmice, 169 Common Bushtits, 1 White-breasted Nuthatch, 1 Brown Creeper, 49 Wrentits, 27 Bewick's Wrens, 29 California Thrashers, 5 Robins, 1 Varied Thrush, 23 Hermit Thrushes, 4 Western Bluebirds, 1 Blue-grey Gnatcatcher, 44 Ruby-crowned Kinglets, 25 Cedar Waxwings, 10 Hutton's Vireos, 59 Orange-crowned Warblers, 10 Audubon's Warblers, 1 Myrtle Warbler, 13 Townsend's Warblers, 37 Western Meadowlarks, 1 Purple Finch, 1 American Goldfinch, 23 Lesser Goldfinches, 27 Rufous-sided Towhees, 45 Brown Towhees, 104 Oregon Juncos, 17 White-crowned Sparrows, 76 Golden-crowned Sparrows, 10 Song Sparrows- Total: 1179 individuals

TERRITORIES

OBSERVERS

A & C - Lake, Marsh and Chamise Trail	Lloyd and Eve Case
B - Toyon and adjacent fire trail	Dean Rinehart and Don Peterson
D & G - Lee Grove, Les Trampas Valley, Wildhorse Canyon	K. McCann & Carol Renfrew
F - Trappers and Madrone Trails	Frank & Janie Gorajz, Ward Smith
J - Coyote Trail	Joe Greenberg & Gerry Lawrence
K - Panoramic Trail	Ray McCann & Malcolm Renfrew

- K. McCann -

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Moutain Lion Bounty

The four year moratorium on the California Mountain Lion Bounty terminates this year. Assembly Bill 940, introduced by Assemblyman (and rancher) Alan Pattee will repeal the bounty. The Mountain Lion is scarce; probably between 500 and 600 remain. If you wish to see an end to this biologically unsound and archaic predatory control system, please write at once to: Chairman, Fred W. Marler, Jr. of the Senate Fish and Game Committee and Chairman, Pauline Davis of the Assembly Conservation and Wildlife Committee. The address for each is State Capitol, Sacramento. Senator Alfred E. Alquist and Assemblyman George W. Milias of Santa Clara County serve on these committees.



## CONSERVATION NOTES

In these days, "Conservation Problems" include so many fields and activities that it is impossible for any one individual to be active in all of them. Fortunately, such extended effort on the part of individuals is not necessary. Regardless of the specific phase of conservation in which we are personally interested, we are all working to achieve the same broad, general objective: the quality of life for future generations.

At the end of this century the population of the United States will be 300 million people who will need one third more food and twice as much water as is needed to day. At that time we must have housing for the additional 100 million; we must have roads and highways for three times as many autos as at present; we must have space in which to bury another million tons of solid waste each year. Obviously, the quality of life in the future depends on what action we take now.

The Secretary of Agriculture, Orville L. Freeman has described the present-day situation as "the third conservation crisis". The Theodore Roosevelt era was the first, with its concern for forest conservation; the F.D.R era was the second, concerned with soil and water; today, in the third crisis, we must concern ourselves with the total environment: soil, air, water, and open space to move in. It should be realized, and kept in mind, that the major underlying causal agent of any of our conservation problems is probably the force of population pressure. Basically it is the essence of our ever-increasing demands on our resources.

The present picture may be dark, but it is not hopeless, by any means. Through continuous efforts to restore and preserve our environment and areas of natural beauty, to eliminate pollutants, to improve land-use practices, and to promote an interest in nature and natural beauty in our grammar-school population, the future quality of life can be ensured. There can be fresh air over clean cities, clear streams and fewer floods, ample parklands, and enough wilderness areas to provide quiet and solitude. But this cannot be accomplished by a "crash" program. We must constantly and continuously exert gentle pressure. The situation can be compared to a spinning gyroscope: it cannot be turned by pushing on it with all of one's strength, - but the gentle intermittent pressure of one's fingertips will cause it to rotate toward the source of pressure.

What I am trying to say is: even though you may have written letters in the past, we now have a new Congress, and a new State Legislature, and gentle reminders of our individual opinions and wishes will not be amiss.

### WILDERNESS AND PARKS:

Conservationists were greatly relieved when Congress finally passed the Wilderness Bill. It has been pleasant, too, to watch it at work. Of special interest to us, because of its importance to

(continued on page 41)

CONSERVATION NOTES (continued)

the endangered California Condors, is the current legislative effort to classify the San Rafael Primitive Area as a Wilderness Area within the Los Padres National Forest. (Hearings were scheduled for April 11.) This action is the result of President Johnson's request to Congress to set aside 143,000 acres of the rugged mountainous area as a perpetual wilderness. The Sierra Club has requested 154,000 acres, the Forest Service had recommended 110,403 acres; the 143,000 acres seems to be a satisfactory compromise. The area can become important, since it is only 30 miles from the present range of the Condors. If the condors increase in number, it is possible that San Rafael will once again be a part of their range.

Other parks and regions are also being considered as possible Wilderness areas. Three of them are of particular interest to us of the Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society because of their closeness. They are (1) the Pinnacles National Monument and the Surrounding Area; (2) Lassen Volcanic National Park and the Surrounding Region; (3) the Sequoia-Kings Canyon National Parks and the Surrounding Regions. Information on the plans for these areas can be obtained, without charge, from The National Parks Association, 1300 New Hampshire Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036.

- Ask for:
1. A Wilderness Plan for Pinnacles National Monument and the Surrounding Region. (4 pages with 1 map.)
  2. A Wilderness Plan for Lassen Volcanic National Park and the Surrounding Region. (8 pages with 2 maps.)
  3. A Preliminary Wilderness Plan for Sequoia-Kings Canyon National Parks and the Surrounding Region. (13 pages with 2 maps.)

Other publications also available, without charge, are:

"Water for Arizona and Bridge and Marble Canyon Dams".  
(4 pages)

"Report of the Advisory Board on Wildlife Management"  
(The Leopold Report) (6 pages)

Four of the twelve proposed New National Parks are located in the western states: (1) North Cascades National Park, in Washington; (2) Oregon Dunes National Park, in Oregon; (3) Channel Island National Park in southern California (Santa Barbara); and (4) the controversial Redwood National Park, in the northern California coastal redwood area. The future status of the proposed New National Parks, and of a number of other units up for consideration by Congress may depend on how rapidly money is made available for the acquisition of these new units. All such money must come from the Land and Water Conservation Fund. This fund is also the source of money for the Forest Service, the Bureau of Sports Fisheries and Wildlife, and the States. It is inadequate. President Johnson has asked that the Land and Water Fund be supplemented by money received from some federally-owned natural resources. Such monies are necessary if the Park Service is to acquire the desired lands before prices have skyrocketed out of sight.

We can still help to perpetuate these open spaces and make these new National Parks realities by letting our Senators and Congressmen know that we hope they will make the necessary money available to the National Park Service, and give the authority to tie up lands as soon as an area is approved.

FIELD TRIP NOTES

Palo Alto Foothills - February 22 - Leader, Virginia Borthwell

Since the day was a holiday, children as well as adults attended. The morning was frosty but it warmed to a balmy spring day. The birds were varied: Canvasback Ducks, Pied-billed Grebe, Green Heron on the dam and Bluebirds, Hermit Thrushes, Audubon and Myrtle Warblers in the grassy woodland. Lunch was enjoyed at the Schroll Ranch house. From a leader's view, a most pleasant trip for a most appreciative and enthusiastic group.

V. B.

San Mateo Coast - February 25 - Leaders, Joe, and Russ Greenberg

No doubt the high point of the trip and it has my vote for top bird of the year was the sighting of a second year immature Trumpster Swan by Joe Greenberg on his February 22 scouting trip. All those present three days later had an excellent view of this magnificent bird as he swam and dipped his head and neck into the water to feed on bottom vegetation. It was a thrill of a life-time to see this beautiful handsome swan here in California and we are thankful its species has escaped the dreaded extinction it came so close to. (E.H.).

In all the excitement of this rare find, it was difficult to concentrate on the other birds but here they are: Black and Ruddy Turnstone, Surfbirds, Wandering Tattler, Red-breasted Merganser, Brants' and Pelagic Cormorants, Common, Surf and White-winged Scoters, loons, Western Gulls, Cinnamon and Green-winged Teal, Violet-green and Tree Swallows; Kingfishers, Willets, Godwits and Sanderlings, Savannah and White-crowned Sparrows, Brewer's and Red-winged Blackbirds, Meadow larks, American Goldfinches and House Sparrows. On a return trip a Black-legged Kittiwake flew into the marsh and landed in the reeds.

Hakone Gardens - March 8 - Leaders, Kreena and Bill Smyth

It was a beautiful warm spring day as we took a delightful walk through an old orchard and down a woodland path into a formal Japanese Garden. Some of the birds seen were Black-capped Chickadees, Orange-crowned warblers, Downy Woodpecker, Allen's and Rufous Hummingbirds, Purple Finch, Bewicks Wren and Violet-green Swallows.

Anderson Reservoir and Coe Park - March 25 - Leader, Emily Curtis

Our field trip of about fifteen people was somewhat chilly with a persistent wind and an unconstant sun. We birded first at Anderson Lake by the bridge where a pair of Wood Ducks paddled in the still water. A busy flock of low-dipping White-throated Swifts, two elusive Rough-winged Swallows, and an Orange-crowned Warbler were also seen among others. At Coe Park we saw a White-breasted Nuthatch, Lark Sparrow, Bluebird and Purple Finch. The chill wind drove most under cover. Thirty-six species were tallied.

E.C.



Field Trip Notes (continued from page 42)

Duvenèck Ranch - April 8 - Leader, Ralph Trullinger

The two outstanding observations of this trip were of a Hermit Thrush and two Orange-crowned Warblers. The Thrush was very obliging by perching on logs, fence posts, and wires. The Warblers were first seen in trees, then they flew to the ground and worked their way along the edge of some brush where we could see them clearly. Some of the other birds seen include a Hairy Woodpecker, a Great Blue Heron overhead, Bushtits, Wrentits and Song Sparrows. Our thanks to Mr. Duvenèck for his much appreciated assistance.

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INDIVIDUAL REPORTS

Tree Sparrows - a flock of five seen by Joe, Russ and Doug Greenberg at Honey Lake

Bullocks Oriole - first sighting by Charles Zwaal in San Jose the morning of March 29th.

Western Bluebirds - flock of 10 by Alan Walthers

White-throated Sparrow - Winter resident at the Hesters from December 20th to April 8th.

Hooded Orioles - for the fourth year, are building in the yard of Mrs. Maurice Droney, 1644 Newcastle Drive, Los Altos. Mrs. Droney extends an invitation to see them.

The baby hummingbird that was brought to me last summer has turned out to be a female Blackchinned. The nest must have been in the sycamore tree across the street where it was picked up. Mr. Isenberg has it in his aviary.

On April 5, I heard a thud on the window and rushed out to discover a House Wren prostrate on the ground. After I worked with it about a half hour, it finally took off out the kitchen window. This is the first time I have seen one here and it must have been 'en route'.

H. Mundy,

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Palo Alto Baylands - Wednesdays in March - Leader, Harriet Mundy'

March 1 - - No one came, showing the value of publicity on other trips!

March 8-12 Eleven observers - High tide, foggy, no wind -N. path  
45 species

Two observers in late afternoon on South path found seven additional species, the most exciting the Clapper Rail walking out of his slough. Have seen him twice since at dead low tide in same spot. The other highlights were displaying White-tailed Kites, close-ups of a pair of Short-eared Owls and pair of Burrowing Owls, Whimbrel, a few Sanderlings, Black-necked Stilt, Mews and the March

Hawk sending up clouds of birds as it flew over the marsh. There must have been well over 100 Black-crowned Night Herons and almost as many Long-billed Curlews.

March 15 - Sixteen observers - low tide - South path - 37 species

Many Green-winged Teal, Shovelers and Canvasbacks. Three grebes', Horned, Eared and Pied-billed. Excellent opportunity to observe Lesser and Greater scaups in the Duck Pond.

March 22 - Fifteen observers - high tide, foggy, no wind -

North path - 37 species

It was interesting to see the new salicornia and cord grass coming up. There were thousands of Peeps, Dowitchers, Godwits, etc. I have about decided that the best time to go is to walk along to San Francisquito Creek just as tide is coming to the full. On the way back one is very conscious of the stirring in the marsh for as soon as the littlest mud edges occur the littlest birds come to feed. There is a feeling of restlessness and impatience as meal time approaches. The Dowitchers and some Ruddy Ducks in or acquiring breeding plumage.

March 29 - Six observers - low tide, sunny, cold, some wind -

53 species

This day the observers included Bill Anderson of the Fish and Game Commission. We covered both parths, North and South, and were out from 9:00 A.M. to 1:30 P.M. Out in the Bay itself were seen several species not seen around the harbor ordinarily - a Bufflehead, Common Scoter. The Bonaparte Gulls were in full breeding plumage, the Caspian Ferns were back and Mr. Anderson pointed out a single Semi-palmated Sandpiper. I take his word for this one!

I found these trips to be very instructive and think it would be interesting to repeat such a series in the fall during the time that the birds are returning for the winter. Anyone interested? It would be a good record to have for use at our interpretive center when it gets going. Total species on the four trips - 66.

H. M.

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

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#### Offshore Trip

Leavitt McQuesten will conduct an offshore birding trip on Monday, June 19. This is an annual event sponsored by the Santa Cruz Bird Club. The boat will leave Stagnaro's Landing on the Municipal Wharf in Santa Cruz at 7:30 A.M. and return about noon. Destination will be 12 miles out in the Pacific where albatrosses and other pelagic birds are seen. Tickets are \$1.50 and participants are limited to 50. Make reservations with Mr. McQuesten, 120 Otis Street, Santa Cruz, California, 95060. Telephone 423-2989.



New Members

We welcome to the Society and invite the participation of:

Mr. H. J. Bradley  
1450 Greenwood Avenue  
Palo Alto, Ca. 94301

Mr. William C. Finch  
217 Roundtable Drive  
San Jose, Ca. 95111

Mrs. Marion Fowler  
13634 Old Tree Way  
Saratoga, Ca. 95170

Mr. Ulysses E. Gras  
1815 Happy Hollow Lane  
Menlo Park, Ca. 94025

Dr. Robert H. Little  
935 Middlefield Road  
Palo Alto, Ca. 94301

Hugh & Mary MacPherson  
858 DiFiore Drive  
San Jose, Ca. 95128

Mr. & Mrs. Albert J. Martel  
14240 Springer  
Saratoga, Ca. 95070

Dr. Raymond Mundt  
2495 Armstrong Place  
Santa Clara, Ca. 95050

Mr. William R. Ray  
747 Tennyson  
Palo Alto, Ca. 94303

Harlan T. Sethe  
11845 Upland Way  
Cupertino, Ca. 95014

Mr. Robert Lee Sims  
105 Sunrise Drive  
Woodside, Ca. 94062

- Caroline Davis, Membership Chairman -  
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April Meeting

Mr. Bill Goodall, Western Representative of the National Audubon Society, visited the April 10th meeting held in the Rosegarden Library. He announced that the Berkeley, Audubon Center will be closed on June 9, 1967. Any members wishing to make purchases of nature books and gift items are urged to do so as soon as possible. Mr. Goodall explained that the National Audubon Society will now concentrate on smaller local conservation centers. (Ed. Note. You may wish to express an opinion on this to the National Audubon Society.) Also he announced that in April, 1968, the Western Conference of the National Audubon Society will be held in Asilomar.

Tom Harvey and Kenneth Kidd reported on the Wilderness Conference held in San Francisco. Eight members showed their favorite slides, and such variety! from poison fish in Baja California, angry owls in southern Utah, to a nesting Nighthawk in Wyoming. All those participants should be thanked for sharing delightful aspects of nature; it is too bad more of our members could not attend this and other interesting meetings we have had this year.

Golden Gate Audubon 50th Anniversary

You are invited by the Golden Gate Audubon Society to join in the celebration of its 50th Anniversary, on Thursday, June 8. A champagne-punch social hour starts at 6:00 P.M. at the Kaiser Center Dining Room in the Kaiser Building overlooking Lake Merritt. Dinner follows at 6:45 P.M. Mr. Charles Callison, head of the National Audubon Society and Mr. Bill Goodall, Western Director, are on the program. All are welcome. Make reservations by June 2, through Mrs. Kathleen Horr, 3326 Beechwood Drive, Lafayette, California 94549. Cost is \$5.00 a person for champagne-punch and dinner. Make your check payable to the Golden Gate Audubon Society. (Tickets will not be sent to you in advance, your check is your receipt.)

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The Wind River, Wyoming, Audubon summer camp program will be in operation for several two-week sessions between June 15 and August 18. University credit is available. The cost is \$125.00 for two weeks which includes room board and natural history instruction. For information write: Director, Audubon Camp of the West, P.O. Box 3666, El Monte, California 91733.

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The Point Reyes Bird Observatory is in need of funds. Individuals are encouraged to contribute. Write: PRBO, Mesa Road, Bolinas, California 94924.

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The SCWAS plans to donate \$100.00 to the Nature Conservancy toward the purchase of Kent Island in Bolinas Lagoon.

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Mr. Alexander Sprunt, Jr., a former Audubon Wildlife Film lecturer, will lead a bird watching cruise to Japan, sailing aboard the SS President Roosevelt from San Francisco September 28 and returning November 4. For a brochure write: Haley Corporation, 500 Sansome Street, San Francisco.