

# The Avocet

Volume XIV, Number 6

June 1967

## ANNUAL MEETING

Monday, June 5, 1967 - 6:00 P.M.

Bavarian Room  
Garden City Hofbrau

51 So. Market St.  
San Jose

Dinner will be cafeteria style and will be \$2.00, more for extras. The Hofbrau is on the corner of Post and Market Streets - one block south of W. Santa Clara.

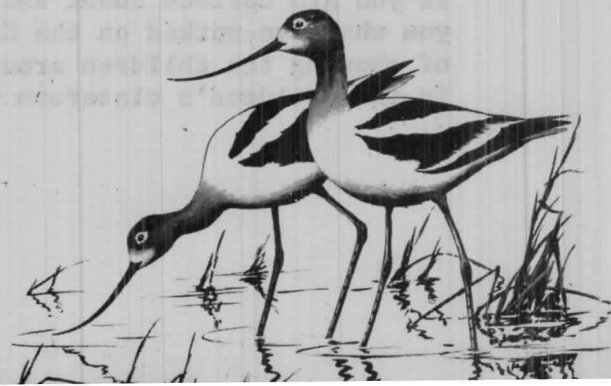
The program will be a showing of:

### SAN FRANCISCO BAY

a color film made for the "Save San Francisco Bay Association" by Laurel Reynolds and Mindy Wills who did "ISLAND IN TIME". Our society is proud to have contributed \$100.00 toward the production of this outstanding film. Also, Dr. Tom Harvey has graciously consented to show slides of the Audubon Camp of the West, Wind River Mountains, Wyoming. There will be an election of Directors and Officers for the coming year. Plan to attend!

### Coming Events at a Glance

|       |          |           |                           |
|-------|----------|-----------|---------------------------|
| Mon., | June 5,  | 6:00 P.M. | San Jose (Annual Meeting) |
| Sat., | June 10, | 9:00 A.M. | Los Altos Hills           |
| Wed., | June 14, | 8:30 A.M. | Saratoga                  |
| Sun., | June 25, | 9:00 A.M. | Pt. Lobos                 |



JUNE CALENDAR

Regular Meeting

Monday, June 5, - 6:00 P.M. San Jose, Annual Dinner Meeting. See details on first page.

Field Trips

Saturday, June 10, - 9:00 A.M. to Rose Hills in Los Altos Hills. Meet about 200 yards south of the intersection of Altamont and Taaffe in Los Altos Hills at 9:00 A.M. Directions: from El Camino Real take Page Mill Road west to Altamont. Make a left turn and follow Altamont to Taaffe.  
Leader: Howard Wolcott - 321-6694

Wednesday, June 14, - 8:30 A.M. to the George Peterson Ranch on Sanborn Rd. in Saratoga. Meet at 8:30 A.M. at the corner of 6th and Big Basin Way. For late-comers, the turnoff to Sanborn Way is on Big Basin Way opposite the resort of Saratoga Springs.  
Leaders: Mr. & Mrs. Prussman - 356-3844

Sunday, June 25, - 9:00 A.M. to Point Lobos State Park. Meet at 9:00 A.M. sharp at the entrance to the park on Highway #1 a few miles south of Carmel. Bring lunch.  
Leader: Lloyd Case - 867-4748

Education Committee Report

Totals for October through May in the northern section of the county:

|  |                            |
|--|----------------------------|
| Adult Garden Lectures                        | 510 in 9 groups            |
| Adult Bayland Lectures                       | 78 in 3 groups             |
| Children Bayland Lectures & Field Trips      | 674 in 34 groups           |
| Children Garden                              | 74 in 3 groups             |
| Nature Next Door Film                        | 115 in 3 groups - Adult    |
|  | 102 in 2 groups - Children |
| Hummingbird Film                             | 65 in 1 group - Adults     |
|  | 93 in 4 groups - Children  |
| South county programs not completely tallied | 220 in 6 groups            |

Grand Total: 1,931 persons

If you are curious about these programs, please read on. - - - - -Many of you who have worked on the Education Committee in the past know the routine of showing the children around the Baylands. We start with a slide lecture in the children's classroom or other meeting place. (Slide lectures have been

Education Committee Report Con't.

given in dark narrow hallways with the projector balanced precariously atop a dictionary on a portable TV tray.) In this way we give the children some idea of what we are likely to see when we meet them at the Palo Alto Duck Pond, usually the following week. We invite them to bring bread, and we describe the feeding habits of the ducks and coots, and hopefully promise a Scaup or two. On trip day, after our visit to the duck pond, we move to the harbor and discuss the three bands of plants (cordgrass, pickleweed, and saltgrass) that are so important to the life of the saltmarsh. Then, out toward the bay, we look for Avocets in the shallow pond, resting with Sandpipers, Willets, and a Killdeer or two.

Now any of you who have led a field trip anywhere, or have been on many trips know that six Golden Eagles may sit in the path ahead of you, or that you may rack up a big zero. We take our chances with the birds, and the people are, of course, delightfully unpredictable.

During the past year the Education Committee ran into many amusing occasions, and some frustrating ones that may seem amusing in the far-distant future.

One of the "funnier next year" instances as the breaking of the hummingbird film just as the first baby hopped out of the nest. Well, Florence LaRiviere announced calmly, the film was practically over anyway . . . the audience? - - the Palo Alto Women's Club, 75 strong.

One of the more obvious lessons to be taught at the Palo Alto Baylands is how very important all the plants are to each of us. We repeat and repeat this, but still the children sneak a handful of pickleweed and mustard occasionally. One group of 14 young girls recently met Nancy Holmes at the duck pond each with a large brown paper bag already bulging with brass buttons (a pretty little flower that lasts but a short time). The error of their ways was immediately pointed out. And even after the "three bands of marsh plants" lecture, more collecting continued, and more discussion of plant functions by Mrs. Holmes followed. At her elbow a small voice was saying, "But why do we have these paper bags?" Next an entire pickleweed, total length 3 feet, was stuffed into one of the sacks, and yards and yards of mustard were disappearing into another. This time the "carbon dioxide-oxygen exchange" lecture was given, and the same brown bag carrier was at Mrs. Holmes' elbow with a louder and more insistent, "But why did our leader tell us to bring these collecting bags?" This story ends in a draw. Obviously the adult leaders of these groups need the education as much as the children.

Mrs. Fanny Pargot led a field trip in the pouring rain from inside a school bus, with a very co-operative bus driver. ("Pull over here, please, I do believe that is the first tern of the season.") The highlight of the trip, and what the fourth-graders will remember, was not birds or plants, but the class from San Jose State under Mr. Robert L. Hassur who were sampling the fish in the slough with a huge net strung from one shore to the other. Their prize catch -- a big motorcycle!

Education Committee Report Con't.

And last, there was Florence LaRiviere, again with the hummingbird film and garden bird slides, lecturing at a convalescent hospital. One dear old lady sat on a couch behind the screen the entire time and made a running commentary on the birds, though she of course could not see them.

Now doesn't all this fun beat mopping the floor? Would you like to join the committee next year? We need help!

For encouragement to join (would you believe -- coercion?) phone Mrs. Holmes - 948-1854.

-----  
BAYLANDS DISPLAY BOARD

Several members have contributed to the construction of a new display at the Palo Alto Baylands bulletin board. You are invited to stop by, observe, and enjoy. If you have any suggestions, please feel free to call the editor: Florence LaRiviere - 327-2854.

-----  
CONSERVATION NOTES

Eve and I are two-thirds through our three-week trip into south-eastern Arizona, and we have had wonderful birding in a variety of life-zones and widely scattered habitats. (We have already seen 139 species, including 28 new "life-birds")

I have been impressed with the Game Management and Land Management Programs of the Park Rangers in the National Monuments and the Forest Rangers in the National Forests. At each Visitors' Center the Rangers maintain bird-baths and feeding stations which attract many species, including new and exciting birds for the "tourists" from out-of-state.

In the deeper, cooler canyons, where running water was available, we sometimes found ourselves in the midst of a large flock of migrants. At one private residence we found a couple of hundred Pine Siskins perched on shrubs, bushes, and wires around a feeder and bird-bath. The sound of so many Siskins "talking" in their soft whistle-like "shrees" was a wonderful thing to hear!

In Ramsey Canyon we stood quietly in the midst of the hummingbird feeders at Mile-Hi Lodge, frequently surrounded by hummingbirds that apparently paid no attention to us. Often at too close range to use our binoculars, were Rivoli, Blue-throated, Broad-tailed, Black-chinned, Broad-billed, and Violet-crowned Hummingbirds, plus Orioles.

Conservation Notes Con't.

At feeders in Cave Creek Canyon the hummingbirds, Western and Summer Tanagers, Cardinals, and Black-headed Grosbeaks, together with Hooded and Scott's Orioles, were constantly coming and going.

It occurred to me that here was a very important activity. Too often we become so concerned with broader aspects of more complicated problems of conservation, that we overlook the small but important things that each of us can do in our own home and community.

Since the nature of possible projects varies from place to place, I do not refer to a general program; rather, I suggest that while we continue to be concerned with conservation activities on national, state, and regional levels, we also be aware of the opportunities about us, and give them our personal attention.

Our conversations with the Rangers and the Ranger-Naturalists in the National Monuments made us feel that the letter writing we have done in connection with conservation has been worth-while; they even gave us a sense of renewed energy for continuing to write.

\* \* \*

All of the Audubon members with whom we talked greatly deplored the decision of National Audubon to close the Resource Center in Berkeley.

However, a cheering note is that Miss Mary Jefferds, the dynamic spark-plug of the Resource Center, will develop nature-training programs and will be available to work with Audubon branches, garden clubs, school authorities, and others. We hope that her special talents will be available to us.

Lloyd N. Case

NEW MEMBERS

We welcome to the Society and invite the participation of:

Dr. & Mrs. Hewlett Lee  
640 Los Trancos Woods Rd.,  
Portola Valley, Calif. 94025

Mr. & Mrs. Dewitt Landis, Jr.  
360 College Ave.  
Palo Alto, Calif. 94306

Dee Russell Smith  
1185 Elmsford Court  
Cupertino, Calif. 95014

Mrs. Barbara Newcomer  
22371 Hartman Dr.  
Los Altos, Calif. 94022

Mrs. Annabelle Markoff  
375 N. California Avenue  
Palo Alto, Calif. 94301

Mr. Ulysses E. Gras  
1815 Van Buren Cir.  
Mountain View, Calif. 94040

New Members Con't.

Mr. & Mrs. William C. Hodge  
13 Happy Hollow Lane  
Menlo Park, Calif. 94025

Dr. & Mrs. Malcolm Renfrew  
1721 Midtown Ct. - Apt. 211  
Palo Alto, California 94303

Mrs. James R. Blackaby  
579 Jefferson Dr.  
Palo Alto, Calif. 94303

Cynthia L. Meyer  
1514 Madrona Ave.  
Palo Alto, Calif. 94306

Bonnie C. Rapp  
644 Jay St.  
Los Altos, Calif. 94022

Mr. Paul R. Smith  
3347 St. Michael Ct.  
Palo Alto, Calif. 94306

Mr. Neal T. Childs  
P.O. Box 11402 - Sta. A  
Palo Alto, Calif. 94306

Eva Jane Fouts  
1706 Hallmark Lane  
San Jose, Calif. 95124

Mr. & Mrs. Earl Maninger  
1394 Nilda Ave.  
Mountain View, Calif. 94040

Mary Ann Price  
706 Stendhal Lane  
San Jose, Calif. 95129

Mr. & Mrs. William E. Riddle  
2106 Oberlin St.  
Palo Alto, Calif. 94306

Mrs. Virginia Whipple  
12139 Foothill Lane  
Los Altos Hills, Calif. 94022

Caroline Davis  
Membership Chairman

-----  
A NOTE from DR. HARVEY

Dear Members:

It is traditional that the outgoing president make a comment or two regarding the past year. The main impression I have is that this society is most fortunate in having several salwart people who serve quietly and efficiently. Paramount in this service are Mr. & Mrs. Zwaal, Mr. & Mrs. Taylor, Miss Elsie Hoeck and Mrs. Caroline Davis who see that the Avocet is printed and mailed each month. Equally important has been the effort of Mrs. LaRiviere who is our editor.

Mrs. Diane Conradson, Mrs. Nancy Holmes, Mrs. Fannie Pargot, Mrs. Janet Fisher on the Education Committee and many helpers such as Lloyd and Eve Case have continued this vital facet of our society. Our field trips under the leadership of Ralph Trullinger have been supported by a number of diligent workers who have served as field trip leaders.

Our screen tours continue to introduce many to our natural heritage and the values we are losing in the wake of "progress" as our population explodes over the land. In San Jose Dr. Bud Applegarth has been joined by Dr. Thaw and Ron Steeker, while Mrs. Cisne has piloted similar efforts in Palo Alto. Speaking of programs, special recognition is due Mrs. McCann for arranging our meeting places and programs for this year. Mrs. Joyce Todd has quietly and efficiently served as treasurer for several years and thus contributed the continuity necessary to

A Note from Dr. Harvey - Con't.

such a position. Our thanks to Mrs. Edna Winger for her yearlong secretarial work.

Undoubtedly I have forgotten many who have contributed much to the society during the year. Forgive me, but at the moment the above deserve a sincere thank you for jobs well done.

Sincerely,

Tom

-----  
FIELD TRIP NOTES

Calero, Chesbro Dams

April 12 - Leader, Catherine Lintott: Some of the species seen on this trip were 19 Caspian Terns, 1 pair of Black Phoebes building a nest, a Belted Kingfisher, Western Bluebirds, a Yellowbellied Sapsucker, American Goldfinches, Bullocks Orioles, and a large flock of Band-tailed Pigeons. Woodducks were seen by the Taylor's.

Field Trip to Pilarcitos Lake and Stone Dam in the San Francisco Watershed

On Wednesday, April 25, twelve members and guests went to Stone Dam in the San Francisco Water Company property at Millbrae. The day proved quite clear in spite of threatening clouds and weather reports after several weeks of rain. Wildflowers were in full bloom. Among those species seen in bloom were: forget-me-nots, bleeding hearts, salmonberry, fushia-flowerd gooseberry, Hueschera, or mitrewort, Romanzoffia, zygadone, hound's tongue, Indian warrior, early meadow rue, blue-eyed grass, purple iris, and red-berried elder. Forty-six species of birds were seen and heard during this trip and the scouting trip on April 22. On the field trip we saw and heard these exceptional ones: Vaux's Swift; Rufous Hummingbird and Anna's doing courtship flights; Western Flycatcher, and Warbling Vireo and Black-headed Grosbeak which are early records, and the Brown Creeper singing its spring song. The Wilson's Warbler and Orange-crowned Warbler were singing everywhere and the highlight of the trip was a Winter Wren singing nearby. On scouting trips the Golden-crowned Kinglet was seen and heard. It probably nests here and was also seen last year on the field trip. A Common Loon was seen on San Andreas Lake at the dam. It was an exciting day. We also had the pleasure of again having with us our member Mrs. Samuel P. Eastman, whose husband was the first president of the San Francisco Water Company.

Kay McCann,  
Field Trip Leader

INDIVIDUAL REPORTS

Roadrunner: by Margaret Henderson, near Coalinga.

Wilson's Warbler: by Joyce Todd, Roble Ridge, Palo Alto, May 1 to ?

Ash-throated Flycatcher: by E. Hester, May 10, Monte Sereno.

A banded Caspian Tern found by a young boy and reported to Dr. Mewaldt.

Individual Reports Cont'd.

A Harris<sup>v</sup> Sparrow, on May 10 one spent most of the day at or near the feeder of Carol Brockfield on Richard Ct. in Mountain View. It was in 2nd year plumage with very clear markings. Please report any other sightings of this bird.

Field Note Compiler: Mrs. Evelyn Hester  
15015 Karl Avenue,  
Monte Sereno - Ph: 356-3726

FIELD NOTES

April 13 - Ladder, Ladder, Ladder  
April 14 - Ladder, Ladder, Ladder  
April 15 - Ladder, Ladder, Ladder  
April 16 - Ladder, Ladder, Ladder  
April 17 - Ladder, Ladder, Ladder  
April 18 - Ladder, Ladder, Ladder  
April 19 - Ladder, Ladder, Ladder  
April 20 - Ladder, Ladder, Ladder  
April 21 - Ladder, Ladder, Ladder  
April 22 - Ladder, Ladder, Ladder  
April 23 - Ladder, Ladder, Ladder  
April 24 - Ladder, Ladder, Ladder  
April 25 - Ladder, Ladder, Ladder  
April 26 - Ladder, Ladder, Ladder  
April 27 - Ladder, Ladder, Ladder  
April 28 - Ladder, Ladder, Ladder  
April 29 - Ladder, Ladder, Ladder  
April 30 - Ladder, Ladder, Ladder

INDIVIDUAL REPORTS

Wilson's Warbler by James Todd, 10150 1st St, May 10  
Red-breasted Nuthatch by E. Hester, May 10, 10150 1st St  
A Red-breasted Nuthatch found by a young boy and reported to Mr. Hester.