

The Avocet

Volume XIV, Number 7

September, 1967

September Meeting

Monday, September 11th, 7:45 p.m.

Rose Garden Branch

San Jose Public Library

The first meeting of our new 1967-68 year will be held at the Rose Garden Branch of the San Jose Public Library, at 7:45 p.m. on Monday, September 11th. For the information of new members, or those who may not be familiar with the location, the Rose Garden Branch is on Naglee Avenue, at the corner of Dana Street, opposite the San Jose Municipal Rose Garden. It is easily reached from the Alameda or Park Avenue, on the east, or from Bascom Avenue, on the west.

Our program will feature Kodachrome slides of birds, taken by Doug Greenberg, the elder son of our Field Trip Chairman. Doug's pictures are excellent! Most of them taken with a telephoto lens, he has many sharp pictures, showing excellent detail, and the subjects include many birds that some of us do not often see. This is a program that will definitely be worth seeing.

Field Trips

Dumbarton Bridge-

Saturday, September 23 - 9:00 a.m.

Meet at the parking area on north side of road about $\frac{1}{2}$ mile before bridge. Rails and fall shore birds.

Leader - Les Sleeper

Palo Alto Yacht Harbor-

Wednesday, September 27 - 9:00 a.m.

Meet at duck pond at Palo Alto Yacht Harbor, end of Embarcadero Road to see shore birds, etc.

Leaders - Mrs Florence LaRiviere
327-2854

Mrs Nancy Holmes
948-1854



THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

Last year was a "good year" for the Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society. Among our accomplishments we can note that: we increased our membership; we gave substantial support to a number of worthy conservation projects and programs; our field trips were, in general, well attended and successful; and, through the cooperation of our members who gave their time and services, the Education Committee's over-all program was successful in reaching a large number of people with numerous presentations, each planned to arouse an understanding interest in what we might call "Nature In Our Own Community".

Now, as always when we face the start of a new year, we must answer the question: "What can we do to make this coming year even more successful than last year?" Then comes the question: "How can we do this?" and (usually the hardest to answer) : "Who will do this?" Every member of our society can help to answer each of these questions.

Whatever we plan, and do, should be in accordance with the general purpose and policy of the National Audubon Society: "Dedicated to the conservation and appreciation of wildlife and wilderness, natural resources and natural beauty".

The nine members of the Board of Directors are responsible for properly conducting the business of the Society. We plan to keep the Membership of the Society informed of the actions of the Board by means of brief "reports" in each month's Avocet; and to give any member present at each regular monthly meeting the opportunity to make suggestions and/or recommendations to be considered by the Directors at the next meeting of the Board. Your cooperation in this part of our planned program will help to keep our society what you want it to be, rather than what the Directors think and hope you want it to be.

Many of the provisions of The By-Laws under which our Society operates are quite out-of-date. We hope that the revision of the By-Laws will be given a high priority among the projects for this year, and that interested members will volunteer to serve on the necessary committee.

Our Program Chairman, Kay (Mrs. Ray) McCann, has set up a program of interesting speakers and topics for the year. One of our aims and goals for this year should be to substantially increase the attendance at our regular meetings.

Our Field Trip Chairman, Dr. Greenberg, has planned a schedule of field trips based on the optimum time for visiting each location. The places included in the year's schedule should provide interesting and exciting birding for all who go on the trips, and can quite possibly provide even a goodly number of new "life birds" for some of our newer members. Kay McCann and Catherine Lintott, the Assistant Field Trip Chairman, will schedule the Wednesday field trips for the North County area, and the South County area, respectively.

Our Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society can be compared to a symphony orchestra: working together, in unison and close cooperation, we can be interesting, stimulating, perhaps even exciting, to all who listen.....but even the greatest of conductors cannot successfully present a program unless he has the cooperation of the individual members of the orchestra!

Here's for another successful year!

Lloyd N. Case

Field Trip Reports:

Foothill Park - May 17

Vying with the profusion of wildflowers were: Cooper's Hawk Warbling Vireo (and nest), Olive-Sided Flycatcher, Western Wood Pewee, Yellow Warbler, Orange-Crowned Warbler, MacGillivray's Warbler, Black-Headed Grosbeak, Song Sparrow, Bewick's Wren, Downy Woodpecker, Rufous Hummingbird.

Leader - Mrs. Virginia Bothwell

Los Altos Hills - June 10

Some 20 members hiked over the proposed Los Altos Hills park located between Altamont and Central Drive. This was a period between spring and summer. We found in bloom: goldenyellow, windmill pink, owl's clover, white globe lily, mariposa lily, thurston's spear, harvest brodiaea, vetch, bush monkey flower, yellow mimulus (three feet tall) buckeye, California bee plant, blue-eyed grass, iris, scarlet pimpernel, mule ears (wide and narrow leaves), godetias, lupines and hedge nettles.

Birds included the following: Acorn Woodpecker, White-Breasted Nuthatch, Bewick Wren, Turkey Vulture, Band-Tailed Pigeon, California Thrasher, Allen and Anna Hummingbirds, Wrentit, Meadow-Lark, Bluebird, Titmouse, House-finch, Rufous-Sided Towhee, Swainson's Thrush, Western Wood Pewee, Brown Towhee, Chickadee, Black-Headed Grosbeak, Redwing Blackbird, Orange-Crowned Warbler, and Wilson's Warbler.

Leader - Howard Wolcott

Peterson Ranch, Saratoga - June 14

Fifteen people came for a perfect day of birding through orchards and woodlands. Of the 29 species counted, the most interesting were: Brown Creeper, Western Wood Pewee, Ash-Throated Flycatcher, Western Tanager (male), Allen's Hummingbird, Wilson's Warbler, Warbling Vireo, Pine Siskin, Vaux Swift, Orange-Crown Warbler, Black-Headed Grosbeak.

Leaders - Mr. and Mrs. Prussman

Point Lobos Reserve - July 25

The last field trip of the year 1966-1967 was the best attended Pt. Lobos Field Trip that we have had in the last several years. About thirty-six members took the "loop-walk along a route that we had never followed in any of our previous field trips. Cars were parked in the parking area in Whaler's Cove. From there we took the trail over the hill and through the woods along the western shore of Bluefish Cove to Guillemot Rock.

At Guillemot Rock we stood on the top of the cliff and looked across the narrow channel at nesting Brandt's Cormorants, Pigeon Guillemots, and Western Gulls with young. Scattered all over the ledges and level areas of the Rock were groups of two or three young gulls, looking like spotted balls of gray-colored down, and not in the least like what a self-respecting gull should look like. We counted approximately thirty-six of these youngsters, and there were probably about the same number that we did not see.

Field Trip Reports Cont'd.

From Guillemot Rock we followed the trail through The Pass, where the sheltered Monterey Cypress grow as tall and straight as the pine trees instead of being bent and distorted by the winds from the ocean that sweep across Cypress Point. From the Cypress Point Parking Area we followed the road back to our starting point, where we ate lunch while watching the antics of a playful Sea Otter, closer to us than most of us had ever seen one, or can expect to see one again.

Due to unusual rainfall, the wildflowers where more abundant than we have ever seen them in spite of the lateness of the season. The Ranger Naturalist informed me that this was the best flowering season in the last ten or twelve years, and that it would probably be equally as long again before there comes another season like this one.

The sky had just enough overcast to kill the glare of the sun, but not so much as to prevent the seeing of color on the birds. Pygmy Nuthatches and Wrentits were extremely numerous in one area. In addition to the numerous shore birds that are always to be seen, our "land birds" included Rough-Winged, Violet-green, and Cliff Swallows, Chickadees, White-crowned and Song Sparrows, Robins, House and Purple Finches, a Flicker, Black Phoebes, House and Bewick's Wrens, Mourning Doves, Band-Tailed pigeons, Anna's Hummingbirds, a Rufoussided Towhee, and, of course, the ever-present Scrub Jays.

Leaders - Lloyd and Eve Case

Field Notes:

We have two dispensers with perches beneath and in addition to the hummingbirds, there are at least three pairs of adult Hooded Orioled and several nearly grown young that are coming regularly.

Sometimes there is a bird in each feeder. The males are readily told apart by the size of the black spot under the chin and their brilliancy, Occasionally some parent comes with a green worm in its beak and covers it with syrup before giving it to its young. Recently Chestnut-Backed Chickadees have begun coming to the dispensers for syrup, somtimes two or three at a time. This is the most most interesting experience we have ever had in bird-watching.

A.V. Oliver, Mountain View.

A pair of Poor-Wills chanted their plaintive, insistent calls through-out the June evenings at Anderson Reservoir.

Mrs Emelie Curtis

Field Note Compiler: Mrs. Evelyn Hester
15015 Karl Ave.
Monte Sereno, Cal.

Phone: 356-3726

Birds And Anatomy

In mid-June, Mrs. Kreena Smyth of Saratoga was hostess at a tea given in honor of Mrs. Catherine Lintott. In addition to being a charming (and delicious) social event, the affair was also inst-

ructive, for Mrs Lintott presented a paper on ornithology that emphasized bird anatomy which led to interesting discussions of bird behavior also. The women of the Society thank Mrs. Smyth and hope that others might be interested in setting up this type of get-together. Subjects for discussion might be classes of birds, bird populations in certain local areas, or specific birds of our region. (The Avocet might be fun to start with.)

New Members

WELCOME TO:

Mrs Phyllis M. Browning
3455 Louis Road
Palo Alto, California 94303

Mrs John P. Bunker
672 Foothill Road
Stanford, Calif. 94305

James DeBar
285 Grand Avenue
San Jose, Calif. 95126

Miss Shirley Driggs
908 Arbor Rd. Apt. 8
Menlo Park, Calif. 94025

Ernest R. Hilgard
1129 Hamilton Ave.
Palo Alto, Calif. 94301

Jon C. Kosek
2310 Waverly
Palo Alto, Calif. 94031

Mr & Mrs. E.A. Oberg
3869 Nathan Way
Palo Alto, Calif. 94303

Mr. Larry Persson
Box 591 Agnew Sta.
Santa Clara, Calif. 95054

Mr. Robert J. Prickett
980 A. College Ave.
Palo Alto, Calif. 94306

Barbara V. Reichl
Apt. 4-1720 W. Bayshore Rd.
Palo Alto, Calif. 94303

Miss Leona Stewart
36 N. Jackson Avenue
San Jose, Calif. 95116

Miss Selim E. Woodworth
111 Yale Road
Menlo Park, Calif. 94025

Mr. David Kaufman
1437 Pitman
Palo Alto, Calif. 94301

Mrs. L.B. Upton
926 Webster Street
Palo Alto, Calif. 94301

Janet M. Mitchell
204 Heather Lane
Palo Alto, Calif. 94303

Mrs. Venice V. Oswald
315 A. West Ave.
Felton, Calif. 95018

Elizebeth Peterson
1180 Harker Avenue
Palo Alto, Calif. 94301

Dr. Jack Remington
531 Jackson Dr.
Palo Alto, Calif. 94303

Dr. & Mrs. Norman J. Sissman
374 Stanford Avenue
Palo Alto, Calif. 94306

Caroline Davis
Membership Chairman

AUDUBON CENSUS OF FOOTHILL PARK MAY 20, 1967 BY SANTA CLARA VALLEY
AUDUBON SOCIETY

Saturday, May 20 the Sixth Bird Census of Palo Alto's Foothill Park was conducted. There were 16 observers, including two of the US Geological Survey people. It was a sunny day. The territories covered were as follows:

- | | |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| A. Lake & Marsh | Virginia Bothwell and Shirley Rieth |
| B. Toyon Trail Woodrat Trail | Dean Rinehart and K. McCann |
| C. Chamise Trail | Virginia Bothwell and Shirley Rieth |
| D. Las Trampas Valley | Warren and Rebecca Turner |
| E. Steephollow & Sunrise Trails | Joe Greenberg & two Sons |
| F. Trappers & Madrone Trails | Frank & Jane Goraj |
| G. Wildhorse Canyon | Warren & Rebecca Turner |
| H. Coyote Trail | Ralph Trullinger & Gerry Lawrence |
| K. Panoramic Trails | Ray McCann and Ken and Eleanor Kidd |

A total of 58 species and 949 individual counted.

SPECIES	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	J	K	TOTAL
Green Heron	2									2
Mallard	8									8
Turkey Vulture		1	1			1				3
Cooper's Hawk				1						1
Red Tailed Hawk			2			2			4	8
Sparrow Hawk									1	1
Marsh Hawk						2				2
Calif. Quail	12	3		3	4	7		8	6	43
Killdeer	1									1
Band-Tail Pidgeon		2		2						4
Mourning Dove		3	5	1	8	15		3	3	38
Rock Dove						1				1
Screech Owl				1						1
Anna's Hummingbird		6	1		4	4	1	5	2	23
Allen's Hummingbird		2	1		6	5	1			15
Red -Shafted Flicker		3			1					4
Ash-Throated Flycatcher		2	2	6	6	6				22
Western Wood Peewee		5			6					11
Olive-Sided Flycatcher		1		1	1					3
Violet-green Swallow		5			5			1	3	14
Barn Swallow			6							6
Cliff Swallow			2	50	25	3		11	2	93
Stellar's Jay	1			2		2				5
Scrub Jay		3	7	5	6	21		12	5	59
Chestnut B Chickadee		10		3	10	2		4	7	37
Plain Titmouse		6	2	1	6	2		4	5	26
Bushtit		15			6			11		32
Wrentit		5	8	5	5	19	2	7	4	49
Housewren								3		3
Bewick's Wren		10	1	3	14	11		3	3	45
Calif. Thrasher		6	2	1	3	9		5		26
Robbin	1				2	1				4
Western Bluebird								2	1	3
Blue-Grey gnatcatcher			1	2						3
Starling			3							3

FOOTHILL CENSUS 5-20-67 (Con't)

SPECIES	A	B	C	D	E	F	J	K	TOTAL
Hutton's Vireo		2	2	2	6	1	1		14
Warbling Vireo		12		3	10				25
Orange Crowned Warbler		7		2	15	1	8	3	36
Blackthroated Gray Warbler							1		1
Wilson's Warbler		4							4
Meadowlark			1				2	3	6
Red-Winged Blackbird	10							1	11
Brewer's Blackbird	7	2							9
Bullock's Oriole					1				1
Western Tanager			1	1					2
Black-Headed Grosbeak		3		5	1	3			12
Lazuli Bunting		1			1				2
House Finch				2					2
Purple Finch				1					1
American Goldfinch				1					1
Leaser Goldfinch		15	2	17	15	5	11	1	52
Rufous-sided Towhee		10	6	7	12	16	16		66
Brown Towhee		15	4	3			10	2	34
Oregon Junco		13		5	6	4	2	3	37
Song Sparrow	2			2		1			5
Chipping Sparrow		2					2		4
Lark Sparrow		2					1		3
									<u>949</u>

Kay McCann, Leader

POINT REYES BIRD OBSERVATORY RECENT ACTIVITIES

Personnel from Point Reyes Bird Observatory recently carried out a reconnaissance of the Farallone Islands off San Francisco on June 7-14, for purposes of determining the course of future research on the Islands by the Observatory. During the course of the work, 1500 Western Gulls, 250 Cassin Auklets and a dozen Ashy Petrels were banded, as well as a few interesting land birds such as a Palm Warbler and Ovenbird. Also seen in the famous Farallon Islands National Forest (comprised of two trees) were a Red-eyed Vireo, Northern Waterthrush, Eastern Kingbird, American Redstart, and an assortment of Western birds such as pewees, a Mockingbird, a Band-tailed pigeon and several other out-of-place birds.

The banding program at Observatory headquarters on Mesa Road in Bolinas has picked up in recent weeks as young birds begin to leave the nest and the adults finish breeding. A near record day of over 280 birds caught in nets and traps occurred on July 15 as volunteers were kept busy all day banding, weighing, measuring and taking other information on the birds presenting themselves for their Fish and Wildlife Service bracelets. Of interest on that day was a young Solitary Vireo, first summer record for the Point Reyes Peninsula.

BANDING TRAINING PROGRAM

Point Reyes Bird Observatory is conducting a Banding Training Program in conjunction with its regular banding operations throughout this summer and fall on Saturday mornings. This program includes demonstration of netting and trapping techniques of both land and water birds and is open to all interested persons. The class begins at near Audubon Canyon Ranch. After a few sessions at the Observatory to familiarize novitiate banders with techniques of handling birds and identification, they will be able to participate in the Observatory's shorebird banding, being carried out at Limantour Estero. All interested persons, no matter their degree of ability in identification, are encouraged to come out Saturday morning or to write the Observatory for more details.

COLOR MARKED SHOREBIRDS

Several thousand shorebirds will be banded and marked with varying bright color patterns this fall and winter by Point Reyes Bird Observatory, and help in observing these birds is solicited from any persons with a spare day a month or more. Most of these birds will be marked in Drake's Estero, although it is expected that the birds will turn up in several other locations such as Bolinas, Tomales and San Francisco Bay, as well as other locations to the south. The Observatory is carrying out an intensive study of the movements of shorebirds in the Limantour Estero area on Point Reyes National Seashore and needs volunteer help to trace the local and long-distance movements of these birds. Although observations of the painted birds will be helpful at any time, once a month the Observatory's volunteers will carry out an intensive banding session over a twenty-four (24) period at Limantour Estero, and on these dates observations in other Pt. Reyes Peninsula areas are especially needed. Anyone interested in helping on this very important research project is encouraged to write to PRBO, Mesa Road, Bolinas for details and instructions.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

Conradson, Diane (Mrs. Norman) 4337 Miranda Ave., Palo Alto, Cal.,	941-2102 94306
Grench, Dr. Herbert 2828 South Court, Palo Alto, Cal,	321-7994 94306
Henderson, Margaret (Mrs John) 21215 Sullivan Way, Saratoga, Cal.	867-4304 95070
Kidd, Eleanor (Mrs. Kenneth) 4604 Whitwood Lane, San Jose, Cal.	379-6498 95130
Shellhammer, Dr. Howard 3666 Kirk Road, San Jose, Cal. or dept. of Biological Sciences, San Jose State College, San Jose, Cal. 95114	264-1657

Board of Directors Cont'd

Trullinger, Ralph 854-4201
 1960 Santa Cruz Ave., Menlo Park, Cal., 94025

Wissel, Dr. Joseph
 2431 Villanueva Way, Mountain View, Cal., 94040

Greenberg, Dr. Joseph 327-0329
 270 Kellog Ave., Palo Alto, Cal., 94301

Hopkins, Mr. Mark 264-5076
 1185 Ruth Drive, San Jose, Cal., 95125

SANTA CLARA VALLEY AUDUBON SOCIETY

Officers 1967-68.

President Mr. Lloyd N. Case 867-4748
 20537 Verde Vista Lane, Saratoga, Cal. 95070

Vice-Pres. Diane (Mrs. Norman) Conradson 941-2102
 4337 Miranda Ave., Palo Alto, Cal. 94306

Secretary Edna (Mrs. Del) Wininger 252-3796
 7400 Tiptoe Lane, San Jose, Cal. 95129

Treasurer Joyce (Mrs. John) Todd 326-6904
 945 Matadero Ave., Palo Alto, Cal. 94306

* * * * *

CHAIRMEN, STANDING COMMITTEES

Conservation (open for volunteers)

Education: Nancy (Mrs. Peter) Holmes 948-1854
 843 Moana Ct., Palo Alto, Cal. 94306

Field Trips: Dr. J. Greenberg 327-0329
 270 Kellog Ave., Palo Alto, Cal. 94301

Wednesday Trips, Northern Area:
 Kay (Mrs. Walter) McCann 327-4138
 783 Garland Dr., Palo Alto, Cal. 94303

" " " " Southern Area:
 Mrs Catherine Lintott 356-4264
 17150 Buena Vista Ave., Los Gatos Cal. 95030

Field Note Compiler: Evelyn (Mrs J.) Hester 356-3728
 15015 Karl Ave., Monte Sereno, Cal. 95030

Membership: Mrs Caroline Davis 378-1603
 104 Winslow Ct., Campbell, Cal. 95008

CHAIRMEN STANDING COMMITTEES CONT'D

Program: Kay (Mrs. Walter) McCann 327-4138
 783 Garland Dr., Palo Alto, Cal. 94303

Registrar: Fannie (Mrs. Chas.) Zwaal 292 -2060
 478 Clifton Ave., San Jose, Cal. 95128

Publicity: Mr. John Brokenshire 293-6289
 102 S.23rd St., San Jose, Cal. 95116

AVOCET

Our publication appears monthly except July and August. It is \$ 2.00 a year for non-members. Copy is requested by the 10th.

Editor Mrs Emelie G. Curtis 779-2637
 P.O. BOX 307, Morgan Hill, Cal. 95037

Circulation Manager Miss Elsie Hoeck 293-5668
 1311 Cristina, San Jose, Cal.

Mimeographing Mr. & Mrs. Emmanuel Taylor 779-9097
 Sycamore Ave., Rt.1, Box116A
 Morgan Hill, Cal. 95037

NOTE: Any competent typist willing to cut the stencils for the "Avocet" each month please contact the editor.

CHAIRMEN STANDING COMMITTEES

Conservation
 (open for volunteers)

Education:
 Nancy (Mrs. Peter) Holmes
 845 Moran Ct., Palo Alto, Cal. 94302

Field Trips:
 Dr. J. Greenberg
 270 Bell St., Palo Alto, Cal. 94301

Northern Area:
 Kay (Mrs. Walter) McCann
 783 Garland Dr., Palo Alto, Cal. 94303

Southern Area:
 Mrs. Catherine Lister
 17150 Buena Vista Ave., Los Gatos, Cal. 95028

Field Note Committee:
 Evelyn (Mrs. J.) Foster
 15015 Karl Ave., Santa Barbara, Cal. 93103

Membership:
 Mrs. Genevieve Davis
 104 Winlow Ct., Campbell, Cal. 95008