

The Avocet

Volume XV, Number 3

March, 1968

Havasu Canyon in Arizona

Monday, March 11, 8:00 p.m.

~~Rose Garden Library~~ → Garland Elementary

~~Dana & Naglee, San Jose~~
California Ave, Palo Alto

Ken and Eleanor Kidd will present their slides of their trip to Havasu Canyon. Come enjoy a vicarious visit to this ancient canyon!

+film: Valley of the Swans

Field Trips

Honey Lake - - - - - Sat. & Sun., Mar. 2 & 3, 6:00 a.m.

The meeting place will be at the only cafe in Litchfield at 6:00 a.m. on both Sat. & Sun. The Sage Grouse can be found only a few miles from Litchfield. Motels are available in Susanville.

Leader, Joe Greenberg 327-0329

Palo Alto Baylands - - - - - Thursday, Mar. 8, 9:30 a.m.

For beginners. Meet at duck pond at end of Embarcadero Rd.

Leaders, Nancy Holmes 948-1854, K. McCann 327-4138

Bird Discussion Group - - - - - Tuesday, Mar. 12, 10:00 a.m.

At home of Eve Case, 20537 Verde Vista Ln., Saratoga. Birds to be discussed will be White & Golden-crowned Sp. & Cedar Waxwings.

Percolation Ponds, Camden area - - - Wednesday, Mar. 13, 9:00 a.m.

Meet at American Legion Hall parking lot, 1344 Dell Ave., Campbell. Because of road work on Camden Ave. it would be better to leave Hwy. 17 at Lark, west to Winchester, turn north to Division, left to Dell, proceed north to Legion Hall on right.

Leader, C. Lintott

Pt. Reyes Bird Observatory - - - - - Saturday, Mar. 23, 9:30 a.m.

To see banding operation. Take Rte. 1 north of San Francisco, go past Audubon Canyon Ranch and Stinson Beach, take road to Bolinas, then turn right on Mesa Rd. and go 3.9 miles on dirt road, over wooden bridge - PRBO will be on left.

Leaders, J. Ralph & J. Greenberg

Hidden Villa Ranch - - - - - Wednesday, Mar. 27, 9:00 a.m.

Meet at Frank Duveneck's Ranch on Moody Rd. It's 1st gate on left after passing Adobe Creek Lodge from El Monte end. To see early spring flowers and birds.

Leader, K. McCann 327-4138

Wild Rivers of North America, Audubon film

by John D. Bulger
Thursday, March 28
at

Palo Alto H.S. Auditorium
Corris Daily Auditorium

4:00 p.m.
8:00 p.m.



THE PRESIDENT'S PARAGRAPHS

The Board of Directors seems to be in tune with Nature! At this time of year most of Nature is either dormant or hibernating; and so it was with the last meeting of the Board. After hearing the routine reports there were no new business matters to be acted upon. It was the shortest and quietest Board Meeting that I have ever attended.

National Audubon Western Conference It will not be long before April arrives, bringing us the Western Conference, at Asilomar, but there is still time to apply for Registration Forms and further information. The Conference will begin on Saturday afternoon, April 6th, and will continue through Tuesday morning, April 9th. The general program is full of sessions that sound interesting and stimulating. For a summary of the daily programs, see your January Avocet, page 7. We should like to have as many of our members as possible attend the conference; if you have not already registered, you should, now. Of course, there are a large number of good motels in the immediate area of the conference grounds at Asilomar, but it is usually more convenient and more fun to live "on campus".

For an application for registration write: National Audubon Western Conference, P.O. Box 3666, El Monte, California 91733.

Results of the Christmas Bird Count It has been said that a college Instructor is programmed to speak for fifty minutes, whether he has anything to say, or not; it has been noted that I have always written at least a full page, whether I have had anything to say, or not. This time, however, I am yielding my space to the more important summary of the Christmas Bird Count.

- Lloyd N. Case, President

Field Trip Report

Palo Alto Yacht Harbor - January 25, 1968

Shovelers were milling in the Duck Pond, a snipe was feeding near the Harbor Master's House, and Kay McCann gave us a great lesson in gull identification. She found Glaucous-Winged Gulls and seven Mew Gulls resting in the shallow pond area. Twenty-four persons attended the field trip though just reaching the meeting place was hazardous because of the line of dump trucks waiting their turn to dump fill into the lagoon. As this is part of the airport expansion, the Marbled Godwits will soon share Castle Island with helicopters, and the lovely Widgeons will have to find other water to rest on. Seeing a habitat destroyed is a shattering experience. Thirty-three species totaled.

Leaders: N. Holmes and F. La Riviere

Marked Gulls: If you see a gull with a large red disc on its wing, please note the direction of the arrow on the disc, and report the information to Mr. Robert Lassen, Department of Fish and Game, Room 3000 Ferry Building, San Francisco 94111. Mr. Lassen will contact the man conducting the migration study.

Welcome to New Members

Membership Chairman, Caroline Davis

Gillian E. & Wm. L. Lakin, 1415 Byron St., Palo Alto, Cal. 94301
George Walsh, 435 Santa Rita Ave., Menlo Park, Cal. 94025
Alan Walther (student), 16501 Marchmont Dr., Los Gatos, Cal. 95030
Patricia Barr (student), 1320 Channing Ave., Palo Alto, Cal. 94301

A Look towards Conservation

To plant trees where trees used to grow, to fill a ditch where a lazy stream is now a rushing torrent in an eroded ditch, to prevent the needless loss of some of Nature's natural resources are some of the aims of conservationists.

The planting of about 15,000 trees which were provided by funds so generously donated by the members of the Santa Clara County Audubon Society, the Sierra Club, and the youth groups who help plant the trees occupied many of us during the month of February. Upper Berry Creek in Big Basin State Park, Stevens Creek Parkway in the City of Mountain View, Butano State Park in Santa Cruz County, and Bull Creek in Humboldt Redwoods State Park all have vigorous 2-year old Douglas fir seedlings within their waiting native soil.

The planting teams were eager, enthusiastic, willing, and patient. They were old hands, inexperienced, young, old, and middle aged. They were performing one of the most positive acts which can be accomplished in conservation. The interest in tree planting programs among young students is one of the most gratifying aspects of the program. The vigor and interest demonstrated by these kids must be retained by adding further responsibilities in the conservation field. Next year we will need redwood seedlings to plant - maybe this will be the field where the youthful vigor can be retained. Any suggestions from you will certainly be welcome.

A special mention must be made of the tree planting in Humboldt Redwoods State Park. Here Bull Creek has ravaged a once beautiful valley which is the center of a vast watershed. The wild stream takes its toll of the downstream big redwoods and the alluvial soil they grow on. This repeats itself year in and year out. The response to the tree planting in this watershed, to hold back some of the wild water, was astonishing. About ninety youths from the Boy and Girl Scouts, Camp-fire Girls, Pathfinders and Church Groups joined about one hundred adults to dig and plant the trees. The friendships established by the simple task of planting a tree while the people who mistrust conservationists heard about the tree planting on their local radio station, saw it on the local TV Channel, and read about it in their papers will do much towards creating a better impression in the face of the heated arguments over the Redwoods National Park.

A local group in Northern California working diligently to present factual information to the House group is the Citizens for a Redwoods National Park. This group has been organized about two years to be the clear local voice of citizens in favor of a Redwoods National Park, to develop and promote information on the park issue and to disseminate it to all interested and to influence park legislation so that the local community will have the greatest benefit from the creation of a national park in the redwoods.

This valiant group that has struggled against overwhelming odds would welcome the chance to send you information on the beauties of the Redwood Creek area. A letter of request can be addressed to Citizens for a Redwoods National Park, Box 713, Arcata, California 95521. Memberships are available to people outside the redwood area for \$5.00 per year.

Redwoods seem to be like magnets for metal saws. Another area is under attack from the loggers in San Mateo County with the request to remove 30,000,000 board feet of redwood from about 2,400 acres in Purisima Canyon just south of Half Moon Bay. The timber is to be removed in logs and the lumbering will be accomplished over the short span of two years if present plans are allowed to stand. Such accelerated cutting within a small area is certain to lead to the complete loss of the ecology of this beautiful coastal canyon. Will it be doomed to the same fate as the Valley of Bull Creek? Don't we ever learn from the mistakes we committed in the past? While the rights of private ownership must be inviolate, the right of destruction of natural resources must be carefully reviewed by knowledgeable persons either within the Planning Commissions or from outside experts called by these bodies for professional testimony. The private citizen must also be heard in matters of such important meaning to our environment.

Conservation Chairman, Tony Look

1967 Christmas Bird Count

Summary by Henry G. Weston, Jr.

The 1967 San Jose, California, Christmas Bird Count sponsored by the Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society was made between 7:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. on Saturday, 30 December 1967. Sector leaders were R. Cameron (Evergreen), H.T. Harvey (Alviso), R. Sandkuhle (Alum Rock), A. Wool (Calaveras) and F. Zwaal (Southwest). Seventy-one persons participated in the count, an all-time high for member participation. H. T. Harvey served as compiler at the summary meeting between 4:00 and 6:00 p.m. following the count period.

The traditional count area is within the 15-mile diameter circle whose center is at Capital Avenue and Maybury Road. Time spent and distance traveled by the 71 observers in 24 parties included 160 party hours (84 on foot and 76 by car) and 477.5 party miles (90.5 on foot and 386 by car). The weather was generally fair with low visibility in the lowlands till midday; clear otherwise. Northwest winds ranged from 0-15 miles per hour while temperatures ranged from 35°F. to 70°F. as the count progressed. 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. See Table 1 for summary.

A total of 144 species was recorded during the day of the count. This is second only to the all-time San Jose high count of 149 species (recorded in 1965). The total count of 78,558 is the highest ever obtained in this area (previous high was 64,567 seen in 1965). Table 2 summarizes counts for recent years. The organizers of this year's count and the participating members certainly are to be complimented for their efforts and results.

Generally the 1967 count involved regularly seen winter birds. Some of the less expected species recorded included the white-throated sparrow (2), golden plover (1), female western tanager (1), and the solitary vireo (1). Recorded in San Jose but not by formal count parties was one male hooded oriole (29 Dec. by G.N. Ball) and one goshawk (30 Dec. by D. McLean). Some species recorded on various counts during recent years but not seen this year are the cinnamon teal, wood duck, gallinule, godwit, Lawrence's goldfinch, western gull, pigmy owl,

Forester's tern and Lewis' woodpecker.

The 1967 sector teams included the following participants:

Alviso: Mr. and Mrs. L. Case, C. Dienger, V. Frizzell, E. Harrington, R. Hartesfeldt, T. Harvey, Mr. and Mrs. G. Horton, Mr. and Mrs. E. Kidd, Mr. and Mrs. R. Peterson, R. Roadcap, P. Uhry and H. Wolcott.
Southwest: J. Brokenshire, Mrs. J. Damiter, Mr. and Mrs. T. Henderson, N. Holmes, Mrs. C. Lintott, W. Luick, Mrs. H. Newell, Mrs. F. Pargot, Mrs. R. Striebel, K. Weber and Mr. and Mrs. C. Zwaal.
Evergreen: B. Arnold, R. Cameron, Mr. and Mrs. W. Cameron, E. Curtis, Hugh and Mrs. H. Lakin, Mr. and Mrs. H. McPherson and Mr. and Mrs. W. Snyder.
Alum Rock: S. Alleman, B. Burge, C. Champion, Mr. and Mrs. T. Chandik, C. Cresswell, J. Hsu, R. Sandkuhle, T. Smock, G. Sugimoto, F. Sunzeri, J. Tonkin, T. Toste, A. Walther and C. Walther.
Calaveras: Mrs. H. Baird, G. Ball, D. Greenberg, J. Greenberg, R. Greenberg, Mr. and Mrs. M. Hopkins, R. Mewaldt, Mr. and Mrs. C. Sleeper, D. Smith, O. Smith and A. Wool.

TABLE 1 - % of Time Spent in Various Habitats during Count Period

	1967	1963-1966		1967	1963-1966
Saltwater marsh	1.5	4.3	Oak woodland	14.5	8.8
Freshwater marsh	2.0	1.5	Freshwater lake	7.5	3.8
Deciduous orchd.	10.0	15.3	Sanitary fill(dump)	2.0	2.5
Town suburbs	6.0	7.5	Canyon stream	6.0	7.2
Grassld & pastures	23.0	20.3	Valley stream	9.0	10.7
Cult. cropland	4.0	5.5	Chaparral	1.5	5.5
Bay saltwater	4.0	1.3	Formal parks	9.0	5.8

TABLE 2 - Number of Species by Sector 1957-1967

Year	Alviso	Southwest	Evergreen	Alum Rock	Calaveras
1957	66	47	63	64	78
1958	65	52	58	64	82
1959	54	51	69	68	84
1960	71	73	75	67	82
1961	78	65	82	66	83
1962	75	50	65	64	83
1963	90	52	68	78	93
1964	96	44	62	78	83
1965	107	52	62	84	88
1966	82	55	56	72	80
1967	84	55	79	88	107

TABLE 3 - Twelve-year Summary of Counts 1956-1967

Year	Species	Birds	Counters	Parties	Weather	Party Hours
1956	107	24,264	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
1967	144	78,558	71	24	o'rcast, clear	160

TABLE 4 - Summary of eight species whose counts have regularly been high in recent years. Note the story told by the startling figures, first recorded on the SCVAS Count in 1958. Count variations of course are affected by weather, available food, number of observers, habitats visited, etc. Data for 1955 were not available at the time of writing this report.

Year	Starling	House Finch	Brew. Bkbrd.	Redwg. Bkbrd.	Coot	Ruddy Duck	Lesser Gldfch	White cr Sp.
1954	0	2009	2645	60	972	632	808	1665
1955	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1956	0	1356	3492	428	1834	613	539	1590
1957	0	1940	13016	3986	985	1128	1042	2612
1958	110	3865	6855	1029	2493	192	1346	4432
1959	98	1188	2872	415	783	1061	1196	2470
1960	255	1716	8091	1550	1376	436	947	2442
1961	202	2136	6801	3435	1024	380	2054	3690
1962	1806	3842	8175	4561	692	466	445	3510
1963	4105	4542	5959	1839	1485	1039	1037	1857
1964	1872	7078	8183	4121	926	1160	855	1773
1965	3328	6500	7291	3518	2620	2332	2277	4511
1966	4216	6475	6985	2210	1104	741	1134	1482
1967	4653	9438	7559	3566	2401	2706	2575	2890

Summary San Jose 1967 Christmas Bird Count

Species	Alviso	Southwt	Evergrn	Alum Rk	Calavr	Total
Avocet	531	0	0	0	0	531
Bittern, Am.	1	0	0	0	0	1
Blackbird, Brewer's	654	1549	3660	464	1232	7559
Red-winged	573	257	304	170	2262	3566
Tricolored	0	0	0	0	1	1
Bluebird, Western	0	0	59	46	220	325
Bushtit	0	89	70	73	137	369
Chickadee, Chestnut-Bk.	10	24	23	73	34	164
Coot	1745	3	300	4	349	2401
Cowbird, Brownheaded	42	5	0	0	0	47
Cormorant, Double-crested	2	0	5	0	64	71
Greepier, Brown	0	0	1	4	0	5
Crow	0	2	22	6	53	83
Curlew, Long-billed	13	150	0	0	0	163
Dipper	0	0	0	0	1	1
Dove, Mourning	419	56	25	5	46	551
Dowitcher, Long-billed	7	0	0	0	0	7
Short-billed	50	0	0	0	0	50
Unidentified	69	0	0	0	0	69
Duck, Bufflehead	5	1	2	6	6	20
Canvasback	11	0	54	9	20	94
Gadwall	0	0	0	0	4	4
Goldeneye, Common	0	0	0	4	0	4
Mallard	6	0	9	0	31	46
Amer. Merganser	0	0	28	22	3	53
Red-br. Merganser	0	0	0	0	1	1
Pintail	105	0	0	20	12	137
Redhead	0	0	0	0	1	1
Ring-necked	0	0	100	4	131	235
Ruddy	2108	23	253	42	280	2707
Scaup, Lesser	44	7	10	101	2	164
Surf Scoter	1	0	0	0	0	1

	<u>Alviso</u>	<u>Southwt</u>	<u>Evergn</u>	<u>Alum Rk</u>	<u>Calavr</u>	<u>Total</u>
Duck, Shoveler	251	0	1	0	5	257
Teal, Green-winged	5	0	0	1	56	62
Amer. Widgeon	15	0	2	0	0	17
Unidentified	203	0	0	2	0	205
Eagle, Bald	0	0	0	0	4	4
Golden	0	0	2	2	15	19
Egret, Common	23	0	0	0	0	23
Snowy	17	0	0	0	0	17
Falcon, Peregrine	0	0	0	0	1	1
Finch, House	4269	718	1600	341	2510	9438
Purple	0	0	9	37	97	143
Goldfinch, American	20	326	291	4	14	655
Lesser	39	883	1155	14	484	2575
Goose, Canada	0	0	150	6	975	1131
Grebe, Eared	1267	0	2	0	62	1331
Horned	3	0	0	0	8	11
Pied-billed	7	0	1	3	17	28
Western	0	0	0	0	6	6
Gull, Bonaparte's	868	0	0	0	0	868
California	2400	0	5	65	0	2470
Glaucous-winged	1	0	0	0	10	11
Herring	5647	0	0	4	275	5926
Mew	1	0	0	0	1	2
Ring-billed	2045	100	4	0	2050	4199
Unidentified	3580	2140	100	0	1429	7249
Hawk, Cooper's	0	0	0	3	3	6
Marsh	5	0	0	0	1	6
Red-tailed	7	0	21	22	31	81
Sharp-shinned	0	1	0	2	5	8
Sparrow	13	10	22	14	50	109
Unidentified	6	1	5	0	1	13
Heron, Black-cr. Night	5	0	0	0	0	5
Great Blue	6	0	0	1	0	7
Hummingbird, Anna's	14	12	6	14	10	46
Jay, Scrub	6	52	93	135	104	390
Steller's	0	0	4	151	31	186
Junco, Oregon	37	38	202	158	418	853
Killdeer	177	81	57	88	157	560
Kinglet, Golden-cr.	0	0	0	0	3	3
Ruby-crowned	3	2	9	86	77	177
Kite, White-tailed	12	5	0	0	10	27
Lark, Horned	0	0	0	0	58	58
Magpie, Yellow-billed	1	0	49	9	170	229
Meadowlark	137	88	62	45	452	784
Mockingbird	27	54	21	37	32	171
Nuthatch, Red-br.	0	0	0	1	0	1
White-br.	0	0	12	26	16	54
Owl, Barn	0	0	0	8	0	8
Burrowing	10	1	0	0	0	11
Horned	0	0	0	28	1	29
Screech	0	0	0	1	0	1
Pheasant, Ring-necked	20	4	0	2	9	35
Phoebe, Black	6	2	10	15	16	49
Say's	0	0	3	1	18	22
Pigeon, Band-tailed	0	8	0	19	0	27
Pipit, Water	40	62	2	65	6	175
Plover, Black-bellied	5	0	0	0	0	5
Semipalmated	4	1	0	0	0	5
Golden	1	0	0	0	0	1

	Alviso	Southwt	Evergn	Alum Ek	Calavr	Total
Qual, California	A 35	50	133	122	111	451
Rail, Clapper	1	0	0	0	0	1
Raven	0	0	0	0	1	1
Robin	1	266	115	113	2001	2496
Sandpiper, Least	381	0	0	0	0	381
Dunlin	226	0	0	0	3	229
Spotted	2	0	0	0	8	10
Western	126	0	6	0	0	132
Sapsucker, Yellow-bell.	0	2	1	4	5	12
Shrike, Loggerhead	14	14	11	5	20	64
Siskin	0	1	245	3	15	264
Snipe, Common	16	3	7	3	14	43
Sparrow, Fox	26	0	2	5	15	48
Golden-crowned	145	279	95	85	729	1333
House	96	290	60	254	84	784
Lark	0	0	2	0	351	353
Lincoln's	0	0	0	6	2	8
Rufous-crowned	0	0	0	3	20	23
Savannah	25	0	1	0	19	45
Song	25	4	12	17	21	79
White-crowned	464	426	549	547	904	2890
White-throated	-	2	-	-	-	2
Starling	4055	191	60	90	257	4653
Stilt, Black-necked	21	0	0	0	-	21
Swallow, Tree	0	0	0	0	5	5
Swift, White-throated	0	0	0	0	10	10
Tanager, Western	0	1	0	0	0	1
Thrasher, California	1	0	3	7	2	13
Thrush, Hermit	4	2	11	39	41	97
Varied	1	1	11	83	158	254
Titmouse	0	2	11	65	62	140
Towhee, Brown	26	104	38	72	60	300
Rufous-sided	1	4	5	30	27	67
Vireo, Hutton's	0	0	0	2	1	3
Solitary	0	0	0	1	0	1
Vulture, Turkey	1	0	1	3	0	5
Warbler, Audubon's	98	132	1269	52	196	1747
Myrtle	11	0	1	2	16	30
Orange-crowned	1	0	0	1	0	2
Townsend's	0	0	0	5	1	6
Yellow-throat	2	0	0	0	0	2
Waxwing, Cedar	0	169	14	367	50	600
Whimbrel	37	0	0	0	0	37
Willet	101	0	0	0	0	101
Woodpecker, Acorn	0	0	28	50	37	115
Downy	0	0	1	2	3	6
Flicker, Red-shafted	16	18	38	42	84	198
Flicker, Hybrid (G/R)	0	0	1	2	0	3
Hairy	0	1	2	0	1	4
Nuttall's	0	0	4	7	19	30
Wren, Bewick's	3	0	4	19	14	40
Canyon	0	0	0	5	10	15
Long-billed Marsh	9	0	0	0	0	9
Rock	0	0	0	0	4	4
Winter	2	0	0	1	1	4
Wren-tit	0	1	4	18	12	35
Yellowlegs, Greater	4	1	3	2	6	16

AVOCET publication is \$2.00 a year for non-members. Copy requested by 15th. Editor, E. Curtis, Box 307, Morgan Hill, Ca. 95037