



# The Avocet

TIME VALUE

Volume XVII, Number 8

October, 1970

## GLIMPSES OF ARCTIC ALASKA

Oct. 21, Wednesday, 8:00 p.m.  
Public invited -- no charge

Homestead High School  
Room 5, Building C

In recent years Alaska has become a major concern of wildlife conservationists. And the more we know about the area, the better prepared we are to voice our concern effectively.

Lloyd Case visited Alaska last year and will share with us his impressions and color slides of some of the land, the wildlife and the people north of the Arctic Circle. His excellent slides give a feeling of the vast wilderness of tundra, mountains and rivers. The Eskimo adapted to this wilderness, but as we shall see, their culture is changing as the machine age comes to the land of the midnight sun.

Alaska is our last frontier, and here is a chance to see it (via film) as it is, before the big "development" begins.

--Ken Kidd, Program Chairman

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- |  |  |
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| Oct 1 <u>Audubon Wildlife Film</u> . Thur. 4:00 pm Palo Alto High Aud., 50 Embarcadero Rd., <u>Coastline Calif.</u>  | Oct 21 <u>General Meeting</u> . Wed. 8:00 pm. Homestead High, Homestead Rd., at Mary, Cupertino. See above for details.  |
| Oct 1 <u>Audubon Wildlife Film</u> . Thur. 8:00 pm Morris Daly Audit. San Jose State College, 4th & San Carlos. <u>Ranch &amp; Range</u> by Al Wool.   | Oct 23 <u>North County Bird Study Group</u> . Fri. 9:30 am at home of Mrs. Edward Hollis, 2299 Bryant, Palo Alto, 327-5826.  |
| Oct 6 <u>Bird Discussion Group</u> . Tues. 9:30 am. Home of Eve Case, 2537 Verde Vista Ln., Saratoga, 867-4748. Topic: <u>Sandpipers</u> .   | Oct 23 <u>Conservation Education Workshop</u> . Fri. 6:30 pm. Terman Junior High, 655 Arastradero Rd. Palo Alto. See page 3 for details.   |
| Oct 10 <u>Coyote Hills Regional Park</u> . Sat. 9:00 am. Cross Dumbarton Bridge, turn left at Jarvis, right at first light (Marsh Rd). Proceed 1 mile to entrance road (sign on left). Continue to parking lot (on left). Leader: Les Sleeper 323-9370.      | Oct 24 <u>Tubbs Island</u> . Sat. 9:00 am. From San Francisco take 101 north to Rt. 37 (Vallejo-Napa Rd.) Turn right across Petaluma River Bridge, four miles (just past Rt 121 turnoff) watch for Tolay Creek. Cross creek, <u>immediately</u> turn right into gate. Follow dirt road to green Nature Conservancy buildings. Gate will be open after 9:00 am. Bring picnic lunch and nondisposable cup. Coffee furnished. Elapsed time approx. 1½ hr. from Palo Alto. Leader: Harriet Mundy 325-6458. |
| Oct 14 <u>Coyote Creek Park</u> , Wed. 9:00 am. From Bayshore Hwy in San Jose, take Hellyer. Follow signs to Velodrom to the park. From El Camino take Senter to Hellyer. Bring lunch if desired. Leaders: Catherine Lintott, 356-4264 & Mary Rugh 354-8433. | Oct 28 <u>Foothills Park</u> . Wed. 9:00 am. Meet at entrance on Page Mill Rd., Palo Alto. Leader: Virginia Bothwell 854-6458.   |
| Oct 14 <u>Board Meeting</u> . Wed. 7:30 pm at home of Ken Kidd, 4062 Keith Dr., Campbell. Meeting open to members.   | Nov 21 <u>Grey Lodge Game Refuge</u> . (See Nov. Avocet for details) Leader: Joe Greenberg.  |
| Oct 17 <u>Isenberg Ranch</u> . Sat. 9:00 am. From Palo Alto take Page Mill Rd. to Skyline Blvd. Turn north (right) three miles to 19500, Isenberg Ranch (look for Yerba Buena Nursery). Follow road to end. Leader: Howard Wolcott 321-6694.                 | Nov 21 <u>Pelagic Bird Trip</u> . (See Page 2 for details.)  |
|  | Nov 28 <u>Natural Bridges State Park</u> . (See Nov. Avocet for details.) Leader: Lloyd Case.  |

DO YOU KNOW YOUR AUDUBON ABC'S?

- A. Auduboners care about birds. Some of us care enough to be known as ornithologists. Some care enough to be ecologists. Some care enough to spend all their vacations "birding". Some have long "life-lists" and keep their "year-lists" up to date. Some care enough to provide food and water for birds and others "move to the country" so they can live among the birds.
- B. Believe it or not, most people are not Auduboners!  
Most could care less about birds and their main interests may be MONEY or PROGRESS (maybe you're one of these too?) Birds and cities, people and progress don't mix (unless you like House Sparrows and Starlings best). Do you care enough about birds to do something about too many people? Do you care enough about birds to work for open space and less pollution? Do you care enough about birds to support the local, regional, state and national candidates that could make a difference for you and the birds?
- C. Can you get the connection? Can you budget some time and money for activism? Your voice and your needs and your beliefs will be lost in the crowd unless you can get some political muscle. Have you convinced your neighbor to vote to support conservation? Do you know that what happens to the Santa Clara Valley environment in the next four, and more, years may depend on how you vote in November? Do you know which candidates have the message about you and the birds?

AUDUBON WILDLIFE FILMS AT TWO LOCATIONS

This season SCVAS members and their friends are in the enviable position of being able to choose both the location and hour which best suits their plans to view this year's Audubon Wildlife Films. An evening rendition will again be presented in San Jose State's Morris Daly Auditorium at 8:00 p.m. Alternately, north county members may wish to attend the series in the afternoon (4:00 p.m.) in the Palo Alto High School Auditorium. The season's schedule follows:

San Jose State College, 8:00 p.m.

Albert Wool	Ranch and Range	Oct. 1
Walter Berlet	Untamed Olympics	Nov. 18
Robert Fultz	Acadian Reflections	Jan. 12
John Bluger	Scandinavian Saga	Feb. 9
Chas. Stine	Land of the Drowned River	Mar. 3

Palo Alto (\*Palo Alto High, +Gunn High), 4:00 p.m.

*Albert Wool	Coastline California	Oct. 1
+Walter Berlet	Untamed Olympics	Nov. 17
*Robert Fultz	Acadian Reflections	Jan. 6
*John Bulger	Scandinavian Saga	Feb. 4
*Chas. Stine	Land of the Drowned River	Mar. 2

Ticket information: San Jose, call Mrs. Eve Case 867-4748; Palo Alto, call P.A. High School Auditor's office 327-7100, ext. 4347.

BIRD SLIDES NEEDED by the education committee. Any local birds are desired. How about a nice shot of a Brown Towhee or a Great Blue Heron?

The Avocet is published monthly, except July and August. Subscription \$2.00 per year to non-members. Copy deadline is the 12th of each month. Editor: Mrs. Ruth Troetschler, 184 Lockhart Lane, Los Altos, Ca. 94022. Staff: Miss Elsie Hoeck, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Zwaal, and Mrs. Marcia Upchurch.

WHERE IS THE REFUGE?

The proposed South Bay National Wildlife Refuge is currently being studied by the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation (Dept. of Interior). New bills will be introduced in January, and, hopefully, committee hearings will be held soon after that. Our biggest problem then; MONEY to send experts to testify at the hearings. Any suggestions?

--Nancy Holmes

Quotations from HANDBOOK OF THE SAN FRANCISCO REGION by Robert H. Dreisbach, Environment Studies, Palo Alto, 1969.

San Francisco Bay

In 1850, the total area of the Bay System to the confluence of the Sacramento and San Joaquin rivers was nearly 700 sq. mi. of which 568 sq. mi. was shallow enough to fill ... the water surface is now estimated at 435 sq. mi.

The shoreline of the Bay is 276 mi. long. However only about 5 mi. of Bay shoreline are actually open to the public.

The original Bay area has already been reduced 35% by encroachment; 80% of the marshes have disappeared. Due to pollution 40% of the present Bay is closed to water-contact sports....

OPERATION TRANSECT NOW IN PROGRESS

Continuing a study of California bird migration begun this spring, Operation Transect is now netting migrants at several locations which span the state from the seashore to high mountains between 37° and 39°N. The operation, which will continue until October 15, is sponsored and manned by volunteers from Pt. Reyes Bird Observatory, Western Birdbanding Assoc., San Jose State College, and Audubon Society. The study is designed to answer a number of questions. Do adult birds migrate further inland than young birds? Does California have waves of migrants such as are known from the East? When and where does each species migrate? Are "rare" species more common in one locality than another?

PELAGIC BIRD TRIP AVAILABLE

California Field Ornithologists, our newest organization of California birders, have scheduled a Pelagic Trip which leaves San Diego, 6:00 a.m., Saturday, November 21. The birds you may see that day could include three species of Loon; Fulmar; Pink-footed, Sooty and Manx Shearwaters; Ashy and Black Petrels; Red and Northern Phalaropes; Pomarine and Parasitic Jaegers; Black-legged Kittiwake, Xanthus' Murrelet; Cassins and Rhinoceros Auklet and Black Oyster-catchers.

Cost is \$15 for members and their families and \$16.50 for non-members. For reservations send a check (California Field Ornithologists) to Clifford Rd. Lyons, 6424 Mt. Adelbert Dr., San Diego 92111 (Phone 714-278-1173). Deadline for reservations is November 15. Enclose a stamped, self-addressed envelope for confirmation and details.

POSTCARDS are coming in daily. Have you sent in yours? If you cannot volunteer, or make suggestions, please return your card undamaged to Nancy Holmes so that it can be reused.

## "OUR" AL WOOL

Al Wool, who will open the Audubon Wildlife Films in Palo Alto and San Jose this year is well known to all the old members of SCVAS. He is a native Californian, graduate of Stanford University, leader of the Calaveras section of the Audubon Christmas Count and both he and his wife Dorothy have, in the past, been Presidents of our local society. He is, in fact, our Al Wool! His film Ranch and Range to be shown in San Jose was made on his ranch above Milpitas. Coastline California was done in the Bay and south to Monterey. In April 1969, members who attended the monthly meeting saw a preview and will, I know, want to see the official finished product. Many are the times we have been on field trips to both his ranches. If you haven't seen these films it will be difficult to make a choice, but don't miss this opportunity to see at least one and to welcome Al officially. Never let it be said, "a man is without honor in his own country!"

--Harriet Mundy

### POLLUTION AND RECYCLING

Do you know the location of recycling centers for glass, newsprint, aluminum, bimetal cans etc. in Santa Clara Valley? Inform the editor and a listing will be published in next month's Avocet.

### CONSERVATION EDUCATION WORKSHOP

A workshop for teachers and other interested leaders is being offered under the auspices of San Jose State College and sponsored by Loma Prieta Chapter, Sierra Club and SCAAS from Friday Oct. 23 to Sunday Oct. 25 (see calendar). From the opening session until the final field trip participants will be involved in an action program with the emphasis on observation and participation. The purpose of the 15 hour course will be to demonstrate the value of visiting our outdoor environment, observing the natural scene and learning the techniques of leading field trips.

Course location for Friday and Saturday will be Termer Jr. High School, 655 Arastradero Rd., Palo Alto. Field trip locations will be announced during the course. Limited enrollment (180) and small class size will encourage active participation. Choice of workshops and field trips will be guided in part by the date of pre-registration. Possibilities include: 1. Creating an outdoor environment on a school playground. 2. Exploring nature in the city. 3. Natural areas in the urban sprawl. 4. The estuarine ecosystem. 5. Ocean and tide-pool exploration, and 6. Our local wilderness areas.

Course instructors include Dr. Tom Harvey and John Stanley of San Jose State; Dr. Lawrence Swan of San Francisco State; Miss Phyllis Lindley, Nature Center Berkeley; and, James Kerr, Scripps Institute, Redwood City.

Pre-registration applications are accepted up to Oct. 16 (subject to openings) when accompanied by a check for \$19. Make check to Loma Prieta Chapter, Sierra Club and send to Extension Service, (course Natural Science x172.1), San Jose State College, San Jose 95114. The course earns 1 unit of college credit, but may be taken without credit for the same fee. For additional information call Tony Look 968-3668.

### AUDUBON MAGAZINE NEEDED

If your more recent copies of Audubon Magazine are destined for the trash, how about donating them to the Board of Directors for distribution to doctors' offices and other public waiting rooms. If you can spare yours, please bring them to the General Meeting, or, even better, take them to your own doctor or dentist.

Joe Greenberg

### FARALLON SPRING MIGRATION

Eastern Warblers captured and banded during Spring migration in the Farallon Islands included Tennessee, Parula, Magnolia, Chestnut-sided, Bay-breasted, Hooded and Ovenbird.

Other Eastern species of note included Cassin's, Brewer's, Sage and Clay-colored Sparrows, Indigo

Buntings and Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Baltimore Orioles and Bobolink.

All of the birds reaching the Farallons are not irretrievably lost, as witness three recent recoveries: a Red-breasted Nuthatch found in Davis, Calif., a White-crowned Sparrow in San Francisco, and a Golden-crowned Sparrow in Salem, Oregon.

### CAR COSTS (from Handbook of S.F. Region, see page 2)

With an average annual cost of automobile operation of about \$1200 (10,000 miles x 12¢ per mi.), the total cost over 45 years is over \$100,000.

...drivers consider their time worth \$2.50 per hour. If driving time is estimated at \$2.50 per hour for the average city driving speed of 18 mph, the time-cost of driving is 14¢ per mile.

Highway costs in the ten-county Bay Region paid from funds not derived from motor vehicle use amount to \$76 million annually...

State funds have been used for constructing and maintaining Bay Region streets and highways to a total of \$2 billion. Addition of local funds used for streets and highways, land, investment cost and appreciation would bring the total value of streets, roads, and other public-owned facilities needed to provide automobile services (police..., courts, road maintenance and construction...) in the ten counties to more than \$10 billion.

...The Southern Pacific Company ...total taxes paid by the company amount to 12% of revenue...If the same taxation rates were applied to the automobile, state and local taxes in the Bay Region would be \$150 million and total taxes would be \$360 million - \$120 for each motor vehicle or 1.2¢ per mile.

#### Other Costs

Estimated at \$10 per hour, the cost per mile of vehicle operation for motor vehicle fatalities is 13¢.

Thus the tangible costs of operating an automobile amount to over 50¢ per mile. To this cost must be added the intangible costs that cannot easily be measured or estimated. These include: air pollution, sound pollution, water runoff from streets and highways...oil spillage...sedentariness. space.

The space used by the automobile can be calculated...at an estimated 60 ft., the 18,025 miles of streets in the ten counties...becomes 5.71 billion sq. ft. of space devoted to streets, roads and highways. Add an estimated 1,000 sq. ft. of off-street space for each vehicle --parking lots (300 sq. ft. per auto), garages, gasoline stations, driveways--and the grand total of space devoted to motor vehicles becomes 8.55 billion sq. ft. or 196,368 acres. Thus, each auto has 3,000 sq. ft. of space, and each person in the region has 1,820 sq. ft. of pavement. In contrast, the state parks in the region add up to a total of 69,368 acres. As compared to the \$2 billion spent from state money on streets and highways in the ten counties, the state Department of Parks and Recreation has spent about \$30 million total on acquisition and capital improvements of parks in the same area!

(The above is provided as food-for-thought as you weigh the "cost" of the proposed public transportation system for Santa Clara County.)

### TUBBS ISLAND

The October 24 Field Trip to Tubbs Island offers members an opportunity to see many interesting species. Possible shorebirds include Western and Least Sandpipers, Killdeer, Semipalmated Plover, Dowitcher, Godwit, Willet, Avocet, Yellowlegs, Egrets, Night Herons, Bitterns and Northern Phalarope. White-tailed Kites are common and other hawks, including the Prairie Falcon, are possible. Land birds are likely too in this varied habitat so by all means plan to attend.

Tubbs Island is owned by the Nature Conservancy, a nonprofit organization devoted to preserving important natural areas. It was purchased as part of their current campaign to preserve valuable marsh and shoreline areas of San Francisco Bay, their most recent acquisition being in the South Bay proposed Wildlife Refuge area. They have made a downpayment of \$6,000 on the purchase price of \$22,000 for the seal hauling area near the tip of Dumbarton Point.



## GEOLOGICAL SURVEY STUDY OF BAY CIRCULATION

A recently released preliminary study of Water Circulation in San Francisco Bay (Geological Survey Circular 637-A,B) sheds light for those who wish to access the need for further implementation of California's water plan. The study concludes:

1. The seasonal change in salinity of the south bay is largely controlled by fresh water from the Sacramento River and is nearly unaffected by the south bay streams.
2. The seasonal change in phosphate concentration also corresponds to variation in Sacramento River discharge, and is not related to tidal changes.
3. Probably soluble waste materials (sewage) are removed from the south bay largely during periods of high river discharge.

(The proposed changes in the water plan would greatly alter the pattern of and reduce the amount of Sacramento River water entering the bay.--Ed.)

### DDT

Russia has banned all further production of DDT. Only two Western European countries, Italy and France, still manufacture DDT. In Germany only about 11% as much DDT is applied per acre of farmland as in the United States, mainly because of strict laws governing its use. The laws cover other hard pesticides such as aldrin, dieldrin, chlordane, heptachlor, and endrin as well. Even with such limited use, about 2.5 percent of Germany's foodstuffs fail to pass inspection because chlorinated hydrocarbon levels are too high.

In the Pelican nesting colony of Anacapa Island off the Ventura County coast only four hatchable eggs were laid in 1970 by the 550 breeding pairs. Only one egg hatched! In a colony of 50 cormorants all of the eggs were thinshelled also, and analysis showed a correlation between high concentrations of DDT and broken eggs.

"The United States Agriculture Department has told a federal court reductions in the use of DDT should continue along the lines already being pursued, instead of by stricter means...conservation groups.. had asked the department be ordered to ban all DDT uses and to stop DDT products from moving in interstate commerce while the ban is being appealed."

## WHO LOBBIES FOR CONSERVATION?

by Eleanore Wilkins

Conservation is achieved through legislation, and all our concern, hard work and careful research are wasted if not translated into law. But how can the conservation cause get the attention of legislators?

The answer of course, is "through people power." But that power must be focused. It takes fulltime effort, along with special knowledge and experience, to bring that to bear in Sacramento at the right time. It takes a professional lobbying effort.

In California, we have such an effort. It's called the Planning and Conservation League (PCL) and it serves all of California's conservation groups, many of which are barred from direct action in Sacramento by tax restrictions. PCL supports a fulltime professional, John Zierold.

In the five years of PCL's existence, over 100 pieces of conservation legislation have been signed into law, including the 1969 Water Quality Act and the San Francisco Bay legislation. Without PCL, and without Zierold's overtime effort, most of those bills would never have been passed.

PCL utilizes the vast volunteer resource of conservation. In an annual conference, open to all its members, the legislative program for the upcoming session is developed. During the session, Zierold will be involved with about 25 pieces of legislation. He relies on volunteers for research and for expert testimony, and works closely with them in deciding on strategy.

This critical operation takes money - not the hundreds of thousands of dollars routinely spent by opponents to conservation, the tens of thousands which even volunteer-reinforced campaigns require for success. This money is not tax deductible, and has to come from us, in the form of membership dues and contributions.

Five dollars contributed to PCL, backed up by volunteer work, is worth \$50 of opposition money. (In the San Francisco Bay fight, conservation supporters spent about \$80,000, while Bay fillers spent \$800,000.)

You may join by sending \$5 to PCL, 909 12th St., Sacramento, Calif. All members receive the PCL legislative newsletters.

(From the Loma Prieta)

### WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

James R. Brady  
1457 Morton Ave.  
Los Altos, Ca. 94022

Mrs. Robert D. Cook  
17151 Phillips Ave.  
Los Gatos, Ca. 95030

Amy Plagge  
3098 Ramona St.  
Palo Alto, Ca. 94306

Ralph L. Carmichael  
3860 Magnolia Dr.  
Palo Alto, Ca. 94306

Mrs. Lili Estrada  
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94022

Emily M. Renzel  
836 Addison Ave.  
Palo Alto, Ca. 94301

Mrs. Elbert C. Cole Jr.  
3602 Bryant St.  
Palo Alto, Ca. 94306

Mr. & Mrs. Arnold A. Koch  
253 Howes Ct.  
LostGatos, Ca. 95030

Mrs. Wm. M. Wilson  
1300 Oak Creek Dr.  
Palo Alto, Ca. 94304

### S.C.V.A.S. OFFICERS AND CHAIRMEN, 1970-1971

President:	Dr. Joseph Greenberg, 270 Kellogg Ave., Palo Alto 94301	327-0329
Vice-Pres:	Mrs. Grace Lind, 1615 Dry Creek Rd., San Jose 95125	251-5577
Secretary:	Mrs. Diane Conradson, 4337 Miranda Ct., Palo Alto 94306	941-2102
Treasurer:	Mrs. Joyce Todd, 945 Matadero Ave., Palo Alto 94306	326-7482
Registrar:	Mrs. Fanny Zwaal, 478 Clifton Ave., San Jose 95128	292-2060
Membership:	Mrs. Caroline Davis, 104 Winslow Ct., Campbell 95008	378-1603
Education:	Mrs. Nancy Holmes, 843 Moana Ct., Palo Alto 94306	948-1854
Conservation:	Tony Look, 411 Los Ninos Way, Los Altos 94022	948-6790
Program:	Kenneth Kidd, 4062 Keith Dr., Campbell 95008	379-6498
Field Trips:	Dr. Joseph Greenberg, 270 Kellogg Ave., Palo Alto 94301	327-0329
" Wed. North:	Mrs. Kay McCann, 783 Garland Dr., Palo Alto 94303	327-4138
" Wed. South:	Catherine Lintott, 17150 Buena Vista Ave, Los Gatos	356-4264
Field Notes:	Russ Greenberg, 270 Kellogg Ave., Palo Alto 94301	327-0329
Refreshments:	Mrs. Eve Case, 20537 Verde Vista Lane, Saratoga 95070	867-4748
Publicity:	Kenneth Kidd, 4062 Keith Dr., Campbell 95008	379-6498
Historian:	Warren Turner, 646 Alvarado Row, Stanford 94305	325-7777