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The Avocet

TIME VALUE

VOLUME XVIII, Number 1

January, 1971

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Jan 5 Bird Discussion Group. Tues. 9:30 a.m. at home of Eve Case, 20537 Verde Vista, Saratoga. Subject: Sandhill Cranes
- Jan 6 Audubon Wildlife Film, Acadian Reflections, Wed. 4:00 p.m., Palo Alto High Aud., 50 Embarcadero Rd. Speaker: Robert Fultz.
- Jan 6 Environmental Course. Wed. 7 p.m. Urban Conservation on the Peninsula Wilbur Jr. Hi, Rm 50, 480 E. Meadow, Palo Alto. (See pg. 4)
- Jan 7 BCDC Hearing, Thurs. 2 p.m. (pg.5)
- Jan 7 Board Meeting, Thurs. 7:30. At home of Ruth Troetschler, 184 Lockhart, Los Altos, 948-4142. Members welcome.
- Jan 10 Lake Merritt, Sun. 9 a.m. Meet at Nature Center. Should see Barrow's Goldeneyes. Suggest visit Oakland museum afterwards. Leader: Joe Greenberg 326-8120.
- Jan 11 Environmental Course. Mon. 7 p.m. How to Study Ecology. Wilbur Jr. Hi, Rm 25, 480 E. Meadow, Palo Alto. (See pg. 4)
- Jan 12 Audubon Wildlife Film, Acadian Reflections, Tues. 8 p.m. Morris Daly Aud. San Jose State, 4th & San Carlos. Robert Fultz.
- Jan 15 N. County Bird Discussion Gp. 9:30 a.m. at home of Ermine Havens, 460 Raquel Ln, Los Altos, 948-7732 Subject: Chickadees, Bushtits and Nuthatches. (Bring Lunch if birding)
- Jan 16 Calaveras Reservoir. Sat. 9 a.m. Meet at Milpitas Post Office. Bring Lunch. Eagles expected. Leaders: The Les Sleepers 323-9370
- Jan 20 General Meeting. Wed. 8:00 p.m. Holmestead Hi, Homestead Rd. at Mary, Cupertino. The Silent Spring of Rachel Carson (See page 2)
- Jan 23 Monterey & Pacific Grove. Sat 9 a.m. Meet at Coast Guard Pier, Monterey. Bring Lunch. Expect Auklets, Kittiwakes, Fulmars & other oceanic birds. Leaders: Alan Baldrige, & Bill Reese
- Jan 26 Paul Sears Speaks. Tues 8 p.m. Palo Alto Unitarian Church, 505 Charleston Rd. (See page 3)
- Jan 27 Palo Alto Baylands. Wed. 9 a.m. Meet at Duck Pond, end of Embarcadero Rd. Leaders: Dorothy Taylor, 311-0120 & Martha Wilbur, 324-4873.
- Feb 17 Desert Course. (See page 4)
- Feb 26 Shorebird Course. (See Dec. Avocet.)

General Meeting: THE SILENT SPRING OF RACHEL CARSON

One of the Audubon Action Priorities for 1971 is to eliminate the use of persistent organo-chlorine pesticides. Rachel Carson's book Silent Spring first focused public attention on this pesticide problem.

We shall view a film which examines the questions raised by Miss Carson. It presents the pros and cons of her claim that world ecology is being seriously affected by the use of poisonous and biologically potent chemicals with little or no advance investigation of their effects on soil, water, wildlife and man himself. I challenge you to come away not stirred by the drama, tragedy and irony of our current situation. --Ken Kidd, Program Chairman

WHY CAN'T WE???

Congressman Paul McCloskey states that the South San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge bill will come up for Congressional hearings in April 1971. This gives us a real target date.

Our object is to send at least two experts to Washington for the hearings. We need money for their transportation; it's that simple. And in order to make it even more simple, why can't each member of our Society send a minimum of one dollar to the Refuge Fund (Box 4386, San Jose 95126)? This would make us half-way to our goal of \$1500.

Later we will need letters to friends all over the United States. We will need lots of publicity; perhaps a pancake breakfast open to the public. However, right now we must have money! If you want the specially designed Refuge Lapel Pin, send \$2.25. Wear it proudly, and tell your friends about the whole idea.

There is lots of opposition to the Refuge from many quarters. Please don't be lulled into the complacent idea that everyone thinks a National Wildlife Refuge is the wisest use of this land.

Can you make this your personal, positive objective-- to see that jetports and housing developments go elsewhere, if indeed they are needed at all in the south Bay Area. --Nancy Holmes

BOARD NOTES

1. Donated \$500 to the Nature Conservancy for the Bay Project (the money to help acquire Open Space).
2. Authorized Nancy Holmes to use the \$400 budgeted toward the South Bay Wildlife Refuge as she sees fit.
3. Accepted with regret the resignation of board member Lyle Campbell. The Campbells are moving to Carmel Valley.
4. Received with thanks, a gift in memory of Norma Hanlon of Sonoma.
5. Authorized the publication of several notices in the Avocet.

DO YOU KNOW???
 A call to "city hall" will put your name on the mailing list for all agendas of the meetings of your choice; City Council? Planning Commission? Board of Supervisors? ABAG? Can you afford not to call?

FIELD TRIP REPORT

Grey Lodge, Nov. 21 1970.

As leader I was a bit disappointed that only 9 people made it; that the waterfowl, particularly the geese, were jittery; and, that an immature Blue Goose was spooked by a slammed door before anybody could see it.

On the other hand, the weather was ideal. There were as many geese (including Ross') as I have ever seen

in one place before. There were 150 Sandhill Cranes, 25 swans, several bitterns, gallinules, and many raptors (especially human) with a clean-up crew of over 50 vultures.

In the afternoon we birded at the base of Sutter Buttes, finding an unusual number of Vespers among the Savann and Lark Sparrows. 67 species were seen. --J. Greenberg

URBAN SPRAWL OR OPEN SPACE?

This is a growth industry....We're going to develop the area....NOTICE OF IMPROVEMENT....Only the preservationists stand in the way of development....

Since 1960 Santa Clara County's population has exploded a whopping 65% to 1,057,032. 40% of our citizens have lived here less than 10 years and by 1990 we will need a million new housing units "spread all over the landscape".

This continued "PROGRESS" is being questioned. Is this growth inevitable?

All ready the scattered nature of the county's development, and its uneven quality have produced a pattern requiring high cost for urban services. The per-capita debt is among the highest in the state, and, while population gained 15% during the last 5 years, property taxes rose 64%. Serious physical problems of our urbanization include flooding (pavement increases runoff), land subsidence (due to lowering of the water table), traffic congestion, smog and water pollution.

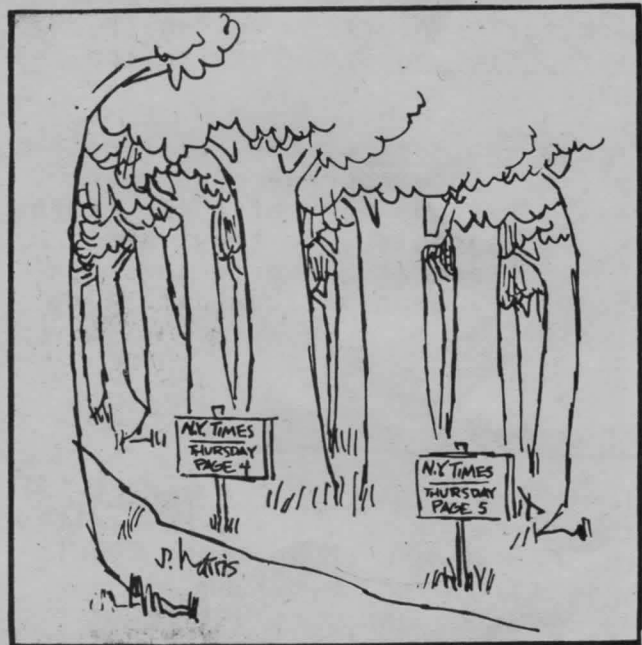
Governments usually are reactive, acting only to solve well-recognized and well-defined problems. Dams are built after floods; freeways to relieve traffic jams--but open space can be preserved only if the deed is recognized before land shortage reaches a crisis stage.

A preliminary plan for the Bay Area was published by the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG) in 1966. Under the ABAG plan, permanent open space is considered essential to preserve the open feeling of the Bay Area and to protect the area's natural resources. A People for Open Space study of the effects of using this plan found that total cost of acquisition of the proposed open space lands would be not more than \$10 per (Continued page 4)

PIONEER ECOLOGIST TO GIVE ADDRESS

"Adventures in Conservation" will be the subject of a public talk by Professor Paul B. Sears, one of the foremost pioneers in ecology, on Tuesday, January 26, 8:00 p.m. at the Unitarian Church, 505 Charleston, Palo Alto. Admission will be 50¢. The event is co-sponsored by Committee for Green Foothills, P.A. branch American Association of University Women, and the SCVAs.

Dr. Sears is Professor Emeritus of Conservation, Yale University. A past president of the American Association for the Advancement of Science and of the Ecological Society of America, Professor Sears has also served as Chairman of the Board of the National Audubon Society.



(Environment)

Urban Sprawl (Continued)

person per year, less than the cost of the combined BART and Bay Area Freeway system expenditures for the past 10 years, and, that open space would allow dramatic savings in government and utility costs.

An impressive reiteration of these conclusions was recently given by the Livingston & Blaney Report to the city of Palo Alto concerning the best use of their foothill lands. Their conclusion-direct public purchase of foothill land for preservation as open space would cost taxpayers half as much as the most economical of several proposed development plans. This is revolutionary! Land development can cost the citizens money rather than yielding profit.

Current plans to implement open space acquisition include a proposal for a regional park chain for the entire San Francisco hills area from Pacifica to Los Gatos, the Wildlife Refuge plan, and a Univ. of Calif. Institute of Governmental Studies proposal to halt urban expansion.

Land uses such these would require new governmental powers and agencies. None will come about unless citizens work for their enactment. Meanwhile, time is running out as urbanization continues.

Citizens can work at the local or county level to encourage government leaders to give up part of their powers to regional agencies, or they can join one of several groups which seek passage of state or national enabling legislation.

DESERT COURSE IN SAN JOSE

Nat'l History of Calif: The Desert (2) Nat. Sci. x 145B. Class size limited Wed's Feb 17-May 12 or Thur's Feb 18-May 13 (7:30-9:30 p.m.) Rm 142 Science Bldg, San Jose State Col. 2 units/\$38. Write Extension Service, San Jose State College 95114.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

What should be is Audubon Members dedicated in labors of love--to monitor the bleak and destructive activities of Political Bodies.

We need volunteers in San Jose, Menlo Park, Mt. View, Los Altos, etc. to act in the interest of conservation. Will any such write Dr. Joseph Greenberg, 860 Bryant, Palo Alto, 94301, or call (9-5) 326-8120?

AGENCIES DEALING IN OPEN SPACE

VOLUNTARY: People for Open Space-126 Post, S.F. 94108; Committee for Green Foothills, Box 11511, P.A. 94306; Open Space Action, Box 548, Menlo 94025; Open Space & Conser. Comm'tee American Institute of Planners - 1424 Tarrytown, San Mateo 94402; South S.F. Baylands Planning, Conservation & Nat'l Wildlife Refuge Comm'tee, c/o Arthur Ogilvie, 70 W. Hedding, San Jose 94110.

GOVERNMENTAL: Open Space Subcomm'tee of Planning Policy Comm'tee of S. C. County Planning Dept.-(Address above); Open Space Advisory Comm'tee S. C. County Board of Supervisors-(Address above); Joint Legislative Comm'tee on Open Space Lands, John Knox Chair. State Capital, Sacramento 95814; U.S. Dep. of Interior, Bureau of Outdoor Recrea., 450 Golden Gate, San Fran. 94102; Assoc. of Bay Area Gov'ts (ABAG), Hotel Claremont, Berkeley 94705.

ENVIRONMENTAL COURSES IN PALO ALTO

How to Study Ecology -The Peninsula as a Case Study X413. Relations of Plant & Animal Communities; natural recycling. Mon. 7-10 p.m., Jan 11-Mar 15, Wilbur Jr. Hi., Rm 25. 3 units/\$45.

Urban Conservation on the Peninsula X414. Highways vs transit, solid waste disposal, filling the bay, open space preservation, etc. Wed. 7-10 p.m., Jan 6-Mar 10, Rm 50, Wilbur Jr. Hi., 3 units/\$45.

RARE BIRD PHOTOGRAPHIC FILE AT PRBO

In an effort to document rare bird sightings with photographs rather than collecting the bird as a specimen, several institutions have established rare bird photographic files. Point Reyes Bird Observatory (PRBO) is one of the co-operating institutions. Each photograph is labeled with all available information, such as band number, weight wing measurement. When publishing a rare bird sighting, the writer can cite the catalog number, and others can check the same photographs and information. This file is open to anyone and can be used for any species seen in California. Prints (no slides) should be approximately 3x5 inches and must be accompanied by data; species, name of photographer, location, distinctive field marks not shown in the photo, and band number and measurements if handled.

MORE COLORED GULLS

Glaucus-winged Gulls dyed red or pink originated in Alaska. Report to Ken Larsen, Bureau of Sport Fisheries & Wildlife, Box 67, Corvallis, Ore. 97113.

Western Gulls were dyed on the Farallon Islands. Report sightings of these or tagged gulls to Dr. Howard Cogswell, Dept. of Biol, Hayward State, Hayward.

ENVIRONMENTAL LAW FIRMS TAX EXEMPT

The Internal Revenue Service has announced that it will again issue tax exemptions, under a new set of guidelines, to environmental law firms. The guidelines primarily insure that tax-exempt litigation does not benefit private interests. Representatives of several groups affected by the decision agreed that IRS had backed down under pressure.
(Science)

EDF SUES MAJOR DDT MANUFACTURER

Environmental Defense Fund has filed suit to compel Montrose Chemical Corp. to stop discharging DDT into the Los Angeles sewer system, which empties into the Pacific Ocean. The Montrose plant is the world's largest DDT manufacturer.

For years scientists have been puzzled by the extremely high levels of DDT contamination along the coast of Southern California as compared with other marine environments. Some fish from Santa Monica Bay carry more than 1,000 parts per million (ppm) of DDT in their livers, whereas fish from San Francisco Bay contain only a few ppm. Shipments of mackerel caught off Southern California have been seized by Food and Drug Administration because they exceeded the allowable tolerance limit for DDT. As a result of DDT contamination, the Brown Pelicans in the area have suffered profound reproductive failure. Other fish-eating sea birds have been similarly affected. Investigation finally revealed that Montrose had been discharging several hundred to a thousand pounds of DDT residues daily into the Los Angeles sewer system. This rate of discharge is more than sufficient to cause such environmental damage.

BCDC MAY CHANGE BAY PLAN

The Bay Conservation & Development Commission (BCDC) is preparing to consider a possible change in the Bay Plan. This action is proposed to accommodate the Port of San Francisco which desires to build several large buildings over the water in place of existing piers. The proposed changes would allow such structures to be built wholly in the bay provided old pilings are exchanged for new pilings.

A public hearing is scheduled for Thursday, Jan. 7, State Building, Rm 1194, 455 Golden Gate, San Francisco, 2:00 p.m.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!!

Mrs. Ruth Holzhauer
456 Alicia Way
Los Altos, 94022

Marian Brewen
Rt. 1
Elverson, PA 19520

Phyllis Perkins
3088 Adams Way
Santa Clara 95051

Mrs. Dewey Anderson
240 Waverly St.
Menlo Park, 94025

Pamela Hicks
697 Enright Ave.
Santa Clara 95050

Mrs. Richard Peterson
1922 Kay Dr.
Los Altos 94022

S.M. Barrager
#3109 - 1950 Cooley Ave.
Palo Alto 94303

Florence Hooper
751 Coastland Ave
Palo Alto 94303

Mrs. Lucia Smith
18940 Westview Dr.
Saratoga 95070

Mrs. Richard Kniss
476 Fern Ave.
Palo Alto 94306

Amy Wagner
545 S. 9th St.
San Jose 95112

RECYCLING
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A monumental effort to recycle all cans at Stanford football games has resulted in this symbol for the recycling movement, plus a tremendous number of returned cans.

Cupertino residents can bring cans or glass to Fremont High student parking lot, Fremont Rd. near Highway 9.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STUDIES
STILL SECRET

The Nixon administration has decided that it can withhold environmental impact studies from the public until the decisions they influence have been made and announced.

Federal agencies are required by law to prepare and make public reports on the expected environmental impact of their proposals, and such reports must be made available to the President, the Council on Environmental Quality, and the public. Conservationists had thought that public disclosure would be on a par with that to the council, but the decision means that "the public's involvement comes by disclosure...at the end of the process" (after all the decisions have been made and protest is useless). (P.A. Times)

POLAROID CAMERA OWNERS NOTE

Self-developing film kills!
Scraps of film contaminate streams and lakes and poison moose, elk and deer that eat them. It is estimated that 400 hoofed animals died in national forests and parks last year from eating film residue.

PELICAN MIGRATION STUDY

Be on the lookout for Brown Pelicans painted pink, yellow, or green with streamers tied to their legs. The U.S. Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife banded young birds at three different nesting colonies near Baja California. Purpose is to study their migratory habits. The colors are painted on the white abdomen; streamers are 4 inches long. Report sightings to the Wildlife Research Center, Denver, Colorado.

RECOMMENDED: Ralph Nadar Presents, Weds. 9:30, Channel 9.

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