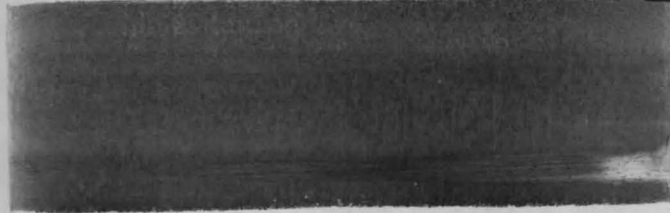




The Avocet

TIME VALUE



VOLUME XVIII, Number 2

February, 1971

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Feb 3 Refuge supporters, meet, Wed.
Feb 3, 7:30 p.m. Almond
School, 555 Almond, Los Altos.
(see page 3)
- Feb 4 Audubon Wildlife Film, Thurs.
4 p.m. Palo Alto Hi, 50 Embar-
cadero. Scandanavian Saga by
John Bulger. Tickets at door.
- Feb 6 Pajero Dunes, Sat. 9 a.m. Take
Hy 1 south from Santa Cruz &
exit at Riverside Dr. Turn R
at end, then first L (Ampex
Steel Plant) to beach. Ask at
gate about field trip & direc-
tions to tennis courts. Leader:
John Warriner, 851-1936.
- Feb 9 Bird Discussion Group, Tues.
9:30 a.m. at home of Eve Case,
20537 Verde Vista, Saratoga.
Subject: Owls.
- Feb 9 Audubon Wildlife Film, Tues.
8 p.m. Morris Daly Aud, San
Jose State, 4th & San Carlos.
Scandanavian Saga by John Bulger.
- Feb 10 Oakhill Cemetery, Wed. 9 a.m.
300 Curtner Rd. San Jose. Drive
south on S. First to Curtner.
Turn R to first light, L into
mortuary parking lot. Leader:
Catherine Lintott, 356-4264.
- Feb 11 Board Meeting, Thurs. 7:30 p.m.
at home of Diane Conradson,
4337 Miranda, Palo Alto, 941-
2102. Members welcome.
- Feb 17 Searsville Lake, Wed. 9:30
a.m. Meet at entrance on Sand
Hill Rd, Palo Alto. Admission
25¢. Leaders: Les and Nell
Sleeper, 323-9370.
- Feb 17 Desert Course, Wed. 7:30 p.m.
(See January Avocet)
- Feb 18 Desert Course, Thurs. 7:30 p.m.
(See January Avocet)
- Feb 19 North County Bird Discussion
Fri. 9:30 a.m. At home of Mrs.
Ray Lyman Wilbur, 2190 Barbara,
Palo Alto, 324-4873. Subject:
Review of Shorebirds for later
trip to Pescadero.
- Feb 20 Merced-Los Banos Refuge, Sat.
9 a.m. Rt 152 past Los Banos
to Rt 59 (Merced) a few miles
north of El Nido to Merced
Refuge turnoff. (Meet here.)
Will go to Los Banos in p.m. to
look for White-faced Ibises.
Leader: Joe Greenberg 326-8120.
- Feb 26 Shorebird Course, Fri. 7 p.m.,
55 Laguna, San Francisco (see
December Avocet).

GENERAL MEETING: "DOWN UNDER"

Ken and Eleanor Kidd present a color slide show of their 1969 trip to New Zealand and Southeastern Australia. It will be primarily a travelog on New Zealand, pointing out the natural beauty of its countryside and offering some information on the past and present "development" of its resources and the ecological effects. Both Australia and New Zealand present many interesting parallels with our own "development" in the United States. The Kidds visited several wildlife preserves in both countries and will include pictures of many native birds and animals.

PRIORITIES OF NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY

*Continuing, long-range goals. **Special action 1970.

- *1. Advocate stabilization of human population as basic to preservation of environmental quality.
- *2. Work for abatement and prevention of all forms of environmental pollution: air, water and land.
- *3. Preserve our estuarine and wetland resources.
- *4. Change our national transportation policy, shifting emphasis in public investment and subsidy from highways to mass transportation.
- **5. Eliminate use of DDT, dieldren, aldrin, endrin, toxaphene & other persistent organo-chlorine pesticides that pollute the environment, poison food chains, and endanger wildlife.
- **6. Protect the Public Land resources of the U.S. Prepare to meet and turn back the expected raids by those who would try to gain special advantage from the 1970 report of the Public Land Law Review Commission.#
- **7. Illuminate and resist "stream channelization".
- **8. Seek federal protection for owls and hawks.
- **9. Seek reform and reduction of federal programs that poison and trap carnivorous wild animals.

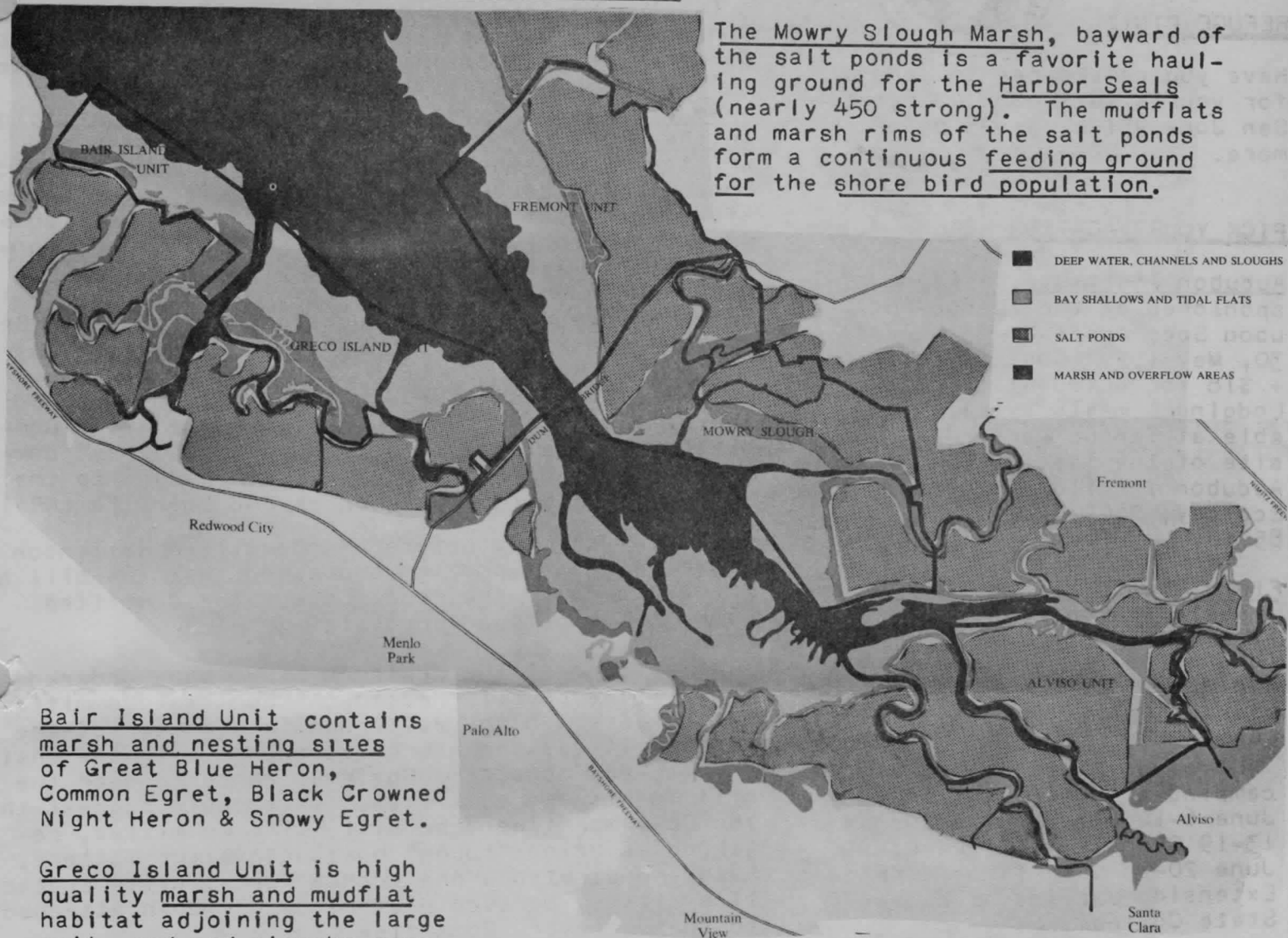
#For the report "One Third of the Nation's Land" send \$4.50 to Supt. of Documents, Gov't Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402

BOARD NOTES

1. Elected Ken Kidd to serve on the Nominating Committee. A member at large to be elected at the General Meeting.
2. Richard Carlson, Stanford Graduate Student in Economics, and active Audubon Leader, was chosen to fill the board vacancy. Richard is a member of the Maryland Ornithological Society and is a participant in Calif. Fish and Game's Shorebird Count.
3. Received with thanks a gift in memory of Mr. & Mrs. L.D. Bohnett of San Jose. The money is to go to the San Francisco Bay Wildlife Refuge.
4. Al Jamieson and Joe Greenberg will send a letter to 2000 local doctors and dentists suggesting they subscribe to Audubon Magazine as a service to conservation and a tax deduction. The recent small-scale placement of Audubon Magazines in waiting rooms has resulted in favorable public response and a number of new members.
5. Secretary, Diane Conradson, will write to the Palo Alto Planning Commission suggesting that a Citizen's Committee be appointed to assist in their formulation of goals for future planning in Palo Alto; Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society would be willing to cooperate in every way. Similar letters will be sent to other Planning Commissions when formulation of Goals is in progress.

The great cyclone and tidal wave in East Pakistan destroyed about 135 thousand people. But it is encouraging or discouraging (according to your own philosophy) that the number will be replaced in an 85 day period. --The Yellowbill

A PARTIAL ANSWER to open space
SAN FRANCISCO BAY NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE



The Mowry Slough Marsh, bayward of the salt ponds is a favorite hauling ground for the Harbor Seals (nearly 450 strong). The mudflats and marsh rims of the salt ponds form a continuous feeding ground for the shore bird population.

Bair Island Unit contains marsh and nesting sites of Great Blue Heron, Common Egret, Black Crowned Night Heron & Snowy Egret.

Greco Island Unit is high quality marsh and mudflat habitat adjoining the large salt pond and sloughs near Dumbarton Bridge.

In Alviso the large salt-ponds provide resting and nesting sites for ducks and shorebirds. Some excellent marsh is found in the Drawbridge area of this unit.

SAN FRANCISCO BAY REFUGE would contain some 22,000 acres. Other plans for this land include a jetport requiring 84 million cubic yards of earth fill, and light industrial and homes in the salt pond area. It seems clear that we should try to protect what little there is left of this valley; a few spots of the mountains and some of the already altered baylands.

Wednesday, Feb. 3, 7:30 p.m. there will be a meeting for people who wish to be active in supporting the refuge at Almond School, 555 Almond Ave., Los Altos. Please don't be shy about attending. We'll find a place for your talents, large or small, and will be delighted to see you.

--Nancy Holmes, 948-1854.

HOW A SENATE BILL IS SCREENED

(At the Western Regional Audubon Chapter-Leaders Conference, William Kier, Consultant to the Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Wildlife spoke.)

Senate Bill 128 (Beilenson) to outlaw trafficking in the hides or parts of endangered species was written by Beilenson's staff without much technical consultation beyond that of the Legislative Counsel. After introduction, it was referred to the Fish & Game Code since it would be Fish & Game's responsibility to enforce the measure. F&G asked the author to amend it placing enforcement on all California police agencies (under the Penal Code). Senator Beilenson accepted F&G's recommendation.

Before the above technical flaw was discovered, the bill was referred routinely to the Rules Committee for assignment to the proper "policy" committee for public hearing -- in this case to the Committee on Natural Resources and Wildlife (NRW).

At the hearing before NRW Committee Beilenson explained F&G's problem and asked that the bill be amended over to the Penal Code. The Committee gave its unanimous approval.

At this point the Chairman might have ordered the bill be re-referred to the Judicial Committee, but because Senator Beilenson is a member of the NRW Committee, and his relationship with the Chairman is very good, the Chairman chose to hear the bill in his own committee. This could suggest that the Chairman liked the bill. The Committee, regarded as being "tough" on conservation matters, has demonstrated a preference for wildlife protection bills. No such preference has been attached to the Judiciary Committee.

At this point, SB 128 was spared one hurdle most bills face. Since the principle enforcement burden would fall on city and county police, the Legislative Counsel did not identify it as a "State cost" bill (requiring re-referral to the Senate Finance Committee). Such "finance" bills have a more difficult time. The Constitution states that no Appropriation bill (the Senate has interpreted this as no "State cost" bill) may be passed by either house ahead of the Budget Bill, except those deemed "emergency" measures by the governor. Thus most "money" bills backlog in the Finance Committee until the Budget Bill is enacted around July 1. This is the reason for the legislative frenzy which begins after July 1 and lasts until adjournment.

(Continued pg. 5)

REFUGE PIN??

Have you remembered to send for your's yet? Box 4386, San Jose 95126, \$1.25 or more.

PICK YOUR VACATION HERE

Audubon Institute, Arizona sponsored by the Tucson Audubon Soc; April 23-25 & April 30, May 1, 2. Cost \$45/person; + \$18 for optional credit. Lodging & meals extra, available at Tanque Verde Ranch, site of the institute. Write Audubon Institute of Desert Ecology, 2604 E. Lee, Tucson 85716.

Field Studies in Nat'l Hist.

Basic ecology and conservation are emphasized in week-long outdoor workshops by San Jose State. Adults \$38/week (1 unit). For your children (7 to 16) \$15/child/week.

Lodgings & meals extra, or camping at some locations. June 6-12 Morro Bay; June 13-19 Sequoia Nat'l Park; June 20-26 Lake Tahoe. Write Extension Service, San Jose State College.

Audubon Camp of the West, Wyoming. Four, two-week sessions beginning June 27, July 11, July 25, August 8. Cost \$175/person includes meals, housing, field trips and instruction. Minimum age 18. Write Audubon Camp of the West, Box 4446, Sacramento 95825.

Audubon Canyon Ranch, Bolinas, will be open to the public March 1 through July 5 on weekends & holidays 10-4.

Senate Bill (Continued)

SB 128 went directly to the floor for final Senate action. It passed the Senate and went to the Assembly, where the Rules Committee referred it to the Committee on Natural Resources and conservation.

At this point the Fur-trimmers Union began lobbying against its passage. The issue became defined and it became clear that Beilenson did not have the six votes necessary to get the bill out of committee. Opposition hinged on arguments that it was (1) an unconstitutional trade restriction, such restrictions being entirely federal matters, and (2) a slur against the commercial policies of developing nations, and therefore improper.

The author carefully documented that most of the species with which the bill was concerned were subject to conservation laws, and that most of the trafficking involved poaching, that the U.S. was providing support to anti-poaching programs in the nations involved, and that the bill was therefore supportive of national policy. He also secured favorable legal opinion as the bill's constitutionality.

With this straightforward approach, he succeeded in moving the bill out of Committee and to the Assembly floor where it passed with ease. The bill had been bottled up in Committee for three months, and a great deal of the author's personal attention proceeded the favorable Committee vote. This illustrated the important role the

author plays in a conservation debate.

There is, as yet, no well-financed conservation lobby, and the success of conservation bills will continue to depend on the personal intentions and commitments of individual legislators.

Until the conservation lobby comes to occupy the same unswerving support base for the typical present-day legislator, his fundamental loyalties will probably lie with other interests.

Get to know your legislator. If his conservation instincts strike you as sound, then let him know he can depend on you for support. Communicate your ideas to him -- the letter requiring an answer is still the best way to get your views and his aired.

Only when your conservation organization has decided conclusively, and as objectively as possible, that your legislator is simply incapable of supporting your work should you turn against him, and before you "turn the rascal out", be sure you have a clear idea of who the rascal's successor will be.

S.C.V.A.S. BOARD OF DIRECTORS

1970-71

Mrs. Nancy Holmes
843 Moana Ct. P.A. 948-1854
Mrs. Helen Proctor
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1970-72

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326-2929
Bob Hassur
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1970-73

Allen Jamieson
592 Channing, P.A. 327-8310
Kenneth Kidd
4062 Keith, Campbell 379-6498
Miss Harriet Mundy
757 Tennyson, P.A. 325-1192

FIELD TRIP REPORT

Lake Merritt, Oakland. About 10 people, in a hard drizzle, saw Barrow's Goldeneyes close in-shore. Some went to see Old Squaw in Berkeley Aquatic Park and the Red-necked Grebe at the Berkeley Marina. About 57 species were wetly seen.

--Joe Greenberg

NEW MEMBERS will be welcomed next month when the listing is received from National Audubon office.

ONE FOR ALL

The Bay Area Audubon Council (BAAC) a union of seven societies in this region has started its second year of life. At the quarterly meeting a disturbing report was given by two young men from East Bay ecology action groups concerning the Baldwin Channel Project which would widen and deepen 93 miles of the ship channel - from outside the Gate through S.F. Bay, Carquinez Straits, and the Delta Region to Stockton-in order to give new super tankers and other deep water vessels access to existing and proposed shoreline industries now denied them. This would open the entire region, one of the world's most important agricultural and natural areas, to massive heavy industrialization.

Paul Howard, National Audubon Society Western Representative, was enthusiastic and informative. The group was particularly receptive to the awarding by his office of Plaques of Merit to certain legislators. Recognition of deserving people or organizations in the local communities has been discussed by BAAC for some time. Mr. Howard is very sympathetic to the aims and activities of our individual societies and makes available his office and its equipment to us all.

There is a certain comfort in shared projects and problems, and all BAAC member chapters are united in efforts for the Wildlife Refuge and in concern about the California Water Plan, as well as in many local endeavors. Questions or comments are welcomed by your representative.

--Florence La Riviere, 327-2854.

CONDOR SEEN IN PALO ALTO

On Jan 10, Dave De Sante while leading a Stanford Biology field trip on the campus observed a California Condor. January 11, Dave saw the bird again in the air at noon, and at 4 p.m. Betsy Peterson and B.H. Anderson found the Condor perched in a eucalyptus at the intersection of Alpine Rd. & Hyw 280.

At first light, Jan. 12, Russ Greenberg and Ted Chandell found it perched in a eucalyptus at the same intersection. Within a few minutes the Condor was being viewed by telescope and the binoculars of over 50 people. It stretched, preened and yawned, and finally took off with the wind at 2:30 p.m.

In 1905 a juvenile Condor was seen in Palo Alto west of the Stanford Campus. It stayed a week. Was it the 1971 Condor's great, great, great grandparent?

THE SWANS THAT WANTED TO BE COUNTED

Whistling Swans are occasionally seen in the San Jose Christmas Count. This year there was a report of swans from Calaveras Reservoir on count day, Dec. 26.

On the Point Reyes Count, Jan. 2, our party saw 26 swans headed west. On Sunday, Jan. 3, our party saw 26 swans flying northeast over our area in the Oakland count. (These two count areas are separated by 40 miles as the swan flies.) I remarked facetiously that this flock of 26 swans was making an appearance at Northern California Christmas Counts just to be counted.

Next day, Russ Greenberg, compiler of the San Jose Count, and member of "our party" was computing the numbers from the San Jose Count. Guess how many swans were seen at Calaveras on Dec. 26? Twenty six!

--Joe Greenberg

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