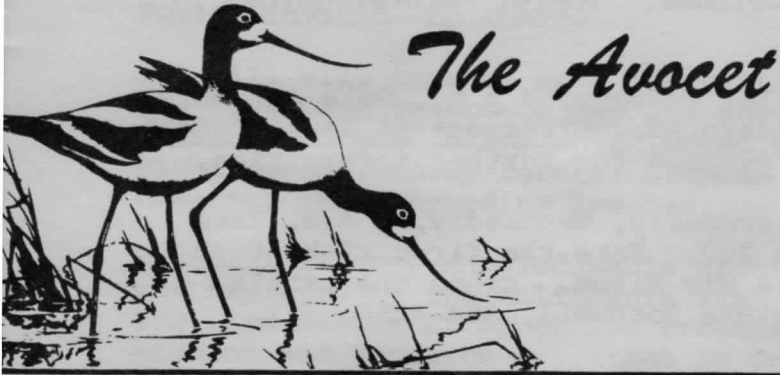


SANTA CLARA VALLEY AUDUBON SOCIETY, Inc.

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TIME VALUE

Volume 19, Number 2

February, 1972

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Feb. 8 -- Bird Discussion Group, South County, Tuesday, 9:30 a.m., at the home of Catherine Lintott, 17150 Buena Vista Avenue, Los Gatos, 356-4264. Any member welcome. Topic: "Birding at the Home of Catherine Lintott".
- Feb. 8 -- Board of Directors Meeting, Tuesday, 8 p.m. at the home of Tony Look, 411 Los Ninos Way, Los Altos, 968-3668. Meeting open to all members--Please phone in advance if you plan to attend.
- Feb. 9 -- Field Trip South - Santa Teresa Park, Wednesday, 9 a.m. Take Monterey Rd. south from San Jose past the IBM Plant. Turn right on Bernal Rd. and go about 1 mile west to the parking lot. Leader: Mrs. Margaret Henderson, 867-4304.
- Feb. 12 -- Calaveras Reservoir Field Trip, Saturday, 9 a.m. Meet at the Milpitas Post Office on E. Carlo Avenue. Bring a Lunch. Leaders: Mr. and Mrs. Les Sleeper, 323-9370.
- Feb. 16 -- General Meeting, Wednesday, 8 p.m., Homestead High School, Rm. 5, Building C. See notes on page 3 on "Bird Habitats of the South Bay". Note this meeting is on the third Wednesday of the month instead of the usual fourth Wednesday.

(Cont'd. on page 2)

- Feb. 18 -- Bird Discussion Group, North County, Friday, 9:30 a.m., at the home of Bill and Mary Postlewaite, 360 Menlo Oaks Drive, Menlo Park, 323-2198. Any member welcome. Topic: "Winter Garden Birds".
- Feb. 22 -- Palo Alto Audubon Wildlife Film, Tuesday, 4 p.m., Palo Alto High School Auditorium, 50 Embarcadero Rd., "Treasure of East Africa" by Bower Rudrud. See Sept. "Avocet" for further information.
- Feb. 23 -- Field Trip North - Mir Mirou property, Wednesday, 9 a.m. Take Page Mill Rd. west from Route 280. Take the first right turn past Arastradero Rd., which is Mir Mirou. Cross the cattle guard and park. Leader: Virginia Bothwell, 854-4458.
- Feb. 27 -- Merced, Los Banos, San Luis Wildlife Refuges Field Trip, Sunday 9 a.m. Meet on Sandy Marsh Road where it meets Route 59 on the left about 3 miles North of El Nido. Route 59 connects Route 152 (Los Banos) to Route 99 at Merced. Leader: Joe Greenberg, 328-7647.



BOARD NOTES

We were saddened to hear of the recent death of Mr. Wm. Proctor, husband of Helen Proctor. Both have been mainstays of the society and have manned our Audubon telephone for many years. The Board, on behalf of the entire SCVAS, extends its deepest sympathy to her in this hour of need.

The board of directors has appointed Al Jamieson to head the nominating committee for three positions on the Board of Directors which will soon be vacated. Any one wishing to submit his own or some one else's name as a candidate should contact Al Jamieson, 327-8310.

There is a real need for old (1970-71) Audubon magazines for use by our Education Committee. If your back issues are only taking up room at home, bring them to the next general meeting and Nancy Holmes will put them back into use in her education program.

BIRD HABITATS OF THE SOUTH BAY

Feb. 16, Wednesday, 8 p.m.
Public invited--no charge

Homestead High School
Room 5, Building C

Bob Gill will take us on a color-slide tour of the five major habitats of the South San Francisco Bay and show us many of the forty-three species of water associated birds which breed there. We shall see Great Blue Herons, Night Herons, Snowy Egrets, Clapper Rails, Terns, Avocets, Stilts and numerous other breeding species.

Mr. Gill is very knowledgeable about birds in the South Bay. In 1971 he was employed by the California Fish and Game Department to work on a Breeding Bird Survey of South San Francisco Bay. At present he is a graduate student and Research Assistant in Ornithology in the Avian Biology Laboratory at San Jose State College.

Please note: this meeting is on the third Wednesday of February instead of the usual fourth Wednesday.

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT RESULTS

Results of the Christmas Bird Count should be appearing in the next issue of 'THE AVOCET'.

Bob Gill, who is compiling the results, is in the midst of final exams at San Jose State College. It would be very unfair to ask Bob to shift his emphasis from finals to the Bird Count Tally, so we will wait a month before presenting the results.

Our thanks to Bob and all the other people who helped with the count this year.

Perhaps we can muster more volunteers next year and reduce the individual workloads.

FIELD TRIP REPORTS

Fanny Zwaal states the Oak Hill Park Field Trip last month resulted in at least 17 species being observed. Shrikes, Acorn Woodpeckers, Sparrow Hawks, and Lesser Goldfinches were among the species seen.

A LOOK AT CONSERVATION

A Black-Crowned Night Heron Chick, newly hatched from the smooth inner surface of the mother egg, rested uncomfortably on the nest at Blair Island in the San Francisco Bay. While appearing to be less than happy about having his photograph taken by Robert Edward Gill, he definitely is announcing, thru his open beak, that his picture is appearing on a new set of notes produced by the San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge Committee to support their efforts in preserving Bay plants and creatures.

This chick joins three other members of the feathered bunch in the new note series. The graceful flights of an American Avocet, a Willet and a Black-Necked Stilt have all been stopped in perfect photographs taken by Kenneth W. Gardiner of Menlo Park.

Printed on soft blue and an off-white with matching envelopes, the 10 notes of one subject are available for \$2.00 plus tax and postage. Part of this price will provide financial stability for the Wildlife Refuge Committee as they undertake a campaign to secure passage of a new Wildlife Refuge Bill. A check for \$2.25 covers the cost of the notes, tax and postage. Send it to P. O. Box 4386, San Jose, Ca., 95126 and the notes will fly your way.

About the new bill--it has a different number and an increase in acreage and money. Introduced by Rep. Don Edwards (D-S. J.), as House Resolution #12143, the measure lists more than half of the 36 members of the key House Merchant Marine and Fisheries Committee as co-authors, including the Committee Chairman, Rep. Garmartz (D-Maryland).

This Bill replaces last years HR 111 which was also introduced by Rep. Edwards. It has been a long road for the Wildlife Refuge Bills- this being number four. HR #12143 will provide for rounding out of the 21,662 acre refuge with an accompanying buffer zone for a total of about 23,000 acres. It also calls for funding in the amount of \$9 million for land purchases and \$11.2 million for the initial development and operations. This is really a great bill but--it will need your solid support!

Black-Crowned Night Herons, Avocets, Stilts, and Willets are depending on the establishment of the San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge for a home protected from so called progress- they are also available on notes to provide funds to send a committee representative to Washington for the full House Merchant Marine and Fisheries Committee hearings to be held next month.

A set of the four designs for your use in writing to friends and relations will help in the establishment of the Wildlife Refuge, it will also provide an unhappy Black-Crowned Night Heron Chick with a permanent home on Blair Island in San Francisco Bay.

Tony Look

PALO ALTO BLACKBIRDS

One of the immense autumn/winter congregations of blackbirds is within easy driving range for many SCVAS birders--at Hanover Street and Porter Drive in Palo Alto. (See Central Section maps of the Bay Area.) Currently, the birds begin to assemble shortly before 5 p.m., coming in flocks of various sizes from all directions. (The time of assembling is a bit later each day, in keeping with the lengthening of the days.) For about half an hour, the birds congregate in the air in the vicinity of the Hanover St. grove where they roost. Then, within a period of about 5 minutes--as if at a signal--all the thousands of them shoot down into their grove. (One watcher marveled that there are no collisions.)

Edwin Way Teale's description of the "homecoming" of the blackbirds at the Sacramento National Wildlife Refuge, in his Autumn Across America, is too vivid and succinct a portrayal of what you can expect to see for me to consider paraphrasing: "Before settling down for the night, the great clouds of birds--tens and hundreds of thousands of birds--turned and swooped in aerial evolutions, diving toward the marsh, zooming up again, whirling and dancing, flying in unison, seeming to enjoy the playtime after the work of the day."

On Saturdays and Sundays, there is ample space for your cars (or has been so far!) in the Lockheed parking lot on Hanover, just over the crest of the hill that leads down to Parter Drive, on the Porter side of the crest. Parking on Porter, at the side of the road, is always possible, but if you park there, walk up the hill to the vicinity of the Lockheed lot to watch. By far the best view of the show is from the crest of the hill--above the grove and with the birds against the sunset. If you want to see the birds on week-days, you will have to park on Porter because hundreds of cars pour forth from Hanover parking lots between 4:45 and 5:30.

I've never taught myself how to estimate the number of birds in huge flocks; I'd be interested in estimates of the size of the Hanover congregation from some experienced bird-counters.

Virginia Whipple
12139 Foothill Lane
Los Altos Hills

HAWAIIAN BIRDING AND SIGHTSEEING TRIP

Kathy and Bob Zedekar will be taking 18 people to the Islands with them again on their annual Hawaiian bird and sightseeing trip. Tentative plans are to leave on March 11th and return March 20th.

As before, the itinerary will include the four main islands, Oahu, Kauai, Maui, and the Big Island, Hawaii. Rental cars will be used on each island to give the flexibility needed for birding and visiting more remote spots on the islands.

Other planned activities include a buffet lunch at the Rockefeller's famous Mauna Kea Hotel, shopping in the charming town of Lahina, and swimming on the beautiful beach at Kaanapali.

The air fare to Hawaii is presently in a state of flux. The price for this trip, however, should be about \$400 per person. The approximate price of \$400 will include air fare, hotels, and car rentals.

Those interested contact: Kathy Zedekar, Field Trip Chairman, Sacramento Audubon Society, 3300 Moorewood Ct., Sacramento, Calif., 95821. Phone: (916) 482-2294.

AUDUBON BAY AREA COUNCIL NEWS

Conservationists should applaud the action of the Wills Fargo Bank... Twenty-five cents from each \$2 sale of scenic checks will henceforth be given to either the Audubon Society or Nature Conservancy, as the customer requests. This could amount to \$50,000 to the Audubon Society, according to Paul Howard, western representative of National Audubon. He was reporting to the Bay Area Audubon Council (BAAC) which held its quarterly meeting Jan. 8 in the Palo Alto Baylands Interpretive Center. Our Society hosted the meeting, with Jo Combs, Nancy Holmes, and Florence LaRiviere as local representatives.

BAAC has become widely interested in Northern Calif. conservation projects because of the extent of its membership. Phil Schaeffer, a UC Davis student in Paul Howard's office, described in detail the research into the extent of oil-sump bird deaths (possibly 500,000 a year!) and the measures being taken to obviate the problem. Jim Joes gave a touching plea for help for the beautiful American River, whose use to rafters, fisherman, and sight-seers will be gone if the East Bay Municipal Utility District (MUD) continues its plan to divert waters to the Folsom-South Canal--a move of questionable necessity. Save the American River Association aims to preserve the joys of a free-flowing river so rare as this one--in the midst of an urban area. For more information write: SARA, 5515 State Ave., Sacramento, Calif. 95819.

There are some exciting possibilities concerning Audubon members under consideration by the state park department. The load on park personnel is great--46 million people visited state parks last year. It is likely that qualified Audubon people will become involved in naturalist training programs, and other programs.

Robert Mallette, an employee of the State Department of Fish and Game, was welcomed as representative of the Sacramento chapter of which he is president. He brought with him a booklet just published by his department, 'At the Crossroads', most valuable source of the limited information that is available on California's endangered species. We highly recommend this volume. For your copy, send \$1 to: Director, California Department of Fish and Game, 1416 9th St., Sacramento, Calif. 95819. Refer to the Jan., 1972 issue of 'The Avocet' for more information on the states rare and endangered species.

Our own Society's Richard Mewaldt gave a slide presentation on the passerine banding he and his students have been doing on the beautiful Wool Ranch above Milpitas.

When he was not being upstaged by a marsh hawk outside the window, Paul Howard was particularly eloquent in his description of the interesting, small, face-to-face meetings with people in vital jobs planned for the Asilomar Conference in March.

Other reports concerned coastal legislation, wild river bills, the Pt. Arena nuclear reactor, wildlife refuges on the bay, and state conservation education.

Next BAAC meeting--April in Sacramento. Your ideas are solicited.

Florence LaRiviere
453 Tennessee Lane
Palo Alto, CA 94306

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

San Jose - Santa Clara - Saratoga - Cupertino

Halle D. Chako	1336 Fremont	Santa Clara, CA 95050
Mr. J. A. Kirtland	2586 Cottle Ave.	San Jose, CA 95125
W. N. Lindsay	10710 Ridgeview Ave.	San Jose, CA 95127
Leona M. Neuman	131 Warren Dr.	Santa Clara, CA 95051
Dr. Doris Parkinson M.D.	1437 Weaver Dr.	San Jose, CA 95125
R. B. Wilds & Family	14633 Ambric Knolls	Saratoga, CA 95070
John J. Moll	6394 Farmhill Way	San Jose, CA 95120
Mr. Robert Page	10125 Parkwood Dr. #4	Cupertino, CA 95014

Palo Alto - Los Altos - Los Altos Hills - Sunnyvale

W. F. Barnes	724 Arastradero Rd. Apt. 201	Palo Alto, CA 94306
Mrs. Helen Brisebat	3994 Sutherland Dr.	Palo Alto, CA 94303
Pamela Deuel	1040 California Ave.	Palo Alto, CA 94306
Mrs. V. M. Gould	3351 Alma St. #105	Palo Alto, CA 94306
John P. Lockwood	4018 Laguna Way	Palo Alto, CA 94306
Sandra Nichols	11670 Par Ave.	Los Altos, CA 94022
Irene B. Ortenberger	4281 Miranda Ave.	Palo Alto, CA 94306
Mr. & Mrs. Willard L. Reed	986 Leighton Way	Sunnyvale, CA 94087
Walter Tracey	12271 Hill Top Dr.	Los Altos Hills, CA 94022

Other Areas

Howard L. Cless	1415 Via Zurita	Claremont, CA 91711
Mrs. Charles D. Shane	P. O. Box 582	Santa Cruz, CA 95060

A REMINDER ABOUT ASILOMAR

The National Audubon Western Conference will be held March 25, 26, 27, 28 at Asilomar.

Conference highlights will include: a photo salon on display throughout the conference by Mr. Carl Miescke; 2 charter field trips; displays by Federal and State agencies and private organizations; and several conservation speakers.

For more program information and other needed material, send a request to AUDUBON CONFERENCE, 555 Audubon Place, Sacramento, California 95825.

S. C. V. A. S. OFFICERS & CHAIRMEN, 1971-72

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