

SANTA CLARA VALLEY AUDUBON SOCIETY, Inc.

478 CLIFTON AVENUE

SAN JOSE, CALIFORNIA 95128

AUDUBON SWITCHBOARD: 321-6008

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TIME VALUE

Volume 19, Number 89

November, 1972

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- November 5 Point Reyes Bird Observatory, Sunday, 9:45 am. Take Highway 1 to north end of Bollinas Bay, then about 1 1/2 miles s.w. on Olema-Bollinas Road. Right on Mesa Road about 4 miles. Remain on upper (ie, right) fork of road near station. Leader: Robert Steward of P.R.B.O., 415-868-1221.
- November 7 Board of Directors Meeting, Tuesday, 7:30 pm at the home of Ron Stecker, 5357 Rimwood Drive, San Jose. Any SCVAS member welcome.
- November 7 Bird Discussion Group, South County, Tuesday, 9:30 am at the home of Eve Case, 20537 Verde Vista Lane, Saratoga, 867-4748. Topic: "The Plain Titmouse."
- November 8 Field Trip South, Coyote River Park, Wednesday, 9:00 am. Monterey Road (US 101) south to Morgan Hill. East on Main Avenue (first stop light) just one block. Meet in the lot at intersection of Main and SP tracks. Leaders: Emmanuel and Mary Taylor, 408-779-9097.
- November 15 General Meeting, Wednesday, 8:00 pm, Homestead High School, Room 5, Building C. Dr. Thomas Harvey, Professor of Biology at California State University, San Jose, will discuss his studies of the human impact on the Sierra Wilderness. See Program note on page 3.
- November 17 Bird Discussion Group, North County, Friday, 9:30 am at the home of Erminie Haven, 460 Raquel Lane, Los Altos, 948-7732. Topic: "Winter Residents in the Sparrow Family." Bring binoculars.
- November 19 Sunol Regional Park, Sunday, 8:30 am. Nimitz Freeway to Mission Blvd. just 2 blocks. North on US 680 9 miles to Calaveras Road. South on Calaveras Road about 4 miles. Left at Sunol Park sign to Park Headquarters. Leader: Frank Farran, 252-3874.
- November 29 Field Trip North, Foothill Park, Wednesday 9:00 am. Meet at entrance to Foothill Park, Palo Alto, on Page Mill Road. Leaders: Ray and Kay McCann, 327-4138.

WANT TO DO SOMETHING IMPORTANT? . . . . VOTE!!

November 7 is the chance for your voice to be heard. Get out and vote! If you are truly interested in the environmental problems and candidates of the day, you should vote. Don't complain about the state of the environment if you don't vote!

ISSUES AND CANDIDATES

Conservationists for Responsible Government, an organization working to elect conservationists to local government, makes the following recommendations:

Dan McCorquodale for Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors.

Herb Rhodes for San Mateo County Board of Supervisors.

Patrick Ferrard for Director of Santa Clara County Flood Control and Water District.

Passage of Measure R--formation of a regional park district in northern Santa Clara County.

Passage of Measure A--San Mateo County--would provide \$40 million to protect the natural landscape and provide needed outdoor recreational opportunities.

Further information can be obtained from Education Chariman Nancy Holmes, 948-1854.

BOARD NOTES

Motion carried to increase the contributions to Save San Francisco Bas Association from \$10.00 to \$510.00 for the West Bay legal fund.

Motion carried to authorize Nancy Holmes, Gerald Grow, and Tony Look to negotiate with the Peninsula Conservation Center for space for display, sales, meetings, and telephone answering service.

Motion carried to send immediately \$500.00 of the \$1000.00 contribution allotted for Nature Conservancy, for use by them for whatever purpose they deem necessary.

AUDUBON WILDLIFE FILM REMINDER

The audubon Wildlife film "The Big Sky Wilderness" by Allan Cruickshank will be shown Tuesday, November 29 at 8 pm in San Jose. See the October Avocet for complete film information.

PROGRAM NOTE

Wednesday  
November 15, 8:00 pm

Homestead High School  
Building C, Room 5

WILDERNESS AND HUMAN IMPACT IN THE SIERRA

"Take nothing but pictures; leave nothing but footprints" is the Audubon theme. But as the wilderness becomes more popular, and footprints pile on footprints pile on footprints, the impact leaves scars time isn't long enough to heal. Dr. Thomas Harvey, Professor of Biology at California State University, San Jose (and, in the admittedly biased view of the program chairman, the best general biologist and ecologist most of us will ever have the privilege of knowing), will discuss his studies of "Wilderness and Human Impact in the Sierra."

Surely we, who love our "Range of Light" and know how to use and appreciate its solitude and beauty, cannot be accused of abusing it. Who, then, scars the high country, and how? Tom Harvey's findings will give us unusual problems and difficult solutions to ponder if we want to keep wilderness.



THANKS EMELIE!

Our thanks to Emelie Curtis, who edited the October Avocet while I was on vacation. A fine job, Emelie; and those sketches enhanced the paper very much. Perhaps you could find time to contribute a sketch or two for each issue--they're great!

A REMINDER OF BOOKS AND CALENDARS

Sierra Club wall calendars and engagement calendars for 1973 and books on conservation and outdoor activities may be purchased by SCVAS members through the Sierra Club's Loma Prieta Chapter office for discounts of at least 15%. The strikingly beautiful calendars and books make ideal gifts, and they may be ordered by mail for immediate shipment from Palo Alto.

Write for a free discount price list to the Book Sales Committee, Loma Prieta Chapter Office, 190 California Avenue, Palo Alto 94306. Or drop by the office and purchase your calendars and books there.

CONSERVATION MEMO

By the time you read this, Election Day will be almost upon us. Consequently, I want to discuss three ballot issues of vital importance to all conservationists: Propositions 14 and 20 and Measure R.

Proposition 14, the so-called "Tax Limitation Initiative" or "Watson Initiative," is a complex, seemingly beneficial proposal relating to property taxes that could cause untold damage to our environment. Proponents of Proposition 14 claim that homeowners' property taxes could be cut by 40 percent and that the revenues thus lost would be recaptured by increasing the sales tax by 2 cents, by increasing bank and corporation income taxes, by increasing cigarette and liquor taxes, and by creating a severance tax on oil and minerals. All this sounds great; however . . .

An analysis of Proposition 14 by the Nature Conservancy reveals the disastrous impact this initiative would have on the environment. Unfortunately, our limited space here prevents me from discussing the analysis in detail, but highlights of the probable environmental impact are:

The tax rate will be frozen into the state constitution with no provision for inflation; hence, local governments will be pressured into "expanding the tax base."

Land speculators will benefit by the lowered tax rate which will reduce their holding costs. This, coupled with the above situation, would effectively write into the constitution a tailor-made climate for greater speculation and urban sprawl.

Creation of new park and open space agencies would be extremely difficult due to an absolute prohibition that would be created against voter approval of any property tax based measure for operation of maintenance funds.

Coastline preservation efforts will be threatened even if we pass Proposition 20 (see below) for all the above reasons and many more.

I hope these necessarily brief comments will cause you to seriously consider the impact of Proposition 14 on the environment before you vote. More detailed information may be obtained by calling the Environmental Task Force Against 14 at 415-781-4159, San Francisco.

I discussed Proposition 20, The Coastline Initiative, in the Avocet last month, so I will only repeat here that passage of this initiative is literally our last chance to save the still unspoiled sections of our coast. I'm glad to report that members of SCVAS have donated generously of time and money to the Sierra Club's "Yes on 20" campaign conducted through its Loma Prieta Chapter office in Palo Alto. Additional funds will still be needed at this late date since the Chapter's campaign committee will have to go in debt to combat the rumored \$1.5 million propaganda drive waged against Proposition 20 by Whitaker and Baxter for the developers. Donations may be sent to the Loma Prieta Chapter office at 190 California Avenue, Palo Alto 94306, Attention: Nancy McLane. Checks may be made payable to "Coastline Campaign Fund." Further information may be obtained from Nancy at 415-328-6279.

Our last topic, Measure R, would create a Mid-Peninsula Regional Park District (MRPD) under the same state law that led to creation of the successful East Bay Regional Park District. The MRPD would extend roughly from Los Gatos and Monte Sereno to the San Mateo County line and from Skyline Boulevard to the baylands. The cities of Santa Clara and San Jose, and all of the south and east county beyond them, would not be included in the MRPD.

Creation of the MRPD would create a maximum tax increase within District boundaries of 10 cents per \$100 assessed valuation. This tax cannot be increased without voter approval. Tax revenues and matching Federal funds would be used to acquire and preserve open space in the foothills and baylands, thereby providing an important check to overdevelopment of the northern and central parts of our county. The District would be governed by five elected directors from five sub-districts. Creation of this District is, in my opinion, one of the most important things we can do locally to preserve some of our rapidly diminishing natural areas in the hills and baylands.

Whatever your inclinations, I urge all of you to VOTE on November 7. On the conservation front, our votes are, ultimately, the only thing that can prevent another Los Angeles from being created in the Santa Clara Valley and the coastal regions!

Gerald R. Grow  
Conservation Chariman

#### RIDE POOLING SYSTEM FOR FIELD TRIPS

We are instituting a ride pooling system for our field trips. It is only fitting that a conservation organization do all it can in the campaign against smog by elimination of wasteful automobile usage. Secondly, many of our older members find driving any distance through traffic so unpleasant that they choose to stay at home. Both elements of the problem deserve our full attention. Presently the system is effective only for part of the south county since we do not have a car pool coordinator for the north county. The mechanics of our car pooling system are as follows:

1. If you plan to go on a field trip, will be able to take passengers, and live in Cupertino, San Jose, Campbell, Saratoga, or Los Gatos, call: Nanette Whittgenstein at 354-9420.
2. If you desire to go on a field trip as a passenger, call Nanette Whittgenstein and she will give you the name and phone of the nearest available driver.
3. Passengers should help with the driving expenses. One and one half cents (1 1/2¢) per mile per passenger should be an appropriate rate in the average case.
4. Where pick up and delivery of a passenger would lengthen a trip, it is suggested that the passenger provide his own transportation to and from the driver's house.

It is obvious that the success of the program is dependent on an adequate number of volunteer drivers. Remember, drivers, that you can help the environment and help a friend at the same time.

Finally, anyone willing to act as North county car pool coordinator, please contact Frank Farran at 252-3874.

Frank Farran  
Field Trip Chairman



TREASURER'S REPORT

Summary: 1971-1972 expenditures

1972-1973 budget

Avocet Production	\$1338.96	\$1500.00	
Avocet Mailing	230.00	300.00	
Officers & Work Committees	248.00	275.00	
Social Expenses	34.12	35.00	
Tax Reports Filing Fees	5.00	5.00	
Audit	50.00	50.00	
Gift Membership	12.00	0.00	
Christmas Bird Count	45.00	50.00	
Audubon Telephone	161.68	140.00	
California Tomorrow	9.00	12.00	
Save SF Bay Association	10.00	10.00	(perhaps to be
Pt. Reyes Bird Observatory	100.00	150.00	increased)
Audubon Canyon Ranch	25.00	0.00	
California Coastal Alliance	150.00	500.00	(Sierra Club Coast
Condor Fund	300.00	300.00	Fund)
Sempervirens Fund	200.00	300.00	
Save the Redwoods League	100.00	100.00	
Audubon Camp 1/2 Scholarships	0.00	200.00	
SSF Bay Nat'l Wildlife Refuge	500.00	0.00	
United New Conservationists	10.00	25.00	
Nature Conservancy SFBay Project	750.00	1000.00	
Publicity	42.72	40.00	
Sub. to Audubon Leader	45.00	45.00	
Insurance	0.00	53.00	
	<u>\$4366.48</u>	<u>\$5090.00</u>	

Other notable expenditures last year:

Scholarship to Baylands Course	\$ 20.00
2 pair binoculars for Log Cabin Ranch	52.48
Dr. Henry Weston--Wilderness Impact Study: Birds & Waste	600.00
Monte N. Kirven--program travel expense	50.00
Nature Conservancy Elkhorn Slough Project	100.00

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Total receipts fiscal year ending May 31, 1972: \$6354.00

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Savings Account: Present Balance \$6048.92  
 Memorial Fund: 335.00 (including Emily Smith Memorial 170)  
 W. A. Proctor Memorial Fund 431.00 (to be transmitted to SSF Bay National Wildlife  
 Refuge when project decision is made)

Joyce T. Todd  
 Treasurer

### ORNITHOLOGY SEMINARS AT CORNELL UNIVERSITY

The Laboratory of Ornithology at Cornell University is offering a college-level course in ornithology to be undertaken at home. In nine seminars the course gives a substantial background in readable style for the appreciation and enjoyment of birds.

Each seminar has been prepared by one or more eminent ornithologists and profusely illustrated by well-known bird artists and photographers. The course is offered sequentially, with each seminar mailed to the participant for his study and completion before progressing to the next one. Upon his completion of the course, the participant will receive an appropriate certificate.

For further details, including the procedures and costs of enrollment, write to the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology, 159 Sapsucker Woods Road, Ithaca, New York 14850.



### FIELD TRIP REPORT

Martha Wilbur, Leader of Septembers' Palo Alto Baylands field trip, reports 40 bird species viewed on the trip. Hundreds of Violet-green Swallows and up to 200 Brown Pelicans were seen. The low tide brought many Dowitchers, Black-necked Stilts, Avocets, and Marbled Godwits to the flats. Also seen were White-tailed Kites.

### WINTER ARRIVALS

Nanette Wittgenstein reports hearing Golden Crowned Sparrows in her yard the last week of September. Daily since September 30, she has had Redbreasted Nuthatch in the trees surrounding her home. She spotted a female Wood Duck October 1 at Vasona Lake.

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Mr. Tony Look	411 Los Ninos Way, Los Altos 94022	968-3668

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Education:	Mrs. Nancy Holmes	843 Moana Ct., Palo Alto 94306	948-1854
Field Trips:	Fr. Frank Farran	20682 Scofield Dr., Cupertino 95014	252-3874
Historian:	Mr. Warren Turner	646 Alvarado Row, Stanford 94305	325-7777

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

(Cut out and send with remittance)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Membership: (Please check)

\_\_\_\_\_ \$12 individual

\_\_\_\_\_ \$15 family

Please remit proper amount with application

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