

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 *9 16*

December, 1972

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- December 2 Palo Alto Baylands, Saturday 9:00 am. Take Embarcadero Road exit east off of Bayshore. Go to end of Embarcadero Road. Meet at Nature Center across from Palo Alto Yacht Harbor. Leader: Ted Chandik, 493-5330.
- December 5 Bird Discussion Group, South County, Tuesday, 9:30 am at the home of Eve Case, 20537 Verde Vista Lane, Saratoga, 867-4748. Topic: "Ruby-crowned and golden-crowned Kinglets."
- December 12 Board of Directors Meeting, Tuesday, 7:30 pm at the home of Frank Farran, 20682 Scofield Drive, Cupertino. Any member welcome.
- December 13 Field Trip South, Canyon Drive, Saratoga, Wednesday 9:00 am. Saratoga-Los Gatos Road to Belle Ct. (About 1 mile from Saratoga or 3 miles from Los Gatos.) Park near 15355 Belle Cite. Leader: Nanette Wittgenstein, 354-9420.
- December 17 Christmas Bird Count, Sunday, 7 am at Security Savings, 2830 Alum Rock Avenue, San Jose. See pages and for complete information.

Note: There will be no North County Bird Discussion Group, or General Meeting this month. Please help with the Christmas Bird Count, your assistance will be appreciated.

FIELD TRIP CAR POOL COORDINATORS

Alice Oberg will be the car pool coordinator for Menlow Park, Woodside, Palo Alto, Los Altos, and Mt. View. Her phone number is 326-8794.

As announced last month, Nanette Whittgenstein (phone 354-9420) is the car pool coordinator for Cupertino, San Jose, Santo Clara, Campbell, Saratoga, and Los Gatos.

For easy reference their names will appear on the last page of The Avocet monthly.

FIELD TRIP REPORTS

Al Jamieson reports for the October trip to Alviso Baylands that 20 species of birds were seen including Sparrow Hawk, Black-necked Stilt, Avocet, Great Blue Heron, White Pelican, Snowy Egret, Kite, Black-bellied Plover, and 3 species of ducks. The tide at the drawbridge mudflats and the wind on the way back were both a bit high for optimum birdwatching, but it was none the less an interesting walk.

Ione Bradley states 25 species were seen during the October trip to the Webb Ranch. Among the species observed were Mourning Dove, Lesser Goldfinch, California Quail, Rock Dove, White-breasted Nuthatch, Acorn and Hairy Woodpecker. Highlight of the trip was sightings of Golden-crowned and Ruby-crowned Kinglets.

Mary and Emmanuel Taylor report an enjoyable trip, on a very pleasant day to Coyote Park in Morgan Hill on November 8. Among the 36 species seen were White Throated Swifts, Wood Duck, Common Gallinule, and Huttons Vireo.

1972 CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

Once again this year the SCVAS will be conducting its annual Christmas Bird Count. As you probably know, the National Audubon Society coordinates a nation-wide bird survey during the month of December. Over 200 local Audubon Chapters in all 50 states and Canada participate in the count. The information gathered is compiled and used by professional ornithologists to study bird populations and migratory patterns. It provides the members of the SCVAS an opportunity to be part of this important scientific study.

In order to improve the thoroughness and accuracy of the count we have changed it in several ways. We have moved our 15 mile circle (the area we have the responsibility of surveying) two miles to the North in order to cover more of the baylands and mountain areas. We have changed the date to Sunday, December 17th so more birders can participate. And we have increased the number of sections from five to two to allow a greater degree of participation from members, and to assure a complete survey.

Remember, you need not be an expert birder to participate. You can gain valuable field experience by accompanying an observer and being his recorder. We would like to have as many of our members (and their guests) turn out for this important survey as possible. So, do come, a good days birding is assured!!

WHEN - Sunday, December 17th at 7 a.m. sharp

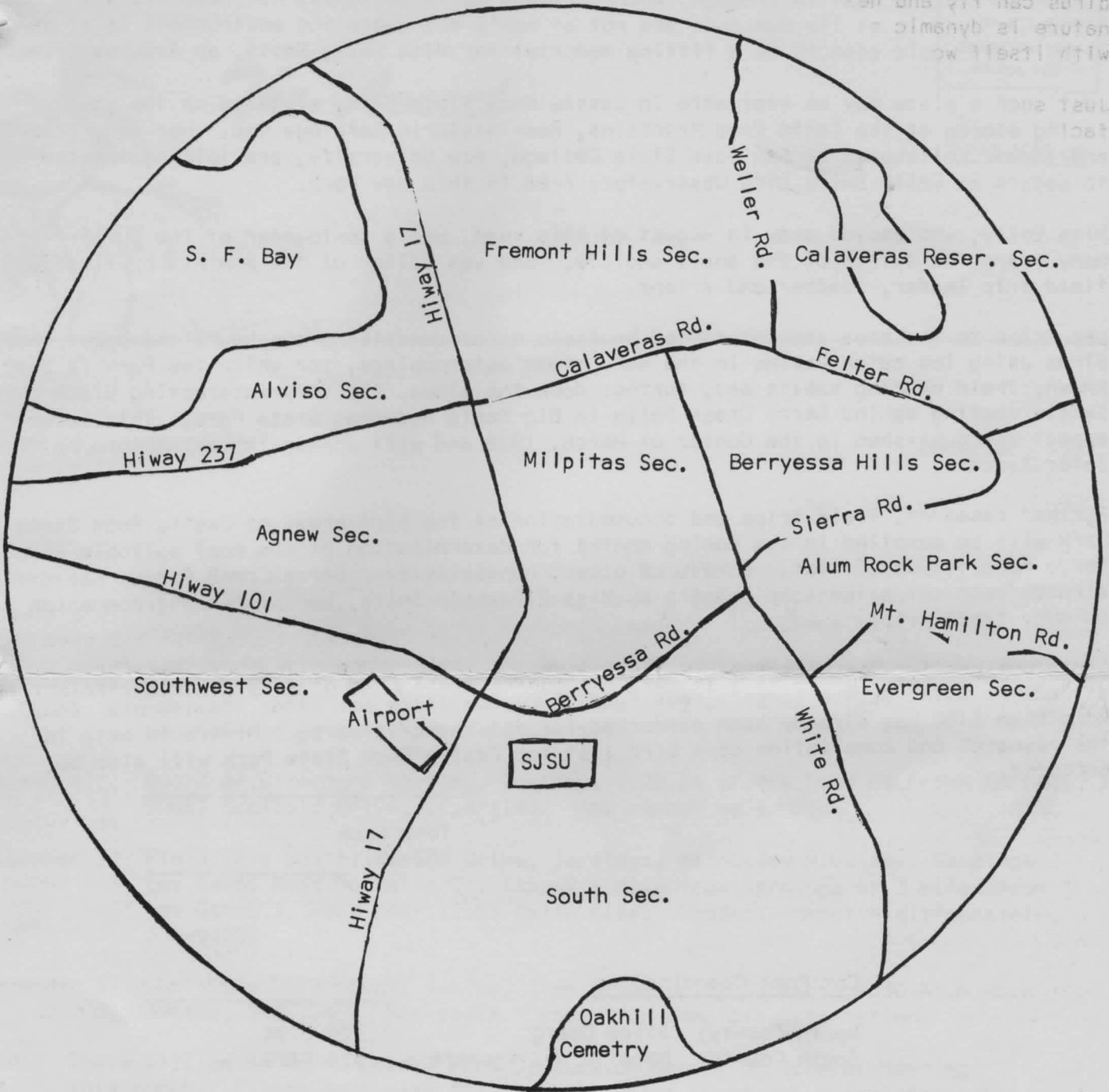
WHERE - Meet at Security Savings
2830 Alum Rock Avenue
San Jose

Look at the map on the opposite page and choose a section that appeals to you, then get in contact with the Section Leader. If you don't know the territory and if you have any questions, please feel free to call me any evening or just report to the above location on December 17th at 7:00 am, where assignments will be made. We will all meet at 4:30 pm at Security Savings for the tally. Refreshments will be served at that time.

Mike Brady
Count Coordinator
Phone # 998-3159

An upland area, partially
birds can fly and nest
nature is dynamic
with itself

Just
fact



SECTION LEADERS

Alviso Sec -- Tom Harvey, 243-6956

Fremont Hills Sec -- Bob Yatzy, 968-8804

Calaveras Res Sec -- Al Wool, 747-0317

Berryessa Hills Sec -- Frank Farran, 252-3874

Alum Rock Park Sec -- Betty Lou Burge, 253-3545

Evergreen Sec -- Emily Curtis, 779-2627

South Sec -- Gary Scopettone, 258-6827

Southwest Sec -- Mike Brady, 998-3159

Agnew Sec -- Tom Myers, 356-7411

Milpitas Sec -- Nancy Holmes, 948-1854

REMEMBERING MISS EMILY

An upland area, partially wooded but still open enough for wild flowers to bloom, where birds can fly and nest in freedom, where friends can observe but not destroy, where nature is dynamic at its own pace and not at man's and where the environment is at peace with itself would seem to be a fitting memorial for Miss Emily Smith, an Audubon friend.

Just such a place may be available in Castle Rock State Park, situated on the west facing slopes of the Santa Cruz Mountains, near historic Saratoga Gap. Her many friends and former colleagues at San Jose State College, now University, are joining together to secure an Emily Smith Bird Observatory Area in this new Park.

Miss Emily, who passed away in August of this year, was a co-founder of the SCVAS--for many years the spirit of the small society. She was Editor of the monthly publication, field trip leader, teacher and friend.

Her trips to the area are documented by field notes describing the hours she spent there. Birds using the catch basins in the sand stone outcroppings, for which the Park is best known, their nesting habits and, further down the slope, the very interesting Black Swifts nesting behind Berry Creek Falls in Big Basin Redwoods State Park. This later aspect was published in the Confor of March, 1928 and will appear in serial form in later Avocets.

Further research, field trips and documentation of the bird areas of Castle Rock State Park will be compiled in the coming months for determination of the most suitable area for a memorial dedication. A redwood grove, hopefully near Berry Creek Falls, has already been set aside in Big Basin by Miss Elizabeth Smith, her sister and companion on many field trips.

Contributions for the Miss Emily Smith Bird Observatory Area will be accepted by either the SCVAS or the Sempervirens Fund, P.O. Box 1141, Los Altos, California 94022. More than \$450 has already been earmarked for this memorial area. Offers to help in the research and compilation of a bird list for Castle Rock State Park will also be accepted.

Tony Look
252-3911

Car Pool Coordinators

North County: Alice Oberg 326-8794
South County: Nanette Whittgenstein 354-9420

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

THE AVOCET is published monthly, except July and August. Copy deadline: 2 days after the published date set for the Board of Directors Meeting. Editor: Dick Knoetzsch, 1193 Somerset Drive, San Jose, 95132. Staff: Elsie Hoeck, addressing; Charles and Fanny Zwaal, mailing, 476 Clifton Avenue, San Jose, 95128. Please notify the Zwaal's in writing if your address has or will change.