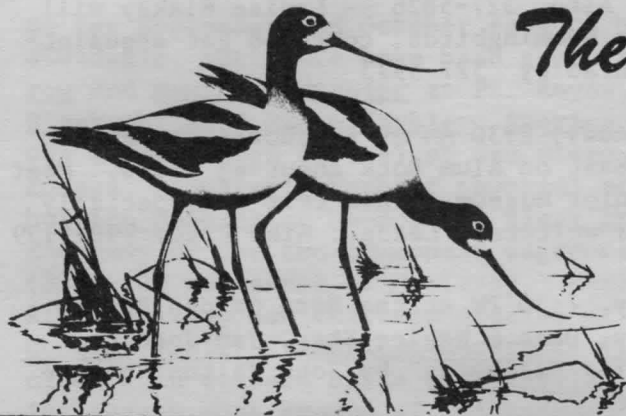


SANTA CLARA VALLEY AUDUBON SOCIETY, Inc.

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The Avocet

TIME VALUE

Volume 20, Number 9

November 1973

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- October 31 Field Trip North County Wednesday, 9:00 AM -- Foothills Park
Meet at the entrance on Page Mill Rd., Palo Alto. Bring a lunch
if you'd like; we'll bird and enjoy the fall foliage. Come and
get acquainted. Leader: Barbara Allen 326-0521
- October 31 Audubon Wildlife Film Wednesday, 8:00 PM Morris Dailey Auditorium
at CSUSJ. The film: "West Side Story-Mexico to Alaska" -- please
see October AVOCET for particulars
- November 1 Audubon Wildlife Film Thursday, 7:30 PM Spangenberg Auditorium
of Gunn High School, 780 Arastradeo Rd., Palo Alto. "West Side
Story-Mexico to Alaska" -- see October AVOCET for particulars
- November 6 Bird Discussion Group Tuesday, 9:30 AM at the home of Eve Case,
20537 Verde Vista Lane, Saratoga, CA Topic: "Audubon's Warbler"
- November 10 Isenberg Ranch Trip Saturday, 9:00 AM LaHonda Road to Skyline
Blvd. Left about 4½ miles on Skyline to a side road on right marked
Isenberg Ranch, etc. Down side road to end. About 1 hour from
Palo Alto. Leader: Howard Wolcott 321-6694
- November 12 Board of Director's Meeting Monday, 7:30 PM at the Peninsula Con-
servation Center, 1176 Emerson St., Palo Alto, CA 328-5313
Members are cordially invited to attend
- November 14 Field Trip South Sunol Regional Park, Wednesday, 8:30 AM -- Nimitz
Freeway to Mission Blvd. East on Mission Blvd. 2 blocks. North
on US 680 nine miles to Calaveras Rd. South on Calaveras Rd. about
4 miles. Left at sign to Park Headquarters. We'll be in Head-
quarters area till 9:00 AM Leader: Ted Graf 296-6499

- November 14 General Meeting North Wednesday, 7:30 PM at Palo Alto Baylands Interpretive Center -- "Hawk Talk" -- by Dr. Joe Greenberg
See this AVOCET for more information
- November 15 Bird Discussion Group Thursday, 9:30 AM at the home of Eleanor Hollis, 2299 Bryant St., Palo Alto, 327-5826 -- Louise Blakey will present her slides and talk on Hummingbirds; come and get acquainted. All are welcome. Ione Bradley 327-5973
- November 18 Alum Rock Park Field Trip Sunday, 8:30 AM -- Bayshore Freeway to Alum Rock Ave. in San Jose. East on Alum Rock about 4½ miles. Meet in parking lot in front of Junior Museum. This trip is especially for beginners, but everyone is welcome. Leader: Mike Brady 998-3159
- November 27 General Meeting South Tuesday, 7:30 PM at the Rose Garden Branch of the San Jose Public Library, Dana & Naglee Sts., San Jose. "Crickets to Crumpets -- Looking Backwards" by John Walton; please see this AVOCET for particulars.
- November 28 Audubon Wildlife Film Wednesday, 8:00 PM at Morris Dailey Auditorium on the CSUSJ campus. "High Country" with moderator David Stirling; see this AVOCET for note.
- November 28 Field Trip North County Wednesday, 9:00 AM to Searsville Lake
This property has changed hands lately due to the death of Mr. Clapp. We're doing this as an experimental trip but hope we can continue next year; there is an admission charge of \$.50 to the property. Go west on Sand Hill Rd. past Route 280 about 3 miles; you'll pass Whiskey Hill Rd. on the right and go another 8/10 of a mile to the entrance to the Park. Meet there. Leader: Kay McCann 327-4138
- December 12 Field Trip South Loma Prieta Rd., Wednesday, 9:00 AM -- Highway 17 south from Los Gatos about 6 miles to Summit Rd. On Summit, go 1 mile past school. Left on Loma Prieta 1 and 1/3 miles to mail box 24795 (Duncan is name on box). Leader: Margaret Henderson 353-3041
- December 15 Audubon Christmas Count Saturday -- map and other information will be furnished in December AVOCET; please refer to note in this AVOCET for information from Count Coordinator.
- January ?? Local Owl Trip Seeking Pygmy, Saw-whet, Screech, Horned, Burrowing and Barn Owls; please see note in this AVOCET from Bob Yutzky.

LOCAL OWL TRIP

Since this item appears in our Calendar of Events, a short note might be in order. Last year some 100 brave people showed up (in lousy weather) for this trip; it seems that both the trip leader and the owls were shocked. This year Bob Yutzky has asked that people interested in this late January trip drop him a post card; just include your name and the number expected in your group. If the response is overwhelming, Bob may plan two separate trips. Bob will set up a schedule -- details in next month's AVOCET. Please send your card to: Bob Yutzky, 1625 Hazelaar Way, Los Altos, CA 94022

WHERE IT'S AT

November should bring us winter land visitors, the last migrating hawks (Point Diablo-Fort Cronkite, Marin), ducks and geese everywhere especially in the refuges. Also the wintering shorebirds will be coming in.

So far September and October seem to be below average in numbers of species and individuals, but there have been some fine birds seen. Land Birds: Clay-colored Sparrow and Mourning Warbler at Pt. Reyes, Black-throated Blue Warbler at Fort Cronkite, Black-throated Green Warbler, American Redstart and a Bay-breasted Warbler (which I was lucky enough to see) at San Diego on Pt. Loma, Parula Warbler at Livermore and Eureka, Brewster's Warbler (hybrid) at Eureka, Magnolia Warbler at Monterey, Blackburnian Warbler at Mendocino, Black and White and Tennessee Warbler at Monterey, and many of the two commonest vagrants, the Blackpoll (9 in two weekends) and Palm (3 in two weekends) at Monterey. Early in October at Monterey our group led by Rich Stallcup saw thirteen species of warblers, the most natables included a male Hooded, Prairie, American Redstart, Palm and Redpoll. This total did not even include such western birds as Nashville, MacGillivray's or Hermit. In the non-breeding season most groups of Chickadees, Bushtits, and Kinglets have warblers mixed in with them, as many of the previous eastern birds were. While looking for the Tropical Kingbird in Monterey we were lucky and found two. Incidentally, if you have never visited the Museum of Natural History in Pacific Grove, you're missing a treat!! Fifty Golden Plovers were seen in one field and 5 Franklin's Gulls in one group of ponds -- all at Arcata. The small mudflat near the parking lot at the Palo Alto Baylands sometimes has a Franklin's Gull. Woodland "Sugar Ponds" produced a Sharp-tailed Sandpiper, a Golden Plover, and 30 Pectoral Sandpipers. Gray Jays are being found as far south as Mt. Shasta.

Pelagics: 3 Thick-billed Murres, with one still present on Oct. 14 at the Coast Guard Pier in Monterey. Boat trips were not that productive, but some good sightings were made. Pale-footed, Manx and New Zealand Shearwaters, Craveri's Murrelet, Skuas, Black-footed Albatross, and early Fulmar, and many saw from five to ten thousand Petrel's (Blacks and Ashy, a few Leach's and 1 or 2 Wilson's). In Monterey Bay (where else?) there have been at least 8 species of Alcids; Common and Thick-billed Murres, Cassin's and Rhino Auklet, Xantu's and Marbled Murrelet, Tufted Puffin and Pigeon Guillemot.

Other animals: One boat trip saw some Finback, and a probable pair of rarely seen Blue Whales, Northern and California Sea Lions, Sea Otters, Harbor Seals, as well as Dall's and Harbor Porpoises, Pacific White-sided Dolphins, Blue Sharks, Ocean Sunfish and Jellyfish. Sea Lions, Seals and Otters can easily be seen either on the Coast Guard Pier, in the harbor or along the coast between Lover's Point and Point Pinos. The meadows at Crane Flat are good for Mountain Coyotes.

Birds to look for: Northern Shrike, Geese and Ducks, Common Mergansers on inland lakes and ponds, such as the Morgan Hill reservoirs, Foothill Park before the people arrive, and Sandy Wool Park in San Jose. From Pt. Pinos Jaegers (usually the Parasitics are near shore) can be seen (sometimes) chasing terns or gulls. Shearwaters can also be seen from shore. Many of the less commonly seen rocky shorebirds are often there too, such as Oystercatchers, Surfbirds, Tattlers and Spotted Sandpipers; look anywhere from the pier to the point. In Monterey Harbor between Fisherman's Wharf and the Coast Guard Pier it is hoped that the King Eider (female) will reappear this year. Check Moss Landing, Berkeley Pier, Mendocino Coast and other likely spots for Oldsquaw and Common Scoters. Fulmars can sometimes be seen from Monterey's Fishing Pier, and in the early AM some Alcids can often be seen.

(Concluded on next page)

Start setting December dates aside for Christmas Counts (we'll list dates next month).

I want to thank everyone for the letters, and for birds and bird reports I thank Van Remsen, Dave DeSante and especially Rich Stallcup; most importantly I want to thank Ted Chandik for his suggestions and support.

Bob Yutzy

NOTES ON THE NOVEMBER GENERAL MEETINGS

Palo Alto Baylands Interpretive Center
End of Embarcadero Rd.
Palo Alto, CA

Wednesday 7:30 PM
November 14, 1973

"Hawk Talk" -- Dr. Joe Greenberg will describe the differences between them, and show the skills of the various species. He's an expert so come and learn. By the way, this meeting is being held a week early due to Thanksgiving. Refreshments will be served at 7:30, and the show starts at 8:30, so bring your friends.

Kay McCann

Rose Garden Branch
San Jose Public Library
Dana & Naglee Streets
San Jose, CA

Tuesday 7:30 PM
November 27, 1973

"Crickets to Crumpets -- Looking Backwards"...this is an unusual and original show with slides and artifacts designed and presented by Palo Alto Naturalist John Walton. Mr. Walton presents a carefully researched story of the Indians of the San Francisco Peninsula and their dependency on plants and animals. This is your opportunity for an entertaining and enlightening evening, so come and enjoy!!!

Florence La Riviere

FIELD TRIP REPORTS

Martha Wilbur and Dorothy Taylor report that the September 26 trip to the Palo Alto Baylands was a fine affair; the rising tide and the return of many winter visitors made good birding for the 35 viewers. Among the 46 species sighted, the highlights were 2 Snow Geese at the Duck Pond, about 20 White Pelicans, Clapper Rails, Yellowthroats, Whimbrels, and Audubon (now called Yellow-rumped) Warblers.

Emmanuel and Mary Taylor reported that the October 10 jaunt to Coyote River Park (Morgan Hill) was a very pleasant day; some 29 birders were on hand. A total of 29 species was listed among which were Western Wood Pewee, Rock Wren, Common Gallinule, Black-throated Gray Warbler, and Golden Eagle. Several of the group were only a few feet below the dive of a Cooper's Hawk upon a Black Phoebe; the hawk missed the strike by about 6 inches.

Bob Yutzy reports that the October 14 Field Trip to Monterey was a roaring success; approximately 46 species were seen. The most notable sightings were a good look at a superb Thick-billed Murre, as well as Tennessee, Blackpoll and Townsend Warblers, Sora and Virginia Rails, Sooty Shearwaters, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Lincoln Sparrow, Snipe, White-winged Scoter, and a group of Elegant Terns fishing. The group also saw Harbor Seals, Northern and California Sea Lions and Sea Otters.

The two lovely line drawings on this page were done especially for the Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society by Andrea Hendrick. Both the pair of Burrowing Owls and the Horned Lark are available in 5"x7" note cards from our headquarters at 1176 Emerson St. Palo Alto, CA 94301 -- or at either of the next General Meetings. The price is \$2.00 for a set of 10 cards; if ordering by mail please include \$.25 postage. Shop early; avoid Christmas rush!!



FINANCIAL CRISIS AT POINT REYES BIRD OBSERVATORY

From a modest beginning studying 3 races of the White-crowned Sparrow, Point Reyes Bird Observatory (PRBO) has grown into a unique and respected institution of ornithological research, the only one of its kind on the West Coast. In cooperation with public agencies and educational institutions, PRBO continues to increase knowledge of the breeding biology and migratory movements of sea and land birds along the California coast.

After a four-year shorebird census of Limantour Estero, PRBO established that the original plans for the estuary would have wiped out one of the choicest shorebird feeding areas on Point Reyes National Seashore. In cooperation with other bird students throughout the state, Operation Transect enabled a preliminary understanding of the migratory movements of California landbirds. Farallon Island biologists have protected and studied little-known pelagic birds. These island ornithologists also discovered an amazing variety of Eastern vagrants which find a kind of haven in the mist net which spreads under the Farralon's lone tree.

More recently, PRBO has offered extension courses in avian biology, and has begun to use birds as biological indicators of the health of the ecosystem, such as seabirds as a reflection of the abundance of oceanic resources.

Throughout the years, the support system for the observatory has fluctuated. Grants have come and gone, as have funds from public agencies. Membership support has grown steadily, but has represented no more than 50% of the operational budget. Right now PRBO needs your help. If you feel that the kind of studies described above warrant your support, we urge you to become a member or send a gift; your donation is of course tax-deductible. The address is as follows:

Point Reyes Bird Observatory
Box 321
Bolinas, CA 94924

Annual Memberships:

Student	\$5.00
Regular	7.50
Family	10.00
Sustaining	15.00
Contributing	30.00
Life	225.00
Patron	1000.00

Ruth Troetschler

Audubon Wildlife Film

A short note on that November 28 screening at CSUSJ; "High Country" narrated by David Stirling takes us across the tops of the mountains that cover nearly 80% of British Columbia. Shot from helicopter, the film takes us into inaccessible crevasses and ends with a visit to the Forbidden Plateau on Vancouver Island. Why not make it an evening at the movies?

WHERE WE ARE AND A THANK YOU

The Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society has received a few calls regarding that mysterious Emerson Street address which appears on the front of the AVOCET. Well! We are hardly a fly-by-night operation, but now and then we do change our address for perfectly legitimate reasons. That mysterious number is the Peninsula Conservation Center (PCC) and is really a lovely old rambling white building in a perfectly respectable neighborhood in Palo Alto, and provides office space not only for the Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society, but also for other erstwhile organizations such as the Loma Prieta Chapter of the Sierra Club, the Committee For Green Foothills, the Peninsula Conservation Foundation, and the Environmental Volunteers. By the way, the Society's library is also housed at PCC, and this includes not only much new and up-to-date pamphlets, books, etc., but also a few old rarities in bird literature. Members and their friends are welcome to drop in at the Center to see the place -- it's really very charming.

For many years now our long-time Audubon member Helen Proctor has answered phone calls for the Society; in older editions of THE AVOCET that "Audubon Switchboard" was in fact Helen's home. We might add that answering calls for the Society is a big job; crippled birds, meetings, field trips, where's my AVOCET -- Helen answered these and a host of other inquiries for years and years. May this small note serve as a THANK YOU to Helen Proctor for her efforts as Audubon Switchboard; with the establishment of the PCC Helen gave her ears a well-deserved rest!!

And so, the mystery is all cleared up -- when you call that Emerson Street number the phone rings at PCC, and that's US. Do we make ourselves perfectly clear??

A WORD ABOUT THE CHRISTMAS COUNT

Bob Yutzy mentioned in his WHERE IT'S AT column that we should start setting aside dates for the Christmas Count; our local count is scheduled for 15 December, a Saturday. Our Count Coordinator is again Mike Brady. Mike did such a fine job last year he was willing to take on the task again this year. We'll publish the map for the various census areas in next month's AVOCET, but in the meantime Mike has asked that people who will be participating in the Count for the Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society please give him a call early, so he has a good line on just who is going where, how many, experience, section leaders, etc. Mike can be reached at the following numbers:

Mike Brady
277-2359 (during the day at CSUSJ)
998-3159 (home during the evening)

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\$12 individual

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Remit proper amount with application to:

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950 Third Avenue

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(Please affiliate this application with
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