



The Avocet

TIME VALUE

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- May 1 Field Trip South, Byrne Park, Wednesday 8:30 A.M. Interstate 280 to Moody Road, west on Moody Road about one mile, right on Altamont Road, meet at intersection of Altamont and Taaffee Roads in Los Altos Hills. Leaders: Jean and Frank Farran, 252-3874.
- May 7 Bird Discussion Group, Tuesday, 9:30 A.M. at the home of Eve Case, 20537 Verde Vista Lane, Saratoga, Calif. Topic: "Sapsuckers".
- May 19 Pajaro Dunes Field Trip, Sunday, 9:00 A.M. South on State route 1 from Santa Cruz to vicinity of Watsonville. Right on Riverside Drive. Right almost immediately again at gas station. Left at first stop sign and go toward beach on Beach Rd. The Pajaro Dunes Gate House is at end of Beach Rd. You will be directed from there. Leaders: Ricky & John Warriner (415) 851-1936
- May 23 Bird Discussion Group, Thursday, 9:30 A.M. Meet at Eleanor Park, Center Street, and Channing Avenue, Palo Alto for bird watching. We will go to Lucy Burian's, Palo Alto, 1469 Pitman Street, 323-0166, afterwards to discuss the California Thrasher and have refreshments. Bring binoculars and get acquainted. Ione Bradley, 327-5973
- May 29 Jasper Ridge Field Trip, Wednesday, 9:00 A.M. We'll go to the Jasper Ridge side of Searsville Lake. From route 280 go west on Sandhill Road about 3 miles to the toll entrance at the Lake. You will pass Whiskey Hill Rd., on your right then go another 8/10 of a mile to the entrance on your left. We'll meet here and proceed to the far side of the Lake. We should see some things nesting along the edge of the lake. Leaders: K. McCann, 327-4138; Carol Zabol, 948-5671; Frank Farran, 252-3874
- June 1 Coe Park, Saturday. South on U. S. 101 to Morgan Hill. East on Dunne Ave., at Coe Park sign. Follow Dunne across Anderson Reservoir and up into the hills. Dunne become Mineral Springs Rd. and after 10 miles or so of mountain driving the road ends at park headquarters, our meeting place. This will be a strenuous hike. If you have doubts, check with leader. Wear boots. Bring lunch and canteen. Early birders should arrive at 6:00 a.m. Leader will return for not-so-early birders at 8:00 A.M. Please

remember that we are subject to the usual State Park fees. Leader has car space for 6 people. Leader: Diana Mathiesen, 867-5363

June 4 May and June General Meetings, fooled you, didn't we? See note in this AVOCET!!!

June 10 Board of Directors Meeting, Monday, 7:30 at the Peninsula Conservation Center (address above AVOCET logo)

FIELD TRIP REPORTS

A HIKE TO THE EMILY SMITH BIRD OBSERVATION POINT, CASTLE ROCK STATE PARK (MARCH 16)

Catching a flash of color, a song or a glimpse of a bird in flight was enough for several of the experts to identify 20 species of birds as our group hiked to the Emily Smith Bird Observation Point in Castle Rock State Park.

We arrived at the Point in time for lunch after a hike down the Creek Trail to Castle Rock Falls, then across to Face Trail below Varian Peak, a short climb to the Saddle and lunch. The view from here ranges north to San Mateo County, West to Big Basin and South to Monterey Bay and Santa Cruz. It is an inspirational place, especially with a red tailed hawk soaring out over the canyon.

Among the 20 species identified were the white-throated Swift, a winter Wren, and a golden crowned Kinglet. A pigmy Owl was heard by Frank Farrin and Emily Curtis.

Everyone on the hike expressed their enjoyment and expressed the desire that the hike to the Emily Smith Bird Observation Point become an annual pilgrimage. If you want to see for yourself but don't want to wait until next year, drop me a self-addressed stamped envelope and you will receive a map of Castle Rock State Park properly marked.

Tony Look
P. O. Box 1141
Los Altos, Calif. 94022

About 20 people attended the Audubon Trip on March 27th to The Hidden Villa Ranch in Los Altos Hills. Mr. Duveneck joined us and was kind enough to show us around his gardens.

Notable birds seen were purple finches, Allen's and Anna's hummingbirds, a Townsend's Warbler, Varied Thrush, Violet green and barn swallows, and an orange-crowned warbler. Thirty-four species of birds were seen in all. (Also 7 baby pigs with their parents.)

Carol Zabel

Twenty members enjoyed a beautiful day of birding at Stevens Creek County Park March 13. A few warm days and some rain had made the park a real greenhouse for Spring plants. Of particular interest was a unique pattern of holes in the bark of a Carob tree made by a Sapsucker. Among the 29 kinds of birds sighted were: Orange-Crowned and Townsend's Warblers, Ruby-Crowned Kinglet, Hutton's Vireo, Hairy and Acorn Woodpeckers, Cooper's Hawk, White-Breasted Nuthatch, Lesser Goldfinch, and Brown-Creeper.

Bruce Vesey

WHERE IT'S AT

May is one of the most exciting times for birding. Spring migration brings many vagrants, especially warblers, but also show most birds in their best colors. Edges, marshes and land areas are generally the places to search. Spring pelagic trips are also occurring, usually with quiet and calm seas. This month's site guide is to Monterey, Carmel and Moss Landing.

So far March and April have brought some good sightings. Death Valley had a Red-breasted Merganser (normally oceanic), Goshawk, Osprey, Tree Sparrow, many Yellow-headed Blackbirds, a cooperative Poor-will, and an impressive array of wild-flowers. Laysan Albatross sightings were reported from Monterey and S. F.; they are usually not seen south of Arcata, and seldom seen there. Watsonville produced a group of 14 Cattle Egrets. Two Cattle Egrets have been in Alviso since early April and just might stay a while. They have been frequenting the fields north of Route 237 (Mountain View-Alviso Road), east of Carribbean-Lawrence exit. Black Scoters have liberally been seen along the coast and even on the bay. S. F. had 30, and Pescadero, Pigeon Point, Ano Nuevo and Princeton usually yield a few. Many scattered sightings of Oldsquaws have been reported from Monterey to Point Reyes. The infamous King Eider is still being seen near Monterey's Fisherman's Wharf, as is an Oldsquaw. (The eider is getting prettier, too.) As you may have seen or hear, many Northern and Hooded Orioles, Solitary and Warbling Vireos, Western, Olive-sided and Ash-throated Flycatchers are back, as are Western and in some areas Cassin's Kingbirds. Bank Swallows are best seen at Lake Merced or the beach near the S. F. Zoo. This seems to have been a good time for Rufous Hummingbirds passing through. Speaking of rufous, the Rufous-backed Robin (see Jan. notes) has been seen off and on through early April. Spotted Owl reports have been coming in from the Sonoma area. Does anyone know where to see (many have heard--but few have seen) Flammulated Owls.

The Audubon Conference half day pelagic trip produced the Eider and the Oldsquaw, of course, with 2 Kittiwakes (on rocks at end of Coast Guard Pier), 2,000 Sooty's and 5 Pink-footed Shearwaters, 2 Black-footed Albatross, Black Brant, 6 Pomarine Jaegers, and 100 Rhino Auklets. Many more birds were in their finery, Horned, and Eared Grebes, Brandt's and Pelagic Cormorants, to name a few. Coyote Hills Park in mid April had another Redhead, 2 Western Kingbirds, a Lincoln's Sparrow, American Bitterns, and Northern Orioles. Pescadero Marsh is a super place to see American Bitterns. Any good shorebirding area should show you some of the regulars at their best. Black-bellied Plovers (fantastic-like the pictures), Dunlins and if you're lucky some fine Red Knots. Palo Alto Flood Basin still had a Redhead in mid April. On a recent April little "Big Day" count covering slightly over 200 miles of driving on the S. F. peninsula, 3 observers saw 160 species. We are lucky to live in an area that on any one day should produce at least 100 species. Any challengers?

Monterey, Carmel and Moss Landing. This is the most productive of the birded areas in Northern California. During certain times of the year (different for each bird), many rarely seen migrants or vagrants stop in these havens and coastal points. The Pacific Grove Museum is an excellent place to see specimens of these rarities and find out what may be around. The first stop (or the last) on the way to Monterey is at Moss Landing. The harbor and Jetty Road area are excellent for shorebirds and waterbirds almost any time of the year. Birds include Yellow-billed Loon, Red-necked Grebe, Oldsquaw (5 at one time), Craveri's Murrelet, Least, Common and especially Elegant Terns, Parasitic Jaeger

Lesser Yellowlegs, Red Knots and in the eastern marshes the Flamingo escapes. The first stop in Monterey should be the piers and harbor area. The Municipal Pier is best for Fulmars, Red-necked Grebe, Oldsquaw, Yellow-billed Loon, Alcids, Red-breasted Merganser and occasionally Petrels. Fisherman's Wharf with all it's shops and restaurants (including the one at the end with the upper observation deck) is central to the harbor and can have any of the birds mentioned. Between the wharf and the Coast Guard Pier is one of the best plces for rocky shorebirds and the Eider. The Coast Guard Pier is good for Yellow-billed Loons, Thick-billed Murre, Red-necked Grebe, Petrels, Sea Lions, plus Brandt's and Pelagic Cormorants in breeding plumage. Following the coast west past Lover's Point and Otter Point (both are good observation points) look for 115th and 12th streets and a grove of Eucalyptus trees (Greenwood Park) which can be good for Orioles (including Baltimore's race) and Warblers. Continue along the coast to Esplanade Street and turn up to Esplanade Park. These pines are real good for Warblers, especially Townsend's, also Blackpolls and Nuthatches and Kinglets. Come back along the shore to Point Pinos, the most northwesterly point. Crespi Pond (the little pond on the golf course) is open to the public inside the fenced-in area. This is the place for Sora and Virginia Rails, as well as Mergansers, Blue-winged Teal and Snipe; next to there, the treatment plant is great for rare flycatchers, like Eastern Kingbird. All the tree areas on the point are excellent for good warblers-Tennessee and Blackpoll, to name two. On the rocky point and off the coast look for Black-legged Kittiwakes, Shearwaters, Petrels, Albatross, Oystercatcher and other rocky shorebirds, Gulls including Thayer's and Mergansers. On to Carmel and Carmel State Beach Park, just southwest of all the shops. This area is good for Bittern, Sandpipers, Ducks and Terns. Out from here to Route 1, at the bottom of the Carmel Hill, just pas the stop-light you will cross a cement bridge over Carmel River. Park on the left, and when not totally flooded walk the sandy river bed toward the ocean. This are is great for land and some shorebirds. Warblers include Prairie and Northern Waterthrush, others are Spotted, Solitary, Baird's and Pectoral Sandpipers, and Lesser Yellowlegs. Permission must be granted from the nearest house (southwest) to bird the Treatment Plant area adjacent to the river. This jewel (birdingwise) has produced some fantastic birds, like Palm, Hooded, Redstart, Northern Waterthrush and Black-throated Gray Warblers. Any tree area in the Monterey area is apt to produce fine birds.

Monterey is approximately 1 & 1/2 hours from us, and a long days birding (all the above is nigh impossible) will use some slightlv more than one tankful of gas. Gas seems readily available.

Have an Eventful Migration
Bob Yutzy

OUR LIBRARY

Now and then we have mentioned in the past that the Society's library is maintained at the Peninsula Conservation Center. Our collection of books is very nice, a bit smaller than the Library of Congress perhaps, but we really are in a "buying mood" (we just purchased a set of Bent's Life Histories for instance) if people would give us some suggestions along this line! If anyone has any books you'd like to contribute to our collections, we'd be delighted to take them off your hands. Would anyone who is into cabinetmaking be willing to build us a lock-type bookcase for some of our more valuable tomes? Also, we encourage any of our members to stop into the Peninsula Conservation Center (address under logo on front of AVOCET) and see our books, office, etc.; it's really a lovely place. Please drop a note or telephone our Librarian Miss Wayne Peters (325-3947) at 430 Bay Road, Menlo Park, Calif. 94025.

THAT LAST GENERAL MEETING

In last month's calendar we mentioned something about our Annual Audubon June General Meeting on May 31st with potluck supper and all that. Well, skip it!! The potluck part was fine, but the date has to be changed. Thus our last General Meeting of the year will be a clever combination of May/June and North/South County (in genetics this might be known as a 4-way cross, and is probably against the law) and will really be a potluck supper plus a brief meeting (introducing new and old ----whoops!---- former Board Members, Officers) and finally the evening's program. Here's the lineup:

Time: Tuesday, June 4, Potluck 6:00 PM, Meeting 7:45 PM, Program 8:00 PM

Place: Palo Alto Baylands Interpretive Center, east end of Embarcadero Rd.
in Palo Alto

Program: "Road to Baja, or what's the new road from Tijuana to Cabo San Lucas really Like?" -- Peter and Nancy Holmes will show slides from their February trip, including the new tourist facilities, the boojum forest, the lovely gulf bahias and a bird or two.

On the potluck supper affair, the following breakdown is recommended for food:

- A - G hot casseroles for 10 people
- H - P salads for 10 people
- Q - Z bread, butter, pickles or olives for 10 people

If every member shows up with food for 10, we'll be able to take care of 21,000 people, and the Palo Alto Baylands Interpretive Center will slowly sink out of sight. For more information on this affair, please call Florence LaRiviere at 493-5540. Don't call the Editor -- I only write things like this; I never consider the consequences. By the way, there will probably be a group who will bird the Baylands before supper; it may be your last chance to see the place.

BIRD SANCTUARY

Back in the February AVOCET we mentioned that the Youth Science Institute (YSI) in Alum Rock Park was expanding its native bird release program, and in fact the Society gave a grant of \$250 to YSI for this purchase. YSI has also been conducting a public education (particularly in the schools) program on the care of young and injured birds. YSI informs us that the telephone calls have been coming in thick and fast lately, and they are in need of a few old heating pads and towels for their ongoing program. Anyone willing to donate such items to YSI, please give them a call at 258-4322 (YSI, 16260 Alum Rock Ave., San Jose, Calif. 95127). By the way, we thought these comments about young birds (courtesy of YSI) might be in order, since bird sanctuaries' always receive a pile of calls about baby birds:

1. If the bird is fully feathered, can't fly, but is in a bush or tree off the ground---leave it alone.
2. If the bird is fully feathered but on the ground you might put it in a bush or tree, or at least off the ground away from dogs and cats.
3. If it's a real young bird and nothing but pin feathers, try and track down the nest and put it back if possible. Make sure it's the right nest and don't break your neck!!

All of this may sound very elementary to people who are experienced in birds' ways, but certainly most children aren't in the know. And if children don't know, can adults be far behind???

CLASSES, COURSES AND THINGS

The Sierra Club is offering an opportunity for several people to visit Rural Japan has been announced by the Foreign Outings Committee. Avoiding the congestion of the large cities, except Tokyo and Kyoto, trip members will range from Northern Honshu to the Inland Sea and the Island of Shikoku. Sight seeing, meeting with Japan conservationists and Audubon members, mountain hiking for those who desire and an unfolding landscape of rice fields, high mountains, historic temples and small villages will welcome visitors. Overnight at Japanese Inns and travel by public transportation are outstanding experiences. The summer trip will depart San Francisco on July 13 and return on August 16, 1974. The fall excursion leaves on Sept. 14 and returns on October 16. Group airfares reduce the total costs. This inclusive trip to the back country of Japan was developed in cooperation with the Japan Alpine Club and the Travel Bureau of Japan by Tony Look of the Audubon Society. Carl Denison of Bridgeport, Conn. will lead the summer trip and Tony will take over during the fall. Itineraries for both trips are available by writing Tony at P. O. Box 1141, Los Altos, Ca. 94022

NATURE EXPEDITIONS INTERNATIONAL (NEI), a non-profit educational organization based in Los Altos, California, is sponsoring a weekend symposium on the natural history and nature photography of the Sierra Nevadas during May 11 and 12, 1974. The first day of presentations at Foothill College in Los Altos Hills include a group of scientists who are studying the natural history of the Sierras. Topics include natural history and general ecology of the sierras, geology, plants, birds and mammals and reptiles. The nationally acclaimed film "John Muir's High Sierras" will be presented on Saturday evening, May 11 at Spangenberg Auditorium of Gunn High School, 780 Arastradero, Palo Alto, beginning at 8:00 p.m. as the highlight of the symposium. This film is a pictorial document of the beauty, wildness and majestic grandeur of that part of the Sierras that John Muir came to love so much, Yosemite Valley. On Sunday, May 12, DeWitt Jones will hold two nature photography seminars dealing with photography, both still and cinematography, of the Sierras and the special problems and aesthetics that challenge the nature photographer. The \$20 fee for the symposium includes \$12.50 for the natural history section, \$2.50 for the lecture film, and \$5.00 for the nature photography seminars. Tickets may be purchased separately.

Also NEI is sponsoring a scientific expedition to Guadalupe Island and other off-shore Pacific islands of Baja California, Mexico from June 15 to June 24, 1974. With the general purpose of investigating the flora, fauna and geology of this true oceanic land mass, five renowned research scientists are accepting non-specialists to serve as scientific assistants for this expedition. Research projects includes studies relating to plants, geology, birds, marine mammals and marine biology. The expedition fee of \$550 includes transportation from San Diego and return, meals, accommodations, instruction and research participation. Optional college credit is available from the University of San Francisco. For details on either of these trips: NEI, P. O. Box 1173, Los Altos, Calif. 94022, phone (415) 941-2910.

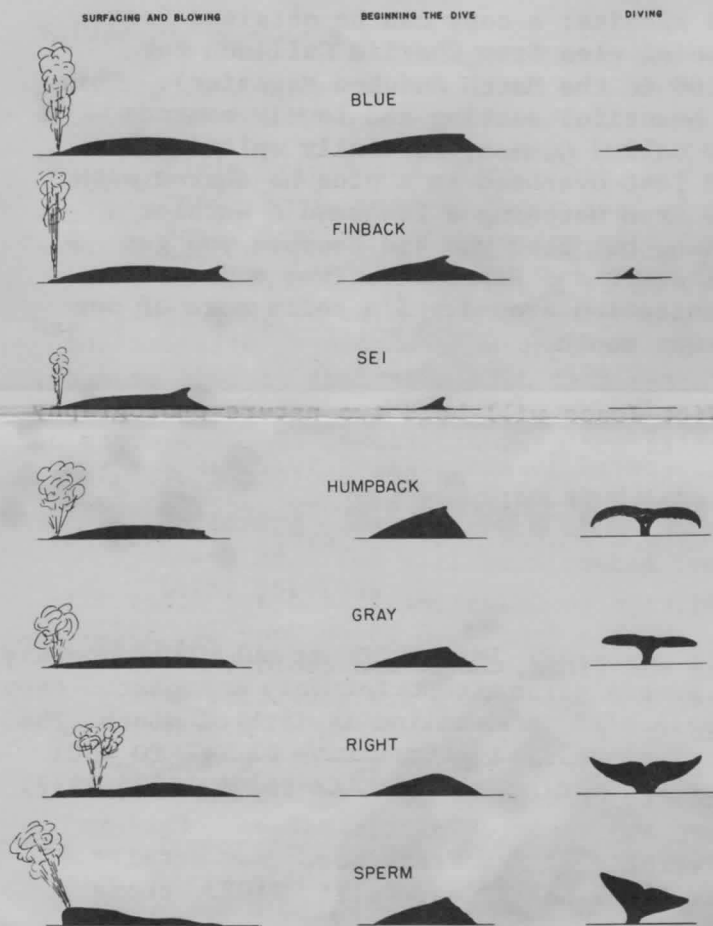
save money

PROPOSITION 1

The Z'berg-Collier Bond Act, to go before the voters June 4, 1974, provides \$250,000,000 for State and local park acquisition and development in California and for State fish and wildlife conservation projects.

PROJECT JONAH -- TASK FORCE FOR A GATHERING TO CELEBRATE WHALES

A Gathering to celebrate whales will be held simultaneously in Palo Alto, San Francisco, Los Gatos, San Jose, and Oakland on Sunday, May 19, 1974, from 1-5 P.M. You and your whale are cordially invited. Sponsored by Project Jonah (and co-sponsored by local conservation and civic organizations) these will be family-picnic affairs with exhibits of children's and adult's whale art, folk-singing and children's letter-writing sessions to the leaders of Russia and Japan (these 2 countries do 90% of the whaling) plus adult petition-signing to the U. S. Delegation to the International Whaling Commission and the U N Secretary General. We'll hear a new whale song by Malvina Reynolds plus whale sound recordings (the Songs of the Humpback Whale) and other whale music. The locations for these Gatherings are as follows: Palo Alto: Junior Museum. Los Gatos: Oak Meadow Park. San Jose: Campus of Bellarmine College Preparatory School, Emery & Elm Streets. San Francisco: to be announced. Oakland: to be announced.



**Our research shows
you won't believe this**

The situation in regard to all truly large species of whales today is similar to that of plumed birds around 1900. Then, Audubon Society arose to marshal protection for the birds. Now, PROJECT JONAH has come into being to achieve protection for the whales. If the International Whaling Commission fails (once more) to adopt a 10-year moratorium on all whaling at its June 1974 meeting, there will be still another whaling season (1974-75) with another 40,000-50,000 whales killed. This is NOT a "whales vs. people" dilemma; whale products make a piddling contribution to human nutrition in a very few places; most of a whale carcass goes into pet food, fertilizer, soap, cosmetic, and minor industrial lubricants. In 1971 the U. S. banned whaling from American ships or ports and banned import of all whale products. England and Canada have since followed suit.

The Bay Area Audubon Council (BAAC) met before the Western Conference officially started and the following items were learned: The Suisun Marsh Buffer Zone proposed by State Department of Fish and Game several months ago has been almost completely eliminated for reasons not known but since the buffer would have protected sloughs and bay edges from development it does not take much imagination does it? DF&G can use our support on this one. Whittell Funds were to be matched with State Parks and Recreation: \$50,000 for Annadelle State Park addition of freshwater marsh and \$100,000 for Pescadero Marsh. (The presentation was that evening, Director Mott accepting from Dr. Stahr.) The next BAAC meeting will coincide with the dedication of the Richardson Bay Educational Center July 20.

The Conference was jammed with goodies, meeting regional heads of the public agencies (Roland Clement urged us to work with them not just complain to Congress about BLM, BSWF, DFG etc.; some of us learned this a long time ago. Over and over again we heard about the Endangered Species Act of 1973 will protect threatened as well as Endangered species; a copy can be obtained from your local Congressman. There was a special plea from Charlie Callison for help on two projects (see pages 46 and 108 in the March Audubon Magazine). This conference is always fun because of the beautiful setting and lovely moments like watching a Red-Shafted Flicker (now called Common) carefully spitting out sawdust from his newly created cavity 50 feet overhead in a pine he shares with a Pygmy Nuthatch. Tearing yourself away from watching a Townsend's Warbler feeding in an oak to go to another session, but glad you did because you get to hear and talk to more of the National staff and Representatives and realize you belong to the best conservation organization around. I'm sorry more of our members couldn't attend. More details next month.

Nancy Holmes, President

compare our rates

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

(Cut out and send with remittance)

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Membership: (Please check)

___ \$12 individual

___ \$15 family

Remit proper amount with application to:

National Audubon Society

950 Third Avenue

New York, New York 10022

(Please affiliate this application with the Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society)

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