

SANTA CLARA VALLEY AUDUBON SOCIETY, Inc.

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The Avocet

TIME VALUE

Volume 21, Number 7

September, 1974

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- September 9 Executive Board Meeting Monday, 7:30 P.M. at the Peninsula Conservation Center. This meeting will be limited to Directors, Officers, and those Chairpersons with business for board approval. Any written communication from the general membership will be considered of course.
- September 10 Bird Discussion Group Tuesday at 9:30 A.M. at home of Eva Case 20537 Verde Vista Lane, Saratoga, Calif. Topic. Summer Bird Experiences.
- September 21 Field Trip Sunol Regional Park, Saturday, 8:30 A.M. Nimitz Freeway to Mission Blvd., east on Mission Blvd. 2 blocks, north on U. S. 680 nine miles to Calaveras Rd., south on Calaveras Rd., about 4 miles, left at sign to park headquarters. Leaders: Jean and Frank Farran 252-3874
- September 25 Field Trip Wednesday, 9:00 A.M. Palo Alto Baylands -- meet at the duck pond at the end of Embarcadero Road. Leaders: Kay McCann 327-4138 and Dorothy Taylor, 322-0120 or call Carol Zabel, 948-5671.
- September 26 Bird Discussion Group, Thursday, 9:30 A.M. Meet at Eleanor Park, Center Street and Channing Avenue; Palo Alto for bird watching. We will gather later in the morning, at the Park, for discussing birds seen this summer. Bring binoculars and get acquainted. Ione Bradley, 327-5973
- October 9 Audubon Wildlife Film Wednesday, 7:30 P.M. at Spangenberg Auditorium of Gunn High School, 780 Arastradero Road -- see note later in AVOCET.

- October 9 Field Trip South, Coyote River Park, Wednesday, 9:00 A.M. Take Monterey Rd., (U. S. 101) to Morgan Hill, east on Main Ave., just one block to meeting place. Leaders: Mary and Emmanuel Taylor (408) 779-9097.
- October 16 General Meeting Wednesday, 7:30 P.M. at the Palo Alto Interpretive Center (east end of Embarcadero Road). "Sights and Sounds of African Birds and Beasts", a slide/sound presentation by Bill and Billie Bausman (please see note in this AVOCET for a little more info on General Meetings).

NEWSLINE

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FIELD TRIP REPORTS

Thirty-six people attended the field trip at Jasper Ridge by Searsville Lake on May 29. Among the 48 species of birds were Blue-gray Gnatcatchers, Green Heron, Swainson's Thrush, Ash-throated Flycatchers and Solitary Vireo.

Carol Zabel

GENERAL MEETINGS

This year the Society is going to have only monthly General Meeting, to be held in north County at Palo Alto. Our meeting place will be the same as before, at the Palo Alto Baylands Interpretive Center. We hope as many of you as possible can come and please bring your friends. We had a large attendance last year.

Our first meeting will be on October 16th (3rd Wednesday) at 7:30 P.M. Our subject will be the Sights and Sounds of African Birds and Beasts with slides and sound effects. Bill and Billie Bausman went on an Audubon tour of East Africa and will be on hand to tell us about their travels.

On November 20th (3rd Wednesday) we'll have two color films, The Miracle of the Monarch (about the migration of the Monarch Butterfly) and Wood Duck's World. By the way, later on in the season there will be a field trip to the Monterey Peninsula -- a good place to see the Monarchs in their winter homes.

We have exciting meetings planned after Christmas, we expect to have them the third Wednesday evenings, if possible. Please start saving the dates.

Kay McCann, Program Chairlady

WHERE IT'S AT

Fall migration is the most exciting time of year — this is when we usually see our most rare birds. Look for vagrants, rare migrants, shorebirds and pelagics. The best areas are the usual ones, Point Reyes, Monterey, Moss Landing, Pescadero and one should also look at any estuary, bay mudflat or rivermouth (most notably Carmel and Salinas). The local site guide will be preempted by some national news, so stay tuned for the latest.

The event of the summer is the finding of the nest of a Marbled Murrelet. This was the last North American breeding bird without a documented nest. A lumberjack found the nest and 4 young 140 feet up a Douglas Fir near Big Basin. He is to be commended for contacting the Fish and Game Department. If you had difficulty getting a hold of the Rare Bird Hotline, hang in there; they have had a change of coordinators. Joe Morlan is taking over for Bill Principe (Bill's moving). That's officially Bay Area Birds and Conservation Alert 843-2211.

In mid-August Lesser Yellowlegs and Baird's Sandpipers were already moving through the Palo Alto Flood Basin and Dumbarton. White Pelicans were also seen in our Bay with many Browns (they are seldom seen away from our coast). Pectoral Sandpipers should also be looked for (Pescadero is especially good) with the slight chance we might have the rare Sharp-Tailed Sandpiper with them. A Solitary Sandpiper has already appeared at Coyote Hills and should be looked for elsewhere. Red Knots are to be expected at bay and mudflat and sandy inlets. Check the Black-Bellied Plovers for a Golden. Among the landbirds to look for are Rose-Breasted Grosbeak, Bobolink, Blackpoll, Palm, American Redstart, Northern Waterthrush and other rare Warblers. The Brown Thrasher will probably appear in Fairfield for the 4th winter. It will be interesting to see if the Catbird reappears in Monterey (the best place for tropical Kingbirds). Among the interesting small populations of local nesting species are Grasshopper Sparrows at San Gregorio and Purple Martins 1/4 mile west of the county line on Highway 17 towards Santa Cruz (in the tall dead tree north of 17). It seems that Ringed Turtle Doves and possibly some Parakeets may be reproducing locally. In June a Laughing Gull was at Capitola Beach while a Franklin's Gull was seen near Gilroy. Our Little Blue Heron was not seen often and seemed to only stay a short while. A Bar-Tailed Godwit was in Eureka in July. Roadrunner reports seem to be getting more frequent, the latest from Coyote Hills. Parasitic and possibly Pomarine Jaegers are already busy, harassing Elegant Terns at Moss Landing (still the place for many tern species). Last year was not a super year for pelagics (except for Horned Puffins), so let's hope this year will be great.

One of the many happenings down south was the finding of Le Conte's and Bendire's Thrashers at Yucca Valley. Bendire's are quite local to Cima, Calif. and in the Tucson Area of Arizona. The Salton Sea often has many post-breeding Mexican wanderers such as: Magnificent Frigatebird, Blue-Footed (& possibly Brown) Booby, Black Skimmer, Little Blue and Louisiana Heron, Reddish Egret, Black-Bellied Tree Ducks, and recently some Roseate Spoonbills. Wood Stork, Gull-Billed Tern, Laughing Gull, and the yellow-legged race of Western Gull can also be seen, and one might also see Stilt Sandpipers. Death Valley produced THE week-end for spring migrants (Memorial Day) with Prothonotary, Cerulean, Golden-Winged, Blackpoll, Redstart, Parula, Northern Waterthrush, Ovenbird, Least Bittern, Eastern Kingbird and even a Scissor-Tailed Flycatcher. Incredible!!

They said it couldn't be done.

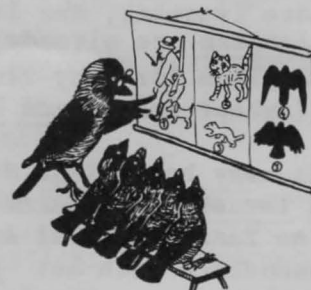
Deep Springs, Death Valley and Kelso Train Station should also be super for fall migrants and vagrant landbirds. Morongo Valley's Covington Park is one of the finest and nicest desert oasis to bird and it is now staffed permanently by two helpful birders. Some local April and May big day counts are to be noted. Three observers saw 139 species in Alameda County, four observers saw 165 species from Monterey to Los Banos: three observers covered from Palo Alto to Ano Nuevo and saw 162 species; and the next weekend 2 observers followed a similar route and saw 158 species.

Some National Bird Reports -- in Arizona a Yellow Grosbeak stayed a short while at Bentsen Rio Grande. Santa Ana had it's regular Clay-colored Robin and Ramsey Canyon had a male Lucifer's Hummingbird (common at Big Bend, Texas - where they had a Rufous-capped Warbler). The Brown Jays successfully nested at Roma near Falcon Dam. Blue-faced Boobies were seen near Galveston Island. Florida had many fantastic visitors, among them: A White-cheeked Pintail (Bahama Duck) at the Everglades, Fork-tailed Flycatcher and two to three Bahama Swallows were on the Keyes, as were nesting Roseate Terns. Seven Caribbean Coots were with American's at Ft. Lauderdale, while a Bahama Woodstar (that's a hummingbird) was frequenting a feeder at Homestead.

Many Little Gulls (possibly up to 35 or more) were on the middle Atlantic coast, but the real prize was a breeding plumaged White-winged Black Tern at Little Creek, Delaware. This is possibly only the second U. S. record for this European species. By the way, Little Creek is the hottest place on the east coast, even outdoing Brigantine National Wildlife Refuge, producing Little Gulls, Ruffs, Glossy Ibis and the above tern. A Bulwer's Petrel has been pelagically seen off Maine.

It has been a fairly uneventful summer here -- are we preparing for a fantastic fall and winter?

Bob Yutzy



CHECKLIST CONTINUED

We mentioned in our last issue (June) that some of our people are presently working on an updated birdlist for the Santa Clara Valley Region. We indicated at that time an August deadline, but perhaps we were a bit optimistic. Its a big job and involves input from many people, some of whom are scattered far and wide during the summer months. At any rate the list is now in the final stages of preparation and about ready for the printers. We'll let you know when it's ready, but we can say this much about it; the plot is probably about the same as before

ANNOUNCING!

AUDUBON WILDLIFE FILMS

Only one series of Audubon Wildlife Films will be available locally this year and that will be the one in Palo Alto at the Spangenberg Auditorium of Gunn High School, 780 Arastradero Road. This series will again be co-sponsored by Nature Expeditions International (N.E.I.), a non-profit educational organization. There will not be a series held in San Jose this season. The programs will begin at 7:30 p.m.

The schedule for Palo Alto is as follows:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Speaker</u>
Wed., Oct. 9	Small World	Fran W. Hall
Mon. Nov. 4	Florida Cypress Sanctuary: Fisheating Creek	Richard Kern
Thur., Jan. 16	Footloose in Newfoundland	Thomas A. Sterling
Thurs., Feb. 13	Animaux Sauvages (Wild Animals)	Henk Kegel
Thurs., Mar. 6	Wandering Through Florida	Roy E. Coy

Ticket prices for the 1974-75 season are:

Series Tickets, general admission \$8.00
Single Admission, general 2.50
Single Admission, high school students
& children 1.00

*inquire about discounts for groups over 20 persons.

Please address all questions about advance ticket purchase, questions about the films, or information about N.E.I. to:

Nature Expeditions International
P. O. Box 1173
Los Altos, Calif. 94022
Telephone: 941-2910

CHILLS! SPILLS! THRILLS!

NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY

Members: 322,647

Chapters: 324



AUDUBON SOCIETY 'CITATIONS TO INDUSTRY'

PROGRAM BALANCES BRICKBATS WITH BOUQUETS

Encouragement of industrialists who do right by the environment, says the National Audubon Society, may accomplish just as much as angry protests against those who don't.

So the Society has established guidelines for a Citations to Industry program through which local Audubon chapters can give industry a public pat on the back for outstanding environmental actions and accomplishments. Nine chapters, so far this year, have voted such citations; the recipients include a steel plant that installed an advanced type of water pollution control equipment, a paper company that has organized a major recycling program, and a radio station that has consistently backed conservation causes in its broadcasts.

The guidelines of the new program ask Audubon chapters to give citations only for specific acts and accomplishments by "identifiable segments of industry" in the chapter's own community. It is stressed that such a citation is not necessarily an endorsement of the entire plant or operation, much less of an entire corporation or industry. And the chapters are warned against public relations "snow jobs" when the corporation is only carrying out environmental protection measures required under law.

Audubon President Elvis J. Stahr said it was hoped that the program might, for example, give help and encouragement to an industrial administrator who "sticks his neck out and insists on spending corporate dollars to do more than a minimal job of pollution abatement (or reclamation, or natural area protection, or what have you) and who would feel severely let down if his company got little or no public credit, even from the segments of the public who claim to be most interested in the environment." The chapters are urged to publicize their citations as widely as possible.

The variety makes the difference

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Mr. Dave Nauer	as above	



A GENTLE REMINDER PLUS AN EXCUSE

If you do not receive a copy of the October AVOCET (next month's) it may mean that the records of the National Audubon Society (NAS) show that you are no longer a member, ie., you have allowed your membership to drop!! Well!! We'll miss you, and would very much like you to reconsider (see the membership application at the bitter end of this newsletter) and come back into the fold. By the way, if you are a member in good standing and particularly if you have "re-upped" just lately, and still don't get an October AVOCET -- let us know post-haste. Just drop a note or ring the phone at the Peninsula Conservation Center, 1176 Emerson Street, Palo Alto, Ca 94301, (415) 258-5313. Now and then good people do slip away from us because the NAS and the local Society seem to work at cross-purposes. They try and we do too -- but it doesn't always go smoothly. In short, if you're supposed to receive an October AVOCET and don't -- scream about it. If you have allowed your membership to lapse consider yourself screamed out!

Finally,

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

(Cut out and send with remittance)

THE AVOCET is published monthly except for July & August. Copy deadline is 15th of the month. The Editor: Dave Nauer, P. O. Box 4501, San Jose, Ca. 95126 (259-1283)

Name _____

Address _____

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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)

