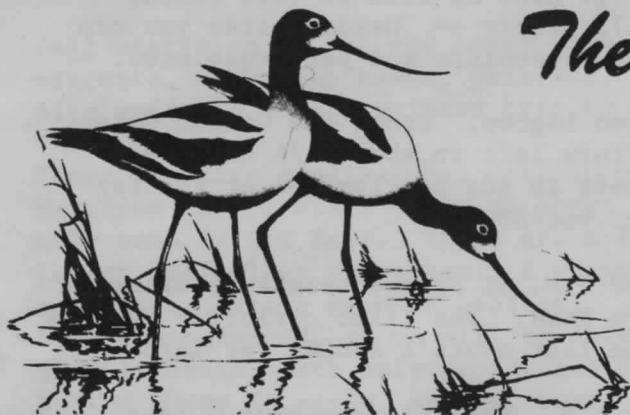


SANTA CLARA VALLEY AUDUBON SOCIETY, Inc.

1176 Emerson Street, Palo Alto, CA 94301
Telephone: (415) 328-5313

Non-Profit Org.
U. S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT No. 1290
San Jose, Calif.



The Avocet

TIME VALUE

HARRY V LATHAM
1085 394 TASMAN DR
SUNNYVALE CA 94086

Volume 21, Number 8

October, 1974

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- October 8 Bird Discussion Group Tuesday, 9:30 a.m. at the home of Eve Case, 20537 Verde Vista Lane, Saratoga. Topic: Sandpipers and winter visitants in your garden.
- 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 9 Audubon Wildlife Film Wednesday, 7:30 P.M. at Spangenberg Auditorium of Gunn High School, 780 Arastradero Road -- please see last month's AVOCET for information on all the films this session.
- October 14 Board of Director's Meeting Monday, 7:30 P.M. at the Peninsula Conservation Center, 1176 Emerson St., Palo Alto, Ca. 94301. Members are welcome.
- 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).
- JP* October 20 Field Trip, Sunday, 9:00 A.M. Pescadero Marsh and Ano Nuevo. Take La Honda Rd. through San Gregorio to Highway 1, go 5 miles south on highway 1 to Pescadero Rd., meet at highway 1 & Pescadero Rd. Leader: Ted Chandik 493-5330.

- # October 23 Field Trip North, Foothills Park, Wednesday, 9:00 A.M. meet at the entrance on Page Mill Road. For information call Carol Zabel, 948-5671. Leaders: Evelyn Radcliffe and Flora Hauck.
- October 24 Bird Discussion Group Thursday, 9:30 A.M. at home of Vera Stern, 1 Douglas Way, Atherton. 324-2917. Topic -- "Garden birds you can expect to see in the fall". Bring binoculars and get acquainted.
- # October 27 Field Trip, Sunday, 9:30 A.M. Rodeo Lagoon. Cross the Golden Gate Bridge, take the Sausalito exit, turn left in about 1/4 mile, go through the one-way tunnel; and wait in the parking lot at the far end. Leaders: Carol & Bob Yutzy, 968-8804
- Nov. 4 Audubon Wildlife Film Monday, 7:30 P.M. at Spangenberg Auditorium of Gunn High School, 780 Arastrasero Road. The film: "Florida Cypress Sanctuary: Fisheating Creek". See last month's AVOCET for info.
- # Nov. 6 Field Trip South, Wednesday, 9:00 A.M., Santa Teresa Park. Take Monterey Road south past IBM plant, right on Bernal Rd. about one mile, Park is on the left, meet at picnic area parking lot. Leaders: Dotty and Ted Graf, 296-6499
- Nov. 20 General Meeting, Wednesday, 7:30 P.M. at the Palo Alto Baylands Interpretive Center. Two films will be shown: "Miracle of the Monarch" and "Wood Duck's World". Please see note in this AVOCET for a little more on the General Meetings.

A LITTLE MORE ON THE GENERAL MEETINGS

The Program this year will have two supporting committees. They are "Hospitality" (the food) and the "Greeters" (sign the book and get a name tag). The Hospitality Committee will consist of Chairlady Marguerite Nash (967-2944) and co-chairlady Doris Shewbridge (493-5513). Serving on this committee will be Betsy Peterson and Florence LaRiviere; Betsy will help with the October refreshments, and Florence with Novembers'. The "Greeting" Committee will be chaired by Florence Houck and Barbara Allen and Barbara Houghton (327-2186) will also serve. Joyce Todd (the Society's Treasurer) will also help out.

Anyone wishing to serve on either of these Committees is urged (and will be gently coerced) into helping out at General Meetings. Just call one of the ladies above.

By the way, the November General Meeting (the 20th, a Wednesday) will feature two nature films about 1/2 hour each: "Miracle of the Monarch" and "Wood Ducks World", courtesy of Clinton H. Rosene. The meeting place is the Palo Alto Baylands Interpretive Center (east end of Embarcadero Road in Palo Alto) and the affair is co-sponsored by the Palo Alto Nature and Science Department. The meeting starts at 7:30 with a 1/2 hour social affair, a little business at 8:00, and finally the show starts about 8:15-8:30. We hope to be out by 10 PM or so. All meetings are open to the public and there's no charge. Why not bring a friend and join us?

Kay McCann

WHERE IT'S AT

California area birdfinding notes -- a guide to where it is (or was). If you know where it is (or was), send me a note. You ask, why do we print where it was? Because that's often where the best spots are to see other birds.

Fall migration is hot and heavy upon us. October is a good time to look for late migrants, migrating hawks, pelagics, shore birds and early ducks and geese. The site guide is an abbreviated trip to Rodeo Lagoon and Battery Wallace.

There are five goodies that deserve prime time. On Spt. 15 a Ruff was seen in Martinez and is still there at press time. This Eurasian species is normally only seen in the East. There are a few Pectorals & Baird's Sandpipers and a Lesser Yellowlegs there too. A Dotterel is on the Farallons (closed to the public; a fragile nesting seabird habitat). It is in partial breeding plumage and has been photographed, so we will be able to see it. This Eurasian species is unknown in California, with only accidental occurrence in Washington state. A Thick-billed Murre is again, as last year, frequenting the Coast Guard Pier in Monterey (one is also in Arcata). A Curlew Sandpiper with 6-9 Baird's was seen Sept 7th-14th just a few hundred feet from where the Bar-tailed Godwit was in Bolinas last year. This date is very close to the Sept. 17th sighting at Pescadero in 1972. Three Parasitic Jaegers and one possible Skua were also in this area. The last biggie was a Yellow-green Vireo near Imperial Beach (San Diego). This bird is a rare inhabitant of the Rio Grande Delta in South Texas and is only accidental in Cal. (four records since 1900). It was seen on Sept. 19 & 20 but was unfindable on Sept. 21. For the latest on these and other birds, try the

RARE BIRD HOTLINE: 843-2211

A new report is prepared each Wednesday.

Now on to regular business. There were 12 or more Golden Plovers at Pt. Reyes. Remember to scan all Black-bellieds for Goldens. Small numbers of Lesser Yellowlegs have been regularly seen at the Flood Basin, as was a Spotted Sandpiper. Many Wilson's Phalaropes (1-45) have been at the west side of the Dumbarton, as have a few Baird's Sandpipers. White Pelicans (about 170) were at San Antonio marsh area. A Bar-tailed Godwit has been at Arcata since July. A Stilt Sandpiper (more commonly at the Salton Sea) was seen at Black Point near Napa. Ano Nuevo had 12 or more Baird's Sandpipers (numbers, or at least identifications, seem up this fall), a Red Phalarope, the Harlequin Ducks (3), and some Brandt. Pescadero should offer some Pectorals but so far only had two Purple Martins. There is some question about the early Sharp-tailed Sandpiper report at Ano Nuevo. A Scissor-tailed Flycatcher was seen near here for only one sighting. An Eastern Kingbird was at the Mendoza Ranch at Pt. Reyes. We should start looking for our European Wigeon in Palo Alto. Three Roadrunners are sometimes seen on Mines Road and one was seen near Milpitas on 237 near the Guadalupe Bridge. Yosemite has many sightings of Pine Grosbeaks and Pileated Woodpeckers, as well as the Bridal veil Black-backed Three-toed Woodpeckers and the Big Oak Flat Great Gray Owl. Black Rails have been seen (but mostly heard) in Benecia, where many sightings occurred last year. A Long-eared Owl and a Chestnut-sided Warbler were at Rodeo Lagoon, while a Broad-winged Hawk was seen near Battery Wallace, as were 2 Redstarts and 2 Magnolias (one Magnolia was seen for at least three days straight). A Redstart was also seen at Lake Merced, while a Black-and-white was at Moss Beach. Point Reyes reports a Blackpoll, and no sightings are reported from Monterey yet. A possible Philadelphia Vireo was at Tilden Park (this is an extremely difficult identification),

Pelagic Events: New Zealand Shearwaters are being seen both in Monterey and San Diego areas. San Diego had a Long-tailed Jaeger, a Skua, many Least Petrels, and a Flesh-footed Shearwater. A Sept. 20th trip to Santa Barbara Island yielded eight Blackpolls, a Magnolia, an Ovenbird, a Chat, a Bobolink, 2 Sage Thrasher, plus Vesper and Clay-colored Sparrow, and many Ground Doves. Many observers saw 18 species of warblers in two-three days (including deser oasis). Four Killer Whales and two Finbacks aided in the excitement, as did the Common Dolphins and Dall Porpoises.

Rodeo Lagoon & Battery Wallace. These area are much closer than either Point Reyes or Monterey, though not as versatile or quite as productive, they do produce some great sightings. The lagoon and nearby ocean and beach are worth checking for water and shorebirds, but the surrounding brush and trees are usually more productive for vagrants and migrants. The evergreens near the firehouse often yield good warblers (Chestnut-sided), as does the Battery Wallace (Redstart, Magnolia & Blackpoll) up on top follow the sign or ask for help.. This area is thick with trees and sometimes can be difficult to bird but persistence and repetition can pay off. Many other good birds have been seen all around the whole area (Black-throated Blue, Northern Waterthrush, Swamp Sparrow), so if an area looks good - bird it. Above the artillery area are the famous Western Hawk watching areas (Broad-winged, Accipiters, Falcons, Ferruginous and Rough-legged Hawks, etc.) Directions to these areas can be found under calendar of events. This is a half days trip so you might want to head for Bolinas Lagoon or Lake Merritt to finish up the day.

By the way don't forget to check our local parks - Alum Rock, Stevens Creek, & Foothill Parks. Though they are larger to search than some, the should produce good birds.

Yours For Good Field Marks, Bob Yutzy

Cooperative Phenomena

OCTOBER 24 IS WORLD POPULATION DAY

The just-completed World Population Conference in Bucharest involved major disagreements and frustrations, but still stands as a hopeful landmark, the first forum of the nations of the world to discuss viewpoints on population issues. Now, on October 24, United Nations Day, communities around the world are being urged to observe World Population Day. With particular emphasis on the relationship of population growth and food and other resources, World Population Day will be an attempt to tie the Bucharest Population Conference with the Rome World Food Conference to be held in November in this over-all World Population Year. A free World Population Day packet, with samples of literature, posters, buttons, bibliographies, and suggestions for activities is available from Arthur Young, Director World Population Day, 345 E. 46th St., New York, N. Y., 10017.

DRAMATIC SALT POND SALE PLANNED

The following item was submitted to THE AVOCET by Kent Dedrick. To save space we typed it as one giant paragraph rather than the original 14 small ones.

Nearly all of Leslie Salt Company's salt ponds and other baylands would be purchased and resold to the federal government if a plan by the San Francisco based Trust for Public Land (TFL) becomes reality. Announcement of the prospect was accompanied by high drama on Sept. 11-13 when TPL stated it had reached agreement the previous week on an option to buy 38,573 acres of Leslie-claimed salt ponds, marshlands and bay waters. Conservationists and governmental agencies were taken completely by surprise by the action, and an attitude of caution emerged as details of the option to buy the lands unfolded. According to TPL's president Huey Johnson and vice-president Gregory Archbald, TPL would buy Leslie's land for \$17.9 million and re-sell the huge area for \$18.5 million as an expanded San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge. TPL would get \$600,000 in fees for handling the transaction. As a result, the Refuge would be nearly doubled in size. Leslie, however, would "permanently" retain salt-making rights in the ponds, or at least for a long as the firm desired. Further, Leslie demands specific nods of approval from the Corps of Engineers, the S. F. Bay Conservation & Development Commission (BCDC) and the State Lands Commission. TPL's president Johnson told the press "our option on Leslie land is an expansion of the BCDC mandate", and the legislative intent to create the S. F. Bay National Wildlife Refuge. He also said it means that "a corporate partner in a critically needed low energy consumption industry will continue to produce a product by solar evaporation." And TPL's Archbald added, "this would be the largest wildlife refuge - based on the energy concept - in the world." But despite these claims, certain features of the TPL proposal raise substantial land planning issues, conflicting bay management prospects, and also appear to be uncoordinated with the long but painstaking efforts by conservation volunteers and the Dept. Interior and other agencies in making the presently planned National Wildlife Refuge a reality. Further, the Sierra Club and Save San Francisco Bay Assn. are now actively pursuing two major lawsuits in these and other baylands in southern S. F. Bay. According to TPL, Leslie requires in the option "freedom of operations" for its salt enterprise from control by BCDC and the Army Corps of Engineers; and perhaps more importantly, some kind of "appropriate action" by these agencies to clarify Leslie's ability to make "substantial" land use changes "including construction of improvements" in some ponds and properties that the firm will retain. Among the latter is some 1400 acres of salt ponds south of Redwood City's Harbor Blvd. and extending to Marsh Road in Menlo Park. In a separate action of Sept. 12 before the San Mateo County Airport Land Use Committee, the same Redwood City salt pond parcel was revealed as a potential site for a new and expanded general aviation airport to replace both the present Palo Alto and San Carlos airports. Extensive land-fill is required to construct an airport in a salt pond. The BCDC has fairly weak control over salt ponds, but the Corps of Engineers now claims jurisdiction over them and requires strong environmental review of projects involving "new work in unfilled portions of the interior of diked areas" below mean higher high tide. The entire matter of the Corps' authority is complicated further since Leslie is contesting Corps jurisdiction in the salt ponds in a lawsuit filed last December in U. S. District Court. The Sierra Club and others intervened in the suit last May on the side of the Corps of Engineers in a move to preserve the Corps' environmental authority. At a Friday Sept. 13 briefing, Johnson said "the public's going to have to buy the idea to make

it work", and then appealed for conservation support. The option to purchase the lands is to expire in two years on Dec. 31, 1976, includes 9,000 acres of Leslie salt ponds and marshes in San Pablo Bay's northern shore, and 29,090 acres of salt ponds and other baylands south of the San Mateo-Hayward Bridge. The agreement was revealed when San Jose Mercury reporters Gil Bailey and Tom Harris discovered that a "closed-door" meeting was held in Washington on Sept. 11 between TPL's Johnson and members of the California Congressional Delegation. New federal legislation would be required to expand the Refuge size. It is expected that details of the entire matter may receive considerable debate and analysis among Bay Area land planners and conservationists in the near future.

Stand up and be counted.

Suggest a Candidate!

VOLUNTEER NEEDED

THE AVOCET needs a person to help with our mailing card file. People not familiar with the alphabet (English) need not apply; otherwise we are an equal opportunity"employer". Interested spellers may call the Peninsula Conservation Center (328-5313) or Nancy Holmes (948-1854).

Are we man or beast?

A CASE IN POINT

The Aluminum Company of America is among the canning and bottling companies that have opposed Oregon "Bottle Bill"-type legislation that would, in effect, make aluminum cans as well as other non-returnable containers obsolete. Conservationists have been saying that, among other things, throwaway cans are a waste of metal. Now Alcoa, not surprisingly, reports a shortage of aluminum. It intends to cease production of household aluminum foil - but to go right on making throwaway aluminum cans.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS NOTES

1. The board voted to accept the proposed 1974-75 budget. Copies of the budget are available from Treasurer, Joyce Todd, 945 Matadero Ave., Palo Alto, Calif. 94306. 493-7893
2. The secretary was instructed to write a letter to the Youth Science Institute supporting their request for a grant from the California Resource Agency, to allow expansion of the Institute on a new site.
3. Nancy Holmes announced that Lloyd Case is updating the chapter's history from 1962 to the present.
4. Florence LaRiviere requested that the board go on record as opposing the Tahoe-Donner Development, which would lower the level of Donner Lake 4 feet.
5. All non-member subscriptions to THE AVOCET will begin January 1.**
6. Frank Farran will represent SCVAS at the meeting of the Mid-peninsula Regional Park District, speaking on behalf of the Fremont Older Open Space Preserve.



Rare Bird Hotline:
843-2211

ABOUT #5 ABOVE --

We are asking that all "non-member" subscribers to THE AVOCET renew their subscription on January 1 to facilitate our bookkeeping. We will of course prorate any overlap, but we're really just trying to make our bookkeeping as simple as possible. The term "non-member" here applies to just two small (but loyal) groups of people: (1) those who are not members of the National Audubon Society but wish to receive THE AVOCET and (2) those who live in another area of the country. It may surprise some of you to know that this little newsletter travels to such places as New York, New Hampshire, Virginia, Illinois, Wisconsin, Oregon, Washington, etc. To sum up this long-winded note, if you are one of those people who pays \$2 for your yearly AVOCET subscription, we hope that you'll renew at the first of the year.

A SHORT NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Changes in the Board of Directors have been made since June. Our thanks to Martha Wilbur for her two year stint on the Board; Florence LaRiviere will fill the remaining year. Mike Brady, a Director for one year, is departing for South America; we thank him, wish him luck and hope to hear from him about birds and things. Doug Cheeseman was elected by the Board to complete Mike's term. Welcome to Florence and Doug.

Nancy Holmes

Love Can Be An Addiction

PS, I love you.

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)

THE AVOCET is published monthly
except for July & August. Copy
deadline is 15th of month. The
Editor: Dave Nauer PO 4501
San Jose, CA 95126 (295-9917)

