

SANTA CLARA VALLEY AUDUBON SOCIETY, Inc.

478 CLIFTON AVENUE

SAN JOSE, CALIFORNIA 95128

AUDUBON SWITCHBOARD: 321-6008

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TIME VALUE

Volume 20, Number 2

February, 1973

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- February 4 Monterey--Pacific Grove, Sunday, 9:30 am. Meet at Coast Guard pier on south side of Monterey Harbor. Leader: Bill Reese (Monterey Audubon Society), 375-2740.
- February 6 Board of Directors Meeting, Tuesday, 8 pm at the home of Harriet Mundy, 757 Tennyson Avenue, Palo Alto, 325-1192.
- February 6 Bird Discussion Group, South County, Tuesday, 9:30 am at the home of Eve Case, 20537 Verde Vista, Saratoga, 867-4748. Topic: "Wrens".
- February 11 Open House, Peninsula Conservation Center, Sunday, 3-8 pm, 1176 Emerson, Palo Alto, 328-5313. Color photos by Howard King, and paintings of Falkland Island Wildlife by Ian Strange, will be presented. Donations for refreshments, to benefit the center will be accepted.
- February 13 Audubon Wildlife Film, Tuesday, Morris Dailey Auditorium, California State University, San Jose, 8 pm James Hammond's, "Malheur: Marsh, Meadow, and Mountain."
- February 14 Bird Discussion Group, North County, Wednesday, 9:30 am, at the home of Freddie Dreyfuss, 12598 Valley View Drive, Los Altos, 941-2474. Topic: "Goldfinches." Bring Binoculars.
- February 14 Field Trip South, Santa Teresa Park, Wednesday, 9 am. Take Monterey Road south from San Jose past the IBM plant. Right on Bernal Road. Proceed about one mile to park. Meet at picnic parking lot.
- February 14 General Meeting, Wednesday, 8 pm, Homestead High School, Room 5, Building C. David Roderick, Professor of Physical Sciences at Foothill College will discuss "Return from Extinction: The Marine Mammals of Baja California's Pacific Islands and Lagoons." See Program Note on page 3.
- February 24 & 25 Morro Bay. South on 101 to Atascadero. West on State 41 to coast. About 190 miles from San Jose. Meet each morning (Saturday at 9:30 am and Sunday at 8:00 am) at the parking lot of the Morro Bay Museum of Natural History in the state park. See article on page 4. Leader: Frank Farran, 252-3874.

- February 27 Audubon Wildlife Film, Tuesday, 4pm, Palo Alto High School. Feffrey Boswell presents "Wildlife Safari to Ethiopia."
- February 28 Field Trip North, Coyote Hills Regional Park, Wednesday, 9 am. East across Dumbarton Bridge. Left on Jarvis Road. Left on Newark Boulevard at light-- about 1 mile. Left at sign to park. Meet at first parking lot on the left  
Leaders: Mr. and Mrs. Les Sleeper, 323-9370.
- March 11 Owling Trip, Sunday morning, 4 am. Meet in parking lot across from Roberts General Store in Woodside. Hope to get Pygmy, Saw-whet, Screech, Horned, Barn, Short-eared and Burrowing owls. Leaders: Bob Yutzy (968-8804) Ted Chandik, and Bob Dyer.

Car Pool Coordinators

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

BOARD NOTES

Motion carried to pay Mike Brady for Christmas Count expenses.

Motion passed to pay \$60.00 to "American Birds" (Christmas Count.) This is "10.00 more than allotted in the budget.

Motion carried to pay Field Trip Chairman an additional \$10.00 over budget amount to cover expenses.

LIBRARY MOVES

The Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society's Library, long housed at Lloyd and Eve Case's will soon be evaluated, cataloged and shelved in a special corner of the Peninsula Conservation Center's Library at 1175 Emerson Street (at Embarcadero Road), Palo Alto. Some volumes and very old magazines will be on display only, some will be for reference, but most can be circulated on the normal library check out system.

This move will afford a great opportunity for members to donate books to the library. Since all donations are tax deductible even new volumes such as Shorebirds of North America by G. Stout, or perhaps a complete set of Arthur Cleveland Bent could be given as a gift in a friends name or your own name.

Let's use this opportunity to share our knowledge and concern for wildlife with people who might not ever be able to find "The Audubon Society."

If there are any questions please call Nancy Holmes (948-1854) or Bob Hassur (371-0273.) And finally a big thank you to the Cases for the long and good care they have given the SCVAS library.

Nancy Holmes

PROGRAM NOTE

Wednesday  
February 14, 8 pm

Homestead High School  
Building C, Room 5

RETURN FROM EXTINCTION: THE MARINE MAMMALS OF BAJA CALIFORNIA'S PACIFIC ISLANDS

After the cold and rain of the past few weeks, how about a trip to the more tropical times of Baja California? David Roderick, Professor of Physical Sciences at Foothill College will take us there during his program: "Return from Extinction: The Marine Mammals of Baja California's Pacific Islands and Lagoons." He will describe man's activities leading these animals to the brink of extinction and the slow return from that point during the past 50 years. You are invited to join him via slides on a modern day whaling cruise to the islands and lagoons of Baja.

In his spare time, Mr. Roderick is a writer, lecturer, and photographer of natural history subjects. He is also director of Nature Expeditions International, a non-profit corporation organizing natural history field trips. If you would like to join him and a staff of other naturalists on a real trip to Baja from March 24-31, or to Africa and other exotic places this summer, contact him after the meeting or at Foothill college.

Meanwhile escape winter and whale along with Dave to Baja!

PRESIDENTS NOTE

We urgently need volunteers to help with our newly emerging computer addressing system for The Avocet. In the very near future our entire membership list will be computerized. When you are among the top ten Audubon Chapters in the Nation, hand processing becomes impossible. This will greatly facilitate mailing out The Avocet and up-dating our membership list. The wonderful people who presently do the job include Caroline Davis, Charles & Fanny Zwaal, and Elsie Hoeck. But after "getting out" The Avocet for over 12 years they have at long last asked that someone else take over. They deserve our sincerest thanks for a job well done. They have seen The Avocet mailings go from 300 to 1400 as our organization grew. By the next issue we hope to have the new system in operation. To accomplish this we need at least two people to help coordinate the operation and attach stick-on address labels once each month. If you are interested please contact Ken Kidd (379-6498) or R. Jay Andree (257-2038.)

Over the past years many SCVAS members have been queried about the care of sick and/or injured wildlife--especially birds. We anticipate that this will continue and perhaps increase, especially with the added public exposure the SCVAS will enjoy by our planned affiliation with the new Peninsula Conservation Center at 1176 Emerson Street, Palo Alto (328-5313.) In order to provide an even better public service in this regard, we are compiling a list of names and phone numbers of people who are knowledgeable and interested in these problems. Presently Helen Proctor has been doing the job almost single-handedly, but SCVAS covers such a large membership area it can easily become more than she can handle. If you are interested in having your name included on our "Sick Bird Clinic" referral list, please phone Bob Hassur (371-0273 or 277-2359.)

Bob Hassur

MORRO BAY WEEKEND FIELD TRIP

Morro Bay is one of the outstanding birding areas of the California coast. The town itself is a bird refuge. The state park encompasses much of the land around a beautiful small bay. Bird life is similar to that here, but things are on a much more compact scale. Roadrunners and Arctic Loons may be seen on the same bird walk. Over 250 species are recorded for the area and as many as 175 have been seen in a single day.

There are many motels and lodges in the area, but reservations are advisable. Motel 6 (805-772-8881) at \$8/night for two is very satisfactory. The Golden Tree Resort Lodge (805-772-7313) provides quite luxurious accommodations at \$15 to \$24 per night for two. See the AAA Guide or call the trip leader for other listings. Camping reservations at the State Park may be obtained at Ticketron at most any Sears store, but act soon! State parks are very popular.

Frank Farran

BAY USERS WANTED

The following ad appeared in the December 20, 1972 issue of the Palo Alto Times. Needless to say the State of California is us, the people of the state, and anyone answering the ad helps in the fight to confirm public rights in 10,000 acres of the Bay. If you have anything at all that would aid the lawsuit please contact the California Attorney Generals Office.

**SOUTH SAN FRANCISCO  
BAY USERS WANTED**

The State of California is in a massive lawsuit to confirm public rights in 10,000 acres of San Francisco Bay between the San Francisco Airport and San Jose.

If you have used this area of the Bay, including the shore and abutting areas of tidelands for boating, fishing, commerce or other activities; if your relatives or ancestors used these waters; if you have old photographs, newspapers or diary accounts of commerce or recreation there, please contact:

**California Attorney General's Office  
6000 State Building  
San Francisco, California 94102  
Attention: John Briscoe  
Deputy Attorney General**

**YOUR HELP WILL HELP PRESERVE PUBLIC  
RIGHTS IN THE BAY.**

FIELD TRIP REPORTS

Nanette Wittgenstein states the December trip to Canyon Drive, Saratoga was a good one. Although the day was very cold, the dozen members who turned out had excellent views of Varied and Hermit Thrushes, Myrtle and Townsend Warblers, White and Red-breasted Nuthatches, and a Golden Eagle, among the 35 species observed.



NATIONAL WATER COMMISSION DRAFT REPORT

Paul Howard, Audubon's Western Regional Representative, recently attended the National Water Commission Public Conference in Spokane, Washington, to comment on the commission's draft report. Following are some of the comments and recommendations by Mr. Howard on the draft report . . .

Chapter 1--Water Supply and Water Use

We commend the Commission for "strongly" advocating "serious" consideration to a wide range of realistic choices in future water planning. The Commission's observations confirm that current agricultural uses for water are not only wasteful but are that way because Federal subsidies have distorted production through artificial price support.

Chapter 2--Water and the Natural Environment

The National Audubon Society has long advocated preservation for the remaining and extremely valuable estuarine coastal waters and marshlands. However, it is our concern that this section be strengthened to call for the prohibition of projects such as stream channelization and drainage programs which could destroy those remaining important estuaries and marshes.

Chapter 3--Water and the Economy

We appreciate the Commission's recognition in this section of the indirect values of esthetics, wildlife, and fish in evaluating a hydrologic system; and for recommending that values of water in alternative uses should be estimated as a part of planning studies.

Chapter 5--Improving Water Related Programs

Section E--Reducing Flood Losses

In our opinion this section, if implemented along with cost-sharing proposals made in Chapter 14, is the key to sound management of land and water resources. The National Audubon Society has long advocated the sound doctrine amplified in this section of flood plain management and zoning.

Section J--Fish and Wildlife

In this section the Commission acknowledges the Federal project agency's historic indifference to those agencies responsible for wildlife and fish. The citizens of Washington recently amplified their desires along these lines last November through passage of Initiative 43B.

Chapter 9--Means of Increasing Water Supply

Section C--Precipitation Augmentation

While as we recognize the values inherent in weather modification programs, it is our opinion this section does not exert enough caution on the side of possible ecological damage through weather manipulation.

Section D--Land Management

We strongly object to phreatophyte removal on arid lands stripping of stream banks, clear cutting or channelization and devegetation of riparian habitats to "increase water supplies." In our opinion these projects are needless, costly, and wasteful. Emphasis should instead be placed on reforestation, soil conservation, and revegetation for the control and prevention of runoff. Interestingly, the Commission's Conclusions and Recommendations do not allude to phreatophyte eradication or stream bank brush control as contained in the draft.

Chapter 14--Sharing the Costs of Water Development Projects

2. Enhancing Environmental Values

We compliment the Commission's recommendations for Federal involvement in the preservation and enhancement of nationally significant areas and migratory waterfowl and anadromous fish and designated endangered species of wildlife. It is apparent in Chapter 14 the Commission has realistically faced the question of who should pay for projects. We do concur with the recommendations that the beneficiary pay.

Conclusion

We compliment the Commission for the thorough and exhaustive manner in which it has addressed these complex problems. We appreciate the honesty by which difficult decisions were confronted.

We are especially impressed with the concern the Commission has placed upon wildlife and esthetic values and the emphasis on a fair project cost-sharing program.

National acceptance of the philosophical spirit of the Commission's Report and implementation of its recommendations can give greater protection to our country's natural resource. It can help resolve many disputes and halt disruptive, disastrous, and expensive single interest projects. We have every reason to believe that implementation of these recommendations by Congress, the President, the departments and agencies should bring about good results. We submit only these few recommendations for consideration to strengthen this Report."

Paul Howard states it is important that all Audubon members write letters now giving support to the National Water Commission Draft Report. Send your letters to:

National Water Commission  
Room 405  
800 North Quincy Street  
Arlington, Virginia 22203

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

North County Areas:

Nancy Bartels	3689 South Court	Palo Alto, Calif. 94306
Mrs. William L. Beaver	27650 Edgerton Rd.	Los Altos Hills, Calif. 94022
Mr. Henry B. Bernson	Blackwelder 9 E Stnfrd Univ.	Stanford, Calif. 94305
Russell and Lucille Coppel	1398 Bernardo Ave.	Sunnyvale, Calif. 94087
Miss Judith L. Davies	195 N. California Ave.	Palo Alto, Calif. 94301
Miss Judy G. Dickson	22321 Holt	Los Altos, Calif. 94022
Harry A. Fassell	El Darado Mobile Park	Sunnyvale, Calif. 94086
	1080 9 Fair Oaks Ave.	Saratoga, Calif. 94303
Dr. & Mrs. F.M. Forrest	804 Fielding Dr.	Los Altos, Calif. 94022
Mrs. B. Guerra	11676 Alford Ave.	

Eleanor M. Huggins	824 San Francisco Ct.	Stanford, Calif. 94305
Allison Franks Pace	233 Oberlin	Palo Alto, Calif. 94306
Mrs. Ethel Roosma	2341 Tasso	Palo Alto Calif. 94301
Mr. James D. Roberts	1080 Inverness Way	Sunnyvale, Calif. 94087
Beverly Rogers	359 Lurada Ct.	Los Altos, Calif. 94422
Christina Russo	1146 Bennington	Sunnyvale, Calif. 94081
Mrs. Mary J. Sandifer	1488 Hamilton Ave.	Palo Alto, Calif. 94301
Mrs. Betty Lee Stone	1422 Lewiston Dr.	Sunnyvale, Calif. 94087
Jennifer Summit	13390 Lenox Way	Los Altos, Hills, Calif. 94022
Mr. J. H. Trenholme	Escondido Vlg. Apt. 10D	Stanford, Calif. 95303
Mr. Thomas Van Nortwick	1918 Cooley Ave. Apt. 1E	Palo Alto, Calif. 94303
Mr. William M. Vaughan	915 Cowper	Palo Alto, Calif. 94301
Mr. & Mrs. R.F. Ward	2458-4W Bayshore Rd.	Palo Alto, Calif. 94303

### South County Areas

Aemer D. Anderson	190 Rose Cite, #3	Campbell, Calif. 95008
Louise Baille	1195 Brace Avenue	San Jose, Calif. 95125
James Warren Bell	1575 Cherry Avenue	San Jose, Calif. 95125
Mr. & Mrs. J. Charpentier	2355 Thompson Place	Santa Clara, Calif. 95050
United New Conservationists	84 South 5th Street	San Jose, Calif. 95112
Mr. Christopher D. Daubert	232 South 10th Street #5	San Jose, Calif. 95112
Mrs. Robert Easter	22445 Cupertino Road	Cupertino, Calif. 95014
Devorah L. Garland	21970 Via Regine	Saratoga, Calif. 95070
Mr. George C. Grubb, Jr	116 Belcrest Drive	Los Gatos, Calif. 95030
Mr. Gary L. Hopkins	935 Fell Cite	San Jose, Calif. 95132
W. J. Hanna, Jr.	1795 B Hecker Pass Road	Gilroy, Calif. 95020
Mr. Donald D. Johnson	745 Pollard Road	Los Gatos, Calif. 95030
Mr. Stephen A. Joseph	21307 Glen Place	Cupertino, California 95014
Mr. M. T. Kelly	10296 Alpine Drive #C	Cupertino, Calif. 95014
Mr. Mike La Fleur	4270 Albany Drive	San Jose, Calif. 95127
Beverly Clarke Lipscomb	Box 503	Santa Clara, Calif. 95030
Dr. Walter A. McCall DVM	2160 S. Winchester	Campbell, Calif. 95008
Mr. W. F. Marshall	1125 Manchester Dr. #2	Santa Clara, Calif. 95050
Mrs. C. B. Morse	5269 Cribari Heights	San Jose, Calif. 95135
Mr. David Richey	815 S. 3rd	San Jose, Calif. 95112
Mr. Thomas J. Patrick	301 South 18th	San Jose, Calif. 95116
Linda M. Schreirr	350 B. West Main Street	Los Gatos, Calif. 95030
Mrs. Earle H. Sester	15062 Joanne Avenue	San Jose, Calif. 95127
Mr. Horace S. Sharp	724 Kirk Glen Drive	San Jose, Calif. 95133
Miss Debra S. Sutter	11455 Clayton Road	San Jose, Calif. 95127
Mr. & Mrs. Frank Ubhaus	1628 Knollwook	San Jose, Calif. 95125

### PARROTS AT VASONA PARK

A recent article in the San Jose Mercury described sightings of a flock of parrots in and about Vasona Park, Los Gatos. Greg Grenfell of San Jose was at Vasona Park that December 31 about 3:30 pm and made some observations of his own.

Greg states . . . "I sighted 5 birds flying from the Oak trees on University Avenue above Vasone Lake, to Bird Island on Vasona Lake." His description of the birds is . . . "Size about 15" to 18" from head to tip of tail feathers. Color, green body, wings, tail, head, with blue-green on tips of wings and tail. Red bill with black under the bill. Definite dark collar around neck." After checking several references, Greg determined the birds to probably be Indian Ringnecked Parakeets, most likely an accidental release from an aviary, since this area is thousands of miles from their natural haunts.

Anyone wanting any further information, or having any question about the parakeets can contact Greg at 227-8817.

COSTA RICA FIELD TRIP IN APRIL

Seattle Audubon Society has a field trip scheduled to the research stations of the Organization for Tropical Studies in Costa Rica, from April 14th to the 30th. Please write for information to 712 Joshua Green Building, Seattle, Washington. 98101.

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

This years Christmas Bird Count was a grand success! Fifty six birders turned out to count 55,054 birds of 151 species. This is a new record number of species, beating the old SCVAS Christmas Count record of 150 established for the 1969 bird count. We saw several unusual birds this year. They include a Mountain Bluebird, 25 Evening grosbeaks, a Costa's Hummingbird, 15 Black Brant, 6 White-fronted Geese, a Phainopepla, and a Slate-colored Junco.

Because of the large turnout of so many enthusiastic people, this years count was a great success. I would like to thank each of you for an outstanding job. And a special thanks to all of those who contributed refreshments.

Note--Left behind was a copy of Peterson's Western Birds. Call me at 998-3159.

Mike Brady  
Count Coordinator

EDUCATIONAL TOUR SPONSORED BY FOOTHILL COLLEGE

A field study of Pacific islands and lagoons of Baja California will be offered by Foothill College this spring. It is a natural history field study program of the western coast and islands of Baja California conducted from aboard a 105 food deluxe charter vessel out of San Diego. Visits will be made to Guadalupe, San Benito, Cedros, and San Martin Islands and San Ignacio Lagoon. The week of the trip (March 24-31) coincides with the blooming of many plants and the breeding activities of many birds and marine mammals. Studies will include geology, flora, seashore life, birds, and marine mammals. An emphasis will be placed on birds with special efforts made to observe many unique pelagic species and endemics such as Belding's yellowthroat, McGregor's and Guadalupe House Finches, and Guadalupe Junco.

Expenses covered by the \$410 fee include round trip air fare from the Bay Area to San Diego, transportation to and from the ship, accommodations and meals for seven days on board and natural history instruction.

Reservations for the tour can be made with Lightlyn Travel Counselors, 200 3rd Street, Los Altos, California. For further information contact the above or Glenn Woffat, Biology instructor of Foothill College, or Terrence Murphy, Office of Community Services, Foothill College, Los Altos, 948-3523, ext 521, or Ted Chandik, 493-5330.

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.