SANTA CLARA VALLEY AUDUBON SOCIETY, Inc.

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May, 1973

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- May 1 Board of Directors Meeting, Tuesday, 7:30 PM at the home of Ron Stecker, 5357 Rimwood Drive, San Jose, 264-2582.
- May 8 Bird Discussion Group, Tuesday, 9:30 AM at the home of Eve Case, 20537 Verde Vista Lane, Saratoga. Topic: "Rufoussided Towhee".
- May 9 Field Trip South, Byrne Park, Wednesday 8:30 AM. Interstate 280 to Moody Rd. West on Moody Rd. about one mile. Right on Altamont Rd. Meet at intersection of Altamont and Taaffe Rds. in Los Altos Hills. Leaders: Jean and Frank Farran, 252-3874.
- May 12 Pajaro Dunes Field Trip, Saturday, 9:00 AM. South on State Route 1 from Santa Cruz to vicinity of Watsonville. Right at 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: Mr. and Mrs. John Warriner, (415) 851-1936.
- May 16

 General Meeting, Wednesday, 6:30 PM at The Bold Knight Restaurant, Sunnyvale. This is a dinner meeting to honor the hard working volunteer staff
 of The Avocet. In addition, Dr. Tom Harvey will present a history of
 SCVAS. See Page 4 "Special Note" for reservation information.
- May 17

 Bird Discussion Group, Thursday, 9:30 AM at the home of Mrs. Ransom-Davis, 1140 San Mateo Drive, Menlo Park, 322-8586. Topic: "Plain Titmouse, Chestnutbacked Chickadee, Wrentit, Bushtit, Brown Creeper, and White-Breasted Nuthatch".
- May 20

 Gilroy Hot Springs Field Trip, Sunday. South on 101 to San Martin. East on San Martin Ave. Right on New Ave. (at end of San Martin Ave.) about 4 miles. Left on Roop Rd. which becomes Gilroy Hot Springs Rd. Meet on Gilroy Hot Springs Rd. (at first large parking space on left) after it's intersection with Coyote Reservoir Rd. Trip leader will be in meeting area from 7:00 AM to 8:00 AM. Leader: Emelie Curtis, (408) 779-2637.

- May 23 Field Trip, North County, Wednesday, 9:00 AM, Foothill Park. Meet at Page Mill Road Entrance. Leader: Barbara Allen, 326-0521.
- June 2 Yosemite Field Trip, Saturday, 7:00 AM. Meet where the entrance road to Bridalveil Campground meets the Glacier Point Road. If you plan to go please contact the leader. If you plan to stay in a Curry Company Cabin or Lodge, get reservations now at (415) 434-0660. Leader: Joe Greenberg, 326-8120.

WHERE IT'S AT

California Area Birdfinding Notes -- We'll try to guide you to where it's at. If you know where it's at, please send a postcard with bird, locale, date observed and, if rare or questionable, a few indentifying characteristics and general habitat description to Bob Yutzy, 1625 Hazelaar Way, Los Altos, California 94022.

If you missed the two European Widgeons at the Baylands-Flood Basin area, you might check the San Francisco Zoo Trumpeter Swan pond. There was a non-hybrid wild one that just recently stopped in. In Princeton Harbor there 43 Black Brandts feeding. The Little Blue Heron-Snowy Egret hybrid has still been around in the channel north or east of the Palo Alto Corporation Yard along with a Spotted Sandpiper, Greater Yellowlegs and many Snipe. Resident Spotted Owis are regularly being seen on the Jepson Trail at Tomales Bay State Park. Tape recordings don't seem to work but walking the trail and flashlighting the trees can be successful. The reservoirs by Morgan Hill, especially Chesbro, produced 15-20 Wood Ducks and Common Mergansers as well as a Great Blue Heronry. Approximately 20 Blue Winged Teal were easily observable on the Baylands Nature Walk right next to the airport strip. A very colorful Harlans Hawk (along with one or two others) has regularly been seen near Chico at Route 32 & River Road around the open fields. Many Mountain Bluebirds can be seen there too. In addition, up north near the Woodland dump is a cooperative Long Eared Owl. To find him travel east on Highway 16 (1-5), turn right on Road 102, go to first left and follow it to a small marshy slough. In Death Valley at Scotty's Castle there was a Painted Redstart.

Try to get out if you can and let me know what you see. Many birds are starting to get their breeding plumage and you should also see some courting behavior.

Bob Yutzy

SUNDAY AT YOUTH SCIENCE INSTITUTE

Sundays at Youth Science Institute will provide the entire family with exciting happenings this year. Beginning Easter Week a full interpretive program will be offered in the Alum Rock Park and Junior Museum.

WALKABOUTS, at 1:30 & 3:30 PM, are guided nature walks along the park's easy and lovely trails.

PLAYTIME WITH THE ANIMALS, at 2:00 PM, Come into the Museum and our guides will take the animals out for you to hold or pet. A wonderful experience for young and old.

TALKABOUTS, at 3:00 PM, are a series of interesting interpretive talks at the Junior Museum on a wide variety of topics to answer your every question about the park and it's history. A new topic every week. A few of the subjects are: The History of Alum Rock Park, Oholone Indian Life, and Bats In Our Belfry.

Fred Avilez, Executive Director, phones: 258-4322, 258-7382, night: 243-3416

LET'S SET THE RECORD STRAIGHT

The Following is a copy of the letter sent to Loma Prieta Chapter-Sierra Club, Dated March 20, 1973:

Just recently the board of Directors of the Santa Clara County Audubon Society received a copy of a report prepared by your "Office Relocation Study Committee". In the report (page 3, starting line 10) a reference is made describing the Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society as being relatively inactive in conservation matters and that it will probably remain so in the foreseeable future. This statement is, of course, far from the truth as a few minutes of reflection and investigation would have revealed. In fact, the batting record of the Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society in the area of conservation is truly outstanding, especially considering the relatively small size of its membership. The range of activities runs the gambit of local, state, and national issues and projects.

Starting in 1960, we almost singlehandedly educated the Palo Alto City Council in matters of Bayland's ecology and conservation through letters, public displays, publications (An Introduction to the Palo Alto Baylands by Diane Conradson), and speakers. This ultimately resulted in the establishment of the Baylands Interpretive Center.

We have earnestly strove to educate our members, school children and the public by providing films, filmstrips, well-trained classroom instructors and field naturalists, monthly public programs, field trips and the "Audubon Hotline", all free of charge and available to everyone.

Our long standing concern and interest in bay conservation and our active solicitation of Scout groups, AAUW, League of Women Voters, school districts and others along these lines as well as many trips to Sacramento urging the passage of the initial legislation to establish the Bay Conservation and Development Commission helped to bring it about. We are especially proud to have a member and past president, Dr. Tom Harvey, serve as ecological consultant to the commission.

To anyone who knows of the struggle for the South Bay Wildlife Refuge it is no news that the members of the Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society and other Audubon Societies around the Bay spent long and anxious hours on this project - educating, raising money, writing letters, going to the meetings and sending, by means of hard earned dollars, people to Washington to testify before committees. It is interesting to note that Mrs. Conradson's book was one of the three references mentioned in the Brochure published by the Planning Department of Santa Clara County and is the first of four references given by the Bureau of Sport Fisheries in its report to the Department of the Interior. Many beleive that the pioneer work done here in Palo Alto Baylands helped to bring about the refuge complex.

For three years starting in 1969, our members conducted a shorebird censurs of the Palo Alto Marsh for the California Department of Fish and Game. This highly rewarding activity produced the highest shorebird count in the state, topping by 2800 the nearest competitive site.

We have supported with funds and manpower such projects as Save the Redwoods, Point Reyes Bird Observatory, Calif. Coastal Alliance, Condor Fund, Sempervirens fund, South San Francisco Bay Project of the Nature Conservency, as well as others. We also have representation on the Bay Area Audubon Council, ABAG, Santa Clara County Flood Control Water District, Citizens Committee on the Guadalupe River Project, and the United New Conservationists.

Described here is only a small sample of the variety and scope of our conservation activities. We do not work in as public a way as some other organizations. Our goal has always been the conservation of our natural environment and not the thin sounds of the clanging cymbals of notoriety.

I trust that this brief statement of our activities will help to set the record straight. This is especially important when so many newcomers are joining in the struggle for environmental protection. We are justly proud of our record.

RLH: mm

Copy to: Committe for Green Foothills

Peninsula Conservation Foundation

Zero Population Growth

Sincerely,

(Signed)

Robert L. Hassur, President Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society

SHORELINE REGIONAL PARK UPDATE

National Audubon agreed to be a party plaintiff in the proposed lawsuit against the Army Corps of Engineers, as did the Sierra Club. Because the Corps has finally surveyed the area, and agreed to hold a public hearing, this action is pending. The Bureau of Sport Fisheries ans Wildlife (BSFW) has recommended that over 40 Percent of the Park site be retained for wildlife habitat in a strongly worded memorandum that accompanied a Bureau of Outdoor Recreation (BOR) recommendation, that presumeably was quite different to the desk of Under Secretary of the Interior, Nathaniel Reed. Because one Bureau of Interior (BOR) is giving money for intensive recreation, while another Bureau (BSFW) is trying to save wildlife habitat, Mr. Reed's report back to the Corps will be significant not just in Mountain View, but perhaps, through out the nation.

The California State Department of Fish and Game, the other agency the Corps depends on to give environmental evaluation, has not completed it's report.

If you are interested in the battle of the Save Our Sloughs and connot wait for the next chapter in the Avocet, call Nancy Holmes at 948-3262 or Florence La Riviere at 493-5540, or drop us a line.

SPECIAL NOTE

In place of our regular May meeting, we are planning an annual dinner meeting of the membership to honor the hard working team of volunteers who have provided us with the "Avocet" for so many years.

You are invited to heop thank Charles and Fanny Zwaal, Elsie Hoeck, Caroline Davis, and Mr. and Mrs. Emmanuel Taylor for their tireless efforts and devotion on behalf of the Society.

The activities planned for the evening include:

6:30 Wine Tasting - San Martin Wines

7:30 Dinner (Cross-Rib Roast)

8:30 Vignette on the history of SCVAS by Tom Harvey Presentation of Certificates of Appreciation Election of Officers

The date is May 16 at The Bold Knight Restaurant, 769 North Matilda Ave., Sunnyvale. Make Reservations Now - \$4.50 per person, make checks payable to Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society and mail to Ken Kidd, 4062 Keith Dr., Campbell, California 95008. Deadline for reservation is May 14, 1973.

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Designated Nancy Holmes, Mike Brady and Al Jamieson as our official delegates to the Audubon National Convention, June 7-11, 1973 at Denver, Colorado. Agreed to pay their Convention dinner and Registration Fees (\$25.00).

NOMINATIONS OF OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS

The Nominating Committee presents the following state of Officers and Board Members to be voted on at the May General Meeting:

Board of Directors

Carol Deinger Ted Chandick Mike Brady

Officers

Pres. Nancy Holmes
V. P. R. J. Andree
Treas. Joyce Todd

FIELD TRIP REPORTS

Frank Farran reports on the following Field Trip:

Pinnacles National Monument:

About 20 campers and several non-campers showed up for the trip. Friday and Saturday the weather was beautiful, and after the wet winter, the park was at it's very best. The Wild Flowers were spectacular. Birding was something less than spectacular; but we saw 40, or so, species including Poor-Will, Bullock's Oriole, Warbling and Hutton's Vireo, White-Throated Swift, Varied Thrush, Prairie Falcon, Golden Eagle, Raven, and a playful Red-Tailed Hawk harassing 7 Turkey Vultures out of a tree.

Carol Zabel reports on the following Field Trip:

26 species were seen by the 21 birders who attended the trip to Duveneck Ranch on March 28. Mr. Duneneck was kind enough to escort us during much of the hike and pointed out many of the plants in his garden.

Among the birds seen were several Townsends Warblers, a Wilson's Warbler, a Black Phoebe and it's nest, and a Ruby-Crowned Kinglet, singing his spring song.

Among the Wild Flowers seen were Star Zygadene, Mission Bell, and Hounds Tongue.

Les Sleeper reports on the following Field Trip:

Coyote Hills Field Trip: Febr. 28, 1973

Swallows and White-Throated Swifts, a clear cool morning, a small elected group of good birders found the fields largely flooded, and the large ducks still around. Some Mallards, lots of Shouellers and a good many Pintails, more Cinnamon Teal and a few Gadwalls. Lots of Marsh Hawks and a few White Tail Kites.

But the big surprise of the day, was a group of Barn Swallows ans White-Throated Swifts were observed for the first time this year. About a total of 48 species all together.

Bob Yutzy reports on the following Field Trip:

The March owling trip saw 97 hearty people in 43 cars flock into Woodside at 4 AM. Owl-wise and people-wise, the weather was less than rewarding. Owls are traditionally hard to hear, or don't call with wind and rain, and we weren't ones to break with tradition. Saw-Whet and Horned were faintly heard to call only once or twice. A few of us saw a Great Horned briefly along Route 280. The Eleanor Park Barn Owl and the I.T.T. Burrowing Owls were observed. The total seen or heard was 4 of the 7 we hoped for. I wish to thank everyone for coming and am sorry we weren't more successful. I hope it was at least educational and maybe we can try it again sometime.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

South County Area

Mr. John Amiot & Family A. F. Bazdarnich The Robert Beers Family Susan Blake Mr. Brimhalls Mr. Holsey O. Burke Travis Cart Patricia Caverly Mr. & Mrs. Chester Croll C. & G. Curtner Mr. & Mrs. Anthony M. Ernst Dorothy B. Farrington Mrs. R. R. Frazer Mr. John Greening Mrs. James Hughins Dr. & Mrs. Peter Jackson Mr. & Mrs. Gary Kidgell David T. Kuhn Dr. Jerome A. Lackner Mr. Alex C. McCandless Mr. Kevin McKay Mrs. Jane Millhoff Mrs. Nancy Moak Mr. Duncan O'Neal Mr. Peter Scott Owen M. C. Pierce Dorothy Reis Mr. Walter A. Schmidt Jr. Mr. Christopher J. Smith H. Stelbrecht Miss Janet R. Walworth Susan Yumiko Yamada Mr. & Mrs. Edward Vambrach Mr. Robert Acheson Mr. Kurt B. Anslinger Dr. Robert Armstrong Mrs. John Atkinson Mrs. John Atkinson Mr. & Mrs. Glenn Bacon

Mrs. Pat Balingit

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Mrs. William B. Weston Miss Susan E. Winslow

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\$12 individua \$15 family

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