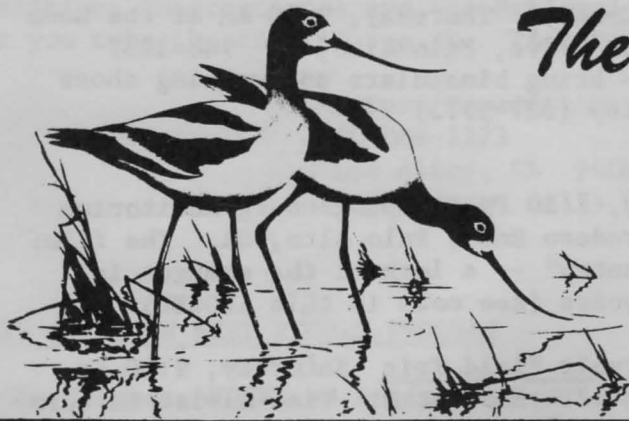


SANTA CLARA VALLEY AUDUBON SOCIETY, Inc.

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The Avocet

TIME VALUE

Volume 21, Number 1

January 1974

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- January 8 Bird Discussion Group Tuesday, 9:30 AM at the home of Eve Case 20537 Verde Vista Lane, Saratoga, CA Topic: "Oregon Junco"
- January 9 Field Trip South Mt. Hermon, Wednesday 9:00 AM. Highway 17 to Mt. Hermon Rd. turn-off. 4½ miles on Mt. Hermon Rd. to Safeway Store. Left at Safeway one block and then left again onto Conference Dr. One mile to parking lot on right. Bring lunch. We will eat at Mary Grunigen's cabin. Birding Leader: Frank Farran 252-3874
- January 14 Board of Director's Meeting Monday, 7:30 PM at the Peninsula Conservation Center (address above logo at top of this page) Members are welcome and encouraged to come.
- January 16 North County General Meeting Wednesday, 7:30 PM. The program will feature an "Owl Talk" by Bob Yutzy. Baylands Interpretative Center at the east end of Embarcadero Rd. In Palo Alto (please see note in this AVOCET for particulars).
- January 19 Local Owl Trip 3:30 AM Saturday and Sunday. Sign up at the January and 20 16 General Meeting, or, if you won't be attending, please send me (Bob Yutzy) a self-addressed stamped envelope including number of people attending and day preferred. Leaders: Bob Yutzy, 1625 Hazelaar Way, Los Altos, CA 94022 and Ted Chandik, Bob Dyer, and Mike Brady.
- January 22 South County General Meeting Tuesday, 7:30 PM "Trailing Glacier Goats" will be presented by Dr. J. Gordon Edwards. Rose Garden Branch of the San Jose Public Library at Dana & Naglee Streets in San Jose, CA (Please see note in this AVOCET for more information).

- January 23 North County Field Trip Wednesday, 9:00 AM on the Stanford Campus We will walk around the area of the faculty homes. Meet on Bowdoin St. on the campus side of Stanford Ave. (Note: Stanford Ave. no longer goes through to the Foothill Expressway!.) Best route is from Hanover St. to Stanford Ave. Leader: Barbara Houghton 327-2186 Call Kay McCann (327-4138) for information
- January 24 Bird Discussion Group (North County) Thursday, 9:30 AM at the home of Evelyn Radcliffe, 2930 Alexis Drive, Palo Alto, CA 948-1237 The topic will be "Flickers" -- bring binoculars and walking shoes and get acquainted. Ione Bradley (327-5973)
- January 24 Audubon Wildlife Film Thursday, 7:30 PM at Spangenberg Auditorium of Gunn High School, 780 Arastradero Road, Palo Alto, CA. The film: "What Have You Done With My Country" -- a look at the changes in Australia during the last 200 years (see note in this AVOCET)
- January 26 Weller Road and Calaveras Reservoir Field Trip Saturday, 9:00 AM. From San Jose, north on Highway 17. East at Mt. View-Alviso Rd turn-off to Calaveras Blvd. Go about 4 miles to Duck Pond in Levin Park on south side of Calaveras Rd. From Palo Alto, south on Bayshore. East on Mt. View-Alviso Rd. which eventually becomes Calaveras. Leader: Al Wool 415-747-0317
- February 11 Board of Director's Meeting Monday, 7:30 PM at the Peninsula Conservation Center (address above AVOCET logo)
- February 13 Field Trip South Canyon Drive, Saratoga, Wednesday 9:00 AM. Saratoga-Los Gatos Rd. to Belle Ct. (about 1 mile from Saratoga or 3 miles from Los Gatos.) Park near 15355 Belle Ct. Leader: Manette Wittgenstein 354-9420.

FIELD TRIPS AND THE GASOLINE SHORTAGE

Because of the gasoline shortage, the Board of Directors of the Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society has voted that trips will be limited to the Bay Area. In general, weekend trips will be on Saturday. The one exception currently planned is an overnight trip to Pt. Reyes in the Spring.

Last year a Ride Pool System with Ride Pool Coordinators was tried. The response was somewhat discouraging. Possibly people prefer to make their own arrangements. With this in mind it is strongly urged that drivers do what they can to pool with other drivers in their area as well as provide rides for non-drivers they know.

CHRISTMAS COUNT 1973

At the time THE AVOCET went to press, our erstwhile Count Coordinator, Mike Brady, was still hassling the figures from the Christmas Count on 15 December. The tentative data are certainly encouraging however. The total species number will run around 160, which would be a new SCVAS record. About 60 people counted something around 146,000 birds -- a very good showing. There would be many "notable" sightings at a time like this, but the list does include such things as Ferruginous and Rough-legged Hawks, Whistling Swans, and a Monk Parakeet. All of this is tentative however; the final story will come out in a later AVOCET.

AUDUBON WILDLIFE FILM

A short note on this might be in order since it appears in our calendar. For 200 years Australia has been changing at the hands of western man. Modern life has ravaged the land, displaced the aborigines, and needlessly destroyed wildlife. The film "What Have You Done With My Country" is an outcry against the despoilation of Australia's wilderness and wildlife, a personal outcry in fact, by the film's producer Frank Heiman. By the way, this film was Australia's official entry at the International Environment Conference in Stockholm, 1972. Co-sponsored by Nature Expeditions International and the National Audubon Society, we strongly suggest that you take the time to see it. Tickets are obtainable from:

Nature Expeditions International
PO Box 1173
Los Altos, CA 94022
Telephone: (415) 941-2910

NORTH AMERICAN NEST RECORD PROGRAM

In the October AVOCET we asked that participants in this worthwhile program return their cards for the "summing up." A total of 413 cards were returned to the Avian Biology Laboratory at San Jose State University from the following people:

Robert E. Gill	216
Robert G. Schneider	72
L. Richard Mewaldt	34
Diana G. Matthiesen	25
Andrea Lajoie	23
Janis Ringuette	15
E. M. Wilson	8
Gerrie L. Human	5
Sydni M. Scott	4
David J. Guzzetta	2
M. E. Wade	2
D. S. Starks	2
Gail M. Cheeseman	1
William T. Mewaldt	1
Robert R. Charles	1
W. R. Cromwell	1
B. W. Emlen	1
	<hr/>
	413

The number of cards only partly reflects the number of observations made, because many of these represented colony nesters, with many nests reported on a single card. There were actually more than 8,500 nest observations (representing 79 species) on these cards.

Special honors go to Bob Gill for his phenomenal work on the South San Francisco Bay breeding birds. Also a special thanks to Janis Ringuette and Andrea Lajoie for the laborious task of transferring all of Bob's valuable observations from his field notes to the nest cards themselves.

I personally would like to thank everyone who participated in the program this year, and I know I speak for the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology. We certainly welcome your valuable assistance, and look forward to an even greater number of participants next year.

Diana Matthiesen

WHERE IT'S AT

January is the time for waterfowl, wintering land and shorebirds, calling owls and possibly rare pelagics. This month's site guide is to the Sacramento National Wildlife Refuge. Each issue we will try to pick one local birding area and give some general notes on it, as we did last month with Lake Merritt.

Coastal promontories (Pt. Pinos, Bodega Head, etc.) or deep water lagoons (Moss Landing, Pt. Reyes) can yield White-winged and Black (Common) Scoters, Oldsquaws, all Loons including Yellow-billed, and Red-necked Grebes. Here one can also find pelagic Gulls -- Sabine's and Black-legged Kittiwake, rare Shearwaters -- Short-tailed (used to be called Slenderbilled) and northern Alcids.

Some birds being seen are: Sage Thrasher (still in San Jose) and seven Whistling Swans were at Calaveras Reservoir for the Christmas Count. Monterey has an immature Male King Eider at the Muni Pier, as well as Fulmars and Red Phalaropes and off the Coast Guard Pier there have been many sightings of Black and Fork-tailed Petrels, Red-necked Grebes, and anywhere in the bay many sightings of Rhino and Cassin's Auklets and Ancient Murrelets. Rough-legged Hawks are the invasion species to watch for; they've been seen in Seaside, Salinas, Los Banos, Pt. Reyes, and even in San Jose. Ferruginous Hawk and Merlin (formerly Pigeon Hawk) are also being seen in many areas. Owling seems fairly good (even in inclement weather); on the upper sections of Calaveras Road, 2 Pygmy's were vigorously calling and Screech was heard along with many Great-horneds. Short-eared and Long-eared should be seen around. Would you believe Snowy Owls in California?? There seems to be an invasion in a southerly direction with at least 6 birds seen in Del Norte County and many more in Oregon and Washington. They may be spreading south and may eventually reach us. The Sharp-tailed Sparrow is being seen at the Dumbarton Audubon Sanctuary Marsh. Groups of Waxwings should produce a Bohemian and in farmlands look for Mountain Plovers and Longspurs. The Bar-tailed Godwit was apparently pushed out of Stinson Beach on Dec. 2nd -- and has not been seen since. The latest news is that California had its first record of the Rufous-backed Robin at Imperial Dam. This is a bird that is only casual in some parts of Arizona.

Sacramento National Wildlife Refuge is a leisurely one day birding trip, approximately 2 hours from San Jose on Route 505. It offers spectacular views of waterfowl concentrations, impressive to birder and non-birder alike. If you missed snow for Christmas try fields of thousands of Snow Geese, and also abundant numbers of Cackling (Canada) Geese and many White-fronteds. Each year there are a few Blue phase Snow's and sometimes (like last year) an Emperor. Whistling Swans in small numbers are quite impressive along with many Duck species; also look for White-faced Ibis, Rough-legged Hawks, the Harlan's race of Red-tailed, Peregrine Falcon, herons and shorebirds. The staff are extremely helpful too. There are other refuges near here, but this is the largest and the new route offers superb views of wildlife and can easily be seen in 1-2 hour tour time.

Have a good New Year birding.



Bob Yutzy

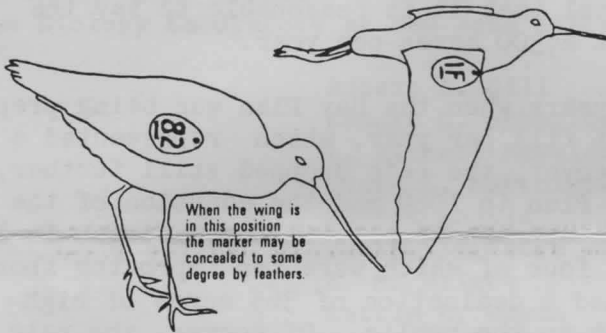
THREE FIELD TRIP REPORTS

Ted Graf reports that the November 14 trip to Sunol Regional Park was a beautiful day between storms. Some 35 species were sighted, the most notable being a Golden Eagle, Hermit Thrush, Varied Thrush, Say's Phoebe, Western Bluebird, Sharpshinned Hawk, and to finish the trip -- 6 Lark Sparrows on one tree.

Kay McCann notes that the November 28 jaunt to the Searsville Lake area was also a good day. Thirty-three people showed up and 42 species were seen on a beautiful sunny morning. The highlights: 200 Ring-necked Ducks, 30 Gadwalls, 2 Bluebirds in perfect light, a Varied Thrush, and, on the scouting trip, a Rough-legged Hawk and 6 Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers (Red-breasted variety). We hope to repeat this trip next year.

Margaret Henderson tells us that the December 12 trip to Loma Prieta Rd. was attended by 17 birders. It was a cloudy day, but 28 species were seen; the "star" of the show was the Red Crossbills. Also noted were Red-breasted Nuthatch and huge flocks of Pine Siskin.

BIRDERS MIGHT BE ON THE LOOKOUT FOR:



A long range study of the movements of Willets and Marbled Godwits in the south San Francisco Bay area is currently in progress. These two species are being captured, marked and released at their resting grounds during high tides. They receive aluminum Fish and Wildlife Service leg bands and brightly colored patagial markers which are readily visible on birds in the field. The patagial wing marker is a thin piece of vinyl plastic coated nylon bearing a number or letter-number combination and is fastened to the patagium (a flap of skin on the leading edge of the wing) with a short nylon rod.

This masters degree thesis project by Paul R. Kelly under the direction of Dr. Howard L. Cogswell will

hopefully provide information on the daily local movements of these species with respect to tides, time of day, weather conditions and other factors. Information about their migration could possibly result.

Any person who observes a bird carrying a marker could make a useful contribution to our knowledge of these birds by reporting the details of the sighting. The information desired is as follows (partial information can be of value).

1. Name and address of observer
2. Date of observation
3. Specific location (to within one mile, describe location with respect to local landmarks easily found on standard road maps).
4. Species carrying marker (if known)
5. Color of marker and whether observed on left or right wing
6. Number or letter-number combination on marker (if possible)

Please report information to:

Dr. Howard L. Cogswell
Department of Biology
California State University
Hayward, California 94542

BAY CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION (BCDC)

On January 17 there will be a public hearing in Palo Alto regarding the proposed "new" Dumbarton Bridge (southern crossing); we suggest you consult your newspaper for the time and place. If you would like to let your feelings known to BCDC, you could write a letter:

Mr. Wm. Evers. (Chairman of BCDC)
#30 Van Ness Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94102

MORE ON BCDC

The following is a copy of a copy of a portion of the minutes from BCDC's Oct. 4 meeting and was kindly submitted to THE AVOCET by Harriet Mundy. Please excuse the crowding:

"A question that has been asked recently is why filling of the Bay still continues even though there is a BCDC. The short answer is that the McAteer-Petris Act and the Bay Plan were written to regulate filling of the Bay and not to stop all further fill. Recognizing that the Bay is an economic, as well as a natural resource, the Legislature set out in the McAteer-Petris Act a limited number of water-oriented uses for which the Commission could allow some fill. More importantly, however, the Legislature made it clear that the Bay is a public resource, though much of it is privately owned, and the McAteer-Petris Act stated that any fill in the Bay, for whatever purpose, 'should be authorized only when the public benefits from fill clearly exceed public detriment from the loss of water areas.'

"The real question then should be 'Is the BCDC accomplishing its task? Is BCDC adequately protecting the public interest in the Bay as the Legislature directed?' To answer these questions, let me use some statistics. The best information that we have is that between 1850 and 1940, the rate of diking and filling in the Bay was about 1,500 acres per year. Between 1940 and about the time BCDC came into being in 1965, the rate increased to about 2,300 acres per year. These are averages and, of course, do not reflect actual filling and diking during any given year, but we feel that it is reasonable to say the rate of filling when BCDC came into being was about 2,300 acres per year.

"What has happened since then? During the years when the Bay Plan was being prepared, the Commission authorized an average of 94 acres of fill per year, which represented a significant drop in the rate up to that time. Moreover, the rate dropped still further, to 29 acres per year, after the completion of the Bay Plan in 1969 and the adoption of the amendments to the McAteer-Petris Act. ~~And the rate appears to be still declining.~~ In 1972, the Commission authorized only five acres of fill, four of which were for improving shoreline appearance and public access and which included a dedication of 365 acres of high-quality marsh for permanent preservation at no cost to the public. Of course, the rate of fill in the future could fluctuate as the result of a large fill project for either an airport or a port, both of which are water-oriented uses and which represent, by far, the largest percentage of the fill previously authorized. In fact, 92% of the projects authorized have been for public uses, and only 8% for private use.

"The amount of fill authorized is not necessarily the same as the amount of fill that has actually occurred. Though about 480 acres of fill was authorized up through 1972, as far as we can tell, only about 330 acres of the Bay have actually been filled. This is less than one-half of the last large fill project prior to BCDC, Bay Farm Island. The 150-acre difference between the amount of fill authorized and the amount completed is the filling of the Seaplane Harbor at San Francisco Airport, which it now appears may not take place.

"Let me sum up by saying that, in the judgment of the staff, the Commission, operating under the San Francisco Bay Plan and the McAteer-Petris Act, has stopped large-scale filling of the Bay and brought further filling under strict public control. The next step is to move forward to implement other recommendations of the Bay Plan. Some of the more important of these are: the permanent preservation of areas of critical concern to the Bay, such as the marshlands, managed wetlands and the salt ponds; the opening of public access to the Bay on a broader than project-to-project basis; recreational development along the shoreline; and similar matters. In short, through BCDC regulation, uncoordinated piecemeal filling of the Bay has stopped; it is now time to develop ways to encourage desirable things to happen. We hope to make recommendations to the Commission in this regard in the course of the revision of the Bay Plan, which we will be reporting to you shortly."

THOSE JANUARY GENERAL MEETINGS

Palo Alto Baylands Interpretative Center
East end of Embarcadero Road
Palo Alto, CA

Wednesday, 7:30 PM
January 16, 1974

"Owl Talk" -- by Bob Yutzy. Bob will have some skins available from the Museum at San Jose State University. Bob's talk will be followed by "Owl Prowls" and he'll give us some preliminary thoughts on the Local Owl Trips (Jan. 19-20 -- see the Calendar of Events in this AVOCET). It should prove to be an interesting evening particularly for those people who like to think of themselves as "Night People." Refreshments will be served first, and Bob will start about 8:15PM. The North County General Meetings are co-sponsored by the Palo Alto Nature and Science Dept. and we thank them for their help. The meeting is open to the public (even "Day People"), there is no charge, so why not join us with your friends?

Kay McCann (327-4138)

Rose Garden Branch
San Jose Public Library
Dana & Naglee Streets
San Jose, CA

Tuesday, 7:30 PM
January 22, 1974

"Trailing Glacier Goats" -- with Dr. J. Gordon Edwards. In spite of the energy crisis, you are invited to our most beautiful National Park; Glacier, in Montana, with a man who spent a lot of time photographing and climbing in this lovely place. Dr. Edwards is a biologist, photographer, entomologist, and raconteur. We can guarantee none of the discomforts of travel, and all of the joys -- breathtaking scenery, fascinating animal life, and an atmosphere of fun and good humor. The meeting is open to the public, and there is no charge, so why not join us?

Florence La Riviere

GOINGS ON ABOUT TOWN

BOARD NOTES

At the December Meeting the Board of Directors of the Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society took the following actions:

Voted to send an additional \$250 contribution to the Point Reyes Bird Observatory
Voted to ask for Whitell Funds for a named trust for Point Reyes Bird Observatory
Hosted Stanfords' Alan Grunland and discussed SCVAS invitation to be permitted access to Jasper Ridge
Voted to renew the current lease agreement with the Peninsula Conservation Foundation (to remain in the Peninsula Conservation Center) with special recommendations to get certain library problems cleared up
Viewed a film "The Bay That Wasn't Saved"

So far the only item on this month's agenda is voting for the Candidates for the two $\frac{1}{2}$ scholarships to the Audubon Camp of the West. All members are welcome and in fact encouraged to attend the Board Meetings.

NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Books could be written about volunteer organizations such as ours, and over the years most of us have heard some pretty good excuses, seen some funny cartoons, and developed some attitudes of our own toward volunteers in general and conservation volunteers in particular. But in the middle of our fiscal year, especially in January after the hectic holidays, I feel that our volunteers should be THANKED; certainly the question uppermost in their minds must be "why did I ever get into this sort of thing?"

We would not get our AVOCETS if Ken Kidd did not keep on top of the computer problems and put the labels on! Dave Nauer is doing a superb job with this publication and Mike Brady just completed another Christmas Count, doing a fine job made even more complicated this year by the new rules for Counters. The Field Notes are getting a lot of compliments (WHERE IT'S AT by Bob Yutzzy) and Frank Farran is continuing to do his great job with planning and leading trips for the Society. We could encourage Florence La Riviere a little more with a larger attendance at the San Jose General Meetings; those who have attended have been delighted with her hard work. Kay McCann is not only leading and planning North County Field Trips, but Kay even allowed herself to be talked into doing the Palo Alto General Meetings as well; a wonderful job on both scores. There are others getting warmed up in their jobs that I will thank later, and hopefully by the end of this month we can have one or two people willing to be "Conservation Contributors" (Ruth Troeschler is the only one to answer my plea in October). The Board of Directors and Officers are just plain dedicated and continue to deserve the Society's gratitude. Though our Society suffers from chronic non-participation, it is not unique to a well-established organization such as ours; things will only get better if you care enough to join the ranks, don't complain, and contribute!!

A VERY HAPPY NEW YEAR TO EVERYONE
Nancy Holmes

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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