

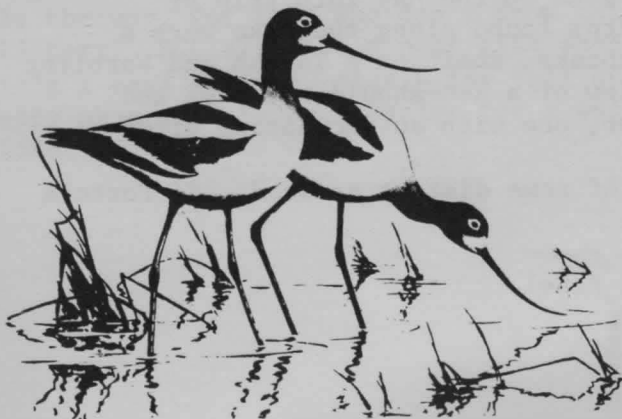
SANTA CLARA VALLEY AUDUBON SOCIETY, Inc.

Chapter 0515 of the National Audubon Society
1176 Emerson Street, Palo Alto, CA 94301
Telephone: (415) 328-5313

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The Avocet

TIME VALUE



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September 1975

CALENDAR OF EVENTS.

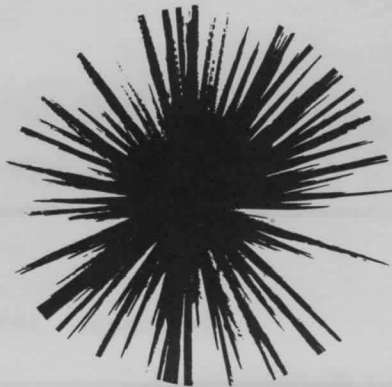
- Sept. 8 Board of Director's Meeting, Monday, 7:30 P.M. at the Peninsula Conservation Center (address above AVOCET logo): Members are welcome.
- Sept. 9 Bird Discussion Group, Tues., 9:30 A.M. at home of Eve Case, 20537 Verde Vista Lane, Saratoga, Topic: Summer Bird Experiences.
- Sept. 20 Field Trip, Saturday, 9:00 a.m. Pescadero Marsh and Ano Nuevo Point. Meet in the ocean side parking lot at the junction of the Pescadero Rd. and Highway 1. To get there take the Lallonda Rd. (Rt. 84) through San Gregorio to Highway 1, then go south about 5 miles. To see migrating ocean, shore and marsh birds. At Ano Nuevo Pt. we will look for such uncommon birds as Harlequin Duck, Black Swift, and Bank Swallow. Leader: Ted Chandik, 493-5330
- Sept. 24 Field Trip North, Palo Alto Baylands, Wednesday 9:00 a.m. Meet at the duck pond at the end of Embarcadero Road. Leader: Kay McCann 327-4138 or call Carol Zabel 948-5671.
- Sept. 26 Bird Discussion Group, Friday at Eleanor Park, Center and Channing, Palo Alto, at 9:00 a.m. to discuss birds seen this summer. Come and get acquainted. Ione Bradley, 327-5973
- Sept. 27 Field Trip Saturday, 9:00 a.m. Rodeo Lagoon - Golden Gate National Recreation Area. Cross the Golden Gate Bridge, take the first exit after the Vista Point exit, turn left in about 1/2 mile, go through the one-way tunnel and wait in the parking lot at the far end. To look for coastal migrating land and water birds, particularly vagrants and rarities. For those

that would like to continue on to the Pt. Reyes Peninsula for more birding in the afternoon, arrangements can be made with the leaders in the morning. Leaders: Carol and Bob Yutzy, 968-8804

FIELD TRIP REPORT

Forty-six species of birds were found by fifteen persons on the May 28th trip by Searsville Lake and up toward Jasper Ridge. Some birds found along the lake were a pair of Wood Ducks, Yellowthroats, Black-headed Grosbeaks, Swainson's Thrush and Warbling Vireo. Up on top of the hill we had an excellent view of a Red-shouldered Hawk and two lichen-covered nests of the Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, one with an incubating bird.

We were able to see the few Heron nests in the tops of some distant redwoods off Portola Road.



Carol Zabel

NONGAME DECAL

The following article was printed in the June-July issue of Audubon Conservation Topics, West, and was brought to our attention by Harriet Mundy of Palo Alto.

"I don't hunt or fish .. yet I appreciate the efforts of the Department of Fish and Game in their management of this state's supply of wildlife..I am willing to support this managment plan, but not by the purchase of a hunting or fishing license.."
These are the words of Garth H. Spitler, past president and active officer in the Fresno Audubon Society, reflecting the sentiments of many Californians. Mr. Spitler asked, "Won't you make a nonhunting, nonfishing license available to those of us who appreciate seeing fish in a stream, pond, lake or water area and many forms of wildlife in forests, parks, beaches, mountains or public and private lands?" Now with the enactment of AB 2441 (Native Species Conservation and Enhancement Act of 1974) the opportunity to donate funds for the support of nongame programs is available to everyone. The program was officially launched at a special presentation at the regular Fish and Game Commission meeting on May 30 in Sacramento. Now all contributions of \$5 or more sent to DECAL, Box DFG, Sacramento, Ca 95814, will be acknowledged with the return of a windshield decal.

There are 49 species of native fish and wildlife listed as rare or endangered in California. The assault on habitat continues as homes and industry continue to displace natural plant and animal communities. Rightly, Audubon members have asked the Department, "What are you doing to preserve the Madrona Marsh, the Goleta Slough, the riparian lands along the Sacramento River, the Tijuana River estuary, the Porterville heron rookery, the Tecopa pupfish?" The Department has replied that this new legislation should greatly assist to expand activities. The decals are available by public donation only from the Sacramento address at the present time. It is hoped a plan can be worked out whereby they might become as readily available as are hunting and fishing licenses.

CHECKLIST OF BIRDS

In our June issue we mentioned our new "Checklist of the Birds of Santa Clara County". These are presently on sale at the Peninsula Conservation Center (PCC) at 1176 Emerson Street, Palo Alto, Ca 94301 (415) 328-5313. They come in two different models, thick and thin. If you remember, we mailed out a thin-paper copy in June's AVOCET. Anyway, they're going for 15¢ for the thick ones (25¢ if the PCC mails) or 5¢ for the thin one (15¢ if mailed out). They'll probably give you some sort of a bulk rate if you order a bunch of them.

By the way, for those who don't know this, the PCC also houses our Audubon office and library. PCC also has a neat gift shop, and we suggest you drop in and see the place. It's a real delight, plus being full of all kinds of nature/ecology goodies. The gift shop will be on vacation for a while, but they'll be open again on September 15th.



TO ALL MEMBERS OF THE SANTA CLARA VALLEY AUDUBON SOCIETY:

The Nature and Science Department of the City of Palo Alto would like to extend an invitation to all bird-watchers to assist in a survey of the bird population in the Palo Alto Flood Control Basin during the coming year. For those not familiar with the area, it is located on the Bayside of the Bayshore Freeway (Rt. 101) between Matadero and Adobe Creeks in Palo Alto. It consists of about 600 acres of freshwater and salt marshes, open water, and grassland meadows, surrounded by man-made levees. It is accessible from the Frontage Rd. (East Bayshore Rd.), north of the San Antonio Rd. overpass or south of the Embarcadero Road overpass, by the levee surrounding it or by the old road down the middle between the two large ponds. The surrounding levee is also accessible across from the re-cycling center near the Palo Alto refuse dump.

Report forms and instruction sheets for filling them out have been made up to standardize the reporting of observations and simplify the summarizing. Anyone interested and willing to volunteer some time to participate in this project please pick-up (and return) these forms from the Baylands Nature Interpretive Center at the east end of Embarcadero Rd. between 10:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. or at the Palo Alto Junior Museum, 1451 Middlefield Rd. between 10:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Tues. thru Sat. (except during 12 noon to 1:00 p.m.) and between 1:00 and 4:00 p.m. on Sun.

The purpose of the survey is simply to determine the bird species and their approximate numbers using the different habitats in the Flood Control Basin throughout the year. Interested persons may conduct sample counts on any day, at any time, for any length of time. More than one person may conduct a count at one time as long as they combine their information on one reporting form to avoid duplication as much as possible. Any assistance will be greatly appreciated and will be acknowledged in the summary report.

Sincerely,
Ted Chandik

September is the month of maximum movement for most Shorebirds, many Hawks, and nearly all Passerines. It is also the beginning time for Pelagic birding. The best areas are the usual ones -- Point Reyes, Monterey, Moss Landing, Pescadero, and both Carmel and Salinas rivermouth. Mini-site guides for Woodland Sugar Ponds and Trinidad Head are included.

There are many more migrants in the fall for the surviving adults from the spring are outnumbered by the young of the year making their maiden flight. These novice migrants are "double the pleasure" because (1) most are in dull immature plumage (which poses interesting identification problems) and (2) they sometimes get lost (tragically). Because they are lost they tend to concentrate in areas which the regular "right on" migrants shun or pass thru rapidly, and they also tend to be late-making late September and early October the most rewarding time to look for them. A fascinating local event during the summer was the nesting of a pair of Chimney Swifts in a Davis residential area. These birds are still being seen. This was the biggest season yet for Horned Puffins, with 3 near the Farallons, 25 on two different So. Cal. boat trips and 7 on another, and most spectacularly over 100 sightings at approx. 100 miles offshore, along with 2 Laysan Albatross, 2 Red-billed Tropicbirds and a Fork-tailed Petrel. Near 160 miles offshore a Cook's Petrel was seen (they normally breed in New Zealand and probably migrate north past the Hawaiian Islands). Two nests of Least Terns were discovered on Bay Farm Island -- which is good news for the endangered species. The Bay Bridge Toll Plaza area has had an Arctic Tern with 5 Commons and 25-50 Elegants. An injured Ovenbird was found in S. F., while a Yellow-breasted Chat was in Contra Costa County. In San Mateo County scoping from Pigeon Point recently yielded Tufted Puffin and Pink-footed Shearwater. Pescadero has had a Pectoral and 9 Baird's Sandpipers with 3 Lesser Yellowlegs. Ano Nuevo has had 2 Harlequin Ducks and 3 Black Swifts (check for Bank Swallows and Marbled Murrelets). Point Reyes had a Canada Warbler, an American Redstart, Eastern Kingbird, many Rose-breasted Grosbeaks (also in S.F. Bolinas, and Mill Valley); Red-necked Grebe, 8 Baird's Sandpipers and a Golden Plover.

Pigs are changing for the better

A Chestnut-sided Warbler was stunned hitting a window in Inverness, a Red-eyed Vireo was near Moraga and Chimney Swifts were seen in Bolinas. Resident Rufous-crowned Sparrows have been found regularly on Highway 1 in Olema between markers 13.32 and 13.27 on top the hillside. The first day of banding on the San Jose State-Point Reyes Project (see article) yielded only two migrants, a Western Kingbird and a beautiful Yellow-breasted Chat. The June 1st-14th Point Reyes Bird Observatory (haven't you joined yet?) census on the Farallons produced 1st State records of Alder Flycatcher (4 of them no less) and Eastern Wood Pewee. Other good finds were Least Flycatchers, Gray-cheeked Thrush (4th State record), Philadelphia Vireo (10th State record - 1st spring), Kentucky Warbler (6th Cal. record) and Cassin's Sparrow (4th). Among the rarer vagrants were 5 Chimney Swifts, Eastern Phoebe, 6 Cape-May, 5 Black-throated Green, 2 Black-throated Green, 2 Blackburnian, 2 Chestnut-sided, 8 Bay-breasted, 3 Blackpool, 2 Palm, 1 Hooded, 2 Canada Warblers, 2 Tree and 3 Clay-colored Sparrows. The more regular spring vagrants were 1 Eastern Kingbird, 7 Red-eyed Vireos, 5 Black & White, 8 Tennessee, 1 N. Parula, 18 Magnolia Warblers, 7 Ovenbirds, 5 American Redstarts, 1 Bobolink, 1 N. (Baltimore) Oriole, 8 Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, and 3 Indigo Buntings. The island had its first Common Gallinule, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, and 3 Black Swifts. The Farallons sightings are quite similar to the So. Cal. ones except for some Arizona species -- Painted Redstart, Hepatic Tanager, Grace's Virginia's and Red Faced Warblers and the states first Common Grackle in Death Valley.

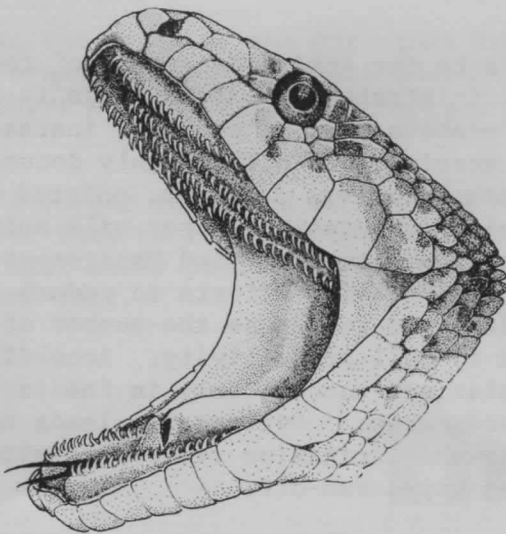
An Eastern Kingbird was also in Tehama County. Trinidad Head near Arcateia-Eureka is an excellent place to scope for Tufted Puffins -- 1 mile north along Stagecoach Road, turn left on a dirt road and proceed to the parking lot and walk towards the off-shore rocks. Arcata had 2 Semipalmated, a Baird's and 4 Pectoral Sandpipers, a Franklin's Gull, Lesser Yellowlegs, and a male Indigo Bunting. This season's first Solitary Sandpiper was at the Woodland Sugar Ponds -- actually the Spreckle's factory sewage ponds, 3 miles west of Yolo bypass and 1 mile north on Road 102 to the ponds on both sides of the road. Lesser Yellowlegs (10 of them) were there too, as in previous years there were Sharp-tailed and Pectoral Sandpipers, Fulvous Tree Ducks and many other good birds.

Have a Successful Migration
Bob Yutzy

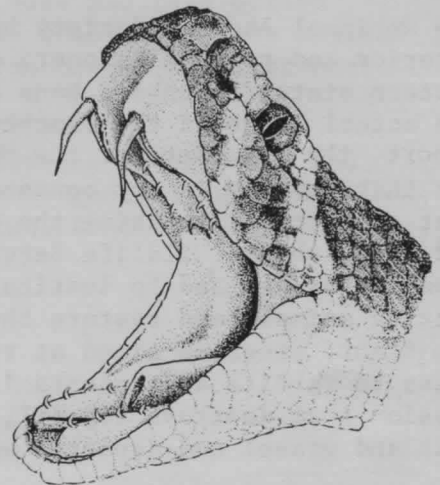
BANDING AND BIRDING PROJECT

The Avian Biology Laboratory of San Jose State University in cooperation with Point Reyes Bird Observatory, The National Park Service and with the support of the Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society are conducting a study of fall migratory land-bird activity on the Point Reyes Peninsula. All banders, birders and the general public are invited to participate. Birders are asked to record all sightings seen on the Point on a special form available at Drake's Beach Visitors Center, Park Headquarters, Olema Ranch Campground or at the banding site of Abandon Ranch. The general public is invited to visit (and pitch in and help at) the banding area during the A.M. hours (til noon). Abandon Ranch is the first grove of trees on the left just west of the R. C. A. Communications Center on the point proper. The program will be running 7 days a week if possible (definitely on weekends) thru Oct. 5th. Banders who can help are asked to contact Mike Rigney at 277-3023, or Bob Yutzy at 364-5600, ext. 4353.

HARMLESS
(gopher snake)



VENOMOUS
(rattlesnake)



BEGINNING FIELD ORNITHOLOGY CLASS

Los Altos-Mountain View Adult High School again offers this beginning bird watching course starting on September 11th and running til October 2nd on Thursday evenings from 7 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. The course is being taught by SCVAS field notes editor Bob Yutzy and Bob Dyer and will cover equipment, books and field techniques. There will be three field trips to supplement the classroom work. Call 948-3278 for further information of enrollment. Cost.\$2.00.

BAY AREA AUDUBON COUNCIL (BAAC) NOTES

The Bay Area Audubon Councils quarterly meeting was held in June at Santa Rosa with Madrone Audubon as host. Monterey Audubon was represented for the first time.

Paul Howard, Western Regional Director, described the new method the California Department of Fish and Game has for advancing its work with non-game species. This is written up in another part of the Avocet, and should be of major concern to all of use. He outlined other interests of the National Audubon Society: 1) efforts to offset lapsing memberships by encouraging each chapter to find out the reasons for failures of its members to renew, and 2) attempts to meet the needs of remote chapter members by contributing a part of dues (for example, \$2.00) to groups in outlying areas to allow them to start their own newsletters, etc.

Most of the meeting was devoted to a detailed discussion of the environmental problems in the production of geothermal energy. Using slides and statistics gathered in the geysers area of Sonoma County, Dr. Hamilton Hess delineated the harmful effects of this "clear" source, which, by the year 2000, may supply 15-20% of our energy needs. A developed geothermal field is a thoroughly industrialized region. Construction in hilly regions produced great scarring of the area, with level "drilling pads" and "mud sumps" requiring extensive excavations and stripping of the land; large quantities of harmful dust in the atmosphere, stream pollution, and extreme noise levels can occur.

NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY

DR. STAHR FIGHTS FOR BETTER LAND MANAGEMENT

The National Audubon Society has issued strong pleas to the Acting Secretary of the Interior and to Commissioners of Agriculture and Administrators of State lands in the western states to uphold bans on poisons to kill predators, and to consider instead the actual cause of the ranchers' problems -- over grazing. In a thoroughly documented report, the President of the National Audubon Society Dr. Elvis J. Stahr, pointed out that Audubon is not opposed to SELECTIVE control of coyotes and other wild animals that are actually causing the damage. He urged that the Bureau of Land Management and the Fish and Wildlife Service turn from futile and wasteful efforts to reduce predator damage and to institute instead programs designed to reduce the number of grazing animals and restore the depleted rangelands to full productivity. According to Dr. Stahr, programs aimed at reducing predator populations succeed only in feeding more grass to rabbits and rodents instead of to cattle and sheep. Overgrazing leads to erosion that destroys topsoil, fills stream channels and irrigation reservoirs with silt and gravel and depletes water resources through rapid run-off.

In 1974, the Bureau of Land Management itself issued the results of a study, concluding that "uncontrolled, unregulated or unplanned livestock use is occurring in approximately 85% of the states and damage to wildlife habitat can be expressed only as extreme destruction". Our essential food producing grasslands are being destroyed through short-sighted policies. The livestock that remain on properly managed land will produce more and continue to do so.

Since our chapter has studied predator control methods used in California, we applaud National Audubon's outstanding efforts along this line.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Welcome back from what I hope was an enjoyable summer and let's look forward to a pleasant and productive fall.

As always help is needed to make this organization a better one; here is an example: the Peninsula Conservation Center answers the Audubon phone and often gets calls from people with bird identification problems. Mrs. Barbara Silberling, Director of the Center, would welcome a list of Audubon members to whom she could refer these calls. Please volunteer, it is a good opportunity to share your knowledge and perhaps recruit a new member as well.

The Chairpersons listed on the last page are hard working people and can always use your help. Ted Chandik would welcome fieldtrip ideas and offers to LEAD trips. You should contact Mrs. Kay McCann if you know of a program suitable for our General Meetings. and Wayne Peters is always open to suggestions for purchases for our Library.

There is a change this fall in the Conservation Chairpersonship: not so much in what her role will be as much as what the responsibility of SCVAS members will be. Rose Beatty is Director of Conservation at the Peninsula Conservation Center (PCC), as many of you know. She keeps up on what is going on in Washington, Sacramento, the Bay Area and especially our County. If you want to know something about a particular Bill, or an Environmental Impact Statement, or what is going before your Council or Supervisors, ask her. She will be up to date on National Audubon's position as well as SCVAS' Directors position. HOWEVER, if you want to be certain you are kept informed on all issues drop her a card with your name and address and she will add you to the 'Action Alert' list. Between the yellow pages in the Audubon Magazine, the Conservation Topics West, and Rose Beatty, every member should be able to keep up with the environmental issues, if they want to.

Do look at the names of the Directors and Officers; they can vote and take action for your organization. Is there something you would like this chapter to take a stand on? Is there a concern we can help you with? Let us know, you have a Director near you.

And, don't forget to attend as many General Meetings and Fieldtrips as you can; and that's what they're for. As Paul Howard says of them: (roughly quoted) "getting together with other people of similar interest, well that's fun, that's Audubon!" Have a good fall.

N. Holmes

**Thanks.
We needed that.**

UNTOLD RICHES

Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society split second place prize money with Marin County Audubon in the six month long Whittell Challenge Membership Drive sponsored by National; our Society won \$250.00 in cash and a lovely framed certificate. Golden Gate Audubon Society came in first in this state-by-state campaign.

OFFICERS:

President: Nancy A. Holmes, 843 Moana Ct., Palo Alto, 94306, 948-1854
Vice-President: Mrs. Florence LaRiviere, 453 Tennessee Lane, Palo Alto, 94306, 493-5540
Secretary: Mrs. Joan Combs, 732 Ames Ave., Palo Alto, 94303, 493-8297
Treasurer: Mrs. Joyce Todd, 945 Matadero Ave., Palo Alto, 94306, 493-7893

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Mrs. Florence LaRiviere, above

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Mr. Bob Yutzy, above

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