

SANTA CLARA VALLEY AUDUBON SOCIETY, Inc.

Chapter 0515 of the National Audubon Society

2253 Park Boulevard, Palo Alto, CA 94306

Telephone: (415) 328-5315

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San Jose, Ca.

TIME VALUE



The Avocet

Volume 28, no.3

March 1981

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

NOTE: On all field trips, CARPPOOL, share expenses, and get to know other birders. To arrange rides call Dolores Norton (941-1666, Los Altos) or Manette Wittgenstein (354-9420, Saratoga).

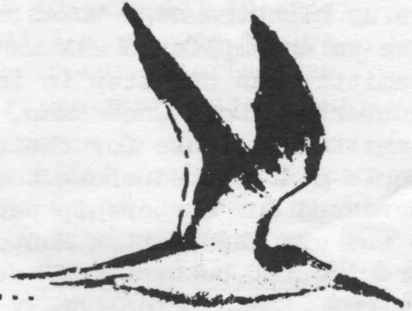
- Mar.3 Board of Directors' Meeting, Tues., 7:30 PM, at Susie Formenti's, 16675 Buckskin Ct., Morgan Hill. Please arrive promptly.
- Mar.7 Field Trip, Sat., 8 AM, Coyote Hills Regional Park. From the peninsula, go east across the Dumbarton Bridge, then left on Jarvis, left on Newark, and left on Patterson Ranch Rd. Or take Hwy. 17 north to Jarvis and turn right on Newark. Meet at the entrance to the park. There is a fee for each car. Leader: R. Jay Andre (257-2038.)
- Mar.8 Field Trip, Sun., 9 AM, Hawk identification trip. We will be going to Byron and Clifton Court Forebay area, northwest of Tracy to find Ferruginous and Rough-legged Hawks, and (w/luck) Prairie Falcon and Golden Eagle. This is an excellent Hawk area. From San Jose, take 680 no. to 580, and 580 east 10-12 miles to the First St./Hwy.84 south exit. Make an immediate left into a Mobil station, where we will meet. There is a Standard station across the street from the Mobil. Round trip is approximately 150 miles. Bring lunch, water, and a full tank of gas. Try to carpool. There are few pull-offs along our route. Leader: Don Schmoldt (447-9583 afts. and 8-9 AM, 251-6133 eves)
- Mar.10 Bird Discussion Group, Tues., 9:30 AM, birding in the yard of Catherine Lintott, 17150 Buena Vista, Los Gatos, and hoping to see double-crested cormorants in breeding plumage.
- Mar.11 Field Trip South, Wed., 9 AM, Sanborn Park. Look for early arrivals, residents and species like Townsend's Warbler that are wintering here. Take Big Basin Way in Saratoga toward Skyline. About 3 miles from Saratoga, turn left on Sanborn Rd., for about 2 miles to Sanborn Park. Meet in the first parking lot adjacent to the Visitor's Center. Leaders: Manette Wittgenstein (354-9420) and Gail Cheeseman (867-1371).
- Mar.14 Field Trip, Sat., 9 AM, San Mateo Co. coast. We will be concentrating on locating shorebirds, but we may also hit the height of Brant migration. Many other ocean birds should be present. From the peninsula, take Hwy. 84 west to Hwy.1, and Hwy.1 south 5 miles to Pescadero Rd. Meet at this intersection. Leaders: Candace Beach (494-6658), and Allen Royer (251-6133).

- Mar.15 Birdwalk for Beginners, Sun., 9 AM, Alum Rock Park. Get a headstart on learning local breeding birds with this early spring trip. We should see a few early migrants, and the resident birds starting to nest. From Hwys.101 or 680 in San Jose take Alum Rock Ave. east to its end in the park. Meet in the last parking area, across the creek from the Youth Science Institute. Leaders: David Houle (856-1069), and Steve Lewis (962-9763)
- Mar.18 General Meeting, Wed., 7:30, Lucy Evans (Baylands) Interpretative Center, end of Embarcadero Rd., Palo Alto. Social hour followed by program at 8 PM. HAWAII, the disappearing Paradise. Rick Palmer will present slides and a well-rounded historical view of the origins and development of Hawaiian wildlife - some familiar and some seldom seen by visitors. Rick has worked with native Hawaiian Bob Western, who is assembling a teaching program about the eventual (and eventual disappearance) of Hawaiian flora and fauna. Bring a friend who wants to know more about Paradise.
- Mar.22 Field Trip, Sun., 8:30 AM, Coyote Creek. From San Jose, take 101 so. to Metcalf Rd, turn left, and meet near the base of Metcalf Rd. near the hwy. Be prepared to walk about 1 mile, in some mud. Riparian and oak woodland habitats. There will also be a bird-banding demonstration. Leaders: Terry Hart (743-2897 work, 245-2673 home), and Penny Delevorvas (377-2367).
- Mar.24 Education Committee Meeting, Tues., 7:30 PM, at Elaine Gould's, 6209 Flowering Plum Rd., San Jose, to view slides and prepare script for 'Schoolyard Birds' show.
- Mar.27 Bird Discussion Group, Fri., 9 AM, at home of Florence Hunter, 70 Continental Lobby, Mt. View. "Alviso Marina" walk and talk.
- Mar.29 Field Trip, Sun., 9 AM, Frenchman's Creek, Half Moon Bay. Take Hwy.101 or 280 north to Hwy.92, 92 west to Hwy.1 in Half Moon Bay, and Hwy.1 north just over 1 mile to Frenchman's Creek Rd., on the right, opposite a riding stable on the left. Meet in the big parking area in front of the housing development at this intersection. Leaders: Glenn and Ferol Burris (961-4512).
- Apr.2 Field Trip Committee Meeting, Thurs., 7:30, at Liskovec's, 1719 Christina Dr., Los Altos. Organizational meeting of field trip leaders and interested people.
- Apr.3 Birding by Sound, Habitat, Etc., Fri., 8:30 AM, Stevens Creek Park. Stevens Creek Blvd. west to Foothill Blvd., left on Foothill about 1 1/2 miles. Turn left and go down into parking lot below the dam. This is an extension of the Birding by Sound trips conducted last spring. Leader: Frank Farran (252-3984)
- Apr.4 Field Trip, Sat., 8 AM, Big Basin State Park. Pileated Woodpeckers are regularly seen here, the southern limit of their range on the coast. We should also find a mix of wintering and breeding birds. From Hwy.280 in Cupertino, take Hwy.85 south to Hwy.9, Hwy.9 west over Skyline to Hwy.236. Follow 236 down to Park Headquarters, where we will meet. We will hike about 5 miles at a leisurely pace. Bring a portable lunch. Leader: David Houle (856-1069).
- Apr.5 Birding by Sound, Habitat, Etc., Sun., 8:30 AM, Stevens Creek Park. This is a repeat of the April 3 trip for those who could not make it on Friday.
- Apr.25-26 Audubon Birdathon, Sat. and Sun. David Houle (856-1069).
- Apr.29 Annual Trip Into San Francisco Watershed, Millbrae. Limit 40 members. Reservations required. Call Kay McCann (327-4138) or Carol Zabel (948-5671).
- May 2-3 Field Trip, Sat.-Sun., Pinnacles National Monument. Leader: Rich Carlson (494-3160).
- May 31 Bird Count, Sun. Save this date for the first ever Palo Alto Breeding Bird, Christmas-in-May Count. Just as much fun as a Christmas count, but not nearly as cold.



NATIONAL AUDUBON BIRDATHON

Plan now to be a part of the first-ever National Audubon Birdathon, which will take place April 24-26. The proceeds will benefit Mono Lake, as well as other national and regional Audubon efforts. Birdathon participants will obtain sponsors who pledge a specific amount of money for each bird species the participant sees on a given day. You may either bird on your own or join one of the groups set up by the chapter. Everyone is encouraged to take part in this very enjoyable event. Beginners may contribute just as much as expert birders, and learn a lot in the process. We are currently planning two trips; an all-out quest for 150 species, and a more leisurely visit to a few good areas close to home. For more information contact David Houle (856-1069).

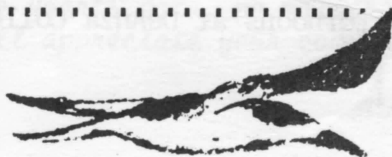


MONO LAKE FUND RAISING GOES OVER THE TOP.....

The Mono Lake Fund Raising Campaign has been a grand success. Your contributions of \$4541.50 have put us well over our goal of \$4000. Together with the money from chapter funds, SCVAS has contributed \$12,541.50 toward the legal defense of Mono Lake. While there has been ongoing support of Mono Lake through Birdathon and personal contributions by many members, the Board of Directors extends a very special thanks to all the members listed below - and to some non-members not listed who gave in the name of SCVAS - who made the campaign so successful. While our campaign comes to an end, the need for financial support goes on. If you wish to contribute, we will gladly forward further donations. Thank you all, again. Jim & Sue Liskovec, 1719 Christina Dr., Los Altos, CA 94022.

Dave Nauer, Phyllis Swanson, Bob Garcia, Betty Wyatt, Linda Newberry, Doug Cheeseman, Susie Formenti, Terry Hart, Elaine Gould, Rod Norden, Mike Newcomer, Donna Zetterquist, Sue & Jim Liskovec, Kristi Wiley, Allen Royer, Marguerite Nash, Al Jamieson, Bob & Lillian Wilson, Hal & Karen Svendsen, Howard & Roz Stone, Doris Welsh, Cathy Gill Jones, Mr & Mrs Robert Wilson, Don Brockhurst, Charles Mastache, Walter Elkey, Ben & Audrey Brunges, Larry & Rita Tilbury, John Shipman, Philip & Kate Sherman, Lydia Grunwald, Joseph & Evelyn Hester, Jerry Smith, Bob Roadcap, Mr & Mrs A B Faris, George Sabini, Jesse Jack, Glenn & Sandra Bacon, Richard & Elizabeth Herndon, Jane Fitzsimmons, Bill & Barbara Rauch, Wayne & Louise Richter, Ken Gardiner, Hugh & Phyllis Hackett, Mark & Jody Sutherland, Harriet Eliel, Don & Nancy Burnett, Elizabeth Hone, J David Walker, William & Jacqueline Ramsay, Don & Audrey Stoye, Kathy Smith, William & Elizabeth Nichols, Anne Ritchison, Richard Thaw, John Rafferty, Arsellia Raman, A Steven Hadland, Marie & Howard McAulay, Dena Mossar & Paul Goldstein, Jean Alexander, Richard & Virginia Peterson, J C & Nikolena Stirling, J W & Hazel Tilden, Richard & Patricia Carlson, Jane Gurnee, Nancy & Herbert Greenfield, Russel & Marilyn Fowler, David & Bonnie Pollard, Judith Heath, Douglas Kuper, R H & Barbara Milligan, Glenn & Ferol Burris, Henrietta Kershaw, Dan & Martha Smith, Janice Walters, Peter Glynn, A C & Viola Feddern, Jeanyce Powers, Bill & Jean Clark, Lawrence & Esther Johnson, Norman & Carol Zabel, Alice Kellogg, Kep & Carolyn Stone, Mary Schwarz, Duncan & Mercedes Williams, Larry Eifert, Gordon Ray, Robert & Mary Grunigen, Patricia Burns, Paul & Hazel Gilbert, Peter & Marcy Hartman, Rowen Arroyo, Sybil Kushera, Lynn Chiapella, J E & Susan Belt, Lois Hogle, Jean North, Dr & Mrs James Dickson, Roy & Yvonne Hampton, Van Chambers, Joe & Eunice Wissel, Ellen & Martin Mullins, Gerald Freeman, Wade & Dorothy Shorter, Philip & Christine Pendleton, Howard Honig, John Silliman, Janice Hoye, Peter & Sue LaTourrette, Nancy Holmes, Robert & Lee Ann Luten, Stephen & Linda Pickering, Charmon Ashby, Myra Keen, Alec & Miriam MacKenzie, Jeanne & Douglas Guenther, John & Shirley Wedlake, Mike & Margaret Wheeler, Lenora Koblos, Ronald McNay, Charlotte Epstein, Michael & Ann Bond, William Berreysa, George Haight, Eugene & Ruth Troetschler, Terry & Patricia Trumbull, Nan Blackledge, Calvin & Dorothy Quate, Helen Dallas, Virginia Beard, Genevieve Gullahorn, Donald & Irene Osterbrock, Melissa Miller, Jean Campbell, Wanda Alexander, Brooks & Celia Lupien, Walter & Gladys Starr, Mr & Mrs C N Baker, Mark & Judy McEuen, Mary Harper, Marilyn Gallaway, Jack & Marge Power, Cheryl Woodward, Wayne Peters, Michael & Deborah Basham, Stan Gould, R Leidenthal, Marion Fruhling, Floyd Carley, Will Taylor, Edith Ann Drewek, Deborah Lamm, Jerry & Barbara Newcomer, Barbara Parker, Nancy Prak, Phyllis Browning, Marc Los Huertos, Helen Walsh, Martha & Perry McCarty, 2 anonymous.

LONG LIVE MONO LAKE.....



At the Board of Directors' meeting, February 3, the Board voted to support marsh restoration in 10 acres adjacent to the yacht harbor in Palo Alto, after final deposition of dredge spoils. A majority of the Board expressed support of the work of the Condor Research Team, and the Board then approved expenses for transcription of the Condor Conference tapes.

ARE WE THERE YET?.....REFLECTIONS ON WHERE WE*VE BEEN AND WHERE WE*RE GOING.....

At the chapter workshop in June, we outlined goals to: create new committees; produce slide shows for use by the Education Committee; hire a full-time P.R. person; build and set up bluebird nest boxes; and increase our membership participation. After 8 months, have we accomplished all we set out to do? Are we there yet?Creation of a Photo Committee was one step in increasing our committee roster. Aably headed by that intrepid shutterbug, Doug Cheeseman, the committee has just finished the slides the Education Committee will use for their slide presentation 'School-yard Birds'. The fact that 12 people contributed shows that we've involved some people who were not active before and increased our membership participation.The dormant Social Committee got a shot in the arm when Martha Hunton volunteered to host the C.B.C. dinner, but if there are any more 'social butterflies' out there, we sure could use you.With 2 more active committees, I don't feel badly that we haven't hired a full time P.R. person, especially when Dave Nauer has done such an outstanding job of publicity. He's spent a lot of time and energy to see that our activities are in print. Ultimately, that should pay dividends in our membership rolls.Neither the Condor Conference nor our Mono Lake Fund Drive were set as goals in June, but these important issues received our highest priority. Many thanks to Sue and Jim Liskovec and Linda Newberry, and all the other Board members for their time and energy on those important projects.But, we can't rest on our laurels; there's more to be done. At this point, it looks like the bluebirds won't get their boxes in time for this year's nesting season. Yes, we have accomplished a lot, but we're not there yet!Phyllis Swanson, President, SCVAS



The Avocet.....TIME FOR A CHANGE?

The time has come (the walrus said) to think of many things. This time it's your editor who's thinking of something we should look at periodically: the format and content of the AVOCET. The Board of Directors has, over the past eight months, been reviewing work of ongoing committees, and in early April I shall be reporting to that Board and discussing what we-all think the AVOCET should be. If you, the reader (and the newsletter is, after all, yours) has thoughts about what you would like the AVOCET to be, then, the time has come for you to put your thoughts into the mail to: Jackie Freeberg, 725 Regal Court, Menlo Park, CA 94025.



.....SOME THINGS TO WATCH FOR.....

GENERAL MEETINGS: Wildflowers (with speaker from Mid-Peninsular Open Space District);
Food fishes
Annual pot luck...all these at Baylands Interpretative Center.

National Audubon Society National Convention, July 2-5, 1981 - Estes Park, Colorado.

1981 Audubon Ecology Camp in the West (running 2-week sessions), June 1 through August 14.

Audubon film series scheduled for Sunday afternoons at DeAnza College, January through March.



THE YEAR THAT WAS.....BY BILL BOUSMAN

I have had the pleasure of sharing other observer's field notes for a year now. The number of observations I have received make it possible to attempt a summary of the distribution of birds in Santa Clara County in 1980. Before starting, however, I am going to make a few reservations about the usefulness of the results. First, birds that are common or fairly common don't get reported and anything we are to learn about their populations must come from census of habitats or banding information. Secondly, the report of an uncommon or rare species is good evidence of the bird's presence. The absence of a report, however, may only indicate neglect of field observers - the bird may be quite happy in his habitat, totally unaware of our concerns.

The Santa Clara County checklist, published in 1975, lists 291 species of birds, 52 of which are considered casual or accidental, and 89 as uncommon to rare. Although I doubt my records are complete, since publication of the Checklist another 13 species have been reported, including 4 for 1980. This gives Santa Clara County a total of 304 species. At the current rate of increase we will have recorded every bird on the state list by 2035 (my 93rd birthday). The four additions for 1980 were a Wandering Tattler that Ivan Barnes and Ed Helley found on Guadalupe Slough on the Palo Alto CBC; an imm. Semipalmated Sandpiper that Donna Dittman identified behind the El Camino Dog Kennels, 21 August; a Broad-tailed Hummingbird that visited Ed Schaefer's feeder in July; and the Pileated Woodpecker found by Don Schmoltdt and Jim Rosso west of Calaveras Res. in March. Of the 65 species in the casual or accidental category I have reports of 12 others seen in addition to the 4 mentioned above. Well, with all this number juggling, you may suspect I like numbers better than birds, but let's see if we can find some useful information here. The real distinction between uncommon to rare and casual or accidental is that the former are part of our expected avifauna, the latter are not. With a great deal of time in the field and observing the correct habitats we should find every one of the uncommon to rare species. But for the accidental or casual birds it's really a matter of luck. But it is this boundary where we may very well see population changes - birds dying out through loss of habitat, or new species expanding their range. Of the Checklist species under casual or accidental three stand out in this respect. The first accepted record of the Little Blue Heron in California was an imm. collected at Bodega Bay in 1964. The first county record was an imm. at the Baylands in 1967. Since then they have been reported in 9 of the 14 years, including an adult in breeding plumage at the Alviso herony this year. A second possible candidate for range expansion is the Ferruginous Hawk. They are an uncommon winter visitor on the east side of the Diablo Range, and I have reports for 3 of the last 5 years, usually on the western edge of the Diablo Range. Is this a real expansion? Lastly, the Least Tern has been recorded in 4 of the last 9 years. We know there is a breeding colony at Alameda Naval Air Station; perhaps these records that fall in July and August are from that colony.

Of our 89 uncommon to rare species I only have reports for 59, leaving 30 unaccounted for. Of these, 11 are seashore species and are generally difficult to find. Another 3 are montane species and perhaps we should only see them during irruptive years. Of the remainder nine have bred in Santa Clara County and these are perhaps the most perplexing. Long-eared Owls are rare anywhere in California. One was seen in 1979, but no reports in 1980. I am sure Vaux's Swifts came through during spring migration; lack of a nesting record is not surprising as we are at the southern end of their range. Bank Swallows have nested along the Pajaro River, but no reports this year. Dipper is rare in the coastal ranges, and it was reported in 1979, but no report this year. Both Winter and Canyon Wrens breed in the county, probably were here again this year, but no reports. Two warblers that have bred in the past were unreported: MacGillivray's Warbler and Yellow-breasted Chat. Are the marginal breeders here or just unreported? Finally the Grasshopper Sparrow is a rare species that breeds in colonies. In recent years it has been found nesting in Alum Rock Park and near Coyote, but no report this year. I've mentioned those 9 species to stimulate interest. One year's data, no matter how thorough (and it isn't) doesn't give us a real picture. I will appreciate your comments.

THE CONDOR CONFERENCE

On Saturday, January 24, 1981, SCVAS sponsored a Condor Conference at Foothill College in the Los Altos Hills. The conference, which ran from 9 AM to past 5 PM, was attended by an interested and enthusiastic audience of about 150 people. A poll by the speaker showed the audience to be comprised of many avid Auduboners many of which have handled birds during banding procedures, with a large number having handled large birds in this capacity.



first
and others,
surprisingly

The conference was opened by SCVAS President Phyllis Swanson who introduced the first speaker, Dr. Richard Mewaldt. Dr. Mewaldt spoke on behalf of the American Ornithologists' Union, the Cooper Ornithological Society, and the U.S. Section of the International Council for Bird Preservation. Following Mewaldt, Mr. Brian Walton, Coordinator of the Predatory Bird Group at UC Santa Cruz presented his organization's position. Mr. Michael McCloskey, as Executive Director, then spoke on the Sierra Club's efforts and position on the Condor question. Finally the morning section of "position statements" was concluded by a plea from Mr. Fred Eissler, President of the Scenic Preservation Conference in Santa Barbara.

After a short break, the next 2 hours were filled with slides and information presented by the staff of the Condor Research Center. Mr. John Borneman introduced biologists Noel Snyder and John Ogden, who showed slides on the Center's summer research on Condors in Peru and South Africa in preparation for handling Condors in California.

After a lunch break the Conference resumed with speakers giving "alternative positions" to the current program. Mr. David Phillips represented David Brower and the Friends of the Earth as their Wildlife Programs Coordinator. Mr. Eben McMillan spoke as a naturalist, an author on Condors, and a rancher living within the Condor range in Southern California. Mr. Jerry Emory followed McMillan and presented the Golden Gate Audubon Society's position on the Condor issue.

A panel comprised of the Conference's speakers (with Mark Palmer taking McCloskey's place) was formed and responded to written questions from the audience in the afternoon. Following the answering of many of the audience's questions (time prohibited all of the questions from being answered), the Fish & Wildlife film showing the Condor Research Team's investigation of the 2 known nests this year, and the death of the Condor chick, was shown with John Ogden acting as narrator. Later, more questions were responded to by the panel, with Toastmaster Jeanne Bernard serving as volunteer moderator for the day. (Thank you Jeanne).

The officers and board of SCVAS has been concerned over the possibility of the pending extinction of the California Condor, and over the controversy amongst many scientists, naturalists and environmental groups on how to best work to avoid this extinction. By inviting everyone involved in past or present Condor research and those environmental groups involved in the problem, it was SCVAS's intent to present to its membership and the concerned public as much information as possible on the Condor, on the current recovery program, and on alternative positions regarding this program. A patient, long-enduring audience heard most of this nation's key people involved in work with the Condor issue. It is SCVAS's hope that sufficient information was presented, and questions answered to enable those attending to have a clearer view of the problem, and possible future solutions. Hopefully, through more dissemination of information about this problem, all of us will be able to make clearer decisions about the future of not only the California Condor, but about our influence on the entire fabric of the Earth. (We are working on publishing the Proceedings from the Conference. Notification of availability will appear in the Avocet).

---- L. Newberry, V.P.



FIELD TRIP REPORT --- JANUARY 18

About 20 birders braved a chilly morning to visit Alameda Creek and associated ponds in Niles. We were rewarded with a fine assortment, including flocks of Wood Ducks, Ring-necked Ducks, and White-throated Swifts, plus several Common Mergansers and a Sharp-shinned Hawk. Twice, a Green Heron landed and posed on a rock for us. In good light, his back was greenish and his cap definitely green. Spotted Sandpipers were there and Greater Yellowlegs waded along the stream. Interesting birds seen only on the scouting trip were Golden Eagle, Common Gallinule, American Bittern, and Lincoln Sparrow. Altogether, 76 species were seen.Phil Hand, leader

SPRING FEVER?..... Jim Rosso will lead a desert trip to Joshua Tree National Monument, Salton Sea and Borrego State Park, April 11-17. Over 130 species of birds have been seen on previous trips. Call Jim (251-3582).

TAKE ALONG A GOOD BOOK: Now available: Birds of Southern California, Status and distribution. Includes species accounts, material on biogeography, taxonomy and population trends and seasonal bar graphs. 19.95 from Southern California Birds, c/o Audubon House, 7377 Santa Monica Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90046.

BOX SCORE OF SPECIES LISTINGS

Category	Endangered		Threatened		Species Total
	U.S.	Foreign	U.S.	Foreign	
Mammals	32	241	3	21	279
Birds	66	159	3	0	214
Reptiles	13	61	10	4	75
Amphibians	5	8	3	0	16
Fishes	34	15	12	0	57
Snails	2	1	5	0	8
Clams	23	2	0	0	25
Crustaceans	1	0	0	0	1
Insects	7	0	6	1	13
Plants	51	2	8	3	60
TOTAL	234	489	50	29	750

STILL ENDANGERED, OR
THREATENED

Have you yet read "The Vanishing Ark" by Norman Myers?



Number of species currently proposed: 17 animals
10 plants

Number of Critical Habitats listed: 48

Number of Recovery Teams appointed: 68

Number of Recovery Plans approved: 39

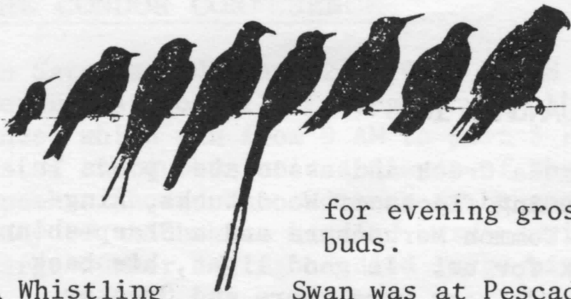
Number of Cooperative Agreements signed with States:

37 (fish & wildlife)

8 (plants)

November 30, 1980

Among the flyers coming over the editor's desk this month is one detailing a symposium, "Tropical Forests of the Americas: will they survive?" - to be held in Ecuador in early April and sponsored by a number of conservation organizations, including the National Audubon Society. This editor had the eye-opening experience in January of spending several days in the rain forest at La Selva (Costa Rica) and becoming aware first-hand that the problem is not that removed from our life in California. The forests are going fast, and with them the wildlife - and even the source of some of our medicines. La Selva, operated by the Organization for Tropical Studies, is one of four sites that the National Science Foundation has decided should be funded - in part by private funds. The Directors have asked me to publicize their plight. (And in passing I will mention that one of the exciting observations there was the Collared Forest Falcon.)



FIELD NOTES - by Bill Bousman

March comes with a promise of spring. Our first Swallows return in late February and early March. Oak flower and leaf buds swell and open and this attracts some of the montane species into urban areas. Look for evening grosbeaks, purple finches and pine siskins feeding on the buds.

A Whistling Swan was at Pescadero Marsh 6 Feb. and may have been one of the birds reported in December. Two imm. White-fronted Geese were seen flying over the Baylands on 10 Jan. The Blue-winged Teal have apparently remained at the Baylands with three reported by Dave Houle (DH) 18 Jan. The Redheads wintering on Charleston Slough are up to 80 (DH), and following our Jan. rains 15 or so have shown up on the n. pond in the Palo Alto Flood Control Basin. The pair of Hooded Mergansers on the small reservoir w. of Skylonda found on the Palo Alto CBC had been joined by four others at least through 6 Feb. An adult Bald Eagle was still at Calaveras Res. as of 28 Jan (DH). A Mountain Quail was heard between Castle Rock and Saratoga Gap on 17 Jan. (DH). A small population lives in the Santa Cruz Mountains, but does not apparently cross the border into Santa Clara County where it is unrecorded. Twelve Saw-whet Owls were reported from Mt. Madonna County Park (DH) for the Moss Landing CBC 1 Jan. A Pine Siskin flew into the Liscovec's window in Los Altos in January and is now a specimen. Ron Lecount has had a White-throated Sparrow coming to his feeder in Cupertino since before Thanksgiving, and a second was seen at the end of January.

Further a field the SCVAS rare bird trip on 10 Jan. found the Harlequin Duck and Oldsquaw at Moss Landing, the Eastern Pheobe at El Encinal Cemetary in Monterey, and the Olivaceous Flycatcher along Brandforte in Santa Cruz. The SCVAS trip to Panoche Valley 7 Feb. found many of the local specialties including a Harlan's Hawk (subspecies of the Red-tailed Hawk). 2 Ferruginous Hawks (plus a third on the way home n. of Hollister), 2-3 Mountain Plover, Lewis' Woodpeckers, a Tree Swallow, Sage Thrasher, 30-40 Mountain Bluebirds, 2 Phainopeplas and Vesper Sparrows.

If you see an "uncommon to rare" share your notes, call me or drop me a line. Bill Bousman, 321 Arlington Way, Menlo Park, CA 94025 (322-5282)

SANTA CLARA VALLEY AUDUBON SOCIETY, Inc.

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Terry Hart - 1509 Klamath Dr., Sunnyvale 94087 (245-2673)
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Chairpersons

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Education: Courtenay Dawson-Roberts - 2914 Emerson St., Palo Alto 94306 (327-5746)
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Field Trips: David Houle - 842 Colorado St., Palo Alto 94303 (856-1069)
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Christmas Bird Counts: Jim Liskovec - 1719 Christina Dr., Los Altos 94022 (969-5542)
Mike Rigney - 20401 Miljevich Dr., Saratoga 95070 (867-7459)
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