

SANTA CLARA VALLEY AUDUBON SOCIETY, Inc.

Chapter 0515 of the National Audubon Society
2253 Park Boulevard, Palo Alto, CA 94306
Telephone: (415) 328-5315



Alan Eisner
3538 Farm Hill Blvd Apt 4
Redwood City, CA 94061

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April, 1981

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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

Apr. 2---Meeting for Field Trip Leaders and Interested People, Thurs., 7:30 PM. To discuss next year's trip program. At Sue & Jim Liskovec's, 1719 Christina Dr., Los Altos.

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 so. 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 Apr. 3 trip for those who could not make it on Friday. Leader: Frank Farran (252-3984).

Apr. 7---Bird Discussion Group, Tues., 9:30 AM, at home of Eve Case, 20537 Verde Vista Lane, Saratoga. Topic: Thrushes.

Apr. 7---SCVAS Board of Directors' Meeting, Tues., 7:30 PM at Sue & Jim Liskovec's, 1719 Christina Dr., Los Altos.

Apr. 8---Field Trip South, Wed., 8:30 AM, Stevens Creek Park, Cupertino. Especially to look for nesting birds. Meet in the parking lot beside the dam. Leaders: Mary Lou Burgin (253-7115) and Manette Wittgenstein (354-9420).

Apr.12---Field Trip, Sun., 9:30 AM, Henry Coe State Park. From 101 in Morgan Hill, take E. Dunne Ave. east to the end. Meet in the drive-in campground. This large state park is virtually unknown, even though it is so close to home. On this trip we should find it at its best, with the promise of plenty of migrant and breeding birds, plus spectacular wildflower displays. This will be a hiking trip, so bring a portable lunch and liquids. Those wishing to camp and do some owling should contact Bruce in advance. Leaders: Bruce Barrett (268-7097) and Dave Hildebrandt (269-5852).

Apr.15---General Meeting, Wed., 7:30 PM, Lucy Evans Interpretative Center, Baylands, end of Embarcadero Rd., Palo Alto. All about wildflowers. A short business meeting will proceed the General Meeting to approve the revised bylaws. Copies of the proposed bylaws will be available for reviewing before the meeting.

Apr.25---Boat Trip-Field Trip, Sat. 7:45 AM, Elkhorn Slough and Loma Prieta. In the morning Bernadette Allen of Moss Landing Marine Lab. will lead a boat trip up Elkhorn Slough to see shorebirds in breeding plumage. In the afternoon Don Schmoldt will take us up Mt. Madonna and Loma Prieta for land birds. Trip limited to 20. Reserve by sending \$5 to Gail Cheeseman, 20800 Kittredge Rd., Saratoga, 95070. App.\$3.50 will cover boat fees, while the balance will go to the Audubon Birdathon. Meet at the Moss Landing Marine Lab. Birdathon counters may expect to see 100-120 species. Leaders: Gail & Doug Cheeseman (867-1371) & Doug Schmoldt (251-6133).

Apr.25---Field Trip, Sat. 8 AM, Stevens Creek Park and Palo Alto Baylands. From Hwy.280 in Cupertino, take Foothill Blvd. west about 4 miles (it becomes Stevens Canyon Rd.) to picnic area #3. Bring lunch. These two marvelous areas provide us with a large variety of birds close to home. This trip should be a good way for beginners and less active people to participate in the Birdathon, although anyone is welcome on this trip. Birdathon counters should expect about 100 species. Leaders: David Houle (856-1069) and Mike Rogers.

Apr.26---Birdathon Big Day, Sun., all day. This will be a fast-paced trip designed to locate the maximum number of birds. We will start by owling in the coast Range, then work our way from the ocean to the east side of the bay. To participate, you must collect pledges to the Audubon Birdathon of at least 5¢ for each bird species you identify, or pledge that much yourself. We hope to find over 150 species. Call the leaders for meeting places and times. Leaders: David Houle (856-1069) and David Moore (293-7124).

Apr.27---Bird Discussion Group and Day at Filoli, Mon., 9 AM. Meet to carpool at Kienitz's, 632 University Dr. Menlo Park. Bird walks in AM, no charge. Brown bag lunch off the premises. Private tour led by Eleanor Nienczura in afternoon of Filoli house and gardens, for those who wish it. \$5. Reservations up to 30. Call 322-1981.

DRY HUMOR: on umbrellas emblazoned with the words "Acid Rain Umbrella" and a cartoon character drop of water saying "Keep my pH balanced." A walking campaign for the Clean Air Act at \$14.97 from: Environmental Action, Suite 731-H, 1346 Connecticut Ave., Washington, D.C. 20036.

Apr. 29---Field Trip, North County, Wed., 9 AM-3 PM, San Francisco Watershed, Millbrae. Leave Rte. 280 at Millbrae exit going north. Follow frontage road thru underpass under 280 and go directly ahead as far as possible. Turn left thru gate and up the road where someone will direct you. We will car-pool and drive to park at Pilarcitos Lake where there is a nice picnic area. There is good birding here. Those wishing to can hike (about 5 mi. round trip) to Stone Dam. Bring lunch and have plenty of gas. A Chevron station is near 280. I can ferry those who wish to go to Stone Dam but cannot walk that far. The group must drive in and out together. The permit limits the number to 40; no more than 10 cars and only one to Stone Dam. Make required reservations with Kay McCann (327-4138) or Carol Zabel (948-5671).

May 2---Field Trip, Sat. and Sun., Pinnacles National Monument. Meet at 9 AM Sat. at the Pinnacles Camp-ground, just outside the Monument. To reach the area, take Hwy 25-30 miles so. from Hollister. We will be looking for such birds as Poor-wills, Prairie Falcons, Phainopeplas, and Black-chinned Hummingbirds. Camping is on first-come, first-served basis. Leaders: Rich Carlson (494-3160) and David Houle.

May 2---Field Trip, Sat., 8:30 AM, Castle Rock State Park. Many mountain species breed in this area, including Mountain Quail, Black-throated Grey Warblers, Audubon's Warblers, and Black-chinned Sparrows. Meet at Castle Rock parking lot 2 1/2 miles so. of Hwy. 9, and 3 mi. no. of Black Rd. on Skyline Blvd. (Hwy. 35) Leader: Phil Hand (851-2623).

May 9---Field Trip, Sat., 8:30 AM, Mines Rd. and Del Puerto Canyon. This is a great area for Lewis's Woodpecker, Phainopepla, Lawrence's Goldfinch, and Lazuli Bunting. Chance for Roadrunner and Costa's Hummingbird. Take Hwy. 680 no. to 580, 580 east to Livermore Ave., so. on Livermore thru town. 2 mi. from the flagpole in the center of Livermore, Livermore Ave. becomes Tesla Rd. In another 1/2 mi. it intersects Mines Rd. Meet at Mines Rd. and Tesla. Due to limited pulloff space, carpooling is essential. Call leaders to arrange rides. All day trip. Limited facilities on our rte. Bring lunch, liquids gas. You may wish to camp at Caswell St. Pk. for May 10 trip there. Leaders: Ted Chandik (493-5330) and Don Schmoltdt (251-6133).

May 9---Boat Trip, Sat., 7:45 AM-3 PM, Monterey Bay Pelagic Excursion. Cost \$21 per person. Trips leave from Sam's Fishing on Fisherman's Wharf, Monterey. Many birds in breeding plumage. Reserve with a check payable to Debi Millichap, 362 Lee St., Santa Cruz, CA 95060. Send stamped, self-addressed envelope for confirmation. For more information call Debi (408) 425-8111.

May 10---Field Trip, Sun., Caswell Memorial State Park. This park on the Stanislaus River so. of Manteca offers a slice of the riparian habitat that once dominated the Central Valley. Swainson's Hawk, Blue Grosbeak, and Yellow-breasted Chat are all possible. This trip may be made in conjunction with the Mines Rd. trip May 9. Camping is available on a first-come, first-served basis. Call leader for meeting place and time. Leader: Pete LaTourrette (961-2741).

May 17---Bus Trip, Sun. 7 AM, Audubon Canyon Ranch and Point Reyes Bird Observatory. We have chartered a bus to take us to Bolinas in Marin County, where we can visit two of the most fascinating institutions going. At Pt. Reyes Bird Observatory former SCVASer Bob Yutzy and other staff members will give a presentation on bird banding, while at Audubon Canyon Ranch we can watch herons and egrets at their nests. Of course there will be lots of other birds in between. We plan to work in small groups to accommodate families, beginners, and more experienced birdwatchers. All in all, it should be a fantastic day. Cost is \$10 for adults and \$5 for children 14 and under. To reserve places, send a check made out to Santa Clara Valley Audubon Soc. to David Houle, 836 Colorado Ave. Palo Alto, CA 94303. Leaders: David Houle (856-1069), Allen Royer (251-6133) and Marilyn & Russel Fowler.

May 27---Field Trip, Wed., 8:30 AM, the Page Mill Rd. area of Black Mountain.

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. Look for details in the May Avocet. For more information contact David Houle (856-1069)

June ---Sierra Trip, with Ted Chandik.
19-21

NATIONAL AUDUBON BIRDATHON

Last September a small band of 9 birders from SCVAS raised over \$700 in the Pt. Reyes Bird Observatory Birdathon, while sighting 130 species of birds. Just think what 50 birders might do during the best birding weekend of the year! Luckily, National Audubon is sponsoring another Birdathon April 24-26, to give us a chance to find out. This time, proceeds will go to Mono Lake Legal Defense, & Regional and National Audubon. To participate, all you need to do is to obtain sponsors who pledge to donate a specific amount of money for each bird species you identify on a given day, or sponsor yourself. Make sure you give your sponsors some idea of how many birds you might see. Everyone is encouraged to take part. Beginners may contribute just as much as expert birders and learn a lot in the process. You may either bird on your own or join one of the trips set up by the chapter. Any of the three trips on the 25 and 26 would be suitable for Birdathons--all should get over 100 species. Good luck, have fun.



Rose-colored Starling

Roger Tory Peterson is National Chairman of the 1981 Birdathon, and will participate on location in Texas. He expects to see 150 to 200 species, but is not eligible for prizes. You may sponsor him....

THE STATEWIDE AUDUBON CONFERENCE - A Report

Audubon conferences are known for their marathon qualities. The Statewide Conference on Feb. 27-Mar. 1, was no exception. Two hours Friday night (they start slow), 14 hours on Sat. and another 4 hours on Sunday produced the following list of California priorities for the next two years: Mono Lake and Water Resources; the condor and other wildlife issues; energy conservation; toxic wastes; coastal issues. Some conference highlights: S.C.V.A.S. was commended for the leadership they showed with their Mono Lake fund raising - it stimulated other California chapters to follow suit and they are 1/3 of the way to their goal; Charles Fullerton, Director of State Fish and Game, presented an interesting rationale FOR the Peripheral Canal; a pictorial essay of California wildlife by Tupper Ansel Blake - soon to be available for use by local chapters. How do you summarize 20 hours in a paragraph? Exhausting, but rewarding! --- Phyllis Swanson

NEST RECORD CARD PROGRAM - Cornell Lab. of Ornithology

Our Chapter representative will be happy to send you record cards if you are watching any nesting birds. The NRCP at Cornell provides info on breeding success for all our nesting species. All are invited to contribute. Call Gail Cheeseman, (867-1371) for NEST RECORD CARDS.



Salangane

Counter's name _____ Participating: _____ as an individual
 Address _____ in sponsoring chapter or group
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Chapter (if sponsor) or group _____
 Number of species seen _____ Date of birding _____

Sponsor's name _____ Address _____ Amount pledged _____ Maximum _____ Amount Due _____ Received _____

*Attach extra pages as needed.

_____ Check here if you wish to sponsor Roger Tory Peterson. He will probably see 150 to 200 species.
 _____ Amount pledged per species (bill me), or _____ Advance contribution (send receipt)

Individual Participants

Mail to:
 BIRDATHON Headquarters
 National Audubon Society
 950 Third Avenue
 New York, N.Y. 10022

If your chapter is a cosponsor, return
 this form to the designated person or
 the Birdathon Chairperson.

For further information, call or write: Birdathon Headquarters, National
 Audubon Society, 950 Third Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10022/Telephone (212) 546-9208.

National Audubon Society
 BIRDATHON ENTRY FORM

FIELD NOTES Bill Bousman

Early April brings out new leaves, new insects and migrating birds. Flycatchers appear and vireos and warblers are migrating through or returning to breed. As there are many more trees than birds on the average this presents a problem in looking for the migrant, especially the less common ones. Search out a wooded area and learn to discriminate the different songs you hear. Learn the common species and pursue the songs you don't recognize. -----Six Cattle Egrets were found at the e. end of Leavesly Rd. in Gilroy by Al Fisner and Mike Rogers - fide Dave Houle (DH). Redheads were down in numbers from their winter high with 14 on Charleston Slough 19 Feb. Red-shouldered Hawks were again active along Adobe Creek where they have been resident in past years. A Golden Eagle was w. of Calaveras Res. 22 Feb. which is in their normal range. An adult Bald Eagle was seen along I-280 between Crystal Springs and San Andreas Lake 27 Feb. (Liz Beard) where they have been seen in past winters. Less expected was a near adult seen 29 Feb. near Caribbean and Rt. 237 in the jack rabbit and ground squirrel fields there (Kenn H.C. Monahan). Carol Zabel saw an Osprey on Searsville Lake 5 Mar., and a Prairie Falcon was seen on the SCVAS trip to Anderson Res. 22 Feb. - Emelie Curtis (EC), fide DH. Dave Hildebrand photographed a Long-eared Owl at Henry Coe SP 25 Feb., and Mt. Madonna (P continues to be a good spot for Saw-whet Owls with 10 there 5 Feb., and 2 on the 15 Feb. SCVAS trip (DH). Early returns of Allen's Hummingbird were 4 in Palo 13 Feb. and 5 in Mt. Madonna CP on 15 Feb. (DH). Early swallows included 4 Violet-green w. of Calaveras Rs. on 22 Feb. and 4 Cliff at Ames Research Center 19 Feb. Len Wittlinger reported 2 Ravens 1 Mar. flying from the foothills towards Palo Alto. They appear to be increasing in recent years in the South Bay with 34 on this year's Palo Alto CBC. A Winter Wren was found in Mt. Madonna CP on the SCVAS trip 25 Feb. (DH) and a Canyon Wren between Coyote and Anderson Res. on the SCVAS trip 22 Feb. (EC fide DH). A Rock Wren w. of Calaveras Res. seen on 22 Feb. resides in a rock outcropping right next to the road shortly after you turn the corner and head n. on Calaveras Rd. An Orange-crowned Warbler was seen at Anderson Res. 22 Feb. (EC fide DH); they are rare here in winter. Bill Pulliam reported a Chipping Sparrow on Stanford land between I-280 and Foothill Expressway 11 Jan.; he saw one in the same area a year ago as well. -----Further afield Dave Houle reports that the SCVAS trips to the Los Banos (LB) area on 21 Feb. and Susanville-Honey Lake (SH) areas on 28 Feb. and 1 Mar. were very productive. Thirty Little Sacred Ibis (LB) is a good number for this increasingly rare species. Whistling Swans and four species of geese were well-represented on both the LB and SH trips. Good variety in raptors were seen on both trips with 2 Goshawks (SH) and 2 Kough-legged Hawks (LB). Sandhill Cranes were in large numbers in both areas, and 9 Sage Grouse (SH) is definitely a specialty of the Great Basin biome. Long-eared Owls were heard calling on the SH trip and woodpecker specialties included Black-backed Three-toed and Williamson Sapsucker. Two Townsend's Solitaires were found on the SH trip, plus 2 Northern Shrikes. Twenty Yellow-headed blackbirds were seen on the LB trip. Montane finches on the SH trip included 40 Evening Grosbeak and 20 Red Crossbills. -----If you see an uncommon-to-rare, please call me or drop me a line: Bill Bousman, 321 Arlington Way, Menlo Park, CA (322-5282)



Beccafico



European Avocet

The illustrations for this issue of the AVOCET are taken from "Birds, a picture sourcebook (copyright-free illustrations)" by Don Price: Van Nostrand, 1980.

NON-FIELD NOTES, from here & there:

Available from your Government Bookstore, Room 1023, Federal Bldg., 450 Golden Gate Ave., San Francisco, 94102-----Send check to them: Fifty birds of town and city. 1973, reprinted 1979. \$2.20. Stock No.: 024-010-00332-4.-----Cavity-nesting birds of North America. (85 species). 1977. \$3.50. Stock No.: 001-000-03726-9.

From your SCVAS library, Conservation Center, Palo Alto: a variety of new books.

From the pages of history, a note, dated 1962: "Our growing library: The SCVAS now has a small library, gifts from three members, Miss Florence Wood, Miss Lillian Gorham, and Mr. Curt Dietz. Until we have a permanent place for them, they are housed at the home of Eve and Lloyd Case, Santa Clara."

From The Villager (courtesy of an AVOCET reader: "The terms "birder" and "birding" are more active terms than the older British terms "birdwatcher" and "birdwatching" and are preferred by most. Birding is a hobby and, in addition, it is considered incurable. It carries a lifetime guarantee against boredom."

BIRDS OF A FEATHER: Birds are seldom alone. Do they derive any benefit from being in a flock, or are they just sociable birds?.....Thought from The New Scientist, 13 Sept. 1979.

SCVAS BOARD NOTES for February: The Board voted: (1) to support Golden Gate Audubon Society's Condor poster which will, hopefully, curtail shooting of the big birds; (2) to encourage the County Parks and Recreation Dept. to post county parks as closed to firearms. This, in response to an incident during an Audubon Field Trip where a Red-shouldered Hawk was found shot; (3) to support a series of Audubon Wildlife Films at DeAnza College with a maximum charge of \$3 per person.

SCVAS ELECTIONS

Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society will be electing officers and three new directors in May. Mail-in ballots will be published in the May Avocet. Meanwhile, suggestions are solicited by the Nominating Committee. Send them to Phyllis Swanson, 1899 Mountain Creek Ct., San Jose, CA 95148.

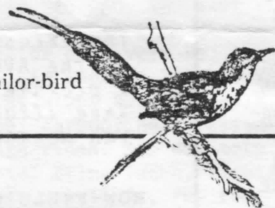
SCVAS Grant Program: To assist in the advancement of knowledge, appreciation and protection of wildlife and their habitats, the Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society offers these guidelines for grants to fund studies or projects consistent with SCVAS goals.

In the first half of this year grants were given to the Youth Science Institute, Mike Kutilek's Mountain Lion Study, Pt. Reyes Bird Observatory, Montezuma Ecology Ctr., and Wildlife Rescue.

The filing deadline for fiscal year 1980-81 is May 1, 1981. To receive a copy of the "Grant Request Form" write Bob Garcia, 323 Beemer St., Sunnyvale, CA 94086.

Proposals for funding must contain a title, project description, together with supporting documents, a budget, estimated completion date, discussion of possible publication or presentation at a general meeting, and a resume from the applicant.

Indian Tailor-bird



JOB OPPORTUNITIES

The Nature Conservancy is looking for a Director of Administration, Western Regional Office, San Francisco. A variety of duties in providing administrative support for field offices, coordinating daily operations of regional office, and working with national office. Further information from, and resumes to, Western Regional Director, The Nature Conservancy, 156 Second St., 5th Floor, San Francisco, CA 94105.

Wildlife Rescue is looking for a coordinator for its shelter in Palo Alto to work 4 hours daily, Monday through Saturday. \$4-5 per hour. Contact, Joyce Long (865-4457) or Deborah Cooper (494-7926, 1 to 5 PM Monday through Friday), or send resume to Wildlife Rescue, Inc., 4037 El Camino Way, Palo Alto, CA 94306.

ADVENTURES

AUDUBON GOLDEN TROUT CAMP: 1-week sessions beginning July 26 and August 1. \$125 for adults, \$90 for children under 12. Reservations from Mrs. Tomi Sollen, 825 No. Soledad, Santa Barbara, CA 93103 (805) 966-4836. Frank Farran's comment on this experience, "John Muir never had it so good". Ask him for his write-up! (252-3874).

SPRING BIRDING CLASS WITH ALICE HOCH: 6 weeks beginning April 21. Contact Fremont Adult School, 4700 Calaveras Ave., Fremont, CA 94538 (tele.: 791-5841) or Alice (657-0475).

MEET THE AUTHOR: Dr. Carl Sharsmith, at the Duveneck home Hidden Villa, Los Altos Hills. Call Mary Hallesy (327-4822) or Linda Newberry (967-1156).

WEDNESDAY WALKS WITH LEE MAIN: March 25 - May 6. Emphasis on ecology. Contact Nature Explorations, 2253 Park Blvd., Palo Alto, CA 94306 (324-8737).

SANTA CLARA VALLEY AUDUBON SOCIETY. Inc.

President: Phyllis Swanson - 1899 Mountain Creek Ct., San Jose 95148 (274-2349)
1st Vice-Pres.: Linda Newberry - 7550 St. Joseph Ave., Los Altos 94022 (967-1156)
2nd Vice-Pres.: Jim Liskovec - 1719 Christina Dr., Los Altos 94022 (96-5542)
Treasurer: Sue Liskovec - 1719 Christina Dr., Los Altos 94022 (969-5542)
Recording Secretary: Betty Wyatt - 5524 Bigoak Dr., San Jose 95129 (255-6091)
Corresponding Secretary: Dave Nauer - 3684 Sweigert Rd., San Jose 95131 (259-1283)

Directors:

Doug Cheeseman - 20800 Kittredge Rd., Saratoga 95070 (867-137)
 Sue Formenti - 16675 Buckskin Ct., Morgan Hill 95037 (779-8694)
 Terry Hart - 1509 Klamath Dr., Sunnyvale 94087 (245-2673)
 Bob Garcia - 323 Beemer Ave., Sunnyvale 94086 (730-1234)
 Elaine Gould - 6209 Flowering Plum Rd., San Jose 95120 (286-8154)
 Rod Norden - 6478 Maybell, Palo Alto 94306 (493-4757)
 Mike Newcomer - 22371 Hartman Dr., Los Altos 94022 (736-4176)
 Donna Zetterquist - 55 Mt. Springs Dr., Santa Cruz 95060 (429-9716)

Chairpersons:

Membership: Kristi Wiley - 1200 Woodland Ave., Menlo Park 94025 (322-7717)
Editor: Jackie Freeberg - 715 Regal Ct., Menlo Park 94025 (322-9803)
Conservation: Allen Royer - 10315 Crothers Rd., San Jose 95127 (251-6133)
Programs: Allen Jamieson - 592 Channing Ave., Palo Alto 94306 (327-8310)
Education: Courtenay Dawson-Roberts - 2914 Emerson St., Palo Alto 94306 (327-5746)
Library: Wayne Peters - 430 Bay Rd., Menlo Park 94025 (325-3947)
Publicity: Dave Nauer - 3684 Sweigert Rd., San Jose 95131 (259-1283)
Field Trips: David Houle - 842 Colorado St., Palo Alto 94303 (856-1069)
Land Stewardship: Carol Anderson - H-29 Koshland, University of California, Santa Cruz 95064 (425-3605)
Grants: Bob Garcia - 323 Beemer Ave., Sunnyvale 94086 (730-1234)
Photography: Doug Cheeseman - 20800 Kittredge Rd., Saratoga 95070 (867-137)
Field notes: Bill Bousman - 321 Arlington Way, Menlo Park 94025 (322-5282)



Blackcap

The AVOCET is published monthly except July and August and sent to NAS members in this area. Nonmembers can subscribe at \$5.00 for the calendar year. Send changes of address and subscription requests to: Kristi Wiley, 1200 Woodland Ave., Menlo Park 94025.

DEADLINE FOR INPUT INTO THE AVOCET: 10th of the month.