

SANTA CLARA VALLEY AUDUBON SOCIETY
Chapter 0515 of the National Audubon Society
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The Avocet

TIME VALUE

MR ALAN M EISNER
3538 FARM HILL ELVD #4
REDWOOD CITY CA 94061

Volume 29, Number 3

March 1982

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Please call Manette Wittgenstein, 354-9420, and Dolores Norton, 941-1666, or if no answer, call the leader *if you can give a ride* or if you want a ride.

- March 2 **Board of Directors Meeting**, Tuesday, 7:30pm, at the home of Elaine Gould, 2485 Richland Avenue, San José 95125. The phone is (408) 448-0622.
- March 7 **Byron and Clifton Court Forebay Hawk Identification Trip**, Sunday 9am. We will be going to an area northwest of Tracy to find Ferruginous and Rough-legged Hawk and with luck Prairie Falcon and Golden Eagle. This is an excellent hawk area. From San José take 680 north to 580 east, and go 10-12 miles to First Street/Hiway 84 south exit. Make an immediate left into a Mobil station, where we will meet. Round trip is about 150 miles. There will be times when we will be waiting for the birds to come overhead. Bring lunch, water and a full tank of gas. Carpooling may be necessary. There are few pull-offs along our route. Leader: Don Schmolt (408) 251-6133.
- March 9 **Bird Discussion Group**, Tuesday, 9:30am, at the home of Eve Case, 20537 Verde Vista Lane, Saratoga 95070. The topic: "Hummingbirds."
- March 10 **Field Trip South**, Wednesday, 9am, Chesbro Reservoir for new spring arrivals. Limited parking; please carpool. For information, call Manette. Leaders: Manette Wittgenstein, (408) 354-9420 and Gail Cheeseman, (408) 867-1371.
- March 13 **Birdwalk for Beginners**, Saturday 9am at Grant Ranch. From 101 take Alum Rock Avenue (east) to Mt. Hamilton Road or take Tully Road east to Quimby Road. Meet just south of the junction of Mt. Hamilton Road and Quimby Road at the entrance to Grant Ranch Park (by the big green gate). Lake, oak-woodland, grassland and riparian habitats. Bring lunch. Leader: Rus and Marilyn Fowler (408) 356-7758.
- March 14 **Coyote Hills Regional Park**, Sunday 8:30am. From the peninsula, go east across the Dumbarton Bridge, then left on Jarvis, left on Newark, and left on Patterson Ranch Road. Meet at the entrance to the park. There is a fee for each car. Bring lunch if you would like to do some early afternoon birding. Leader: Phil Hand (415) 851-2623.
- March 17 **General Meeting**, Wednesday, 7:30pm at the Lucy Evans Baylands Interpretive Center. The program this St. Patrick's Day is "Improving your Plant and Wildlife Photography" with Rose Hand. Please see note in this *Avocet*.
- March 20 **Sunol Regional Park**, Saturday 9am. Take U.S. 280 to U.S. 680 and exit on Calaveras Road. South to park about 4 miles. Go left at sign to park headquarters for meeting place. Or take the scenic route (Golden Eagle habitat) up Calaveras Road from Milpitas along the west side of Calaveras Reservoir to the park. Take care not to miss the right turn into the park. Leader: Harry Latham (408) 734-2326.

- March 24 **Field Trip North**, Wednesday 9am, Edgewood Park, a new San Mateo County park, in the Redwood City area. North on Hwy. 280, then take the Edgewood Road turnoff. Turn left onto Edgewood, drive 1/2 mile to the intersection with Cañada Road and park along the side of the road. Good serpentine area wildflowers. Leader: Carol Zabel (415)948-5671.
- March 28 **Big Basin State Park**, Sunday 8:30. 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 Hiway 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. Expect to hike about 5 miles, easy and leisurely. Bring a portable lunch. Leader: Vicki Silvas-Young (408)293-7124. Note from leader: I expect a large number of people—I need two or three co-leaders. Please call me!
- April 14 **Field Trip South**, Wednesday 9am, Castle Rock State Park. A leisurely walk to see the spring birds and wildflowers. Meet at parking lot on the right side of Skyline Blvd. about 2 miles south of Hwy. 9. Leader: Juliette Wheeler (408)867-9597.

★ Jupiter

THAT MARCH GENERAL MEETING

Rose Hand, a professional who excels in nature photography, will show you how to improve your slides and make a hopeless slide acceptable so you can use it. She will cover cropping, overlays of film, working with pains, etc. If you have hot spots, learn to subdue them and to intensify a color which is too pale, (e.g. of birds). Learn to add a touch of color where needed and to subdue or change the background, especially of "doughnuts" from a mirror lens. Rose will show slides of before and after retouching.

Peter La Tourette will co-ordinate the talk with Rose to show how he has developed one of Rose's ideas to get excellent results in bird photography. This is the technique of close photos of birds with projection flash, plus how to make your own projection flash system using an inexpensive strobe. Pete's system works well for daytime fill-in flash of birds in shady areas, such as in oak woodland.

This program is really something new and different, prepared by our own SCVAS members Rose Hand and Peter LaTourette. We welcome everyone who wants to learn more about nature photography or who enjoys looking at slides of top quality. See you there on the 17th!

And bring your own cup (if possible) and read the article in this newsletter on "Throwaways".

●
Vega

BOARD NOTES FROM JANUARY 12, 1982

1. Kep Stone was selected to succeed Joe Wissel as Chairman of the Finance Committee.
2. The Board recommended that the Society donate \$700 to fund (in part) the PCC's planned lecture series/symposium on California water issues.

WATER: WHAT'S THE SOLUTION?

In June of this year Californians will vote on the controversial Senate Bill 200 referendum, which would halt the construction of the proposed Peripheral Canal. The arguments (on both sides) surrounding the Canal are complex, hotly contested, often exaggerated, and terribly fascinating.

In an attempt to clarify this issue, the Peninsula Conservation Center, along with the Santa Clara Valley and Sequoia Audubon Societies, are co-sponsoring a lecture series on California water issues, culminating with a panel discussion on the upcoming SB200 referendum. The program, entitled "Water: What's the Solution?," will be held on Thursday evenings, April 8-May 20 (location to be announced). This program will provide an information glimpse into the historic, environmental, political, and legal issues surrounding California water in general and the Peripheral Canal in particular.

The six-part lecture series will provide an overview of California water history and policy. This program, featuring presentations by experts from all over the state, will cover all aspects of water in California, including geographic and physical history, agricultural water use, economics, and water law. Three sessions utilizing the Peripheral Canal as a case study will examine its political history, the role of the California State Department of Water Resources, and positive and negative effects on San Francisco Bay and the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. The lecture series will run on Thursdays, 7:30-9:30pm, from April 8-May 13.

On May 30, from 7:30-10pm, there will be a panel discussion on the upcoming SB 200 referendum. Representatives of the major opposing factions will present their points of view.

For more information please call the Peninsula Conservation Center at 328-5313.

USE OF THROWAWAY CONTAINERS

Way back in September 1974 the Board of Directors of the Sierra Club passed a resolution which said, in effect, that only *reusable* drinking containers would be used at Club functions. If the Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society is to practice what we most earnestly preach, we should do the same. We live in an age of styrofoam, and why not—it's cheap, it's light in weight, and has accomodated to a million uses. Go birding at a garbage dump sometime; you'll see tons of it. As an insulator—it's marvelous. As a polluter—it's ubiquitous. As a drinking cup, it's a shame, or even a sham. Imagine backpacking with a styrofoam cup! Think of Ocktoberfest and beer in styrofoam mugs!? Do little old wine-makers test their product in styrofoam? Would a Basque shepherd use a styrofoam cup when the traditional wine-skin was available? And so, at all Audubon functions, please remember to *bring your own beverage container*. The Society will still supply the goodies (coffee, tea, etc.) and we'll also try to run down a supply of reusable containers. And along that line, if you have any thoughts about reusable containers (or at least quickly biodegradable)—let us know.

The Editor

BAY CRUISE BENEFIT FOR MONO LAKE, April 18, 9am-5pm

Help save Mono Lake and enjoy good company while seeing the Bay from the Bay! Sunday, April 18, has been set for a cruise into regions of the north Bay to see and learn about the history, geography and wildlife of these important areas and to get an update on the Mono Lake ultra-crisis. We'll have on board with us experts in the fields of ornithology, marine mammology, estuarine ecology and S.F. Bay geography. Boarding time is 8:30am at the Berkeley Marina (foot of University Avenue) and return will be at 5:00pm. Bring lunch, binoculars, camera, and warm clothes. The trip goes rain or shine. Sandwiches and snack items may be purchased on board. Alcoholic beverages may not be brought on board, but may be purchased there. Tickets are \$31 if obtained on or before March 27, after that date they will be \$34—*so be an early bird!* Tickets are not refundable. Reservations are by mail only. Make checks payable to Mono Lake Committee (not tax deductible) or to Golden Gate Audubon Society (tax deductible) earmarked for MLC. Send your check with a self-addressed, *stamped envelope* to: **BAY CRUISE**, G.G. Audubon Scoeity, 2718 Telegraph Avenue, #206, Berkeley, CA 94705. If you have questions, please phone Chris Swarth at 849-2053, evenings.

Oysters can change sex

FAREWELL EPA?

There recently appeared a full page ad in the San Francisco *Chronicle* and New York *Times* sponsored by Friends of the Earth: RONALD REAGAN. THE HEALTH OF HUMANS AND THE NATURAL WORLD. A partial summary:

Since the 1950's more Americans are realizing that by despoiling our nest, we will eventually kill ourselves. Under five presidents new institutions emerged that had promise to preserve the health of our planet.

A year ago that abruptly changed. When Mr. Reagan's appointees think "environment" their images run to oil, minerals and lumber, something to dig up, cut down, take apart or pave. "The regulated have captured the regulators" said William Butler of N.A.S. Mr. Reagan's "favorite" cabinet member James Watt's zeal had led more than one million Americans to sign petitions to fire him. Meanwhile with Anne Gorsuch new head of EPA, fifteen of her nineteen new appointees are business executives, no environmentalists.

Mr. Reagan fights to block additions to the national park system even when Congress has approved the funds. He wants more powerboats on wild rivers, more snowmobiles in national parks and he's for the most massive offshore drilling in history. He has stopped additions to the Endangered Species List, a first step in their protection.

In 1980 the President's Council of Environmental Quality (CEQ) released *The Global 2000 Report to the President*, a listing of dangers awaiting humanity by 2000 if governments don't face some facts asking for urgent conservation efforts and emphasis on renewable resources. Our president cut CEQ budge by 64% and fired the staff that produced the report.

EPA is under severe attack. This main agency, charged with protecting the quality of our lakes, streams, rivers, air and humans, will have its budget cut 50-60% by 1983. Most pollution violators will never be fined or brought to court as EPA had to let more than three fourths of its enforcement staff go.

If you agree with a recent Harris poll that 80% of us want clean air laws as tough or tougher than they are now, if you are concerned about the future of the EPA, express your concerns to your president, your senators and representatives, and also to Rep. Thomas O'Niell, Speaker of the House, Senator Howard Baker, Senate Majority Leader. (Washington D.C. 20505) What sort of world do we want to leave as our loving legacy for those who follow?

Mary E. Hallesy

WILDLIFE ETCHINGS ON EXHIBIT

A complete collection of nature etchings by Emélie Curtis will be featured by William's Gallery at Vallco Village, Wolfe Road and Homestead Road, Cupertino, with a reception for the artist on the evening of March 5th.

FIELD NOTES

Bill Bousman

How many different species of birds could the active birder see in one year in our local area? If we combine the Santa Clara and San Mateo County checklists then about 165 species are at least fairly common sometime during the year. If we add uncommon species that can usually be found with some diligent searching and proper planning the potential goes up to about 210 species. But what do I mean by the "active birder" and what is our "local area." For these numbers to be valid the local area must include a stretch of ocean, let's say from Princeton Harbor to Año Nuevo or Santa Cruz to Moss Landing. For most of us this puts a limit of about one to one and a half hours driving time. What is active? For my hypothetical birder this means two half-day trips a month, plus a few short stops at local areas after work, or walks in the neighborhood. The key to reaching the potential is good planning. During the rest of the year I'll suggest two trips each month with the goal being to find the less common species at the best time. Well, as February is nearly over we've already missed four trips. These trips should have concentrated on water birds and should have included one high tide trip at the Baylands, and perhaps a coastal trip as well. What about March? This is the transition month from winter visitors to the spring migrants. Already Allen's Hummingbirds have returned, and a few swallows. An early March trip to the coast is still worthwhile; look for Brant in particular. For the second March trip catch the early migrants either on the east or west side of the valley. At Alum Rock look for early-singing Rufous-crowned Sparrows in the sage, or Canyon Wrens up along the creek. At Monte Bello OSP Warbling Vireos should already be back and a few late winter finches may still be around.

A *Yellow-billed Loon* has been in the vicinity of the Berkeley Marina over the last month. An *Arctic Loon* was at Chesbro Res. January 22. Loons are scarce at the south end of the bay, and the Arctic is more often reported from reservoirs. *Cattle Egrets* were in the vicinity of the San José Sewage Treatment Plant January 28 (Roy Lowe). *European Wigeon* have been rarer than usual this winter, so one at the Palo Alto Flood Control Basin January 9 seemed overdue (Rare Bird Alert-RBA). Three male *Wood Duck* at Chesbro Res. January 22 were at a typical location. *Redheads* continue to be seen in small numbers with three at the Palo Alto Flood Control Basin January 14, and a male at the Coyote percolation ponds January 22. *Hooded Mergansers* continue to be found in Foster City in substantial numbers, but a female at the Coyote percolation ponds on January 10 was not expected (Ed Gustavson-EG). Our marvelous Asian visitor, the *Smew* was still in Foster City through February 5. Three *Red-shouldered Hawks* at Chesbro Res. January 22 were in typical habitat. *Golden Eagles* are generally found along the western front of the Diablo Range, but one in Alviso January 14 was in a less likely loca-

tion (Anne Wilson-AW). The *Black Rails* continue to be seen at the Palo Alto Baylands both at the January and February high tides. Four *Common Gallinules* along Adobe Creek in the Palo Alto Flood Control Basin on January 14 were in a typical location. A *Glaucous Gull* was reported from the Palo Alto dump January 8 (RBA), and a first year bird at Charleston Slough January 28 was probably the same bird (Rae Schmuck, Mary Lou Burgin). January was a month for rarities at feeders and birdbaths. A *Rufous Hummingbird* in San José January 15 probably wintered locally (Dave Nauer). A *Dipper* was found along Coyote Creek below Anderson Dam on the SCVAS trip there January 10 (EG), and was seen again on January 22. A *Canyon Wren* was at Henry Coe SP January 10 where they have at times taken up residence at the Headquarters (Barry Breckling). A *Rock Wren* was found in the old quarry below Anderson Dam January 22. A *Townsend's Solitaire* has used a birdbath in Ladera since January 13 (Mercedes Williams). This appears to be only the third record for San Mateo Co. *Golden-crowned Kinglets* continue to be seen, but in lower numbers than last fall. One in a marsh in Alviso was in an unusual location (AW). The male *Bullock's Oriole* wintering in Ladera continues to come regularly to Mercedes Williams' feeder. The exceptionally high tides in early January brought two *Sharp-tailed Sparrows* onto the runway levee at the Palo Alto Baylands. This is the first report this winter. In previous winters they have been typically found along the catwalks (RBA). A report of a *Vesper Sparrow* from Menlo Park January 9-11 is exceptional as they are accidental in San Mateo County in the winter (Penelope Bowen). A *White-throated Sparrow* has also been seen in Menlo Park since January 10, where it comes to a feeder. A *Lincoln's Sparrow* uses the feeder as well. A *Swamp Sparrow* has been seen along the runway levee at the Palo Alto Baylands at least three times in January and February.

If you see an "uncommon to rare" please drop me a note or call: Bill Bousman, 321 Arlington Way, Menlo Park, CA 94025; (415)322-5282.

SHOREBIRDS OF CALIFORNIA

Three Tuesdays, April 13-27, 7:30-10pm
Leigh High School, Room 43, 5210 Leigh Ave., San José
Field Trips: Two Saturdays, April 17 and 24,
8am-noon
Fee: \$23

An introduction to the identification, distribution, behavior and conservation of shorebirds along the California coast—study of oystercatchers, plovers, sandpipers, avocets and phalaropes—unique birds such as Pectoral Sandpiper—field trips to the marshlands of the South Bay—need to purchase a bird textbook (titles provided at first class meeting)—need binoculars.

Ted Chandik has a bachelor's and a master's degree in education with a biological science major from Indiana University. A former high school biology teacher, he has been a professional naturalist for the City of Palo Alto for the past 17 years. He has been studying birds for more than 30 years.

For more info, contact Office of Community Development, (Giurlani House), West Valley college District, 14000 Fruitdale Ave., Saratoga, CA 95070. Telephone 867-0440 between 8:30am and 5pm, Monday-Friday.

MORE BAIR ISLAND ALERT

Not only did the ground hog see his shadow on February 2 but Redwood City Planning Commissioners voted 6-1 in favor of a General Plan amendment paving the way for massive South Shores housing and commercial development. South Shores, a subsidiary of Mobil Oil, now must present their plans to the city council, BCDC, Army Corps of Engineers and Federal Aviation Administration. There was talk of a moat and chain link fence to keep pets, people and rats from the Bair Island wildlife. Perhaps before anyone can purchase a home in this area they should have a course in earthquake hazards, a picnic on their proposed homesite, to get a feeling for what it will be like to live under airport flight patterns. No children, dogs or cats allowed could be included in the sales closure, but it is hard to outlaw garbage that draws rats. Redwood City Shoreline Coalition is now "Friends of Redwood City" and they are circulating a petition for the residents of Redwood City to take to their City Council. They will need dollars to finance their initiative drive. Call Mary Gorth, Chairman (415)780-2433 (w) or 851-3782 (h). To be continued.

Mary E. Hallesy

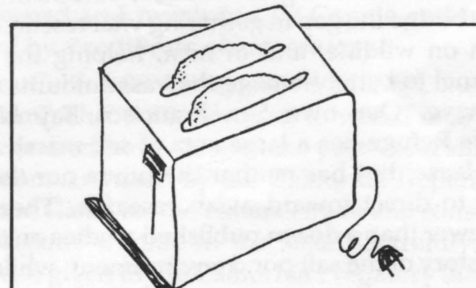
FOR THE NEST RECORD CARD PROGRAM

Nineteen people completed 475 Nest Record Cards for the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology during the 1981 nesting season. Members of the South Bay Institute for Avian Studies under the leadership of Mike Rigney can take credit for 415 of these cards. They recorded in the South Bay 203 Avocet nests, 204 Black-necked Stilt nests, 1 Snowy Plover and 1 Gadwall nest, and 66 Mallard nests. They are Eileen Brodsky, Susan Formenti, Lorrie Emery, Marily Fowler, Peggy Wooden, Sandra Kinchen, Sally Walters, Penny Delevor-yas, and Mike Rigney. If you are interested in this group's work, call Mike Rigney, 867-7459.

Dick Mewaldt sent in 32 Nest Record Cards for 14 species and 1 Colonial Record for Eared Grebes from his research at Hart Mt. Natl. Wildlife Refuge in Oregon. Manette Wittgenstein continued her excellent coverage of woodland birds along San Thomas Aquinas Creek on Canyon Drive in Saratoga. She found 9 nests of 8 species. Mary Lou and Wes Burgin made many visits to Stevens Creek Park before and after a June birding trip to England. Wes found the Olive-sided Flycatcher's nest and Mary Lou found 3 robin nests, 1 Western Wood Pewee, 1 Black Phoebe, 1 Solitary Vireo, and 1 Hutton's Vireo nest. From her new residence in Cottonsood, CA, Marlys Richman sent 6 cards of 3 N. Oriole nests, 1 W. Kingbird, 1 Bushtit, 1 Titmouse, and 1 W. Bluebird nest, which were all successful nests. Jim and Sue Liskovec and Kris Wiley found 3 nests, a Williamson's Sapsucker, a Mtn. Chickadee and a Hermit Thrush in the lodge-poles of 3 Fresno Co. lakes. Then last but by no means

least in importance, 2 backyard nests were observed in detail. Norma Nunai watched 3 young fledge from a N. Oriole nest and Ron LeCount saw 5 fledglings from a pair of House Finches on 6/3, except the cat ate one! Ron began watching the pair on 3/9.

Please call Gail Cheeseman, 867-1371, if you would like to receive Nest Record Cards for the 1982 nesting season.



The Toasting Dilemma

Compare three methods for toasting 12 slices of bread—a toaster oven which accepts two slices of bread; a two-slice electric toaster; and a four-slice toaster. From the literature accompanying a home appliance or mail order catalogs find the wattage for each appliance and record it.

Assume that the following figures are accurate for time required to toast bread: toaster oven, two minutes; two-slice toaster, two minutes; four-slice toaster, 2.5 minutes. Fill in the blanks below and make the necessary calculations.

Toaster oven:

$$\text{--- watts} \times \frac{2 \text{ hours}}{60} = \text{--- watt hours}$$

$$\text{--- wh} \times 6 \text{ (for 12 slices)} = \text{--- wh}$$

$$\text{--- wh} \div 1000 = \text{--- kilowatt hours}$$

Two-slice toaster:

$$\text{--- w} \times \frac{2}{60} \text{ hr} = \text{--- wh}$$

$$\text{--- wh} \times 6 \text{ (for 12 slices)} = \text{--- wh}$$

$$\text{--- wh} \div 1000 = \text{--- kwh}$$

Four-slice toaster:

$$\text{--- w} \times \frac{2.5}{60} \text{ hr} = \text{--- wh}$$

$$\text{--- wh} \times 3 \text{ (for 12 slices)} = \text{--- wh}$$

$$\text{--- wh} \div 1000 = \text{--- kwh}$$

(Remember, a kwh is 1000 watts for one hour. Convert watt hours to kwh by dividing by 1000.)

Which method uses the least amount of electricity? What factors are important in deciding whether to buy a two-slice toaster, a four-slice toaster, or a toaster oven? Discuss these questions when data are gathered. Discussion will likely lead to additional comparisons.

HELP FOR THE REFUGE

In an effort to bring about a balanced budget the Reagan administration has made drastic cuts that will affect wildlife and natural resources leaving our wildlife refuge systems strapped for money, time and unable to keep up with the changing environment. So at this time there is a great need for volunteer groups to help bridge the gap in gathering vital research information on wildlife, and in turn, helping the refuge personnel to better manage the vast amounts of land they have. Our own San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge has a large area of salt marsh habitat under lease, but has neither the funds nor the manpower to direct toward avian research. There have been fewer than a dozen published studies on the natural history of the salt pond environment, while in the San Francisco Bay area very little is known about breeding or wintering birds.

There is an organization in existence that has been working closely with the refuge in bridging that gap. The South Bay Institute for Avian Studies, Inc. is a non-profit group of amateur and professional ornithologists, who for the past three years have been studying the birds of the refuge. The areas currently being studied include all the Leslie salt evaporation ponds in the South San Francisco Bay and Bair Island near Redwood City.

For the past two years South Bay Institute has been conducting studies of the shorebirds nesting on dikes and levees surrounding the salt ponds. The goal of this study is to understand the breeding and wintering patterns of birds of the south bay and to determine the nesting periods and success of several species. In addition, they have spent many hours evaluating the California Least Tern colony on Bair Island. This endangered species nests in only a few places in northern California because of its specialized nesting requirements. Also nesting on the Island are large colonies of Caspian Tern, Black-crowned Night Herons and Great Blue Herons, which are being monitored by institute personnel. Obviously, Bair Island is a very productive and valuable avian breeding ground. And it is of special interest now due to recent proposals for development of a large portion of the Island by Mobile

Oil Corporation (see Mike Rigney's article in the September *Avocet*). The data already gathered by South Bay Institute will be invaluable in the fight to protect this critical area. Without this baseline data it would be very difficult to debate the adverse impact human encroachment would have on the wildlife and the value of the habitat they depend on.

In addition to all this field work the Institute has spent many man-hours conducting banding studies, including banding demonstrations to elementary school children at the Environmental Education Center in Alviso. This gives youth a unique opportunity to learn about and appreciate birdlife where they otherwise might not have an interest.

In the coming year the Institute will continue regular censusing of the birds of Bair Island and in the south bay. They hope to expand the banding program to banding wintering shorebirds. More studies in the salt pond environment would answer many questions, such as where do certain species of shorebirds go during different seasons of the year, post-breeding movements, and so forth. But all this will take many man-hours in the field and more help is needed.

If you think you might be interested in being involved in biological and natural history aspects of various avian species, South Bay Institute needs your help. Because they do have vast number of professional services available to them for help, they are still looking for the inexperienced person as well as the experienced, and are willing to train anyone who is interested. People with a wide variety of skills are needed to accomplish the goals set out by this organization. The institute is made up of working people who can't devote all the time they would like to studying birds. So you won't be expected to devote a large amount of time, but will to commit yourself to work in the south bay.

So, if you're interested in taking your birding one step further from casual observation or seeking out that rare bird for your life list, to contributing necessary and vital information about birds in our own area contact: Mike Rigney (408) 867-3791, Susie Formenti (408) 779-8694 or Julie Klingmann 252-6854.

CONDOR UPDATE

Mary E. Hallesy

A new three year permit has been granted to USFWS Condor Research Team. Numbers of condors for captive breeding and radio telemetry will be allocated by state Fish and Game on a year-by-year basis, with full public hearing. No entries into active nests will be allowed. Three condors may be captured for captive breeding in the next year—and two may be captured for radio telemetry experiments.

Meanwhile the Condor Research Team's experiments with surrogate species are encouraging serious failures. An attempt to cannon-net several turkey vultures, in practice for condor capture, resulted in a 100 acre brush fire and the loss of the capture net. Two other turkey vultures were fitted with the radio telemetry gear destined for condors; one disappeared without a trace, and the other was killed by a Golden Eagle. Condor capture for radio telemetry will not be allowed until the researchers can demonstrate that the experiments will work with turkey vultures.

SCVAS GRANTS PROGRAM

The Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society (SCVAS) continues its program of providing grants to studies and projects that advance the knowledge, appreciation and protection of wildlife and its habitats. Proposals for grants will be accepted through April 21, 1982, for consideration in the spring funding cycle. A total of \$1500 will be awarded about June 15, 1982, to those proposals approved fully or partially by the SCVAS Grants Committee and Board of Directors.

Applications for grants must be submitted on a "Grant Request Form," which may be obtained by writing to:

SCVAS Grants
c/o 2526 Amaryl Drive
San José, CA 95132

Each completed request form must be accompanied by a proposed budget and schedule for the study or project. The recipient of a grant may be asked to provide a program for a SCVAS General Meeting, or an article for the SCVAS *Avocet*, after completion of the funded activity.

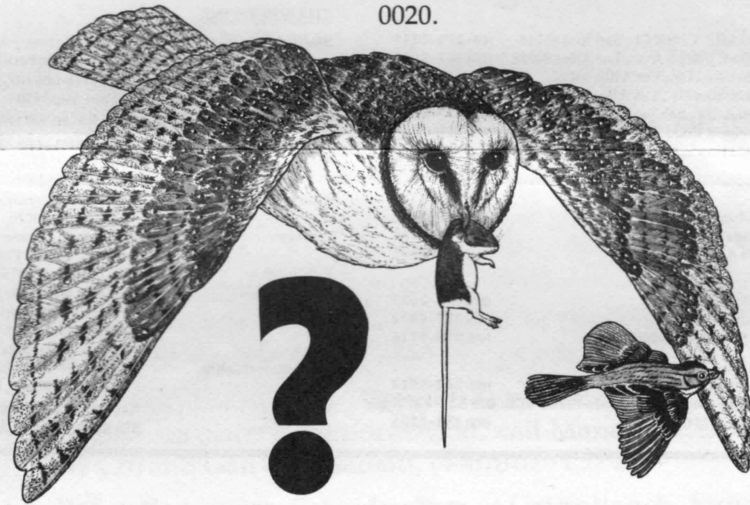
SOMETHING NEW

Something new has been added in the way of recognition for donations to the California Nongame Wildlife Conservation Program! Donors who give \$35.00 or more to this program will receive a limited edition of Robert Copple's painting called "Joint Endeavor."

Copple's litho depicts one Least Tern on an egg while its mate offers a small fish. Each litho is personally signed and numbered by Copple and is accompanied by a certificate of authenticity.

The California Nongame Wildlife Conservation Program? That's the program to which many Audubon members have given in the past—and still do. All donations are used by the California Department of Fish and Game for the enhancement and conservation of nongame wildlife in the state. Currently, money has been given to the California Predatory Bird Group in Santa Cruz to assist in work being done to enhance the Peregrin Falcon population, to fund efforts toward educating school children as to the worth of raptorial birds, and for a guard and observer at the California Desert Tortoise Preserve in the Mohave Desert.

Donations can be made to: Nongame Wildlife, and mailed to: Wildlife, Box DFG, Sacramento, CA 95801-0020.



WELCOME LYNN TENNEFOSS

As President Phyllis Swanson noted last month, Audubon's sole staff person, Lindsley Beach, has left us for the greener pastures (ha/ha!) of Maine! Along with the Personnel Committee Lindsley helped to find her own replacement. And so, SCVAS welcomes **Lynn Tennefoss**, who will handle Audubon's office in the Peninsula Conservation Center. Lynn has a BA in Human Biology from a relatively unknown private school called Stanford, with an emphasis on studies of the Bay Area's natural history. She's worked as a bookkeeper, animal keeper, docent, and was a Co-Director of *Nature Explorations ... Tuleyome*. In particular Lynn said she knows what to do when somebody calls and asks: "My duck laid an egg; what do I do?" That probably cinched it. Good Luck Lynn Tennefoss!

The *Avocet* received a note from Bob Yutzy of Point Reyes Bird Observatory and Meryl Sundove of Richardson Bay Wildlife Sanctuary; it said in part:

A BIRDING PARAPHINALIA GET-TOGETHER

will be held on Sunday, March 21, from 1 to 4pm. It is co-sponsored by Point Reyes Bird Observatory and National Audubon Society's Western Education Center and will be held at the Richardson Bay Wildlife Sanctuary in Tiburon.

Knowledgeable people are being invited from many areas including:

- * Optics: binoculars, telescopes, tripods, etc.
- * Camera gear: lenses, film, shoulder pads, etc.
- * Sound equipment: recorders, parabolas, tapes, microphones, etc.
- * Books and accessories.

We will have several people for each topic area display gear and be available to talk with others about the various pros and cons of their equipment. We invite birders and any other interested persons to bring their gear and join us. For info contact the Richardson Bay Wildlife Sanctuary, 376 Greenwood Beach Road, Tiburon, CA 94920, (415)388-2524.

PROGRAMS, CLASSES, ET AL.

Several spring programs planned by Nature Explorations are of special interest to Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society members. Know Your Bay is a year-long series of programs developed with the assistance of a grant from SCVAS. This spring there will be two trips to Bair Island, May 2 and May 16, with Mike Rigney, preceded by slide shows to prepare us for the fragile ecology of this island off Redwood City. The trips, May 2 and May 16, will be an opportunity to see colonially nesting marsh birds in huge numbers. In the second program we will enjoy an intimate aesthetic relationship with the Bay by spending the afternoon of May 15 picking cattail reeds in the flood basin and making useful and attractive baskets. Our basketer is Jan Van Dusen, one of the original founders of Nature Explorations.

Two other trips are Ron Arps' Birdsong Workshop, with a slide show on Friday evening, March 19, and field experience on Saturday, March 20 at the Stanford University campus. On April 10, Douglas and Gail Cheeseman will lead an all day boat trip to the Farallon Island, where Rhinoceros Auklets, Tufted Puffins, Pigeon Guillemots, murres, and other birds are part of one of the largest marine bird colonies in North America. The trip will be preceded by a slide show. For information on registration and fees, request a brochure from Nature Explorations, 2253 Park Boulevard, Palo Alto 94306, (415) 324-8737.

COLOR-BANDED SANDERLINGS

We have color-banded some 700 Sanderlings at Bodega Bay, California during the last 7 years. This coming fall (1982) we will start a companion program color-banding Sanderlings in Peru and Ecuador, along the west coast of South America. This work is part of an international project sponsored by the Wader Study Group to map shore-bird migrations between North and South America.

We need your help in a network of observers searching for color-marked Sanderlings. We want to determine how far away from Bodega Bay our locally marked birds travel, and to find out whether any of the South American birds migrate northward along the Pacific coast. If you want to participate as a regional coordinator or as a local observer, please contact us soon.

And if you see a color-banded Sanderling north or south of Bodega Bay, please tell us. Each bird has two color bands on the left leg and one or two color bands on the right above an aluminum band. To find out where your bird is from, send us its color-combination: which colors are where, top and bottom, right or left legs. But even if you cannot read the bands precisely, tell us where and when you saw a color-marked Sanderling.

Peter Myers and Craig Hohenberger
The Sanderling Project
Bodega Marine Laboratory
P.O. Box 247
Bodega Bay, CA 94923
(707) 875-2211

IT'S ABOUT BIRDS

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