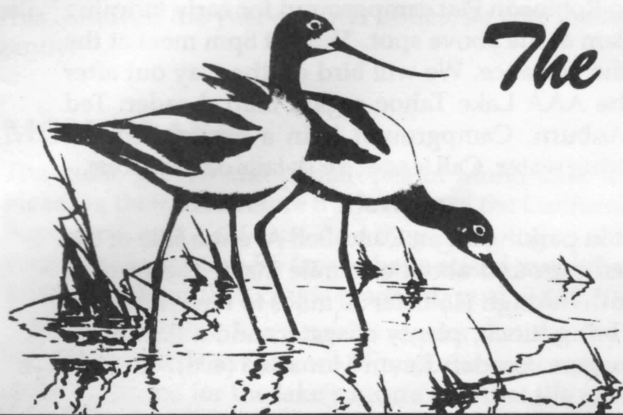


SANTA CLARA VALLEY AUDUBON SOCIETY
Chapter 0515 of the National Audubon Society
2253 Park Boulevard, Palo Alto, CA 94306
Telephone: (415) 329-1811

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The Avocet

TIME VALUE

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

Volume 29, Number 6

June 1982

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Please call Manette Wittgenstein, (408)354-9420, and Dolores Norton, (408)941-1666, or if no answer, call the leader *if you can give a ride* or if you want a ride.

- June 1 **Board of Directors Meeting**, Tuesday, 7:30pm, at the home of Mary Hallesy, 1246 Emerson, Palo Alto.
- June 5 **Palo Alto Breeding Bird Count**, Saturday, all day, Christmas in June! Please see note in this *Avocet*.
- June 6 **A Hot Day with Bob Yutzy**, Sunday, 8am. Meet at 5 Brooks Trail Pond. To get there, take Hwy 101 north to San Francisco; take Sir Francis Drake Hwy west (near San Rafael). Continue on Sir Francis Drake Hwy into; it dead ends into Hwy 1 at Olema. Turn left and go south about 5 miles. We will bird this area between 8 and 9:30am, then head out to the outer point unless there is a specialty at Bolinas. Bring lunch and something to drink; dress in layers. This trip is mostly car trekking with a minimum of hiking. We will be looking for migrants and unusual birds. Leader: Bob Yutzy, a former SCVAer. Local co-ordinator: David Moore (408) 293-7124
- June 8 **Bird Discussion Group**, Tuesday, 9:30am; "Birding & Picnic" at the home of Elwyn Dorman, 15086 Becky Lane, Los Gatos. Please carpool at the home of Eve Case!
- June 9 **Pt. Lobos State Park**, Wednesday 10am, south of Carmel on Rt. 1—Look for nesting birds: Brandt's Cormorants, Black Oystercatchers, Pigeon Guillemots, wrens, etc. Gail Cheeseman (408)867-1371.
- June 10 **Annual Membership Meeting**, Thursday, 6pm. This will be our end of the year pot-luck supper. Please see not inside for details.
- June 12 **Skyline-to-the-Sea Trail**, Saturday 8am. Meet at Saratoga Gap. The intersection of Hwy 9 and Skyline Blvd (Hwy 35). Meet at parking lot on southeast corner of intersection. From Hwy 280 in Cupertino take Hwy 85 south. In Saratoga turn right onto Congress Springs Road (Hwy 9). We will hike part of the Skyline to the Sea Trail, about 8 miles. Bring lunch and something to drink, and wear comfortable walking shoes. Possible birds: Black-throated Grey Warbler, Solitary Vireo, and Western Tanager. Leader: Mike Newcomer (408)736-4176. Co-Leader: Lee Lovelady (408) 448-3460.
- June 19 **Burney Falls Field Trip**, Saturday and Sunday morning. We'll start 9am at Ranger Station in McArthur/Burney Falls State Park. This is in the Lassen National Park area — about 325 miles from San José. Take Interstate Hwy 5 north as far as Redding, then Hwy 99 east the Alturas exit through Burney to Hwy 44 north to the Park. You can camp Friday night (6/18) at Burney Falls Park; get tickets from Montgomery Ward Ticketron. Saturday we'll camp at a secret place. Motels

in Burney. Birds? Bald Eagles, Ospreys, Black Swifts, possible Pileated and Black-back three-toed Woodpeckers ... lots of good birding. *Please* call leader if you plan to go: Dave Nauer (h)(408)259-1283 OR (w)(408)247-8200.

June 26
& 27

Robinson Flat, Saturday and Sunday. Take Hwy 80 to Auburn. 2 miles past Auburn, exit onto Auburn Forest Hill Road. At Forest Hill, take Mosquito Ridge Road for about 32 miles to Robinson Flat Road. From the intersection of Robinson Flat and Mosquito Ridge Roads it is about 20 miles to the campground. Meet at 6am at the entrance to Robinson Flat campground for early morning birding. We will meet after breakfast again at 9:30am at the above spot. Then at 8pm meet at the entrance for owling. On Sunday meet at 6am at the entrance. We will bird on the way out after breakfast on Sunday. A recommended map is the AAA Lake Tahoe region map. Leader: Ted Chandik (415)493-5330. Closest motels are in Auburn. Campground is in a national forest. Conditions are primitive — outhouse toilets and spring water. Call leader for details or questions.

July 24

Pinnacles National Monument, Saturday. Meet in parking lot on Campbell Avenue side of the Pruneyard at 8am or at the Chalone Annex (a picnic ground about one mile inside the gate) at 10am. Take Hwy 101 south to Hwy 25, Hwy 25 south through Hollister 30 miles to Hwy 146. This will be an all day trip ending about 4pm. Please bring lunch, plenty of water, and a flashlight. Possible birds are Prairie Falcons and Western Tanager. Leader: Kevin Monahan (408)743-2160 or (408)559-8713.

Sept. 3-5

Mono Lake, Friday – Sunday. Participate in Mono Lake Committee's 4th Bucket Walk and Annual Meeting-Picnic and Communal Cry in addition to local ecology field trips lead by research members of the Mono Lake Committee. Overnight accommodations will be at a local campground. We plan on doing some birding through Yosemite. Possible birds are Black-backed 3-toed Woodpecker, Empidonax Flycatchers, Blue Grouse, and Northern and Wilson's Phalaropes. Trip can be by carpool or by bus. Bus would cost \$50 per person. Call David or Vicki (408)293-7124 by July 9.

FIELD TRIP REPORT

It was a beautiful Saturday at Point Reyes, sunny with a slight breeze. We were greeted at P.R.B.O. by a former SCVAers Bob and Carol Yutzy who gave us a tour of the banding nets with little nuggets of bird and flower lore dropped along the way, and listened to the heartbeat of a Purple Finch. Lunch was at Audubon Canyon Ranch where Skip Schwartz gave us a run down on the status of the heron and egret colony — many chicks of different ages in the heron nests and one egret nest with 2 recent nestlings so far. On the trail up to Henderson Overlook many wildflowers were identified and we got a chance to see the "PRO" osprey fish with both feet — he caught 2 fish in one dive! As if we did not see that trick the first time he did it again! Some of the other birds seen or heard were Swainson's Thrush, Wilson's Warbler, Wrentit, and Western Flycatcher.

I want to especially thank Laurie Frevert, Don Schmoldt and Allen Royer for leading this trip. I appreciated your presence and I hope you enjoyed yourself as much as the others enjoyed having you along.

Vicki Silvas-Young

FIELD TRIP REPORT

About 15 hardy people showed up for the field trip in Castle Rock State Park on April 14th, even though it was raining heavily. The weather, however, cleared up and a pleasant walk to the waterfall and a little beyond, past mossy-green rocks and trees, made up for the regrettable scarcity of birds. Spring was late in

arriving, hence few wildflowers or spring birds, except for a singing Warbling Vireo. Among the 14 species counted were a winter wren, Varied Thrush, and Golden-crowned Kinglets.

Juliette Wheeler

FIELD TRIP REPORT

About a dozen birders drove down Mines Road on Sunday, May 2, a beautiful day. The birds were beautiful, too — Phainopepla, Lazuli Bunting, Lewis' Woodpecker, Turkey (wild?), Canyon Wren (singing!), Rock Wren, Oriole, Lawrence's Goldfinch, Rufous-crowned Sparrow, Purple Martin (nesting), Nashville Warbler — just about all of the specialties of the area, plus a couple of rarities. Including eight heard only and a few seen only on the scouting trip, we identified 76 species.

Phil Hand

AUDUBON OFFICE

Certainly all of our members know that Santa Clara Valley Audubon has an office in the Peninsula Conservation Center address over *Avocet* logo) in Palo Alto. However, during the summer, Audubon hours are — well — non-existent ! Our office will be closed from June 15 to August 15, though we are thinking of installing an answering machine to receive messages. At least your phone calls can be "routed" to the appropriate party. Have patience, please: we'll all be back in full swing next fall !

WATER ISSUES

We mentioned in a short note last month that the National Audubon Society has come out in opposition to SB-200 — the Peripheral Canal Referendum. Along this same line, the Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society co-sponsored the "Water, what's the solution?" series and presented over about 6-7 weeks of discussions. This is indeed the year of water issues, so vote intelligently!

MONO LAKE

The gulls, grebes and phalaropes of Mono Lake are pleading their case before the justices of the California Supreme Court *right now*. And they are doing so with your generous help. So far we have raised more than \$6500, leaving only \$3500 to reach our goal of \$10,000.

The attorney for Los Angeles argues that the city's need for water diverted from Mono Lake comes ahead of the concerns for the lake's future and that the need for water is so great that the public trust doctrine is "irrelevant."

We think you'll agree that the public trust doctrine *is* relevant and that the survival of Mono Lake *is* important.

We've used the gulls, grebes and phalaropes as symbols of its wildlife inhabitants, although there are many other important aspects of a viable lake ecosystem.

The lake and its creatures need your help *now* — while they are in court. If you haven't already done so, won't you please send a contribution *today*. Your check for \$35, \$50, \$100 or more will help us reach our goal before June 15. *You can be part of the success of Mono Lake.*

SWANSONG

I am sincerely grateful to everyone who contributed their time and energy to Audubon, from Mono Lake contributors and field trip participants to chairpeople. Thanks for helping me make SCVAS a leader among Audubon chapters and for championing the herons, condors and California Gulls! Proudly, we can say we won some battles, but perhaps more poignantly, we've learned that winning battles is not the same thing as winning the war. Bair Island and Mono Lake will remain high on our list of priorities until their preservation is insured.

A special thanks to my Board of Directors. What a marvelous and enthusiastic group you've been to work with! And so patient ... staying until 11:00 is a trial, for sure. Try as I would, that's remained an unconquered challenge. I have been more successful in establishing actual, functioning committees — real committees with more than one person on 'em. Committees that are providing the Board with formal reports and helping to streamline Board meetings. Ultimately, meetings may be shorter — but don't count on it — we'll just cover more territory!

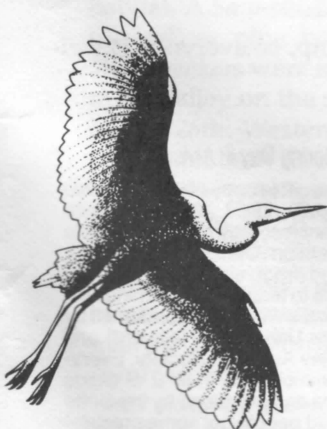
I am not planning on disappearing from the Audubon scene entirely. You may see me on more bird walks, and as Past President, I am rewarded with the privilege of a vote on the Board. I'll be around to see the policies that I instituted are continued and to share the wisdom I've acquired as president. See you next year ...

Phyllis Swanson

Q. What does an Audubon Chapter president say when she steps down?

A. NO EGRETS!

Phyllis Swanson



YES, I'd like to help the Mono Lake creatures. Here's my contribution.

- \$25 \$35 \$50 \$100 - circle please "White-throated Sparrow"
 don't forget my gift OR
 keep the gift and give my entire contribution to the birds "Pyrrhuloxia Crest"

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

Please make your check payable to: N.A.S.- Mono Lake Fund.

Contributions are tax-deductible. Mail to: 2253 Park Blvd., Palo Alto CA 94306

ANNUAL POTLUCK, GENERAL MEETING, FINAL PROGRAM

Please set aside the evening of June 10 for this affair. We will be meeting at the home of a couple of our most gracious Auduboners, and the address is 25600 Fernhill Drive, Los Altos Hills. *Please* call our Audubon office for directions. This will be a pot-luck supper and if you are not familiar with the alphabet, it goes like this:

A - C Bread
D - I Salad or Vegetable
J - S Main Dish
T - Z Desserts

Audubon will supply D-R-I through N-K-S.

We will have an evening's program, as Betsy Patterson will join us for a short presentation on **Wildlife Rescue**. Betsy will detail Wildlife Rescues Non-Releaseable Education Program, plus some ideas on basic first aid and life saving hints for helping injured birds and mammals.

Please join us starting at 6pm Thursday June 10.

THANK YOU KERN PEOPLE

As you can imagine, we "trade" newsletters with other Audubon Societies around the State. This helps to get the good Audubon word well-spread, which is what this whole business is about. A few weeks ago, Lynn Tennefoss, our staff person at the PCC, received a phone call from Kern Audubon: "Could they run our Mono Lake plea in *their* newsletter?" Not so long after that Lynn received a note from Kern Audubon with a \$500 check inside! And so — thank you, thank you — on behalf of the gulls, grebes and phalaropes of Mono Lake, to the good Auduboners of Kern.

A NEW EDITOR

The old editor is supposed to become the treasurer, and that means that *The Avocet* will have a new editor. I can't remember whether this is my 5th or 6th year as *Avocet* editor, but I do know I took a year or two off (for good behavior) and concentrated on publicity. Next fall I hope to concentrate on money — Audubon's money!

Editing the *Avocet* is something like having a baby ten times a year; first, it's frustrating, and second, it never comes out at the right time. But this really has been a good year for the newsletter: we're typesetting it now, and though it's expensive, we get much more copy in the same space. Our Calendar of Events is beginning to look like the *Guinness Book of Records*; we now have a lot of field trips, plus sponsoring or co-sponsoring this meeting or that event. Usually 'way more items come in than be run, and that's kind of a shame. We could run a whole section on "classes offered" and maybe we will — one day.

It is absolutely impossible for me to thank all of those people who have contributed over the years to *The Avocet*. Field trips, meetings, classes, special eve-

nts, "happenings," save-the-you-name-it-campaigns — sort of a glorious pageant of modern times, streaming in on various pieces of paper, some typed, many hand written, most legible, and all coming out in that same more or less precise format called *The Avocet*. And it's getting bigger and better — I think.

And now here is our new Editor, and you may now snow her with papers. And, as they say at meetings (with applause), "will you welcome with me please ..."

Shirley Shepard
3866 Carina Ct., Palo Alto, CA 94303
(415) 493-6209

And I leave you all with one dour and dirty thought:
"Get it in on time!"

Dave Nauer

GOLDEN TROUT CAMP

How about camping above 10,000 feet? Well, Audubon's *Golden Trout Camp* is just south of Mount Whitney, out of Lone Pine, and it must be one of the loveliest places in creation. There are Audubon people who have been going back for years. Each session goes from Sunday dinner to Saturday breakfast. There are three sessions each summer and here are the dates for 1982:

(1) — 7 / 25 — 7 / 31

(2) — 8 / 1 — 8 / 7

(3) — 8 / 8 — 8 / 14

The price is reasonable: \$125 for adults, \$90 for kids 10-13, and \$70 for 9 and under. For information, brochures, etc., please contact:

Tomi Sollen
829 N. Soledad, Santa Barbara, CA 93103
(805) 966-4836

If you want local information from someone who's been back for four years or so, contact the new *Avocet* editor:

Shirley Shepard
3866 Carina Ct., Palo Alto, CA 94303
(415) 493-6209

By the way, this is a family camp, so everyone is welcome.

What Is So Fair as a Spring Day in Alviso?

A beautiful spring day and a free gift (a copy of the *California Environmental Education Guide*), lured 33 Santa Clara County teachers to the San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge's Environmental Education Center on Saturday, April 17th. Participants ranged from elementary to high school teachers, from principals to teachers of learning-disabled children. The program was a workshop conducted by Dr. Esther Raiton (of CA State University, Hayward) and funded by the Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society. Everyone received hands-on experience with their *E E Guide* (funded with license plate funds and produced by the State Dept. of Education). Not only did people get some practical experience, but for many this was their first exposure to environmental education. And along the way the workshop kindled interest in Audubon — many signed up to be on SCVAS mailing list.

Mike Boylan

FIELD NOTES

Bill Bousman

With May over and the beginning of June our spring migration is finished except for a few late migrants such as Black Swifts and Swainson's Thrush. June is the height of our breeding season and it is time to visit some of our local spots that we don't normally visit. For our hypothetical birder who makes two half day trips a month, a trip to the Santa Cruz Mountains side of the valley is a good choice. If Monte Bello OSP was missed during May, then a June visit is good for breeding Solitary Vireo, Black-throated Gray Warbler, Western Tanager, Lazuli Bunting and Chipping Sparrow. Extend your visit north along Skyline to Rapley Road and a possibility of singing MacGillivray's Warblers and Grasshopper Sparrows. To find the Grasshopper learn its song. Another half day June trip could be to the east side of the valley or try some new habitat that you've not tried before, perhaps Loma Prieta for Blue-gray Gnatcatcher and Black-chinned Sparrow. For July and August it is time to think of the shorebird migration — a visit to Año Nuevo or Moss Landing is a must in late July or August. Another late July visit is Charleston Slough to look for little Blue Heron and Least Tern. If our hypothetical birder can afford a full day's birding this summer then the number one choice is the Breeding Bird Census being organized by Clark Blake for the Palo Alto CBC circle.

Green Herons were seen in San Antonio Valley on April 24 on the SCVAS trip there, and at the percolation ponds below Alum Rock on April 26 Observations on April 26 are from a Santa Clara Co. Big Day done by Clark Blake, Don Schmoltdt and myself. The 139 total was two under last year.) A total of 30 *Cattle Egrets* were east of Gilroy March 23 (Al Elsner). Five *Wood Ducks* in San Antonio Valley April 26 probably breed locally. Two male *Ring-necked Ducks* in Hall's Valley April 9 were in a typical location for winter (Harlan Fritz). Twenty plus *Surf Scoters* in the bay off Palo Alto April 26 are rare this far down the bay. A *Prairie Falcon* with prey in Mountain View April 26 was at a surprising location for the date. A second year *Glaucous Gull* in the Palo Alto Flood Control Basin the same day seems quite late. A *Roadrunner* calling at the north end of the San Antonio Valley was in typical chamise habitat. A *Saw-whet Owl* was also heard on April 26 in the yellow pine bell east of Mt. Hamilton. *Lewis' Woodpeckers* were found in small numbers in San Antonio Valley on the SCVAS trip there April 24 and also on the 26th. Western Kingbirdss were common there as well on both days. A *Say's Phoebe* in San Antonio Valley was unexpected as this is the edge of their breeding range. A *Yellow-billed Magpie* in Los Altos April 20 (Clark Blake) is about as far north on the peninsula as this bird of farms and open country will come. The *Townsend's Solitaire* in Cupertino remained until April 17 (Steve Schoech). *Blue-gray Gnatcatchers* have been found in chamise habitat on both sides of the valley in April. A *Black-and-white Warbler* in the picnic area overlooking the reservoir in Stevens Creek CP April 6 (Betty Wyatt and Audrey Stoye) is exceptional away from the coast. A *Hermit*

Warbler was found in the same spot April 20 (Juliette Wheeler). The only *Nashville Warbler* reported was at Smith's Creek April 26. Perhaps the most interesting bird of the month was a Yellow-breasted Chat found on the Hener Ranch at the bridge in San Antonio Valley on the SCVAS trip April 24. It was heard again April 26. This is the first record I have since the Wool Ranch transects 10 years ago. It would be interesting to know if the chat breeds in San Antonio Valley. The first *Hooded Oriole* of the season was March 25 (Jim & Sue Liskovec), but most observers did not see them until the week of April 18 (Clark Blake, Rae Schmuck). *Lawrence's Goldfinches* were seen in good numbers at Smith's Creek on April 24 and 26. More were seen on the east side of Mt. Hamilton and in San Antonio Valley April 26. *Sage Sparrows* were actively singing in the north end of San Antonio Valley in chamise on April 24 and 26, as were *Chipping Sparrows* on the west side of Mt. Hamilton and at Smith's Creek. A *White-throated Sparrow* was last seen in Menlo Park on April 28. A *Swamp Sparrow* at Moffett Field April 9 was the second bird seen this winter.

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

Natural History Trip to Maui and Hawaii

This summer Lee Van Fossen, Professor of Ecology and Marine Biology, will lead a natural history trip to the islands of Maui and Hawaii August 3 – 10. Included will be nature walks to forests, waterfalls, volcanic craters, and tours to ancient villages and religious shrines. Kilauea Crater will also be the focus of an all-day trip while on Hawaii. Cost of the tour is \$790 and includes all flights and ground transportation, first-class hotels, instruction, and a glass-bottomed boat trip down the Kona coast to view marine life. For more information call Emporium World Travel at (408) 238-6161 or Van Fossen (408) 238-3428

BIRDATHON, TEXAS STYLE

Dolores Norton sent an article into *The Avocet* which was taken from the Houston (Texas!) *Chronicle* of April 27, 1982. Now it seems that the record for number of bird species seen in any one day was 231 — done in California in 1978. This was done by a "crew" of birders, and the general rule is that at least 95% of the species be seen by all the crew. Not to be outdone, Texas decided to do their own big list, and made it a fund-raiser for the Audubon Society. And, oh yes — I almost forgot, they invited Roger Tory Peterson to help with this high-level birdathon. Only four people birded; the aforementioned RTP, Victor Emanuel (of field trip fame) and two others. The final total was 235 species, thus sinking California to second. Perhaps more important, however, they raised \$25,000 for the Audubon Society. Roger Tory Peterson had collected pledges at more than \$100 each; if you must have a birdathon, that seems like the way to do it !!

BIRDS, BOMBS AND THE UNTHINKABLE

Status Quo by Art Samuels
tune: "I Was Born About 10,000 Years Ago"

All hail the glorious status quo,
It's the only way of life we'll ever know
If ignorance is bliss let us join the blissful list,
We shall never doubt or question or say no.
Now status quo means simply "let it stand."
Let's not criticize, complain or reprimand.
It's been truly said we shall never lose our head
If we keep it safely buried in the sand !
There needn't be unrest among the masses,
There needn't be such strife between the classes,
It's very plain indeed that all we really need
Are more and more and more rose colored glasses!

"Ground Zero Week," "The Last Epidemic! Medical Consequences of Nuclear War," "nuclear freeze," "overkill," "economic implications of the arms race," "Physicians for Social Responsibility." The media has been covering this and many of us have once again started thinking about the most serious environmental threat to all life on our planet.

The *New Yorker* in Feb. 1, 8 and 15th 1982 issues ran articles called "The Fate of the Earth" by Jonathan Schell. These have since been published in book form by Alfred Knopf. Book of the month club shortly will make it available at cost to all of its members. Schell describes, within the limits of what is dependably and unarguably known to science, a full-scaled nuclear holocaust. He describes the countless ways human beings and all other living organisms will die if the exist-

ing twenty thousand megatons of bombs (with more than a million times the explosive power of the Hiroshima bomb) should ever fall. He calls upon each of us to act now, and in our love for the unborn generations, prevent nuclear holocaust.

David Brower, former executive director of the Sierra Club and founder and president of Friends of the Earth spoke at an April 22 Earth Day rally at Stanford. Brower is featured in May KQED Focus Magazine. Brower recommended everyone educating themselves about the nuclear issues, beginning with reading Schell's book. "Our concern for the environment, and all the specific issues, clean air, clean water, acid rain, wilderness, offshore oil drilling, endangered species, it all becomes academic in the face of this total disaster confronting us should a nuclear war happen." Brower also cautioned environmentalists that this is not and EITHER OR issue, it's BOTH AND. We must continue all the existing conservation battles plus this other biggest battle yet. Brower quotes Adlai Stevenson: "We travel together, passengers on a little space craft, dependent upon its vulnerable reserves of air and soil, all committed for our safety to its security and peace, preserved from annihilation only by the work, the care, and the love we give our fragile craft."

What you can do? Educate yourself. There is plenty of literature available. Physicians for Social Responsibility, Inc. can help. San Francisco Bay Area Chapter P. O. Box 5454, Berkeley CA 94705. Our president recently mentioned arms reduction. Write to your elected officials and let them know your concern about arms control. Peace!

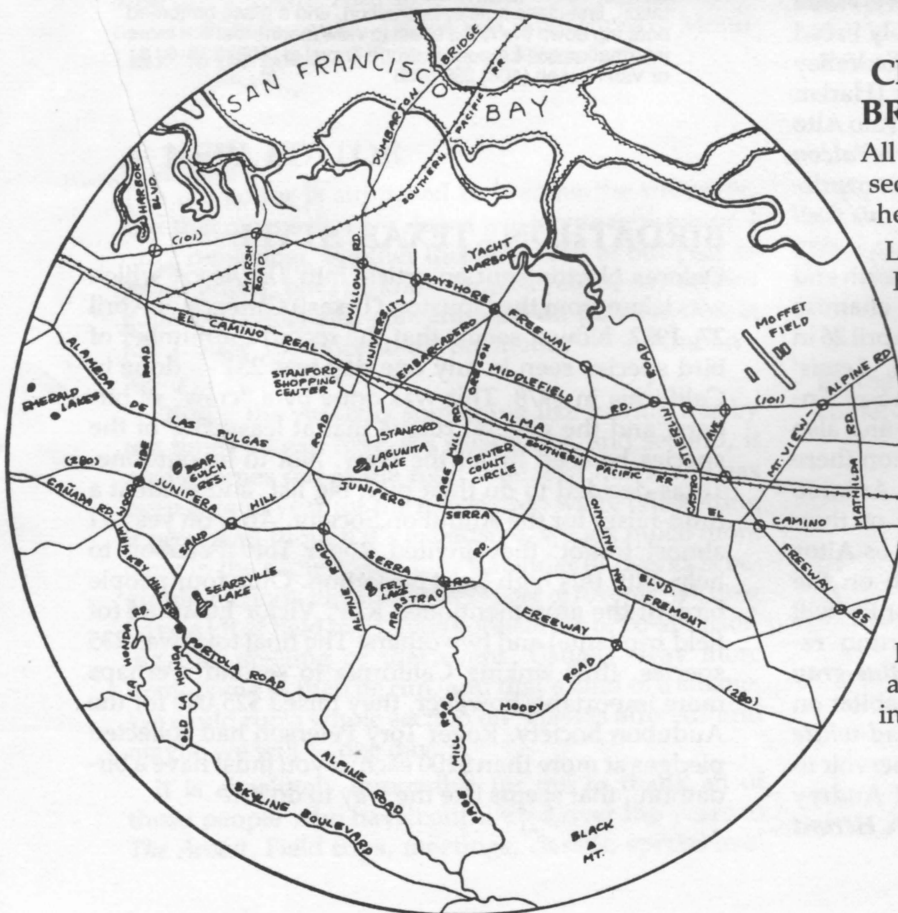
Mary Hallesy

CHRISTMAS IN JUNE PALO ALTO BREEDING BIRD COUNT — JUNE 5

All SCVAS birders are invited to take part in the second annual Palo Alto breeding bird count to be held on Saturday, June 5.

Last year's count, which was organized by David Houle, resulted in 140 species and numerous surprises including breeding California Gulls, Poor Will, Black Swifts, Western Kingbird, Yellow-rumped Warbler, and Lincoln's Sparrow. With a larger turnout this year, we should find comparable rarities and further document the breeding avifauna of a portion of the Santa Clara Valley.

If interested, call or write Clark Blake, 272 Covington Road, Los Altos 94022, (415) 323-8111 ext. 2221 (day) or (415) 948-6058 (eves), and indicate what part of the circle you would like to count in. Sectors and group leaders will be assigned on the basis of this information and final information will be distributed in late May.



Biological Diversity: Can We Survive Without It?

By the year 2000, scientists estimate, we will have lost through extinction **20%** of all the species alive on earth today. While this figure is appalling to wildlife lovers, plant appreciators and naturalists in general, is there just cause for mankind as whole to be concerned? What meaning does the disappearance of diverse life forms have for a Third World nation struggling to survive and feed an ever-growing population?

The answer to that question lies in the hidden genetic potential that exists in each individual species. For instance, a wild strain of maize has recently been discovered that reproduces from underground rhizomes. The plant is a perennial that reproduces without replanting year after year. Most exciting of all, the plant can be cross-bred with our own domestic corn. The potential for saving money and the effort needed to sow the corn seed each season and plow under the stubble is extremely valuable. Many as yet undiscovered species of plants may help answer the world's future need for protein that can be produced utilizing the fewest number of acres.

It is estimated that one-half of the species living on earth are to be found in the tropical rain forests of the world. Yet in a misguided effort to convert tropical forests to agricultural and grazing lands in addition to increased logging activity, we are losing at least **13 million** acres of tropical forests a year. The sad fact is that most the cleared land is unsuitable for sustained crop growing, especially of the mono-culture

variety. Soils are often depleted and barren within several years. Meanwhile, we have irretrievably lost species that formerly occupied the forest realm.

In addition to as yet undiscovered food sources and the opportunity for restoring genetic vigor to plants already under cultivation, our wide range of diverse species of plant and animal life holds many undiscovered substances that could provide cures for currently untreatable diseases. Penicillin was extracted from a lowly form of mold. Other species of plants like the giant kelp or the fast-growing, nitrogen-restoring **Leucaena leucocephala** may help solve the world's fuel shortage. The list goes on. These are the easily seen, readily understood benefits derived from



our diverse living resources.

But other factors worth contemplating are what some might call aesthetic considerations. For others they might be called religious needs. Modern man, for all his striving towards conformity within the confines of Society, needs the soul-storing sense of awe and wonder that comes from a first-hand experience of natural systems in all their natural diversity. Leaves appear on a tree; they provide the tree with food for growth through the miraculous process of photosynthesis. At the same time insects feed on the leaves. Birds build their nests among the branches. The seasons change, the leaves fall to the ground where they are

decomposed by bacteria and more insects, enriching the soil. Other shade-tolerant plants spring up beneath the protective cover of the tree canopy. An ecosystem is functioning, perfectly whole and complete. Within that system each species is important and has its role to fulfill. Can man judge which species is necessary, which is expendable?

The Endangered Species Act comes up for reauthorization this spring. Preliminary hearings have already been held by the Congressional Reauthorization Committees. The ESA is our one legal means for maintaining species diversity. Through the Federal listing process it directs the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to identify which species are in immediate danger of becoming extinct (endangered) and which species are likely to face the threat of extinction at some point in the near future (threatened). The Service must then prepare a recovery plan for restoring endangered populations to sustainable levels. Since the Act states that no federal actions shall result in a listed species being placed in jeopardy, the Act provides for a consultation process to see that adverse impacts are avoided to the fullest extent possible.

The Endangered Species Act, after all, is a compromise between those who would develop and utilize our natural resources indiscriminately and those who would have no future economic growth. And it is working reasonably well. Write your Senators and Congressmen in support of renewal of a strong Endangered Species Act that extends protection from extinction to **all** living species.

— Lorna Campion

Earthcare Northwest, Journal of the Seattle Audubon Society

see for yourself.



Nature Explorations - Tuleyome

The following summer events program may be of interest to Auduboners. Altogether *Nature Explorations - Tuleyome* has some 31 summer events; brochures are available from their PCC office (above *Avocet* logo) or by calling (415) 324-8737

June 13, Farallon Islands, Doug and Gail Cheeseman, \$30/person, leaves Sausalito 7:45 am to 4 pm.

June 11, 12, Bird Song Workshop, Ron Arps, \$10/person, Friday evening 7:30 to 10 pm, classwork at the Peninsula Conservation Center in Palo Alto, Saturday morning 8 to 11:30, field.

August 22, Elkhorn Slough by boat, Moss Landing Marine Laboratory, Bernadette Allen, \$11/person, shore birds, 7:30 am to noon.

August 28, 29, Condors at Mt. Pinons, Jerry Emory, campsite available August 27 also. Program 9 am Saturday through 2 pm Sunday. \$30/person includes lunches and campsite.

Know Your Bay

With help from a grant from the Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society, Nature Explorations has developed a year-long series of programs to focus attention and to increase knowledge of the San Francisco Bay. This summer's program will be a geographical expedition led by Clark Akatiff, a geographer who has taught at San José State and is an environmental guide. A preparatory seminar will provide background information and research direction. During the field day, we will investigate the watershed and sleuth historical clues to the past shoreline of the southwestern Bay. We'll create a monument to the Bay of the past by painting two lines, blue for the Bay and green for the land, along the former shoreline. In the final seminar, we'll prepare an overlay map of the present strand on a map produced from an 1895 survey. The map will be on display at the Peninsula Conservation Center.

\$30/person

July 15 and 19, 7:30 to 9:30 pm, PCC

July 24, 10 am to 4 pm

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