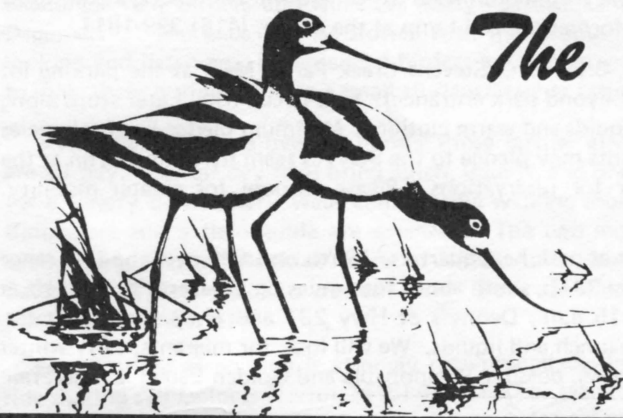


SANTA CLARA VALLEY AUDUBON SOCIETY
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Telephone: (415) 329-1811

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The Avocet

TIME VALUE

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Volume 29, Number 7

September 1982

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Sept. 4-6 **Mono Lake, Labor Day weekend**, 9:00 a.m., Saturday and Sunday, Mono Lake Visitor Center, Lee Vining. Hwy 120 through Yosemite National Park (\$3.00 fee). Allow six hours from San Jose. Motels in Lee Vining or camping (call coordinators). Restaurants in Lee Vining, Bridgeport or Mammoth Lakes. Carpooling encouraged. Bucket brigade and other Mono Lake Committee activities on Saturday. Mountain birding and a MLC presentation on Sunday. Birding, fishing, or on our own Monday. Trip coordinators: David Moore and Vicki Silvas-Young, (408) 293-7124.
- Sept. 7 **Board of Directors Meeting**, Tuesday, 7:15 a.m. Rancho Rinconada Recreation Center, 18525 Bollinger Road, Cupertino.
- Sept. 11 **Birdwalk for Beginners, Rancho San Antonio**, half day, Saturday, 8:00 a.m. Meet in the parking lot on Cristo Rey Drive. I 280 to Foothill Blvd. Expressway; south to Cristo Rey Drive; follow Cristo Rey to parking lot. Bring liquids. Experienced birders please join us and share your knowledge. Leaders: Sue and Jim Liskovec, (415) 969-5542.
- Sept. 12 **Carmel River and Pacific Grove**, Sunday, 9:00 a.m. Meet at Monastery Beach, Highway 1, approximately one mile south of Carmel (the only place the beach is right next to the highway between Carmel and Pt. Lobos). Bring lunch, liquids, and warm clothing. One mile of easy walking. Eastern vagrants and Elegant Terns. Informal carpooling: 7:15 a.m. at Sambo's (Los Gatos), Highway 17 and Saratoga Road; and Crocker Bank, Eastridge Way off Tully Road - - Eastridge Shopping Center, San Jose. Leader: Dan Singer of the Santa Cruz Bird Club, (408) 423-2622.
- Sept. 15 **General Meeting**, Wednesday, 7:30 p.m., Lucy Evans Baylands Interpretive Center, Palo Alto (Foot of Embarcadero, East off of 101). Hawaii Natural History with an emphasis on Hawaiian endemic birds by Bob Weston. Bob is head of BioSphere, a non-profit education organization with a major emphasis on protection of Hawaiian native flora and fauna. Program directors Doug and Gail Cheeseman say he has the best slides they have ever seen on Hawaiian Natural History. He uses two projectors in a lapse dissolve system.
- Sept. 15 **Bird Discussion Group**, Tuesday, 9:30 a.m., at home of Eve Case, 20537 Verde Vista Lane, Saratoga. Topic: Summer Bird Experiences.
- Sept. 15 **Vasona Lake Park, Los Gatos**, Wednesday, 9:00 a.m. Keep right on main road after entering park, meet at the pier by the last parking lot on the lake. There is a fee of \$2 per car unless you are a Senior Citizen. Leaders: Manette Wittgenstein, (408) 354-9420, and Linda Hagelin, (408) 867-3046.
- Sept. 18 **Pelagic Trip (Shearwater Journeys)**, Saturday, 8:00 a.m., Monterey Bay, Fisherman's Wharf, return 3:00 p.m. \$24 per person. Reserve with check payable to Debi Love Shearwater, 362 Lee Street, Santa Cruz, CA 95060, (408) 425-8111. Enclose stamped, self-addressed envelope for confirmation. Leaders: Ted Chandik and Peter White.
- Sept. 19 **Point Reyes**, Sunday, 8:00 a.m. Meet at Five Brooks Stables Pond. Hwy 101 north to Sir Francis Drake Blvd. (near San Rafael); west to Hwy 1, Olema; south about 5 miles. Approximately two hours from San Jose. Informal carpooling, 6:00 a.m. at commuter parking, I 280 and Page Mill Road, Palo Alto and Palo Alto Baylands, Hwy 101 and Embarcadero. We will bird this area until about 9:30 a.m.; late comers join us between Drakes Beach and the Point Reyes Lighthouse. Bring lunch and liquids; dress in layers of warm clothing. We will look for migrant land and water birds. Mostly birding by car with a little walking. Leaders: Bob and Carol Yutzky. Local contact: Lynn Tennefoss, SCVAS office, (415) 329-1811.

- Sept. 22 **Field Trip North**, Wednesday. Let's explore Skyline Ridge Open Space Preserve, a new Mid-Peninsula Regional Open Space District property. Meet at 8:15 a.m. for carpooling at the commuters' parking lot, intersection of Arastradero Road and Page Mill Road, off I 280, Palo Alto area, or meet at 9:00 a.m. at the intersection of Skyline Blvd., and Alpine Road. Trip lasts until noon, lunch optional. Leader: Carol Zabel, (415) 948-5671.
- Sept. 25 **Citizens Mobilization Campaign Workshop**, Saturday at Syntex. Come and spend a day learning to be a more effective activist in working with the press, legislators, federal and state agencies. Learn how to effectively utilize the staff and expertise of Western Regional Office and the Washington NAS office. We will be looking at the tools of activism, not specific issues. No charge. For more information, call Lynn at the office, (415) 329-1811.
- Sept. 25 **PRBO – Mono Lake Bird-a-thon Fundraiser**, Saturday, 6:00 a.m., Stevens Creek Park. Meet at the parking lot across from Camp Costanoan (approximately 2.5 miles beyond park entrance). Fast-paced trip. Later stops along San Francisco Bay, and San Mateo coast. Bring lunch, liquids and warm clothing. Minimum pledge 5 cents/species for participants. LIMIT of 15 PEOPLE. Non-participants may pledge to the SCVAS team by calling Lynn at the office, (415) 329-1811. Trip participants call leader for reservations. Please carpool for greater mobility. Leader: Bob Dyer, (415) 327-4787.
- Sept. 26 **Sunol Regional Park**, half day, Sunday, 9:00 a.m. Meet at park headquarters. North on I 680 over the first range of hills to Calaveras Road (NOT Calaveras Blvd. at Hwy 237); south about four miles on Calaveras Road; left at sign to park. Entrance fee. Informal carpooling, 8:15 a.m., Denny's at Hwy 237 and Hwy 17 in Milpitas. Approximately four miles of moderate walking. Bring lunch and liquids. We will look for migrants, early winter arrivals, and residents. Rufous-crowned and Lark Sparrows, possible Phainopepla and Golden Eagle. Leader, rain or shine: Frank Farran, (408) 252-3874.
- Sept. 26 **Pelagic Trip**. See Sept. 18 for details. Leader: Alan Royer.
- Oct. 2 **Marin Headlands**, Saturday, 8:00 a.m. Meet at Vista Point parking lot at north end of Golden Gate Bridge. Informal carpooling, 6:30 a.m. at commuter parking, I 280 & Page Mill Road, Palo Alto and Palo Alto Baylands, Hwy 101 and Embarcadero. Caravan to Rodeo Lagoon for early morning birding followed by hawk watching on Pt. Diablo. Bring lunch, liquids, dress for variable conditions. Heavy rain cancels trip. Joint outing with Ohlone Audubon. Possible vagrant landbirds, excellent for accipiters and hawks, including possible Broadwinged. Leader: Don Schmoltdt, (408) 251-6133.
- Oct. 2 **Pelagic Trip**. See Sept. 18 for details. Leaders: Steve Bailey and Arnold Small. Other pelagic trips on October 3, 9, 10 (storm petrel tour \$32), Oct. 16, and 17.
- Oct. 9 **Point Reyes**, Saturday, 8:15 a.m. Meet at Point Reyes Seashore Headquarters. Hwy 101 north to Sir Francis Drake Blvd. near San Rafael; west to Hwy 1, Olema; north and follow signs to headquarters. About two hours from San Jose. Bring lunch, liquids and layers of warm clothing. Gas up on Sir Francis Drake. LIMIT OF 20 PEOPLE; call leader for reservation and carpooling from peninsula. Heavy rain cancels trip. 1-2 miles of moderate walking. Time for migrant land and water birds, and particularly vagrants. Leader: Pete LaTourrette, (415) 961-2741.
- Oct. 16 **Pescadero Marsh and Ano Nuevo**, Saturday, 9:00 a.m. Meet in ocean-side parking lot at Pescadero Road and Hwy 1; south about five miles. Bring lunch, liquids and warm clothing. Informal carpooling, 7:45 a.m. at commuter parking, I 280 and Page Mill Road. In the afternoon, meet at 1:00 p.m. at the Ano Nuevo parking lot (entrance fee). Three miles of easy walking. Possible Pectoral Sandpipers. Excellent time for migrating shorebirds and pelagics. Leader, rain or shine: Ted Chandik, (415) 493-5330.
- Oct. 20 **General Meeting**, Wednesday, Lucy Evans Baylands Interpretive Center, Palo Alto. Dave De Sante to speak on Bird Banding at Point Reyes Bird Observatory. Emphasis will be on relationship of weather and juvenile Production.
- Oct. 23 **Birdwalk for Beginners**, Palo Alto Baylands, Saturday. Leaders: Audrey Stoye and Betty Wyatt. More in October *Avocet*.
- Oct. 30 **Alum Rock Park**, Saturday. Leader: Allen Royer. More in October *Avocet*.

Field Trip Report

Nineteen dedicated birdwatchers met at Saratoga Gap on June 12 for a hike down the Skyline-to-the-Sea Trail. Mike Newcomer showed us 24 bird species, including the warbling vireo, ash-throated flycatcher, black-throated gray warbler, and a glimpse of a hermit warbler, described by Frank Farran as the last warbler a lister usually sees. A highlight was a western tanager female feeding a fledgling on a tree limb.

Lee Lovelady



FIELD TRIPS

A new season of field trips is here, and as usual, both members and non-members are welcome. We especially encourage new birders and will have many "Birdwalks for Beginners". The pace will be slower with more time for looking and listening. Experienced birders are encouraged to join these outings to have a small student/teacher ratio.

Many local trips are over by noon; those farther afield are all day. For all day trips bring lunch, liquids, and dress for a variety of weather. Wear comfortable walking shoes. Binoculars and a field guide are essential. The two most used field guides are Robbins' Birds of North America and Peterson's A Field Guide to Western Birds. Both are widely available for under \$10.

On all trips, carpooling is strongly recommended. For ride sharing call Dolores Norton (415) 941-1666 or Manette Wittgenstein (408) 354-9420. As an alternate, informal carpool meeting places will be listed for certain trips. The leader may or may not be there. Share a ride and get to know some very nice people! Call the trip leader if you have any questions about the day's birding or ride sharing.

This year SCVAS has an expanded field trip committee of ten members. Each member will be field trip coordinator for one month, planning trips and recruiting leaders. Jim Liskovec will handle September; Pete LaTourrette, October; and Phil Hand, November.

The committee will actively seek new leaders and trip locations. If you wish to lead a trip (and you don't have to be an expert!) or know of a new place, please call me. We can provide lots of support and help for new leaders.

Jim Liskovec, Chairman
SCVAS Field Trip Committee



Nuts to you!

What is this? Is SCVAS relegating Mono Lake to the grasp of the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power? NEVER! And to prove it, join us in our First Annual NUTS TO U walnut picking. Lynn and Martha Hunton have generously donated their entire walnut crop to SCVAS to benefit Mono Lake and we have set aside October 16/17 and October 30/31 to pick the nuts... but you don't consider yourself an Audubon shaker or a mover? Well, not to worry, you can help us hull the nuts! We'll need all the help we can get for this sizeable task. Plan on lending a hand, even if it's only a few hours. More details in October's *Avocet*.

Phyllis Swanson

REMEMBER THE DEADLINE

The *Avocet* deadline is the 10th of each month. In case of dire emergency — on your part, or, a truly late breaking news story, items will be accepted late. For example: If, on the 11th, you spot a *Ciconia ciconia* nesting on your neighbor's chimney, first call your friend to tell him not to start a fire in his fireplace. Then call me.

It may seem like September 10 is a long way from October 1, when you expect to find your *Avocet* in your mailbox, but there are a number of time-consuming steps between your submission and delivery to 3,500 Santa Clara County Audubon members. The editing process itself may require phone calls for clarification and verification as well as some re-writing and re-typing. Next, all copy goes to the typesetter where it may stay for a few days. After that brief respite, the editor then must prepare headlines and plan the layout so that everything that's fit to print fits. Paste-up for camera-ready copy follows. Then the *Avocet* is taken to the printers for off-set printing. About three days later the finished product will be delivered, along with computerized mailing labels, to a commercial mailer, and a few days after that delivered to the post office. In some communities, non-profit mail takes over a week to reach homes.

When you send news keep it relatively short, but don't forget all the essential elements — who, what, where, when, how. Please make every effort possible to send typed copy. Handwritten items tend to create stress in the editor's life as well as add to the possibilities of inaccuracies and mis-translations when in final print. Remember, too, that typesetters charge by the hour. Your typing can save Audubon money. Set your machine on double space and be sure to double check dates, addresses and phone numbers.

Shirley Shepard

ABA Convention

The biannual ABA Convention was held this year from May 11 to May 16 in Plantation, Florida, near Ft. Lauderdale, with about 275 persons in attendance. It was, as always, of great interest to the serious birder. Here one can see and hear — and sometimes meet — such people as Roger Tory Peterson, Chandler Robbins, O. S. Pettingill, Arnold Small, Joe Taylor, G. Stuart Keith, Jim Tucker and other greats.

There were 2½ days of field trips, with a chance of seeing such specialties as Swallow-Tailed Kite, Smooth-Billed Ani, Mangrove Cuckoo, etc. A very popular feature continued from the Bangor Convention in 1980 was a series of workshops, four on field identification problems — immature gulls, shorebirds, pelagic birds, and hawks — one on sound recording of bird calls, and one on bird photography in the field. All were extremely well presented and received.

Continued on page 4

**GOODBYE WHISTLING SWAN,
HELLO TUNDRA SWAN**

Birdwatchers who still call the American Kestrel a Sparrow Hawk have both good news and bad news in store. First the good news. The American Ornithologists' Union Committee on Classification and Nomenclature still calls *Falco Sparverius* the **American Kestrel**. But when updated field guides start coming out, we all have some new names to learn.

The birdwatcher's bible, the **A. O. U. Check-list of North American Birds**, has had many revisions published as supplements to *The Auk*. The 34th supplement came out as a separate pamphlet to the July 1982 *Auk*. It is a preview of what will be covered in detail in the 6th edition of the A. O. U. Check-list, now in press and planned for 1983 publication.

Compared to the Robbins field guide, I found 94 changes in common names (ignoring new hyphenations). Many of these have been published in previous supplements but are not yet reflected in field guides. I haven't compared the list to the Peterson guide; hopefully, the new western guide will reflect the new names.

The new list has become more international in scope by distinguishing northern and southern species of gannets, pin-tails, shovelers, harriers (our Marsh Hawk), goshawks, bobwhites, lapwings, jacanas, hawk-owls, pygmy-owls, saw-whet owls, flickers, rough-winged swallows, wheatears, mockingbirds, parulas, cardinals, and orioles. On your next bird walk, you can show off by pointing out a Northern Mockingbird.

We now have our own western species of screech-owl, and the words "European" and "American" distinguish others, for example, the American White Pelican and the European Starling.

Some examples of old and new names are:

OLD NAME	NEW NAME
Whistling Swan	Tundra Swan
Marsh Hawk	Northern Harrier
White-tailed Kite	Black-shouldered Kite
Green Heron	Green-backed Heron
Common Gallinule	Common Moorhen
Black Oystercatcher	American Black Oystercatcher
Roadrunner	Greater Roadrunner
Yellow-breasted Sapsucker (red race)	Red-breasted Sapsucker
Mexican Jay	Gray-breasted Jay
Long-billed Marsh Wren	Marsh Wren

Comparing the new list to the scientific names in Robbins field guide, I noted 90 changes in genera and 17 new species names (ignoring changes to make Latin endings agree with genus).

Supplement 34 has 16 pages of fine print, lists 21 orders, 71 families, and 937 species (including 18 extinct species). The pamphlet can be obtained for \$3.00 each postpaid from G. E. Woolfenden, Biology, University of South Florida, Tampa, FL 33720.

Over the top

Going over the top could be bad if you were pouring a hot cup of coffee — but in fund raising, going over the top is great.

For the second time in less than two years, you, the members of SCVAS, have responded overwhelmingly to a plea for the legal defense of Mono Lake. On June 30, contributions totaled \$7,419. Because of the urgent need for funds, the board of directors voted to supplement your contributions from chapter resources to achieve our goal of \$10,000. Additional contributions have put us over the top — not with hot coffee, but with \$10,120.

Thank you everyone for your generous contributions. Each of you helped us "go over the top." We'd like to share two very nice thanks meant especially for you.

From George Peyton, NAS board member, "As usual, Santa Clara has done an incredible job supporting Mono Lake at extremely important times when your help was most needed. I believe that your example has done a substantial amount to encourage certain other Chapters, . . . ones that have made separate direct donations. Thanks again for helping us fight the good fight.

From Russell Peterson, NAS President, "I know that a lot of hard work and sacrifice was involved in raising this amount of money, and, on behalf of the National Audubon Society, I would like to express appreciation for this very substantial contribution to an important cause."

As we go to press the Supreme Court decision is still to be made. Perhaps by the time you read this there may be cause for celebration. Let's hope so — Mono Lake needs some good news to survive!

Sue Liskovec

ABA CONVENTION (continued)

Some tidbits from the Convention: 1) There is no overlap in size among our accipiters. There are six distinct sizes, from the male Sharp-Shinned Hawk up to the female Goshawk, in roughly equal steps. 2) The Red-Tailed Hawk gets its red tail in one year, not three. 3) The new ABA Checklist is out — \$9 from ABA Sales. It incorporates virtually all of the English name changes, but not those in taxonomic order, to appear in the next AOU Checklist, which will be out any year now. Some examples: Common Gallinule becomes Common Moorhen. Some splits: Yellow-Footed Gull out of Western Gull (Gulf of California and Salton Sea), Red-breasted Sapsucker out of Yellow-Bellied Sapsucker, and Screech Owls are now split into Eastern and Western.

The 1984 Convention will be held in Vancouver, B.C. Plan to attend!



Phil Hand

If you slip up and use an outmoded name, have heart. The July 1982 *Auk* carried its lead article on the Marsh Hawk, so these old names will be around for a while.

Lee Lovelady

Golden Trout report

Auduboners cheerfully braved some rain and hail accompanied by thunder and lightning for the first few days at the first session of the Golden Trout Workshop at 10,000 feet in the Southern Sierra.

A few naturalist-led hikes were shortened due to the wetness but campers made the best of any extra time spent in the cosy wood-stove warmed dining hall by making new friends and studying a variety of natural history books.

Special evening speakers included David Gaines, chairman of the Mono Lake Committee, rangers from California Fish and Game and Inyo National Forest, and two students nearing the end of a six-week long Rosy Finch study in the Miter Basin, just inside Sequoia National Park.

Nearly 50 species of birds were observed as well as over 15 mammal species, all three resident reptiles, many plants, including several new finds for the area, and numerous insects. Ornithologist Bob McKerran offered early morning bird walks and bird-banding demonstrations. Both Bob and botanist Mickey Long lead a variety of hikes to identify all manner of flora and fauna, ranging from a few miles to an 18 mile trek to the top of 14,043 Mt. Langley.

The first of the most exciting wildlife discoveries were observed by your Avocet editor and her spouse. There are advantages to being a slow hiker. While most of the party was already signing the register on top of Wooly Back, 12,800' hill in back of camp, yours truly was trudging slowly but surely a few hundred yards back. Jim was about 30 feet

ahead of me. Suddenly we heard the clackety clack of hooves running across the rocky terrain and a huge Big Horn Ram sped past Jim at what seemed 90 mph. Just the night before David Gaines said it was generally believed there were no longer Big Horns in the area. Somehow it seems only right that the Shepards should find the sheep.

The next day eight Wooly Back survivors trekked to the top of Mount Langley and from the peak spotted a herd of six Big Horns on another ridge about a mile distant. Bob McKerran was able to determine that it was a bachelor herd of three young and three older rams and we all spent about half an hour watching them through binoculars. They cooperated beautifully, moving toward us out onto a snow bank where they put on a magnificent show of playing and fighting — ramming each other with those incredible curved horns. We were all interviewed by the Inyo ranger that evening and our discovery has started a flurry of activity and study by government naturalists.

Another unusual animal behavior observation occurred about a mile from camp when four of us sighted a Dipper with a freshly-caught 2-3" Golden Trout. He demonstrated his method of cleaning fish for about 10 minutes, at various points trying to swallow the legally-protected creature whole. He finally ate the whole thing and was still able to flit off to another underwater excursion to look for more big game.

Shirley Shepard

LEE'S LITTLE LARIDAE LOCATOR			
A simplified pocket key to adult California gulls			
NAME	BEAK COLOR	BEAK MARKINGS	WING COLORS AND MARKINGS
Heermann's	Red		
Bonaparte's	Black		
Ring-billed	Yellow	Black ring around tip	
California		Red spot and black spot on lower mandible	
Black-legged Kittiwake			Black tips
Mew			White windows in black tips
Glaucous-winged		Red spot only on lower mandible	Wings and tips pale gray
Herring			Gray; white windows in black tips
Western			Black

This key is about as simple as you can find to introduce beginners to the complicated subject of gull identification. Practice keying out gulls from your favorite field guides until you understand it completely; then it is easily committed to memory.

Lee Lovelady

FIELD NOTES

Bill Bousman

Summer is over and the fall migration is well underway. The shorebird migration has been on since the end of July, but there is still time to visit the frontage ponds at the Palo Alto Flood Control Basin for **Lesser Yellowlegs**, and walk out to the pond at Año Nuevo SR for **Baird's Sandpiper**. **Pectoral Sandpipers** may show up there or Pescadero Marsh into October as well. September is our last chance to see many of our breeding birds before they head south. They are now quiet. On the west side of the valley one out of ten **Empidonax** flycatchers should be **Willow**, but to identify them is difficult. **Ducks** will start to move in at the end of the month.

Small numbers of **Eared Grebes** spend the summer in the South Bay, 27 were censused at Moffett Field 11 June, all in breeding plumage. **Green Herons** are uncommon along the east side of the valley, one at Anderson Reservoir 28 May is a typical record for early summer. The **Little Blue Heron** is still very rare in the South Bay, the RBA Tape reported one at Charleston Slough on 16 May. They are found in the slough each year. **Gadwall** are considered rare in northern California except for certain areas where they are locally common as in the South Bay. A census of the freshwater marsh at Moffett Field 11 June found 228 adults and 618 ducklings — apparently the **Gadwall** capital of the South Bay. **Green-winged Teal** are not reported in the summer, and **Blue-winged Teal** are always rare, so individual males counted at Moffett Field 11 June were surprising. Another male **Blue-winged Teal** was at Pescadero Marsh 18 June. Clark Blake (CB) has been involved with field studies in the Gill Ranch addition to Henry Coe SP. **Wood Duck** with young there 8 May are rare, but regular residents in the Diablo Range. A pair of **Redheads** were in the Mountain View flood storage pond 13 May which is late for this rare winter visitor. **Lesser Scaup** bred in the Palo Alto Flood Control Basin last summer, but 19 at Moffett Field 11 June were apparently summering. **Golden Eagles** are uncommon residents on the east side of the valley, but rarely found on the west side, so an individual at Monte Bello OSP 9 May (Al Eisner) and 12 May (Pete LaTourrelle-PL) is noteworthy. The introduced **Wild Turkey** is not often reported, however, this spring six were reported from the Gill Ranch on 8 May (CB), and five south of the Hemer Ranch in San Antonio Valley 11 May (Davy Jones fide CB). Do **Virginia Rails** breed in our area? A juvenile at the Yerba Buena Nursery on 5 June suggests yes. There are few records outside of winter. The **Common Gallinule** is a rare breeding resident of the county. Two broods with one and three juveniles censused at Moffett Field 11 June were at a typical location. Two **Snowy Plovers** were at Charleston Slough 21 June; they are rare in the county. A recurring problem

for people like me is what do I say about shorebirds in June? Four **Western Sandpipers** in the Mountain View Forebay (flood storage) on 2 June were headed north to the artic, and three adults at Charleston Slough on 21 June were returning, or do these June birds ever make their breeding grounds? It is only in recent years that **Least Terns** have bred in San Francisco Bay. Typically they show up in Charleston Slough from mid-July to September so two there 21 June were surprising. **Pygmy Owls** were heard on the Palo Alto Breeding Bird Count on 5 June, but one at Stevens Creek CP on 25 June was at a low elevation for summer (Lou Young). Two **Vaux's Swifts** on Skyline 22 May (PL) were the only reports. **Horned Larks** are not commonly found on the west side of the valley, so one near Monte Bello OSP 29 May is of interest (Paul Noble). **House Wrens** fit a similar pattern; they are fairly common in eastside valleys, but rare on the west side, so a report of them nesting on 12 June at Skyline OSP, just into San Mateo County, is of interest (PL). The **Blue-Gray Gnatcatcher** is an uncommon breeder in mixed chaparral and ash forest on the west side of the valley with reports in May from El Sereno and Monte Bello OSP, and Stevens Creek CP. The **Phainopepla** is a rare breeder in the Diablo Range, so one at Foothills Park 9-11 June is exceptional (Jan Slech). As in past years we have now come to expect breeding **Black-throated Gray Warblers** at Monte Bello OSP. Reports in May noted about half a dozen regularly. They are usually found in the Golden Cup Ochs. here and in Los Trancos OSP. Normally the migration of **Townsend's Warblers** is finished by late April, so females in Henry Coe SP 24 May and El Sereno OSP 28 May were very late. Nesting **MacGillivray's Warblers** were found on Langley Hill Road 5 June; this is the second year they have been found here. **Lawrence's Goldfinches** were again found at Monte Bello OSP with four there 12 May (PL). The **Grasshopper Sparrows** have been reported in June from Stage Road north of Pescadero. More surprising was one singing at the top of Langley Hill Road in the same spot as last year. A **Sage Sparrow** was singing at El Sereno OSP 28 May, and Pete LaTourrette found them breeding again this year at Foothills OSP with sightings from 30 May to 12 June. They are very rare on the west side of the valley. The **Chipping Sparrow**, although uncommon, we are finding to be a regular breeder with singing birds at Monte Bello OSP, Skyline, and Langley Hill Road in May and June. Two singing male **Black-chinned Sparrows** were found on the summit of Loma Prieta 13 June (Mark Miller). They have apparently bred there at least the last three years.

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.

Travel

Ecology and Natural History of Australia. Doug and Gail Cheeseman will lead trip August 5 - September 4, 1983. Emphasis on the birds, mammals (marsupials), reptiles, unique plants, barrier reef fishes and invertebrates. Credit available. Call the Cheeseman's at home, 408/867-1371 or Doug at De Anza Community College 408/996-4567. Land cost about \$3,600, airfare about \$2,000.

Reflections

In early summer, we took a day to look in the mirror. We reflected on all the great things we had accomplished with Audubon and how we could do things better. Our looking glass was carefully held by Norma Grench who led committee chairs and directors through a day of introspective planning.

Planning for shortened board meetings, policies and procedures, dealing with new issues, and increasing member participation have continued in small group meetings throughout the summer.

The looking glass also revealed that there are lots of interesting people in Audubon. We've got tall people, short people and lots of in-between people. We've got ardent feeder watchers and gourmet cooks.

We'd like to see more people in our looking glass, especially you, working with a committee, having fun and making new friends. Please take a few minutes to complete the enclosed questionnaire and become part of our Audubon team.

Sue Liskovec

Letter from National

Dear Friends:

We won!! The Endangered Species Act, one of our nation's most important environmental laws has passed both the Senate and the House of Representatives.

Thanks to all of you who wrote, phoned, and telegraphed your elected representatives to urge them to support a strong Endangered Species Act. Your efforts were central to the reauthorization campaign. Our collective work paid off. When signed by the President, our country will actually have a stronger Endangered Species Act than we had before.

On behalf of the Audubon team, thank you for all your help on this important issue.

Sincerely,
Dick Martyr

QUESTIONNAIRE

WE NEED YOU – AUDUBON NEEDS YOU.

Check the things that interest you – please just take a minute to let us know how you'd like to help.

If you have time (days or evenings) which committees would you be interested in serving on?

- Field trips** – We're always looking for new leaders and you don't have to be an expert.
- Hospitality** – We need people greeters and cookie bakers for our general meetings.
- Annual Dinner and Christmas Count Dinner** – Help plan our year end potluck and feed hungry bird counters.
- Office volunteers** – There are a variety of tasks to be done at our office. Won't you give Lynn a hand?
- Conservation** – Is there a particular environmental issue that interests you? – How about researching a conservationist of the year award – or working with a letter writing group?
- Audubon outreach/speaker's bureau** – Our slide show "Backyard Birds" would make a welcome presentation for garden clubs, seniors, and young people.
- Education** – Closely tied with lots of things we do, education can include a bird-identification study group, setting up displays and exhibits to promote Audubon and conservation education, developing another slide presentation.
- Christmas bird count** – We always need more counters in the field, and backyard feeder watchers, too. The compiler needs an assistant; results need some data processing.
- Grants** – As part of our support of conservation and environmental efforts of other organizations and individuals, we need people to review grant requests and monitor projects which have received SCVAS support.
- Would you be willing to attend public meetings (local City Council, Supervisor, etc.) as an observer? As a speaker?**
- Would you be willing to write letters to influence policy-making? At home alerted by a phone call? Or as a regularly meeting group?**
- Would you be willing to help with one-time only projects?**
- From time to time, Audubon has been called upon to provide small boat assistance in bay projects. Do you have a small boat? May we call on you should the need arise?**

While we've tried to briefly describe each of our committees, they certainly are not limited to the things mentioned. If you have other ideas you'd like to work on, please jot those down, too, and we can talk about them.

Name _____ Phone (____) _____
Street _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Classes

Ecology and Animals of Tanzania, Seychelles and Kenya. Sept. 30, Oct. 7, 14, 21, 28; 8:15 p.m. - 10:15 p.m. Instructor Doug Cheeseman. Lectures will be on the general ecology of the diverse habitats, antelope and other herbivores, predators and raptors, birds. Also included will be an overview of Australian Natural History. De Anza Community College Short Course, 408/996-4673 or Doug Cheeseman 408/996-4657 or 408/996-4525 on campus or at home 408/867-1371.

Birding Field Trips, Tuesday, Sept. 14 - Oct. 17, 9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Fremont Adult School. Alice Hoch, instructor. Class will meet at different birding spots. Carpools to be arranged. Registration at 9:30 a.m. Sept. 14, Conference Room, 4700 Calaveras Ave. (Near Mowry Blvd. and Logan Dr. in Fremont.) Bring binoculars. For additional information call the school at 415/791-5841 or the instructor at 415/657-0475.

Birding in Central California. Saturday field trips Oct. 23, Nov. 13, Dec. 11. Two-hour orientation session on prior Tuesday evenings. Ted Chandik, instructor. Foothill Community College Short Course. Call 415/948-2587 for information.

Oceanic Birds of California, Ted Chandik, instructor. October Short Course through West Valley College. To include pelagic boat trip. Call West Valley Community Development Office for details, 408/867-0440.

The annual report and financial statement for 1981 82 is available on request. Write or phone the chapter office: 2253 Park Boulevard, Palo Alto, CA 94306; (415) 329-1811.

SANTA CLARA VALLEY AUDUBON SOCIETY, Inc.

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Yes, I want to join the National Audubon Society

Enroll me as a member, start my subscription to AUDUBON, and send me my membership card which entitles me to all the benefits and privileges of National Audubon Society membership.

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MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Check membership category desired:

- Individual/\$25
 Family/\$32
 Senior Citizen/\$17
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now*