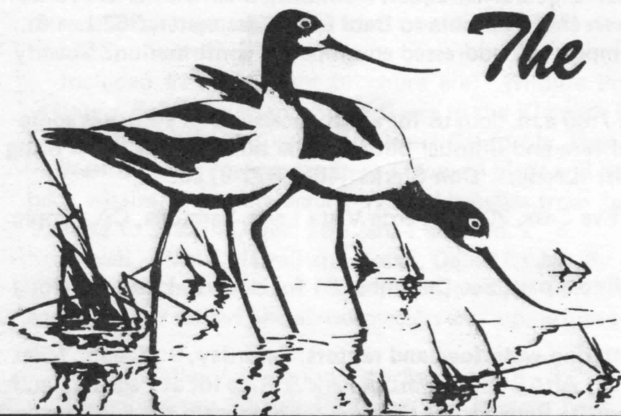


SANTA CLARA VALLEY AUDUBON SOCIETY
Chapter 0515 of the National Audubon Society
2253 Park Boulevard, Palo Alto, CA 94306
Telephone: (415) 329-1811

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TIME VALUE



The Avocet

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

2020

Volume 29, Number 10

December 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.

Field trip coordinator for December - Mary Lou Burgin 408/253-7115.

- Dec. 4 **Lake San Antonio, Monterey County, Saturday, 10:00 a.m.** Meet at the Jolon Store, Jolon. Carpool rendezvous at Bank of the West, Pruneyard Towers, Campbell Avenue side at 7:00 a.m. Primarily a walking trip. \$3.00 fee per car for day use of campground. Join us to explore a new SCVAS trip area of golden and bald eagles, woodpeckers and passerines. Call if raining trip morning. Leader: Kevin Monahan 408/559-8713.
- Dec. 4 **Pelagic Trip.** See Nov. 14 for details. Leaders: Alan Baldrige and Ted Chandik.
- Dec. 5 **Lake Merritt, Sunday, half day, 9:00 a.m.** Meet at Rotary Science Center. North on Hwy 17 to Oak St. (Oakland), east on Oak, becomes Lakeside Drive, becomes Harrison; right on Grand Ave.; right on Bellevue to meeting place. Call leader for carpooling. Trip for both experienced and novice birders. Bring lunch and liquids. Barrow's Goldeneye and Hooded Merganser and high numbers of waterfowl at close range. Optional afternoon trip to Jewel Lake, Tilden Park. Call if raining trip morning. Leader: Allen Royer 408/251-6133.
- Dec. 7 **Board of Directors Meeting, 7:30 p.m.** Rancho Rinconada Recreation Center, 18525 Bollinger Road, San Jose.
- Dec. 8 **Field Trip South, Wednesday, 9:00 a.m.** Chesbro Reservoir. Limited Parking. Please carpool, if possible. For details call leaders: Manette Wittgenstein, 408/354-9420 and Gail Cheeseman 408/867-1371.
- Dec. 11 **Charleston Slough, Saturday, half day, 9:00 a.m.** Meet at east end of San Antonio Road off Hwy 101. Bring lunch and liquids. We will be looking for wintering shore birds and ducks. Three miles of easy walking. Trip cancelled if raining. Leaders: Mary Lou Burgin 408/253-7115 and Rae Schmuck 408/356-4362.
- Dec. 14 **Bird Discussion Group, Tuesday, 9:30 a.m.** at home of Eve Case, 20537 Verde Vista Lane, Saratoga, CA. Topic is Phalaropes.
- Dec. 19 **San Jose Christmas Bird Count** - see article.
- Dec. 26 **Grant Ranch County Park, Sunday, half day family trip, 9:00 a.m.** Take Hwy 101 or I-680 to Alum Rock Ave; east on Alum Rock to Mt. Hamilton Road. Follow Mt. Hamilton to Hall's Lake (0.2 miles past Grant Ranch park entrance). \$3 park entrance fee/car (we'll carpool from Hall's Lake and share fee). Bring your new Christmas binoculars for three miles of easy walking to see possible Golden Eagles, Black-shouldered Kites and other raptors. We will also spend time in the museum. Bring lunch. Optional afternoon in the area. Heavy rain cancels trip. Leaders: Marilyn and Russ Fowler (408) 356-7758.
- Dec. 31 **Pelagic trip for marine mammals and birds, Friday, 7:45 a.m. to 3 p.m.** Monterey Bay, Fisherman's Wharf, \$27 per person. Reserve with check to Doug Cheeseman, 20800 Kittredge Road, Saratoga, CA 95070. Leaders: Doug and Gail Cheeseman.

Field trip coordinator for Jan. Vicki Silvas-Young 408/293-7124.

- Jan. 2 **Pelagic trip for marine mammals and birds, Sunday, 7:45 a.m. to 3 p.m.** See December 31 for details. Leaders: Doug Cheeseman and Allen Royer.

- Jan. 8 **Birdwalk for Beginners**, Alviso and the San Francisco Bay Bird Observatory, half day Saturday, 9:00 a.m. Meet at the Observatory, 1290 Hope Street, Alviso. North on Gold Street from Hwy 237 in Alviso, left on Elizabeth to Hope. Two miles of easy walking. We will look for wintering shorebirds and learn a little history of Alviso. This will also be an opportunity to visit the newly formed Bird Observatory. Leader: Mike Rigney, SFBBO Executive Director, (408) 946-6548(D) or (408) 867-3791(E).
- Jan. 8 Saturday **Gray Whale trips** (Shearwater Journeys), half day, Monterey. The Gray Whale is the focus, but we will also emphasize the natural history of Sea-Otter, Harbor Seal, California Sea Lion, birds and invertebrates.
- Jan. 15 Saturday
- Jan. 16 Sunday These trips are three hours long departing at 8:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. from Fisherman's Wharf. \$16 for adults and \$10 for children under 12. Reserve with check payable to Debi Love Shearwater, 362 Lee St., Santa Cruz 95060 (408) 425-8111. Enclose stamped, self addressed envelope for confirmation. Specify morning or afternoon trip.
- Jan. 23, Sunday
- Jan. 9 **Post Christmas Count Rarities**, half to full day, Saturday, 7:00 a.m. Join us for a fast paced trip of surprises somewhere in the Bay Area. A Christmas Count grab bag of rare and unusual birds will be ours for the day. Bring lunch, liquids, and warm clothing. Call leader for details. Leader: Don Starks (408) 371-9720.
- Jan. 11 **Bird Discussion Group**, Tuesday, 9:30 a.m. at home of Eve Case, 20537 Verde Vista Lane, Saratoga, CA. Topic will be meadowlarks.
- Jan. 13 **Pelagic trip for marine mammals and birds**, Saturday, 7:45 to 3 p.m. See December 31 for details. Leaders: Doug and Gail Cheeseman.
- Jan. 15,16 **Sacramento NWR and Gray Lodge Wildlife Area for wintering waterfowl and raptors**, Saturday, 9:00 a.m. Meet at Sacramento NWR headquarters. 3-hour drive from Palo Alto. Carpool from Park & Ride lot at Page Mill and I-280 5:45-6:00 a.m. Take I-80 north to I-505 to I-5 north; 9 miles past Maxwell take Norman Rd. - Princeton turn off east. Turn left immediately (before RR tracks) and continue 1.5 miles north to headquarters. Bring lunch, liquids, warm clothing and raingear. For those going Friday night consider camping at Colusa, or the Blue Gum Motel in Willows (7 miles north of refuge) (916) 934-5401.
- Sunday, 9:00 a.m. meet at Gray Lodge Checking Station on Pennington Road 3½ hours from Palo Alto. Carpooling same as Saturday. US 99 north and follow signs west out of Live Oak or Gridley (Gridley is further but easier). Pacific Motel in Gridley (916) 846-9915. Make reservations well in advance. Leader: Pete LaTourrette (415) 961-2741.
- Jan. 19 **General Meeting**, Lucy Evans Baylands Interpretive Center, Palo Alto, Wednesday. Refreshments and get acquainted at 7:30 p.m.; program at 8 p.m. A slide talk covering critical areas that are endangered ecosystems in California. Presented by the Nature Conservancy. More in the January *Avocet*.
- Jan. 20 **Pelagic trip for marine mammals and birds**, Saturday, 7:45 to 3 p.m. See December 31 for details. Leaders: Doug and Gail Cheeseman.
- Jan. 22 **Pescadero and Princeton Harbor**. Leader: Ed Gustafson. More in January *Avocet*.



TRAVEL

Ecology and Natural History of Australia and New Zealand. The Cheesemans have decided on a 33-day Australian safari, plus a 5-day extension to Mt. Cook and Milford South in New Zealand. This includes 13 days in tropical Queensland. Dates: Aug. 4 - Sept. 5, 1983 for Australia with New Zealand extension to Sept. 10. Land costs: \$3300; extension \$500. (Airfare approximately \$2030, extension \$320). Doug and Gail Cheeseman 408/867-1371 or 408/996-4657 (work).

HAWAIIAN ISLANDS, Maui, Hawaii & Kauai - December 26 - January 5, 1983. On the world's most isolated archipelago, each island is a living laboratory in which to study evolution. Here we will find endangered birds and plants. 'I'wiw, 'apapane, palila, nene, 'io and 'oma'o are just a few of the native bird species to be seen. Activities include snorkeling within hearing distance of humpback whales, volcanology of Haleakala and Kilauea, and the challenge of Alakai Swamp. Leaders in Audubon's conservation effort will meet with us. Instructors: Roger-Harris & Meryl Sundove. For further details call (415) 868-1221 or write for an itinerary c/o P.R.B.O., Natural Excursions, 4990 Shoreline Hwy., Stinson Beach, CA 94970.

CLASSES

California Marine Mammals and Marine Birds. Doug Cheeseman, instructor. De Anza Community College short course, Thursdays, January 6, 13, and 20 from 8:15 to 10:15 p.m. Register through Short Course Office, (408) 996-4673 or come to first class meeting in Room S-45 on the De Anza campus.

Waterbirds Workshop. Alice Hoch, instructor. Fremont Adult School, Saturday, December 4, 9:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. Class session with slides and other materials to help in distinguishing confusing species. Field trip to view shorebirds, ducks, Clapper and other rails. Meet in Room 14 of Fremont Adult School, 4700 Calaveras. Bring lunch, binoculars, field guides. Pre-register five days in advance if possible. For additional information call the school (415) 791-5841 or the instructor at (415) 657-0475.

The chapter office will be closed for vacation
December 20 - January 2.

Audubon and PRBO team for trips

Natural Excursions, a joint education program of National Audubon Society's Western Education Center and the Point Reyes Bird Observatory has a variety of guided national and international trips scheduled from now through the summer of 1983.

Included in the current brochure are: Wildlife Photography / Bald Eagles and Snow Geese in the Klamath Basin National Wildlife Refuge in northeast California, Dec. 3-7.

West Coast of Mexico by Boat / tropical birds and hump-back whales, exploring waterways and beaches from Puerto Vallarta to San Blas, Dec. 26 - Jan. 1 and Jan. 2 - 8.

Hawaii - Maui, Hawaii and Kauai, Dec. 27 - Jan. 5.

New Zealand / natural history trek through rain forests and wild river valleys and across glaciers and alpine meadows, Jan. 8 - 29.

Central Valley / wintering waterfowl, Jan. 8 - 9.

Friendly Gray Whales / Laguna San Ignacio boat trip, Feb. 11 - 19.

Catemaco and Palenque / birds and archaeology, Mayan ruins of Mexico's eastern lowlands and tropical rain forest, Feb. 19 - 26.

Honey Lake Valley / courting sage grouse, Feb. 19 - 21.

Blue Whales/Sea of Cortez, seven whale species, dolphins, over 600 species of fish and abundant flocks of marine birds, March 13 - 19.

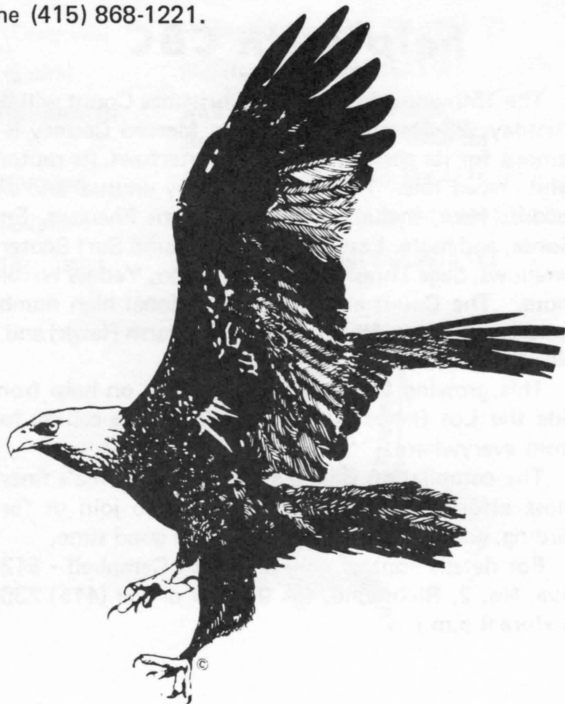
The Everglades / Florida's Mono Lake, Upper Keys to the Everglades by boat, March 19 - 25.

West Mexico / San Blas and the Barrancas on foot and by microbus and boat. Parrots a specialty of instructor, March 26 - April 3.

Peru / Island, jungle and Andes habitats, more birds than any country in the Americas, June 30 - July 17.

East African Wildlife / ecology, behavior and conservation problems stressed with game sightings, Aug. 16 - Sept. 2. Mombasa Extension Aug. 31 - Sept. 5.

For a brochure and information contact Natural Excursions, 4990 Shoreline Highway, Stinson Beach, CA 94970, Phone (415) 868-1221.



Maine Audubon camp

(The first installment of this article appeared in the November Avocet.)

The males stay away all day diving for mollusks and the females would lead strings of ducklings past the Queen Mary three times a day for us to marvel at the straight line. Also from our upstairs sitting room we could see lots of double-crested cormorants and herring gulls. . . and a little farther away we saw pigeon guillemots, Black-Back Gulls and Laughing Gulls with their black head and white breast.

We visited an island with nesting Great Blue Herons with at least three fledglings in each nest, ready to try their wings . . . and on the same island Steve let us hold the fluffy chick of a Black-Back Gull where it was left by its mother between the rocks.

A young man who did research of the number and migration of the Minke whale rode out with us to Menhagen Island. We had our eyes glued to the sea, but like stubborn children, the whales chose to remain out of sight.

We found a family of bald eagles on Lake Damariscotta and could make out the little head of one fledgling. The female was in the nest and the male was drying out his feathers in the next tree, having evidently just returned from fishing.

The Birding adventure stories are just too numerous for the short space allowed here, but I think you can get the picture. Fantastic!

In camp we shared Hog Island with (1) a pair of nesting Ospreys who were our town criers, and observed their diligent feeding of one successful fledgling . . . (2) a huge porcupine who would climb the tree outside our mess hall to sleep away the day, (3) a Northern Parula Warbler who looks prettier than he sounds, (and numerous other woodland birds who look and sound pretty, like the white-throated sparrow, whose song "Sweet Canada Canada Canada always lifts my heart,) (4) nesting Common Eiders, the only Duck species in sight.

NATURE EXPLORATIONS - TULEYOME

PROGRAMS PLANNED FOR WINTER BIRDING

Nature Explorations - Tuleyome has a number of programs planned for winter birding:

Dec. 11 Waterfowl in Marin, Elizabeth Terwilliger, recommended for family groups.

Dec. 27

& 28 Elkhorn Slough at the Moss Landing Marine Laboratory. Program repeated because only 12 can attend due to boat size. Bernadette Allen.

Jan. 6,

15-16 Slide show and discussion, trip to Grey Lodge and Sacramento National Wildlife Refuge with Maryann Danielson.

Jan. 29 Elephant Seal trip at Ano Nuevo plus birding with Lynn Tennefoss and Allen Royer.

There are fees for all programs. Other programs listed in seasonal brochure. For information or brochure, call or write Nature Explorations, 2253 Park Blvd., Palo Alto 94306, (415) 324-8737.

Jeanne McDonnell

Fate of the Earth

It was recently my privilege to attend The First Biennial Conference ON THE FATE OF THE EARTH convened by Dave Brower of Friends of the Earth at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine in New York City. The keynote address was given by National Audubon Society's President Russ Peterson. Peterson said he stood before us representing future generations; that all of us need to work towards protecting the global commons. That means protecting basic foundations of life on earth by preventing a nuclear holocaust, concurrently preventing the more gradual biological impoverishment of the earth.

The threat of nuclear war overwhelms all other conservation and environmental issues at this time. Not only would millions of humans and other living organisms lose their lives immediately, but the long term effect such as fallout would block out the sun for months, preventing photosynthesis and causing cessation of plant growth.

The interconnectedness of peace, prosperity, poverty and population are very evident. We must stabilize the world's population and work towards eliminating poverty. The world is spending \$600 billion dollars annually on the arms race.

Disposal of toxic chemicals is another of Peterson's concerns. The U. S. bans some pesticides at home, but U. S. manufacturers sell them overseas. Migratory birds protected in one country ingest the toxic chemicals in another.

Other speakers and workshop leaders were Ann and Paul Ehrlich, Linus Pauling, Les Brown, Amory and Hunter Lovings, John Holdren, Ray Dasmann, Admiral Gene R. LaRocque, John Holt.

Some solutions for our current dilemma: 1. Bilateral verifiable nuclear freeze. 2. Adopt U. S. policy of no first strike (U. S. S. R. and China have declared this policy.). 3. Negotiate bilateral reduction of nuclear weapons. 4. Defensive rather than offensive weapons, e.g. antitank devices rather than tanks, antibomber weapons, not planes. 4. Mutual restraint on military use of space.

We heard that on this planet of 4.6 billion people 40,000 children die of starvation daily. Nations of the world spend \$10,000 a year educating each soldier and \$100 a year educating a child. The money required to provide adequate food, water, education, health and housing for everyone in the world has been estimated at \$17 billion a year. A huge sum of money? That's about as much as the world spends on arms every two weeks!

The conference closed with an evening concert by Paul Winter, Odetta and Pete Seeger, a grand finale to an amazing three days.

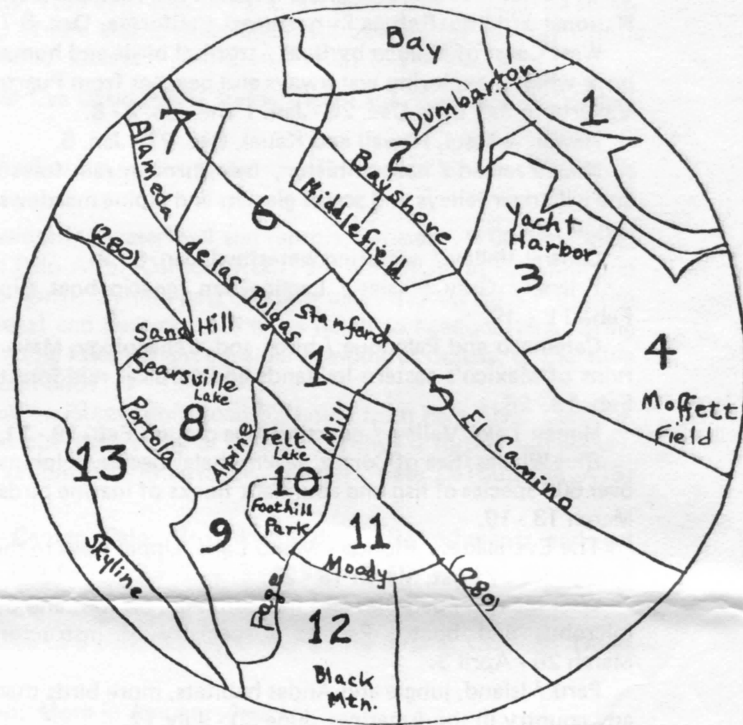
Mary E. Hallesy

Rare Geese. A nesting colony of about 60 Aleutian Canada geese was discovered last summer by biologists of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in a remote section of the Islands of the Four Mountains, about 1,000 miles southwest of Anchorage. Previously it was thought there was only one remaining nesting population of this endangered species. The other is on Buldir Island, at the western end of the Aleutian chain.

Palo Alto CBC - Dec. 20

The annual PALO ALTO CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT will be held on Monday, December 20 this year. Birders interested in counting in any neighborhood should contact Clark Blake (948-6058 at home, 323-8111, ext. 2221 at work).

The final tally will be held immediately following the count (6:00 p.m.) at the Palo Alto Baylands Interpretive Center. Dinner and beverages will be served at \$2.00 per person.



Palo Alto Count Area

Los Banos needs help with CBC

The 15th annual Los Banos Christmas Count will be held Tuesday, 28 December. Western Merced County is justly famous for its concentrations of waterfowl, its raptors, and White-faced Ibis. There are also many unusual and exciting records here, including Ruffs, Eastern Pheobes, Emperor Goose, and more. Last year's Count found Surf Scoter, Barn Swallows, Sage Thrasher, Solitary Vireo, Yellow Warbler and more. The Count also recorded national high numbers of American Bittern, Northern Harrier (Marsh Hawk) and Long-billed Dowitcher.

This growing Count depends heavily on help from outside the Los Banos area, and again we are calling for help from everywhere.

The compilation is held at one of California's finest (and most affordable) Basque restaurants, so join us for good birding, good eating and an all-around good time.

For details contact compiler Kurt Campbell - 5124 Wall Ave. No. 2, Richmond, CA 94804 - or call (415) 236-4182 (before 9 p.m.)

Make your Christmas count

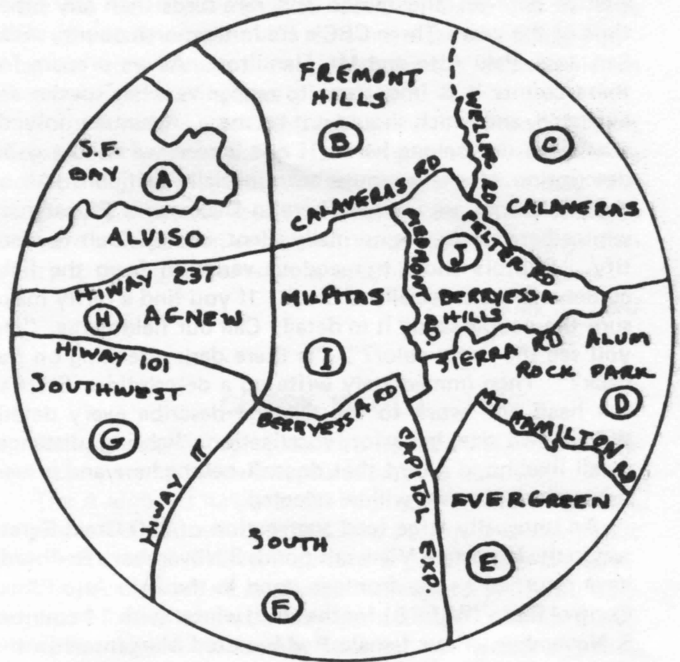
The all-day counting (rain or shine!) of ducks, geese, hawks, sparrows, and rarities followed by a marvelous dinner and tally will be held on Sunday, December 19! Your help is needed to make the day a success. It is important to have adequate coverage of all areas within the count in order to properly census both the common to abundant species, as well as the uncommon to rare ones. Choose an area to your liking and call the section leader ASAP. As sections fill up, we may ask people to count in other areas. If you have not done a CBC before, on-the-job training will be provided!

Last year we had inputs from feeder-watchers for the first time. This information is just as valuable as the data obtained in the field. If you (1) live within the count circle, (2) will be home all or part of the day on December 19, and (3) are willing to watch your feeders, then call us before the count, and we can work out the details. Rarities such as wintering Bullock's Orioles and the uncommon White-throated sparrows are possible.

If you would like to help with the CBC dinner, please call Audrey Stoye at (408) 249-2108. She would love to have some assistance before and on December 19.

Again, please join us for a day of exciting birding, good fellowship and a tasty dinner.

Don Starks (408) 371-9720 and Jim Liskovec (415) 969-5542 are San Jose CBC Co-compilers.



SECTION LEADER NAMES AND PHONE NUMBERS 1982 SAN JOSE CBC

SECTION	LEADER(S)
A(Alviso)	San Francisco Bay Bird Observatory Mike Rigney (408) 946-6548 (D)
B(Fremont Hills)	David Moore and Vicki Silvas-Young (408) 293-7124 (E)
C(Calveras)	Kep Stone (408) 251-2186 (E)
D(Alum Rock)	Dave Johnston (408) 258-4322 (D) (408) 867-7278 (E)
E(Evergreen)	Howard Honig (408) 224-1351 (E)
F(South)	Phil Hand (415) 851-2623 (E)
G(Southwest)	Rick Palmer (408) 243-0582 Anne Wilson (415) 941-0966 (E)
H(Agnew)	Mike Newcomer (408) 736-4176 (E)
I(Milpitas)	Pete La Tourette (415) 961-2741 (E)
J(Berryessa)	Frank Farran (408) 252-3874 (E)



Other Xmas tallies

Following is a partial listing of Christmas Bird counts, with telephone number of coordinators when available. For additional information call Lynn at the chapter office, (415) 329-1811.

- Dec. 18 Point Reyes Bird Observatory (415) 868-1221
Crystal Springs Frank Allen (415) 344-9339
- Dec. 19 Santa Clara Valley — see article and map
Mt. Diablo
Napa - Solano
Oakland Kurt F. Campbell (415) 326-4182
Santa Rosa
Redwood Regional Ornithological Society
- Dec. 20 Palo Alto — see article and map
- Dec. 25 or
- Dec. 26 Arroyo Cheap Thrills
North Marin
- Dec. 26 Ano Nuevo Frank Allen (415) 344-9339
- Dec. 28 Los Banos — see article
- Dec. 31 Mono Lake
- Jan. 1 Southern Marin Barbara Salzman
(415) 924-6057
Moss Landing
- Jan. 2 Western Sonoma County

FIELD NOTES

Bill Bousman

The end of December brings our Christmas Bird Counts (CBC's) and this one very active period provides more quantitative data on uncommon and rare birds than any other time of the year. Three CBC's are in the north county area: San Jose, Palo Alto and Mt. Hamilton. As we prepare for these counts it is important to recognize what species are expected, and which should not be there. A summer insectivore does not belong here. If one is seen we need a good description. Certain groups are especially difficult. All of the phalaropes are unlikely here in December. Flycatchers winter here rarely, are normally silent, and difficult to identify. Raptors show tremendous variation from the field guides and are especially difficult. If you find a rarity make sure the people study it in detail. Call our fieldmarks. "Do you see the rump color?" "Is there dark streaking on the back?" Then immediately write up a description. Start at the head and work to the tail and describe every detail. Write down size, behavior, vocalizations, lighting, distance. In all likelihood a bird that doesn't belong here and is seen by any one observer will be rejected.

An unusually large feed aggregation of 250 **Great Egrets** was in the Mountain View salt ponds 3 November. **Redheads** have returned to the frontage pond in the Palo Alto Flood Control Basin (PAFCB) for the third winter with 14 counted 8 November. Four female **Red-breasted Mergansers** in the Alviso salt ponds 5 November is probably a typical record for this common coastal species. An **Osprey** was seen in the Stanford foothills 31 October (Steve Hadland), and was probably a migrant. Although we now consider **Prairie Falcon** a regular in the Diablo Range we rarely find them on the west side of the Valley, so one over Ames Research Center 26 October was unexpected. A **Merlin** along the Bay 3 November is a rare winter visitor; sightings last winter were scarce. The bird of the month was undoubtedly a **Sharp-tailed Sandpiper** found in the Mountain View Forebay at the end of San Antonio Road on 6 November by Tom Olson. This is the first county record of this very rare

Siberian species and many observers got to see him the next day. They are more typically found along the coast. The storm of 25 October drove many **Red Phalaropes** on shore, and as usually happens a few were found in the South Bay. Two were at Charleston Slough 3 November and individuals in the PAFCB (Jeanne DuPrau) and Alviso on 5 November. The juvenile **Parasitic Jaeger** found by Dick Stovel last month in Charleston Slough was joined by a second bird 10 October and remained there at least through the 14th. Two **Lewis' Woodpeckers** were at Monte Bello OSP 15 October. They have been found here irregularly for the last two years in fall and winter. A flock of 12-15 **Common Ravens** over Los Altos 3 October (Len Wittlinger) is an unusually large number for the local area. A number of attempts have been made in recent years to find habitats in the county that attract or concentrate vagrants. Pete LaTourrette has had some success with his visits to Coyote Creek at Schallenberg Road where he found a **Black-and-White Warbler** in the remnant willow-cottonwood riparian system there on 31 October. However, unlike the coastal vagrant traps which do not concentrate western species, the Coyote Creek area appears to be successful by concentrating many species. An **Orange-Crowned** and a **Nashville Warbler** were found there 5 November. Pete also found a **MacGillivray's Warbler** in Los Altos 4 October. A **Sharp-tailed Sparrow** was reported from the Palo Alto Baylands 11 October (RBA Tape); look along the slough east of the runway.

If you find an "uncommon to rare" please share it; call or write: Bill Bousman, 321 Arlington Way, Menlo Park, CA 94025 (415) 322-5282.

Aw nuts!

Five hundred pounds of them for Mono Lake. On two weekends in October two dozen devoted SCVAS members plus six Stanford students from Alpha Phi Omega, a national service fraternity, stooped, stretched, swung, swatted, hauled and hulled in Hunton's walnut orchard. SCVAS is selling the fruit of their labors for \$7.50/ten pound bag. Proceeds will benefit Mono Lake. If you are planning on doing any holiday baking be sure to call (415) 329-1811 and reserve your nuts. They're going fast!

Phyllis Swanson

FIELD TRIP REPORT

This October 9 Point Reyes trip was remarkable, in that it was the first time in my experience that the weather and the birding were both good at the same time. We had T-shirt weather with clear view of the Farrallones, and managed to see four palm warblers and a black-throated blue warbler, plus a white-throated sparrow and an American tree sparrow for some who started late. All in all, it was a delightful day.

Pete La Tourrette



Bay Area Naturalist

Deadline moved up

To give the *Avocet* a fighting chance in competing with holiday greetings and junk mail the deadline for the January issue has been moved up to Monday, December 6. The February issue deadline will remain the same – January 10 – however contributors are urged to submit items earlier so that our typesetter can get a head start.

Some members, including your editor, have received their *Avocet* nearly three weeks after they were delivered to the post office, only to find the following month it may take only a day or two to reach their mailboxes. There seems to be no reliable pattern or solution to the problem, other than to try to go to press as soon as possible.

Shirley Shepard



The Bay Area Naturalist will present its first annual Wildlife Art & Craft Show at San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge (located next to the Dumbarton Bridge toll plaza) on Saturday, December 4, and Sunday, December 5, from 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. The show, co-sponsored by the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service (with proceeds benefitting Coastal Parks Association) will offer a unique opportunity to purchase special holiday gifts of lasting beauty and value.

Over twenty of Northern California's finest wildlife artists will display and offer for sale handcarved decoys and decorative birds, marine mammal photographs and illustrations, wildflower windows and block prints, wildlife puppets and sculpture and much, much more.

Award winning bird carver Nancy Lyons, who recently generously donated a spectacular collection of her own hand-carved waterfowl for permanent display at the refuge Interpretive Center will be there. There will also be a wildlife art raffle.

SCVAS takes stand on a stand

Concerned about the proposed expansion of Casa De Fruta on Highway 152, Pacheco Pass, the Chapter Board of Directors has written to the Santa Clara County Planning Commission.

Of top interest is wildlife habitat replacement along a stripped area of Pacheco Creek. The letter, signed by Sue Liskovec, President, and Phyllis Swanson, Immediate Past President, states that the SCVAS Board has requested that specific plans for revegetation of the creek be a required part of the development plan. The Board states that it also believes the plans do not adequately address the issue of sewage treatment.

"We are concerned about the potential degradation of Pacheco Creek water quality and its effects on wildlife. Plans should include leachfield overflow monitoring and specific identification and evaluation of toxic and chemical waste water disposal from RV's and the swimming pool," supervisors were warned.

The letter also pointed out that the Trails and Pathways portion of the County General Plan identifies a proposed trail along Pacheco Creek and that the expansion of Casa De Fruta could impact the completion of the creekside trail system.

CHECK IT OUT

Are you looking for good bird books? Planning a vacation and want to know where and what to look for?

The Audubon Library at the Peninsula Conservation Center has what you want. The Library is open to the public Monday through Friday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. There are no restrictions on materials used within the Library. If you want to check books out you may get a library card for \$2.00 annually. You may borrow items for two weeks and they may be renewed over the phone.

Contact Ann Jilg (415) 321-8336 if you want to suggest books for purchase. Donations are greatly appreciated.

Besides the Audubon collection the PCC Library has a large collection of trail maps, books on nature everywhere, ecology and environmental subjects.

Ann Jilg

This Holiday Season

SUPPORT THE STORE THAT SUPPORTS CONSERVATION

Christmas cards •
Beautiful assortment of tree ornaments •
Animal puppets • Toys & jewelry
Wrapping paper • Animal baskets
Calendars • T-shirts • Pottery
Books • Bird feeders • Wreaths
Backpacking supplies

Holiday Hours: M-F 9-5; Saturdays 10-4
Starting November 6



**Peninsula
Conservation
Center Store**

2253 Park Blvd.
Palo Alto 94306
415/328-5313

SANTA CLARA VALLEY AUDUBON SOCIETY, Inc.

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