

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

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

2020

Volume 30, Number 1

January 1983

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 January — Vicki Silvas-Young (408) 293-7124.

- Jan. 2 Pelagic trip for marine mammals and birds, Sunday, 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 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 Gray Whale trips (Shearwater Journeys), Saturday, 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. 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 Street, Santa Cruz 95060, (408) 425-8111. Enclose stamped, self addressed envelope for confirmation. Specify morning or afternoon trip.
- 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. 15 Gray Whale trips (Shearwater Journeys), Saturday, 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. 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 Street, Santa Cruz 95060, (408) 425-8111. Enclose stamped, self addressed envelope for confirmation. Specify morning or afternoon trip.
- Jan. 15 Pelagic trip for marine mammals and birds, Saturday, 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.
- 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. 16 **Gray Whale trips (Shearwater Journeys)**, Sunday, 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. 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 Street, Santa Cruz 95060, (408) 425-8111. Enclose stamped, self addressed envelope for confirmation. Specify morning or afternoon trip.
- Jan. 19 **General Meeting**, Wednesday, Lucy Evans Baylands Interpretive Center, Palo Alto. Refreshments and get-acquainted, 7:30 p.m.; program at 8 p.m. The California Critical Areas Program and The Owls of the Nature Conservancy's North Coast Range Preserve, presented by researchers Kate and Cameron Barrows. The Barrows are preserve managers of the North Coast Range Preserve north of Fort Bragg on the free flowing South Fork of the Eel River. Cameron will talk about his research on the Spotted, Pygmy, Screech, and Saw-whet Owls. Kate will give an update on the Conservancy's current project, the California Critical Areas Program to preserve endangered ecosystems. She will show the film "Forgotten Lands" which was filmed at four of the seven preserves already acquired in the program. In 1981 the Nature Conservancy was able to purchase Santa Cruz Island in the Santa Barbara Channel - 55,000 acres for \$6 million. Elkhorn Slough is another spectacular acquisition.
- Jan. 22 **Pelagic trip for marine mammals and birds**, Saturday, 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.
- Jan. 22 **Birdwalk for Beginners**, Pescadero and Princeton Harbor, half day, Saturday, 8:00 a.m. Meet in the ocean-side parking lot at Pescadero Road and Hwy 1. Take Hwy 84 through San Gregorio to Hwy 1; south about 5 miles. Informal carpooling 6:45 a.m. at commuter parking I-280 and Page Mill Road. Bring lunch, liquids and warm clothing. Two miles of easy walking. Princeton Harbor in the afternoon is optional. We will be looking for the rare but regular Rock Sandpiper and other shorebirds. Heavy rain cancels. LIMIT OF 20 PEOPLE. Call for reservation. Leader: Ed Gustafson (408) 377-1123.
- Jan. 22 **Pelagic Trip (Shearwater Journeys)**, Saturday, 7:45 a.m. Monterey Bay, Fisherman's Wharf, return 3:00 p.m. \$30 per person. Reserve with check payable to Shearwater Journeys, 362 Lee Street, Santa Cruz 95060, (408) 425-8111. Marine mammals and birds of Monterey Bay. Leaders: Alan Baldrige, Carolyn Frederiksen, and Tom Harvey.
- Jan. 23 **Gray Whale trips (Shearwater Journeys)**, Sunday, 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. 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 Street, Santa Cruz 95060, (408) 425-8111. Enclose stamped, self addressed envelope for confirmation. Specify morning or afternoon trip.
- Jan. 26 **Field Trip North**, Wednesday, 8:30 a.m., Coyote Hills Regional Park. East across Dumbarton Bridge, left at Jarvis to traffic light, left (west) on Newark Blvd. for about a mile. Watch for Coyote Hills sign on the right and turn left on Patterson Ranch Rd. Follow to the park entrance and first parking lot on the right. If raining in the morning, check with leader: Phil Hand (415) 851-2623.
- Jan. 26 **Field Trip South**, Alviso area, Wednesday. Meet marina parking lot 8:30 a.m. We plan to visit San Francisco Bay Bird Observatory, walk the marina area and, if possible, visit the S. F. Wildlife Refuge Ed Center. If raining in a. m. call one of the leaders to confirm trip. Leaders: Betty Wyatt (408) 255-6091 and Audrey Stoye (408) 249-2108.
- Jan. 29 **Coyote Hills Regional Park**, Saturday, 8:30 a.m. Meet in parking lot next to Interpretive Center. From peninsula take Dumbarton Bridge (Hwy 84) east to Jarvis Ave. in Newark; left on Jarvis, left on Newark Blvd., left on Patterson Ranch Rd. From the east bay take Hwy 17 north to Jarvis; left on Jarvis and right on Newark. \$1.50 entrance fee. Bring lunch, liquids and warm clothing. Two miles of easy walking. Highlights include Black-shouldered Kite, Great-horned Owl, ducks and other waterbirds. Leader, rain or shine: Vicki Silvas-Young (408) 293-7124.
- Jan. 29 **Pelagic Trip (Shearwater Journeys)**. See Jan. 22 for details. Leaders: Alan Baldrige, Dave Ekdahl, and Milos Radakovich.

Field Trip Coordinator for February - David Moore (408) 293-7124.

- Feb. 5 **Pelagic Trip (Shearwater Journeys)**. See Jan. 22 for details. Laysan Albatross Search, \$28 per person. Leaders: Jon Dunn and Guy McCaskie.
- Feb. 6 **Deer Hollow Farm**, Sunday, 9:00 a.m., half day. Directions: Exit off I-280 at Foothill Expressway. Go one block south to Cristo Rey Drive and turn right. Go west on Cristo Rey almost one mile to Rancho San Antonio County Park sign. Go through gate north to last parking lot. Dress warmly. Bring lunch and liquids. Leaders: Jean and Frank Farran (408) 252-3874.

469 Shepherd Ave, San Jose 6 AM sharp; carpooling - off 280, Bird Ave turnoff

- Feb. 12 **Panoche Valley**, full day, Saturday, 8:00 a.m. We will be looking for wintering hawks, sparrows, Mountain Plover, Mountain Bluebird, and Chukar. Bring lunch and liquids. **LIMIT OF 30 PEOPLE IN 10 CARS.** Rendezvous in San Jose at 6:00 a.m. Call local coordinator David Moore at (408) 293-7124 early for reservation and further trip information. Leader: Dan Singer (408) 423-2622.
- Feb. 13 **Los Banos Waterfowl Management Area**, full day, Sunday, 9:00 a.m. Ducks, geese, raptors, White-faced Ibis, Sandhill Crane, and Mountain Plover are anticipated. Bring lunch and liquids. Mostly birding by car. **LIMIT OF 10 CARS.** Call for reservation and trip information. Leader: Don Starks (408) 371-9720.
- Feb. 19 **Mount Madonna County Park for owls.** Leader: David Moore. More in February *AVOCET*.
- Feb. 19 **Pelagic Trip (Shearwater Journeys)**, Birds of Monterey Bay, \$25 per person. See Jan. 22 for details. Leaders: Alan Baldrige and Ted Chandik.
- Feb. 27 **Pajaro Dunes**, half day, Saturday, 9:00 a.m. Meet at the entrance to Pajaro Dunes. Hwy 17 south to Hwy 1; south to Riverside Drive; west on Riverside a short distance to gas station; turn right to Beach Street; left on Beach to the gate house entrance on left. Dress warmly. Easy walking on this trip. Excellent trip for wintering shore birds. Leaders: John and Ricki Warriner (408) 722-5589.

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.

Birds Through the Seasons - Winter 1982, intermediate and advanced birders. Maryann Danielson, instructor. Nine lectures and five field trips beginning January 10. Menlo Atherton High School teachers' lounge. Lectures: Mondays, 7:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.; Field trips: Sundays, 9:00 a.m. - noon. Sessions will include information on bird behavior, distribution, natural history, local research projects, and help on special bird identification problems. Fee \$35. Register at first class. For additional information call Sequoia Adult School (415) 369-6809 or the instructor (415) 342-6919.

Birding Field Trips/Class, Alice Hoch, instructor. Fremont Adult School, Tuesdays, January 11 through February 15, 9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Weekly field trips to six different birding spots. Field identification and lifestyles of local birds for both beginning and experienced bird watchers. Registration at first class meeting, conference room of Fremont Adult School, 4700 Calaveras Avenue, Fremont. For additional information contact Community Education Department (415) 791-5841 or the instructor (415) 657-0475.

Winter Birds of the Bay Area, introductory class for beginners. Maryann Danielson, instructor. Nine lectures and five field trips beginning January 12. San Carlos Senior Center. Lectures: Wednesdays, 7:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.; Field Trips: Sundays, 9:00 a.m. - noon. Fee \$35. Register at first class meeting. For information call Sequoia Adult School (415) 369-6809 or the instructor (415) 342-6919.

Bird Watching, Don Starks, instructor. Santa Clara Unified School District Adult Education. Class begins Tuesday, February 1. Six lectures covering equipment, bird books, field identification, avian biology and migration and six field trips. About \$30. Discount for seniors. Call (408) 985-6375 for more information.

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).



OPEN SPACE ANNIVERSARY

The Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District has scheduled the following 10th anniversary celebration events:

January 28-29 — Photography Workshop. Introduction to the joys and rewards of basic photography with Carolyn Caddes. Field work on Monte Bello Open Space Preserve. Fee and reservations. Call 858-1565 or 327-1824.

January 29 — 10:00 a.m. Skyline Ridge hike. Meet at Monte Bello Parking Lot. Reservations limited to 24. Call 965-4743.

February 4-5 — Photography Workshop Advanced Color Photography for experienced photographers with Dewitt Jones. Fee and reservations. Call 858-1565 or 327-1824.

February 19 — 10:00 a.m. Long Ridge Open Space Preserve. Moderate hike led by District Docents. Meet at Page Mill Road and I-280 Park and Ride Lot. Reservations limited to 25. Call 965-4743.

March 20 — 8:00 a.m. Hidden Villa invites all to welcome spring on Windmill Pasture. Meet at Hidden Villa Ranch. Brunch follows the hike. All comers welcome.

March 26 — 9:00 a.m. Hikers' Special. Strenuous hike with District Director Dick Bishop. Meet at Monte Bello Parking Lot.

May 14 — 11:00 a.m. Grand May Celebration of Open Space. Top of Black Mountain on Monte Bello Open Space Preserve. Hikers, horseback riders, bicyclers, walkers all invited. Food, kite flying, wildflower walks, and more.

For further events in March, April, and May watch your local newspapers, organization newsletters and your mail. Questions or requests for events — Call Ellie Huggins — 858-1565 or Betsy Bechtel — 327-1824.

FIELD NOTES

Bill Bousman

Most of the Christmas Bird Counts (CBC's) are over by late December and we return to our regular schedules. The flurry of birding activity associated with the CBC's puts a spike in the distribution plots we make up for the rarer species — it is almost as though the rarities show up in the last two weeks of December and are never seen again.

A **Red-throated Loon** was at the Palo Alto Baylands 2 December (Clark Blake). They are occasionally found here during the winter high tides. A **Least Bittern** was found there on 18 November (Roland France *fide* Ted Chandik) and was seen by many observers 20 November. There are four recent records, three in the months of October, November and December. Three **American Bittern** in the Palo Alto Flood Control Basin 11 November are a good number for that location. Also there during the week of 3 November were two **Eurasian Wigeon** (*fide* RBA Tape). **Redhead** also continue to be seen in the North Pond. More active birding of the Mountain View Forebay has uncovered resident **Common Gallinule** with one there 11 November (Gloria Heller) and two adults and two juveniles there 15 November. The **Sharp-tailed Sandpiper** reported there last month was last seen 11 November (Bob Roadcap *fide* Gloria Heller). Amazingly with the number of people there looking for the Sharp-tailed, a **Stilt Sandpiper** was found on 7 and 8 November (*fide* RBA Tape), also a first county record. **Red Phalarope** continued to be seen there and at Charleston Slough in November, and a phalarope species at Los Gatos Creek County Park (Rick Palmer) was undoubtedly this species. Steve and Mark Miller found an adult **Franklin's Gull** in the wetlands adjacent to Lockheed on 29 and 31 October. Another (same bird?) was at the Mountain View Forebay 10 November (*fide* RBA Tape). I have five recent records for this species, from 16 September to 9 November, indicating that it occurs as a casual fall migrant in the South Bay. The first **Short-eared Owl** report of the season was also found by the Millers, an individual at Charleston Slough 6 November. The **Black-and-White Warbler** Pete LaTourrette found along Coyote Creek at Schallenberger Road in October he re-found 20 November. This warbler occasionally winters along our coast, but there are no winter records for the Santa Clara Valley (yet). A **Nashville Warbler** in a Los Altos yard 1 December was matched the next day by a **Yellow Warbler** (Jean Campbell). The high tides of December revealed a **Sharp-tailed Sparrow** at the Palo Alto Baylands on 30 November. A **White-throated Sparrow** in Los Altos 3 December joined the above-mentioned warblers in honoring Jean Campbell's yard.

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.



Desert Ecology Institute

The 13th annual INSTITUTE OF DESERT ECOLOGY sponsored by Tucson Audubon Society will be held April 29 through May 2, 1983 at Catalina State Park 25 miles north of Tucson, Arizona. The Institute brings together 60 participants and six scientists and educators for field studies in the Sonoran Desert.

The first three days participants explore the inter-relatedness of plant life, animals, and the physical characteristics of the desert at the Institute site. The 4th and optional day will offer longer field excursions and guided field trips.

Catalina State Park is adjacent to Coronado National Forest and Pusch Ridge Wilderness Area and encompasses major canyons and desert washes of the Catalina Mountains. The Institute site offers the natural environment of a mesquite bosque with saguaro-palo verde desert terrain on one side and the towering peaks of Pusch Ridge with its bighorn sheep habitat on the other.

The 1983 Institute will be of special interest to those who enjoy camping as all participants will be housed in their own tents or camping vehicles. Most will be in tents as the number of vehicles is limited to minimize impact on the site. Meals for all participants will be provided on site by an experienced caterer.

Registration fee includes all meals and costs \$165 for three days, or \$195 for four days. One unit of college credit is available from the University of Arizona for an additional fee.

The Institute is open to all adults 18 and over and Audubon Society membership is not required. Registration is limited to 60 people and a waiting list is maintained to cover cancellations when registration is filled.

For brochure write: DESERT ECOLOGY INSTITUTE, Tucson Audubon Society, 30-A North Tucson Blvd., Tucson, AZ 85716.

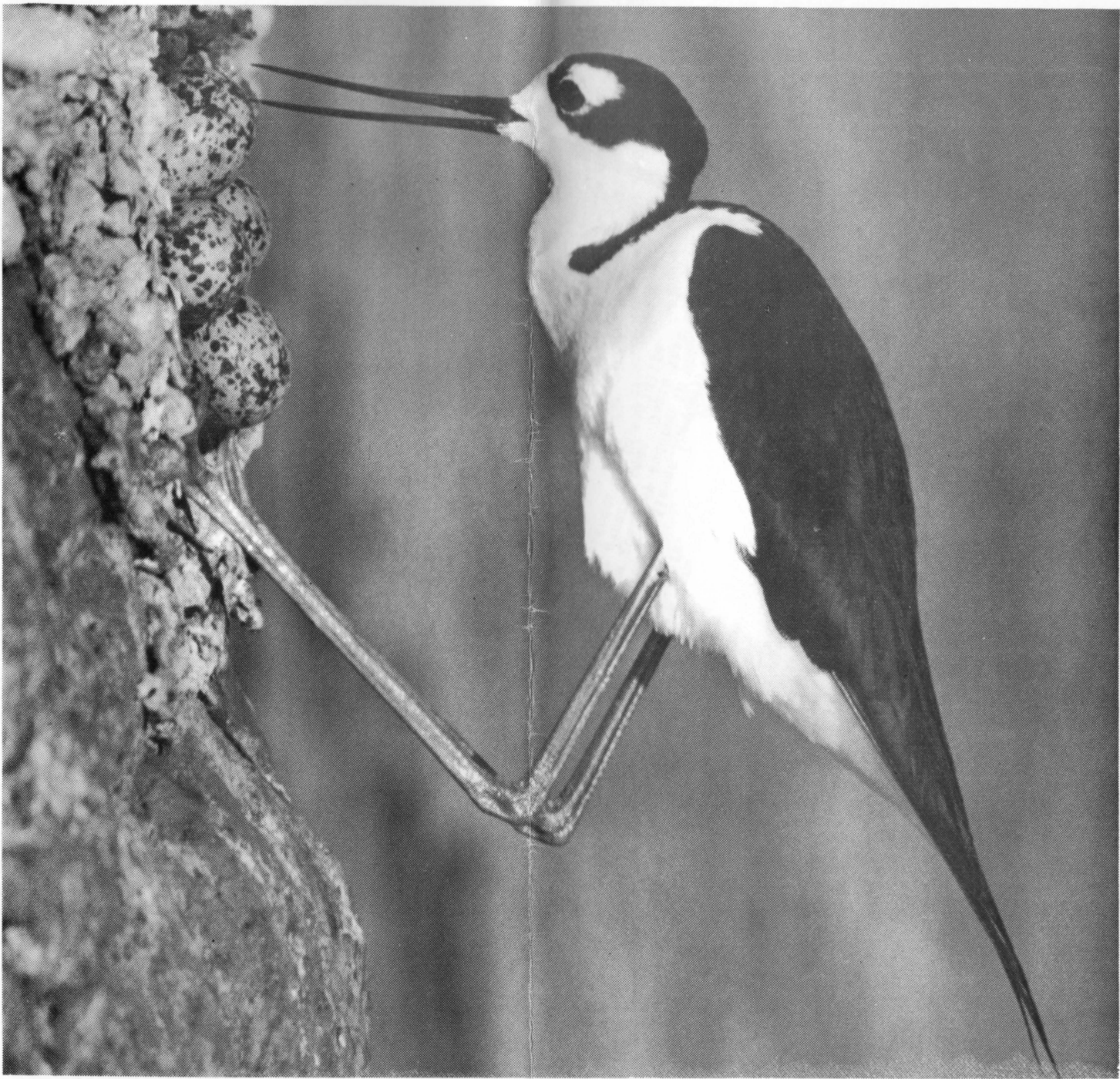


LANDSLIDES, LIVE OAKS, AND LADYBUGS

Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District docents will lead leisurely hikes on the new Stevens Creek Nature Trail at Monte Bello Open Space Preserve on the third Saturday of every month during 1983.

Along the easy 3-mile trail, docents will talk about the plant and animal life, as well as the cultural history of the area. Features of the San Andreas Fault will be pointed out.

The hikes will begin at 10:00 a.m. and will last about 3 hours, including a stop for picnic lunch. Meet the docent in the Monte Bello parking lot on the south side of Page Mill Road, 7 miles west of Interstate 280. Bring your lunch if you wish, and liquids. No fee or reservations required. Rain cancels the walk. For more information, call (415) 965-4717.



Thomas Rountree

A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT OF SCVAS

SANTA CLARA VALLEY AUDUBON SOCIETY, Inc.

Dear Member,

The San Francisco Bay Bird Observatory has just hatched! You usually think of nests and fledglings in springtime, but this group couldn't wait until spring. SFBBBO had to hatch now!

Because every day there are challenges to the bay environment. And SFBBBO is working to meet those challenges. Although organized just this fall as an official Bird Observatory, its dedicated volunteers have been working with our bay birds for nearly ten years. I'd like to tell you about the Observatory and what its hard-working staff and volunteers are doing.

The names should be familiar to some of you. Mike Rigney, Suzie Formenti and Dick Mewaldt have all been SCVAS board members. Others have led field trips and worked on Christmas Bird Counts. Now they've formed a new and independent group, the San Francisco Bay Bird Observatory. And just as the name implies, they observe and monitor the health and habits of the birds of the bay. It's important work that's not being done by anyone else.

The information they gather will ensure that important decisions about the bay and bayfront lands will provide for adequate protection of wildlife, especially the birds. Without the research being done by SFBBBO, the pressures of development may overwhelm our bay birdlife.

Your Audubon Board of Directors believes the Observatory deserves your help. Its work reflects the goals of Audubon in protecting wildlife. Goals that have lasted for generations. Goals that will allow future generations to enjoy the splendor of bay wildlife.

Won't you join me in becoming a member today. With your help this fledgling group will be out of the nest in no time.

Sincerely,
Sue Liskovec
Sue Liskovec



WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT THE SAN FRANCISCO BAY BIRD OBSERVATORY

- The important work of the Observatory is primarily carried out by well-trained volunteers. Projects are guided by the two staff members and an Advisory Board composed of experts in the fields of biology and ornithology. Volunteers are strongly encouraged to participate in project planning.
- Observatory staff and volunteers have studied the California Least Tern and the heron and egret colonies of Bair Island for several years. They've studied the California Gulls which nested last year in the south bay — far from their old Mono Lake haunt. A botulism study on the ducks of Artesian Slough was funded by the California Department of Fish and Game.
- Future work includes continuation of the work on Bair Island, a Clapper Rail study for the Wildlife Refuge, and work with the Mono Lake Committee on comparisons of gull nesting success.
- The Observatory believes in wildlife protection through research and education. You can participate in that research and education. As a volunteer at SFBBBO, you'll get closer to the birds than you've ever been before. You can experience the excitement of egret chicks nibbling at your fingers, 900 Caspian Terns squawking just over your head, or Least Tern nests right at your feet. But be sure to wear old clothes, because you never know when it's going to be wet and muddy.

AN INTERVIEW WITH MIKE RIGNEY, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF SFBBO

Mike Rigney has been working with birds in the San Francisco Bay for over ten years — studying and banding as well as teaching others about them. As Executive Director of SFBBO, Mike is charged with seeing that the organization meets its goals.

AVOCET: Mike, what specifically are the goals of SFBBO?

MIKE: The bay and its birds are good indicators of the health of the total environment. We want to investigate that fragile balance of the bay ecosystem. In order to accomplish that we need to gather data on the birds of the bay — their habitat requirements and nesting success. Then we need to make that information available to planning agencies so their decisions will ensure the protection of our wildlife.

AVOCET: Does that mean you'll lobby to see that natural areas and wildlife are protected?

MIKE: SFBBO is not a lobbying group. As researchers and educators we can gather the information upon which decisions are based.

AVOCET: What kinds of decisions?

MIKE: Land use decisions are probably the most important. Environmental impact reports are really only short term studies — usually a year or less. SFBBO gathers baseline data over a longer period of time so that intelligent decisions can be based on a long history of observation.

AVOCET: You've taken on a difficult job, Mike. Why?

MIKE: Over the years birds have provided a lot of enjoyment for me — watching them and teaching about them. Now I want to give something back — by working through SFBBO. I'm doing what I've wanted to do all my life and I love it. I feel like a kid in a candy store. There are so many exciting things going on at the Observatory.

AVOCET: How many people are involved now with SFBBO?

MIKE: We have two staff members — Executive Director and Research Director,

and more than 30 volunteers including our nine-member Board of Directors and our seven-member Advisory Board. But we need a lot more volunteers to make our projects work.

AVOCET: How many volunteers do you need?

MIKE: As many as we can recruit. We need people to watch the birds, talk to the public, assist in project planning, conduct educational programs, and help with a newsletter. We need to get as many people as possible into the field to study the birds and their needs — that fragile balance — before any more habitat is destroyed for lack of accurate wildlife information.

AVOCET: What do your volunteers do?

MIKE: A number of things. It's not always attractive work. You might sit in a boat for five hours observing the ducks on Artesian Slough, or get your boots muddy on a nighttime gull census. What is attractive is that such an investment of volunteer time results in a really significant contribution to what we know about the bay. And the more we know about the bay the better we can preserve it.

AVOCET: Do you provide training for volunteers who want to help but haven't any experience in this sort of thing?

MIKE: Definitely. They receive training in the skills necessary to plan and conduct research. Our staff and Advisory Board guide project planning and research so that we produce top-notch professional studies.

AVOCET: And how can Audubon members help?

MIKE: I'm glad you asked. They can help by becoming members and they can help by becoming volunteers. We need both. I especially hope they'll come down to our Alviso headquarters so I can show them around and tell them more about what we're doing and how they can be a part of our important work.



Located in the first cannery built in Santa Clara County, the Bird Observatory's Alviso headquarters will soon become a center for educational programs and an extensive resource library as well as an important research facility. Observatory staff and volunteers have worked on projects for the San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge and the California Department of Fish and Game.

Board of Directors: Tom Rountree, Lori Emery, Peg Woodin, Suzie Formenti, Dr. Richard Mewaldt, Aileen Brodsky, Vicki Knirck, Theresa Rigney, and Kathy Hobson.

Advisory Board: You may recognize some of the noted local biologists who are guiding the Observatory research. Roger Johnson, Phyllis Swanson, and Drs. Howard Cogswell, Henry Weston, Howard Shellhammer, Tom Harvey, Robert Bowman.

YOUR HELP IS NEEDED

The research and education planned by the Observatory to protect the bay wildlife costs money — money the Observatory doesn't have. If the Observatory is to carry out its important work, it needs your support.

A used airboat is available but must be purchased and repaired before it can be put to work in the field. Mist nets and other equipment are needed to set up a banding program. A slide projector and screen are needed for the education program. Rubber boots and waders will keep researchers' feet dry. The list is extensive.

And you can help.

By becoming a member of SFBBO, you will contribute towards the equipment needed to carry out research on our bay birdlife. But more than that, you will be contributing to the protection of those birds — their safety and preservation. Together we can ensure that the birds will be there for our enjoyment and for the enjoyment of generations to come.

Please join us. Become a member of SFBBO. Help protect the fragile balance of our bay. Your check will help us get on with this important task.

AUDUBON SPECIAL

Join today as a Charter Member of SFBBO and receive special gifts.

\$35 — includes a SFBBO T-shirt
 Men's — S M L
 Child's — S M L
 Women's — S M

\$100 — 8x10 color photo of our stilt

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ Zip _____ Phone _____

I can't join now, but my \$ _____ donation is enclosed.

Please contact me about becoming a volunteer.

All contributions to SFBBO are tax-deductible under IRS code 501 (c)(3)
 San Francisco Bay Bird Observatory, Box 257, Alviso, CA 95002 — (408) 946-6548

SCHEDULE YOUR VACATION AROUND THE 1983 CONVENTION: AUG. 28 - SEPT. 2

How about a vacation next summer in the beautiful Rocky Mountains of Colorado? Plan it around the biennial National Audubon Convention at Estes Park. The convention starts with a field trip into Rocky Mountain National Park on Monday, August 29th (check-in date is Sunday evening, August 28th), followed by three and a half days of panels, talks, and workshops on the society's role in research education, and action. The convention theme is: "Think Globally, Act Locally."

Field trips and nature study workshops will be offered before and after the convention, including river rafting, wilderness backpacking, and a four-day bicycle trip through Colorado towns. Full details, along with an application blank, will be published in the February issue of the society's new publication, *Audubon Action*. Meanwhile, circle August 24th through Labor Day, September 5th, on your 1983 calendar. Those dates cover the convention plus the pre-and post-convention trips.

Where to go birding in Seattle

Planning a trip to Seattle? The Seattle Audubon Society has just the thing for you — a new book *Birding in Seattle and King County*, by Eugene S. Hunn.

The birding site guide details and maps 15 sub-regions of the area. The bird list includes more than 300 species, graphed according to seasonal abundance with notes on breeding and other characteristics.

The author is an associate professor of anthropology at the University of Washington and a Vice President of the Seattle Audubon Society. He is co-editor of the North Pacific Coast region on the journal, *American Birds*.

The 170-page book is available in soft cover, field guide size, at \$7.50 per copy. Orders, accompanied by a check payable to the Seattle Audubon Society may be sent to 619 Joshua Green Building, Seattle, WA 98101. The society requests that orders include 49 cents for Washington state sales tax and 86 cents for postage.

FIELD TRIP REPORTS

Only nine people met December 5 at the Rotary Science Center on the shore of Lake Merritt, an inland saltwater lake. The day began slowly in heavy fog, but was sprinkled with some outstanding sightings. These started with Betty Groce spotting a Peregrine Falcon alighting on a ledge two stories below the top of a tall apartment building on Bellevue Avenue. The group was able to watch the bird as it posed on its high perch for over an hour. Then, as the group walked over to the northeast arm of the lake, we spotted a winter plumage Red-necked Grebe - a bird not seen for two years at the lake. After watching nine species of fairly regular ducks we spotted a group of at least ten Barrow's Goldeneyes as we scanned the lake with our scopes.

We ate lunch at Jewel Lake in Tilden Park where we saw many woodland birds including a Golden-crowned Kinglet and a Townsend's Warbler. On the way home we stopped at Foster City and saw the newly returned Smew, a Eurasian member of the merganser family first spotted on a Christmas Bird Count last winter. Other birds in the Foster City Lagoon at the corner of Hillsdale and Shell included Common Loon, Red-throated Loon, Horned Grebe, Red-breasted Merganser and Barrow's Goldeneye. Thus, a fantastic day was spent with very friendly people, seeing a total of 56 species of birds. Thanks especially to Jane Revoir and Mark Fenner for carpooling on the trip and we were very lucky to meet local Lake Merritt bird authority, Harold Connon, who corroborated our sightings.

Allen Royer

Fifteen birders visited Alum Rock Park on October 30 in the foothills of East San Jose and were able to see 30 species of birds before the rain began at noon. Highlights of the trip were: four species of woodpeckers, including the recently "split" Red-breasted Sapsucker, and a fantastic view through a Questar scope of a Dipper, as it bobbed around the creek in front of the Youth Science Institute. As an extra note: a pair of Dippers were seen together at Alum Rock Park on 1 December 1982 within 200 yards east of Y.S.I. along the mineral springs portion of Penetencia Creek.

Allen Royer
Mark and Judy McEuen

Thirty-one birders gathered on a damp morning to see the birds at Searsville Lake and Jasper Ridge as well as to have a general look at Stanford's Biological Preserve. Wood ducks were more than usually secretive but were seen by part of the group, while large numbers of ring necks and seven other more cooperative duck species were readily seen on the lake and marsh. Perching birds, too, were especially quiet and inconspicuous, but lichens, moss, fungi, ferns, and salamanders were all at their prime for a walk along San Francisquito Creek. A total of 56 species were seen, with deluge holding off until just as we finished. We are sorry that some people were disappointed at finding this trip filled. The amount of interest indicated by nearly 60 people wishing to visit the Preserve calls for more trips. It is a lovely area in any season. Watch for announcements.

Bill & Jean Clark
Carol Zabel



Casa de Fruta permit

The Santa Clara County Planning Commission approved a permit for Casa de Fruta expansion on November 4 to include 200 RV sites, fencing for the RV park, a picnic and barbecue area, baseball field and tennis courts.

Some additions disallowed from the permit request are a restaurant, water slides, swimming pool, bumper boat rides, an electronic games arcade and hot tubs.

Both sides have appealed the permit decision and next it will go to the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors.

BALD EAGLE CONFERENCE IN OREGON

The fourth annual Bald Eagle Conference will be held February 18, 19, and 20 on the Oregon Institute of Technology campus at Klamath Falls.

The conference will include a variety of films and slides, lectures, and workshops.

A highlight of the three-day conference will be a chance to observe the Bald Eagle Flyout at Bear Valley. Between 250 and 300 bald eagles roost in the valley during January and February making the early morning flyout spectacular. Those who attend may also participate in a Crater Lake showshoe trip for bird identification.

The conference fee is \$20. For registration and information contact Katie Ardt, Klamath Basin Audubon Society, 4647 Miller Island Rd., Klamath Falls, Oregon 97601.

WILDLANDS AND WILDLIFE OF CALIFORNIA ON DISPLAY AT ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

Over the past three years wildlife photographer Tupper Ansel Blake has trekked from the Cascade Mountains in the north to the Colorado Desert in the south, from the arid Great Basin in the east to the offshore islands in the west, photographing a California few of us ever notice. An exhibit of Blake's work, a visual tour of the Golden State, entitled "The Wildlands and Wildlife of California", is open at the California Academy of Sciences in Golden Gate Park through January 31. Approximately 175 stunning color photographs document the rich diversity of wild creatures and their habitats in California in seven self-contained displays, one for each of seven geographical regions of the state.

The exhibition has been created to draw attention to the wildlands and wildlife of California and to advance public appreciation and understanding of these resources.

Blake, a well-known California wildlife photographer, has also displayed works at the Smithsonian Institution. A sampling of his work in this exhibition includes Whistling Swans of the Delta, Bald Eagles of the Great Basin, California Golden Poppies in the foothills of the San Joaquin Valley, Sea Otters of the Central Coast, and numerous beautiful habitat photographs.

The exhibition has been sponsored by the California Department of Fish and Game and the **National Audubon Society**, with additional support from many private foundations and companies.

Redtails found dead cause unknown

Six red-tailed hawks died mysteriously on Bolsa Road between Gilroy and Hollister in early November according to a report in *The Sycamore Bark*, newsletter of Gabilan Audubon Society of south Santa Clara County and San Benito County. The cause will probably never be known because nobody brought in corpses to the SPCA for analysis.

Eight hawks were seen on utility poles by a San Benito County worker on October 31, but the next day he saw six dead hawks scattered along the roadside. When an animal control officer searched the area the next day the bodies were gone. The event points up the importance of bringing dead wildlife to authorities for study.

Six hawks are worth about \$1,200 to local agriculture just in terms of rodent-control according to Nan Pipestem of the San Benito County Wildlife Rehabilitation Center in Hollister. They are estimated to prevent about \$200 worth of crop destruction per bird and it is a crime, punishable by fines and jail sentence, to kill a bird of prey.

Killing a non-game bird is a misdemeanor punishable by up to \$500 fine and/or six months in county jail. For killing a protected bird, such as a white-tailed (black shouldered) kite or a golden eagle, penalties are up to \$1,000 fine and/or a year in county jail. There may also be federal penalties.



Save water, save a lake

According to State Dept. of Water Resources studies, installation of water-saving toilet dams, low-flow showerheads, and flow restrictors in every California home would save about 800,000 acre-feet of water annually . . . enough to save Mono Lake 9 times over! Saving in Los Angeles alone would exceed 100,000 acre-feet per year — more than the average amount diverted from Mono's tributary streams!!!

Water-saving devices would save energy used in water heating equivalent to about 5.5 million barrels of oil worth over \$221 million at conservative current prices. Installing such devices in all California homes would cost about \$8 per person (\$160 million), but would pay for itself in under nine months. This cost includes purchasing and installing the devices, related publicity, and program management. For about \$25 million, water-saving devices could be installed in every Los Angeles household, reducing demand by more than enough to save Mono Lake.

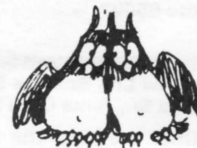
What are these devices? **Toilet dams** are flexible plastic that are wedged into the tank on either side of the flush valve, holding back "reservoirs" of water. Most water-wasteful toilets flush efficiently on a gallon or two less water. **Low-flow showerheads** create aerated spray and reduce flow rates to as low as ½ gallon per minute, 10% that of some models. Low-flow showerheads pay for themselves in water-heating energy savings. **Flow restrictors**, inexpensive valves easily installed in flow lines behind faucets and showerheads, reduce water use by up to 50%!!

These devices are available at most plumbing supply stores.

Feeder, house designs

A new book, tentatively titled *The Audubon Society Handbook for Attracting Birds*, will include innovative homemade designs for bird feeders, houses and baths. The author, Stephen W. Kress, is looking for improvements to standard models of feeders and houses and original designs for any homemade bird attracting creations. Novel approaches to repelling squirrels, cats and nuisance birds are also welcome. In addition to the handbook, some of the submitted material may be selected for articles in the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology's new magazine, *The Living Bird Quarterly*. The designers of selected plans will be acknowledged in the book and articles.

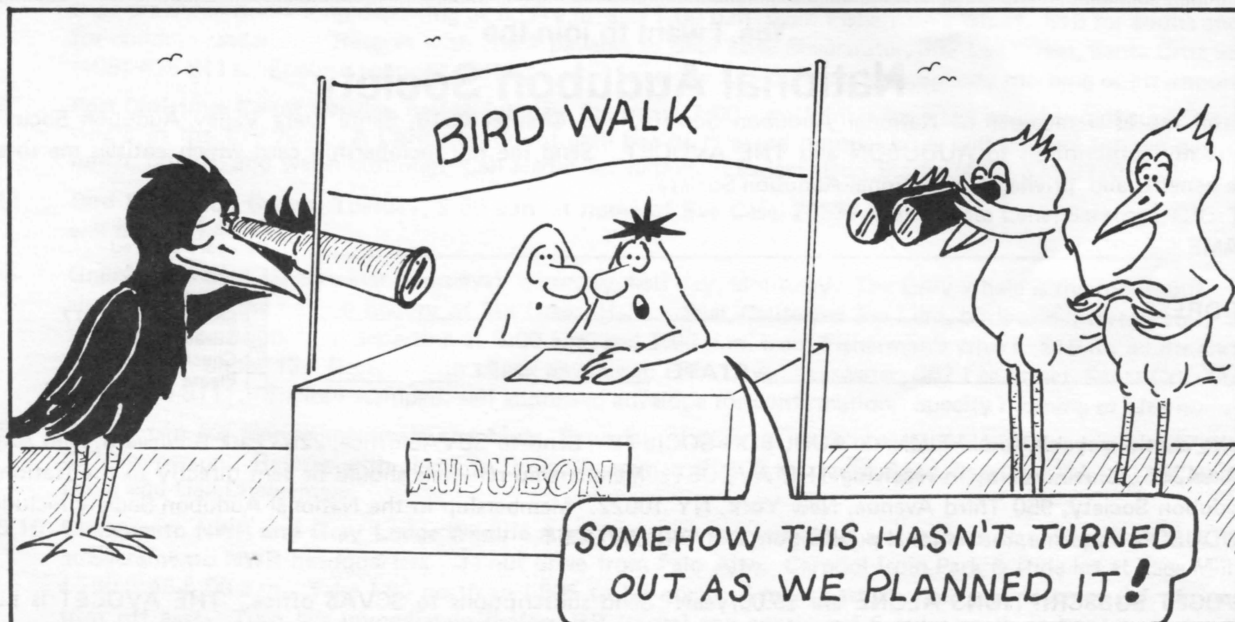
Mail detailed plans with measurements (and photographs if available) to: Dr. Stephen W. Kress, Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology, 159 Sapsucker Woods Road, Ithaca, NY 14850.



SAN FRANCISCO WILDLIFE CONFERENCE

The seventh annual Dr. Barbara Sawyer Memorial Wildlife Conference is scheduled for February 4-6, 1983. Topics to be covered at the conference, which is sponsored by The California Academy of Sciences, The San Francisco Zoological Society, and the Wildlife Rehabilitation Council, include: captive breeding, rehabilitation, techniques of handling, housing, nutrition, veterinary techniques, and infant care.

For further information contact Nancy Venizelos, San Francisco Zoological Gardens, Sloat Blvd. @ the Pacific Ocean, San Francisco, CA 94132, (415) 661-2023.



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General membership meetings are held the third Wednesday of each month, at 7:30 p.m., at the Lucy Evans Baylands Interpretive Center, Palo Alto. Meetings are open to the public. Monthly Board of Directors meetings are held at 7:15 p.m., the first Tuesday of each month. Meetings are open to members; please call the office for directions.

THE AVOCET deadline is the tenth of the month for the following month.

DONATIONS

Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society welcomes gifts in general, or gifts in honor or memory of relatives and friends. Such donations will be used as specified, or, if unspecified, will be used to support environmental education and projects. All gifts and donations are tax deductible.



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