

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 ELVD #4  
REDWOOD CITY, CA 94061

2020

Volume 30, Number 2

February 1983

### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Please call Manette Wittgenstein, (408) 354-9420, and Dolores Norton, (415) 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 February – David Moore (408) 293-7124.

- Feb. 5 **Pelagic Trip (Shearwater Journeys)**, Saturday, 7:45 a.m., Monterey Bay, Fisherman's Wharf, Laysan Albatross Search, return 3 p.m. \$28 per person. Reserve with check payable to Shearwater Journeys, 362 Lee Street, Santa Cruz 95060, (408) 425-8111. 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.
- Feb. 8 **Bird Discussion Group**, Tuesday, 9:30 a.m., at the home of Catherine Lintott, 12150 Buena Vista Ave., Los Gatos, for birding with Pat and Jean Dubois in the yard.
- Feb. 9 **Field Trip South**, Wednesday, 9:00 a.m., Coyote Creek County Park bike path. Park at the intersection of Coyote Road and Ford Road (.3 mile east of 101 on Ford Road). Leaders: Manette Wittgenstein (408) 354-9420, and Russ and Marilyn Fowler (408) 356-7758.
- 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. 16 **General Meeting**, Wednesday, Lucy Evans Baylands Interpretive Center, Palo Alto. Refreshments and get acquainted, 7:30 p.m.; program at 8 p.m. Dave Winkler, doctoral candidate in zoology at U. C. Berkeley will speak on "Food and Climate at Mono Lake" (for the birds, that is!). He will give an update on the gull population and a distillation of what has happened as far as the ecology of Mono Lake over the past six years since he started working on Mono Lake. David Winkler and David Gaines started the Mono Lake Committee in 1977. Winkler left the Committee two years ago to work on his PhD; however he has continued to be actively involved in the research and survival of Mono Lake as a viable eco-system.
- Feb. 19 **Mount Madonna County Park** for owls. Birding in the early morning for Pygmy Owl and other birds. Trip will last until about noon. LIMITED TRIP. Call for details and reservation. Leader: David Moore (408) 293-7124.
- Feb. 19 **Pelagic Trip, Birds of Monterey Bay**, \$25 per person. See Feb. 5 for details. Leaders: Alan Baldrige and Ted Chandik.
- Feb. 23 **Field Trip North**, Wednesday, 9 a.m., Foster City. Take U. S. 101 north to the Hillsdale Blvd. East turnoff. Follow Hillsdale about one mile to Shell Blvd., turn right, and in ½ block park in the gravel lot on the left, across from the Community Center. Leaders: Dolores Norton (415) 941-1666 and Betty Groce (415) 326-5540.

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.

**Field Trip Coordinator for March – Richard Jeffers (415) 493-7531.**

March 5-6 **Honey Lake, Susanville weekend**, 9:00 a.m., Saturday, at Fleming Unit, Honey Lake Wildlife Refuge. An exciting weekend of birding in the Great Basin for Sage Grouse, Sage Thrasher, wintering sparrows and longspurs, waterfowl, Bald Eagles, and other raptors. Bring lunches for two days; dress for cold weather; bring chains and be prepared for snow on the Sierra highways. Trip cancelled if I-80 or Hwy 395 closed or large storm is forecast. Mostly driving and easy walking. Camping is possible at Fleming Unit. Motels (reservation advisable) and restaurants available in Susanville. **LIMIT OF 30 PEOPLE.** Please carpool. Driving time six hours on clear roads to Susanville. Call for reservation and last minute trip info. Leaders: Richard Jeffers (415) 493-7531 (reservations) and Bob Dyer (415) 327-4787.

March 12 **Searsville Lake and Jasper Ridge**, Saturday, 9:00 a.m., half day. Meet at picnic tables near Searsville Lake. Entrance off Sandhill Road up from Portola Road. Three miles of easy to moderate walking. Lunch optional. Ring-necked and Wood Duck, Red-shouldered hawks are possible. **LIMIT OF 30 PEOPLE.** Suggested voluntary contribution of \$1.50 per person for the Preserve. Call for reservation and if raining on trip morning. Leaders: Bill and Jean Clark (415) 326-7565 and Richard Jeffers (415) 493-7531.

March 13 **Palo Alto Baylands**, Sunday, 9:00 a.m., half day. Meet at the Lucy Evans Interpretive Center, Palo Alto Baylands, at the east end of Embarcadero Road. One to two miles of easy walking to see the resident and wintering waterbirds. Leaders, rain or shine: Dick Stovel and Lisa Swagerty (415) 856-6105.

## FIELD NOTES

One to two months of winter remain and it's a good time to be afield looking for rarer species. Winter is the best time for rarities in our local area and there are a number of reasons for this. First, we are at a good latitude for wintering species. (The Palo Alto CBC usually records 15 to 20 more species in winter over summer.) In addition, birds that are out of their winter range may not significantly reduce their breeding fitness, but species that miss their summer range will probably not breed. Lastly, there is a strong component of first year birds in unusual sightings and annual mortality will reduce populations by the next breeding season. So get out to the ocean, bayside and riparian areas and look for the unusual bird. Next month I'll have some advice on finding rarer species.

The biggest news in December is the Christmas Bird Counts – San Jose (SJ) on 19 December and Palo Alto (PA) on 20 December. Because of the quantity of observations I won't cite observers. A **Common Loon** was in the south bay 20 December (PA), and good numbers of **Red-throated Loons** were found locally with two at Redwood City (PA) and another on Chesbro Res. 26 December (Ed Gustafson - EG). The only report of a **Cattle Egret** so far this winter was on the Webb Ranch (PA). The **Least Bittern** first found at the Palo Alto Baylands in November was seen by many observers 25 December to 1 January during the high tides. This is the first time that we know of this species wintering here. **Whistling Swans** were in Alviso 19 December (SJ) and 8-10 were off the Palo Alto Baylands 1 January (Dick Stovel - DS). Eurasian Wigeon were found on both San Jose and Palo Alto CBC's, the former for the first time. Two female **Oldsquaws** at the west end of the Dumbarton Bridge are very rare anywhere in the Bay (PA). The **Hooded Mergansers** are wintering on Skylonda Pond for at least the fourth winter (PA, Gloria Heller). The **Smew** has returned to the lagoon in Leo J. Ryan Park in Foster City for the second winter - an exceptionally handsome bird. It has been an

## Bill Bousman

excellent winter for raptors. A number of **Ferruginous Hawks** were found 19 December (SJ) and another bird in San Antonio Valley 21 December. **Golden Eagles** were well reported on the east side of the valley (SJ), and two on the Palo Alto CBC were a surprise. **Bald Eagles** have been found at Calaveras Reservoir all through December. The San Jose CBC recorded **Prairie Falcon**, **Peregrine** and **Merlin** on 19 December, a rare grand slam. Merlins have also been found in urban Palo Alto and Menlo Park in December. On the 31 December high tide observers at the Baylands and on the levee from the dump to Charleston Slough totalled 62 **Clapper Rails**. **Lesser Yellowlegs** winter here in very small numbers and were found on both San Jose and Palo Alto counts, as were **Red Phalarope**. **Pygmy Owl** were found at Rancho San Antonio OSP 20 December and **Saw-Whet** at Monte Bello OSP (PA), both are often missed in winter. Two **Empidonax** were found on the San Jose CBC, but not identified as to species. Their identification away from their breeding grounds is very difficult – See Roberson, *Rare Birds of the West Coast*. A **Hermit Warbler** was along Skyline 20 December (PA), and two were found in the same coastal association at Wunderlich Park the next week (Bob Dyer). **Western Tanagers** have been well reported with individuals on the San Jose and Palo Alto CBC's, and one in Palo Alto 29 December (Dave Houle). A **White-throated Sparrow** was at a feeder 20 December (PA). A **Swamp Sparrow** was found at the Baylands during the high tides, 29 December - 1 January (EG, DS).

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



Sanderling

## **Area Audubons hold meeting**

Representatives from eight Bay Area Audubon Societies met for the quarterly BAAC meeting Saturday, January 8. Dan Taylor from the Western Regional Audubon Office reported on current National Audubon activities.

"Regional Roundup" is a new newsletter, sent out three to five times a year to chapter offices from the regional office, to share the successes of local chapters' ventures and to mention sales items. Any interested members are welcome to come to the SCVAS office to read it.

The California Water Commission has just unveiled the Corps of Engineers 20-year study on the Delta, which discusses the future of levees, agricultural land, and wildlife areas. Water issues remain a top priority for National Audubon. "Water in California", a slide show, will soon be available through the Regional Office.

The Fish and Game Commissioners met on January 7 to review the Condor Recovery Team permit. The research team has been granted permission to radio-band two more condors, to capture two female condors for the captive breeding program, to take and incubate all first laid eggs that they can find (with the assumption that the condors will double-clutch), and to keep in captivity the most recently captured sub-adult male condor (the third in captivity). This is in addition to Topa-Topa and the male chick currently in zoos, and two condors radio-tagged as of this writing. The latter have provided a great deal of information on feeding behavior and general distribution, and it is hoped that data from the expanded activities will lead to the preservation of condor habitat.

George Peyton, a board member of National Audubon, reported on a new sanctuary in Holly Springs, Mississippi. NAS was given 2000 acres including the site of the largest beaver population in the south, and a fine antebellum home, as well as a generous endowment to maintain the area. He also discussed further plans for a NAS Youth Program. Final details will be revealed at the August NAS Convention in Estes Park.

Fish and wildlife is conducting a banding study of canvasbacks on the Bay. Fifty percent of all canvasbacks that winter in the West come to the Bay Area. The researchers hope to band 900 males and 900 females this winter, and then to monitor summer breeding grounds, as an aid to understanding the population's dynamics.

Jerry Perkins from Sequoia Audubon reported on tactics that Friends of Redwood City used in their successful Yes on Prop O campaign.

Kent Smith from State Fish and Game described the California Natural Diversity Data Base. This is a central location for the storage and maintenance of accurate and current records regarding the locations of rare, threatened or otherwise unique elements of California's natural diversity, including plants, animals, invertebrates, critical habitats, and aquatic and geological features. The information will aid in identification and selection of natural areas deserving protection, and will assist public and private planners in decision-making. It is part of the development of a comprehensive state resource management strategy.

## **PA airport bird study underway**

The San Francisco Bay Bird Observatory is conducting a study of airplane and bird interactions at the Palo Alto Airport. The work is supported by the Santa Clara County Transportation Agency which manages the facility.

A primary objective is to obtain observational data which can be used to make decisions on airport operational activities and planned physical modification. Concerns have been raised by members of the public and Palo Alto City staff regarding the potential negative impact on Baylands' bird populations of the existing airport. These same concerns extend to modification plans put forward by the county in its 1982 General Aviation Master Plan.

This study will span an entire year and include regular censusing of areas extending from Cooley Landing to Charleston Slough to determine species composition and numbers.

Special attention will be given to interactions between birds, airplanes and the airport. Data will be gathered on avian behavioral patterns, times and locations, types and flight patterns of airplanes which figure prominently in the interactions.

SCVAS members who would like to participate in this project are encouraged to contact the Bird Observatory office at 408/946-6548. In addition, if any of you have kept records on the birds of that area or know of someone who has, we would like to use that material (with proper credit) in our final report to the City of Palo Alto.

*Michael Rigney  
Executive Director, SFBBO*

## **New director**

Board member Mike Boylan filled a long time dream and took a position at the Kenai National Wildlife Refuge in Alaska in November. We're sorry to lose Mike's valuable contributions to the board and to the Society, but we certainly wish him the very best in his new job.

To fill the remainder of Mike's term, we have been most fortunate to recruit Lyman Fancher. Lyman is the National Audubon Society warden for the Knapp property in Alviso. He patrols the bayfront property daily to keep out hunters and other intruders making the area safe for birds and animals. Lyman has done extensive studies on harbor seal and fish populations of San Francisco Bay and in his spare time dabbles in home beer brewing, 16mm motion photography, and cross country skiing.

Welcome, Lyman

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The next BAAC meeting will be held on April 16; if you are interested in attending, please call the office, (415) 329-1811 for more information.

*Lynn Teneffoss*

# The year that was - 1982

I have spent another year sharing the sightings of many local observers, and I will again summarize the year's bird events in Santa Clara County. I add my usual proviso that there were certainly many species unobserved or unreported, so our interpretation of events must be somewhat speculative.

As of last year's summary the Santa Clara Checklist total was 310 species. Two species have been added as I have become aware of old records: a flock of **Sandhill Cranes** were observed in 1967 and it appears that our first winter record of **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** occurred in 1977. Two species new to the county have also occurred. A juvenile **Sharp-tailed Sandpiper** was found 6 November in the Mountain View Forebay by Tom Olson and seen through the 11th. With the plethora of birders that came looking for the Sharp-tailed, a **Stilt Sandpiper** was found on 7 and 8 November, also a first county record. This brings the total county checklist to 314 species.

What of other rarities? There are now 75 species on the supplemental list of which 15 were seen this year - not much different from previous years. Three species that appear to have become more common: **Little Blue Heron**, **Ferruginous Hawk**, and **Least Tern** were seen again as they have been seen in previous years. There are 89 species in the category of "uncommon to rare" and 69 were recorded this year - the best ever. There are ten species in this category that have been unrecorded in the last four years and for this reason I question their status. **Brandt's** and **Pelagic Cormorant** are unlikely this far down the bay. A **Brandt's** has been found on one local Christmas Bird Count in the last 15 years (at Dumbarton Bridge), and I am not aware of any other records. Should they be de-listed? There are no recent records for **White-winged Scoter**, **Golden Plover**, or **Black Turnstone** - all coastal species that perhaps should be on the supplemental list. Historical migrants include **Common Tern**, **Calliope Hummingbird** and **Willow Flycatcher**, but none recorded recently. The **Bank Swallow** remains a puzzle - a former breeder, is it just an extremely rare migrant today? Lastly, the **Red Crossbill** is an irruptive species and therefore is hard to place in any category.

*Bill Bousman*

## SCVAS GRANTS AWARDED

The SCVAS awarded four grants totaling \$1200 as a result of the Fall 1982 solicitation and evaluation of grant proposals. Recipients of grants are: California Marine Center, Wildlife Rescue, Native Animal Rescue, and Janet Carrier/Michael Bitsko.

The next opportunity to submit proposals for SCVAS grants will be in September, 1983. Watch the *Avocet* for details.

*Kep Stone*



## UPDATE OF SUPPLEMENTAL SPECIES FROM 1975 SANTA CLARA COUNTY CHECKLIST

The 1975 Santa Clara County Checklist lists 52 supplemental species. The list that follows brings the total to 75 as of the end of 1982. The year of first record is indicated in parentheses if known or suspected. FMC means formerly more common.

Northern Fulmar	Lesser Nighthawk (FMC)
Magnificent Frigatebird (79)	Black Swift (66)
Little Blue Heron (67)	Black-chinned Hummingbird (FMC)
Least Bittern (39)	Costa's Hummingbird
White-faced Ibis (77)	Broad-tailed Hummingbird (80)
Brant	Pileated Woodpecker (80)
Fulvous Whistling Duck (1897)	Tropical Kingbird (73)
Tufted Duck (71)	Cassin's Kingbird (1864)
Barrow's Goldeneye	Hammond's Flycatcher (70)
Old Squaw (08)	Gray Flycatcher (70)
Black Scoter	Clark's Nutcracker (67)
California Condor (FMC)	Sage Thrasher (73)
Goshawk (27)	Mountain Bluebird (25)
Swainson's Hawk (FMC)	Townsend's Solitaire (27)
Ferruginous Hawk	Bohemian Waxwing (66)
Mountain Quail	Northern Shrike
Yellow Rail (FMC)	Bell's Vireo (FMC)
Sandhill Crane (67)	Black-and-White Warbler (50)
Black Oystercatcher (79)	Tennessee Warbler (70)
Mountain Plover (1891)	Blackburnian Warbler
Solitary Sandpiper	Blackpoll Warbler
Wandering Tattler (80)	Palm Warbler
Semipalmated Sandpiper (80)	Northern Waterthrush (73)
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper (82)	American Redstart (51)
Stilt Sandpiper (82)	Bobolink (79)
Parasitic Jaeger (46)	Yellow-headed Blackbird (FMC)
Franklin's Gull (67)	Scarlet Tanager (72)
Heerman's Gull	Rose-breasted Grosbeak (77)
Black-legged Kittiwake (81)	Indigo Bunting (75)
Least Tern (38)	Cassin's Finch (1896)
Elegant Tern (81)	Green-tailed Towhee (1890)
Black Tern (30)	Sharp-tailed Sparrow (1891)
Black Skimmer (78)	Vesper Sparrow (1900)
Common Murre	Black-throated Sparrow
White-winged Dove	Tree Sparrow
Yellow-billed Cuckoo (FMC)	Harris' Sparrow (36)
Flammulated Owl (80)	Swamp Sparrow (70)
Snowy Owl	



## AVOCET DEADLINE TO BE FIRST MONDAY

Think **Monday** —the first Monday of the month, to be specific.

That's the new deadline for the *Avocet*. The only exception will be news generated by the board of directors meeting held on the first Tuesday of each month.

A Monday deadline fits in perfectly with typesetting, editorial, printing, and mailing schedules. With a little cooperation from the post office, from now on your *Avocet* should arrive at your door before the first of the month in time to adequately publicize all calendar items and pertinent events.

Contributions are welcome and will be printed as space allows. Send them to the editor: Shirley Shepard, 3866 Corina Court, Palo Alto 94303.

## **Auction, authors at PCC Feb. 3**

The Second Annual Auction and Authors Evening designed to benefit the Peninsula Conservation Center's Library and Public Information System will be held Thursday, February 3 from 7-9:30 p.m. at the Center, 2253 Park Boulevard, Palo Alto.

Those attending will be given the opportunity to meet local authors, who will autograph their new books, as well as participate in the auction.

Items up for bid include dinners, a weekend at Lake Tahoe, five days on Maui, a signed Leo Holub photograph, autographed books, and a tour of the State Capitol conducted by Byron Sher. There will also be a silent auction.

Wine, hot cider, and popcorn will be served.

The PCC library serves over 2,400 people each year with its unique collection of books, periodicals, government reports and current newspaper clippings.

The Environmental Information Desk answers questions from the public ranging from the status of a bill in Congress, to where to watch whales, or where to find the nearest recycling center, for over 6,000 people each year.

*Ann Smith*



### **TRIP REPORT**

Nineteen brave people joined us at Grant Ranch Park the day after Christmas. It was cold and overcast but eventually 50 species were seen. In the morning a bobcat with a ground squirrel in its mouth crossed the trail ahead of us and we noticed wild boar and coyote tracks. There were Western Bluebirds and a large flock of Lesser Goldfinch, and Acorn Woodpeckers seemed to be everywhere. We ate lunch along the stream near the ranch house and some lucky birders who had finished eating early discovered a White-throated Sparrow among some White-crowns. Most of us saw the Red-breasted Sapsucker near the water tank.

We were fortunate to have Judy and Don Morris with us on this trip. They were Santa Clara County's "Volunteers of the Year" in 1982, giving many hours of work to Grant Ranch Park. Along the trail they talked about the deer study that is being done on the ranch and about the birds and animals they see regularly. They identified the wild boar tracks and told us about the life of these animals. After lunch Judy gave us a tour of the ranch house, telling us some of the history of the house and of the Grant family. This made our day very special and we are grateful to Judy and Don for adding so much to our trip. In the afternoon a few of us went to Grant Lake to see the Ring-necked Duck, two males and three females. There, Larry Bartoli, whose sharp eyes had helped us a lot during the day, spotted a beautiful Red-shouldered Hawk. Judy said they had seen this bird last winter, too. After a cold start, we felt we had had a good day.

*Russ and Marilyn Fowler*

## **Join Cal nongame wildlife program**

Kent Smith from California Fish and Game encourages Audubon members to use the California Nongame Wildlife Conservation Program.

What is it?

The California Department of Fish and Game is charged by law with the responsibility for the welfare of all wildlife in California, not just game fish and animals. Money comes mainly from hunting and fishing licenses and fees, with additional amounts from federal taxes levied on arms, ammunition and sportfishing equipment. Some money, by law, is now appropriated from the general fund and earmarked for nongame wildlife only, but there is still not enough money to meet the need. Now, state law permits the DFG to accept donations for its work solely with native nongame wildlife in California through the NWCP or "Decal Program."

Any amount is welcome, but those who give \$5 or more receive a handsome decal and a newsletter. Sample projects supported by the fund include the peregrine falcon program, a pilot program for educating youth to leave raptor nests untouched, and other research and protection work with officially designated rare and endangered species. Every dollar donated goes to the direct benefit of wildlife, as all overhead and expenses are paid from the regular Department of Fish and Game budget. Donations are tax deductible.

This is a prime way for nonhunters to directly support the protection and enhancement of wildlife, and to let the government know that nongame species are valued by the public.

Checks may be written to Nongame Wildlife, and mailed to: Wildlife, Box DFG, Sacramento, CA 95801. The SCVAS office also has order forms.

### **THANKS**

When the call for help goes out to SCVAS members, they surely respond! I want to thank the wonderful people who helped me to put together the Audubon Bird Count Dinner on December 19th. It was a community effort, and each volunteer is appreciated!

Here they are:

Lasagna makers — Sue Liskovec, Ann Jilg, Carol Zabel, and Lynn Tennefoss

Salad Tossers — Jane Randolph and Mary Smith. The salad ingredients were donated by the Stevens Creek branch of Food Villa.

Dessert Makers — Darlene Schubert, Mildred Schoenberg, Gail Cheeseman, Zoe Chandik, Mary Lou Burgin, Marilyn Fowler, Vicki Silvas-Young, Sue Liskovec, Phyllis Swanson, Jane Randolph, Doris Welsh, Dolores Norton, Kathy Currall, and Martha Hunton.

Bread Slicer — Betty Wyatt

By the way, left-over lasagna was donated to the Salvation Army, and provided a warm meal for those who are less fortunate.

*Audrey Stoye*

# Christmas count sets record

"Brr, it's cold!" "Well, at least it's not raining."

That's what this year's San Jose Christmas Bird Counters said as they searched through frosty fields and clear skies. It was the first count in several years with sunshine and no rain. A record number of counters (129 in the field and one feeder watcher) tallied a record number of species - 170 - topping the 1973 high of 159. Of all the counters, at least 30 were first-time participants.

The total number of individuals (101,000) was down approximately 17,000 from last year. With some exceptions, most of the decreases were in ducks and water birds (down 10,000), and gulls (down 11,000). Although overall numbers of land birds were down slightly, black birds were up about 9,000 and house finches were up about 1,000.

Rare bird committee members Mike Rigney, Ted Chandik, Dick Mewaldt, Bill Bousman, and David Houle were kept busy with reports of flycatchers, phalaropes, hawks, and swallows. At this writing they are still struggling with an Olive-sided Flycatcher. The species winters in South America and there are no previous records in our area after October. Red-necked (northern) phalarope were reported and are still in question.

For the first time, a Clark's Grebe was spotted in Alviso. This light-eyed version of the Western Grebe may soon be given separate species status. Tundra (Whistling) Swans rejoined the count after a five-year absence. A first for us was a lone blue form Snow Goose on Calaveras Reservoir. A single Eurasian Wigeon in Alviso made the job of checking through 10,000 ducks all worth while. Surprising were five Ferruginous Hawks seen in four widely separated locations. (Two were in the same field!) Is the total for this hawk a function of the number of observers, better identification skills, or an actual increase in the number of birds? The single Thayer's Gull is a point to be made in this same context. A Red Phalarope and five phalarope species were noteworthy.

Along with the still-debated Olive-sided Flycatcher, we had our share of unusual passerines. Two empidonax flycatchers, very rare in northern California in winter, were reported from Agnew. One bird was present for at least ten days after the count. A Western Tanager was seen in Section F - winter sightings are mostly in southern California with only a few records for northern California.

An interesting side-light to all the statistics - 17 of the 170 species were represented by only one or two birds each. It's these birds which pushed our species count to a record high. We usually see fewer than ten species in ones and twos.



## HAVING MAILING LIST BLUES?

National Audubon has just begun to use a new membership coordinating service, complete with the latest computer technology. We hope it is running smoothly, but if you are having any problems in receiving your magazine, newsletter, or any other information from National, please let our office know. We apologize for any inconvenience.

Special thanks go to our hard working section leaders, to Dave Frank who lends invaluable computer assistance in processing the mountain of count data, and to Nancy Spiller of the San Jose Mercury News for her nice Christmas Day article about the count.

Audrey Stoye and her committee put on a delicious lasagna feed for counters at Leinenger Center in Kelley Park. Dinner for 100 is no small task! Thank you, Audrey from all of us.

The San Jose Christmas Bird Count, co-sponsored by SCVAS and San Francisco Bay Bird Observatory, was successful because of the hard work of many, many people. We thank you all - you have done an outstanding job for our feathered friends.

*Jim Liskovec and Don Starks  
CBC Compilers*

## CBC participants

Thanks to the 1982 San Jose, CA Christmas Bird Count participants:

Lynne Aldrich, Barbara Allen, Paula Baggs, Ginny Becchine, Bill Bousman, Mary Lou Breithaupt, Lynda Brothers, Mary Lou Burgin, Carole Burke, Sam Campbell, Chris & Richard Carlson, Vijay Char, Derek Currall, Maryann Danielson, Courtenay Dawson-Roberts, Jean Dubois, Dick Elliott, Jerry Estruth, **Frank Farran**, Marc Fenner, Janet Fisher, Peter Folan, Susie Formenti, Marilyn & Russell Fowler, Margaret Galvin, Bob Garcia, Tim Gates, Frank Gibson, Pat & Phil Gordon, Peter Gottschling, Betty Groce, Virginia Hallberg, **Phil Hand**, Gloria Heller, Anne & Leonard Helton, Kathy Hobson, Alice Hoch, Garv Hoefler, **Howard Honig**, David Houle, Martha Hunton, Liz Jacobs, Dorothy Johnson, Monica & **Dave Johnston**, Sandy Kinchen, Bill Kirsher, Larry Kistler, Anne & Susanne Kjemtrup, Julie Klingman, Vicki Knirck, Cathy Koger, Kelly Kolbo, Leni Langone, Judy La Pidus, **Peter La Tourrette**, Rananda Laughlin, Steve Lewis, Jim Liskovec, Lee Lovelady, Roy Lowe, Steve Lowe, Lee Main, John Malloy, Kay & Ray McCann, LeAnn McConnell, Judy & Mark McEuen, Cindy & John Mewaldt, Dick Mewaldt, **David Moore**, Mike Mortenson, Dave Nauer, **Michael Newcomer**, Dolores Norton, Pat Page, Carol & Matthew Palmer, **Rick Palmer**, Mary Phelps, Cathy Raley, Bill Ramey, John Rasche, Elsie Richey, Mike & Theresa Rigney, Bob Roadcap, Tom Rountree, Allen Royer, Don Schmoltd, Candice Scott, Milton Seibert, Jim & Shirley Shepard, Rob Shields, **Stephan Shugars**, **Vicki Silvas-Young**, Mary Smith, Sydney Smith, Nancy Spiller, Jean Marie Spoelman, Jim Stamm, Debbie Stamp, Don Starks, Mark Stephens, Diana Stillens, **Kep Stone**, Richard Stovel, Audrey Stoye, Lisa Swagerty, Phyllis Swanson, Lynn Tennefoss, Richard Tomasso, Terriann Tomlin, Cassie Webb, Art Webster, Doris Welsh, Gunnar Wennerberg, Henry Weston, **Anne Wilson**, Peg Woodin, Cheryl Woodward, Carol Zabel.

(Section leaders in bold.)

SAN JOSE CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT - 12/19/82

Loon, Species,1; Horned Grebe,185; Eared Grebe,910; Western Grebe,176;  
Clark's Grebe,1; Pied-billed Grebe,119; White Pelican,462;  
 Double-crested Cormorant,333; Great Blue Heron,50; Green-backed Heron,10;  
 Cattle Egret,2; Great Egret,322; Snowy Egret,119;  
 Black-crowned Night Heron,46; American Bittern,15; Tundra(Whistling)Swan,17;  
 Canada Goose,421; Snow Goose(blue form),1; Mallard,241; Gadwall,74;  
 Northern Pintail,3347; Green-winged Teal,625; Cinnamon Teal,31;  
Eurasian Wigeon,1; American Wigeon,6061; Northern Shoveler,3324; Wood Duck,20;  
 Redhead,3; Ring-necked Duck,344; Canvasback,1810; Greater Scaup,10;  
 Lesser Scaup,201; Scaup, Species,20; Common Goldeneye,12; Bufflehead,166;  
 Surf Scoter,1; Ruddy Duck,3544; Hooded Merganser,8; Common Merganser,55;  
 Red-breasted Merganser,30; Duck, Species,164; Turkey Vulture,88;  
 Black-shouldered Kite,55; Sharp-shinned Hawk,20; Cooper's Hawk,12;  
 Accipiter, Species,3; Red-tailed Hawk,256; Red-shouldered Hawk,4;  
 Rough-legged Hawk,4; Ferruginous Hawk,5; Buteo, Species,9; Golden Eagle(a),15;  
 Golden Eagle(i),8; Bald Eagle(a),1; Bald Eagle(i),2; Northern Harrier,74;  
 Prairie Falcon,4; Merlin,3; American Kestrel,161; California Quail,253;  
 Ring-necked Pheasant,42; Clapper Rail,2; Virginia Rail,32; Sora,25;  
 Common Moorhen(Gallinule),19; American Coot,3385; Semipalmated Plover,3;  
 Snowy Plover,8; Killdeer,480; Black-bellied Plover,41; Common Snipe,25;  
 Long-billed Curlew,212; Spotted Sandpiper,6; Willet,224;  
 Greater Yellowlegs,26; Lesser Yellowlegs,1; Yellowlegs, Species,1;  
 Least Sandpiper,638; Dunlin,77; Short-billed Dowitcher,155;  
 Long-billed Dowitcher,90; Dowitcher, Species,315; Western Sandpiper,1786;  
 Marbled Godwit,98; Sandpiper, Species,264; Peep, Species,33;  
 American Avocet,2126; Black-necked Stilt,1567; Red Phalarope,1;  
Red-necked(Northern)Phalarope,4; Phalarope, Species,1;  
 Glaucous-winged Gull,14; Western Gull,62; Herring Gull,171; Thayer's Gull,1;  
 California Gull,1051; Ring-billed Gull,2617; Mew Gull,176;  
 Bonaparte's Gull,446; Gull, Species,8604; Forster's Tern,15;  
 Band-tailed Pigeon,82; Rock Dove,5787; Mourning Dove,531; Barn Owl,6;  
 Western Screech Owl,3; Great Horned Owl,28; Burrowing owl,32;  
 Short-eared owl,3; White-throated Swift,7; Anna's Hummingbird,264;  
 Belted Kingfisher,31; Common Flicker,242; Acorn Woodpecker,108;  
 Red-breasted Sapsucker,22; Hairy Woodpecker,1; Downy Woodpecker,10;  
 Nuttall's Woodpecker,80; Black Phoebe,113; Say's Phoebe,28;  
Empidonax, Species,2; Olive-sided Flycatcher,1; Horned Lark,92;  
 Violet-green Swallow,3; Swallow, Species,5; Stellar's Jay,236; Scrub Jay,593;  
 Yellow-billed Magpie,190; American Crow,76; Chestnut-backed Chickadee,378;  
 Plain Titmouse,202; Common Bushtit,939; White-breasted Nuthatch,67;  
 Red-breasted Nuthatch,3; Brown Creeper,18; Wrentit,48; Dipper,2; House Wren,1;  
 Winter Wren,1; Bewick's Wren,89; Marsh Wren,157; Canon Wren,1; Rock Wren,7;  
 Northern Mockingbird,151; California Thrasher,12; American Robin,342;  
 Varied Thrush,65; Hermit Thrush,44; Western Bluebird,155;  
 Golden-crowned Kinglet,5; Ruby-crowned Kinglet,471; Water Pipit,569;  
 Cedar Waxwing,140; Loggerhead Shrike,89; European Starling,8751;  
 Hutton's Vireo,30; Orange-crowned Warbler,9; Yellow-rumped Warbler,709;  
 Yellow-rumped(Myrtle)Warbler,6; Yellow-rumped(Audubons)Warbler,147;  
 Townsend's Warbler,12; Common Yellowthroat,54; House Sparrow,313;  
 Western Meadowlark,933; Red-winged Blackbird,4063; Tri-colored Blackbird,679;  
 Brewer's Blackbird,2602; Brown-headed Cowbird,45; Blackbird, Species,9790;  
Western Tanager,1; Purple Finch,66; House Finch,4244; Pine Siskin,5;  
American Goldfinch,348; Lesser Goldfinch,379; Rufous-sided Towhee,123;  
 Brown Towhee,345; Savannah Sparrow,254; Lark Sparrow,301;  
 Rufous-crowned Sparrow,21; Dark-eyed(Oregon)Junco,1142;  
 White-crowned Sparrow,2803; Golden-crowned Sparrow,928; Fox Sparrow,17;  
 Lincoln's Sparrow,5; Song Sparrow,463; Sparrow, Species,15;

THE GRAND TOTALS: 101238 BIRDS OF 170 SPECIES.

# SANTA CLARA VALLEY AUDUBON SOCIETY, Inc.

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