

## SANTA CLARA VALLEY AUDUBON SOCIETY

Chapter C14 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 3

March 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 March – Richard Jeffers (415) 493-7531

- March 5 **Pelagic Trip, Monterey Seavalleys (Shearwater Journeys).** Departure from Santa Cruz, starting time will be provided with confirmation. Trip is 8-10 hours long. This will be the first springtime trip to this area, at least 25 miles offshore. \$35 per person if the trip fills. Reserve with check payable to Shearwater Journeys, 362 Lee St., Santa Cruz 95060 (408) 425-8111. Leader: Don Roberson
- 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 8 **Bird Discussion Group, 9:30 a.m.** Home of Eve Case, 20537 Verde Vista Lane, Saratoga. Topic: Australian birds.
- March 9 **Field Trip South, Stevens Creek Park, Wednesday, 9:00 a.m.** Take 280 Freeway, go south on Foothill Expressway, turn off to park. Meet in parking lot by dam. Easy walking. Beginners welcome. Leader: Mary Lou Burgin (408) 253-7115
- March 12 **Searsville Lake and Jasper Ridge, Saturday, half day, 8:30 a.m.** Meet at the Stanford University Biological Preserve - Jasper Ridge gate on Sandhill Road. From I-280 go west on Sandhill 1.8 miles to Main Gate. Gate will be unlocked from 8:20 to 8:40 a.m. - please be prompt. Three miles of easy to moderate walking. Lunch optional. 70 species including Ring-necked and Wood Ducks, Pygmy Nuthatch, and Red-shouldered Hawk. **LIMIT OF 30 PEOPLE.** Call for reservation and if raining on trip morning. Leaders: Bill & Jean Clark, authors of Jasper Ridge Biological Preserve Bird List (415) 326-7565, and Richard Jeffers (415) 493-7531.
- March 13 **Birdwalk for Beginners, Palo Alto Baylands, half day, Sunday, 9:00 a.m.** Meet at the Lucy Evans Interpretive Center 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.
- March 16 **General Meeting, Wednesday, 7:30 p.m.** at the **Palo Alto Cultural Center, 1313 Newell** (at Embarcadero - west of Bayshore). The Sea Otter will perform in slides presented by Judd Vanderveer of Monterey. Judd is an excellent speaker, has been studying the Sea Otter for years, and is certainly the foremost authority on our Sea Otter populations. He will discuss their behavior, plus the problems involving the expansion of their range. Judd has long been associated with California Fish and Game and Friends of the Sea Otter.

**NOTE NEW MEETING PLACE!!**

March 30 **Field Trip South**, Wednesday, 8:30 a.m. - noon, Searsville Lake. Meet at the Stanford University Biological Preserve - Jasper Ridge gate on Sandhill Road. From I-280, Menlo Park area, go west on Sandhill 1.8 miles to Main Gate. Gate will be unlocked from 8:20 - 8:40 a.m. Please be prompt. **LIMIT OF 20 PEOPLE.** Reservations: Carol Zabel (415) 948-5671. Suggested voluntary contribution of \$1.50/person for the Preserve, tax deductible. Leaders: Carol Zabel and Jean Clark.

**Field Trip Coordinator for April – Don Starks (408) 371-9720**

April 9 **Henry Coe State Park**, Saturday, 8:30 a.m. Meet at Park Headquarters. Take Hwy 101 south to Dunne Avenue in Morgan Hill; east on Dunne Avenue to the end. Park entrance fee. Bring lunch and liquids. At least four miles of moderate hiking and birding in the park at a time for breeding birds, migrants, and lots of wildflowers. Call if raining on trip morning. Leaders: Jim and Sue Liskovec (415) 969-5542.

April 10 **Deer Hollow Farm**, Sunday, 8:00 a.m. Meet in the last parking lot at the end of Cristo Rey Drive. Exit I-280 at Foothill Expressway; south to Cristo Rey Drive; right on Cristo Rey to Rancho San Antonio County Park sign. Go through gate and proceed to last parking lot. Bring lunch and liquids. We will be looking for breeding and migrant spring birds. Leader, rain or shine: Don Starks (408) 371-9720.



**FIELD TRIP PUBLICITY**

Announcements of SCVAS field trips and other activities are sent to some 30 local newspapers and organizations each month. The community learns about SCVAS through these announcements, and so this publicity is very important. There has been, up to now, very little feed-back on what the newspapers choose to print. If you see an announcement in one of your local papers, please send it (include the name of the paper and the date) to Tom Dargan; publicity chairman.

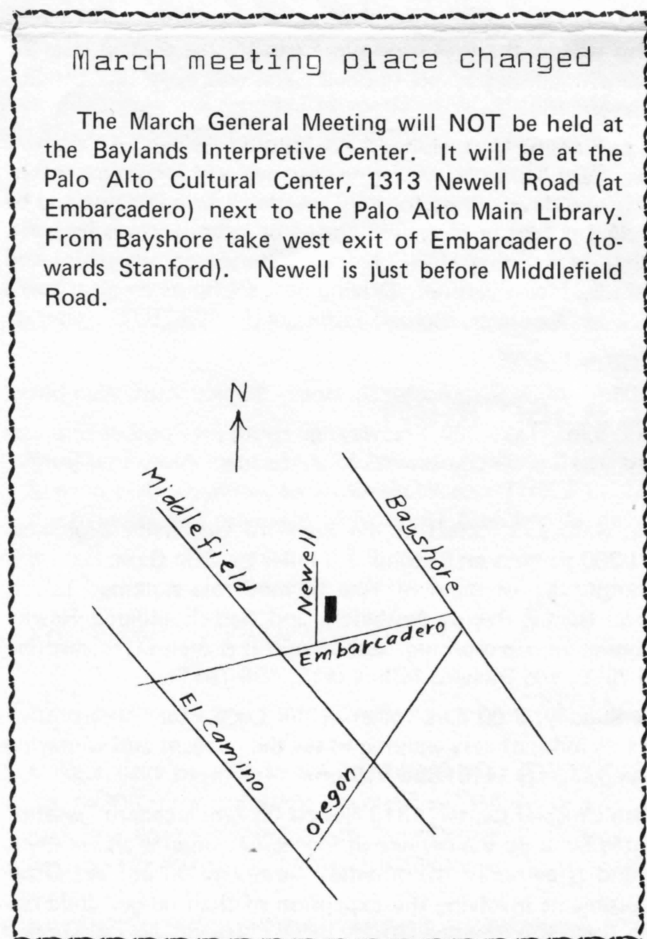
**MOUNT HAMILTON CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT  
21 DECEMBER 1982**

**Weather:** AM, light to moderate rain; PM, heavy rain.  
81 species seen.

**Species list follows:**

Pied-billed Grebe (21), Great Blue Heron (10), Green-backed Heron (2), Black-crowned Night Heron (1), Mallard (31), Gadwall (8), Wood Duck (25), Ring-necked Duck (25), Bufflehead (10), Ruddy Duck (20), Common Merganser (27), Turkey Vulture (1), Sharp-shinned Hawk (5), Red-tailed Hawk (17), Red-shouldered Hawk (2), Ferruginous Hawk (1), Bald Eagle (1a), Prairie Falcon (2), American Kestrel (15), Calif. Quail (122), American Coot (640), Killdeer (89), Common Snipe (7), Greater Yellowlegs (1), Band-tailed Pigeon (3), Mourning Dove (2), Great Horned Owl (3), Anna's Hummingbird (16), Belted Kingfisher (7), Northern (Red-sh.) Flicker (62), Acorn Woodpecker (75), Lewis' Woodpecker (67), Red-breasted Sapsucker (4), Hairy Woodpecker (5), Downy Woodpecker (4), Nuttall's Woodpecker (25), Black Phoebe (31), Say's Phoebe (10), Steller's Jay (6), Scrub Jay (124), Yellow-billed Magpie (69), Common Raven (10), American Crow (17), Chestnut-backed Chickadee (6), Plain Titmouse (149), Bushtit (4), White-breasted Nuthatch (57), Wrentit (28), Bewick's Wren (22), Marsh Wren (1), Canyon Wren (1), Rock Wren (2), Calif. Thrasher (8), American Robin (31), Hermit Thrush (5), Western Bluebird (287), Blue-gray Gnatcatcher (1), Ruby-crowned Kinglet (86), Water Pipit (7), Phainopepla (4), European Starling (594), Hutton's Vireo (1), Yellow-rumped (Audubon's) Warbler (8), House Sparrow (40), Western Meadowlark (67), Red-winged Blackbird (1020), Tri-colored Blackbird (33), Brewer's Blackbird (818), Purple Finch (32), House Finch (7), American Goldfinch (2), Lesser Goldfinch (177), Rufous-sided Towhee (35), Brown Towhee (48), Lark Sparrow (7), Sage Sparrow (2), Dark-eyed (Oregon) Junco (853), White-crowned Sparrow (190), Golden-crowned Sparrow (194), Fox Sparrow (34), Song Sparrow (2).

I want to extend my warmest gratitude to all who braved the monsoons to help me on the CBC, and especially to Lotus Baker for hosting the compilation! **THANK YOU!**



## FIELD NOTES

Bill Bousman

Spring should be here for those who find the first Allen's Hummingbirds of the season, and the rest of us will start finding returning swallows by the end of the month. Orange-crowned warblers will be singing on territory by then as well. Last month I promised I would tell you how to find rarities. It turns out there are few tricks. It's basically three steps: looking a lot, knowing where to look, and knowing what you are looking at. There is no substitute for just spending a lot of time birding. Rarities are sparsely distributed in time and space, the only way to find them is to spend a lot of time, cover a lot of space, or both. But once you are afield how do you improve your chances? Know your habitats, know where to look and then spend some time looking. To find the one Sharp-tailed or Swamp Sparrow in the Baylands you have to look at every one of the hundreds of Savannahs, White-crowned and Song Sparrows. For that Yellow-headed Blackbird you must check every blackbird flock. And to find the Eurasian Wigeon you must look at every American Wigeon. For some species the identification is difficult. We know from banding studies that Willow, Hammond's and Gray Flycatchers are regular migrants, but they are difficult to separate from our Western Flycatcher. How to do it? Go out and look at lots and lots and lots of Western Flycatchers. Read some of the books on difficult identifications (Roberson's Rare Birds of the West Coast), and don't be afraid to have to give up and write down Empidonax species and leave it at that.

**Red-throated Loons** are as likely in the reservoirs as the South Bay. Three in the percolation ponds at Los Gatos Creek CP on 8 January are an unusually high number (Betty Wyatt - BW). The **Least Bittern** continues to be our most exciting local bird and was seen all through January, especially at the higher tides. This is the first bird that we know has wintered here (others have just been seen once). A **Snow Goose** flying over the Palo Alto Baylands 26 January is rarely reported (Peter Metropulos). One of the **Oldsquaws** found on the Palo Alto CBC was still at the west end of the Dumbarton Bridge in early January (Roland France *vide* Ted Chandik). The **Hooded Mergansers** at the Skylonda Pond on the CBC had built up to a high count of 14 on 2 February (Gloria Heller). A **Ferruginous Hawk** was found in Alviso on 8 January (BW), an area we have learned to expect them in. Another of our wintering raptors, the **Merlin**, appeared at the Baylands for the high tides on 25 January. The extremely high tide of 27 January coupled with moderate rains provided 10" of water over the road at the Baylands and also made for good rail counts. Sixteen **Virginias** were counted and at least one **Black Rail** which was also seen on the 25th. We usually don't encounter **Glaucous**

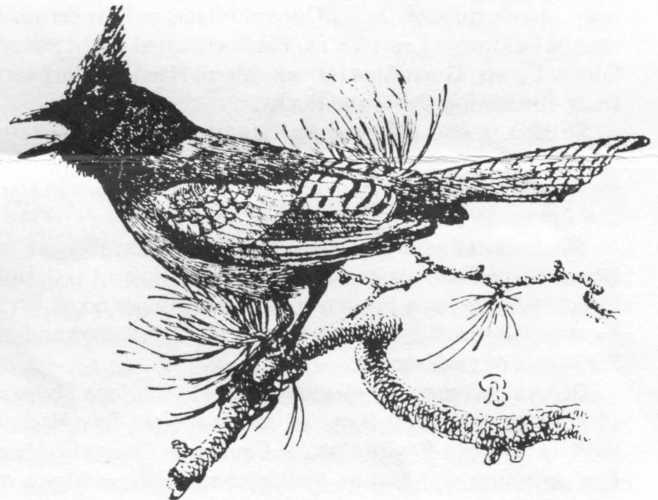
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### MARSH HAWKS

Wildlife information is needed about the Northern Harrier (Marsh Hawk). If you have information about current and historic breeding attempts (both successful and failing), please contact Santa Cruz Predatory Bird Research Group, Room 231 Clark Kerr Hall, University of California, Santa Cruz, CA 95064.

**Gulls** until later in the winter. First reports were two at Charleston Slough 4 January (Mary Lou Burgin and Rae Schmuck) and one near Raychem on Hwy 84 (Bob Dyer *vide* Ted Chandik) on 7 January. An **Orange-crowned Warbler** at Stanford Cactus Garden 31 January was probably wintering rather than an early arrival (Dick Stovel - DS). A **Hooded Oriole** in Los Altos 29 January (Paul Noble) was also probably overwintering. We usually find one at hummingbird feeders every third or fourth winter in the county. A female **Western Tanager** in the Stanford Cactus Garden 31 January (DS) is the fourth report of the winter which is unusual. At least two **Sharp-tailed Sparrows** have been found in the Baylands during January. They have the distinct white back stripes of the inland race, most of which winter on the East or Gulf coasts. Two **White-throated Sparrows** have been recorded at feeders with one in Palo Alto at least through 10 January (Pat Grange), and another in Menlo Park from 6 January on (Betty Groce). A **Swamp Sparrow** continues to be seen at the Baylands at the high tides at least through 26 January.

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



### AUDUBON CAMP OF THE WEST

Each summer National Audubon presents two-week workshops across the nation. Audubon Camp of the West is located in the beautiful Wind River Mts. near Dubois, Wyoming.

These workshops are especially designed for first-hand experience with nature and focus on the ecological relationships. A sense of responsibility and the care and wise use of our natural resources is stressed. This year the cost is \$640 per two-week session, which includes room and board and anyone over 18 may attend. The four sessions offered this year are:

I 6/19 - 7/1/83                      II 7/3 - 7/15/83  
III 7/17 - 7/27/83                    IV 7/31 - 8/12/83

Contact National Audubon, 555 Audubon Place, Sacramento, CA 95825 or call (916) 481-5332 for forms or other information.



## **SFBBO reports on research, activities**

The San Francisco Bay Bird Observatory (SFBBO) wishes to thank all the SCVAS members who responded to our recent membership appeal. SFBBO is dependent upon financial support and direct volunteer participation from our membership to be able to conduct our many important research projects. In the coming months, our volunteers will be involved in a variety of studies in Palo Alto, Redwood City, Fremont and Alviso. Our research will involve bird banding, censusing, and/or behavior observations.

Our Palo Alto Airport study is continuing through 1983. As was reported in last month's *Avocet*, we will be periodically censusing birds in the Palo Alto baylands and conducting field observations to determine the effect of the airport traffic on the baylands birds. The next census is scheduled for March 20. Volunteers will meet at the Baylands Nature Interpretive Center at 8 a.m.

A study of nesting California Gulls will begin March 16 and continue through July. Volunteers will census and band gull chicks at their nesting site in the south bay. Field work will be conducted in the evenings, at five day intervals.

Studies of the breeding birds of Bair Island will occur from March through July. Our volunteers will be censusing nesting California Least Terns, Black-crowned Night Herons, Snowy Egrets, Great Blue Herons, Marsh Hawks, Short-eared Owls, Burrowing Owls, and ducks.

SFBBO is also planning a study of bird use of Artesian Slough and Coyote Hills; and a study of the importance of freshwater marsh and wetlands to bird populations in south San Francisco Bay.

We have scheduled twice monthly birdwalks, at our Observatory headquarters. Please join us, at 1290 Hope Street, Alviso, for a birding tour and a discussion of Alviso history. Birdwalks start at 8 a.m. on the second and last Saturdays of each month.

General membership meetings are held the first Thursday of each month, 7:30 p.m., at San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge's Environmental Education Center in Alviso. Each meeting will feature a slide show, followed by a discussion of research projects in progress.

We hope that more of you will show your support for SFBBO by becoming members, and also by participating in our research projects. If you are interested in joining our field volunteers, please phone our office at (408) 946-6548.

*Kathy Hobson*

### Open Space exhibit Continues through March

"CELEBRATE OPEN SPACE!", an exhibit commemorating the tenth anniversary of the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District continues at the Santa Clara County Administration Building through March. The exhibit will be located in the main hallway on the first floor, at 70 West Hedding Street in San Jose, Monday through Friday, from 7 a.m. - 5 p.m.



## **Will the Southwest be sacrificed?**

**The Four Corners: A National Sacrifice Area?** a new film on the cultural and ecological impacts of energy development in the American Southwest, will premier in Palo Alto on Sunday, March 6, at 2 p.m. at the New Varsity Theatre - 456 University Ave., and in San Francisco on Monday, March 7, at 7:30 p.m. at the York Theatre, 2234 24th Street, at a benefit for Friends of the Earth. Musician Kate Wolf, Hopi spokesman Thomas Banyacya, and filmmakers Christopher McLeod, Glenn Switkes and Randy Hayes will appear in person.

The Four Corners documents the "hidden costs" of uranium mining and milling, coal stripmining, and synthetic fuels development on the mineral-rich Colorado Plateau, which spans the Four Corners states of Arizona, New Mexico, Colorado and Utah. The Four Corners area is known as "The Golden Circle of National Parks", and it is home to the Hopi and Navajo Indian tribes and Mormon ranching communities. The film asserts that these cultures and their fragile homelands may be laid to waste, sacrificed, to satisfy the energy requirements of industrial society.

Four years in the making, the film was produced with funding from the Arizona Humanities Council, and major support from the University of California at Berkeley's Graduate School of Journalism. The 16mm, color film, is one hour long, and it is narrated by Bay-Area actor Peter Coyote.

For further information contact Toby McLeod, (408) 747-0685 or Juliet Majot at Friends of the Earth, (415) 433-7373.

### **YSI DOCENT TRAINING AT VASONA PARK**

The youth Science Institute at Vasona Park has scheduled a docent training program beginning early in March.

The program is for residents of all ages from senior citizen to young adults. The only prerequisite is an interest in sharing nature with children at Vasona Park. No prior teaching experience is necessary and there are no membership requirements for the free course.

The Institute will teach basic ecological principles and how those principles are working locally, as well as provide instruction on how to work with children.

To reserve a space in the class call (408) 356-4945.

Classes will be held on Thursdays, March 3, 10, 17, 24 and April 7 and 14 from 9 a.m. to 12 noon at the YSI Vasona Discovery Center. Leader is Carolyn Tzitz.



# County Parks Running Out of Money

As the rains pour — how distant seem the peaceful hours spent birding along the hillside trails, beside the ponds or overlooking the salt marshes in the Bay Area. Forty percent of SCVAS trips scheduled between September and March 1982 - 83 have been to Santa Clara County parks.

Our County Parks serve the needs of birders and hundreds of thousands of other people — from the sailors and windsurfers on Vasona Lake, to picnickers in the Redwood groves of Mt. Madonna Park, or equestrians on the riding trails in Grant Ranch. The park department estimates that in 1981 - 82 there were over 9½ million visits to county parks. Results of a recent poll show that 87 percent of the county residents believe that our county park system will be valuable to future generations.\*

At this time, that future is unclear. The money to build and operate a great parks system is running out. The park charter fund (principal source of money for acquisition, operation and development of parkland was established in 1978 and expires in 1986 - 87. By a three to one majority voters directed that property tax money (10 cents per \$100 assessed value) be placed in a parks fund. Voter commitment to preserving open space was implemented by the provision that 50 percent shall be used for the acquisition of new parklands. Not more than 30 percent may be used for maintenance and operation.

Until passage of Proposition 13, park operation funds had been supplemented by the county general fund. This year, despite the parks popularity, the operating budget was limited to 30 percent of the park fund and whatever fees and other revenues the park department could raise from parking or leasing to concessionaires. Our county parks have suffered as a result. Personnel has been cut from 226 in 1976 - 77 to 102 in 1981 - 82, more than a 52 percent reduction in staff. At the same time the total land within the park system grew to 33,000 acres and park use increased by 800 percent.

The budget deficit for park operations has been with us since 1976 and will be with us for years to come. In some instances volunteers have already stepped in to fill the gap. Those of you, who visited Grant Ranch in January and talked with Don and Judy Mason, know about their leadership in the Grant Ranch improvement projects. Doni Hubbard and Joan Throgmorton are discussing ways in which horseback riders could help the parks with trail maintenance and park patrol. The American Trail Foundation

## POSTER AVAILABLE

"Mount St. Helens — Monument to Earth's Power and Spirit" is the theme of a poster available celebrating the new volcanic national monument. The magnificent poster showing a post eruption scene at sunset, with a crescent moon rising and purple shadows blanketing the landscape, may be purchased for \$6.25 postpaid from the Mount St. Helens Protective Association, 2857 Rose Valley Loop Road, Kelso, WA 98626. Proceeds from the sale are being used to offset the lobbying and legal expenses incurred during the campaign to establish the national monument.

contributed money for the repair of horse trails in Almaden Quicksilver County Park. Volunteers have worked for ten years on the County Trails and Pathways committee. A New Almaden Quicksilver County Park Association is forming this month.

The dream of having a great county park system may or may not come true, depending on decisions which are made in the next three years. Purchase of new parklands must proceed according to a plan which reflects the values of the citizens of this county. Time is running out. A new Director of Parks, Larry Norris, has been appointed and will begin work on February 28, 1983. The former director of Parks and Open Space and Cultural Affairs for Santa Cruz County, he begins his leadership at a time of change and will respond to the concerns he hears expressed by park users. If Audubon members recognize particular needs which they feel the parks system should continue to meet, now is the time to come forward.

\*The Committee for Green Foothills opinion pool. Results of it will be released soon.

*Linda Elkind  
Committee for Green Foothills  
Legislative Observer*

## NEST RECORD CARD PROGRAM CORNELL LABORATORY OF ORNITHOLOGY

Following is a list of participants from our Chapter and numbers of nests observed during the 1982 nesting season:

Betty Groce: 91 nests on Stanford Campus (21 species incl. 22 Rock Doves, 3 Mourning Doves, 1 Kestrel, 4 Acorn Woodpeckers, 6 Bullock's Orioles, 3 Calif. Thrashers, 4 Robins, 19 Barn Swallows, and 1 Rough-winged Swallow).

Mary Lou Burgin: 35 nests at Stevens Creek Park (18 species with 2 Nuttall's Woodpeckers, 1 Flicker, 1 White-breasted Nuthatch, 1 Blue-Grey Gnatcatcher, 1 Western Pewee, 1 House Wren, 4 Solitary Vireos, and 5 Warbling Vireos).

Dick Mewaldt: 33 nests at Hart Mountain National Wildlife Refuge in Lake Co., Ore., including 2 Golden Eagles, 2 Prairie Falcons, and 1 Long-eared Owl.

Marlys Richman: 18 nests from Cottonwood, CA, in Tehama Co., incl. quail, killdeer, Western Kingbird, Tree Swallows, and Northern Orioles.

Jim & Sue Liskovec: 16 nests incl. Hooded Oriole from their back yard; Black-headed Grosbeak and Hairy Woodpecker at Lassen; and White-headed Woodpecker at Yosemite.

Manette Wittgenstein: 8 nests (4 species on San Thomas Aquinas Creek in Saratoga and 1 Gt. Blue Heron nest from Chesbro Reservoir.)

Ron LeCount: 4 nests from his back yard (House Finches and Robins).

Nancy McComb: 1 Robin nest at her front door.

If you would like nest-record cards and instructions, call Gail Cheeseman at (408) 867-1371.

## Open Space events

In commemoration of the 10th Anniversary of the Mid-peninsula Regional Open Space District, the following free special events and hikes have been scheduled:

- Every Sunday 2 p.m. **San Andreas Fault Trail**, two-hour walk with MROSD Docent, learn about geologic features of earthquakes. Los Trancos Open Space Preserve, on Page Mill Road, five miles west of Hwy 280. No reservations needed.
- March 19 10 a.m. Three mile leisurely hike on **Stevens Creek Nature Trail** at Monte Bello Open Space Preserve. MROSD Docent will talk about plant and animal life, and cultural history of the area. No reservations needed. Meet at Monte Bello parking lot on Page Mill Road, seven miles west of Hwy 280. Bring lunch and liquid.
- March 20 4:45 a.m. Dawn hike to **Welcome Spring at Windmill Pasture**, and potluck breakfast at the Hostel afterwards. Meet at Hidden Villa Ranch, on Moody Road two miles west of Hwy 280, in Los Altos. For information call (415) 948-4690.
- March 26 9 a.m. Ten-mile hike through **Stevens Creek Canyon** and Monte Bello Ridge with Dick Bishop, MROSD Board member. Meet at Monte Bello parking lot, Page Mill Road seven miles west of Hwy 280.
- March 14 - April 30 **Wildflower Walks** at Edgewood County Park (off Hwy 280, near Redwood City). Specially arranged for groups of five or more persons, by request. Call (415) 965-4743.
- April 17 - June 12 **Wildflower Walks** at Los Trancos and Monte Bello Open Space Preserves, every Sunday at 1:30 p.m. No reservations necessary. Meet at Los Trancos parking lot, on Page Mill Road, seven miles west of Hwy 280.
- May 14 11 a.m. **MROSD 10th Anniversary Grand Picnic on Black Mountain**. Hikers, horse-back riders, walkers, runners, bicyclists, kite flyers, photographers, musicians, artists, and nature-lovers of all kinds are welcome to celebrate. Bring your own picnic. Call (415) 965-4743 for more information, and to find out about parking restrictions and shuttle service.

### PESTICIDE BAN ASKED

The Wildlife Society, the organization of professional wildlife biologists, has called for a complete ban on field use of the pesticides endrin and heptachlor. Studies in Montana and Washington, says the society, have shown these chemicals are a serious threat to wildlife.



## UC research trips

The University of California is offering a chance to spend a few weeks this spring observing the bizarre mating dances of the Sierra Sage Grouse in the Sierras. Another U.C. excursion will document the marine habitats of brown pelicans in Baja.

The Berkeley based program specializes in matching interested amateurs from the general public with University of California researchers to carry out field work. Under the direction of Dr. Jack Bradbury of U.C. San Diego, participants in the Sage Grouse project will spend three weeks in the Eastern Sierra conducting a variety of field tests and observations aimed at gaining better understanding of sexual selection among the Sage Grouse. A variety of methods, including cross country skiing and horses will be used to reach the remote mating grounds.

Participants in the Pelican study will assist Dr. Daniel Anderson of U.C. Davis document the marine habitat during the period of post-breeding as part of a long term study of the marine ecology of the Gulf of California. Field work during the two-week project will take place on both land and sea.

No special academic or field experience is necessary for either expedition. Each participant helps cover the cost of the research by making a tax-deductible contribution to the project which also covers their own expenses for food and lodging. Each project will be conducted in two sessions: Sage Grouse, March 26 - April 15 and April 17 - May 6; Pelicans, July 23 - August 5 and August 8 - 21.

For a free catalog describing these and other expeditions planned for the spring and summer of 1983, contact: University Research Expeditions Program (UREP), Desk Au, University of California, Berkeley, CA 94720. Or call (415) 642-6586.

### REFUGE MAP

A map showing the location of all National Wildlife Refuges has been prepared by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. It comes folded to roadmap size, and on the back in chart form is basic information about each refuge. The "Visitor's Guide to the National Wildlife Refuges" is available for \$2.25 from the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20240 (specify No. 024-010-00529-7).

# Classes and Field Trips

**Owling at Filoli Estate**, Natural History Seminars being offered by the Sequoia Audubon Society of San Mateo County, Saturday, March 19 at Filoli Estate in Woodside. Instructor: Steve Laymon, a recognized expert in avian identification. The fee is \$10 per person or \$15 per couple. Advance registration and fee payment are required due to the size limitation. Call Donna Kirsacko at (415) 592-7888, or leave a message on the Sequoia Activities Phone at (415) 344-4577. Registration can also be made through the mail by sending your name, address, phone number, name of the seminar, and a check payable to the Sequoia Audubon Society to Sequoia Seminars, P. O. Box 1131, Burlingame, CA 94010.

**Wild, Edible and Medicinal Plants of California**, March 4, 9 a.m. - 12 noon. Offered by the Youth Science Institute of San Jose. Fee: \$6 for nonmembers. Registration deadline is one week in advance. Call (408) 258-4322.

**Desolation Wilderness cross country skiing**, March 28 - April 1. Pre-trip orientation, March 19, 10 a.m. Fee: \$80 for members; \$90 for nonmembers. All food, community equipment, transportation, and leadership is provided. For more information call YSI at (408) 258-4322.

**Anza Borego State Park**, March 27 - April 3. Offered by The Youth Science Institute in San Jose. Leader: Executive Director David Johnston. Areas of interest include desert wildlife, wildflowers, natural history, photography, hiking, and birding. Fee: \$85 for members and \$104 for nonmembers. Pre-trip meeting March 19 at 10 a.m. For more information and registration call YSI at (408) 258-4322.

**Introduction to Birding**, Nature Expeditions Institute. Dr. Judith Wagner of California State University, Hayward, instructor. Class sessions scheduled for Tuesdays, May 3, 10, and 17, 7 - 9:30 p.m. Half-day field trips will be Saturdays, May 7, 14, and 21. Class is designed for the person who is interested in birds but isn't sure how to get started identifying them. By the end of the course students will be able to recognize most of the common local birds and will know how to find and identify new species. Field trips include the Stanford University campus (for familiar suburban birds), the Jasper Ridge Preserve (grassland, woodland, chaparral, fresh water), and the Palo Alto Baylands (salt marsh and mudflat). Contact instructor at 233 Jardin Dr., Los Altos, 94022, phone (415) 941-7586.

**Plant Life of Central California**, Nature Expeditions Institute. Dr. Judith Wagner of California State University, Hayward, instructor. Class sessions scheduled for Tuesdays, April 12 and 19, 7 - 9:30 p.m. Field trip will be Saturday, April 23, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Introduction to plant communities of California, with special emphasis on those found locally. Slide presentations. Discussion of California's diversity of plant life. Contact instructor at 233 Jardin Drive, Los Altos, 94022, phone (415) 941-7586.



Sixteen field trips are being offered in connection with the National Audubon Convention next year in Estes Park, Colorado. The convention opens Sunday, August 28th, with a choice of eight one-day trips on that date. There are seven two to five-day trips that end on the 28th, and a four-day backpacking trip and five-day river trip starting the day the convention breaks up, September 2nd.

Nature Explorations Tuleyome activities for spring include:

San Francisco Bird Observatory, March 12, birding with Michael Rigney, executive director.

Bair Island Nesting Birds, May 7 and 21, also with Michael Rigney. Help with researchers' tasks

San Antonio Lake, May 14, inland from Big Sur. Kevin Monahan, leader. Flat, outboard motorboats will be used.

For more information on these and other trips call or write Nature Explorations: 2253 Park Blvd., Palo Alto 94306, (415) 324-8737. There is a fee for programs and advance registration is necessary.



## Travel

**Birding in England and Scotland.** The University of California at Davis is sponsoring a conducted tour of the prime birding areas of England and southern Scotland this spring from Sunday, May 15, to Monday, May 30. Fee for the ground portion of the trip is \$1,120 including all accommodations, meals, transportation, within England and Scotland. Round trip group airfare is estimated to be about \$800 each. For more information call (916) 752-3098 in Davis. An unofficial local contact is Frank Farran, (408) 252-3874.

**Tour of Galapagos Archipelago**, featuring backpacking ascent of Volcano Alcedo to view tortoises. Also tropical regions of Ecuador and magnificent bird viewing at Tinalandia. Depart San Francisco 6/15 - 7/3, \$2,987. Limited to 10. Led by Stanford biologist, Dr. Donna Peehl (415) 327-6922.

Gail and Doug Cheeseman have two more places on their 40 day trip to Australia and New Zealand. It will include two weeks in tropical Queensland (three full days out on the Great Barrier Reef), Darwin, Alice Springs and Ayers Rock in the Northern Territory, a week in Victoria, three days in Tasmania, a pelagic trip out of Sydney, and a week in New Zealand in Christchurch, Dunedin, Milford Sound, and Mt. Cook. Dates: Aug. 4 - Sept. 12, land costs \$3900, air fare approximately \$2300. They also have room for two more people to do the first 18 days and experience the incredible contrasts of Queensland's diverse habitats. Dates: Aug. 4 - 21, land costs \$1900, air fare \$1150.



## SANTA CLARA VALLEY AUDUBON SOCIETY, Inc.

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General membership meetings are held the third Wednesday of each month, at 7:30 p.m. 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.

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