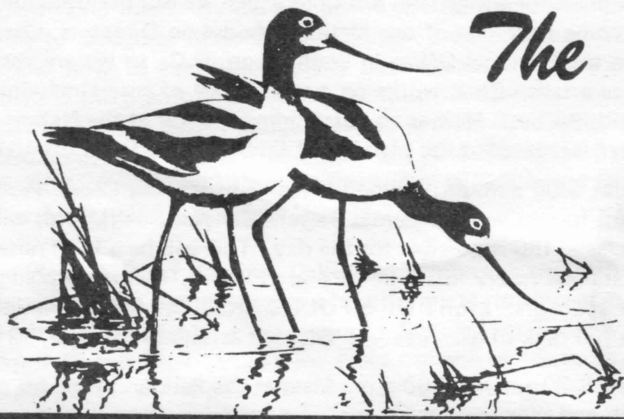


SANTA CLARA VALLEY AUDUBON SOCIETY

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 4

April 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. If you have any questions about a field trip please call the leader or the field trip coordinator for the month.

Field trip coordinator for March – Richard Jeffers (415) 493-7531.

March 26 **Mines Road and San Antonio Valley**, full day, Saturday, 8:00 a.m. Meet at Tesla Road and Mines Road in Livermore. Take I-680 north to I-580; east on I-580 to Livermore Avenue; south on Livermore through town. Two miles from the flagpole in the center of Livermore, Livermore becomes Tesla Road. In another half mile Tesla intersects Mines Road. Carpooling is strongly recommended because of limited pull-off space and length of trip (up to 150 miles). Bring lunch, liquids and a full tank of gas. Limited facilities en route. Heavy rain cancels trip. We will be looking for resident species such as Roadrunner, Phainopepla, Lewis Woodpecker, Sage and Rufous-crowned Sparrows, Golden Eagle, and possible Turkey! Please call about road conditions because of this winter's heavy rains. Leader: Don Schmoltdt (408) 251-6133. **THIS TRIP NOT PREVIOUSLY ANNOUNCED.**

Field trip coordinator for April – Don Starks (408) 371-9720.

April 2 **Deer Hollow Farm**, Saturday, 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. **THIS IS A CHANGE OF DATE FROM PREVIOUS AVOCET ANNOUNCEMENT.**

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 **Pinnacles National Monument**, full day, Sunday, 9:00 a.m. Meet at the Visitor Center on the east side. From San Jose take Hwy 101 south to Hwy 25; south on Hwy 25 approximately 40 miles to Hwy 146; south on 146 approximately five miles to Monument. Entrance fee. Bring lunch and liquids. At least two miles of easy walking for birds of the chaparral, early migrants, and good wildflowers. Phone inquiries no later than April 7. Heavy rain will cancel trip. Leader: Phyllis Swanson (408) 274-2349.

April 12 **Bird Discussion Group**, 9:30 a.m., home of Eve Case, 20537 Verde Vista Lane, Saratoga. Topic: Accipiter Hawks.

April 13 **Sanborn Park**, Wednesday, 8:30 a.m. From Saratoga go west on Big Basin Way to Saratoga Springs; left on Sanborn Road one mile, right into parking lot. Leader: Frank Farran (408) 252-3874.

- April 16 **Boat trip on Elkhorn Slough**, half day, Saturday, 7:45 a.m. Meet at the Moss Landing Marine Lab. Take Hwy 17 south to Hwy 1; south on Hwy 1 to Moss Landing. Turn right just past the PG&E stacks and follow signs to the Marine Lab just over the bridge. Two Boston Whalers and a Zodiac will take us up the slough looking for waterbirds in eclipse and breeding plumage. **LIMIT OF 18 PEOPLE.** For reservation send a check for \$12 (\$2.50 of that will go to the Mono Lake Fund) plus a self-addressed stamped envelope to Gail Cheeseman, 20800 Kittredge Road, Saratoga 95070. Please call Gail to arrange car pooling. Leaders: Gail & Doug Cheeseman (408) 867-1371 and Bernadette Allen of the Moss Landing Marine Lab (408) 462-6258.
- April 20 **GENERAL MEETING**, Wednesday, refreshments at 7:30 p.m., meeting at 8 p.m., Lucy Evans Baylands Interpretive Center. Last month we tried out a great, new place for the general meetings which we can use beginning next fall. Back at the Palo Alto Baylands Center, come hear one of our National Audubon Directors, Chris Palmer. He is Director of Energy and Environment in the National Office in Washington, D.C., so we are very fortunate to have him here on the West Coast to give a talk. Chris works on a wide range of issues including conservation, nuclear power, solar energy, synfuels, and utilities. He was an outstanding speaker at the National meeting in Monterey last year. The Interpretive Center is located at the east end of Embarcadero Road off 101.
- April 23 **SCVAS BIG DAY**, predawn to dusk, Saturday. Meet at 6:00 a.m. at parking lot No. 3 in Stevens Creek Park. From I-280 in Cupertino take Foothill Blvd. west about four miles (it becomes Stevens Canyon Road). This will be a fast paced trip to see a maximum number of species – 150 is possible for the day. This will be a fund raiser for the San Francisco Bay Bird Observatory which sustained heavy losses in the March floods. Minimum pledge 5 cents per species – either from participants or their sponsors. **LIMIT OF 5 FULL CARS.** Call for reservation and information on owling. Bring lunch, liquids and a full tank of gas. Leader: Richard Jeffers (415) 493-7531.
- April 27 **Field Trip North, San Francisco Watershed**, Wednesday, 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Meet at the Park and Ride lot at Page Mill Road and I-280 by 8:30 a.m. Bring a lunch and plenty of gas if you plan to drive. We will carpool, driving north to Millbrae Avenue, and in a few miles to Pilarcitos Lake where there is good birding and a nice picnic area. Those who wish may hike around from there. The permit limits the number of cars and people, and the group must drive in and out together. An **ALTERNATE TRIP** from the same meeting place will be planned if we can't obtain the Watershed trip permit because of the severe winter storms. For information and reservations for either trip please phone Leader: Kay McCann (415) 327-4138 or Dolores Norton (415) 941-1666.
- April 30 **Coyote River Park**, Morgan Hill. Half day, Saturday, 8:00 a.m. Meet in the parking lot. Take Hwy 101 south to Cochran Road in Morgan Hill (this is where 101 jogs east at the Capri Restaurant). Continue east on Cochran to the well-marked parking lot. Bring liquids. We will be looking for woodland and chapparal species of the east foothills. Call in case of rain. Leader: Susie Formenti (408) 779-8694.

Field trip coordinator for May – Gail Cheeseman (408) 867-1371.

- May 1 **Logan Ranch**, full day, Sunday, 9:00 a.m. Meet at the Smith Creek Ranger Station on Mt. Hamilton Road. From I-680 in San Jose take Alum Rock Avenue east to Mt. Hamilton Road; right on Mt. Hamilton Road approximately 14 miles. Moderate to strenuous hiking for about three miles. Bring lunch and liquids. We can expect over 50 species including eight species of warblers. Call leader for carpooling. Leader, rain or shine: Don Schmoltdt (408) 251-6133.
- May 7 **Birdwalk for Beginners**, Alum Rock Park, half day, Saturday, 9:00 a.m. Meet in the parking lot across from the Youth Science Institute. From I-680 in San Jose take Alum Rock Avenue to the end of the road at Y.S.I. One mile of easy walking. We will be looking for migrating and nesting birds. Bring liquids and lunch; we will eat at the picnic area. Call leader for carpooling and if raining on trip morning. Leader: Bob Roadcap (408) 377-6020.
- May 8 **Mines Road**, full day, Sunday, 9:00 a.m. Meet at Tesla Road and Mines Road in Livermore. See March 26 for directions. Carpooling strongly recommended because of limited pulloff space and length of trip (up to 150 miles); please call leader or carpool coordinators. Bring lunch and liquids. Beginning birders also welcome on this trip. We will be looking for Lewis' Woodpecker, Phainopepla, Lawrence's Goldfinch, possibly Roadrunner and Costa's Hummingbird. Leader: Bruce Barrett (408) 268-7097.
- May 14 **Birdwalk for Beginners**, Rancho San Antonio, half day, Saturday, 8:15 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 liquids. Three miles of easy walking. We will be looking for the typical woodland species, with emphasis on calls, songs, and breeding activity. Call if raining on trip morning. Leader: Pete LaTourrette (415) 961-2741.
- May 14 **Pelagic trip (Shearwater Journeys)**, Saturday, 7:45 a.m. Monterey Bay, Fisherman's Wharf, return 3 p.m. \$24 per person. Reserve with a check payable to Shearwater Journeys, 362 Lee Street, Santa Cruz 95060 (408) 425-8111.
- May 15 **Diablo Range Transect**, full day, Sunday, 8:00 a.m. Meet at Smith Creek Ranger Station. See May 1 for directions. On this driving trip over Mt. Hamilton we hope to see Golden Eagles, landbird migration at its peak, and nesting of some of the rarer resident species. Carpooling highly recommended because of limited pulloffs and length of trip (150 miles). Beginning birders welcome. Bring lunch, liquids and a full tank of gas. Call leader for further information, carpool arrangements, and if raining heavily trip morning. Leader: Bill Bousman (415) 322-5282.

Classes and Field Trips

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.

Bird Song and its complexities seminar sponsored by the Sequoia Audubon Society on Saturday and Sunday, May 14 and 15. Dr. Luis Baptista of the California Academy of Sciences will discuss the nature of bird songs and identifying birds by ear May 14, 7:30 - 9:30 p.m. at Allstate Savings & Loan, 1820 S. Grant, San Mateo; May 15 field trip 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Call Donna Kirsacko at (415) 592-7888, leave a message at (415)344-4577 or send name, address, phone number, and a check payable to Sequoia Audubon Society to Sequoia Seminars, P.O. Box 1131, Burlingame 94010. Cost is \$10/person, \$15/couple.

Birding Field Trips Class, April 26 - May 31, Tuesdays, 9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Alice Hoch, instructor. Registration at 9:30 a.m., April 26, Fremont Adult School, 4700 Calaveras Avenue, Fremont. Be prepared to bird-watch that morning. For further information call Community Education at the Fremont Adult School, (415)791-5841.

Golden Trout Workshop, three one-week Golden Trout Workshops will be held in the Sierra July 24 through August 13, 1983. They are sponsored by members of the Pasadena, Santa Barbara, San Bernardino Valley, San Fernando Valley, and Tulare County chapters of the National Audubon Society. An informal field natural history program, consisting of naturalist-led hikes by resident naturalists, will be offered, with visiting guest naturalists at some sessions. The camp is located in the Golden Trout Wilderness, in the southern portion of the High Sierra, on the eastern watershed, at an altitude of 10,000 feet. For details, write or call: Mrs. Cindi McKernan, 40 Sherril Lane, Redlands, CA 92373, (714) 793-7897.



CLASS FOR H.S. STUDENTS

The San Francisco Bay Bird Observatory is offering a unique opportunity for high school age students to experience the rewards of active field research. Through our bird study course, students will be guided through research projects concerning bird biology. Topics may include territoriality, breeding behavior, food habits and migration. Upon completion, students will be encouraged to participate in the observatory's research activities.

The six-week bird study course is planned for Saturday mornings, April 23rd through May 28th, 8 a.m. to 11 a.m., at the headquarters of the SFBBO in the historic Bayside Cannery Building in Alviso. Cost for high school students is only \$30 which includes student membership in the bird observatory. For further information and registration, call SFBBO at (408) 946-6548 or (408) 867-3791. Enrollment is limited.

Travel

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.

NATIONAL SPONSORS TRIPS

National Audubon Society is launching a series of international explorations beginning this summer. Destinations include Alaska, Assateague/Chincoteague, VA, Britain, Israel, South Africa, Tanzania, Hawaii, the Everglades, the Pacific Northwest, Nova Scotia, and Arizona.

For information write to National Audubon Society Explorations, Travel Programs operated by Bryan Tours, Inc., P. O. Box 5221, Jackson, MS 39216. Lynn at the chapter office also has information on the trips, (415) 329-1811.



STAFF OPENINGS AT AUDUBON CAMPS

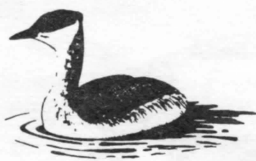
There are a number of staff openings for instructors and leaders at Audubon camps and field seminars this coming summer. Job descriptions range from teaching ornithology and geology to kitchen helper.

Camps which have openings include Connecticut, Wyoming, Field Ornithology in Mexico, and Youth Ecology programs in Colorado, Maine, and Wisconsin.

For details and application information contact Lynn at the chapter office (415) 329-1811.

FIELD NOTES

April is our peak migration month. The small insectivorous birds that migrate north through California tend to follow the mountain ranges and rely on the spring hatches of insects for their food. In general migration is more pronounced in the interior coastal ranges (Diablo Range) than the coast range (Santa Cruz Mountains), but there is a great deal of year-to-year variation. In the east the warbler migration appear as waves, where the passage of a cold front and the resulting northwest winds will ground these nocturnal flyers. Without cold fronts migration simply isn't seen in the east. Here the path is more complex. With our prevailing northwest winds there is some evidence that migratory movement is more inland. If the winds drop, movement is more coastal. Cold fronts are usually weaker and the fallout is less obvious. One of the best ways to observe the migration is to pick a local area with a good density of live and blue oaks and visit your selected spot for an hour or half an hour on a regular basis from late March to the end of May. As you gain familiarity with the resident bird songs and more common migrants, the rare species will stand out. In my area of Menlo Park there are good stands of oaks and I have walked here once to twice a week for the last eight springs. The common warblers are Orange-crowned which peaks around the 20th of April; Yellow-rumped, about 10 April; and Wilson's which peaks at the end of the month. I usually see 1 - 2 of the other species each season. In order of their median dates: Townsend's Warbler (8 April), Black-throated Gray Warbler (17 April), Nashville Warbler (24 April) and Yellow Warbler (16 May). I've only seen the Hermit Warbler once, so I can't comment on its peak. The Wool Ranch Transect data show median dates in the Diablo Range 1 - 2 weeks later than my flatland location. Very often the resident insectivorous species are already on territory when the migrants come through. Using Warbling Vireo as an example, territorial birds are singing in Monte Bello OSP by the end of March, but the first migrants I see locally are at the end of April and the median date is 8 May.



Good Luck, Dave

Sometimes, approving a motion can be very difficult, especially when that motion is the resignation of such a valuable Audubon member as Dave Nauer.

Dave has been associated with SCVAS since the early '70's. He has served as publicity chairman, director, *Avocet* editor, and most recently as treasurer. Dave's job has become very demanding and precludes his active participation in SCVAS.

With sincere regrets, the Board of Directors has accepted Dave's resignation. We'll miss his energy and humor at our meetings!

Bob Houghton has been appointed to replace Dave as treasurer. Betty Groce will fill Bob's vacant directorship.

Phyllis Swanson

Bill Bousman

The **Least Bittern** continues to be seen at the Palo Alto Baylands, at least through 27 February (RBA Tape). The rain has dispersed our duck species and rarities are more difficult to find. However, five male **Blue-winged Teal** were found in the Flood Control Basin on 31 January (RBA Tape). Gail Cheeseman reports a **White-winged Scoter** on Vasona Reservoir on 20 January. The reservoirs are always good spots for storm-blown ocean birds. Two **Red-shouldered Hawks** seen 16 February by Dick Stovel (DS) at Stanford have been regular there lately. Clark Blake points out that the Palo Alto CBC data shows this species is becoming more common. An adult **Bald Eagle** at Calaveras Reservoir 24 February is typical for this location in winter. An **Ash-throated Flycatcher** on Page Mill Road in Palo Alto on 18 February was probably wintering (Phyllis Browning). Any flycatcher found in the winter should be carefully observed and described as some southern species are more likely here in the winter than our summer resident birds, for instance Tropical Kingbird instead of Western Kingbird. A **Violet-green Swallow** at Moffett Field 9 February was probably wintering, but the large numbers along the front of the Diablo Range 24 February were migrants. A female **Black-throated Gray Warbler** at Rancho San Antonio OSP 20 February probably wintered (Pete LaTourrette). Two **Western Tanagers** at Stanford's Cactus Garden on 16 February (DS) make this an exceptional winter with at least five records. Two **Sharp-tailed Sparrows** and a **Swamp Sparrow** remain at the Baylands, at least through 27 February (RBA Tape).

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

HAZARDOUS WASTE CONFERENCE

"Living in a Chemical World" is the subject of an all-day conference to be presented at Foothill College on Saturday, April 23. The conference is co-sponsored by the Peninsula Conservation Center Foundation (PCCF) and the Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society.

Bringing together representatives from industry, government, the medical and legal communities, environmental groups, and the public, the conference will address such issues as the disposal and storage of chemicals in our area, health effects and the assessment of risk, and the current status of chemical regulation.

Speakers include Sunnyvale Vice-Mayor Lynn Briody; Glenn Affleck, Technical Regulations Manager from Hewlett-Packard; and Michael Belliveau from Citizens for a Better Environment.

Price of admission is \$10.00 (\$5.00 for students/seniors). Box lunches will be provided for an additional \$4.00, with advance registration. Available to all participants will be a packet containing background information, including a glossary and bibliography.

For more information, or to register in advance, please contact the PCCF at (415) 328-5313.

Malka Kopell
Program Director (PCCF)

SFBBO Hit Hard By Flood

Just when things were really rolling at the San Francisco Bay Bird Observatory — an education program forming and many important research projects under way — Mother Nature showed us that she had other ideas. As this article is being written, our offices, furniture and much of our library lies under seven feet of flood water in Alviso. We worked furiously to save what we could — as did all the other residents of embattled Alviso. The waters simply rose too quickly to save everything and at some point your life becomes slightly more important than saving valuable journals. We all must now wait and watch as this devastating flood chooses its own time to retreat and allow us to take full stock of the damage.

One thing which is not a question at this point is the dedication of all who worked so hard to rebuild the San Francisco Bay Bird Observatory. We will emerge from the flood wiser, stronger, and as committed as before to the goals of the organization. This winter has brought about changes in our bay ecosystem which may have lasting effects. Flood waters being pumped from the Alviso area are carrying heavy loads of spilled fuel, toxic chemicals, dead animals and accumulated raw sewage. What effect will this have on the food chain of the south bay? Many aspects of this flood need to be studied and we intend to be there to conduct those studies.

We appeal to SCVAS members to help us recover. We desperately need your physical, moral and monetary support. Most of our office equipment was damaged and needs replacing. Our building, of course, will need extensive reconstruction. The Wildlife Refuge owns the building and part of the cost may be defrayed by emergency appropriations from Congress, but many hours of cleanup will be needed before any work can be done. Most of all, the many projects under way must be continued. We need people now more than ever, to help with field work, cleanup and reconstruction. **WE KNOW WE CAN COUNT ON SCVAS MEMBERS TO COME THROUGH WHEN THE CHIPS ARE DOWN.** If you would like to volunteer your services you can contact us at our temporary headquarters — (408) 867-3791. If you are not now a member this is the time to become one and see your membership dues do some good. Thank you in advance for the help that you will be giving the Bird Observatory in the coming months.

*Michael Rigney
Executive Director*



SUMMER YOUTH CAMPS

Looking for a nature education experience for a 10-to-14 year-old student this summer? The Audubon Youth Ecology Camp will be held June 19 - 29 at the Audubon Camp in Maine. For information and application forms, write to Audubon Camps, National Audubon Society, 4150 Darley, Suite 5, Boulder, Colorado 80303. Also, the Northwoods Audubon Center is offering some one-and-two-week wilderness school sessions. Write to the center at Route 1, Box 288, Sandstone, Minnesota 55072.

Eating Crow?



*By Pat Quinn
Director Wildlife Rehabilitation Center,
Monterey County SPCA*

We recently received a copy of the California Hunting Regulations for resident game birds of 1982-83. We discovered that the State Fish & Game Commission has now opened up a hunting season on the "common crow."

Egads, what next? I've spent a great deal of my life, almost half of it, caring for wildlife in one form or another. And during that time, I've treated dozens of crows with various injuries and in different stages of infancy.

I've found these birds to be quick and intelligent, funny and capricious in nature. I have a lot of respect for their ability to survive and brave all of the elements. It came somewhat as a shock to find out that they can be legally hunted. It means that SPCAs and wildlife centers everywhere, including ours, will be treating an increasing number of crows with gunshot wounds.

And here all this time I was thinking that people had enough things to shoot at for the sake of "game management". After all, the hunting seasons include deer, pig, quail, pheasant, doves, pigeons, ducks, etc., etc. I guess you could go on forever naming animals on a hunting list, but who in the world is into "eating crow?" (Published in the December issue of the monthly newsletter of the MCSPCA.)

From the Sanderling Monterey Audubon

NOMINATIONS FOR CHAPTER OFFICER '83 - '84

Thanks to Lynn Tennefoss, Allen Royer, Courtenay Dawson-Roberts and Frank Farran for helping develop Policies and Procedures for the Nominating Committee. The Committee will operate much more efficiently with these good, solid guidelines.

Armed with our new Policies and Procedures, the Nominating Committee has developed the following slate of directors and officers for your voting approval at the May general meeting. Write-in candidates from the floor will be welcomed at that time.

President: Sue Liskovec
Vice President I: Kevin Monahan
Vice President II: Don Schmoltd
Recording Secretary: Donna Zetterquist
Corresponding Secretary: Jean Clark

Directors for '83 - '86
Richard Jeffers
Linda Wills
Betsy Blais

Phyllis Swanson

Baylands Discovery Activities

April is "Redwood City Baylands Discovery Month". Friends of Redwood City plans boat trips to the Wildlife Refuge on outer Bair Island, a slide show and lecture on April 22 by Mike Rigney who has done research there, hikes and bike trips on the bayfront, presentations of the film "Shall the Bay Live?" to service clubs, and displays at the Main Library and County Building in Redwood City.

Weekend hike and bike schedule for April:

April 9 & 10 Meet at the intersection of Redwood Shores and Bridge Parkway in Redwood Shores for a two-hour leisurely walk to identify birds along Steinberger Slough at 11 a.m.

April 16 & 17 Meet at the parking lot of Charlie Brown's Restaurant off Seaport Blvd. for a three-hour bike ride to become familiar with the Port of Redwood City at 10 a.m.

April 23 & 24 Meet at the intersection of Redwood Shores and Bridge Parkway in Redwood Shores for a two-hour leisurely walk to identify birds along Steinberger Slough at 11 a.m.

April 30 & May 1 Meet at the parking lot of Charlie Brown's Restaurant off Seaport Blvd. for a three-hour bike ride to become familiar with the Port of Redwood City at 10 a.m.

For further information contact Wim DeWitt (415) 369-8416.



SCVAS Children's Workshop

Conservation for Children, a workshop developed by Marilyn Bodourian under a Title IV-C grant, will be offered by SCVAS on Thursday, April 21, at Hidden Villa in Los Altos 4 - 5:30 p.m.

The project, designed originally for Cupertino schools, will be conducted by its author and Mary Hallesy of the Hidden Villa staff. It is a "practical and economical program designed to increase awareness, understanding and action of elementary school children". Each participant receives a hard cover grade level guide worth \$15 which contains 100 pages of worksheets for duplication by the classroom teacher. Lessons correlate with language arts, math, social studies, music and art. Enrollment is limited to 20. Fee is \$5.

For further information contact the SCVAS office at (415) 329-1811.



Proposed Regulations A Threat to Falcons

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service wants to legalize trade in captive-bred birds of prey. The proposed regulations were published January 12th in the *Federal Register* with a 30-day period allowed for public comment. National Audubon Society objects both to the proposal and to the speed with which Fish and Wildlife is attempting to ram it through. By the time conservationists learned about the plan, little time was left.

The reasonable-sounding purpose of the proposal is to aid the breeders who raise falcons and other raptors for government programs to reintroduce these birds to the wild. These breeders could offset their expenses by selling some of their captive-bred birds to falconers. But conservationists believe that it would be impossible to prevent unscrupulous dealers from using the new regulations to hide illegal sale of wild raptors; a falcon chick taken from the wild could be fitted with a band identifying it as a captive-bred bird. Illegal trade in raptors is hard to stop because a falcon may bring \$10,000 or more, and the law enforcement division of the Fish and Wildlife Service is already overburdened.

National Audubon sought an extension of the comment period, but was turned down. Audubon members are urged to write their senators (U.S. Senate, Washington, D.C. 20510) and representative (House of Representatives, Washington, D.C. 20515), and object to the proposal and the inadequate time allowed for comment.

Mono Lake Court Victory

We won a major victory in our fight to save Mono Lake on February 17, 1983. The justices of the California Supreme Court unanimously decided in our favor on the issue of applying the "public trust doctrine" to Mono Lake.

The second point of the decision, the right of National Audubon to go to court without going through the administrative appeals process was also decided in our favor with only one dissenting vote.

The strong, continuing support of Audubon chapters such as SCVAS has been absolutely critical in maintaining this important lawsuit. The Supreme Court "battle" has been won, but the "war" to protect the lake is far from over. The 51 California chapters of National Audubon Society have contributed almost \$200,000 to help pay the expenses of the costly court proceedings and the San Francisco law firm of Morrison and Forester has provided almost 4,000 hours of legal services without charge.

Although Mono Lake is the breeding area for about one-fifth of the world's population of California gulls, overall the NAS suit seeks to protect a unique ecosystem. With declining lake levels, all living populations at Mono Lake would drop, with gulls and the endemic brine shrimp as indicator species.

With the important California Supreme Court decision, the case now returns to Federal Court to be tried on its legal merits.

On another front, Congressman Richard Lehman has introduced H.R. 1341, which, if passed and signed by the President, would provide national monument status for Mono Lake. National Audubon has joined with the Mono Lake Committee and other groups in support of this legislation. H.R. 1341 also authorizes a comprehensive study of alternative water management policies to conserve water and reduce the need for Mono diversions and provide for scientific monitoring of the lake's biological resources. Local co-sponsors of this bill, who deserve our thanks, include Barbara Boxer, Phillip Burton, Ron Dellums, Don Edwards, Tom Lantos, Douglas Bosco, and Pete Stark. Norman Mineta, Leon Panetta, and Ed Zschau are local members of Congress not listed as co-sponsors. Representatives may be thanked and encouraged by writing U.S. House of Representatives, Honorable _____, U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, D.C. 20515. A similar bill has not been introduced in the U.S. Senate. Everyone is urged to express their views on Mono Lake to Senators Alan Cranston and Pete Wilson, addressing their comment to U.S. Senate, Washington, D.C. 20510.

Point Reyes Bird Observatory will continue Mono Lake Gull Research. The favorable Supreme Court decision was announced the day after the SCVAS general meeting which featured David Winkler, U.C. Berkeley doctoral candidate, who has been working on California gull growth and development since 1976. Last year was Dave's last year of Mono Lake field study.



For at least three years, his work will be continued by PRBO researchers Gary Page and David Shufford. Dave Shufford will be living at Mono Lake this summer in David Winkler's old volcano "Krakatoa", an abandoned movie set. The PRBO team is seeking donations of funds, ice chests, folding tables and chairs to enable them to continue this important research.

Allen Royer

CHOOSING OUR PRIORITIES

The SCVAS Planning Meeting will be on June 4, 1983. Board members and chairpeople sit down to discuss the next year's activities. (Our year runs from July 1 to June 30). Conservation issues are important to an organization like ours, and we want to be sure that your views are represented. There are many issues to follow these days (unfortunately), and we want to choose the ones that matter most to you. What do you feel to be the most pressing issues that SCVAS can be involved in? How would you like to be represented? Is there a new issue which SCVAS should be involved with or one which we should drop? Please take a minute to rank the following. Feel free to add any additional items, or comments.

1= most important
2= important

3= interesting, but not crucial
4= can wait

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Coastal Issues | <input type="checkbox"/> Water Quality and Conservation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Forestry Practices | <input type="checkbox"/> Local Land Use Practices (e.g. Agric. land convers.) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Air Quality | <input type="checkbox"/> Park Management (both local and state) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Wetland Protection | <input type="checkbox"/> Pesticides and their Regulation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hazardous Waste | <input type="checkbox"/> Groundwater Management |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Funding existing conservation-oriented programs | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mono Lake | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ | |

We can follow only as many issues as we have time and people. Help us cover as many topics as possible. Please add your name if you would like to be contacted to be a letter writer, committee member, and/or issue follower.

Name _____
Address _____
City/Zip _____
Phone _____

Please return this form to the SCVAS office, 2253 Park Blvd., Palo Alto, CA 94306 before May 20, or to Lynn at the April or May General Meetings. Thank you.

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.

AVOCET DEADLINE IS THE FIRST MONDAY OF THE 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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Make checks payable to NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY. Send to SCVAS office, 2253 Park Boulevard, Palo Alto, CA 94306, to avoid delay in receiving *THE AVOCET*. Membership renewals should be sent directly to the National Audubon Society, Membership Data Center, P. O. Box 2667, Boulder, Colorado 80321. Membership in the National Audubon Society includes *AUDUBON* magazine, the national publication, and *THE AVOCET*.

THE AVOCET SUBSCRIPTIONS ALONE are \$5.00/year. Send subscriptions to SCVAS office. *THE AVOCET* is published monthly except July and August. Send address changes to the office promptly.