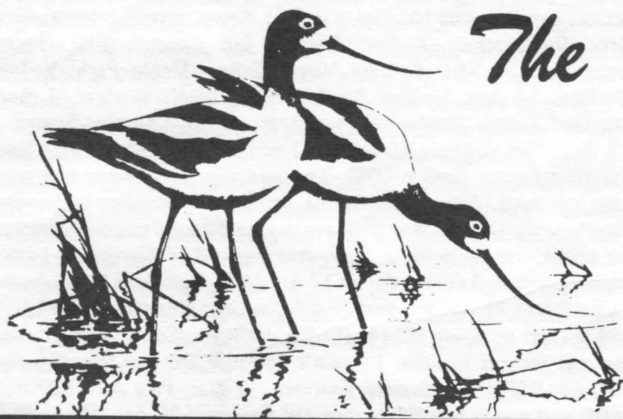


SANTA CLARA VALLEY AUDUBON SOCIETY

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 6

June 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 May — Gail Cheeseman (408) 867-1371.

- May 28 **Hidden Villa**, half day, Saturday, 8:30 a.m. Meet in parking lot, Moody Road, Los Altos Hills. See May AVOCET or call for details. Leader: Richard Newberry 415/322-7810.
- May 28-29 **Sequoia-Kings Canyon National Parks**, Saturday & Sunday. Friday evening camping in Grant Grove. See May AVOCET or call for details: Gail Cheeseman 408/867-1371. Leader: Marc Fenner 415/962-0863.
- June 5 **Bair Island**, half day, Sunday, 8 a.m. Meet at Redwood City Marina. **LIMIT OF 15 PEOPLE.** Reservations required. Call S.F. Bay Bird Observatory 408/946-6548 days to reserve. \$5/person donation to SFBBO greatly appreciated. Leader: Mike Rigney, SFBBO Executive Director.
- June 8 **Field Trip South**, Wednesday, 9 a.m., half day. Alviso and the S.F. Bay Bird Observatory. Meet at the Observatory, 1290 Hope St., Alviso. North on Gold St. from Hwy. 237 in Alviso, left on Elizabeth to Hope. Nesting Black-necked Stilts, American Avocets, Gadwalls, Ruddy Duck pair, and maybe even rail chicks. Leader: Mike Rigney, SFBBO Executive Director, 408/946-6548 days or 408-867-3791 evenings.
- June 14 **Bird Discussion Group**, Tuesday, 9:30 a.m. Meet at home of Eve Case, 20537 Verde Vista Lane, Saratoga for car pooling for Nelson Gardens. Picnic lunch.
- June 15 **All member potluck.** See separate article.
- June 18-19 **French Meadow Reservoir**, Placer County. Saturday & Sunday, 6 a.m. each day. Meet at Coyote Group Campground at east end of reservoir. See May AVOCET or call for details. Leader: Ted Chandik 415/493-5330 evenings only.
- July 30 **Pelagic trip (Shearwater Journeys)**, Saturday, departure time with confirmation. Monterey Seavally for possible Blue and Humpback whales and seabirds. \$35/person if trip fills. Reserve with check to Shearwater Journeys, 362 Lee Street, Santa Cruz 95060, 408/425-8111. Send self-addressed stamped envelope.
- Aug 13 **Pelagic trip (Shearwater Journeys)**, Saturday, Monterey Seavally. See July 30 for details.
- Aug 20 **Ano Nuevo State Reserve**, full day, Saturday, 9 a.m. Meet in parking lot. From I-280 take Hwy. 84 west to Hwy. 1, south on Hwy. 1 approximately 16 miles to the Reserve. Take New Year's Road to parking lot. Entrance Fee. Informal carpooling at I-280 and Page Mill Road, 7:30 a.m. Bring lunch, liquids and warm clothing. Four miles of easy walking for early fall migrants such as Pectoral and Baird's Sandpipers, Harlequin Ducks, Black Swifts, Bank Swallows, and elephant seals. Leader: Mike Newcomer 408/736-4176.
- Aug 27 **Pelagic Trip (Shearwater Journeys)**, Saturday, 7:45 a.m. Monterey Bay, Fisherman's Wharf, return 3 p.m. \$25/person. For reservation information, see July 30. Best time for Arctic Tern and Long-tailed Jaeger.

FIELD NOTES

The next Avocet will not be published until September by which time a particular three-ring circus will be in town which may not be the Greatest Show on Earth, but is certainly the Greatest Shorebird Show in Santa Clara County. The three-rings of which I write are Charleston Slough, the Mountain View Forebay, and the settling ponds behind the El Camino dog kennels. Of the 35 species of plovers, sandpipers, etc. recorded in the county, 28 have been seen in this one area. As July turns to August, adult shorebirds start migrating through and a careful study may reveal the Baird's Sandpiper which is regular here, either Wilson's or Red-necked phalaropes, and all the common calidrid sandpipers. With luck and considerable identification skills you may find Semipalmated Sandpiper (twice recorded), or Lesser Golden-Plover, Sharp-tailed Sandpiper, and Stilt Sandpiper (each recorded once). In July a visit to the slough may reveal as many as three Little Blue Herons (morning is best), or 40 Least Terns (furthest east mudflats). A telescope is desirable for this productive area.

Golden Eagles are hard to find on the west side of the valley so an immature at Rancho San Antonio OSP 11 Apr (Steve Anthony) and 1 over Stevens Creek CP 23 Apr (Jim & Sue Liscovec - J & SL) are noteworthy. **Com. Moorhens** are active in the Mountain View Forebay with a pair seen 11 and 18 Apr. They bred here last year.

Potluck — June 15

The annual all member potluck on Wednesday, June 15, 6 p.m., will be the last general meeting until fall. It is a time to get acquainted with SCVAS board members, trip leaders, and staff, and to talk about the year's birding highlights and summer plans.

Members Lynn and Martha Hunton have again graciously invited members to their home for the dinner, 25600 Fernhill Drive, Los Altos Hills. Call the chapter office at 415/329-1811 for directions.

Liquid refreshments will be provided. Dinner contributions are requested as follows: A-G desserts; H-N main dish; O-S salad, and T-Z hors d'oeuvres.

Wilderness bill goes to senate

The House voted overwhelmingly in favor of the California Wilderness Bill. Twice before this bill has passed the House but been rejected by the Senate largely because of opposition of former Senator S.I. Hayakawa. Our new senator, Pete Wilson, has promised to keep an open mind despite "serious reservations" about some provisions of the act. He has stated (SF Chronicle) that he would like to see a California wilderness bill passed this session of Congress.

The opinions of Senators Cranston and Wilson are especially important since this legislation affects only land in California and the Senate traditionally defers to home state legislators on matters affecting their own states.

Early this year Senator Cranston introduced S5, the California Wilderness Act of 1983. According to Patti Hedge of the Wilderness Society, the major difference between S5 and the House bill is the addition of land along the Tuolumne River in S5. If you believe as I do and the rest of the SCVAS Board of Directors that a strong Wilderness Bill should come from the Senate, please write to Senator Wilson and ask that he support S5 *without weakening amendments*. Your calls, letters and mailgrams are very important. He has been hearing a lot from the consumptive users — now he needs to hear from you. — Senate Office Building, Washington, DC 20515.

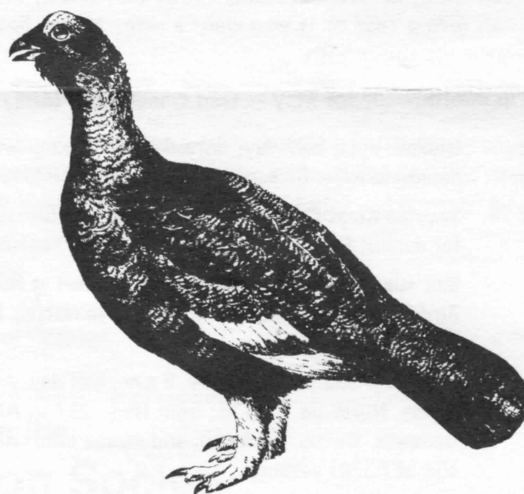
We have the opportunity to preserve over 2 million acres of national forest land and 1.4 million acres of national park land as wilderness — land that preserves and protects spotted owls and mountain lions — land that only time will change.

Sue Liskovec

Bill Bousman

A sub-adult **Black-legged Kittiwake** at the Palo Alto Duck Pond 3 Apr had part of its upper bill missing (Jacob Szabo). This is the second record for the county and this spot. A male **Calliope Hummingbird** in Los Altos 24 Apr to at least 1 May is very rare (J & SL). They are a rare migrant in the Diablo Range with a median date there of 23 Apr, but are rarely recorded on the Santa Cruz Mountain side of the valley — there is only one record for San Mateo County. Ten or so **Lewis' Woodpeckers** in the San Antonio Valley 17 Apr is typical for this area (Al Eisner — AE). Some normal returns: **Blue Grey Gnatcatcher**, 7 Apr, Rancho San Antonio OSP (Folke Damminger — FD); **Solitary Vireo**, 9 Apr, Menlo Park; **Yellow Warbler**, 13 Apr, Smith's Creek (AE); **Wilson's Warbler**, 4 Apr, Stanford Cactus Garden (Dick Stovel — DS); **Chipping Sparrow**, 17 Apr, San Antonio Valley (AE) and **Northern Oriole**, 24 Mar, Stanford Cactus Garden (DS). The bird was not singing and may have wintered. Approximately 10 **Townsend's Warblers** at Rancho San Antonio OSP 10 Apr (FD) represents the kind of concentration we sometimes see in early April. Another early return was a **Lazuli Bunting** in San Antonio Valley 17 Apr (AE). Two **Sage Sparrows** on Loma Prieta 21 Apr are part of a Santa Cruz Mountain population, and are less common than in the Diablo Range. Some late wintering sparrow records include: **Lincoln's Sparrow**, 26 Apr, Rancho San Antonio OSP (FD), **Swamp Sparrow**, 17 Mar, Palo Alto Baylands (FD), and a very late **White-throated Sparrow**, 30 Apr, Menlo Park (Betty Groce).

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



Mono Lake thanks

Hot on the heels of the good news that California Supreme Court justices unanimously decided that the Public Trust Doctrine applies to Mono Lake, came a plea for money to offset legal fees in the federal courts. SCVAS responded quickly with a check for \$549 which was raised selling walnuts this winter.

Response was quick and enthusiastic. National director George Peyton wrote: "Your chapter is nothing short of incredible — incredibly generous, that is, to Mono Lake! Thank you for your never-ending support for Mono Lake, just when it is most needed — and in such a substantial amount."

The Huntons will donate their walnut crop this year too, so plan on getting together again in the fall.

Phyllis Swanson

Thanks to our congressmen

SCVAS is most definitely for the birds but we are also concerned about conservation and political action. By speaking out on environmental issues, we can preserve and protect — for wildlife.

We are fortunate to have many environmentally conscious legislators in our area. Some have held office for a number of years and have established their record of strong environmental support. With the election last November we have some "new kids on the block." Congressman Ed Zschau is just such a "new kid." I am pleased to report that Mr. Zschau has responded favorably on two recent issues. He has added his name to the growing list of co-sponsors of two Mono Lake National Monument Bills and he voted in favor of the California Wilderness Bill. In addition, he was the only California Republican congressman to vote against two weakening amendments. It is as important to say thanks as it is to speak out and express your views. If you appreciate Congressman Zschau's response to our letters and mailgrams, won't you please let him know? His local address is: 505 W. Olive, No.125, Sunnyvale 94086.

Other local congressmen who voted for the wilderness bill include: Don Edwards, 1625 The Alameda, No. 709, San Jose 95126; Norman Mineta, 1245 S. Winchester, San Jose 95128; Tom Lantos, 520 S. El Camino, San Mateo 94402.

Sue Liskovek

May Board meeting report

The two Conservation for Children Workshops, sponsored by SCVAS and led by Marilyn Bodourian and Mary Hallesy were reported as great successes.

The Board unanimously approved a grant of \$1800 to the San Francisco Bay Bird Observatory, to purchase needed items and help them recuperate from flood damage.

The Board expressed concern about the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's issuance of a preliminary permit to conduct feasibility studies for hydroelectric plants on the Tuolumne River. Members are urged to write Rep. Ed Zschau and Sen. Pete Wilson, and encourage their support of S.142, to designate 83 miles of the Tuolumne as part of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. The future of California's premiere multiple-use river will be decided by Congress this year. One letter represents 500 voters who share your opinion but never took the time to write. For more information, call the SCVAS office, 329-1811.

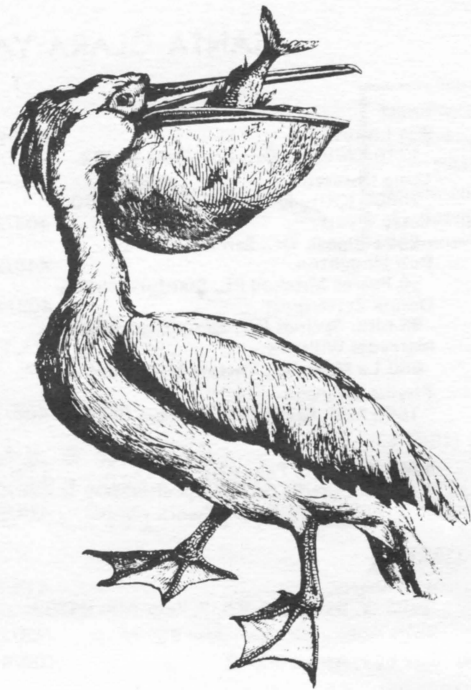
Lynn Tennefoss

Bird surveyors needed

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is looking for volunteers to help survey migratory waterfowl and shorebirds on diked lands of the San Francisco Bay. Adequate biological data on these vast areas of wildlife habitat (28,000 acres) will help preserve them for their current use as agricultural lands and open space as development pressures escalate. Approximately 70 study sites have been identified — most are in the north bay but several are at the south and southeastern end of the bay. Each site survey would require 1-2 hours at a time and a commitment of 1-2 days per month. Please contact FWS staff biologist Ruth Pratt at 916/484-4108.

Science Fair awards

SCVAS has awarded memberships in National Audubon to four students, Teddy Cheeseman, Sharon Fairbanks, Elizabeth Meliia, and Jansenn North, for outstanding exhibits entered in the Santa Clara Science and Engineering Fair. All focused on subject matters relevant to Audubon's concerns.



Classes and Field Trips

California Birding Tour, August 22 to September 2 — Two full days in the Mt. Pinos area to see the California Condor; southern San Joaquin Valley for LeConte's Thrasher; Yosemite to search for Great Gray Owl and Black-backed Woodpecker; Mono Lake for migrating phalaropes and Eared Grebes; Monterey Bay pelagic boat trip for migrating oceanic birds and Humpback and Blue Whales. Leaders: Rose Ann Rowlett and Ted Chandik. Pre-trip to Salton Sea to see post-breeding wanderers from Mexico such as Wood Storks, boobies, frigatebirds, and Yellow-footed Gull, August 19-22. For information phone Ted at 415/493-5330 or write Victor Emanuel Nature Tours, P.O. Box 33008, Austin, Texas 78764.

Hawaiian Natural History, August 15-23. Lee Van Fossen, instructor, De Anza College. Oahu and the Big Island will be the focus of this trip. \$857 includes all air and land transportation, hotels, instruction, and tours. \$150 deposit to Eastridge World Travel, or call information: 408/238-6161 or 408/238-3428.

Natural History of the Sierra Nevada, July 5-10, Doug Cheeseman, instructor. Tuolumne Meadows campground will be base camp. Credit available from De Anza College. Call 408/996-4657 or 408/867-1371 for information.

Golden Trout Workshop, three one-week Golden Trout Workshops will be held in the Sierra July 24 through August 13, 1983. Sponsored by Pasadena, Santa Barbara, San Bernardino Valley, San Fernando Valley, and Tulare County chapters of the National Audubon Society. Golden Trout Wilderness, in the southern High Sierra, on the eastern watershed, at 10,000 feet. For details, write or call: Mrs. Cindi McKernan, 40 Sherril Lane, Redlands, CA 92373, 714/793-7897. Your editor also has some extra brochures, and is happy to share information. Call Shirley Shepard 415/493-6209.

VOLUNTEER FOR THE BEACH

Volunteers are needed to monitor San Mateo beaches this summer to study the effects of gill net fishing on marine mammals and birds. Training will be provided. Call Wendy Lieber at 415/726-9278.

SANTA CLARA VALLEY AUDUBON SOCIETY. Inc.

OFFICERS

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1st Vice Pres.	Doug Cheeseman 20800 Kittredge Rd., Saratoga 95070	408/867-1371
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Dave Johnston	20616 Brookwood Ln., Saratoga 95070	408/258-4322
Rick Palmer	1623 Santa Clara St., Santa Clara 95050	408/243-0582

CHAIRPERSONS

Editor	Shirley Shepard 3866 Corina Court, Palo Alto 94303	415/493-6209
Field Notes	Bill Bousman 321 Arlington Way, Menlo Park 94025	415/322-5282
Programs	Doug & Gail Cheeseman 20800 Kittredge Rd., Saratoga 95070	408/867-1371
Publicity	Tom Dargan 1038 S. Winchester Bl., San Jose 95128	408/249-9388
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Hospitality	Audrey Stoye 2960 Roma Ct., Santa Clara 95050	408/249-2108
Staff	Lynn Tennefoss 2253 Park Blvd., Palo Alto 94306	415/329-1811

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

Several gifts have been received in memory of Alfred Brown for the education fund and a gift has been received from Hank and June Nielson in memory of Mrs. Edna Farley. 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.



Yes, I want to join the National Audubon Society

Enroll me as a member of National Audubon Society, and Chapter C14, Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society. Start my subscription to *AUDUBON* and *THE AVOCET*. Send me my membership card which entitles me to all the benefits and privileges of National Audubon Society.

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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.