



The Avocet

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

2020

Volume 30, Number 9

November 1983

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

On all field trips, CARPOOL and share expenses. Bring binoculars, field guides, lunch (optional on half-day trips), liquids. For carpooling arrangements call Dolores Norton (415)941-1666 or Manette Wittgenstein (408)354-9420. Unless specified, Informal Carpooling (IC), commuter parking at I-280 and Page Mill Road.

Field trip coordinator for October - Richard Jeffers (415)325-9675.

- Oct. 26 **Field Trip North**, Wednesday, 9:00 a.m., Coal Mine Ridge. Take Alpine Road W of 280 about 3 1/4 miles. Turn left on Indian Crossing and follow to the end - Portola Valley Ranch Clubhouse. Leader: Janice Walters (415)851-7236 or Dolores Norton (415)941-1666.
- Oct. 29-30 **Nuts to You!** 9 a.m. through afternoon. Harvest Martha and Lynn Hunton's Los Altos Hills walnut crop to benefit Mono Lake. Additional details in last month's Avocet. Call one of the following leaders if you can help: Phyllis Swanson (408)274-2349; Bob Houghton (415)327-2186; Dave Johnston (408)356-4945(work) or (408)867-7278(home).
- Oct. 30 **Alum Rock Park**, Sunday, 8:30 a.m. Meet at Youth Science Institute parking lot. Three miles moderate walking. Half day trip. Small entrance fee. Rain cancels. Leader: Allen Royer (408)251-6133.

Field trip coordinator for November - Carol Zabel (415)948-5671.

- Nov. 1 **Board Meeting**, Tuesday, 7:30 p.m., Cupertino Library, 10400 Torre Ave., Cupertino.
- Nov. 2 **Update on Management on the Peregrine Falcon in California**. Wednesday, 7:30 p.m., Saratoga Community Library, corner Fruitvale and Saratoga Avenue. Brian Walton of the Peregrine Fund will speak and show slides on Peregrines as well as other research at the Raptor Center at U.C. Santa Cruz. The film "Peregrine" will be shown.
- Nov. 5 **Searsville Lake and Jasper Ridge**, half-day, Saturday, 8:30 a.m. Meet at the Stanford University Jasper Ridge Biological Preserve MAIN gate (not Whiskey Hill gate). From I-280 go west on Sandhill Road about 2 miles to gate on left side of road. Gate will be unlocked from 8:15 a.m. - 8:40 a.m.; please be prompt. Ring-necked Ducks, possible Wood Ducks and Red-shouldered Hawk. Suggested voluntary contribution of \$1.50 per person for the Preserve. LIMIT of 40 people. Leaders, rain or shine: Carol Zabel, Jean and Bill Clark. For reservations call Carol Zabel (415) 948-5671.
- Nov. 5-6 **Nuts to You!** See Oct. 29-30 listing for information. Call Dave Johnston (408)867-7278.
- Nov. 8 **Bird Discussion Group**, Tuesday, 9:30 a.m., at the home of Eve Case, 20537 Verde Vista Lane, Saratoga. Topic: Black Necked Stilt.
- Nov. 9 **Field Trip South**, Wednesday, 9:00 a.m., Los Gatos Creek County Park (Campbell Percolation Ponds). Take Winchester to Hacienda (from Los Gatos - right turn, from Campbell left). Turn left on Dell and right at park entrance, bordering large pond. Meet in small parking lot beside picnic tables. Leader: Jo Pettit (408)266-5118. Call Jo or Linda Hagelin (408)867-3046.
- Nov. 13 **Birdwalk for Beginners, Ed Levin County Park**, half-day, Sunday, 8:30 a.m. Meet in schoolyard on north side of Calaveras Road near park. From Hwy. 17 take Calaveras Blvd. east through Milpitas to the park. Hope for Golden Eagles. Leader, rain or shine: Vicki Silvas-Young (408)293-7124.
- Nov. 12-13 **Nuts to You!** See Oct. 29-30 listing for information. Call Phyllis Swanson (408)274-2349.
- Nov. 16 **General Meeting** Wednesday, refreshments and get-acquainted at 7:30 p.m., program starts at 8:00 p.m. Palo Alto Cultural Center, 1313 Newell (at Embarcadero - west of Bayshore). Frank Balthis, naturalist and ranger at Ano Nuevo State Preserve will present a program on the elephant seals and other marine mammals. Frank is also a professional wildlife photographer with photographs and/or articles in Natural History, National Wildlife, Defenders of Wildlife, and Sierra Club Journal. He is the originator of Natures Image Cards of Natural History.
- Nov. 16 **Field Trip North**, Third Wednesday, 8:30 a.m., Coyote Hills Regional Park. East across Dumbarton Bridge, left on Jarvis to traffic light, left on Newark Blvd. for about a mile. Left on Patterson Ranch Rd. to entrance, park on the right. Call if raining. Leader: Phil Hand (415) 851-2623.
- Nov. 20 **Coyote Hills Regional Park**, half-day, Sunday, 8:30 a.m. Meet in parking lot to right of entrance. Entrance fee. From peninsula take Dumbarton Bridge (Hwy 84) east to Jarvis Ave. in Newark; left on Jarvis, left on Newark Blvd., left on Patterson Ranch Rd. From the east bay take Hwy. 17 north to Jarvis, left on Jarvis and right on Newark. Ducks, possible Black-shouldered Kites and Rock Wrens. Leader, rain or shine: Phil Hand (415)851-2623.
- Nov. 25,26 **Gray Lodge Wildlife Area and Sutter Buttes**, Friday, 9:00 a.m. Meet at Gray Lodge Checking Station on Pennington Road 3 1/2 hours from Palo Alto. US 99 north, follow signs west out of Live Oak or Gridley. Overnight at Colusa Campground or Motel. Saturday - At the Buttes on private holdings

with Walt Anderson. Cost: \$15.00, maximum 20 people. Meet at Colusa Campground 8:30 a.m., prepared for hiking. Call Doug or Gail Cheeseman for reservations and details (408)867-1371.

Field trip coordinator for December - Dave Nauer (408)259-1283

- Dec. 3 **Coyote River Park, Morgan Hill.** Half day, Saturday, 8:00 a.m. Meet in the parking lot. Take Hwy. 101 south to Cochran Rd. in Morgan Hill. Continue east on Cochran to the parking lot. Woodland and chaparral species. Call in case of rain. Leader: Susie Formenti (408)779-8694.
- Dec. 4 **Charleston Slough.** Half day, Sunday, 9:00 a.m. Meet at east end of San Antonio Rd. off Hwy. 101. Wintering shorebirds and ducks. Call in case of rain. Leader: Bill Bousman (415)322-5282.
- Dec. 10 **Lake San Antonio, Monterey Co.,** Saturday. Meet at 6:30 a.m. at the carpooling rendezvous: Bank of the West, Pruneyard Towers, Campbell Ave. in Campbell. Primarily a walking trip, but the drive is about 300 miles round trip. \$3.00 entrance fee/car. Looking for golden and bald eagles, woodpeckers and passerines. Leader: Kevin Monahan (408)559-8713.
- Dec. 11 **Lake Merritt,** Sunday, 9:00 a.m. Meet at Rotary Science Center, Oakland. North on Hwy. 17 to Oak, east on Oak, becomes Lakeside then Harrison. Right on Grand, right on Bellevue to meeting place. Possible Barrow's Goldeneye, Hooded Merganser, Red-necked Grebe. Afternoon spot to be announced. Call if raining. Leaders: Allen Royer (408)251-6133 and Lynn Tennefoss (415)329-1811.
- Dec. 14 **Field Trip South,** Wednesday, 9:00 a.m. Deer Hollow Farm. 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 to last parking lot. Half day. Bring lunch and liquids. Leader: Frank Farran (408)252-3874.
- Dec. 18 **Christmas Bird Count,** Sunday. Call Chairman: Steve Shugars (408)867-1371.
- Dec. 31 **Whale and Bird Watching** with Doug and Gail Cheeseman. \$28. Call (408)867-1371. Also Jan. 14, 15, 21

FIELD NOTES - By Bill Bousman

Birding at the Bottom of the Bay provides us an excellent guide to our local birding areas. It also gives us the kind of structure we need to better understand the distribution of birds in the local area. The lion's share of the credit for this compendium goes to Betty Wyatt and Audrey Stoye who organized the guide and carried it to completion. It is interesting to look at the county map in BABOB and to see how dense are the birding sites at the NW corner of the county and how few are everywhere else. The reasons for this are not hard to find: 1) that's where most of us live, 2) that's where public agencies buy land for public access, and 3) most of the rest of the county is still largely rural and hence there are few places that are easily accessible to birders. Habitats are well-represented in BABOB, but it is also clear that our knowledge of some is at best sketchy. My list of the least well known habitats starts with freshwater marsh and riparian. This habitat has almost been eliminated in Santa Clara County. In almost all areas agriculture or business has pushed right to the edge of creeks essentially eliminating a riparian zone. Those areas that are left are difficult of access. This is mostly true of Coyote Creek as well, but I hope Allen Royer's account of the public portions (#12) will generate more birders and more information. Second on my list are the reservoirs and impoundments. A few are not productive because of boating, but the rest always have a few winter surprises - ocean birds that don't belong, or out-of-range rarities. Few of the reservoirs are birded regularly, and those that are rarely get into this column for reasons unknown to me. More birding will be rewarding here (#14, 18, 21, 22, 23 and 25). Last on my list are the great grasslands, chaparral and oak savannahs of the Diablo Range. Few roads penetrate here so there is little we know about the birds. With the recent expansion of Henry Coe SP those of strong limb will have the opportunity to learn more about these habitats, but this area will remain underbirded for the foreseeable future. One correction is noted for the check list in the back of BABOB; Red-breasted Merganser should follow Common Merganser.

White Pelican numbers have been down for the last two years so 750 at Charleston Slough 21 September is of interest. An **Am. Bittern** over the Mountain View Forebay 30 September is the first report of this uncommon winter visitor. An **Osprey**

over Long Ridge OSP 28 September was probably a migrant (Phil Hand fide Dolores Norton). **Lesser Yellowlegs** continue to be seen in the Mountain View Forebay with up to four seen from 9 to 16 September (many observers). Totally unexpected there or anywhere in the county were two **Wandering Tattlers** found by Pete LaTourrette on 10 September for the second county record. Two **Ruddy Turnstones** were at the forebay on 16 September. Further out, in Charleston Slough, 17 **Red Knots** were counted 21 September. They are seldom found this far down the bay. Also there were 15 **Sanderlings**. It is now apparent that this common ocean species is a frequent winter visitor in the slough. Single **Pectoral Sandpipers** at Crittenden Marsh 13 and 20 September are well down from last year's numbers. **Red-breasted Nuthatches** continue to be noted with one in Los Altos 5 September (Jim & Sue Liskovec) and three in Menlo Park 25 September. The first vagrant of the season was a **Northern Waterthrush** banded by SFBBO 24 September (Allen Royer).

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

SCVAS GRANTS

The Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society continues its program of providing grants to studies and projects that advance the knowledge, appreciation and protection of wildlife and its habitats. Proposals for grants will be accepted through January 31, 1984, for consideration in the 1983-84 funding cycle. Up to \$2,000 total will be awarded by April 15, 1984, to those proposals approved fully or partially by the SCVAS Grants Committee and Board of Directors.

Applications for grants must be submitted on a "Grant Request Form", which can be obtained by writing to: SCVAS Grants, c/o 2526 Amaryl Drive, San Jose, CA 95132.

Each completed request form must be accompanied by a proposed budget and schedule for the study or project. After completion of the funded activity, the recipient of a grant may be asked to give presentation at a SCVAS General Meeting, or to prepare an article for the Avocet.

Kepler Stone

WETLANDS COALITION MONITORS THE BAY

If you think the South Bay wetlands are safe from encroachment, consider this. At this moment, more than fifteen permit applications are on file in the Fremont/Newark/Alviso area to change the habitat. These include converting a park to a dump, industrial subdivision, highway and airfield construction, and several landfill expansions.

To try to monitor the legal and illegal intrusions into our frail bay habitats, Audubon members are joining other environmental group members under the title South Bay Wetlands Coalition (SBWC). These groups include S.F. Bay National Wildlife Refuge, CA. Fish and Game, S.C. Co. Planning Department, S.F. Bay Bird Observatory, Sierra Club, P.C.C. and others.

Members have discussed illegal projects, violations of cease and desist orders, and policies, procedures, and goals of the Coalition. Audubon President Sue Liskovec wrote a letter to the Solid Waste Management Authority saying"SCVA does not encourage the filling and/or destruction of wetlands, especially areas that are currently well utilized by wildlife."

Here's what you can do. If you see filling, dumping, or other activity happening in a particular part of the Bay (mudflats, salt marshes, salt ponds, open water, etc.), contact Coalition members Lynn Tennefoss (415)329-1811 or Allen Royer (408)251-6133. SBWC also needs people to produce literature about permit processes, organize local government monitors, publish articles, and monitor acres zoned and proposed for development.

Virginia Bennett

TUOLUMNE RIVER THREATENED

California's magnificent Tuolumne River is National Audubon Society's highest priority river issue. Home of the Spotted Owl and the Bald Eagle, the river is threatened by a series of hydroelectric projects that would either flood or dry up all undeveloped portions of the river outside Yosemite National Park. Three longtime family recreation camps, including one owned by the City of San Jose, are endangered by the projects, which are being planned by the Turlock and Modesto Irrigation District. The Tuolumne, with five dams providing water and power, is already working hard for California. Even though several studies have shown these projects are unneeded and uneconomical the irrigation districts continue their plans with dogged determination.

Action is needed immediately. You can make an impact. Congress is considering the Tuolumne for inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. Such designation would not only prevent the present projects, but would insure that the river be saved for the enjoyment of future generations. Senator Cranston and all of the local Democratic congressmen are actively supporting the river but it needs bipartisan support. We must reach Republicans Ed Zschau and Pete Wilson, who remain undecided. Please call or write their local offices today: Congressman Ed Zschau, (415)324-9280, 505 West Olive Street, Suite 125, Sunnyvale, CA 94086. Senator Pete Wilson, (415)556-4307, Federal Bldg., 450 Golden Gate Ave., P.O. Box 36004, San Francisco, CA 94102. For further information contact SCVAS, or the Tuolumne River Preservation Trust, (415)441-8778, Bldg. C, Fort Mason Center, San Francisco, CA 94123.

David Dixon



CHRISTMAS COUNT - DECEMBER 18

Both novices and experienced birders are needed for the annual Christmas Bird Count Sunday, Dec. 18, says chairman Steve Shugars. Backyard and feeder counters will also be in demand as will people who can help with the dinner following an active day in the field. Call Steve at (408)749-8126.



BABOB - GOOD REVIEW FOR A GOOD BOOK

". . . This highly professional and attractive paperback is a commendable effort of the membership of SCVAS . . . belongs in the library of the SAS birder." We agree with the Sequoia Needles' review of **Birding at the Bottom of the Bay**. Thank you for the kind words, Sequoia Audubon.

BABOB (as we lovingly call it), not only gives you the key to more than three dozen great birding experiences practically in your own backyard, but the profits from it will help us continue SCVAS grants and educational programs. SCVAS each year gives \$200 or more to graduate researchers, PRBO and SFBBO projects, wildlife rescue and animal welfare groups, and environmental enrichment programs. Our education committee programs for the past several years have sponsored teacher training workshops and purchased special school and library material to reach the widest possible young audience. With the formation of the youth program by National Audubon in the coming year, we can look for an expansion in this field.

Birding at the Bottom of the Bay is now widely available and you can pick up copies not only at the ConCenter SCVAS office on Park Avenue in Palo Alto, but also at the Nature Co., Books, Inc. in San Jose's Town & Country; the S.F. Bay National Wildlife Headquarters in Fremont; The Book Nook at Audubon's Richardson Bay Sanctuary and a number of other book stores and nature centers. Your best deal is still to buy direct from your SCVAS office and take advantage of the \$3.00 tax deductible contribution which funds those grants and education programs. Copies are available from the office by mail order for \$6.50 including tax, plus \$1 for postage and handling. Copies are also available at field trips and general meetings.

If you have your copy, how about a gift copy for a birding friend . . . or the library or school nearest you. If you purchase three copies or more they are just \$6 each, including tax. Nice stocking stuffer . . . hostess gift . . . memento of your 300th bird of the year, etc., etc.

Betty Wyatt

Enclosed is \$7.50 (\$6.50 for the book, plus \$1.00 postage and handling.)
(Three or more copies: \$6 each plus \$1 postage and handling.)

Please send copy of **Birding at the Bottom of the Bay**

Name _____

Address _____

Zip _____

Send to: BABOB, Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society,
2253 Park Boulevard, Palo Alto, CA 94306

SANTA CLARA VALLEY AUDUBON SOCIETY, INC.

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				408/867-1371			

General membership meetings, held the third Wednesday of each month, at 7:30 p.m., are open to the public. Board of Directors meetings, open to all members, are held at 7:15 p.m., the first Tuesday of each month. Call the office for directions.

AVOCET DEADLINE IS THE FIRST MONDAY OF THE MONTH. Send contributions to the editor: Shirley Shepard, 3866 Corina Court, Palo Alto, CA 94303.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Volunteers have been working in the SCVAS office for the last several months with splendid results. We would like to encourage you to join with us. Any amount of time will be greatly appreciated. Work may be done in the office, or often in your home. Please call Lynn at (415)329-1811 if you are interested.

Following are some specific tasks available for interested volunteers this month.

- Distribute back issues of AUDUBON to senior centers.
- Help mail **Birding at the Bottom of the Bay** to eager buyers.
- Work with Lynn to update the mailing list of Audubon chapter leaders.
- Clip newspaper articles that are relevant to SCVAS concerns.
- Have a literary bent? Update the history of SCVAS, from information in back issues of the AVOCET.
- Write letters regarding: illegal fills on the Bay, gillnetting, the Tuolumne River.
- Typing, filing, sending out membership information.
- The Environmental Information Desk at the PCC needs volunteers who can give four hours a week. Call Phyllis Balchalk (415)328-5313.

TICO III - NEXT MONTH

Due to space limitations, The Tico Experience - Part III, Lee Lovelady's report of his San Jose State University excursion to Costa Rica, will be held over until the December Avocet.

GIFTS

Gifts have been received from Maxine Gerritsen and Mr. and Mrs. Joseph McMahon in memory of Mrs. Lorraine Ireland; Theolyn Farley has made a donation in memory of Mrs. Storni; Larry and Margaret Chalfan have made a donation in the memory of Helen Green; and Jean Bartlett has sent a gift in memory of Lee Ann Brown.

TWO VOLUNTEER TO EDIT AVOCET

The search for a new editor of the Avocet has been doubly successful.

This issue and December's will be jointly produced by outgoing editor, Shirley Shepard, and the new editor, Susan McCarthy, with help by a new assistant, Virginia Bennett.

Susan, who has extensive experience working as a professional journalist will take over the helm in December with the January issue.

Do you have an idea, or raw material for an article for the Avocet but want help writing it? Give Virginia a call at 408/867-0638.

Both new editors are also new to SCVAS. Susan has a ten month old baby girl and is presently free lance writing and editing. Virginia is employed as a writer at Apple Computers.

Other volunteers for the Avocet are welcome. Particularly helpful would be someone to run errands - transporting copy, mailing labels, or printed Avocets back and forth between the chapter office, editors, typesetter, printers, mailers, etc. There's usually a flurry of activity the week of the deadline. If you can help, call the chapter office 415/329-1811, Shirley Shepard, 415/493-6209 or Susan McCarthy, 408/293-7498.

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.

MEMBERSHIP

To join the Audubon Society send a check, payable to NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY, to SCVAS office, 2253 Park Boulevard, Palo Alto, CA 94306. Membership includes AUDUBON magazine, the national publication, and THE AVOCET. AVOCET subscriptions alone are \$5/year. It is published monthly except July and August. Send address changes to the office promptly.

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