



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

2020

Volume 31, Number 4

April 1984

### BEHIND THE SCENES AT AUDUBON

Watching birds, watching out for birds and teaching about birds - that's Audubon! But behind the scenes there are many other things happening that keep SCVAS going so that we can concentrate on our first love - the birds.

One of those behind-the-scenes committees has been searching, updating, writing, researching, and rewriting new bylaws for SCVAS. After countless hours and many revisions, concise, consistent and readable bylaws that say who we are and how we operate are ready for your review and approval.

That's right - your review and your approval - because we're suggesting changes which may affect you.

Those changes are summarized below; the complete text is available from the office. Just call Lynn (415)329-1811 and she'll drop it in the mail to you.

There will be a brief business meeting at 8 p.m., May 16 at the Palo Alto Cultural Center preceding the evening's program. Members will be asked to vote approval or disapproval of the proposed bylaws.

Comments and/or questions should be directed to Lynn Tennefoss, Sue Liskovec (415)969-5542 - evenings) or Betsy Blais (415)961-6031 - days).

The changes:

- ◆ increase in quorum for transaction of business at a meeting of members from fifteen (15) to thirty-one (31).

Why? We're growing. Membership is about 3,500. Even by more than doubling the quorum to 31, we're looking for participation of less than 1% of the membership. This number also provides a check and balance of the 15-member Board of Directors.

- ◆ decrease number of directors from sixteen (16) to fifteen (15) by combining the offices of Recording Secretary and Corresponding Secretary.

Why? Now that we have staff to handle Society correspondence, there is little for the Corresponding Secretary to do. Current and previous secretaries support this proposal.

- ◆ nominating committee elected by the Board of Directors instead of appointed by the President.

Why? To remain consistent with Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised.

- ◆ directors and officers shall be members of Audubon.

Why? Directors and officers are representative decision-makers for the entire SCVAS membership. They should be members to represent you.

- ◆ executive committee created with limited authority to conduct business on behalf of the Board of Directors between meetings.

Why? Primarily so that Audubon can act quickly when quick action is needed- particularly in getting a letter out in support of wildlife or habitat protection.

Additional editorial changes have been made to conform with the California Non-profit Law and for clarity. Those changes do not affect the contents of the bylaws.

The Bylaws Committee, chaired by Betsy Blais, with help from Lynn Tennefoss, Donna Zetterquist and Sue Liskovec, was greatly assisted by volunteer Mitzi Malovos Konevich, an attorney in Los Altos.

Thank you, everyone. Now - let's go look at some birds!

### WHAT'S HAPPENING WITH COYOTE CREEK?

For some background, the Santa Clara Valley Water District is proposing to build a flood control project along the last 10 miles of Coyote Creek, before it flows into the Bay. This is the last untouched streamside corridor in the Bay Area. The banks of the creek support a wide variety of habitats, as the creek passes from freshwater (with 100 year old sycamores) to brackish marsh to salt marsh to the Bay. The Water District has the opportunity to create a model project - there are few buildings on either side of the creek to stand in the way of setback levees, the creek itself is beautiful and has high potential as a recreation area - and the bird-watching is great! SCVAS would like to see two levees - called "setback levees" - one placed on either side of the existing creek and its associated vegetated banks, with enough room in between to allow flood waters to be contained without having to

remove any of the existing vegetation. In part because of pressure from concerned groups and individuals, the Water District has begun to modify their original plans, to avoid destruction of many of the trees originally slated for removal, and they are to be commended for that - BUT they still plan to remove about 20% of the trees along this stretch of the creek.

By the time this newsletter has reached you, the draft Environmental Impact Report for the project has probably been released. THIS IS THE MOST IMPORTANT TIME FOR YOU TO COMMENT ON THIS PROJECT. The Water District is required to respond to ALL comments and suggestions offered by the public regarding the draft EIR. For more information about the creek, and for a list of names to contact to voice your opinion about the project, please call Lynn at the SCVAS office.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

On all field trips, CARPOOL and share expenses. Bring binoculars, field guides, lunch (optional on half-day trips), and liquids. For carpooling arrangements call Dolores Norton (415)941-1666 or Manette Wittgenstein (408)354-9420.

### Field Trip Coordinator for April - Bill Clark (415)326-7565

- Mar. 31- **Sutter Buttes Natural History.** Saturday and Sunday, wildflowers, birds, geology with Walt Anderson  
 Apr. 1 on private lands. Cost \$28, send check (made out to Walt Anderson) to Gail Cheeseman, 20800 Kittridge Rd., Saratoga, CA 95070. Meet at 8:30 a.m. in Colusa at Colusa Campground. Be prepared for hiking. Bring lunch. For details call Gail Cheeseman (408)867-1371. LIMITED TRIP.
- Apr. 1 **Coyote River Park.** Half day, Sunday, 8 a.m. Meet in the parking lot. Take Hwy 101 S to Cochran Rd. in Morgan Hill. Continue E on Cochran to the parking lot. Woodland and chaparral species. Call in case of rain. Leader: Susie Formenti (408)779-8694.
- Apr. 7-8 **Pinnacles National Monument.** Saturday, 9 a.m. Optional 2nd day with camping at private campground before entrance to park (fee). Meet at Visitor Center on east side. Take Hwy 101 S to Hwy 25; S on 25 about 40 miles to Hwy 146; S on 146 five miles to Monument. Entrance fee. Owling Sat. night, caves Sunday, and wildflowers. LIMITED TRIP. Leader: Phyllis Swanson (408)274-2349.
- Apr. 10 **Bird Discussion Group,** Tuesday, 9:30 a.m., at the home of Eve Case, 20537 Verde Vista Lane, Saratoga. Topic: Avocets.
- Apr. 11 **Audubon Camps show.** Wednesday, 7:30 p.m. Saratoga Public Library, Fruitvale and Saratoga Avenues. Looking for a summer vacation far away from the Olympic crowds? Come spend an 'Evening at Camp' with Phyllis Swanson and Sue and Jim Liskovec. They'll introduce you to two National Audubon Camps - Camp of the West in the Wind River Range of Wyoming, and Camp of Maine on beautiful, lobster-laden Muscongus Bay.
- Apr. 11 **Field Trip South,** Wednesday, 8:30 a.m., Sanborn Park. From Saratoga W almost 2 1/2 miles on Big Basin Way to Saratoga Springs, left on Sanborn Rd. one mile, right into lower parking lot. Leader: Frank Farran (408)252-3874.
- Apr. 15 **Stevens Creek Park,** half-day Sunday, 8 a.m. From I-280 in Cupertino take Stevens Canyon Rd. W into park. Follow for 2 miles staying left downhill at fork, park at first parking lot. Residents and migrants. Leader: Bill Bousman (415)322-5282.
- Apr. 18 **General Meeting,** Wednesday. Refreshments and get acquainted at 7:30 p.m., program starts at 8 p.m. Palo Alto Cultural Center, 1313 Newell (at Embarcadero, west of Bayshore). Mike Newcomer and Diana Stillens, graduate students of zoology at SJSU, will discuss the ecology and natural history of the neotropics. The talk (with slides) is the result of a two-month trip to the national parks and preserves of Costa Rica.
- Apr. 21 **Audubon Canyon Ranch,** Saturday, 10 a.m. This will be a leaderless trip. Meet at the parking lot in A.C.R. where biologist Skip Schwartz will meet the group and give an introductory talk on the heron colony. He is also giving the lecture at the March General Meeting. From Stinson Beach take Hwy 1 N about 3 miles. Watch for the entrance on the right.
- Apr. 25 **Field Trip North.** San Francisco watershed. Weather permitting. Take I 280 N to Milbrae Ave. exit. Follow the frontage Rd. about 2 blocks and turn left under the freeway to the dead end of Hillcrest Rd. We will go left through a gate to parking for carpooling into Pilarcitos Lake. There is a nice picnic area, good birding, and those who wish may hike to Stone Dam. Bring lunch and plenty of gas if you intend to drive. Plan to stay until 3 since we must all enter and leave together. Our permit limits us, so reservations are necessary. Call Kay McCann (415)327-4138 or Dolores Norton (415)941-1666.
- Apr. 28-29 **Searsville Lake and Jasper Ridge,** half-day Saturday or Sunday, 8 a.m. Meet at the Stanford Univ. Jasper Ridge Biological Preserve MAIN gate (not Whiskey Hill gate). From I 280 go W on Sandhill Rd. about 2 miles to gate on left side of road. Gate will be unlocked from 7:45-8:05; please be prompt. Suggested voluntary contribution of \$2 per person for the Preserve. LIMIT 30 people EACH DAY. Wear good footwear (may be muddy). Trip will go both days. REMEMBER DAYLIGHT SAVINGS ON SUNDAY MORNING! Lunch optional. Wildflowers and breeding marsh, chaparral, and woodland birds. Leaders: Carol Zabel, Bill and Jean Clark. Call Carol for reservations (415)948-5671.

### Field Trip Coordinator for May - Mary Lou Burgin (408)253-7115

- May 5 **Mines Rd. and Del Puerto Canyon.** Saturday, 8:30 a.m. Take I 680 N to I 580; I 580 E to Livermore Ave.; S on Livermore through town. Two miles from the flagpole in the center of Livermore, Livermore Rd. becomes Tesla Rd. In another half mile Tesla intersects Mines Rd. Meet here. Carpooling strongly recommended because of limited pull-off space. Bring lunch, liquids, and a full tank of gas. Limited facilities en route. We'll look for Lewis' Woodpecker, Rufous-crowned Sparrows, Lawrence's Goldfinch, Phainopepla, and Golden Eagle. Leader: Ted Chandik (415)493-5330.
- May 6 **Birdwalk for Beginners, Smith's Creek Fire Station.** Half-day, Sunday, 8:30 a.m. From San Jose take Alum Rock Ave. E from either Hwy 101 or I 680. From the junction of 101 and Alum Rock Ave., drive about 3 miles to Mt. Hamilton Rd. (Hwy 130). Turn right and drive about 11 miles, 3 miles past Grant Ranch. No facilities en route. Leader: Jean Marie Spoelman (415)797-0265.

### LOST AND FOUND

Navy blue scarf at the last General Meeting.  
 Red, green, blue, yellow plaid women's suit jacket,  
 at an earlier General Meeting. Please claim at the  
 SCVAS office.

### MEMORIALS AND GIFTS

We have received gifts from the Employee's  
 Association of El Camino Hospital and from Dr. Mary  
 De Nardo in memory of Dr. John Antel.

We have received a generous donation from the  
 estate of Shelby L. Evans.

### CHAPTER OFFICE NOMINATIONS

The Nominating Committee will offer 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	- Kevin Monahan
Vice President I	- to be announced
Vice President II	- to be announced
Recording Secretary	- Courtenay Dawson-Roberts
Directors for '84	- Deborah Manley
	Greg Meszaros
	Mark/Judy McEuen

## DIKED WETLANDS STUDY

The Bay Institute of San Francisco has received a grant from the Hewlett/Packard Foundation to summarize the impact of developments proposed on 28 different sites involving 51,000+ acres of diked historic baylands. The sites were originally monitored by BCDC, but more details are needed. In addition, the Bay Institute will provide case studies on 13 of these locations. THEY ARE INTERESTED IN MEETING WITH INDIVIDUALS AND ORGANIZATIONS TO HELP GATHER HUNDREDS OF PIECES OF STATISTICAL AND GENERAL DATA TO HELP IN THIS STUDY.

The areas in San Mateo and Santa Clara Counties that are under investigation include: Bair Island and Seaport Center Lincoln Property in Santa Mateo

County; and Newby Island Disposal, Nine Par Co. Sanitary Landfill and Sunnyvale Water Pollution Control Plant in Santa Clara County. SCVAS will also be following their work on: Baumberg Tract, Coyote Hills Marsh Expansion, Fremont Industrial Redevelopment, and Hayward Marsh Expansion in Alameda County.

Please contact Dale Sanders at (415)680-4223 or Lynn at the SCVAS office for more information.



## FIELD NOTES - Bill Bousman

The height of spring migration is April and May. When do our less common migrants come through? Careful field notes taken over the years can provide useful information. The distribution of sightings tells us when a species first turns up, when it is last seen, and the median date - that is, the date on which half the migrants have already come through and half are yet to come. If we base the median date on our field notes there is some ambiguity as to whether each sighting is a new bird or just one hanging around for a few days. Banding data avoid this ambiguity as the data are based on captures and each bird is individually identified. The Wool Ranch transect was run by Dick Mewaldt for three springs (and two falls) and provides just this sort of information. So, to get everyone ready for the spring migration:

### WOOL RANCH TRANSECT (1970-72)

SPECIES	FIRST DATE	MEDIAN DATE	LAST DATE	CAPTURES
Rufous H'bird	26 Feb	16 Apr	26 May	169
Calliope H'bird	8 Apr	23 Apr	12 May	9
Willow F'catcher	3 May	12 May	31 May	11
Hammond's "	3 May	11 May	27 May	12
Gray "	16 Apr	6 May	25 May	19
Western "	19 Mar	11 May	31 May	177
House Wren	10 Mar	13 May	29 May	23
Swainson's Thrush	29 Apr	21 May	31 May	821
Hermit Thrush	2 Mar	1 May	15 May	105
Solitary Vireo	20 Mar	2 May	18 May	8
Warbling Vireo	13 Mar	19 May	30 May	154
Orange-cr Warbler	5 Mar	29 Apr	30 May	370
Nashville "	7 Apr	2 May	17 May	30
Yellow "	2 May	25 May	30 May	90
Audubon's "	30 Jan	9 Apr	11 May	67
Black-th Gray "	16 Apr	26 Apr	12 May	7
Townsend's "	16 Apr	19 May	29 May	41
MacGillivray's "	10 Apr	11 May	28 May	84
Wilson's "	21 Mar	12 May	31 May	468
Y-breasted Chat	3 May	7 May	10 May	4
W Tanager	26 Apr	13 May	29 May	20
B-headed G'beak	17 Apr	8 May	29 May	96
Chipping Sparrow	15 Mar	4 May	28 May	157
N Oriole	29 Mar	5 May	31 May	82

Note that there is some bias of median and last dates because the transect had to shut down each year at the end of May, so any early June migrants were missed. There is some evidence from my own field notes that migration median dates on the west side of the valley occur a week or so earlier. Note also that our resident species are usually on their territories before the migrants begin to show up. The 30 Jan Audubon's Warbler may well be a resident bird.

**Cattle Egret** continue to show up this winter. A flock of 40 birds were found near Bailey and Santa Teresa in San Jose on 10 and 12 February (Rae Schmuck) and a single bird was at the Palo Alto Duck

Pond 18 February (David Suddjian-DS, and Paul Noble-PN) and at the Baylands 21 February (Dolores Norton). A **Greater White-fronted Goose** in the furthest part of the Palo Alto Flood Control Basin on 27 February is probably the same bird that was found on the CBC. Even more unexpected was a **Brant** reported in the FCB by Louise Wilson the same day. **Blue-winged Teal** continue to be found with 4 in the FCB 16 February (DS) and 8 in Charleston Slough 27 February (a scope is handy). **Redhead** remain in the North Pond of the FCB with 7 there 1 March. The pond near Feltner and Marsh Roads south of Calaveras Reservoir had a pair of **Hooded Mergansers** 7 February. **Bald Eagles** continue to be seen along the reservoir with an adult there 12 February (Don Schmoltdt-DSc) and one seen 26 February as well (Charlie Bacon, et.al.). Resident **Red-shouldered Hawks** have a very restricted distribution which we need far more information to understand. A pair at Foothill College is expected (DS), but individuals in Menlo Park on 23 January and Foothills Park 19 February (DS) are apparently away from normal localities. CBC data suggest their numbers are increasing; the four-year average 1969-72 is .04 birds/party, while for 1979-82 it is .28 birds/party (normalizing by party instead of party-hours avoids the frequent errors that occur in calculating party-hours). It is nice to see a raptor population improving. **Merlin** reports continue with one over Palo Alto 2 February (DS) and one near Calaveras Reservoir 7 February. A **Peregrine Falcon** was seen at Hayward on 12 February (DSc). It seems to be a **Red-breasted Nuthatch** winter with one in Los Altos through 7 February at least (Jean Campbell) and one in Palo Alto 19 February (Mrs. Dawson-Roberts). The second report of a **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** this winter was a female in Palo Alto 12-15 January (DS). This bird was well-studied, but the separation of female Black-headed and Rose-breasted Grosbeaks remains a difficult identification problem. The limited distribution data suggest that both are equally likely before the normal March return of summer resident birds. Two **White-throated Sparrows** continue to come to a Menlo Park feeder at least through 29 February. Since it was determined that the **Slate-colored Junco** is just a race of the Dark-eyed Junco there has been less attention paid to this subspecies. Typically we see intergrades of the Slate-colored and Oregon forms here in the winter that show some rust on the back or nape, but seldom pure Slate-colored forms. Thus, one in Los Gatos 11 February (Jean DuBois) and Castro Valley 12 February (DSc) are of interest. Early arrivals of residents or migrants include: **Allen's Hummingbird**, Ed Levin Park, 25 February (PN,DS), **Violet-green Swallow**, Foothills Park, 19 February (DS), **Barn Swallow**, Mountain View Forebay, 29 February, **Orange-crowned Warbler** singing in Foothills Park, 27 February (PN).

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

SANTA CLARA VALLEY AUDUBON SOCIETY, INC.

Staff	Lynn Tennefoss (days)	415/329-1811	DIRECTORS (1982-85)		Publicity	Tom Dargan	408/249-9388
President	Sue Liskovec	415/969-5542	Betty Groce	415/326-5540	Library	Ann Jilg	415/321-8336
1st Vice Pres.	Kevin Monahan	408/559-8713	Rick Palmer	408/243-0582	Field Trips	Richard Jeffers	415/325-9675
2nd Vice Pres.	Don Schmoldt	408/251-6133	Dave Johnston	408/258-4322		Dolores Norton	415/941-1666
Treas./Finance	Bob Houghton	415/327-2186				Linda Hagelin	408/867-3046
Rec. Secretary	Donna Zetterquist	408/429-9716	DIRECTORS (1983-86)		Membership	Linda Wills	408/377-8706
Corres. Sec'y	Jean Clark	415/326-7565	Linda Wills	408/377-8706	Education	Elaine Gould	408/448-0622
Past President	Phyllis Swanson	408/274-2349	Betsy Blais	(work) 415/961-6031	Hospitality		
			Richard Jeffers	415/325-9675	Conservation		
			CHAIRPERSONS		Christmas	Steve Shugars	408/749-8126
DIRECTORS (1981-84)			Editor	Susan McCarthy	Bird Count	Don Starks	408/371-9720
Courtenay Dawson-Roberts, Jr.	415/856-6504		Assistant Editor	Virginia Bennett	Grants	Kep Stone	408/251-2186
Kep Stone	408/251-2186		Programs	Doug & Gail	Photo Club	Pete LaTourrette	415/961-2741
Lyman Fancher	408/942-1195		Cheeseman	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: Susan McCarthy, 475 So. 12th, San Jose, CA 95112.

CLASSES, TRIPS, AND EVENTS

The last place you'd want to miss on a spring vacation is California's own Death Valley, where snow-capped mountains frame a valley filled with wildflowers, bighorn sheep, burros, kangaroo rats, geckos, chuckwallas, and other interesting residents. You can join a field trip that's been bringing the wonders of Death Valley to visitors for 40 years. The group goes from April 15th through the 21st. Carpool down with other participants and stay in Ryan, a ghost town. Registration is \$60, with an additional \$33 food fee. For further information call Mrs. Kitty King at (408)277-3736.

There will be a reception and photographic exhibit, "An Avian Event" Tuesday, April 10, from 6:30-9:30 p.m. at the University National Bank and Trust Co. It will feature a gallery of bird photographs by two local photographers, Ken Gardiner and Brad Lowman. A benefit for the Children's Health Council, tickets are \$10. Call the Children's Health Council at (415)326-5530 x225.

Beginning Birding Class offered by the Adult Education Center in Santa Clara. Don Starks is teaching the class, which meets Tuesday evenings starting April 10th, and lasts six weeks. Optional field trips. Call (408)984-6220 for information.

Alice Hoch will be leading a six-week class called "Birding Field Trips" for the Fremont Adult School. The class will meet Tuesday mornings from 9:30-12:30, starting April 24th. Each week a different top birding spot will be visited. For details call Alice Hoch at (415)657-0475.

There is still some space on pelagic trips out of Monterey Bay April 27, May 13, May 19, and May 31. Spring is an excellent time for observing a variety of pelagic birds in high plumage. Call Debra Shearwater at (408)425-8111.

Maryann Danielson will be leading a field trip to the Salton Sea and High Desert areas April 23-29. It will be primarily a car camping trip. Fee will be \$90 or \$100, depending on how many enroll. The trip is sponsored by Sunbeam Ecology Explorations. Call Maryann Danielson at (415)342-6919.

The 16th Annual Santa Cruz Mountain Trails Days will be a two day event this year. On April 28th Sanborn and Stevens Creek County parks will be added to the usual list of State Parks and Open Space District lands. We can all help to assure the future of birding trips on our local recreational trails by coming out and taking part in their maintenance. The recent government cutbacks coupled with two severe winters sparked the formation of the Trail Information and Volunteer Center. The Center is coordinating the April 28th and May 12th Trail Days. 1983 Trail Day saw the completion of a new trail connection from Lohry Forest in Castle Rock State Park as well as the repair of 12 miles of storm-damaged trails. Join in the fun. Contact Georgia Perkins at TIVC for information and registration at (415)324-8482 between 1 and 5.

The Peninsula Conservation Center Foundation will be showing award-winning films from the International Wildlife Film Festival at the New Varsity Theater in Palo Alto May 3.

Contact Dianne Dryer at (415)328-5313.

There is still space in Sessions I and III at the Golden Trout Camp in the Golden Trout Wilderness. Session I is August 5-11. Session III is August 19-25. The cost is \$135 for adults, \$95 from 10-13, and \$75 for 3-9 years. This includes all meals and the naturalist's programs. Golden Trout is in the Sierras west of Lone Pine at 10,000 feet. Participants stay in tents, bringing their own gear. Call Cindi McKernan at (714)793-7897 for more information.

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 \$6/year. It is published monthly except July and August. Send address changes to the office promptly.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
 ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
 CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

- CHECK CATEGORY  
 Individual/\$30  
 Family/\$38  
 Senior Citizen/\$21  
 Senior Citizen Family/\$23  
 Student/\$18  
 AVOCET only/\$6  
 Check Enclosed  
 Please Bill Me