



The Avocet

MR ALAN M EISNER
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REDWOOD CITY, CA 94061

2020

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May 1984

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.

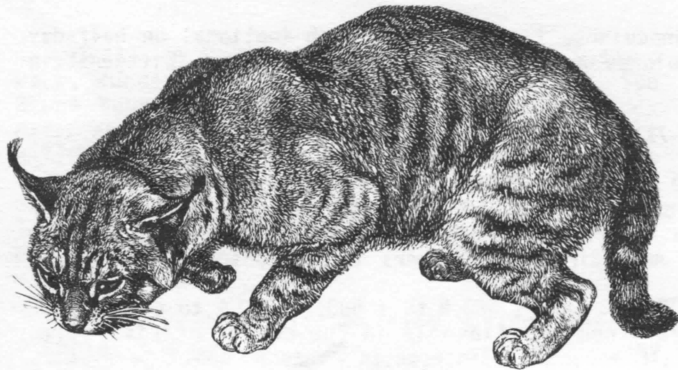
Field Trip Coordinator for May - Mary Lou Burgin (408)253-7115.

- May 2 **Bay Area Bird Photographers.** Wednesday, 7:30 p.m., Baylands Nature Center, Palo Alto Harbor. Rick Palmer and Bob Western will give a workshop on use of multiple projectors and lapse dissolve for slide presentation. They are associated with Biosphere, a non-profit group working in ecology education using slides, film, and video. Bay Area Bird Photographers is co-sponsored by the Arts and Sciences Division of City of Palo Alto.
- 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. 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 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.
- May 8 **Bird Discussion Group.** Tuesday, 9:30 a.m., at the home of Eve Case, 20537 Verde Vista Lane, Saratoga. Topic: Willets.
- May 12 **Loma Prieta.** Half-day, Saturday, 8:30 a.m. From San Jose, take Hwy 17 S to Summit Rd. Turn sharply right, cross over Hwy 17 and take Summit E. Summit becomes Highland in 3 miles. Continue for 2 miles to 3-way stop sign. Take left turn up mountain on Bache Rd. Continue about 5 miles to parking lot on south side of the peak. The last two miles are rough, but passable by most cars. No facilities en route. Bring lunch and water. Specialties include Black-chinned Sparrows, Blue-gray Gnatcatchers, Sage Sparrows and other chaparral species. Leader: Don Starks (408)371-9720.
- May 13 **Stevens Creek Park.** Half-day Sunday, 8:30 a.m. Take Stevens Creek Blvd. W to Foothill Blvd., left on Foothill about 1 1/2 miles. Turn left and go down into parking lot below the dam. Highlights - birding by sound! Leader: Frank Farran (408)252-3874.
- May 16 **General Meeting,** Wednesday. Refreshments at 7:30 p.m., program begins at 8. Palo Alto Cultural Center, Newell Rd. at Embarcadero. Walt Anderson will present "Wildlife of the National Parks of Brazil" with stunning color slides. During the last 2 years, Walt led the first 3 natural history expeditions to the Brazilian national parks. Among examples of Brazil's rich bird life will be rheas, seriemas, hawks, storks, parrots, ovenbirds, spinetails, scythebills, trogons, and more.
- May 20 **Sprig Lake and Mt. Madonna County Park.** Sunday, 8:30 a.m. Meet at Sprig Lake, 7.3 mi. from Hwy 101 and Hwy 152 (Hecker Pass). Optional after-lunch foray into Mt. Madonna Co. Park (\$2.00 fee). Highlights - late spring migrants, warblers, vireos, tanagers, orioles. Phone for details. Leaders: Audrey Stoye (408)249-2108 and Betty Wyatt (408)255-6091.
- May 23 **Field Trip North,** Wednesday, 8:15 a.m., the Page Mill Rd. area of the Monte Bello Open Space Preserve. Meet in Park & Ride lot west of I-280 at Page Mill & Arastradero at 8 a.m. We will carpool 7 miles up Page Mill Rd. and park in the new Monte Bello Space lot on the left. Probably Black-throated Gray Warblers. Leader: Carol Zabel (415)948-5671.
- May 26 **Monte Bello Open Space Preserve.** Half-day Saturday, 8 a.m. Take Page Mill Rd. W 7 miles from I-280. Meet in parking lot across from Los Trancos parking lot. Highlights - flycatchers, vireos, warblers, and other spring migrants. Leader: Phil Hand (415)851-2623.
- May 26-28 **Deep Springs/Oasis/Death Valley weekend.** Birding desert vagrant traps for eastern vagrants, western migrants, and Great Basin specialties like Sage Thrasher, Sage Sparrow, and Black-billed Magpie. Bring food, water for 3 days. Prepare for very hot and cold weather and long distances between services. Mostly driving, easy walking, but long hours. Camping at creek near oasis or in Death Valley. Refer to AAA Death Valley and Lake Mead map. Driving time 10 hours. For information, carpooling, meeting time and place. Leaders: Bob Roadcap (408)377-6020 and Mark Fenner.

- June 13 **June General Meeting - Annual Membership Potluck Supper..** Wednesday evening. More information in the June AVOCET.
- June 13 **Field Trip South.** Wednesday, 9 a.m. Humane Society Wildlife Dept. for one hour, then percolation ponds on Coleman Ave. Joan Priest's wildlife rehabilitation program. Meet at Steindorf School, Rm. 15, 3001 Ross at Foxworthy in San Jose. Call 269-BIRD for details. Located behind Gemco. Look for nesting Pied-billed Grebes at ponds on Coleman Ave.

SAN BRUNO MOUNTAIN THREATENED

Conservation groups are rallying to stop a development of San Bruno Mountain that would result in 3000 new housing units and the destruction of rare and endangered plant and butterfly habitat. Bay Area Mountain Watch's David Schooley says a dangerous, precedent-setting Habitat Conservation Plan means developers need not submit an environmental impact report by claiming only minimal impact. Many biological experts have condemned the developer's Habitat Plan, calling it slanted and highly unscientific. For information, call Schooley at BAMW, P. O. Box A0, Brisbane, CA 94005.



UNCLE SAM WANTS YOU --- FOR THE SCVAS ANNUAL PLANNING MEETING

Well, maybe not Uncle Sam, but the Board of Directors invites all SCVAS members to participate in the 1984 SCVAS Annual Planning Meeting on Sunday June 10. We sponsor this event so that we can listen to your concerns and desires for the future of SCVAS and our region. Next year will be a goal-oriented year for our chapter and we hope to leave this meeting with clear and concrete ideas for the projects SCVAS should pursue to spread the Audubon message and contribute to the preservation of our area. This is your chance to directly contribute to the development of these goals and priorities. Your contribution will be greatly appreciated and no experience is necessary. We welcome the fresh ideas of newly active members as much as the seasoned wisdom and knowledge of our long-time supporters.

Going beyond helping Audubon and SCVAS, this day is your opportunity to join forces with others who will listen to your ideas and suggest their own ideas. Hopefully many projects will evolve from these ideas. Perhaps you will discover some new area of interest in which you would like to volunteer your efforts. If you like to work with enthusiastic people and to know that your contribution is valued, then this is your day! So, once again we extend the invitation and hope you will circle June 10 on your calendar. The meeting will be at the Environmental Education Center in Alviso, and will begin at 9 a.m. and end no later than 3:30. Call Lynn at the Audubon office (415/329-1811) if you would like to join us. If there is sufficient interest, we may be able to schedule a sunset birding trip after the meeting. See you there....

Kevin Monahan

SOUTH BAY WETLANDS COALITION

At the last meeting of the Wetlands Coalition, we discussed the Governor's appointees to BCDC and possible comments to be made at their confirmation hearings, which have not been scheduled yet. A committee within the Coalition is compiling a map of South Bay wetlands, including seasonal and tidal areas, and is looking for existing maps and information. Negotiations are underway between the State Lands Commission and Leslie Salt Co. about title settlements for about 1000 acres in Alameda. Proposals for development include a race track, industrial park and amusement park - and a small amount of public land for a park. For more information about the South Bay Wetlands Coalition and its activities, please contact Dianne Dryer at (415)328-5313.

SCVAS WELCOMES FORMER GAVILAN MEMBERS

SCVAS wishes to extend a warm welcome to our new members from Gilroy and Morgan Hill.

The Gavilan Audubon Society has recently voted to dissolve their chapter after three years of existence. Former Gavilan members residing in Hollister, San Juan Bautista, and Aromas have been reassigned to the Monterey Audubon Society. Those who live in the Gilroy-Morgan Hill area will now be members of our chapter.

HELP FOR THE BIRDAHOLIC

Have you gone beyond the life list, the year list, and the state list to the county list, the week list, and the seen-behind-the-pizza-parlor list? Have you gone beyond the Big Day to the Big Hour and the Big Minute? Is birding affecting your work? Is birding affecting your family life? Can you no longer watch just one bird? Is a day wasted if you don't go birding?

If the answer to one or more of these questions is yes, you could be a birdaholic. Now, there's help. Marin's Center for a New Life is counseling birders who want to get the vulture off their backs. The Center's Director, Cindi Sundry, says they're seeing increasing number of hardcore birders. "These people are attracted from all over to the Pt. Reyes area - you see them collapsed in the street at Bolinas - and sometimes they realize how low they've sunk and they come to us. Other times, people's families tie them up and bring them in, though you'd be surprised how often a whole family will turn into problem birders." The Center believes in tapering off heavy birders, rather than insisting they go cold turkey, in case withdrawal symptoms are severe. Says Sundry, "We have them look at a really common bird, a starling or a robin, and we say to them, 'Remember how you got into birdwatching, how you just found birds so interesting and beautiful?' and then we just have them meditate on that robin, and notice how pretty its feathers are. Later, we have them meditate on a robin with people standing around talking, and then with people standing around saying stuff like 'Did you see the Calliope Hummingbird at the feeder next door?' and, 'The pelagic trip leaves in fifteen minutes,' and, 'Look over there - isn't that a state record?' and they just have to concentrate on that robin. We teach them to say, 'No thank you, I'm just going to stay home and watch TV.'"

S. J. McCarthy

©1984 by S. J. McCarthy

BIRDING IN SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Frank Farran, a long-time active chapter member and trip leader has extensive experience birding in Southern California as well as in the Bay Area. He has prepared a guide to some of his favorite areas in Southern California for the AVOCET to be used as space is available. Here is the second in the series.

Joshua Tree National Monument is an enormous area primarily in the little San Bernardino mountains and the Pinto Basin. It lies between the Colorado Desert on the west and the Mojave Desert on the east. The habitat goes from low desert salt bush or creosote scrub through high desert Joshua Tree "forests" to desert mountain pinyon-jupiter-scrub oak woodland in the Hidden Valley area and other high parts of the monument.

Much of the Monument is remote and little traveled. It varies from dry to bone dry (only Cottonwood campground has water). When the infrequent rains do come, there may be flash flooding. Watch out for the "dry" watercourses. In general, take the usual precautions for desert travel. Have plenty of water and gasoline. Carry good maps and inquire before using any but the main roads.

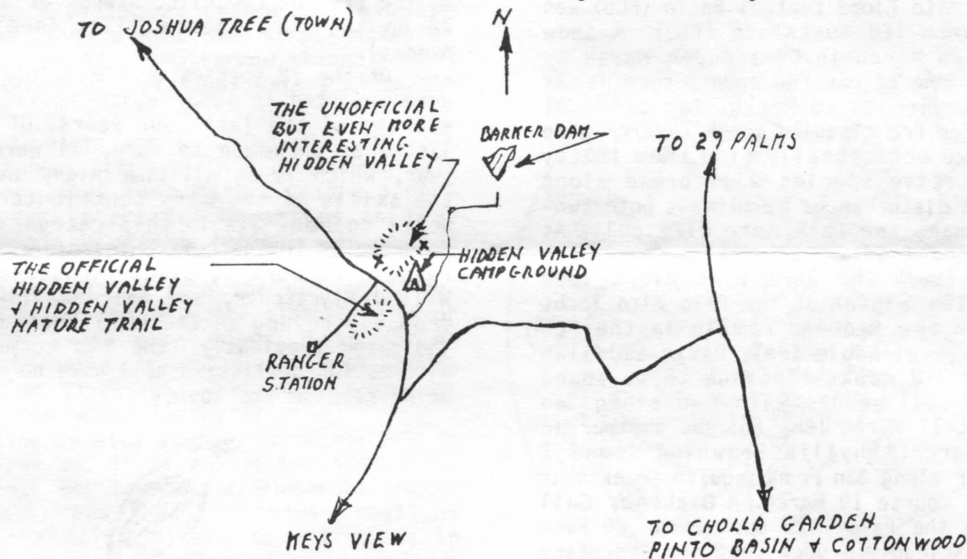
My favorite part of the Monument is the Hidden Valley area.

The Little San Bernardino mountains are an ancient range and the granite of which they are formed has been eroded into a jumble of weird and wonderful boulders. The Hidden Valleys are actually huge corrals with a boulder fence. It is not easy to enter the unofficial Hidden Valley. The two little "x"s on the map show the best areas of entrance.

Birds of interest in the Hidden Valley area are Raven, Prairie Falcon, Red Tailed Hawk, Scrub Jay, Scott's Oriole (May on into summer), White-Throated Swift, Black-Throated Sparrow, Bushtit, Hermit Thrush (winter), Brewer's Sparrow (winter), Cactus Wren, Rock Wren, Says Phoebe, Sage Thrasher (winter), and, as noted, migrating Warblers. On the road to Key's View in the winter we have seen a flock of Pinyon Jays eating juniper berries. West of Hidden Valley, on the road to Joshua Tree (town) we saw a LeConte's Thrasher one late February day.

Barker Dam seems to always have water in it, although I can't see that there is any source other than runoff. There are, of course Black Phoebes there, several resident Coots, Swallows, and often a duck or two. Since it is a source of water in a dry area, it must be a good bird place during migration, but I have not checked it at that time.

A worthwhile one-day trip from Hidden Valley is to go first to Key's View and then to backtrack five



My wife and I have had some interesting experiences in the Hidden Valley area. We went there just after an unusual early May rain. The storm had been particularly violent in the San Bernardino mountains and the Mojave Desert beyond. Apparently migrating birds have been held back in the Little San Bernardino mountains for several days. Whatever the mechanics of the event, when we got to Hidden Valley campground, every little desert bush had a warbler or two in it.

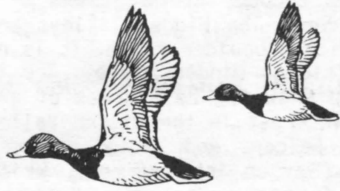
On another occasion we were driving slowly around a bend into Hidden Valley campground when we spotted a Bobcat at the side of the road. We stopped from a speed of about 10 mph with the cat not more than 10 feet from the car. She had held her ground because she was in the process of "doing in" a junk food fattened ground squirrel. She sank her cuspid into the squirrel to the hilt, gave us a glare worthy of a bengal tiger and took off for the rocks with the still struggling squirrel. Surprisingly enough, this happened at noon with several campers within 100 feet of, but oblivious to, the event.

Both Hidden Valleys are interesting, but my favorite one is the unofficial Hidden Valley west of the campground. These aren't valleys in the normal

miles and go east and then southeast to Cholla Cactus Garden (where, needless to say, there are Cactus Wrens), Pinto Basin (famous for archeological studies), and finally to Cottonwood Springs (reputed to be a good place in migration). From Cottonwood Springs go south and west to Indio and back to Hidden Valley via the town of Joshua Tree.

Joshua Tree National Monument has some wild country and I have talked with people who have seen both desert big-horned sheep and mountain lions there. There are also supposedly a few deer in the monument, but I have never seen them. The large mammal I have seen the most of there is the coyote. A bird that improbably enough is found in Joshua Tree is the Mountain Quail. I have yet to see them there; I presume they are in the Quail Springs area to the west of Hidden Valley.

Joshua Tree is a good place for wildflowers after a wet winter, but timing is critical as it is in most desert areas. A week too soon there is nothing out, three weeks later the flowers are gone. When the drying-out period comes, it hits with a bang. I would guess most years that the best time is early or mid-April for the higher parts of the monument.



FIELD NOTES - Bill Bousman

Cattle Egrets continue to be found in the area. The bird reported from the Palo Alto Baylands last month was seen through early March and was joined by a second bird by 14 March (Clark Blake (CB)) and both were seen at least through 22 March. These birds were not in breeding plumage, but birds seen last year in Fremont and at the Alviso heronry in April and May suggest that local nesting of this species will occur soon. The **Greater White-fronted Goose** in the Palo Alto Flood Control Basin (FCB) was seen again 18 March (Ed Gustafson (EG)). A **Snow Goose** was found 25 March in Crittenden Marsh by Susan McCarthy for one of our few county records. It was seen at least through 26 March. Two pairs of **Wood Ducks** along San Francisquito Creek 7 March were away from areas we occasionally find them (Betty Groce). This secretive species will breed along small streams, but disturbances by animals both two- and four-footed make the task more difficult. At least 2 **Blue-winged Teal** were still at Charleston Slough 18 March (EG). The Rare Bird Alert Tape reported an **Eurasian Wigeon** at the Palo Alto Yacht Harbor 3 March. A few **Redhead** remain in the FCB through 17 March (Paul Noble (PN), David Suddjian (DS)). **Red-shouldered Hawks** continue to be found away from their usual haunts with two along San Francisquito Creek 17 March (PN, DS) and another in Menlo Park 24 March. Phyllis Browning found 2 **Spotted Sandpiper** along San Francisquito Creek near the Palo Alto Golf Course 19 March. A **Glaucous Gull** was reported from the Palo Alto Duck Pond 26 February (RBA Tape) - clearly a good spot for sedentary birders this year. A **Northern Pygmy-Owl** heard at dusk in La Honda 10 March (CB) was in a fairly typical location for this seldom found owl. A **Rufous Hummingbird** at a Los Altos feeder 4 March (PN) is early for this rare migrant. A **Red-breasted Nuthatch** still remains in Los Altos through 11 March (Jean Campbell (JC)). A **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** at Foothills Park on 5 March is a month early (PN). The possibility exists that it over-wintered. A **Vesper Sparrow** was seen at the FCB on 3 February (JC) for one of our very few records for this rare wintering sparrow. **Swamp Sparrows** have been seen at Baylands with 2 on 17 March (RBA Tape) and one 22 March. In the weeks before our secretive marsh sparrows leave they sometimes start singing and are more easily found. Two **White-throated Sparrows** continue to come to a feeder in Menlo Park through 26 March. Some spring arrivals: **Tree Swallows** on 17 March in Foothills Park (PN, DS), **Cliff Swallows** on 4 March along Guadalupe Slough (Al Ross), **Barn Swallows** on 24 February at Baylands (CB), **Warbling Vireos** on 17 March in Foothills Park (PN, DS), and a **Bullock's Oriole** in Menlo Park 25 March.

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).

I have spent another enjoyable year sharing the sightings of many local observers, and I will try to summarize the birding events of 1983 in Santa Clara County. I add my usual proviso that there were certainly many species unobserved or unreported so our interpretation of events is speculative.

At the end of 1982 the Santa Clara County Checklist total was 314 species. For the first year since I've taken care of the records no new species were recorded in the county, a disappointment we won't face in 1984 (see Ross' Goose report in the March *Avocet*). The checklist has continued to climb, but only for bureaucratic reasons. The American Ornithologist's Union 6th Edition of the *Checklist of North American Birds* was published this year, and they've split the Yellow-bellied Sapsucker into two species: the Red-breasted Sapsucker, which is a winter visitor to the county, and the Yellow-bellied Sapsucker. The latter is considered to have two races. The eastern race has not been recorded in the county, but the western race, the Red-naped Sapsucker, has been recorded here at least five times. My earliest record is of one found in Palo Alto in February, 1893. As I continue to update county records I have added a Brown Thrasher reported by Grinnell and Miller from San Jose, and a Summer Tanager found dead in Palo Alto, 24 September 1973. So the present Checklist stands at 317 species with 78 on the supplemental list (see February 1983 *Avocet*).

Of the 78 species on the supplemental list, 12 were reported in 1983, which is slightly below the average of the last four years. Of the 89 species listed as uncommon to rare, 74 were recorded this year, which is an all-time high, and reflects upon the skills of the many contributors to the Field Notes column. Six in this category have not been recorded in the past five years: Brandt's Cormorant, Pelagic Cormorant, Black Turnstone, Common Tern, Willow Flycatcher, and Bank Swallow. All of these probably belong on the supplemental list. As I've indicated previously, the two cormorants are candidates for de-listing as I have no records of their being seen in the county.



What were the species seen in 1983 that we should note? Certainly it was a banner year for Least Bittern, with one at the Baylands recorded until 4 March and two in migration adjacent to the Flood Control Basin in September. This provides our fifth and sixth records for this species. Two Wandering Tattlers at the Mountain View Forebay 10 September were the second county record as was the Black-legged Kittiwake at the Duck Pond 3 April. The Northern Waterthrush banded in Alviso 24 September is only the third county record. Continued sightings of Rose-breasted Grosbeaks on 19 May and 19 December brings the record total for this species to seven. Kudos to the many sharp-eyed observers for finding these rarities, and kudos to Clark Blake for the 3rd Palo Alto BBC which has provided so much information on our breeding species. 1984 promises to be a banner year with plans afoot for the San Francisco Bay Bird Observatory's colonial water bird census.
Bill Bousman

HAYWARD SHORELINE

San Francisco Bay has shrunk slowly and steadily over the years as one project after another has claimed its piece of the shore. Yet, recently in the south Bay the tables were turned. In May, 1980, an outboard levee along the Hayward shore was breached and intertidal waters were allowed to flow back into 220 acres of former tidelands. Christened the Hayward Regional Shoreline, the area was designed and is now operated by the East Bay Regional Park District.

Beginning in the 1960's south bay salt marshes were diked off and converted to large, shallow ponds for salt production via solar evaporation. Eventually over 25,000 acres of salt marsh were lost. The Hayward Regional Shoreline was once a salt marsh, but in 1885 the American Salt Company surrounded the area with dikes. Salt was harvested until 1927 when the ponds were abandoned. A plan to restore the area to its former natural condition began in 1971 following the formation of the Hayward Area Shoreline Planning Agency. The Shoreline is the only restoration project on San Francisco Bay to be designed and constructed before admitting Bay waters. After nine months of massive earth-moving and grading, the outer levee was ripped open in two places and in flowed the bay. Elevational changes within the lagoons and developing marsh, the slope angles of islands and dikes and the many narrow channels were carefully engineered so that tidal waters circulate properly through the Shoreline.

Wetland biologists are watching with interest as ecological changes occur in this developing salt marsh. It is providing them with a unique opportunity to observe intertidal organisms as they colonize an essentially sterile habitat. Already the mudflats are reverting to a natural state. Benthic invertebrates have settled into the mud and estuarine fish swim in and out with the tide. Tangles of pickleweed grow along dike edges. Last spring botanists began planting cord grass, the most important plant species of coastal salt marshes but one that is slow to revegetate naturally.

The Shoreline is also used by large numbers of non-breeding birds and it is one of the best locations in the East Bay to observe wintering waterbirds. Boardwalks and trails provide excellent viewing and they allow hikers to get close to feeding birds. Flocks containing 10,000 sandpipers have been estimated during periods of peak migration and during a recent study organized by Dr. Howard Cogswell almost 60 species of waterbirds were recorded using the Shoreline. At high tide gulls and shorebirds stand shoulder to shoulder on the islands while offshore, grebes, diving ducks and terns forage. Northern Harriers make frequent passes over the Shoreline, causing sandpipers to fly up and wheel across the sky in nervous reaction. Merlins are an exciting and regular sight in the winter and Peregrine and Prairie Falcons have also been seen. In addition to most of the common birds found on the Bay, the following uncommon species have been spotted: Lesser Yellowlegs, Wandering Tattler, Baird's and Pectoral Sandpiper, Thayer's Gull and Least and Black Tern.

With over two-thirds of California's prime coastal wetlands gone it is encouraging that here in the East Bay an area of wetland habitat has been created. The Hayward Regional Shoreline is proving to be a valuable habitat for wildlife as well as providing much-needed access to the bay for city dwellers. It is a prototype that land-use planners and conservationists should look to when considering future projects.

To reach the Shoreline, take the Nimitz Freeway (Hwy. 17) to Hayward and exit at W. Winton Ave. Follow Winton west toward the bay until it ends at the Shoreline parking lot. A quarter-mile long dirt road leads from the parking lot to the beginning of the trail.

Chris Swarth

From "The Gull", Golden Gate Chapter Newsletter

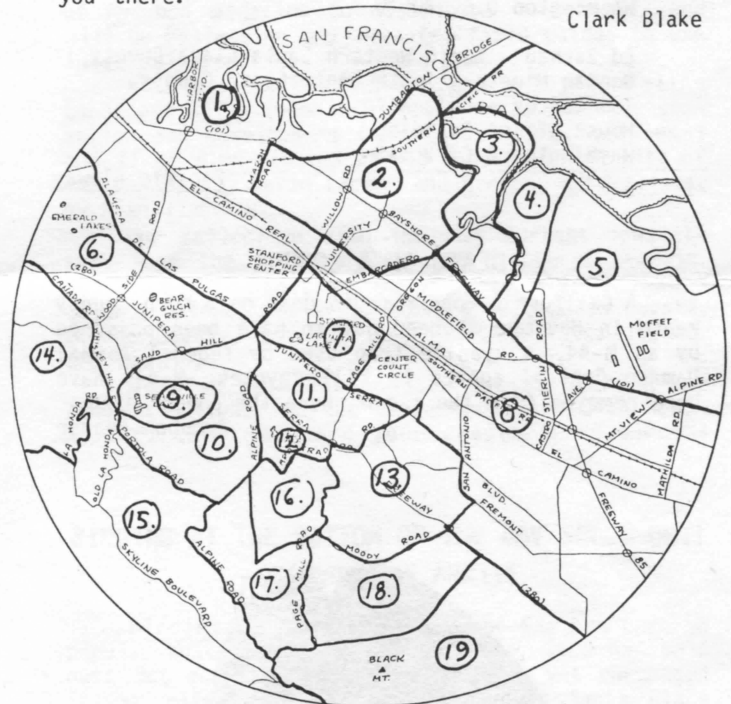
BREEDING BIRD CENSUS

The fourth annual Palo Alto Breeding Bird Census will be held on Saturday, June 9, 1984. Following the count, there will be a swimming party, barbecue, and countdown at 272 Covington Road, Los Altos. All interested participants should contact the leader of that area of the circle they wish to count in.

The previous three counts have resulted in many valuable data concerning breeding species, their numbers and distribution, as well as information regarding timing of migration. We will have a lot to learn, however, about this presently unique count.

I predict that this year's count will be the most exciting yet with many additional surprises and enough vagrants to make for a lively countdown! See you there.

Clark Blake



AREA LEADERS

1	Clark Blake	948-6058
2	Ken Lajoie	322-9791
3	Ron Kistler	324-3633
4	Andy Kratter	368-2541
5	Ivan Barnes	326-9457
6	Cynthia Dusel-Bacon	324-8237
7	Betty Groce	326-5540
8	Larry Newcomb	494-7866
9	Bill Clark	326-7565
10	Bob Wallace	851-0249
11	Ralph Hunter	326-4456
12	Al Eisner	364-3686
13	Ruth Troetschler	948-4142
14	Jenny Chapman	493-4908
15	Bill Bousman	322-5282
16	Virgil Frizzell	322-1162
17	Al Robinson	851-7585
18	Curt Schneider	960-3645
19	Pete LaTourette	961-2741

CONSERVATION

By now most of you have probably heard that a Whooping Crane has died of lead poisoning. This young male bird was a member of the Gray Lake, Idaho flock which winters at the Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge in New Mexico. The use of the word refuge here does not imply a safe place to rest and feed since hunting is allowed in the area. Although the bird had been shot, an autopsy revealed that the bird was poisoned by lead shot it had eaten. WHY is lead shot still allowed to be used even though it is known that millions of birds die each year from eating lead shot? WHY is hunting allowed on a "refuge" where the Whooping Crane is found? Write your congressmen and ask them to put a stop to this. Specifically, hunting on the Bosque del Apache should be ended and a ban on lead shot around the area should be imposed. Better yet, how about a ban on lead shot everywhere? In case you don't have the names handy, our congressmen are:

The Honorable Pete Wilson
Senate Office Building
Washington D.C. 20510

The Honorable Alan Cranston
Senate Office Building
Washington D.C. 20510

Ed Zschau - North Western Santa Clara County
Norman Mineta - South Santa Clara County
Tom Lantos - Palo Alto
House Office Building
Washington D.C. 20515

Pacific Flyway

DEATH OF A CONDOR

A California Condor found dead on a Kern County ranch in November turned out to have been poisoned by an M-44, a cyanide trap used by federal Animal Damage Control agents to kill coyotes. M-44s have been removed from the ranch where the condor died.

Audubon Leader



CHAPTER ELECTIONS MAY 16

SCVAS members present at the May 16 General Meeting will vote on a slate of officers for 1984-85. Following are capsule profiles provided by each of the nominees:

PRESIDENT - Kevin H.C. Monahan: SCVAS Director 1982-83, and First Vice-President 1983-84. Long time birder, with professional training in archaeology and electrical engineering. Has participated in preparation of environmental impact reports and national register of historical places nominations. Employed by Lockheed Missiles and Space Company.

FIRST VICE PRESIDENT - Judy McEuen: SCVAS Field Trip leader and active on the Grants Committee in 1982-84. Bird watcher and world traveler, has offered natural history programs to children and community groups. Works as a dental hygienist.

SECOND VICE PRESIDENT - Diana Stillens: Graduate Student at San Jose State University. Masters thesis is on food habits of mammalian carnivores. Primary interests are birds and mammals, and has traveled to East Africa and Costa Rica to observe and study the native species.

TREASURER - Bob Houghton: Treasurer 1983-84. CPA interested in contributing his effort to the financial side of SCVAS. Associate Registrar at Stanford University.

RECORDING SECRETARY - Courtenay Dawson-Roberts, Jr.: SCVAS Director 1981-84. Interested in birds since she was ten years old. Environmental educator and conservation activist. Works at the Nature Company.

DIRECTORS FOR THREE YEARS (1984-87)

Deborah Manley - Newcomer to the area, and excited about becoming involved with SCVAS. Involved in group travel programs with a natural history emphasis for the last four years, with Smithsonian Associates Travel Program and now with Betchart Expeditions.

Greg Meszaros - Active in SCVAS Conservation issues 1983-84. A birder for several years. Past Vice President of the Bay Area Amphibian & Reptile Society. Employed by Owens-Corning Fiberglas.

Mark McEuen - Participated in SCVAS Grants Committee in 1982-84. Field Trip leader for several years. Active in the Bay Area Bird Photographers group. World traveler and bird watcher. Works for PSA.

WALNUT HARVEST RESULTS

This last fall, more than 20 hardworking volunteers raked, picked, shucked, hauled, weighed and bagged walnuts. Thanks to their efforts, and to the generosity of Lynn and Martha Hunton, and Bob and Lillian Wilson who donated the nuts, SCVAS has \$275 to offer the Mono Lake Committee to help pay for the fight to save Mono Lake. Special thanks also go to Phyllis Swanson, Bob Houghton, and Dave Johnston - section leaders, Lyman Fancher - carpenter of the walnut drying racks, Jim and Sue Liskovec - who provided a second home to drying and bagged walnuts, and to all SCVAS members who reached into their pocketbooks to buy nuts to support this cause. THANK YOU!!!

Lynn Tennefoss

HELLO AND GOODBYES

Donna Zetterquist and Rick Palmer have resigned from the SCVAS Board of Directors. Donna served on the Board for more than four years - first as a Director and recently as Recording Secretary. Rick became a Director nearly two years ago.

Both Donna's and Rick's careers have taken off recently and demand a great deal of their time. We wish them continued success and hearty thanks for all their efforts on behalf of SCVAS.

Philip La Riviere has been appointed to serve the remainder of Rick's term as Director. Philip, a long-time resident of Palo Alto, is an active member of the Save the Marsh Committee. He and his wife Florence recently completed an extensive study of tidal action (or lack thereof) in Charleston Slough on behalf of SCVAS. Welcome, Phiip!

Shirley Shepard, our former Avocet editor, is moving to the Shasta area, where the Shepards are building a house. She hopes to stay in touch with many SCVAS members. We'll miss you, Shirley.

MAILING LIST

A note to our members: Occasionally we make our mailing list available on a one-time-only basis to another carefully screened conservation organization with goals similar to ours. If you prefer that your name not be given to other organizations, please drop us a note, and we'll be happy to take care of it.



CONSERVATION CENTER

Volunteer positions are available at the Peninsula Conservation Center. If you're interested in learning about the environmental scene in the Mid-Peninsula, enjoy helping people and want to contribute 2-8 hours a week in a satisfying and very worthwhile job, call Vicki Moore, Environmental Information Coordinator at (415)328-5313 (PCC) or at (415)965-2182.

BALD EAGLE INFORMATION PACKET

SCVAS is proud to announce the creation of a 4-page plus pictures informational packet on the Bald Eagle, now available to grade school teachers and students. This mini-report was written by a SCVAS volunteer, Harry Beerbohm, in response to frequent requests to the office for such information. It will complement the slide show on the Bald Eagle that is also available free, with a narrated script, to grade school teachers. If you would like to use the slide show, or the information packet, please call Lynn at the SCVAS office, (415)329-1811. Thanks, Harry!!!!



DONATIONS TO THE LIBRARY

Thanks to Bill and Jean Clark, Bob Roadcap, and to Bob and Barbara Houghton for donations to the library collection. The new additions include all the back issues of Birdwatcher's Digest, Colour Guide to Hong Kong Birds, by Viney and Phillips, Nature's Ways, by Andrews, and A Field Guide to the Birds of Texas, by Peterson. Gifts to the library are greatly appreciated. We also welcome back issues of Audubon magazine to distribute to schools, and will be collecting any unwanted field guides to use in school programs.

Also new in the library are A Bay Shoreline Landscape Guide (booklet) from the S.F. Bay Conservation and Development Commission, 1984, Volumes I and II of Bird Studies at Old Cape May, The Life of the Robin, by David Lack, and Curious Naturalists, by Niko Tinbergen.

Our collection also includes current newsletters from the following Audubon chapters: Sequoia, Golden Gate, Madrone, Marin, Mt. Diablo, Napa-Solano, Ohlone, Monterey, Morro Coast, North Cuesta, Orange County, Los Angeles, Reno, Seattle, Tuscon, and Hawaii.

We also have the Audubon Society LEADER and Audubon ACTION, and the Santa Cruz Bird Club Newsletter. Come explore your chapter's resources!

BIRDING AT THE BOTTOM OF THE BAY SELLS OUT! --- AND MORE ARRIVE

Birding at the Bottom of the Bay has been so popular that the original printing of 1500 has sold out! But don't worry, if you haven't yet purchased SCVAS's site guide to birdwatching in Santa Clara County, you still have the chance, because our second printing of 1000 books has arrived in the SCVAS office. You can find the book at the SCVAS office, at the Peninsula Conservation Store, or through the mail by sending \$6.50 plus \$1 postage and handling to the SCVAS office.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ Zip _____

I would like _____ (#) copies of Birding at the Bottom of the Bay for \$6.50 plus \$1 postage and handling.

I would like _____ (#) SCVAS patches at \$2/each. I have enclosed a stamped self-address envelope. Please make all checks out to SCVAS, and send to 2253 Park Blvd., Palo Alto, CA 94306.

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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, TRAVEL, AND EVENTS

Trail Day North, May 12th, will include Huddart Park, Wunderlich Park, Pescadero Creek Park, San Bruno Mountain Park, and the Monte Bello, Windy Hill, and Los Trancos Open Space Units. Volunteers will work to repair trails damaged by winter storms as well as build new trails. Free camping will be available to volunteers. For information call the Trail Information and Volunteer Center at (415)324-8482 between 1 and 5.

Point Reyes Field Seminars Spring 1984 are offering classes on Spring birds: Migrants and Breeders, May 19-20, and Predatory Birds, June 2-3. Fee is \$41. Call (415)663-1200 for information.

Point Reyes Bird Observatory offers an Excursion to Big Bend Texas with instructor Rich Stallcup May 25-31. The riparian thickets, oases, open desert, oak-lined canyons, and mixed coniferous forests of southwest Texas hold specialties such as Zone-tailed Hawk, Elf Owl, Lucifer Hummingbird, Colima Warbler, and Black-chinned Sparrow. This trip includes a 2-day river float trip down the beautiful Santa Elena Canyon on the Rio Grande.

San Jose State University is offering a 19-day tour of Hawaii, Kauai, and Maui, called the Islands of Hawaii - Naturally. The tour, July 8-26, will be accompanied by faculty from the School of Science as it visits sanctuaries, volcanoes, tidepools, nature trails, and more. May be taken for credit. Call Mrs. Kitty King at (408)277-3736.

NATURE SOUNDS SOCIETY

Using Nature Sounds in Education: The Museum Perspective is the topic of the 2nd general meeting of the newly-formed Nature Sounds Society, Saturday, May 19, 1:30 p.m., Oakland Museum Classroom.

A class, Tuning in to Bird Sounds, will be given by Ron Arps (Instructor of Birdsong Workshops at Stanford's Jasper Ridge Preserve), May 26 and 27 at the Oakland Museum, sponsored by the Oakland Museum Natural Sciences Guild. For information call the Natural Sciences Department at (415)273-3884.



NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC FIELD GUIDES

The new, widely acclaimed National Geographic Field Guide to Birds of North America is now available through the SCVAS office. We have made a special bulk purchase so the books are available at a discount. Please call the office for more information. The books will be available at the PCC, or at the general meetings.

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.

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