



The Avocet

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2020

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HELP BURROWING OWLS!

During the summer months the Humane Society Wildlife Department will be relocating burrowing owl nests in the direct path of construction. Volunteers are needed to help. Birders can be especially helpful, as each report by builders must be checked out to see if there is an active nest in danger of burial. If you are willing to devote some "birding" time to this useful project, please call Joan Priest at (408)269-BIRD.

COYOTE CREEK HEARING

The Draft EIR for the Santa Clara Valley Water District's Flood Control Project on Coyote Creek in Alviso has been published, and is available for review. The Public Hearing to discuss the Draft EIR is June 12. Please contact Lynn in the office if you would like to see a copy of the Draft, comment on it, and/or to attend the hearing. Carpooling to the hearing can be arranged. This is THE most important and appropriate time to influence the project plans, before they are finalized. Our input can affect this 10-year project, concerning 10 miles of the least-manipulated riparian habitat on the edge of the Bay.

PROPOSITIONS 18 AND 19

The June 5th Ballot contains two critically important bond measures which call for your attention. These measures address serious environmental issues and deserve your strong support.

An estimated 64 million people will use California's state parks in 1984, and use of our local county and city parks will increase by 1/3 by 2000, but state and local governments are finding it difficult to get funds to maintain and improve parks to meet the demand. Proposition 18 provides \$370 million for local and state parks. Local agencies would receive \$150 million for the development and rehabilitation of parks and recreation facilities, including improvements of lakes, reservoirs and waterways, and for grants to non-profit organizations to develop areas inside parks. \$10 million is also set aside for local historic preservation projects. The Coastal Conservancy would receive \$50 million for implementing local coastal plans, carrying out the Coastal Conservancy Act, and for San Francisco Bay and Suisun Marsh. In addition, \$15 million will be available for acquisition and development of wildlife management areas and \$10 million for restoration and acquisition of habitats for rare and endangered species.

The State Park System would receive \$145 million, for the acquisition of new parklands to round out existing parks, and for State Park System rehabilitation and improvement projects. These funds include money for inland projects, recreational

JUNE GENERAL MEETING - ANNUAL POTLUCK

Please set aside the evening of Wednesday, June 13, for this affair. We will be meeting at 6 pm at the home of Lynn and Martha Hunton, 25600 Fernhill Drive, Los Altos Hills. Please call the office for directions. ALL MEMBERS ARE VERY WELCOME, AND ARE ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND. We will have a scrumptious feast, to which you can contribute accordingly:

- A-G Main Dish
- H-N Salad
- O-S Hors d'oeuvres
- T-Z Dessert

SCVAS and the Huntons will provide liquid refreshments. This is a fun occasion, an opportunity to meet fellow members, discuss summer trips, and relax with friends. New members will find this event a good way to find out about the chapter's activities.

FIELD GUIDES IN

National Geographic Society Field Guide to the Birds of North America is now available through the SCVAS office. They are for sale during office hours, and during General Meetings. The price is \$11.95, a special bulk order savings. Pre-paid books may be picked up at the office, or at the General Meetings.

development of state managed lakes and reservoirs, resource protection projects, repair of storm damage to state parks, and projects in the state parks by volunteer organizations. To preserve and enhance our parks, beaches, wildlife and historical resources is a wise investment.

In the last century, California has lost 90% of its historic wetlands which offer essential shelter and food to birds, fish and other wildlife. Proposition 19 would provide money to restore, purchase, maintain and/or improve these critical wildlife areas. The Wildlife Conservation Board of the Department of Fish and Game would receive \$40 million for inland habitat and fisheries, \$10 million for marshlands in the coastal zone, and \$5 million for lands for rare, endangered and protected species.

The State Coastal Conservancy would receive \$20 million for grants to local public agencies within the coastal zone and San Francisco Bay for marshlands and adjacent biologically and hydrologically associated lands for habitat. Not less than \$5 million would be provided for the San Francisco Bay. Furthermore, the Conservancy would receive \$10 million for direct expenditure to benefit fish and wildlife. Proposition 19 is the only bond measure specifically designed to protect these vital ecological breeding grounds and represents a great opportunity for us to protect our fish and wildlife.

Lilly Yoshida

GOODBYE, DON, AND GOOD LUCK!

Second Vice-President Don Schmoldt has resigned from the SCVAS Board, and moved to Washington State to take a new job. Don will be working for the Department of Game, Habitat Management Division, out of Spokane. He will be evaluating the environmental impacts of development on streams. Good luck and thanks for your work!

YOSEMITE FLIGHTS

Possible tourist flights over Yosemite National Park are being protested by conservation groups. An air service located at Fresno has proposed flights at 20 minute intervals over the valley.

Negotiations between air service and the National Park Service are underway.

CRUISING FOR MONO LAKE

Mono Lake Committee is sponsoring a great cruise to Glacier Bay via the Inside Passage in June of 1985 and you are invited to join the adventure. The new Sitmar liner, "FAIRSKY", will sail from San Francisco on June 15, 1985, for an unforgettable 14-day cruise. There will be stops of four to sixteen hours at eight ports to allow plenty of time for sight-seeing in southeast Alaska and Canada.

By reserving space now, Mono Lake Committee can give reductions on 1984 prices. Fares will vary according to cabin, but there is a substantial saving to members of our group and a generous part of the amount paid will be a tax-deductible donation to help save Mono Lake. For full details, send a self-addressed, stamped 4" x 9 1/2" envelope with your request to: ALASKA in '85, c/o M. Bennett, 2719 Marin Ave., Berkeley, CA 94708.

CONSERVATION JOB OPENING

The Mono Lake Committee seeks an executive director to administer this 6,000-member environmental public interest group. The successful candidate will have at least five years experience in personnel and financial management experience; familiarity with environmental issues and politics; background in working with the media, and an overall capability of managing an organization which relies on merchandise sales, membership dues, donations and special events for funding. Salary range is \$25,000-\$28,000. Extensive travel required within California. Send resume, references, and salary history, to: Search Committee, Mono Lake Committee, 1355 Westwood Blvd, #6, Los Angeles, CA 90024.

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.

- June 6 **Bay Area Bird Photographers** will meet at 7:30 p.m. at the Palo Alto Baylands Interpretive Center. This will be a social meeting for members and interested non-members.
- June 10 **Annual Planning Meeting.** Sunday 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., Environmental Education Center, Alviso. Come join other SCVAS members and develop chapter goals and priorities for 1984-1985. Bring lunch. Questions: Lynn (415)329-1811(days) or Kevin (408)559-8713(early eves).
- June 12 **Bird Discussion Group,** Tuesday, 9:30 a.m. Meet at Vasona Lake Visitors Center parking lot. Bring picnic lunch.
- June 13 **June General Meeting - Annual Membership Potluck Supper.** Wednesday evening. See story.
- 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.
- Aug 19 **Field Trip.** Sunday, 8:30 a.m., Ano Nuevo St. Reserve and San Mateo Coast. This is an ideal time of year for migrating shorebirds. 20 species likely at Ano Nuevo alone. Harlequin Duck, Black Swift, and Bank Swallow are possible. Meet at Gazos Creek Coastal Access parking area to reduce entry fees. Take Hwy. 84 to Hwy. 1 from the peninsula. Go south on Hwy. 1 about 12 miles. Parking is on the right, 2 miles S of Pigeon Pt. lighthouse. Expect 3-4 miles walking. After lunch we'll move north to Pescadero Marsh and beyond. Please call trip leader in August. Carpooling desirable. Leader: Bill Bousman (415)322-5282.

JUST A REMINDER...

Don't forget to attend the Annual SCVAS planning meeting Sunday, June 10, at the environmental Education Center in Alviso. We'll start at 9 am and end by 3:30. This still leaves five good hours for birding, so you have no excuse not to attend! The participants of this meeting will develop a set of goals and priorities for the coming year. We, the members of the Board of Directors, will use these results to help channel our efforts towards the projects that you say are important.

Three working groups will be formed to explore specific topics. Topics that should be of particular interest are conservation, the Audubon "message", and techniques for developing the strengths of SCVAS. The first topic, conservation, has perennially been of interest since it directly concerns the environment in which we live. As a Board, though, we would like to know what aspects of conservation are considered important or critical by the membership. The second topic is necessarily broad. What is the perceived image, to the general public, of SCVAS and NAS? How can educating the general public contribute to solving a conservation problem when our own personal efforts are insufficient? And, just how can SCVAS accomplish this? The last topic highlights the volunteer nature of SCVAS. You, as volunteers, are our most valuable resource. Without your support on SCVAS projects we would be unable to function. But, how do we organize, support and reward volunteers? Can we raise more money to support our grants program or fund volunteer efforts? We are going into this meeting with many questions, and are looking to you for answers.

Next year, like years in the past, will be a goal-oriented year for SCVAS. In the past we have contributed significantly and generously to the "Save Mono Lake" effort, supported environmental education projects in local grade schools, and had an effective grants program, to name just a few of our accomplishments. But we continue to look to you for your support and your ideas about SCVAS' future. So, we need the contributions of everyone. New or newly active members are especially welcome to come and give new ideas. If you decide to participate in the meeting, or have any questions, please call Lynn Tennefoss (415)329-1811, days) or Kevin Monahan (408)559-8713, early eves). We look forward to seeing you there.

Kevin Monahan



FIELD NOTES - Bill Bousman

By the time your September *Avocet* arrives the fall migration will be half over. Although coastal locations are best, some of our South Bay locales are very good for the rarer shorebirds. To inspire you to find these rarities I've tabulated some dates for Santa Clara County. I've not included winter and spring records.

| SPECIES | FIRST DATE | MEDIAN DATE | LAST DATE | # OF RECORDS |
|------------------------|------------|-------------|-----------|--------------|
| Lesser Golden-Plover | 8/26 | 9/17 | 9/27 | 4 |
| Lesser Yellowlegs | 7/1 | 8/31 | 11/3 | 37 |
| Ruddy Turnstone | 9/16 | -- | 10/30 | 2 |
| Red Knot | 8/2 | 9/13 | 9/21 | 3 |
| Semipalmated Sandpiper | 7/25 | -- | 8/21 | 2 |
| Baird's Sandpiper | 7/26 | 8/21 | 10/18 | 9 |
| Pectoral Sandpiper | 8/30 | 9/21 | 10/23 | 12 |

Some of these are attracted to impoundments, fresh water or otherwise. The Lesser Yellowlegs likes fresh water - try the Flood Control Basin (if the North Pond is allowed to dry up this year; last year it was flooded), Mountain View Forebay, or Crittenden Marsh. Baird's likes the pond behind the El Camino Dog Kennel. Try Crittenden Marsh for Pectoral. Get out your National Geographic Guide and learn to age shorebirds. You can separate juvenile dowitchers - try it.

At least one **Cattle Egret** was seen at the Palo Alto Duck Pond and Baylands at least through 15 April (Judy Wagner (JW), Paul Noble (PN), David Suddjian (DS)). Three were seen feeding near the San Jose Airport 20 April (Clark Blake (CB)). A **Green-backed Heron** was found at Matadero Creek and Hwy. 101 on 11 April (Derek Currall) and was there 14 April also (DS). A second bird was at Moffett Field the same day. They have nested along Coyote Creek in the past, but there are no records subsequent to 1969. The **Snow Goose** discovered in Crittenden Marsh in March remained until 23 April. They normally leave their wintering grounds by 15 April. A few **Redhead** have remained in the Palo Alto FCB with 4 there 15 April (PN,DS) and 2 seen 21 April (Phyllis Browning (PB)). There have been a flurry of **Red-shouldered Hawk** sightings this spring. A pair has been seen nesting near San Francisquito Creek on Stanford land in late March and early April (Betty Groce (BG), Maria Styles), and another nearer El Camino where they nested last year (JW). A nest along Coyote Creek in Coyote 26 April is inappropriate habitat, although there have been few reports from the valley floor in the past. However, one in the FCB 21 April (PN) is a most unusual location. Are they increasing because of us or in spite of us? Also at unusual locations were **Golden Eagles** with one along San Francisquito Creek at Stanford 8 April (Charlie Bacon, Cynthia Dusel-Bacon) and Moffett Field 19 April (Dennis Brown). A **Prairie Falcon** on the west side of the valley near Hwy. 17 and Bascom on 13 April (Don Starks) is unusual. **Spotted Sandpipers** move through our area annually in small numbers, but are usually found on stone beaches of lakes and streams. One was found along San Francisquito Creek at the P.A. Golf Course 15 April (PN,DS) and another along Coyote Creek 26 April. A **Stilt Sandpiper** molting into breeding plumage at Moffett Field 14 April (Tom Rountree, Pat Page, and myself) is one of the few spring records for Northern California. It was found during the SFBB0 Nesting Bird Census - one advantage of joining the SFBB0 census teams is access to restricted habitats. An early **Common Poorwill** was heard in Foothills Park 28 March (PN,DS); they're seldom reported from the west side of the valley. An early report of **Vaux's Swift** was of birds coming to roost in Saratoga 12 April (Rae Schmuck fide Mary Lou Burgin). Approximately 50 were

counted in a 1-2 mile stretch of Coyote Creek in Coyote 26 April. A male **Rufous Hummingbird** was seen on the east side of Mt. Hamilton 21 April (Al Eisner (AE)). Three to four **Lewis' Woodpeckers** in San Antonio Valley the same day are from an area they



are resident in (AE). A **Yellow-billed Magpie** in Mountain View 24 April (Pete LaTourrette) continues the series of winter sightings of this species north of its range. **Red-breasted Nuthatches** move out of their winter quarters by mid-April, so 2 in Menlo Park 22 April (in fan palms) and one on 4 May are late migrants. Singing **Nashville Warblers** were seen in Menlo Park 16 April and on the east side of Mt. Hamilton in the Coulter pines 21 April (AE). A **White-throated Sparrow** was last seen at one Menlo Park feeder 30 March (BG), while two birds at another Menlo Park feeder were last seen 27 and 30 April respectively. Another was seen along Coyote Creek at William Street Park 13 April (Susan McCarthy). A male **Tricolored Blackbird** was at Moffett Field 24 and 30 April, and a flock of 40 was along Coyote Creek 26 April. They formed a nesting colony in the freshwater pond at Coyote last year, but no nests were present this year. A male **Lawrence's Goldfinch** at Baylands 14 April (JW) was in an unusual location. A number at Smith's Creek 21 April (AE) were in a spot where they've been seen regularly for the last few springs. Some spring arrivals: **Olive-sided Flycatcher** in Stevens Creek CP 13 April, a **Western Wood-pewee** there 15 April on the SCVAS trip, a **Western Flycatcher** in Foothills Park 1 April (PN), an **Ash-throated Flycatcher** at Stevens Creek CP 13 April, a **Northern Rough-winged Swallow** at the Campbell percolation ponds 29 February, a **Solitary Vireo** at Stevens Creek 15 April, a **Yellow Warbler** there 13 April, a **Black-throated Gray Warbler** in Los Altos Hills 31 March (PN), a **Wilson's Warbler** in Foothills Park 1 April (PN), a pair of **Western Tanagers** at Stevens Creek 15 April, **Black-headed Grosbeaks** there the same day and in Foothills Park (PN,DS), a **Lazuli Bunting** in Monte Bello OSP 15 April, a **Chipping Sparrow** at Smith's Creek 21 April, and (phewww!) a **Hooded Oriole** returning to Palo Alto 20 March (PB).

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

NEW OFFICE HOURS

Beginning June 1, the SCVAS office will be open from 9 am - 1 pm, and also from 3 pm - 5 pm, Monday through Friday. The office will be closed for the month of July.

CONDOR NEWS

Another California Condor was found dead, probably of lead poisoning.

A fifth pair of nesting condors were found in the hollow of a 150-foot sequoia in Sequoia National Forest, the second nest ever found in a tree. They may be incubating an egg.

If all goes well, the first release of young condors into the wild will begin next year.

-Audubon Leader

SCVAS 1984 GRANTS AWARDED

The SCVAS awarded six grants totaling \$3295 as a result of the 1984 solicitation and evaluation of grant proposals. Recipients are: Trail Information and Volunteer Center, Santa Cruz Predatory Bird Research Group, Wildlife Rescue, Point Reyes Bird Observatory, San Francisco Bay Bird Observatory, and Mike Newcomer/Colleen Pollens.

The next opportunity to submit proposals for SCVAS grants will be in December 1984.

SANTA CLARA VALLEY AUDUBON SOCIETY, INC.

| | | | | | | |
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| Lyman Fancher | 408/942-1195 | | | | | |

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

Hawkeye's Pacific Adventures will be sailing from Pillar Point Harbor, Half Moon Bay, every weekend (Saturday and Sunday, 8 am - 4 pm, \$35, lunch not included) beginning June 3 through September. In summer the Farallons are host to over 250,000 breeding birds of 12 different species including Black Oystercatcher, Western Gull, 2 storm petrels, 3 cormorants and 5 types of "alcids" - the penguins of the Northern Hemisphere. We expect to see Humpback whales, dolphins, porpoises, and quite possibly blue whales. Call (408)374-3027.

SFBBO announces there is still room on the Kern River Birding Tour (June 22-25), Yosemite Tour (July 13-16), Arizona Tour (August 4-12, and the Condor Trip (August 24-26). Organizer Don Starks (408/371-9720) mentions that both the condor and Arizona trip are filling fast, so make reservations now.

A beginning birdwatching class will be offered through West Valley Community Development (408/867-0440). Sally Walters is teaching the class, which meets June 7 and 14 from 7 to 10 p.m. and June 9 and 16 from 6 to 11 a.m. For more information call (408)354-8648.

Roam the choicest Yosemite birdwatching spots August 4, 5, and 6 with Dave DeSante, PRBO Landbird Biologist, who has spent the last seven summers studying the dynamics of the breeding bird community near Tioga Pass. For details call Point Reyes Bird Observatory at (415)868-1221.

Fremont Adult School is offering a "Birding Field Trips" class, taught by Alice Hoch, beginning June 19. For information call Fremont Adult School at (415)791-5841, or Alice Hoch at (415)657-6319.

San Jose State University is offering a Field Studies in Natural History program at Plumas-Eureka State Park August 5-10, for the whole family. This park is in the northeastern Sierras. Pileated Woodpeckers abound. College credit is available. Contact Mrs. Kitty King at (408)277-3736.

Bay Area Birdwatching School, specializing in "gourmet birding", is offering a birding weekend in Yosemite June 29-July 1, concentrating on the Crane Flat area, at \$25 per person. Call (415)376-6319.

Field trips sponsored by Nature Explorations - Tuleyome include a June 1 Advanced Bird Song Workshop, an August 18 Farallon Islands boat trip, and an August 25 excursion to see California Condors. For information call (415)324-8737.

Raft the South Fork American River! Friends of the River presents one day benefit raft trips. Experience 11 exciting miles of Sierran whitewater while contributing to river protection. Friends of the River continues to fight for preservation of our river and creeks, and for the conservation of our water and energy supplies. We invite you to support us and enjoy a raft trip. A variety of trips on other rivers are available as well. For information call (415)771-0400.

MONO LAKE BIKEATHON

Whether old or young, beginner or expert, you are invited to ride in the 5th Annual Mono Lake Bikeathon.

The six-day, 350 mile ride departs from the Los Angeles Dept. of Water & Power headquarters on August 27, and arrives at Mono Lake on Sept. 1. Support wagons carry cyclists' gear. Each rider carries a small vial of water from DWP's reflecting ponds and returns it to its natural destination, Mono Lake. (Streams feeding Mono Lake are diverted to supply Los Angeles with water, destroying the lake.) All cyclists secure pledges from sponsors of a dime, quarter, or more per mile cycled. Last year 50 cyclists raised \$18,000 to defend the lake.

If you would like to cycle on the trip, or can volunteer the use of a van or truck for a support vehicle, contact Stephen Osgood at the L.A. office of the Mono Lake Committee, 1355 Westwood Blvd., Ste. 6, Los Angeles, CA 90024; (213)477-5754 or 477-8229.

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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