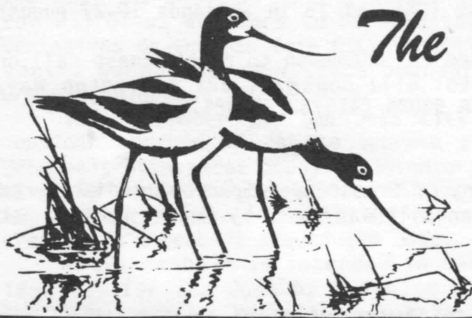


SANTA CLARA VALLEY AUDUBON SOCIETY

Chapter C14 of the National Audubon Society
2253 Park Boulevard, Palo Alto, CA 94306
Telephone: (415) 329-1811

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The Avocet

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

2020

Volume 31, Number 8

October 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.

- Oct. 6 **Birdwalk for Beginners, Rancho San Antonio O.S.P.**, half-day Saturday, 8 a.m. Meet at last parking lot at end of Cristo Rey Dr. Take 280 to Foothill Expwy, S to Cristo Rey Dr. Leaders: Jim and Sue Liskovec (415)969-5542.
- Oct. 7 **Marin Headlands, Rodeo Lagoon.** Sunday, 9 a.m. Meet at HQ parking lot, N side of Rodeo Lagoon. From Hwy 101 take Alexander Ave, Sausalito exit. Start downhill, swing left to tunnel entrance to Fort Cronkhite. Stay on this road. Take right turn across bridge between pond and lagoon. Park on left, opposite firehouse. Informal carpooling, commuter parking at 280 and Page Mill, 7:30 a.m. Possible vagrants, then hawks at Pt. Diablo. Bring lunch, liquids. Leader: Clark Blake (415/948-6058).
- Oct. 9 **Bird Discussion Group.** Tuesday, 9:30 a.m. at the home of Eve Case, 20537 Verde Vista Lane, Saratoga. Topic: Yellowlegs.
- Oct. 10 **Field Trip South.** Wednesday, 8:30 a.m. Deer Hollow Farm. Exit off 280 at Foothill Expwy. Go one block S to Cristo Rey Dr. and turn right. Go W on Cristo Rey almost 1 mile to Rancho San Antonio County Park sign. Go through gate to last parking lot. Leader: Frank Farran (408/252-3874).
- Oct. 14 **Birdwalk for Beginners, Palo Alto Baylands.** Sunday, 9-noon. Meet at Lucy Evans Interpretive Ctr. at the E end of Embarcadero Rd. 1-2 miles easy walking to see resident and migratory waterbirds. Leaders, rain or shine: Dick Stovel and Lisa Swagerty (415/856-6105).
- Oct. 17 **General Meeting.** Wednesday. Refreshments at 7:30, program at 8. Palo Alto Cultural Ctr., Newell Rd. at Embarcadero. Birds of Lamington Nat'l Park, Queensland, Australia. Glen Threlfo, naturalist and photographer, will present an unforgettable program on the breeding behavior of special birds of Lamington Park. Birds he'll talk about include the Lotus Bird, Kookaburra, Albert's Lyrebird, bowerbirds and pittas.
- Oct. 20 **Sunol Regional Park.** Saturday, 9 a.m. Half day. Meet at Park HQ. N on 680 over the first range of hills to Calaveras Road (not Calaveras Boulevard at Hwy 237), S about 4 miles, left at sign to park. Fee. Informal carpooling, 8:15 a.m., Denny's at Hwy 237 and Hwy 17 in Milpitas. 4 miles moderate walking, bring lunch and liquids. Migrants, Rufous-crowned and Lark Sparrows, and Golden Eagles. Leader, rain or shine: Frank Farran (408/252-3874).
- Oct. 24 **Field Trip North. Foothill Park.** Wednesday, 8:30 a.m. Meet at commuters parking lot at Page Mill-Arastradero intersection just off 280. Trip is limited, so please call the leader, Alberta Jasberg (415/493-9546) or Dolores Norton (415/941-1666). Lunch--optional.
- Oct. 27 **Coyote Hills Regional Park.** Half day Saturday, 8:30 a.m. Meet in parking lot to right of entrance. Possible fee. E across Dumbarton Bridge, take Newark Blvd. offramp, then left on Newark 1 mile. Left on Patterson Ranch Rd. to entrance. (Sign may be missing-- much construction here). From San Jose take Hwy 17 to Decoto Rd. offramp, then turn left, then right on Newark. Black-shouldered Kite, Rock Wren. Call leader if raining. Leader: Phil Hand (415/851-2623).



- Nov. 4 **Birdwalk for Beginners. Ed Levin County Park.** Half day, Sunday, 8:30 a.m. Meet in schoolyard, N side of Calaveras Rd. near the park. From Hwy 17 take Calaveras Blvd. E through Milpitas to the park, or from Hwy 680 take Calaveras Blvd. east. Possible Golden Eagles. Leader, rain or shine: Vicki Silvas-Young (408/293-7124).
- Nov. 10 **Searsville Lake and Jasper Ridge.** Half day, Saturday, 8:30 a.m. Meet at Stanford Univ. Jasper Ridge Preserve Main Gate (not Whiskey Hill gate). From Hwy 280 go W on Sand Hill Rd. about 2 miles to gate on left. Gate will be unlocked from 8:15 to 8:40 a.m. Ring-necked Ducks, possible Wood Ducks and Red-shouldered Hawk. Suggested contribution of \$2 to the Preserve. Limit 40 people. Lunch optional. Leaders, rain or shine: Jean and Bill Clark, Carol Zabel, Bill Kirsher. For reservations call the Clarks (415/326-7565).

FIELD NOTES - Bill Bousman

The Breeding Bird Atlas concept began in Britain, where the distinction between amateur and professional ornithologist has always been gray. A geographic area - county, state, or country - is broken up into blocks, and each block is intensively surveyed, usually for 5 years, to determine the breeding status of every species. The results are published in atlas form with one species/map. Distribution is indicated by whether, in a given block, the bird certainly breeds, probably breeds, or doesn't breed. The resulting survey is a marvelous baseline for any area, and, being standardized, can be compared to other areas. With very little study one can see where rare and endangered species breed, giving information on critical habitats. The atlas concept has spread, and atlases have been completed in many eastern states. Marin County has just completed an atlas project and is writing up the results, and LA County has started one. The blocks are about 3 to 3 1/2 miles on a side, and each block is assigned to one person to organize the coverage. Dave Shuford, who's responsible for the Marin Atlas, is trying to get some perspective for the Marin results by comparing with documented breeding records from other N. Cal. coastal counties. This includes Santa Clara, and the key word is documented. I've put together a first draft of a county breeding bird checklist, using the same rules as the atlas, and I've sent this out to a number of people for additions. If you keep track of breeding species in the county with dates, locations, etc. and would like to participate on the next draft, please drop me a line. In a future column I'll list those species which are hypothetical breeders, but for which there are no confirmed records. Should Santa Clara County have a Breeding Bird Atlas Project? Absolutely, this is definitely a goal for the future.

Al Eisner (AE) had a good count of **White Pelicans** in Charleston Slough 24 August with 780. The local population has been well-documented over the years with between 600 to 1000 seen most years back to the '30s. **Red-shouldered Hawks** continue to be seen away from usual spots, with one east of Bayshore along Matadero Ck. 18 August (Paul Noble-PN, David Suddjian-DS). An adult **Golden Eagle** at the Slough 26 August was also away from expected habitat (Phyllis Browning). August is usually one of our better months for shorebirds, but with the flooding of the Palo Alto Flood Control Basin and the Mtn. View Forebay, it's been necessary to go farther afield. **Lesser Yellowlegs** have been found at the Slough in August (PN, AE) with a high of 6 on 27 August (Gloria Heller-GH). A **Pectoral Sandpiper** was in the Mtn. View salt ponds 9 July, an exceptionally early record for this rare shorebird (Don Starks). A report of a breeding pair of **Common Barn-Owls** in a palm in residential Palo Alto is always good news (James Stone). This owl is probably fairly common in the Valley, but like so many of our nocturnal birds we don't know its breeding distribution very well. A **Northern Pygmy-Owl** was heard in Monte Bello OSP 18 August, where they've bred in past years (PN, DS). A **Western Kingbird** at Whiskey and Sand Hill Rds 1 August is unexpected for the Santa Cruz Mountains (Clark Blake). There are enough spring and summer records to suggest that it breeds here some years. A **Red-breasted Nuthatch** returned to a Los Altos yard on 17 August for the 2nd year in a row. Is it from a nearby breeding population? A migrant **MacGillivray's Warbler** flew into a window in downtown Mtn. View 29 August (Roland Franz). The Wool Ranch Transect records show this warbler is more common in the spring than the fall in the Mt. Hamilton Range. Of the 10 other records I have away from breeding locations 7 are for fall migrants on the W side of

the Valley, suggesting that we're more likely to find them locally in the fall. Coastal N. California has been hit by an invasion of **Red Crossbills**, extending to our area with a flock of 40 in Los Altos 5 August (PN) and 15 in Skyllonda 10-27 August (GH).

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

CORRECTION

The colony of Grasshopper Sparrows rediscovered south of Morgan Hill was found by Emélie Curtis, not Bill Bousman.

REPORT ON AUDUBON CAMP IN THE WEST

Many thanks to SCVAS for the partial scholarship to the Audubon Camp in the West, near DuBois, Wyoming. Session IV, ending August 10, had a full complement of 50 campers (many on scholarship). This was an enjoyable and worthwhile experience and one I highly recommend to anyone interested in ecology and nature.

We came by private vehicles, rented vehicles, Greyhound bus, and commuter plane to Riverton, WY. As we alit from our charter bus, the staff labeled our luggage and took it to our preassigned cabins, while tired campers retired to the dining hall for a marvelous meal. The staff claims the best camp food in the country; I believe them. Dieters struggled to keep off pounds, while others had to keep cutting back on food so they could sleep nights.

Divided into four groups, we attended assigned classes for four days, then were free to attend mini-classes and off-site field trips of our choice. An enthusiastic and well qualified staff taught botany, invertebrates, geology, ornithology, mammalogy, and general ecology. For me, this was a field-oriented review of previous zoology courses. After the postdinner volleyball game or canoe trips, marvelous slide shows and lectures entertained us.

Our log cabins accommodated one, two, or six to a room. I had a private room and shared an adjoining bath with two others, but others used a central bathhouse and laundry room.

I saw 37 species of butterflies in one short class, and tallied a dozen mammals and 57 birds, although 9 of the 10 new life birds occur in Santa Clara Valley; still, it was fun birding with our resident ornithologist.

It isn't too soon to start planning a trip to camp next summer. Please call me if interested in more details, 408/723-4864.

Lee Lovelady

BIRDING AT CRAB COVE

Crab Cove Visitor Center at Robert Crown Memorial State Beach now has available a bird checklist for Alameda and San Leandro Bay. It was developed from Leora Feeney's booklet BIRDS Along the East Shore of San Francisco Bay. The checklist will be particularly useful at Crab Cove, Elsie Roemer Bird Sanctuary, Doolittle Pond and Arrowhead Marsh.

We invite you to come to Crab Cove and talk with us about the birds you have sighted and check them off on our Visitor Center list. It will be an excellent way to keep an ongoing record of the seasonal patterns of our migratory shorebirds. We will be having monthly bird walks at Crab Cove and San Leandro Bay and look forward to you joining us for birding in this beautiful shoreline habitat.

Carole A. Richmond
Interpretive Staff, Crab Cove Visitor Center

A GREENBELT IN SAN JOSE'S FUTURE

What do London and Boulder, Colorado have that San Jose could (with our help) have? **A GREENBELT.**

San Jose can become a major quality city for the families who live here if we act now. It is time for all of us who care to be sure that our representatives on the San Jose City Council know that we want a permanent open space boundary to contain urban development in San Jose.

This November the San Jose City Council will consider whether or not to approve a Hillside and Greenbelt Assessment Study to inventory and evaluate eligible lands and to explore financing and other implementation devices with the express purpose of creating a Greenbelt around San Jose.

The Greenbelt is intended to develop a clear identity for San Jose by defining where the City begins and ends. The hillsides, baylands and rural/agricultural area in South Coyote Valley are the key elements of the Greenbelt.

WE NEED A GREENBELT:

- To retain the aesthetic value of the hillsides.
- To retain the watershed value of the hillsides.
- To retain diverse habitat for wildlife.
- To surround San Jose with a permanent edge which separates San Jose from Morgan Hill, to reinforce city identity and assure an attractive entry on the city's southern edge.
- To retain the city policy that the service needs of the people who are living inside the existing urban area have priority.
- To direct urban growth toward the urban centers so that more cost efficient service delivery is possible.
- To direct development in patterns which can support effective mass transit.
- To avoid the risk of public liability and private loss which accompanies hillside development on unstable soils and with proximity to earthquake faults.

YOU CAN HELP NOW by joining the over 15 organizations and associations which already are members of the steering committee for the Greenbelt Coalition.

To join contact: Mary Trounstine, 153 South 14th Street San Jose, CA 95112, (408)275-0834 (after 3:30 p.m.)

You can help now by setting aside the time to tell your San Jose City Council representative that you want a Greenbelt and therefore an independent Greenbelt and Hillside Assessment Study. Write the City Council before October 28 and save the evenings of November 7th and 8th to attend the City Council meetings.

For further information either telephone or write to Mary Trounstine at the above address.



THANK YOU, AUGUST OFFICE VOLUNTEERS

Many thanks for their time and efforts go to: Harry Beerbohm, Sue Liskovec, Tibby Simon, and Mercedes Williams.

This month, they helped to do the yearly update of SCVAS' mailing list, to put a backlog of books on the library shelves, to send out AVOCET renewal reminders, to clip pictures for school teachers, and to send out a mailing. If you would like to join their ranks, and to help Lynn with a variety of tasks, please call her at the office, (415)329-1811.

GREENBELT CONGRESS COMES TO THE BAY AREA

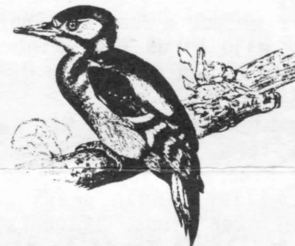
A citizen coalition for the 9 Bay Area counties has been formed, with staff assistance from People for Open Space. The group has formed to protect the natural environment in one of the greatest urban regions in the world, the Bay Area, which is now faced with tremendous pressure for another wave of growth. Three objectives of the program have been identified, to direct development forces toward locations that can benefit most, and away from productive open spaces.

(1) Through the establishment of a regionwide Greenbelt Congress, to be held on November 10, 1984, to advocate permanent protection of productive open space resources.

(2) The congress will work to establish a permanent regional Greenbelt using the Congress as a forum for adopting the Greenbelt plan and as a coordination body for action efforts to officially establish the Greenbelt.

(3) Associated local efforts will work to protect key areas of the designated Greenbelt which may not yet be protected.

Details are available in "A Grassroots Action Program to Protect the Bay Area's Greenbelt (1983)" prepared by People for Open Space. SCVAS is pleased to recognize and support these actions. We will participate in the Congress, and welcome you to join us. Please call the office for details.



COYOTE CREEK

The Santa Clara Valley Water District will soon release their final EIR on the Flood Control Project on Coyote Creek. In the meantime, we are pleased to report that the San Jose City Council, at the motion of Vice Mayor Shirley Lewis, has directed the city to initiate discussion with other jurisdictions and interested parties toward initiation of a joint master planning study of the area. They will also review private and public activities in the immediate area to identify short-term measures to preserve possible options in the master planning process. We see this as a very positive step in the direction of preservation of Coyote Creek, the highest quality riparian corridor still remaining in the South Bay, and the only remaining creek in the San Francisco Bay Area with a mature riparian woodland community extending to the Bay. We urge you to contact the office if you would like to comment on the City Council's action, or to thank Shirley Lewis' office directly. SCVAS will participate in the planning of the master planning study. In addition, the Army Corps of Engineers has reopened flood control studies of Coyote Creek. They request public input on topics concerning the Coyote Creek Study. To comment, please address the San Francisco Branch of the Corps of Engineers, 221 Main Street, San Francisco, CA 94105.

VOLUNTEER?

Interested in the above activities? Indignant about illegal fills? Want to learn about land use planning, and how to write letters that make a difference? You are invited to join in SCVAS' conservation work. Please call Lynn at the office, (415)329-1811.

SANTA CLARA VALLEY AUDUBON SOCIETY, INC.

Staff	Lynn Tennefoss (days)	415/329-1811	DIRECTORS (1983-86)		Publicity		
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						Photo Club	Pete LaTourrette
							415/961-2741

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.

WILD BIRD SEED SALE

Feeding the birds in your own backyard will bring hours of enjoyment. It's hard not to watch the Scrub Jay searching for the last sunflower seed in your wild bird seed mix, or the White- and Golden-crowned Sparrows "skritchng" on the ground to find every last bit of millet. You'll have a chance to study the subtle color differences in House Finches at close range. All this - and more - for just pennies a day.

Now, have we got a deal for you! SCVAS wants to help you feed wild birds this winter. By placing a bulk order, SCVAS can offer you QUALITY SEED at a REASONABLE PRICE.

A custom-blended PREMIUM MIX was formulated by staff at Western Regional Audubon Society in Tiburon. This high protein mix contains red millet, white proso millet, sudan grass screenings, and black oil sunflower seeds. It contains none of the inexpensive "fillers" found in commercial mixes which our wild birds simply won't eat. This PREMIUM MIX was specially blended to attract songbirds and is not available in supermarkets or feed stores - only through SCVAS.

The classic WESTERN WILD BIRD MIX, a blend of red millet, white proso millet, sudan grass screenings, and red milo is priced to compete with supermarket seed, but without the waste "filler" seed. It will attract many varieties of birds.

This is a prepaid sale. Your order, including a check payable to SCVAS, must be received by Thursday, November 8. All orders must be picked up from the Peninsula Conservation Center on Saturday, November 17 between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. Unclaimed seed will be sold that afternoon.

Tell your friends and neighbors about the sale. We will all benefit - you, the birds, and your Audubon chapter. Proceeds of the sale will benefit

the Audubon Adventure Club and other SCVAS educational projects.

Please send the order form and your check to: SCVAS, 2253 Park Blvd., Palo Alto, CA 94306 NO LATER THAN NOVEMBER 8.

Quantity (# of bags)

_____ PREMIUM MIX 20 lb @ \$ 7.00 = \$ _____

_____ PREMIUM MIX 50 lb @ \$15.00 = \$ _____

_____ WESTERN WILD 20 lb @ \$ 6.00 = \$ _____
BIRD MIX

_____ WESTERN WILD 50 lb @ \$12.50 = \$ _____
BIRD MIX

SUBTOTAL \$ _____

6 1/2% Sales Tax _____

TOTAL \$ _____

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ ZIP _____

PHONE (____) _____

ORDERS DUE BY NOVEMBER 8.

Another seed sale might be scheduled in January or February. Would you be interested at that time?
() Yes () No

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