

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

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2020

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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 Gail Cheeseman (408)741-5330.

- Jan. 2 **Bay Area Bird Photographers.** Wednesday, 7:30 p.m. at Baylands. Rachel Lamoreaux will critique slides people bring. Co-sponsored by the City of Palo Alto.
- Jan. 5 **Woodbridge Road and Brannon Island.** Saturday, 8 a.m. Take 680 N to 2nd Mission Blvd turnoff: Meet in S.E. corner parking lot next to the Shell station. Carpool from there. Join us for long good day of birding! Highlights may include Sandhill Cranes, Whistling Swans, and wintering hawks, geese, and ducks. Rain cancels. Leaders: Betty Wyatt (408)255-6091 and Audrey Stoye (408)249-2108.
- Jan. 6 **Post CBC Rarities Chase.** Half-day to full day, Saturday. We'll look for exotics turned up in the Bay Area Christmas counts. Leader: Don Starks. Call Vicki Silvas-Young for reservations and information the week before (408)293-7124.
- Jan. 8 **Bird Discussion Group.** Tuesday, 9:30 a.m. at the home of Eve Case, 20537 Verde Vista Lane, Saratoga. Joe Pettit will discuss Ralph Hoffmann. Please bring any old or older books on birding you might like to share.
- Jan. 8 **Board of Directors Meeting.** Tuesday, 7:15 p.m., Cupertino. All members welcome. For directors and/or information please call Lynn in the office.
- Jan. 9 **Field Trip South,** Predatory Bird Center, UC Santa Cruz. Wednesday. Limited to 10 people. Please call Gail Cheeseman for details and reservations, (408)741-5330.
- Jan. 13 **U.C. Santa Cruz Predatory Bird Lab.** Half-day Sunday, 10 a.m. A guided tour of this facility and its work with raptors. May include close views of Peregrine, Bat, Orange-breasted, and Aplomado Falcons, Harris's Hawks and Elf Owl. Meet at the Carriage House parking lot on U.S. Santa Cruz campus. Hwy 17 S to Hwy 1, N onto Mission Street. Right at Bay, follow onto campus. Take first right into parking lot in front of buildings. Limited to 10 people. Rain cancels. Call Vicki-Silvas-Young for reservations (408)293-7124.
- Jan. 16 **General Meeting.** Wednesday. Refreshments at 7:30, program at 8. Palo Alto Cultural Ctr., Newell Rd. at Embarcadero. Mike Kapis will present a short program (15 min.) on the breeding program of the Philippine Monkey Eating Eagle at Mt. Apo on Mindano. Brian Walton will present an excellent program on the conservation of California's endangered raptors. Brian is Director of the U. C. Santa Cruz Raptor Breeding Program.
- Jan. 20 **Foster City.** Sunday 9 a.m., Half-day. Take U.S. 101 N to the Hillsdale Blvd. E turnoff. Follow Hillsdale about 1 mile to Shell Blvd. Turn right onto Shell. Go about one-third mile and park on right next to tennis courts. Highlights include Hooded Mergansers, possible Barrow's Goldeneye, and maybe the Smew. Heavy rain cancels. Leader: Carol Zabel (408)948-5671.
- Jan. 23 **Field Trip North, Foster City.** Wednesday, 9 a.m. Take U.S. 101 N to the Hillsdale Blvd. E turnoff. Follow Hillsdale about one mile to Shell Blvd., turn right, and in 1/2 block park in the gravel lot on the left, or by the Community Center if there is room. Leaders: Betty Groce (415)326-5540 and Dolores Norton(415)941-1666.
- Feb. 3 **A Trip for the Gullible - Duck Pond/Dump and Charleston Slough.** Sunday, 8 a.m. All day. Take Embarcadero exit E from Hwy 101 to end, turn left and follow road until you see Duck Pond on left. Emphasis on wintering gulls. Bring lunch, drinks, and water. Leader: Bill Bousman (415)322-5282.
- Feb. 17 **Panoche Valley.** Sunday, 7:15 a.m. Meet at Chevron station on Dunne Ave., just W of Hwy 101 in Morgan Hill. Trip will leave from here in full cars. Highlights include wintering hawks, Mountain Plovers, Mountain Bluebirds, Lewis' Woodpeckers, and possibly Chukars. Rainy weather will cancel. Call leaders before 6:30 a.m. to confirm if in doubt. Leaders: Jim and Sue Liskovec (415)969-5542.
- Feb. 20 **General Meeting.** Wednesday. Refreshments at 7:30, program at 8. Palo Alto Cultural Ctr., Newell Rd. at Embarcadero. Doug Cheeseman will discuss with slides the incredible birds and mammals in the Antarctic and the Antarctic Peninsula. (Included in the discussion will be seals, whales, penguins, skuas, giant petrels, albatrosses and many other unique species.) Doug was a guest lecturer and biologist on the Lindblad Cruising Expedition from Jan. 27-March 3, 1984 to the Antarctic.

NATURE SOUNDS

The Nature Sounds Society and the National Audubon Society are co-sponsoring the presentation "Vocalizations of North American Owls" given by Jon Winters. Jon Winters, who teaches at Santa Rosa Junior College and is a Research Assistant for P.R.B.O., is well noted for his work on owls. The talk will include general taxonomy and some information on the evolution of owls, and identification of North American owls by their calls. Tape recordings of these owls will accompany the talk. The meeting will take place on Sunday, January 13th, 1985, at 2:00 p.m. It will be held at the Richardson Bay Sanctuary (the National Audubon Society Headquarters), which is reached by taking the Tiburon Blvd. exit from Hwy 101, going east for 1/2 mile, and turning right onto Greenwood Cove Road. The center is 5 blocks down the road, on the right.

Nature Sounds Society meetings are open to anyone with an interest in natural sounds, whether amateur or professional. For further information, contact the Oakland Museum Natural Sciences Department at (415)273-3884.



PLANNING MEETING

The annual SCVAS planning meeting will be held Saturday, March 16, 1985 at the Environmental Education Center in Alviso. This is earlier in the year than it has been the past few years.

We hope to avoid vacations and the end-of-the-school year rush. The Board of Directors would like to have more of you attend, so we can plan what we, as a chapter, want to accomplish next year.

Do you have projects you would like us to be involved in? Programs you think we should support? Come and let the Board of Directors know.

Put March 16 on your calendar now so nothing else will come up.

Judy McEuen

SCVAS HISTORY HIGHLIGHTS

60 years ago, January 8, 1925, the first meeting of the Santa Clara Audubon Society was held. Approximately 45 people met at the Saratoga Inn, Saratoga. The first Thursday of each month was chosen for meetings.

54 years ago, January 19, 1931, Mr. Rollo Beck spoke at the Audubon meeting and showed pictures to go with his talk, entitled "In quest of birds of the Southern Hemisphere."

40 years ago, January 8, 1945, the speaker of the evening for the monthly meeting was Mr. Ed Levin, who showed pictures of birds and other wild life of Alaska.

37 years ago, January 19, 1948, Mr. Roger Tory Peterson spoke in the San Jose Civic Auditorium on "The Riddle of Migration", accompanying the talk with colored motion pictures.

THANKS FROM A VISITOR

A note from Robert Muller of West Sussex, England . . . "I would ask you to express my thanks to the SCVAS for making my stay here so memorable. I attended a number of field meetings and met so many friendly, helpful (and well-informed) birders who put up with my constant barrage of questions about the local wildlife with commendable patience. With their help, I have collected information and taken many photographs and should have enough material to give a talk about California's wildlife to our local chapter of RSPB when I get home . . . I made good use of the guide Birding at the Bottom of the Bay which I found to be a most worthwhile project. I will suggest that our group attempt to put together a similar project in West Sussex. I did find one excellent birding site for myself in Los Gatos, which I will describe after the style of your book .

I wish you success in the future and continued good birding.

Yours sincerely, Robert Muller"

WORCESTER PARK

Worcester Park is a small (11.2 acres) well-kept park of gentle rolling hills with oak woodland and open meadow areas. A self-guiding nature trail goes through the park with specimen trees carefully picked out. A leaflet about the park can be obtained from the Los Gatos Library, and for information call (408)354-6809.

Directions

Take Saratoga Avenue exit (Los Gatos north) off Highway 17, east to Los Gatos Blvd. Turn left onto Los Gatos Blvd. then first right onto Harding Ave. Continue to a T junction then turn right onto Vista Del Monte. Take the first right again into Worcester Lane, then left into Worcester Loop. The park entrance is on the southwest corner of this loop. There is parking space for one or two cars.

Birds

Despite its small size and proximity to housing the variety of fruiting trees attracts a wealth of birds. Nuttall's Woodpecker and Brown Creeper pick over the larger oaks while California Thrasher, Towhees and Quail forage noisily in the undergrowth. In late July, I saw Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Ash-throated Flycatcher and Black-headed Grosbeak; in October, Golden-crowned Sparrow and Hermit Thrush. Ruby-crowned Kinglets and Yellow-rumped Warblers foraged in the same walnut trees that earlier in the summer hosted Wilson's Warblers.

OFFICE VOLUNTEERS

Thanks to Marion Lockwood, Deborah Manley, Tibby Simons, and Mercedes Williams for assistance in the office. In November they delivered more AUDUBON magazines to schools, performed the monthly mailing list update, wrote for the AVOCET, collated conservation materials, sent our press releases for the field trips and meetings, planned and set up sales for general meetings, helped with organizing directions for the general meeting place change, and answered the phone.

More volunteers are always welcome. If you would like to help in the office, or volunteer for a committee, please contact Lynn in the SCVAS office, (415)329-1811.

DONATIONS

Thanks to Paul and Carol Goldstein, for hearing our request for a new bookcase, and donating a wonderfully efficient shelving system.

FIELD NOTES - Bill Bousman

I've had many useful contributions from people on drafts of a documented Santa Clara County Breeding Bird List. I am now preparing the third draft and am seeking additional information from the SCVAS membership on some particularly troublesome species. These fall into the categories of certain breeders that lack documentation; possible or probable breeders that need to be confirmed; historical breeders for which there is no recent documentation; and hypothetical species for which there is no evidence of breeding. If you have any evidence that can document these species' status I would greatly appreciate hearing from you. Specific information that is needed: what you observed (feeding young, incubation, nest-building, copulation, courtship, etc.); where you observed the behavior; and when you observed the behavior.

Undocumented, Certain Breeders. These are species that are year-round or summer residents and generally secretive. Some are fairly common, like Allen's Hummingbird, while others are rare, like MacGillivray's Warbler.

Cooper's Hawk	Rock Wren
Sora	MacGillivray's Warbler
Western Screech-Owl	Chipping Sparrow
Allen's Hummingbird	Grasshopper Sparrow
Common Raven	

Possible or Probable Breeders. These are species that have been seen locally during the breeding season and in some cases are known to breed close to the county border. This is especially true of the transition zone species that breed in Santa Cruz County: Red-breasted Nuthatch, Winter Wren, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Hermit Warbler, and Pine Siskin.

Double-crested Cormorant	Golden-crowned Kinglet
American Bittern	Hermit Warbler
Cattle Egret	Yellow-breasted Chat
Northern Saw-whet Owl	Pine Siskin
Red-breasted Nuthatch	American Goldfinch
Winter Wren	

Historical Breeders. There are breeding records for these species prior to 1940 or 1950, but their present status is unclear.

Sharp-shinned Hawk	Bank Swallow
Lesser Nighthawk	Yellow-headed Blackbird

Hypothetical Breeders. A possibility exists but evidence is completely lacking.

Common Merganser	Black Rail
Osprey	Spotted Sandpiper
Bald Eagle	Least Tern
Peregrine Falcon	Cassin's Kingbird

Charleston Slough continues to be a good place for **Blue-winged Teal** in winter with a male there 10 Nov. **Redhead** have returned to the frontage ponds in the Palo Alto Flood Control Basin with 15-20 there on 13 Nov. (Paul Noble). They have been found there regularly for the last five winters. Another regular winter visitor that has returned is the **Hooded Merganser**. Nine were at the Skylonda Pond on 17 Nov. (Clark Blake), the earliest date I have for them. A female **Common Merganser** in Charleston Slough 18 Nov. (PN) was unusual. This rare merganser is not often found away from the reservoirs of the foothills and the Mt. Hamilton Range. An immature **Bald Eagle** was seen in the Palo Alto Baylands 3 Nov. (Dick Stovel) and was probably a migrant. A resident bird had returned to the south end of Calaveras Reservoir by the week of 13 Nov. (RBA tape). A **Rough-legged Hawk** was seen hunting in Monte Bello OSP on 20 Nov. (James Yurchenko, Amy Lauterbach) and its close relative the **Ferruginous Hawk** was reported from San Antonio Valley 18 Nov. (Al Eisner). **Golden Eagles** continue to be seen away from the Mt. Hamilton Range with individuals on the valley floor at Great America (Steve Patchin) and Stanford (DS). A **Merlin** at Moffett Field 26 Nov. was unsuccessful in the

pursuit of Cedar Waxwings. Flocks of **Mountain Bluebirds** at the mouth of Del Puerto Canyon 18 Nov. (AE) suggest we may have a few move over to our side of the Mt. Hamilton Range. The most exceptional find was a **Blackburnian Warbler** seen at Villa Montalvo 25 Nov. (Rick Palmer). This vagrant is almost totally restricted to coastal vagrant traps where roughly 18 are seen a year along coastal California (Roberson, Rare Birds of the West Coast). Few birds are recorded after the end of October so this record is of an especially late bird. There is one previous record for the county. **White-throated Sparrows** have taken over Menlo Park with three birds resident at two feeders. A junco of the **Slate-colored** race has come to a feeder in Los Altos as of 23 Nov. (Peter La Tourette). **Red Crossbills** continue to be found, but only on the coastal side of the Santa Cruz Mountains with 20-25 seen above Sam MacDonald Park 27 Nov. (Phil Sherman). **Pine Siskins** seem to be more plentiful than in many years with a number of people noting them in urban habitats and also as far as the Palo Alto Baylands.

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

POSITION AVAILABLE

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR. Environmental Center needs flexible, energetic person to administer wide variety of programs. 20 hours/week; start at \$10/hour. For details call Peninsula Conservation Center, (415)328-5313.

CALIFORNIA BIRDING ADVENTURE

Want to take a nature tour at a price comparable or below similar tours? Want to see the profits go for protecting America's finest natural lands? Want a tour where the ratio of participants to leaders is never greater than 6 to 1? Want a tour where twelve participants are provided with two air-conditioned, 11-passenger vans to ride in? Want a tour where a list of species observed on all previous trips is provided before you sign up? Want a tour with the kind of flexibility to meet your desires? Want a tour that will visit habitats several times to insure the best possible observations of wildlife? Want a tour that will feature some of America's outstanding natural lands? A tour that will show you 200(+ or -) bird species? Then . . .

Join The Nature Conservancy as two of Central California's top birder/naturalists lead 12 (max) persons on this 11 day tour from the San Joaquin Valley, over the 9000' Southern Sierra to the Mojave Desert, and to the Central California coast. Features visits to The Nature Conservancy's Creighton Ranch Preserve, Kaweah Oaks Preserve, and Kern River Preserve. Other destinations are Tulare Lake Basin, Kern and Pixley National Wildlife Refuges, Sequoia National Park, Sequoia National Forest, northwestern Mojave Desert, Carrizo Plain, and Morro bay. Leaders are Rob Hansen, manager of Creighton Ranch and Kaweah Oaks Preserves, and Bob Barnes, long-time Central California birder/naturalist. Trip proceeds benefit The Nature Conservancy. June 14-24, 1985 (11 days). \$825 per person includes 10 nights lodging, tour transportation, and leadership . . . air fare and meals not included. Reduced price for persons arriving up to June 17 or leaving as early as June 22. From Visalia, CA.

Write or call for detailed itinerary, detailed summary of 1983 and 1984 tours, and 1983-1984 bird, mammal, and reptile lists. TNC-Birding Adventure, Box 749, Porterville, CA 93258 . . . (209)992-5308.

CONDOR UPDATE

In September the San Diego Zoo cooperated with the National Audubon Society, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the State Department of Fish and Game in the removal of a condor chick from its nest in a cavity high in a redwood tree. This chick, dubbed Sequoia, was transported to the Los Angeles Zoo for hand-rearing.

Sequoia's parents represent a new pair of condors (formed from previously known individuals) which makes Sequoia a very valuable genetic addition to the program. Shortly after arriving in Los Angeles, tests carried out at the San Diego Zoo showed that Sequoia is a male. All birds reared in San Diego this year are females.

Removing Sequoia from his nest now assures us that all five pairs of condors will be free to breed in 1985. Prospects are very good for another big year with the possibility of up to 14 birds being produced.

The State of California has provided funding for a release program to be initiated in mid-1985. Three birds will be released in the first effort. As we enter this new phase of the program, there is great optimism. It is important however to temper this optimism with hard facts.

It is known that an egg in the wild has only a 50-50 chance of hatching. The resulting chick has far less than one chance in ten of surviving to maturity. It would be naive to think that the chances for released birds would be any better. We must expect mortalities. It should not be too great a shock to lose many or all the first birds released. It will be possible through the use of radio-telemetry to closely follow the young birds and begin to identify sources of mortality in young birds. With this information we may at least begin to control some of the factors affecting young birds' survival rates and improve the chances for the survival of future release candidates as well as the young fledged naturally to the wild.

Bill Toone
Sketches

FIELD TRIP REPORT

The November 13th Field Trip to Campbell Percolation Ponds the day after the heavy rains provided unusual sights for this area.

About twenty Great Egrets were seen, some very aggressive ones lifting their aigrettes while foraging, then settling in a nearby tree.

Also seen were two hungry female Hooded Mergansers, a very large flock of Meadowlarks, and many of the small birds, (vireos, kinglets, Lesser Goldfinches, Yellow-rumped Warblers) were feeding close to the trail low on the bushes.

Josephine Pettit

BAY AREA AUDUBON CHAPTER MEETING

The next BAAC meeting will be held on January 5, 1985, from 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sponsored by Marin Audubon Society, it will be held in the Audubon Education Center, Tiburon. Included on the agenda will be discussion of BAAC's position on wetlands regulation and preservation, a workshop on chapter education projects, and discussion of various chapter activities. All members are welcome - come find out which issues and projects Bay Area chapters are involved in.

The Bay Area Audubon Council will sponsor a workshop on the review process for proposed developments, on the California Environmental Quality Acts (CEQA), and on the related Environmental Impact Report (EIR). The workshop will be held on February 2, 1985 at the Richardson Bay Wildlife Sanctuary in Tiburon. Please call Lynn at (415)329-1811 for more information. Carpooling will be available.

BAYLAND CONSERVATION NOTES

CHARLESTON SLOUGH

As recently as 1975 this was one of the richest sloughs in San Francisco Bay, teeming with birds. Leslie Salt then changed the inlet pipe, flooding the marsh and destroying it. As mitigation for part of the fill at Shoreline Park, Mountain View was required by B.C.D.C. to restore tidal action to Charleston Slough and to restore the marsh. (Mountain View fills its 50-acre sailing lake out of Charleston Slough.) Mountain View took some pro forma actions but did sloppy research and engineering. As a result the Slough continues to be inundated. The Audubon Society has published an excellent documentation by Philip and Florence LaRiviere of the problems with the Slough. They have presented their results to BCDC and to the City of Mountain View in hopes that the mistakes can be rectified and the marsh restored. Your letters to BCDC urging continued pressure on Mountain View to restore the marsh and letters to Mountain View Council encouraging them to restore the marsh would be helpful.

Baylands Conservation Committee Newsnotes

PALO ALTO SEWER OUTFALL STUDY/PROPOSED LOCKS

Last July the Palo Alto City Council approved a study of possible sewage outfall changes, including one which would involve building a dike and lock system from the launching ramp across to the Flood Basin and cutting off tidal action to about 100 acres of the Bay, including 30-40 acres of lush saltmarsh. Tertiary treated sewage effluent would then raise the water level to 7' MSL to improve the Yacht Harbor and possibly encourage cattails around the margins. Other proposals include discharge into ponds on the ITT property and then into the Flood Basin for discharge into the Bay. Some of these proposals are clearly destructive and others potentially so. The matter will return to the Council in January. Watch the agenda published on Saturdays in the Times Tribune and attend the Council meeting when this comes up.

Baylands Conservation Committee Newsnotes

BAUMBERG TRACT/SHORELANDS DEVELOPMENT

This 1200 acre wetland site in the City of Hayward provides vital habitat and feeding grounds for more than half a million shorebirds and waterfowl during migration and over winter. Shorelands Corporation and Leslie Salt Company are negotiating a title settlement with the State Lands Commission which will probably offer 500 acres to the State in exchange for clear title to 700 acres upon which they wish to build a horserace track and amusement park, as well as office buildings. An application has been submitted to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for a permit to fill this diked wetland. Because the use is not water dependent, the Corps has required an Alternative Sites Analysis which Shorelands has provided. It is a very inadequate analysis, but nevertheless offers little proof that no other sites exist for these uses. Write to the Army Corps urging them not to bother with an EIS process for the Baumberg Tract, because alternative sites do exist for horserace tracks - the most obvious being Bay Meadows which is just across the San Mateo Bridge from Baumberg. Ask the Corps to send you any further notices with respect to this property.

Baylands Conservation Committee Newsnotes

VISIT OUR LIBRARY!

Have you been looking for a field guide to the birds of Mexico, or a recording of bird calls for North American birds? Would you like to build some birdhouses as Christmas gifts? If so, the place you should visit is the Audubon library.

Located at the Peninsula Conservation Center in Palo Alto, the Audubon Library contains over 400 books, magazines, and recordings on birds and topics relating to birds. The library loans for a period of two weeks, so if you plan a trip to Europe or Mexico for the holidays, stop by to check out the regional field guide before you go.

Housed in the same room as the Audubon collection are several other collections that relate to such areas as wildlife and endangered species, backpacking and trails, and curriculum materials on environmental topics. The collections comprise the second largest circulating environmental library on the West Coast.

The Audubon budget for new books is small but can allow for meeting requests of the library's users. The current acquisitions policy is to purchase regional field guides, and books of general interest on birding and related topics. One very special reference work we would like to acquire but lack funds for is the 14 volume set of Checklist of the Birds of the World. The volumes in this set range in price from \$15 to \$30 each. If anyone is motivated to make a contribution by donating funds for one or more volumes, it would be greatly appreciated.

The library is located at the PCC, 2253 Park Blvd., Palo Alto. Hours are 9-5 Monday through Friday.

-- Myra Hodgson

NATIONAL AUDUBON CONVENTION

Lake George, in the magnificent Adirondacks of New York State, will be the setting for the 1985 National Audubon Society Biennial Convention. An exciting program has been pulled together with participation from all sections of Audubon, including nationally known conservationists from the government and private sectors.

Field trips will occur on Sunday and Wednesday of the June 16-21 convention period. Daytime workshops and keynote speakers will highlight all areas of Audubon involvement in research, education, and action; priorities of the Society. Many Adirondack biologists and naturalists will be on hand to lead workshops and lead field trips. Evening programs will include a skit about the life of J. J. Audubon, folk singing, Paul Winter Consort musical gala, barbecue, and contra and square dancing.

A special children's program for children in grades K through 6 will be conducted daily during adult workshop sessions by Audubon naturalists. Outdoor and indoor activities will be part of the program, including folk singing with Bill Oliver from Austin, Texas.

This will be an exciting year for Audubon delegates with mountains and lakes as the setting for the first biennial National Convention held in the East in more than a decade.

American Airlines is offering a special air fare to NAS members attending the convention. In addition to a discount on the fare, for every 50 members flying American Airlines, NAS will receive one free ticket to be used in bringing special speakers to participate in the Convention. For information, please call Connecticut Travel Center at (800)235-1216.

More information and registration forms will appear in the February issue of Audubon Action.

GYPSY MOTH SPRAYING

September 13, 1984: Citizens for a Better Environment was awarded \$12,215 in legal fees resulting from its suit against the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA), a suit which served the public interest by proving that the CDFA had failed to comply with the state pesticide registration laws requiring an evaluation of the hazards and alternatives to carbaryl spraying for gypsy moth eradication.

The court ruled that within ten days an extensive carbaryl review must occur concurrently with spraying with carbaryl; the review process allows environmentalists to put pressure on the CDFA to use safer methods, and to evaluate the methods. A precedent was thus set enforcing the public's right to have hazardous pesticides thoroughly evaluated before approval by the CDFA.

An alternative to carbaryl favored by the environmentalists -- Bacillus thuringiensis -- is a biological insecticide toxic only to caterpillars. Bacillus thuringiensis has been successfully used for gypsy moth eradication in Oregon, Washington, and the Midwest. The CDFA is now planning its gypsy moth spraying program, to occur in the spring of 1985, including Felton, parts of Henry Cowell Redwood State Park, and Fremont.

-- Sherry Kritzer

BIRD SEED SALE A SUCCESS

On Saturday, November 17, SCVAS volunteers dispensed over two and a half tons of bird seed. The only dissatisfaction expressed was that we did not have extra seed available for sale at the time! Many thanks to Richard Jeffers for helping to unload the seed from the distributor's truck, and to Mark and Judy McEuen, Myra Hobson, Deborah Manley, and Steve Shugars for helping on the day of the sale. And many thanks to all of the SCVAS members who supported your chapter through the purchase of bird seed. We will hold a second sale in late March. More information in the February and March issues.

WILDERNESS · AMISH FARMS · MOUNTAINS · INDIANS · COASTLINES · HOMESTEADERS · DESERTS · SKI TOURING · APPROPRIATE TECHNOLOGIES · POLITICIANS · JOURNAL WRITING · CONTRA DANCING · NATIONAL PARKS

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Our Classroom is Wild America You can't fully learn about the environment or careers by sitting in a classroom. That's why the Expedition uses a hands-on approach. We'll teach you practical skills in ecology, community development, conservation, human relationships, energy use, nutrition, as well as the academics of the natural and social sciences, music and art, education, and personal psychology. Seventy-five accredited courses are offered.

Who Should Apply High school, college, graduate students, or teachers who want to experience an environmental education alternative who want to lead an ecologically sound life who want to ask and find answers to important questions about the world they live in.

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TAXES FOR ENDANGERED SPECIES

California's income tax checkoff program for rare and endangered species got off to a half million dollar start last spring, but more will be needed in succeeding years.

"We would like to see wildlife enthusiasts of every conviction participate in this program," says the Director of California's Department of Fish and Game, Jack Parnell.

"If each of them gives five dollars by checking it off on the state tax return every year and gets a friend to do the same thing, we can have a positive impact on our endangered species."

Legislation in 1983 provides a line on the California income tax form that invites tax filers to contribute money for the benefit of rare and endangered species. The contribution is deductible the following year on the U.S. tax form but not allowable on the California form.

The half million dollars contributed for the 1983 tax year, while less than spectacular when compared to returns in other states, was considered a good start in California because of different circumstances. Along with the deductibility problem not found in other states, last year's program had competition from checkoffs for the political parties, the Olympics, the program for children and the program for Senior Citizens.

Despite all that, the checkoff for Rare and Endangered Species proved to be the major money raiser for the year.

The contributed money this year is being used for critical wildlife habitat purchase and enhancement of critical habitats.

Among the habitats to be purchased are properties that support Peregrine Falcon, the California Condor, two subspecies of rails, the San Joaquin Kit Fox, the Nelson's Ground Squirrel and the Lost Hills Salt Bush.

On the habitat restoration and enhancement side, money will be spent on Bald Eagle reintroduction, Condor nesting sites, protection of the Island Mahogany, land enhancement for the Alameda Manzanita and special enhancement efforts for the Blunt Nosed Leopard Lizard, the Santa Cruz Long Toed Salamander and endangered plants.

Contributors last spring amounted to less than one percent of the tax paying public and each gave an average of \$4.12. Sources at Fish and Game have decided on a stepped-up promotion campaign this season to gain up to 2-1/2 percent of the tax paying public at \$5.00 per contribution. This would raise one million, 375 dollars.

Considerable effort will be made to remind people to be sure to tell their tax preparers they want to make the contribution and for how much. Failing that, would-be contributors are reminded they can make the necessary changes on their own tax returns and initial the changes.



GIFTS AND MEMORIALS

Donations in memory of Mrs. Beth Turner have been received from the Anderson Home and School Club, and from Frances J. Bertolone. 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.

BAY AREA GREENBELT CONGRESS

On November 10, a group of leaders and activists from the nine Bay Area counties presented the Preliminary Greenbelt Study Area, designed to identify and possibly establish a permanent Greenbelt surrounding the Bay Area. The Preliminary Greenbelt Study Area is a compilation of areas of open space which provide buffers between cities by preserving agriculture, grazing and watershed lands, identifying resource protection areas, and health and safety areas, and includes all public park lands. The Greenbelt Study Areas surrounding the urban edge represent a clear, unequivocal intention of preserving the quality of life in the counties while enhancing the growth of the cities within certain geographic limits. Suggestions, recommendations and endorsements are encouraged from government, industry and the public.

The Board of Directors of the Congress will report back at the next Congress meeting on the implications of the Preliminary Greenbelt Study Area for protecting farmland and other productive open space; for meeting Bay Area housing, transportation and other development needs; and for providing urban services to urban areas. Local actions will be supported, and the Board will work with county delegations to recommend priorities and criteria for extending financial or technical support. The next meeting will be on March 9, 1985.

For more information, please call Lynn in the SCVAS office, or Mark Evanoff at People for Open Space, (415)543-4291.



MAJOR ENVIRONMENTAL SYMPOSIUM

On January 26 and 27, 1985 the Planning and Conservation League, one of California's most effective environmental lobbying organizations, will sponsor the Second California Environmental Legislative Symposium at the Sacramento Inn, about ten minutes from downtown Sacramento.

The purpose of the Symposium will be to plan environmental legislation to be introduced early in the upcoming two year legislative session, as well as to plan strategy for opposing legislation that would be dangerous and harmful to California's environment. Workshops will be held on such topics as water development, pesticides, toxic materials, wildlife, renewable resources, new techniques in grass roots environmental lobbying, and others. The cost for the two-day Symposium is \$50 and includes three meals.

PCL recently secured a commitment from Mayor Tom Bradley to be a special guest speaker at the Symposium on Saturday, January 26th.

Last year PCL sponsored a similar event which was attended by representatives from environmental organizations, legislators and legislative staff, members of the Local Government Commission, and representatives from state agencies. The upcoming Symposium will be greatly expanded to include the public at large, and an even greater number of California's environmental activists.

PCL is a nonprofit statewide environmental organization, devoted to improving the quality of the environment in California. PCL has been lobbying at the Capitol since 1965 and currently has over 3000 members.

WILDLIFE FOR SALE

The one environmental area in which the Reagan Administration has been prominent is one that is also in keeping with its law and order image. Additional enforcement personnel, undercover "sting" operations and federal prosecutors who take wildlife cases seriously have resulted in a multifold increase in arrests and conviction.

A second result of this increased enforcement has been the shocking revelation of how widespread and blatant is the traffic in exotic items and endangered species.

In the Far East where population pressures have not fostered environmental concerns, many of their own wildlife species have been extirpated and traditional remedies and delicacies are no longer available. This has led to a flourishing illegal trade in bear paws and gall bladders with particular premiums being placed on the paws of endangered grizzly and polar bears.

Mounted heads of mountain sheep and other protected species are sold on the black market - apparently to wealthy "hunters" who wish to brag about their trophy without going to the effort of obtaining it themselves.

Woods-wise poachers act as guides on illegal hunts into Yellowstone and other large national parks seeking elk and grizzlies. Particularly in Yellowstone, many of these creatures have lost their fear of man and are easy prey for the wealthy "sportsmen" who are willing to pay large sums to the poacher who can virtually guarantee success.

Until recently, there was little risk in these operations since both prosecutors and judges tended to treat such cases - particularly for the first-time offender - as little more than woodland parking violations. Diligent prosecutors still find themselves fighting frustration in many cases when they have to deal with judges who are annoyed with the prosecutor for wasting their time or who treat these cases with a "boys will be boys" mentality. Attitudes in the legal profession are slowly changing however as the magnitude of the problem becomes apparent.

The illegal import of exotic birds into the United States has been well known for many years. Less well known except among ornithologists, birders and falconers has been the domestic and export trade in birds of prey. Gyrfalcons, peregrines, goshawks and Harris' hawks command immense sums - particularly from the oil sheiks and barons of the Middle East, where falconry is a major recreational activity.

The newest and most appalling manifestation of the selling of our natural heritage has come about as the result of the current European interest in the American West and especially the Plains Indians. "Authentic" reproductions of ceremonial Indian headdresses are sold at prices ranging up to \$5000. When treated to simulate aging, many of these are sold as antiques at many times that price. The rarest and most conspicuous components of these headdresses are tail feathers from the immature golden and the adult bald eagle. Since only perfect feathers will do, a single feather may be worth as much as \$40, and as many as 50 eagles may have to be killed to reproduce a Crow chief's ceremonial headdress.

A number of these cases are about to come to trial in Colorado, Montana and South Dakota. It is to be hoped that they will be treated with the seriousness that they merit and that any guilty parties will receive penalties sufficiently rigorous so as to make these enterprises unprofitable and deter future poachers.

--Cliff Richer
Sequoia Needles

COASTAL CONSERVANCY LAND BANK

The State Coastal Conservancy is adapting the concept of land banking to address the problems of the reduction of California's wetlands and the difficulty of effecting compliance with wetland mitigation regulations. The Conservancy is devising wetland mitigation banks with the goals of preventing further losses of California's wetlands, while improving the quality of required off-site wetland mitigation projects.

In this program, the Conservancy will create wetland mitigation "banks" in advance of development projects. The banks will be used to offset impacts to wetlands only when on-site mitigation is not adequate or feasible. Developers who are required to provide off-site mitigation will have the opportunity to pay a fee to the Conservancy to compensate the Conservancy for its costs in acquiring, enhancing and managing the mitigation bank site.

Studies show that mitigation project quality is highly variable. Almost half (47%) of permits requiring mitigation allowed off-site mitigation. Analyzing these permits on a regional basis reveals that in the North Bay 71% were not completed by the specified permit condition date; in the South Bay 36% were not completed. Many permits were vaguely written; one quarter did not specify habitat objectives. Almost half allowed non-in-kind compensation, with tidal marshes replacing lost fresh or brackish systems.

The Conservancy's Program is designed to rectify many of these problems. The Conservancy's mitigation banks will be created in advance of development impacts, will satisfy regional restoration goals, and will be monitored and managed to ensure their long-term viability. The Conservancy initiated this Program in March 1984.

The Conservancy's Wetland Mitigation Bank Program represents a regional approach to the problems associated with off-site mitigation that plague permitting agencies, permittees, and everyone concerned about the Bay's scarce wetland resources. We welcome your questions or suggestions, particularly about possible mitigation areas. Contact The State Coastal Conservancy, 1330 Broadway, Suite 1100, Oakland, CA 94612, (415)464-1015.



RECYCLING MACAW FEATHERS

Macaw tail feathers from captive birds are needed to prevent the slaughter of wild macaws in Panama. Certain Panamanian tribes wear these feathers in ceremonial dances and are endangering several species of macaws to obtain them. The Panamanian National Section of ICBP is attempting to obtain enough feathers from captive birds to meet the demand. Zoos, aviculturists and others having access to captive macaws are urged to donate molted tail feathers, which can be sent to Eugene Norton, Secretary, Pan-American Section - ICBP, National Zoological Park, Washington, D.C., 20009, for shipment to Panama. (Ornithological Newsletter).

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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

Point Reyes Bird Observatory offers 2 courses this winter.

The Bird School with Rich Stallcup -- critiques of the field guides. The new edition of Birds of North America and the recently published National Geographic Field Guide are now available. However, both have pictures and text that may be misleading or could be improved. During evening sessions there will be a review of the guides page by page, writing and sketching in corrections with slides, graphics, and study skins for assistance. Rich contributed to both texts and will share his specific comments and updated information.

The 1983 edition of Birds of North America, by Robbins et al will be corrected during 5 evening sessions at 2 locations: East Bay series - Jan. 22 & 29, Feb 5, 12 & 19 (Tuesdays) 7-10 p.m. San Mateo series - Jan 24 & 31, Feb. 7, 14 & 21 (Thursdays) 7-10 p.m.

The National Geographic Field Guide will be critiqued at Marin County - March 5, 12, 19 & 26 (Tuesdays) 7-10 p.m. The fee is \$15 for each evening; reservations are advised. Contact PRBO, 4990 Shoreline Hwy, Stinson Beach, 94970 or call (415)868-1221.

PRBO offers a fabulous trip to southern Mexico: Palenque & San Cristobal with an extension to Catemaco. This excursion features outstanding birding and insights into present and Mayan Indian cultures. The trip begins on Feb. 16 at the ruins of Palenque, ends in Tuxtla on Feb. 24, then the extension continues at Lake Catemaco until March 3. \$650 includes instruction, motels, breakfast and transportation in Mexico. For more information contact PRBO (415)868-1221.

The Fremont Adult School is offering a one-day trip to the Delta to observe birds. This trip will include the opportunity to view Sandhill Cranes and Whistling Swans on their wintering grounds in the delta of the San Joaquin and Sacramento Rivers. The cranes may be practicing their nuptial dance. Many other birds will also be observed.

The class will be held on Saturday, January 19th, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Students must PRE-REGISTER at least 5 days before the class. Register by mail or in person at the Fremont Adult School, 4700 Calaveras Ave., Fremont, 94538.

This class will be taught by Alice Hoch who has been bird-watching for over 20 years and has been teaching birding classes for the Fremont Adult School since 1975.



Alice Hoch will also be teaching a Birding Field Trips Class. In this Fremont Adult School class the students will observe and learn about the field identification, life styles, and ecology of local birds. Each Tuesday morning the class will visit a different birding spot. The class is designed for both beginning and experienced bird-watchers.

The class will meet on six Tuesdays from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. starting January 8th and ending February 12th. Registration will be at 9:30 a.m. on January 8th in the Conference Room of the Fremont Adult School. Be prepared to bird-watch that morning.

For more information, call the Adult School at 791-5841 or the instructor at 657-0475.

DONATIONS

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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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