



The Avocet

MR ALAN M EISNER
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REDWOOD CITY, CA 94061

2020

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February 1985

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Field Trip Coordinator for February - Richard Jeffers (415)325-9675.

- 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. 5 **Board of Directors meeting.** Tuesday, 7:15 p.m. Cupertino. All members welcome. For directions and/or information please call Lynn at the office.
- Feb. 6 **Bay Area Bird Photographers.** Wednesday, 7:30 p.m. at Baylands. Speaker: Denny Mallory. Co-sponsored by the City of Palo Alto.
- Feb. 12 **Bird Discussion Group.** Tuesday, 9:30 a.m. at the home of Eve Case, 20537 Verde Vista Lane, Saratoga. Topic: Oystercatchers.
- Feb. 13 **Hall's Valley Lake, Grant Ranch.** Wednesday, 9 a.m., half day. Meet in pkg. lot at Grant Ranch on Mt. Hamilton Rd. For information call Gail Cheeseman (408)867-1371.
- 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 1984 Lindblad Cruising Expedition to the Antarctic.
- Feb. 23 **Montebello Open Space.** Saturday 9 a.m., half day. Meet at main parking lot on the south side of Page Mill Road about 6 miles W of I-280. Wintering land birds and possible Red Crossbills. Bring lunch and drinks. Heavy rain cancels. Leader: Paul Noble (415)948-3876.
- Feb. 27 **Coyote Hills Regional Park.** Wednesday, 8:30 a.m. Half day. From Peninsula: Across Dumbarton Bridge to Newark Blvd., left 1 mile, left on Patterson Ranch Rd. From San Jose: Hwy 17 to Decoto Rd., left to Newark Blvd, right 1 mile, left on Patterson. Follow to parking lot at entrance. Kites, Rock Wrens, wintering ducks. Leader: Phil Hand (415)851-2623.

Field Trip Coordinator for March - Carol Zabel (415)948-5671.

- Mar 3 **Livermore-Byron Hot Springs.** Sunday, 9 a.m. Take I-680 N to I-580. Take I-580 E about 10 miles to First St./Hwy 84 exit. Make immediate left into Mobil station. Trip will leave from here, perhaps in carpools. Ferruginous and Rough-legged Hawks, possibly Prairie Falcon and Golden Eagles. Need lunch, liquids and a full tank of gas. Round trip may be 150 miles. Leaders: Allen Royer (408)251-6133, Mark Miller (415)967-3429 and John Oram (415)323-6508.
- Mar 9-10 **Honey Lake/Susanville weekend.** Saturday 9 a.m. at the Fleming Unit, Honey Lake Wildlife Refuge. Saturday afternoon at the Dakin Unit. Great Basin birding for Northern Shrike, wintering sparrows including Sage, Tree, and Harris', longspurs, waterfowl, Bald Eagles, other raptors. Due to significant reduction in numbers of booming Sage Grouse, there will be NO organized trip to the lek. Bring lunch for 2 days; dress for cold weather; bring chains and be ready for snow on the Sierra highways. Cancelled if I-80 or 395 closed or large storm forecast. Mostly driving, easy walking. Camping possible at Fleming Unit. Motels (reservations advisable), restaurants in Susanville. LIMIT 30 MEMBERS. Please carpool. Driving time 6 hrs. on clear roads to Susanville. Call Sue and Jim Liskovec at (415)969-5542 for reservations and last minute information. Leaders: Bob and Carol Yutzky. This is a combined trip with Wintu Audubon of Redding, Shasta County.
- Mar 16 **SCVAS Planning Meeting.** Saturday. Meet at the National Wildlife Refuge Environmental Education Center in Alviso for a full day of helping plan for the coming year. Please call office for time and directions. Lynn Tennefoss (415)329-1811.
- Mar 20 **Coal Mine Ridge.** Wednesday, 8:30 a.m., half day. Hwy 280 to Alpine, S about 3.2 miles to stop sign at Portola Rd. Continue on Alpine .9 miles to parking lot on right just before Willowbrook. Bluebirds, vireos, warblers, views. Heavy rain cancels. Leader: Phil Hand (415)851-2623.

CREEK RESTORATION ACT

The Urban Creeks Restoration and Flood Control Act of 1984 was signed into law by Governor Deukmejian. The intent of this act is to restore the ecological and aesthetic values of creeks while reducing the erosional and flood hazards associated with them. The Act recognizes the value of local volunteer organizations and local agencies in organizing stream maintenance erosion control and restoration projects.

The Act authorizes the California Department of Water Resources, in coordination with the Department of Fish and Game, to provide grants or contracts and technical assistance to local agencies and organizations for restoring the natural values of creeks. It also authorizes the Department of Fish and Game to help local agencies with land planning in order to meet local flood damage reduction objectives. The Director of the Department of Water Resources has submitted a proposed change to the Governor's 1985-86 budget to begin a new stream restoration program this July 1, 1985.

For additional information, contact: Carole Schemmerling of the Urban Creeks Council (415)524-5402.

-Sketches

SCVAS PLANNING MEETING

The Annual SCVAS Planning Meeting will be held on Saturday, March 16, 1985, at the Environmental Education Center in Alviso. Important topics will be discussed - come and get involved with YOUR chapter. Put the date on your calendar and call the office for time and directions. (415)329-1811.

- Judy McEuen

BIRDS IN ART

Birds in Art, a national touring exhibition sponsored by Gulf Oil, opened at the Natural History Museum and Aquarium at the California Academy of Sciences in San Francisco January 23. 60 original bird paintings and sculptures from the Leigh Yawkey Woodson Art Museum in Wausau, Wisconsin make up this beautiful exhibit, which runs through February 24. Harry Adamson, who designed the Avocets used as our masthead, has a painting of Emperor Geese in the exhibit.

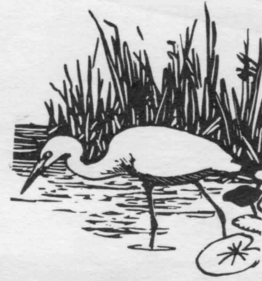
DONATIONS

Thanks to Donald Craig for a donation, to be used for SCVAS Conservation efforts. And many thanks to Lyman Fancher, for designing, and building a pair of bookcases for the office. They are great!

A CALL FOR INFORMATION

The U.S. Bureau of Land Management, Sacramento, in cooperation with the Pacific Gas and Electric Company, is assembling all available published and unpublished information concerning collisions of raptors with power lines and other utility lines. Actual case histories, no matter how circumstantial or fragmentary, are needed. Please acknowledge that you have such information by writing to Dr. Richard R. Olendorff, U.S. Bureau of Land Management, 2800 Cottage Way, Sacramento, CA 95825 (or call 916/484-4541. A form on which to record your information will then be sent by return mail.

Elepaio, the journal of the
Hawaii Audubon Society



UPDATE FROM AUDUBON CANYON RANCH

Dear SCVAS Friends,

We at Audubon Canyon Ranch thank you for your generous contributions to our fund raising effort of last year. With your help we have preserved more than 30 parcels of ecologically valuable land over the past two decades, a total of nearly 2000 acres of natural beauty. Operating as an efficient, low overhead, volunteer-based organization, we provide a quality nature education experience for more than 20,000 visitors and school children each year. Thank you for giving so much to help us!

The rookery of Great Blue Herons and Great Egrets was spectacular this spring and summer. High atop the redwood trees in Picher Canyon 110 Egret pairs raised 163 young and 16 Heron pairs raised 25 young. We were relieved to find that the defensive measures we took to prevent a repeat of last season's racoon predation were successful.

On another "front", one of our volunteer groups, the Ranch Associates, is conducting ongoing research at Olema Marsh and our beautiful Cypress Grove property on Tomales Bay. ACR's most pressing work this past year has been the restoration of Olema and Livermore fresh-water marshes. Not many fresh water marshes survive in coastal California and ACR is determined to monitor these two that were seriously damaged in the winter storms of 1982. Through a \$34,000 restoration project with the California Coastal Conservancy, Audubon Canyon Ranch has been able to rebuilt these habitats that are so important to wildlife and migrating water fowl. We must now begin to repay our 50% share of this grant from the State of California.

Please come enjoy the ranch next spring. Hike the quiet trails. Relax in a picnic area. Sit for a while in the bird hide to watch and listen. Participate in a weekend seminar or field trip. Feel your spirits soar as you view the nesting colony with Great Blue Herons and Great Egrets gliding in and out and gracefully displaying, incubating and turning their eggs, and feeding noisy young chicks.

This letter is our only fundraising request to SCVAS this year, and we hope you will share our excitement and commitment for the future. We depend on the support of friends like you, and are proud of the volunteer effort that allows us to spend so little of your monies fundraising. We hope that you will again respond generously and enthusiastically. Please send your check and consider a pledge for the coming year. Whether large or small, your donation is vital to the continued success of Audubon Canyon Ranch.

Thanks to you all,
Skip Schwartz
General Manager

I am happy to support your efforts and projects at Audubon Canyon Ranch with my tax-deductible gift of \$_____.

Please mail your donation to:
Audubon Canyon Ranch
P. O. Box 2113
San Francisco, CA 94126

WILD BIRDSEED SALE

Our wild bird seed sale in November was so successful that we have complied with requests for a second, late-winter sale. Has your bird seed supply started to run low? Are you thinking about how to get ready for the bird-breeding season? Once again, SCVAS is offering QUALITY SEED at a REASONABLE PRICE.

The custom-blended PREMIUM MIX was formulated by the staff at Western Regional Audubon Society in Tiburon. This high protein mix contains red millet, white proso millet, and black oil sunflower seeds, with no inexpensive "fillers". Specially blended to attract songbirds, this seed 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 waste "filler".

To mix with other seed, or offer by themselves: NEW BLACK OIL SUNFLOWER SEED, high in oil content and nutritive value, this seed appeals to many species.

NEW STRIPED MEDIUM SUNFLOWER SEED, a slightly less nutritive, but larger, seed. Also attracts many species, and good for added variety.

NEW NIGER (THISTLE SEED), a small seed rich in oil, that appeals to smaller birds.

Again, this is a prepaid sale. Your order, including a check payable to SCVAS, must be received by MONDAY, MARCH 11. All orders must be picked up from the SCVAS office in the Peninsula Conservation Center on either Friday, March 22 between noon and 6 p.m. or Saturday, March 23, between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. Unclaimed seed will be sold Saturday after 2 p.m. unless an exception has been made in advance.

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

Please send the order and your check to: SCVAS, 2253 Park Blvd., Palo Alto, CA 94306 NO LATER THAN MARCH 11.

	# BAGS	COST
Premium Seed 20 lb @ \$ 7/bag		
" " 50 lb @ \$15/bag		
Western Wild 20 lb @ \$ 6/bag		
" " 50 lb @ \$13/bag		
Black Oil Sun 20 lb @ \$12/bag		
" " " 50 lb @ \$26/bag		
Striped Sun 20 lb @ \$14/bag		
" " 50 lb @ \$32/bag		
Thistle 5 lb @ \$ 9/bag		
" 20 lb @ \$33/bag		
Subtotal		_____
Add 6.5% Tax		_____
TOTAL		_____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ Zip _____

Phone (____) _____

STOP SEA OTTER DROWNINGS

The California sea otter is a "Threatened Species", protected by the federal Endangered Species and Marine Mammal Protection Acts, as well as the State of California's "Fully Protected Mammal" classification.

But although it has been 2-1/2 years since otters were first confirmed drowning in entangling fishing nets set in the nearshore shallow waters of their range, the animals still have no protection from the nets at all except within the 15-fathom (90-foot) depth curve in Monterey Bay.

Today otters continue to drown off San Simeon, Cayucos, Morro Bay, Avila and Shell Beach, while net boats are moving ever deeper into the heart of the otter's habitat along the Big Sur Coast.

The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service estimates that only 1300 adult otters survive off the central California coast - far below the 1800-2000 estimated to exist in 1977. There has been no population growth for over a decade (it may actually be declining) and the California Department of Fish & Game has found that "the lack of growth in the sea otter population since the mid-1970's closely correlates with the cumulative gill and trammel net-related mortality estimates" CDFG estimates that from 1973 to 1983, sea otter drownings in fishing nets ranged from 49 to 168 per year.

The small California sea otter population cannot sustain these devastating losses. By allowing such fishing activities to continue, state and federal wildlife agencies are currently in clear violation of both the Endangered Species and Marine Mammal Protection Acts.

We are heartened to report that State Senator Ken Maddy and Assemblyman Eric Seastrand (whose districts encompass most of the sea otter range) have responded positively to the hundreds of letters they have received asking for their help in stopping the sea otter drownings.

Senator Maddy has introduced Senate Bill #89, urgency legislation to ban the use of all entangling fishing nets within the 15-fathom (90 foot depth curve) throughout the sea otter range. Assemblyman Seastrand will be principal co-author in the Assembly.

Letters in support of this vital legislation - urging earliest possible committee hearings and passage - are needed today. We must move the bill quickly through both houses of the State Legislature and to the Governor's desk - each day delayed could result in additional otter deaths.

Please send short, strong letters urging the fastest possible passage and enactment of Senator Maddy's S.B. 89, to:

SENATOR ROBERT PRESLEY, CHAIR
Senate Natural Resources & Wildlife Committee

ASSEMBLYMAN JIM COSTA, CHAIR
Assembly Water, Parks & Wildlife Committee

GOVERNOR GEORGE DEUKMEJIAN
ATTN: ALLAN ZAREMBERG

and your own State Senator and Assemblyman.
(Short notes of thanks and support to Senator Maddy and Assemblyman Seastrand would also be very helpful.)

ADDRESS FOR ALL OF ABOVE:
STATE CAPITAL, SACRAMENTO, CA 95814

Your letters have made the progress to date possible - now they are needed again to finally make the net ban within the sea otter range a reality.

-Friends of the Sea Otter

ANOTHER RECORD SAN JOSE

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

On the clear, sunny, and crisp (cold!) morning of December 16, a record 156 counters took to the field to conduct the annual census. By the end of the day, a near record 166 species had been tallied. The current species high is 168 set in 1982. However, numbers of birds were low - only 93,556 individuals - down about 10,000 from a five-year average of 104,000.

Loons of two species were counted - Red throated in Alviso and Common on Calaveras Reservoir. 72 Black-shouldered Kites represent a 16-year high. Calaveras Reservoir hosted six Bald Eagles; Cherry Flat Reservoir had an adult bird too. The 43 Golden Eagles may be the high for all 1984 CBC's. After a long lapse Whimbrels were seen. The last record for the count was in 1978. 19 Red Phalaropes is the largest number recorded in 16 years. Our records indicate that the single Northern Saw-whet Owl in Alviso is a first for the count and the Phainopepla in Calaveras was the first recorded in the last ten years. The Guadalupe River near the San Jose Airport again produced an oriole - this time a female Northern of the Bullock's persuasion. Perhaps the most exciting find of the day was a well-documented Ash-throated Flycatcher on the University of Santa Clara campus. Dr. Mewaldt banded an ash-throated in Alviso after the 1982 CBC. Previously individuals were recorded in the 1975 and '76 CBC's.

Bill Bousman, chair of the rare bird committee, commented on the high quality of rare bird write-ups submitted this year. Also impressive, 20 species were recorded in ones and twos; who knows how many would have been missed if there had been fewer people counting.

Special thanks are due to Rose Green and her CBC dinner committee. They did a great job of feeding over a hundred tired and hungry counters at the Leininger Center. All in all the 1984 San Jose CBC was a super count - thank you everyone!

-Sue Liskovec

SAN JOSE BIRD COUNT PARTICIPANTS

Lynne Aldrich, Wanda Alexander, Stephen Anthony, Pauline Baggs, Ginny Becchine, Bill & Chris Benesh, Janis & Mark Bilan, Bill Bording, William Bousman, Suzi Brain, Aileen Brodsky, Geri Brown, Phyllis Browning, Mary Lou Burgin, Jeffrey Caldwell, Chris & Richard Carlson, Joe Cernac, Gail & Teddy Cheeseman, Yvonne Cheng, Kathie & Mike Copper, Don & Jill Crawford, Derek Currall, Rigdon Currie, Maryann Danielson, Jean Dubois, April Durran, Dick & Leon Elliott, Lorrie Emery, Jerry Estruth, Lyman Fancher, Marc Fenner, Peter Folan, Susie Formenti, Marty Foster, Marilyn & Russ Fowler, Jackie Freeberg, Margaret Galvin, Pat & Phil Gordon, Shirly Gordon, Peter Gottschling, Hazel Green, Betty Groce, Phil Hand, Terry Hart, Lynn Hassler, Michealle Havenhill, Ron Hirst, Kathy Hobson, Jim Holman, William Howe, Billy, Jeff & Sue Howell, Grant Hoyt, Martha Hunton, Karen Ingels, Dave Jensen, Dorothy Johnson, Paul Johnson, Dave & Monica Johnston, Mike Johnston, Jackie Keller, Evelyn Kerk, Sandy Kinchen, Bill Kirsher, Jonathan & Lenett Lawton, Jose Lemus, Jim & Sue Liskovec, Linda Lloyd, Dave Lonzarich, Lee Main, Terry Manchester, Deborah Manley, Don Marsh, Greg Meszaros, Lee McCandless, Susan McCarthy, Judy & Mark McEuen, Cindy & John Mewaldt, Dick Mewaldt, Mark & Steve Miller, Kevin Monahan, Leslie Morrisey, Dave Nauer, Michael Newcomer, Garry Nichols, Phil & Vi Nisonger, Paul Noble, Louise Nolette, Nancy Norvell, Karen Oakes, Rick Palmer, Colleen Pelles, Peter Perrine, Howard & Peggy Reed, Elsie Richey, Allen Royer, Mark Sapsford, Vivian Schember, Kandis Scott, David & Roberta Seals, Milton Seibert, Carolyn Sherwood, Rob Shields, Don & Jo Shrode, Stephen Shugars, Mary Smith, Jean-Marie Spoelman, Debbie Stamp, Dick Stovel, Keppler Stone, Audrey Stoye, Lisa Swagerty, Phyllis Swanson, Lynn Tennefoss, Alan & Karen Thomas, Jorg Tilson, Paul Travis, Frank Vanslager, Jerry Vitenson, Madeleine von Laue, Cathy Wadsworth, Linda Wagner, Cassie Webb, Kathe Weltchek, Leif Wennerberg, Henry Weston, Pat Wheeler, Anne Wilson, Chris & Claire Wolfe, Peg Woodin, Betty Wyatt, Jean & Lou Young, Carol Zabel, Steve Zack.

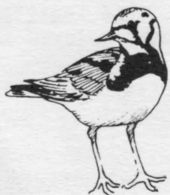
ELKHORN SLOUGH

A hearty welcome to the Elkhorn Slough Foundation. Wetlands and marshes are finally being recognized as extremely productive habitats, the nursery grounds for the young of many species of fish and an important stopover in the migratory flyway for waterfowl and shorebirds. This newly-formed non-profit foundation has been established to promote and operate education and research programs on the Elkhorn Slough National Estuarine Sanctuary and to coordinate programs within the Slough. This member supported organization is dedicated to the protection of the Slough and to the promotion of education and environmental awareness focused on wetlands and estuaries. Birders may recall that four rare or endangered birds are found at the Slough - the California Clapper Rail, the California Brown Pelican, the Least Tern and the Peregrine Falcon. All dues paying members receive the Foundation newsletter (published three times a year) and a discount at the sanctuary bookstore. Membership rates are:

- \$500 Corporate Associates
- \$200 Life Member
- \$100 Sponsor
- \$50 Sustaining Member
- \$25 Full Member
- \$10 Associate Member

To join, send your tax-deductible dues to: Elkhorn Slough Foundation, Box 267, Moss Landing, CA 95039.

Irene Gaasch
The Sanderling



SAN JOSE CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT - 12/16/84

Red-throated Loon,1; Common Loon,1; Pied-billed Grebe,739; Horned Grebe,2;
 Eared Grebe,8469; Western Grebe,126; American White Pelican,6;
 Brown Pelican,5; Double-crested Cormorant,283; American Bittern,11;
 Great Blue Heron,74; Great Egret,101; Snowy Egret,100; Cattle Egret,20;
 Green-backed Heron,7; Black-crowned Night Heron,73; Canada Goose,839;
 Green-winged Teal,99; Mallard,525; Northern Pintail,142; Cinnamon Teal,60;
 Northern Shoveler,664; Gadwall,467; American Wigeon,300; Canvasback,111;
 Redhead,14; Ring-necked Duck,368; Greater Scaup,4; Lesser Scaup,12;
 Scaup, Species,27; Surf Scoter,39; Common Goldeneye,4; Bufflehead,106;
 Hooded Merganser,2; Common Merganser,8; Red-breasted Merganser,12;
 Ruddy Duck,2288; Duck, Species,544; Turkey Vulture,154;
 Black-shouldered Kite,72; Bald Eagle(a),5; Bald Eagle(i),2;
 Northern Harrier,67; Sharp-shinned Hawk,13; Cooper's Hawk,10;
 Accipiter, Species,3; Red-shouldered Hawk,8; Red-tailed Hawk,276;
 Ferruginous Hawk,1; Rough-legged Hawk,2; Buteo, Species,14;
 Golden Eagle(a),33; Golden Eagle(i),6; Golden Eagle(u),4;
 American Kestrel,162; Merlin,1; Ring-necked Pheasant,140;
 California Quail,296; Virginia Rail,16; Sora,10; Common Moorhen,30;
 American Coot,4706; Black-bellied Plover,123; Semipalmated Plover,1;
 Killdeer,433; Black-necked Stilt,1792; American Avocet,295;
 Greater Yellowlegs,32; Yellowlegs, Species,8; Willet,502;
 Spotted Sandpiper,13; Whimbrel,5; Long-billed Curlew,164; Marbled Godwit,153;
 Sanderling,17; Western Sandpiper,2493; Least Sandpiper,606; Dunlin,1102;
 Short-billed Dowitcher,229; Long-billed Dowitcher,9; Dowitcher, Species,429;
 Common Snipe,24; Sandpiper, Species,57; Peep, Species,351; Red Phalarope,19;
 Bonaparte's Gull,645; Mew Gull,797; Ring-billed Gull,678; California Gull,787;
 Herring Gull,1043; Thayer's Gull,2; Western Gull,28; Glaucous-winged Gull,207;
 Gull, Species,10093; Forster's Tern,10; Rock Dove,3493;
 Band-tailed Pigeon,272; Mourning Dove,574; Common Barn Owl,1;
 Western Screech Owl,8; Great Horned Owl,10; Burrowing Owl,26;
 Short-eared Owl,3; Northern Saw-whet Owl,1; White-throated Swift,97;
 Anna's Hummingbird,374; Belted Kingfisher,43; Acorn Woodpecker,60;
 Red-breasted Sapsucker,21; Nuttall's Woodpecker,65; Downy Woodpecker,17;
 Hairy Woodpecker,2; Northern Flicker,271; Woodpecker, Species,6;
 Black Phoebe,198; Say's Phoebe,42; Ash-throated Flycatcher,1; Horned Lark,198;
 Tree Swallow,2; Violet-green Swallow,3; Steller's Jay,147; Scrub Jay,650;
 Yellow-billed Magpie,236; American Crow,198; Common Raven,1;
 Chestnut-backed Chickadee,151; Plain Titmouse,130; Bushtit,1150;
 Red-breasted Nuthatch,1; White-breasted Nuthatch,35; Brown Creeper,9;
 Rock Wren,8; Canyon Wren,1; Bewick's Wren,123; Winter Wren,3; Marsh Wren,214;
 American Dipper,6; Golden-crowned Kinglet,7; Ruby-crowned Kinglet,350;
 Western Bluebird,209; Hermit Thrush,72; American Robin,964; Varied Thrush,31;
 Wrentit,34; Northern Mockingbird,212; California Thrasher,2; Water Pipit,366;
 Cedar Waxwing,441; Phainopepla,1; Loggerhead Shrike,146;
 European Starling,6912; Hutton's Vireo,28; Orange-crowned Warbler,5;
 Yellow-rumped Warbler,349; Yellow-rumped (Myrtle) Warbler,11;
 Yellow-rumped (Audubon's) Warbler,585; Townsend's Warbler,6;
 Common Yellowthroat,41; Rufous-sided Towhee,81; Brown Towhee,476;
 Rufous-crowned Sparrow,19; Lark Sparrow,313; Savannah Sparrow,270;
 Fox Sparrow,21; Song Sparrow,603; Lincoln's Sparrow,22;
 Golden-crowned Sparrow,1566; White-crowned Sparrow,2460; Dark-eyed Junco,1093;
 Red-winged Blackbird,4810; Tricolored Blackbird,150; Western Meadowlark,1293;
 Brewer's Blackbird,4743; Blackbird, Species,2453; Brown-headed Cowbird,19;
 Northern Oriole,1; Purple Finch,24; House Finch,5717; Pine Siskin,393;
 Lesser Goldfinch,716; American Goldfinch,224; House Sparrow,377;
 Sparrow, Species,258;

THE GRAND TOTALS: 93556 BIRDS OF 166 SPECIES.

ENDANGERED SPECIES LIST AVAILABLE

A new comprehensive List of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants, updated through July 20, 1984, is now available. This 24-page document contains the names of all organisms currently protected by the United States under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended. It also contains a section on those species that have been removed from the list since 1973. Copies of the list can be requested from the Publications Unit, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington, D.C. 20240.

Elepaio, the journal of the Hawaii Audubon Society

ENVIRONMENT GROWING CONCERN

A majority of Americans profess to be more concerned about the environment than they were in the past and say they are willing to pay for environmental improvements, according to a Media-General-Associated Press poll. A solid 70 percent of the 1,451 sample polled said they are more concerned about the environment today than in the past, and 65 percent of the respondents are willing to accept a 10 percent increase in the cost of living to make environmental improvements.

However only 21 percent said environmental issues were very important in determining who they voted for president this fall.

--Mark Evanoff, Greenbelt Action

MARSHLANDS UNDER ATTACK

Bay area marshlands are under attack! All one has to do to find that out is take a drive around San Francisco Bay. Note particularly the activity along the southeast side of the Bay, on the west side in the vicinity of Redwood City, and in the northwest section around Marin County. You will find heavy grading equipment, trucks loaded with fill, buildings going up everywhere, and marshland being pumped dry preparatory to being filled for development purposes. Development projects that have been off the drawing boards for years are being dusted off and set in motion. Bay area Audubon Chapters met informally on September 9th with Dan Taylor from the Western Regional Office to discuss what needs to be done to increase our overall effectiveness on Bay wetland issues. It was agreed that BAAC (Bay Area Audubon Council) must be more visible and effective in the protection of Bay wetlands. A series of steps were formulated which have been forwarded to individual chapters for consideration.

--Al McNabney, The Quail

PAN-AMERICAN SHOREBIRD PROGRAM

Millions of shorebirds migrate northward from South America each spring to breed in North America, passing through several countries along the way. The Pan-American Shorebird Program, supported largely by WWF, is comprised of 14 private and governmental groups from Latin America, Canada and the United States who coordinate research on migrant shorebird conservation. One of the program's major goals is to map bird migration pathways for conservation and research purposes.

You can help by looking for marked shorebirds along North or South American coastlines, particularly on sandy beaches and sandflats. The location of leg bands and colored flags provides the key to where they were captured. Please note the color and location of each marker, especially the leg flags. Send your observations, including date and place to: Dr. John Peterson Myers, Academy of Natural Sciences, 19th and the Parkway, Philadelphia, PA 19103.

In 1985 efforts will concentrate on: SANDERLING, RED KNOT, RUDDY TURNSTONE, BLACKBELLIED PLOVER, SEMIPALMATED PLOVER AND PIPING PLOVER.

-The Tidal Tale

FIELD TRIP REPORTS

Emelie Curtis led 14 optimistic souls along both sides of Chesbro Reservoir December 12. Forbidding skies cleared, and we found 31 species of land and water birds. While lunching at Willow Springs Road, Emelie was able to produce the promised Western Bluebirds and Golden Eagles, along with a Lark Sparrow thrown in for "dessert".

-Lee Lovelady

A total of nine participants met at Lake Merritt under threatening skies on Sunday, December 2. Despite an occasional drizzle, we saw 43 species before noon, when the storm began in earnest. A Cattle Egret that clambered around the cages at the Rotary Science Center started out several members of the group with a life bird. On the lake, a single Bonaparte's Gull joined the usual variety of ducks and Canada Geese. At Laney College, we had a spectacular mixed flock of 77 Common and Barrow's Goldeneye in perfect light. Alameda South Shore provided a Long-billed Curlew and many species of shorebirds, while off the Bay Bridge Toll Plaza were a Red-throated Loon, Surf and White-winged Scoters, and more shorebirds. Fifth-graders David Baer and Brian Gibilisco are to be commended for their enthusiasm, interest, knowledge and stamina!

-Allen Royer

BAY AREA AUDUBON COUNCIL MEETING REPORT

Four SCVAS members joined representatives from the other seven Bay Area Audubon chapters for a meeting in Tiburon January 5.

Dan Taylor, from the Western Regional Audubon office, discussed National Audubon's re-evaluation of the relationship between chapters and the main office, and gave an update on national conservation issues in 1985, including water projects, the Clean Air Act, the Clean Water Act, acid rain legislation, wilderness bills, the Superfund and others.

Dave Henderson, of the Western Regional Education Center, announced a bicentennial celebration of the birth of John James Audubon, to be held in May.

Two representatives from the Corps of Engineers discussed project review and environmental assessment procedures followed by the Corps, with special note of Bay Area wetlands.

Speakers from Friends of the Sea Otter reviewed the history of gill-netting and recommended immediate action to protect them. Letters are needed immediately. See story in this issue.

George Peyton, former NAS board member, gave an update on Mono Lake and briefly described Rush Creek legislation, which would preserve water flow into Mono and protect the Sierra fishery, if passed.

Separate sessions took place on chapter insurance policies, the Audubon Adventures program, and BAAC Wetlands resolutions. The Globescope National Assembly in April was discussed.

If you're interested in attending the next BAAC meeting (April 6), please call Lynn in the SCVAS office. It's an easy and fascinating way to become informed about important Audubon activities.

-Lynn Tennefoss

GLOBESCOPE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

A process that began as a grassroots citizens' initiative in Portland in 1983 will culminate in the GLOBESCOPE National Assembly, to be held at the Portland Hilton, April 17-21.

The Assembly, which is expected to attract hundreds of participants from the United States and abroad, will consider a wide range of global environmental concerns, including water conservation, endangered species protection, toxic waste disposal, acid rain control, resource recycling and ecologically sound methods of agriculture. Assembly sessions will also center around an exploration of the vital connections between environmental issues and the worlds of business, labor, government, international relations and human rights. A special emphasis will be given to finding community-based strategies to create an ecologically sound future.

Instead of appealing only to a core group of conservationists, GLOBESCOPE's planners are reaching out to attract citizens from many backgrounds with many points of view on environmental issues. The Assembly in Portland will serve as an exciting, action-oriented, nonconfrontational forum for government officials, factory workers, business leaders, artists, clergy, teachers, scientists and others -- people who share a conviction that global environmental health is directly dependent on citizens working together to find solutions in their own communities.

GLOBESCOPE's planners have done everything they can to assure that the Assembly will be affordable to as many people as possible. If you would like to be a part of this exciting event, please contact Diane G. Lowrie, (GLOBESCOPE, P.O. Box 15264, Portland, OR 97215, 503/232-3495) or Don Lesh (Global Tomorrow Coalition, 1325 G Street N.W., #1003, Washington, D.C., 20005, 202/879-3040).

FIELD NOTES - Bill Bousman

In what follows are some sightings from Christmas Bird Counts: San Jose on 16 Dec, Palo Alto on 17 Dec, and Mt. Hamilton on 19 Dec. Mt. Hamilton CBC records fide Don Schmoltdt. A **Red-throated Loon** was E. of Guadalupe Slough 16 Dec (Derek Currall-DC). Two **Common Loons** were seen at Shoreline Park 4 Dec (DC) and one was on Calaveras Res. on 16 Dec (Phil Gordon-PG, Pat Gordon-PaG, Allen Royer). A flock of 31 **Cattle Egret** were at Vasona Res on 7 Dec (Jean DuBois) and 14 started the new year E. of Gilroy on Ferguson Road 1 Jan (Ed Gustafson). A male **Eurasian Wigeon** was in the outer portion of the Palo Alto FCB 28 Dec. **Redhead** have used the North Pond in the Palo Alto FCB for the last four years and 105 counted on 28 Dec is a typical concentration for recent years. **White-winged Scoter** have shown up in greater numbers this winter with birds seen in the Redwood City ship channel 17 Dec, two birds on the lake at Shoreline Park 23 Dec (Paul Noble-PN), and a female at the Palo Alto Baylands 28 Dec. Two **Hooded Mergansers** in the South Pond in the Palo Alto FCB 19 Dec (PN) is an unusual location; the 15 counted on



the Skylonda Pond 17 Dec have been in the same location for six winters. Most recent county records for **Osprey** are fall migrants so a feeding bird N. of Metcalf Road along Hwy 101 2 Jan is one of a few winter records (Frank O'Sullivan). Three **Bald Eagles** were reported on Calaveras Res. 30 Nov (RBA Tape) and at least 4 were there 16 Dec (PG, PaG). Five birds were seen 19 Dec in the valleys and reservoirs of the Mt. Hamilton Range. We have come to expect **Red-shouldered Hawks** on our remaining valley riparian habitats, but their status in the Mt. Hamilton Range is less clear. Two were seen on 19 Dec in separate localities. Perhaps they are



expanding here just as they are in the Palo Alto count area. A **Ferruginous Hawk** was seen at the San Jose Airport 16 Dec (Bill Howe-BH, Anne Wilson-AW) and three were found on the Mt. Hamilton CBC. **Merlin** have been well-reported this winter. A bird returned to the W. slope of the Santa Cruz Mountains 9 Dec for his second winter and was seen on count day, 17 Dec (fide Carol Zabel). One was found in Alviso on the San Jose count (Dick Stovel, Mary Smith). A male of the Plains race, **richardsonii**, was seen on the Mt. Hamilton CBC and a **columbarius** male was in Menlo Park 1 Jan. At least one **Peregrine Falcon** has been wintering in the South Bay and was seen by many

observers in late November and December. Two birds were seen 28 Nov (PN). Two **Black Rail** were at the Palo Alto Baylands 20 Dec (fide Ted Chandik) and one was seen the next day. We expect **Virginia Rail** to winter in valley salt and fresh water marshes, but their distribution at higher elevations is less clear. One heard in a marsh on Arroyo Bayo at 2100 feet elevation is new for the Mt. Hamilton CBC (BH, AW). Sora are found in this marsh most winters, but it may be that the Virginia rail is also regular here. Records of **Spotted Sandpiper** on Arroyo Hondo 16 Dec (Milt Seibert, WGB) and Felt Lake 17 Dec (Al Eisner) are typical winter locations for this rare wintering shorebird. **Red Phalarope** were found in Alviso on the San Jose CBC (Russ & Marilyn Fowler, Bill Borden). A total of four **Greater Roadrunners** on the Mt. Hamilton CBC is high, but the count of this rare and secretive cuckoo is more dependent upon luck than anything else. After a scarcity of several years **Short-eared Owls** are showing up in the South Bay again. Two to three birds have been seen at Moffett Field through December, two more were at Dumbarton Point 17 Dec (Clark Blake-CB), and one was in the FCB 28 Dec. A roosting **Northern Saw-whet Owl** was found along Coyote Creek (SAVE THE RIPARIAN!) on the San Jose CBC (Peg Woodin, Nancy Novfull) and three were heard in Monte Bello OSP on 17 Dec (CB, Dave Boore). A total of 49 **Lewis' Woodpeckers** on the



Mt. Hamilton CBC is average for this rare woodpecker. An **Ash-throated Flycatcher** was closely observed at the University of Santa Clara 16 Dec (BH, AW) for one of our few winter records. The observers were familiar with the other *Myiarchus* species that may be confused with the ash-throated and were able to see the manner in which the brown on the outside of the rectrices curves around the tip of the feather. Swallows showed up on this year's CBCs with a **Tree Swallow** at Artesian Slough (Elsie Richey) and a **Violet-green Swallow** on Coyote Creek (Leslie Morrissey). A **Phainopepla** was found E. of Calaveras Res. 16 Dec (PG, PaG), but the surprise was 29 recorded on the Mt. Hamilton CBC. Normal numbers are two to three. A male **Western Tanager** was found at Sunset Gardens 31 Dec (David Suddjian). Two **White-throated Sparrows** continued to be seen in December at a Menlo Park feeder for the second winter. A female **Northern Oriole** was found in the flowering eucalyptus along Guadalupe River at the airport 16 Dec (BH, AW, Steve Zack). A first year male was there 25 Dec as well. This habitat is attractive to nectar seeking birds in winter months; as of 2 Jan it has been decimated by the tree trimmers. **Red Crossbills** were found in Skylonda for the Palo Alto CBC, continuing their invasion. Three **Evening Grosbeaks** were found feeding on persimmons in Los Altos 31 Dec (PN), the second winter that a few have been recorded from this area.

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

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General meetings are open to the public. Board of Directors meetings are open to all members. Call the office for times and directions.

Avocet deadline is the first Monday of the month. Send contributions to the editor, Susan McCarthy, at 475 S. 12th, San Jose, CA 95112.

OUTSIDE CLASSES, TRIPS, AND EVENTS

Shearwater Journeys of Monterey has a full schedule of pelagic birdwatching trips for 1985. Whalewatching trips are also scheduled. Call or write Debra Love Shearwater at P.O. Box 7440, Santa Cruz, CA 95061 (408)688-1990.

The 6th Annual Bald Eagle Conference will be held in Klamath Falls February 15-17. There will be speakers, workshops, field trips and a photography contest. The conference coincides with the peak concentration of wintering Bald Eagles in the Klamath Basin, the largest population in the lower 48. Registration is \$17-22. For information and registration write to Katie Ardt, 4647 Miller Is. Rd., Klamath Falls, OR 97603. Lynn has more details at the office.

San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge offers birding tours that visit various areas of the refuge by van on February 10 and 24. No fee. Reservations required. Call (415)792-0222. Wildflower and mammal tours also offered.

College of San Mateo Community Extension is offering two bird classes: Introduction to Birdwatching, with 7 evening classes and 2 field trips; and Biology and Ecology of Hawks and Owls, 4 evenings and 2 field trips. Both will be taught by James Rosso. Call the College at (415)574-6563.

The Trail Information and Volunteer Center is offering a series of training programs for the public on trail building and maintenance. These programs will train leaders for the Center's annual Trail Days in April. For information write TIVC, 2253 Park Blvd., Palo Alto, CA 94306, or call (415)324-8482 between 1 and 5 p.m.

The Oceanic Society offers frequent whale-watching trips (\$22) out of Pillar Point in Half Moon Bay. Call (415)474-3385.

San Francisco Bay Bird Observatory is proud to announce its tour schedule for 1985. This year's tours will feature Texas and Arizona as well as our popular California "weekender" trips. These trips are designed for the economy-minded birder; car-camping and car-pooling help keep expenses to a minimum. Transportation will be provided for the Texas trip (a van will be rented in Houston).

If you are interested in any of the tours please call Don Starks at (408)371-9720 evenings or write him at 2076 Foxworthy Ave., San Jose, CA 95124. All profits from the tours go into SFBBO's General Fund to pay for ongoing research.

Nature Expeditions International is offering two 9-day Natural History Cruises in the Sea of Cortez (between Baja, California and mainland Mexico) in April. Tidepools, whales, plants and other wildlife will be observed as well as birds. Three expeditions to Baja whale breeding grounds are also offered in February, April, and in January 1985. Local birders Ted Chandik and Dave Johnston will be leaders on some of these trips. Write Nature Expeditions Int'l, P.O. Box 11496, Eugene, OR 97440 or call (503)484-6529.

THANKS, VOLUNTEERS

In the office, thanks to Harry Beerbohm, Marion Lockwood, and Tibby Simon. Please call Lynn if you would like to help in the office (415)329-1811.

On the Christmas Bird Count, a special thanks to Officer Jim Howell, who volunteered to provide security for the CBC Dinner; to Rose Green, who organized the food and drink preparations; and to all members and friends who cooked and/or counted, and helped to make December 16, 1984 a memorable CBC!

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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