



## The Avocet

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2020

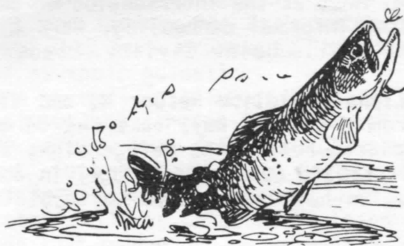
Volume 32, Number 3

March 1985

### NEWS FROM MONO LAKE

Heavy snowfalls in recent winters provided a temporary reprieve to threatened Mono Lake by producing more water than the Department of Water and Power was able to divert. Revitalized tributary streams raised the water level 8 feet, but this is only a temporary phenomenon.

However, the abundant runoff spilled over the Grant Lake dam, washing a few trout into lower Rush Creek. Rush Creek, dewatered most years since 1940, is now teeming with up to 50,000 spawning, healthy Brown and Rainbow Trout. Unlike hatchery trout, these are free of the "whirling disease" which plagues Eastern Sierra hatcheries. When the DWP tried to divert Rush Creek this fall, it was sued by the Mammoth Flyrodders and California Trout, Inc. A temporary restraining order has been issued, since the fishermen argue that the State Fish and Game Code protects fisheries that exist below dams. The Mono Lake Committee and the National Audubon Society will be filing an amicus brief on Rush Creek's behalf. The case should come to trial in March.



### KEY CONGRESSIONAL CONSERVATION ISSUES

Wetland protection, reauthorization of the Clean Water Act, and controlling the use of dangerous pesticides and predator control substances will be among the priorities for national and regional Audubon representatives in 1985.

Other National issues that you will be hearing more about in the coming year are: water projects, small hydroelectrical plants, Clean Air Act/Acid Rain Legislation, Wilderness bills involving Bureau of Land Management lands, 1985 Farm Bill, Federal Insecticide Fungicide and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA), Superfund reauthorization, Endangered Species Act, and the Coastal Zone Management Act.

In California, other topics will include: the Bottle Bill, toxics legislation of all kinds, coastal protection, CEQA (California Environmental Quality Act), banning trophy hunting of mountain lion, gill-netting legislation, falconry reform, forest management, and water quality and supply bills.

### PENINSULA BIRDWATCHING GUIDE

The Sequoia Audubon Society has just published San Francisco Peninsula Birdwatching, a sister guide to our justifiably popular Birding at the Bottom of the Bay. It has many of the charms of BABOB along with some of its faults. The format is similar, with site guides to local birding spots written by various participants. It also includes a revised San Mateo County checklist current to 1984. It covers the San Francisco Peninsula from the Santa Clara County line north to Land's End in San Francisco. It includes a nice supplement for Point Reyes. The write-ups for San Francisco sites are revisions taken from The Gull and nicely supplement the San Mateo County sites (many described for the first time). The guide meshes very nicely with BABOB. The only site described in both is Jasper Ridge.

I have some minor criticisms. The careful reader will puzzle over some details. For instance the description of the Cloverdale Loop lists Hammond's Flycatcher as an uncommon summer resident. Obviously not Hammond's, as it is not even on the county checklist, but what is being described? The Ano Nuevo description indicates that Curlew Sandpiper and Buff-breasted Sandpiper have been recorded here more than once, but this differs from the checklist. One feature in BABOB that I missed in this guide was the list of special birds and where to find them. This is an excellent resource when helping others plan their visits. My major criticism applies equally to BABOB, and that is the unevenness of the site descriptions. Descriptions range from excellent to poor. The best are characterized by a good, succinct characterization of the habitats covered. They deal briefly with resident birds and cover seasonal changes, with an emphasis on the less common species that are attracted to the specific habitats at different times of the year. Usually a few rarities are thrown in to give the reader an idea of the variety that can be expected with a little luck. The poor descriptions tend to list birds seen at the site with no attempt to note their seasonal variation or abundance. Does it make sense to lump Turkey Vulture and Golden Eagle in the same sentence - one fairly common and the other rare? This unevenness is counteracted by the fact that the very best descriptions are of coastal San Mateo County. Favorite spots along the coast from Princeton Harbor to Ano Nuevo have very good descriptions, and these alone are worth the price of the guide. The San Francisco descriptions are also very good, and the extensive discussion of Foster City will stimulate some South Bay birders to migrate north and discover this area, even without the Smew. The book can be ordered from Sequoia Audubon or you can buy it at the Peninsula Conservation Center.

Bill Bousman

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

On all field trips, CARPOOL and share expenses. Bring binoculars, field guides, lunch (optional on half-days) and liquids. For carpooling arrangements call Dolores Norton (415)941-1666 or Gail Cheeseman (408)741-5330.

### 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 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.
- Mar 6 **Bay Area Bird Photographers.** Wednesday, 7:30 p.m. at the Baylands. Speakers: Dick and Norma Mastin on the birds of Midway Island. Co-sponsored by the City of Palo Alto.
- 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 Yutzy. This is a combined trip with Wintu Audubon of Redding, Shasta County.
- Mar 12 **Bird Discussion Group.** Tuesday, 9:30 a.m. at the home of Eve Case, 20537 Verde Vista Lane, Saratoga. Topic: Killdeer.
- Mar 13 **Field Trip South, Neary Lagoon, Santa Cruz.** Wednesday, 9 a.m. to noon. For carpooling, please call Gail Cheeseman, (408)867-1371 or 741-5330. Leader: Irene Manicci (408)476-8309.
- Mar 16 **Elkhorn Slough Boat Trip.** Saturday, 10 a.m. Fee \$8. LIMIT 15 MEMBERS. Meet at Jetty Road off Hwy 1, just N of Moss Landing. Shoreline birding 10-11 a.m. Boats 11-2 p.m. Bring lunch and liquids. Leaders: Bernadette Ramer, Doug and Gail Cheeseman. For reservations, call the Cheesemans (408)741-5330 or (408)867-1371.
- 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 17 **Alviso.** Sunday, half-day, 9 a.m. Meet at the Marina at the end of Hope Street. N on Gold Street from Hwy 237 in Alviso, left on Elizabeth, right on Hope. Leader: David Suddjian (415)494-6766.
- 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.
- Mar 20 **General Meeting.** Wednesday. Refreshments at 7:30, program at 8. Palo Alto Cultural Center, Newell Rd. at Embarcadero. Walt Koenig, Director of the Hastings Reservation, will give an in-depth program on Cooperative Breeding in Acorn Woodpeckers.
- Mar 24 **Skyline Ridge Open Space Preserve.** Sunday, half-day, 9 a.m. Meet at the intersection of Skyline Blvd. (Hwy 35) and Alpine Road (Page Mill Road) above Palo Alto. Informal carpooling, Park & Ride, I-280 and Page Mill, 8:15 a.m. Restrooms at Montebello OSP 1 mile below Skyline. Leader: Bob Garcia (415)941-3826.
- Mar 30 **Birdwalk for Beginners and Families. San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge HQ and Visitor Center.** Saturday, half-day, 9 a.m. Meet in HQ parking lot. From W side of Bay, take Hwy 84 across Dumbarton Bridge. Entrance is on right side near the toll plaza. Follow the Refuge signs at the Thornton Ave. exit. From San Jose, take Hwy 17 to Hwy 84 exit toward Dumbarton Bridge. In about 2 miles take Thornton Ave. exit and follow signs. After about an hour we'll move to Coyote Hills Regional Park. Leader: Bill Kirsher (415)854-3936.



### Field Trip Coordinator for April, Bill Clark (415)326-7565.

- Apr 6 **Stevens Creek Park.** Saturday, half-day, 8:30 a.m. Leader: Frank Farran (408)252-3874.
- Apr 13 **Coyote River Park.** Saturday, half-day, 8 a.m. Leader: Emelie Curtis (408)779-2637.
- Apr 20 **Monterey Bay Aquarium Bus Trip.** Saturday, 8:30 a.m. Full day. Includes guided tour of museum. \$18 adult, \$15 student, \$12 child. Reservations required. Call Lynn (415)329-1811.
- Apr 21 **Mines Rd. and Del Puerto Canyon.** Sunday, full day. Take I-680 N to I-580 E to Livermore Ave. S on Livermore Ave. thru town. 2 miles from the flagpole in the center of Livermore, Livermore Rd. becomes Tesla Rd. In another 1/2 mile, Tesla intersects Mines Rd. Meet here. Carpooling required from here because of very limited pull-off space. Bring lunch, liquids and a full tank of gas. Limited bathroom facilities en route. We'll look for Lewis Woodpecker, Rufous-crowned Sparrows, Lawrence Goldfinch, Phainopepla, Canyon Wren, and Golden Eagle. Leaders: Lynne Aldrich and Peter Gottschling (415)325-9349.



## CONSERVATION ISSUE ANALYSIS PONDEROSA HOMES

PONDEROSA HOMES, Union City (also known as the Munster Property)

The Corps of Engineers' Counsel is pondering the fate of this fine seasonal wetland site. Once a private duck hunters' club, it is now the center of a debate the result of which is nervously awaited by developers and wetland advocates alike.

The Corps of Engineers first thought they might have jurisdiction over this wetland site in 1983. Then, that year developers degraded 40-50 acres of productive wetlands, effectively dewatering the area, and prompting a Cease and Desist order from the Corps. No action was taken by the Corps on fining the developer, despite the fact that the area was also subsequently diked in 1984, getting rid of the pervasive wetland indicators. Then, in a surprise move, the new Colonel (they change every 3 years or so) in September of 1984 claimed that the site was after all not hydrologically connected to the Bay, and so they relinquished jurisdiction. Through many letters and meetings, concerned individuals, agencies, and conservation organizations have urged the Corps to reconsider. In December of 1984, a very important letter was sent jointly by the Dept. of Fish and Game and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, illustrating a connection between Ponderosa Homes' wetlands, and those on FC4, the wetland "next door", which the Corps has kept jurisdiction over. In actuality, the letter points out, the two sites are hydrologically one unit. Waters ponded on Ponderosa and FC4 flow together through a tide gate into a channel to the Bay.

Corps staff are sensitive to the plight of wetlands. Many of the staff are biologists who recognize the importance of seasonal wetlands as the most threatened wildlife habitat remaining in the South Bay. They understand the connection between loss of non-tidal seasonal wetlands and permanent further declines of migratory waterbird populations in California. They recognize that wetlands serve as groundwater recharge basins, provide flood protection, and improve the Bay's water quality in the Bay. Yet, they have ambiguous, loosely-defined regulations as their guidelines.

One source estimates the total remaining seasonal wetland acreage in the South Bay at a mere 300-400 acres, down from the 100's more that once existed. Interpretation of Corps regulations by Colonel Andrew Perkins, Counsel John Eft, and other Corps staff will be precedent setting - as is every decision that concerns Bay wetlands. The fate of the few, crucial acres left on the South Bay is being decided now. Development pressure is so great that an unfavorable decision will have a far-reaching and permanent effect. SCVAS urges and supports the Corps to take a strong and aggressive preservationist stance in enforcing their stated goals, and thus to protect the public's interest by retaining wetlands as biologically active areas. Their decision on the Ponderosa Homes site is cautiously awaited.

Lynn Tennefoss

## HAZARDOUS WASTE PAMPHLET

California's Department of Health Services has developed a pamphlet on the Informant Reward Program of their Toxic Substances Control Division. Under this program awards of up to \$5,000 are available for those who report violations. The pamphlet can be ordered from the Office of Public Information and Participation, Toxic Substances Control Division, Department of Health Services 714/744 P Street, Sacramento, CA 95814. Questions may be addressed to this office at (916)324-1789.

## ELEPHANT SEALS AT ANO NUEVO

By January 18, there were 400 females and 175 pups on the mainland, joining the 160 or so males already established there. To protect seals and visitors, the northern elephant seal's breeding area at Ano Nuevo Point is open only to visitors accompanying trained guides, from December 6 to April 30. There are several ways to obtain reservations for the tours. Reservations are mandatory.

Tickets are \$3.25 each and are available through Ticketron agencies only. Weekend tours are SOLD OUT through March, but weekday tours are available. Call (415)393-6914 for nearest Ticketron.

Santa Cruz Transit offers bus trips to the Reserve 7 days/week Dec. 6-Mar. 15, and weekends only Mar. 23-Apr.30. Fare is \$1.50 round trip, sold on a first come basis, with no advance reservations. Possession of bus tickets enables passengers to purchase tour tickets (\$3.25) at the Reserve. Call (408)425-8600 for information.

San Mateo Transit offers tours on weekends, Dec.-March. Advance reservations are required. Fee for round-trip fare and tour ticket is \$8.00. Call (415) 348-SEAL for reservations.

ANIA Newsletter

## FIELD TRIP REPORT

Thirty bleary birders gathered by the lake at 7 am, where we waited until 8 for our leader, Buff Lugnut, to show up. It was overcast, but Buff said it wouldn't rain. We formed carpools and drove to town to look for the White-naped Whatnot that has been coming to the feeder at the Smith's house, which has no number visible from the street. It was raining, so we stood under the eaves and waited for the Whatnot. It never appeared, but we got some good looks at House Finches. Buff regaled us with the story of the time he saw a pair of Whatnots drive a Peregrine away from their nest. We next went to the county park, but found no waterfowl on the ponds. Apparently they had been disturbed by the holiday activities over the weekend. We complained to the ranger, but he pointed out that people who like to race earth-moving machines have a right to use public parks also. The photographers in our group got some close-ups of Starlings trying to eat hailstones. Buff told us about photographing an incident in which a Golden Eagle seized a small park ranger, carried him twelve feet, and dropped him in a reservoir. Although it was still windy, the hail had stopped, so we moved on to the marsh. While some of our party stayed in the cars, the rest of us circled the marsh, seeing some interesting possible courtship behavior between a Mallard and a domestic goose. Buff told us about finding a Yellow Rail-Black Rail hybrid. We got back to the cars to find that the rest had seen some kind of raptor - maybe with pointed wings, but they couldn't be sure - there was too much condensation on the windows. It turned out we had left the lunches back at the carpool site, so we decided to return to the lake. Buff told us how, on the excursion he led which found the nest of the Himalayan Ant-toucan, they lived for days on just bananas and beer. At the lake, the meter maid ticketing our cars said she had just seen a flock of huge white birds fly over. Buff told of raising a Trumpeter Swan from the egg and teaching it to fetch the paper. We threw him in.

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-Susan McCarthy

## THANK YOU

Many thanks to Will and Margaret Betchart for their donation to assist in local chapter activities and projects.

## FIELD NOTES - Bill Bousman

"The small boat lake at Shoreline Park" is a name both cumbersome and ambiguous. Better call it Shoreline Lake and be glad that Mountain View decided to include it in their Shoreline Park. For most of the year it attracts wind surfers, a species not noted on the county checklist, but it has been closed in December and January because it is not economical for the concessionaire. This has resulted in observations of birds we seldom see in the South Bay.

David Suddjian points out that the lake is a new habitat, something we haven't had locally and should keep an eye on. Shoreline Lake is fairly large, but the two characteristics that make it different are its depth of 20 feet and the large volume of bay water that is pumped through it. Twenty feet doesn't seem so deep, but when you think about it we don't see depths like that in the bay until we get as far north as Dumbarton. Both Arctic and Common loons have been seen there this winter, but the surprise has been the quantity of diving ducks that we usually see only in very small numbers in the bay off Palo Alto. Buffleheads and Common Goldeneyes have been seen in good numbers. Surf Scoters have been there in the hundreds and there always seem to be a few White-winged Scoters as well - a species that goes unreported most years. In the morning, come through the normal Shoreline Park entrance at the end of Stierlin Road and park near the lake. For afternoon light, walk in from the end of Terminal Boulevard. Next year, when you think the wind surfers are getting ready to migrate south, check out Shoreline Lake.

An **Arctic Loon** was found on Sizer Flat Reservoir on 22 and 23 Dec (Rob Klinger, Janet Carr fide Dick Mewaldt). This is in the Mt. Hamilton Range north of Henry Coe SP at about 2500 feet. Another was found at Shoreline Lake 7 Jan (David Suddjian-DS). **Cattle Egrets** continue to be found along Ferguson Road east of Gilroy with at least 7 there 13 Jan. A **Green-backed Heron** was along Coyote Creek at Metcalf Road 15 Jan where they have been found in past years and a **Wood Duck** was seen in the same area



(Greg Meszaros). **Blue-winged Teal** have wintered in Charleston Slough again with 6 seen on 8 Jan and 2 reported 20 Jan (Dick Stovel-DSt). **Eurasian Wigeon** have been found in approximately normal numbers with three males found in a walk from the Palo Alto Baylands to Shoreline on 8 Jan (Paul Donahue) and a pair seen in the Flood Control Basin on 9 Jan (Sister Helen Gilsdorf). A good **Redhead** count from



the North Pond of the FCB was 93 on 2 Jan (DS). They disperse from there after the close of hunting season. The peak count of **Surf Scoters** in Shoreline Lake was 175 on 7 Jan (DS). Seventeen **White-winged Scoters** were found there the next day (DS). We seldom see more than a few **Common Goldeneye** along the bay in the wintertime, so 15 seen at Shoreline Lake 25 Jan are a reflection of this novel habitat. A pair of **Osprey** were seen in the vicinity of the Metcalf Road fishing ponds along Coyote Creek 17 Jan (Frank O'Sullivan). They are apparently attracted by the 2500 lb. of trout that are stocked there weekly for the paying fishermen. Chris Lorentz remarks that a few years ago a pair remained all winter in the vicinity of Ojier Road to the south when the ponds there were managed for commercial fishing. One or more immature **Ferruginous Hawks** have been seen in January with one seen in Charleston Slough 8 Jan and another sighting near Agnews on 13 Jan (DSt). I can only conclude that **Golden Eagles** are now regular on the west side of the Santa Clara valley with the number of observations given to me this fall. Additional sightings include one at Shoreline Park 21 Dec (DS) which Linda Newberry says has been a regular all fall and an immature at Wolfe Road and I-280 8 Jan (John Lattanzi-JL). A **Merlin** in Los Altos was after robins and waxwings 13 Jan (Peter LaTourrette). They are probably more common than we note in winters when the berry crop supports plum robins and waxwings. **Peregrine Falcons** have again been found through January on the west edge of the bay (DS, DSt). It appears that as many as three have



been present. A **Black Rail** was at the Palo Alto Baylands in the usual spot on 19 Jan (DS). The absence of truly high tides has probably saved many of the small rails from predation this winter. A **Lesser Yellowlegs** was along San Francisquito Creek below Geng Road 12 Jan (DSt). They are very rare in the South Bay in the winter. A **Spotted Sandpiper** was seen there as well. **Short-eared Owls** continue to be seen locally. Two were still at Moffett Field 3 Jan and one was seen at the end of Ralston Avenue in Belmont on 29 Jan. A trip down into Arroyo Hondo where Smiths Creek comes in on 26 Jan resulted in finding 8-12 **Winter Wrens** and 6 **American Dippers** (James Yurchenko-JY, Amy Lauterbach-AL). The wrens winter here, but the dippers are probably resident. A bright morph of the **White-throated Sparrow** was banded in San Jose 4 Jan (Dick Mewaldt). Two birds continue to come to a feeder in Menlo Park in January. **Red Crossbills** continue to be found. A flock of 20 were found at Henry Coe SP 29-31 Dec in a variety of habitats (JY, AL) and 25 were reported there 5 Jan as well (JL). A flock of 12 were seen over Monte Bello OSP on 29 Jan (Paul Noble).

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





**VIDEO SKILLS NEEDED**

Persons with professional skills in producing, writing, editing, or narrating broadcast quality videotapes are urged to contact Phil LaRiviere (415)493-5540 or Barbara Hambelton (408)446-3645.

**A LETTER TO THE EDITOR**

Re: Reporting of "Operation Falcon" in Audubon Action

Falcons and raptors in general are precious and must be protected. However, most falconers are not law breakers, just as most Audubon members are not law breakers. "Operation Falcon" had the purpose of nabbing unscrupulous falconers, but enticement and entrapment of falconers by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) is not productive. It does not so much catch criminals as create criminals. The same money might well produce better results if it were spent on captive-falcon breeding projects.

Falconers are conservationists. This truth is often disregarded. Falconers restock the wild population of raptors when they release adult raptors which were taken as nestlings, and when they release captive-bred falcons. They work with school children, hunters and the NRA to educate them regarding the laws protecting raptors.

Falconers are not spoilers, although individuals make mistakes. Organized American falconry was rocked by "Operation Falcon". It appears that a few bad apples have spoiled the reputation of the sport for the entire community.

M. Kevin McRae

**MAILING LIST**

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

**AVOCET READER SURVEY**

We want to know if the Avocet is doing the things our members want it to do. Some people tell us they want to see more environmental news, while others say birding news is more important to them. We'd like to know what you like and don't like, and what you want to see. Please take a little time to fill out this survey and mail it to Susan McCarthy, 475 S. 12th St., San Jose, CA 95112. Thanks.

	I READ	SOMETIMES READ	DON'T READ
Field Trips-this month	_____	_____	_____
next month	_____	_____	_____
Field Notes	_____	_____	_____
Chapter news	_____	_____	_____
Non-Audubon trips	_____	_____	_____
Birding site guides	_____	_____	_____
Local conservation news	_____	_____	_____
Nat'l conservation news	_____	_____	_____
Meeting announcements	_____	_____	_____
Humor	_____	_____	_____
	WANT TO SEE MORE	CURRENT AMOUNT	WANT TO SEE LESS
Field trip reports	_____	_____	_____
Field Notes	_____	_____	_____
Birding classifieds	_____	_____	_____
Non-Audubon trips	_____	_____	_____
Book reviews	_____	_____	_____
Photos/art	_____	_____	_____
Birding site guides	_____	_____	_____
Local conservation news	_____	_____	_____
Nat'l conservation news	_____	_____	_____
Conservation issues analysis	_____	_____	_____
Meeting announcements	_____	_____	_____
Letters to the editor	_____	_____	_____
Nat'l Aud. Soc. news	_____	_____	_____
Humor, essay	_____	_____	_____
Other (specify)	_____	_____	_____

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Interested in contributing to the Avocet? \_\_\_\_\_

Other comments on Chapter activities? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Phone # (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

**PHILIPPINE EAGLES**

Only 200 Philippine Eagles are left. Their rain forest habitat is rapidly vanishing. Eagles are being smuggled out of the country for sale to private collectors. And the Philippine Eagle Conservation Program is desperately short of funds and may go out of existence. If you'd like to help, or volunteer to work on the campaign to save these eagles, call or write Mike Kapis at 1275 Curtner Ave., San Jose, CA 95125 (408)265-5445.

## BIRDSEED SALE

If you hurry, you may still be able to get birdseed in our March sale.

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.

We will all benefit - you, the birds, and your Audubon chapter. Proceeds of the sale will benefit SCVAS.

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 (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

ORDERS DUE BY MARCH 11. DON'T FORGET TO INCLUDE YOUR CHECK.

## NON-AUDUBON EVENTS

● The Bird School with Rich Stallcup will critique the National Geographic Field Guide on Tuesdays, March 5, 12, 19 & 26 at Marin Civic Center from 7-10 p.m. \$15 each night. Reservations advised: PRBO, 4990 Shoreline Hwy, Stinson Beach, CA 94970.

● Dave Johnston, Director of the Youth Science Institute, will be leading a trip to Anza-Borrego March 31-April 6. It will include a 3-day backpack into Sheep Canyon Natural Preserve. Call Dave at (408)258-4322 or (408)867-7278(home).

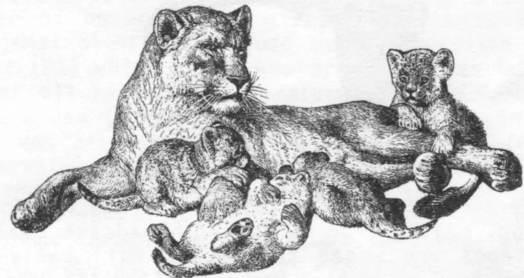
● The Nature Sounds Society is sponsoring a presentation on Song Learning and Song Dialects in Birds, by Dr. Luis Baptista, a researcher on song learning in White-crowned Sparrows. The presentation will be Sunday, March 17, at 2:30, at the California Academy of Sciences. It is open to all. For further information call Paul Matzner at the Oakland Museum, at (415)273-3884.

## NON-AUDUBON EVENTS

● Oregon River Experiences, in cooperation with Portland and Lake County Audubon Societies, offers bird-oriented raft trips on the Owyhee, Rogue, and John Day rivers. A naturalist accompanies each trip. More information at O.R.E. Inc, 1935 Hayes Street, Eugene, Oregon 97405, (503)342-3293.

● Mono Lake Committee is sponsoring a cruise to Alaska via the Inside Passage June 14-26. This cruise will benefit Mono Lake. Fares range from \$2235 to \$2835. For full details, send a stamped, self-addressed 4x9 1/2 envelope to ALASKA '85, c/o M. Bennett, 2719 Marin Ave., Berkeley, CA 94708.

● Saturday, March 16, 9-4:30, at the California Academy of Sciences, the Point Reyes-Farallon Islands National Marine Sactuary will present 'The Farallones: Island Sanctuary', a symposium on the natural and human history of the islands. It will feature the results of 15 years of Point Reyes Bird Observatory research. Registration is \$7 in advance, \$10 at the door. For information call (415)868-1221.



● The Cheesemans are sponsoring a bird tour for non-smokers to Kenya and one to Peru, plus Australian wildlife tours. Kenya, June 15-July 8, costs \$2600 plus airfare and will cover over 1000 miles. Peru, July 17-August 6, costs \$2300 plus airfare, and includes coastal islands, the Amazon, and the Andes. For Australia, there are four departure dates: June 8, July 20, August 17, and September 14. They are led by Australian naturalists, and will include O'Reilly's Guest House, whose birds were the subject of the October general meeting. Call the Cheesemans at (408)867-1371 or 741-5330.

● University credit is available from SJSU for Field Studies Tours to Death Valley, the Grand Canyon, and Lassen this spring and summer. There will also be a local class on Marshes, Hills, and Beaches of the South Bay. For information call (408) 277-3736. A brochure is available.

● Earth Island Institute presents 'Conversation with a Tramp', a one man show starring Lee Stetson as John Muir, the great conservationist. There will be performances March 15, 16, and 17 at 7:30 p.m. at the Unitarian Church, 1187 Franklin Street, San Francisco. Tickets available at the door, through Earth Island (415/788-0383), and from BASS outlets.

● DeAnza College is offering an Ecology class, taught by Doug Cheeseman, for spring quarter. There will be field trips to exciting areas, including a Memorial Day weekend trip to Sequoia-Kinga Canyon. Contact Doug at (408)996-4657 or 867-1371.

● The Wilderness Extension at U.C. Davis is offering a Birding Trek in Historic Britain in May. The 15 day trek, led by British ornithologist and wildlife artist Frederick Watson, will visit historic sites and monuments as well as wildlife preserves and natural areas. For a brochure and more information, call Dottie Moore Paige (916)752-3098.

● Opportunities to enter the Sutter Buttes and experience that unique environment with the help of expert guides have never been better. There are still openings on day trips into the Buttes. Inquire of Don Schmoltdt, 1799 Highway 20, #21, Colusa, CA 95932, (916)458-4385.



## BIRTHDAY PARTY

Do you have a problem remembering birthdays, anniversaries, special dates? Don't feel badly, we here on the Board of Directors have forgotten two very special dates. The first was the 30th anniversary of the AVOCET and the second was the 60th birthday of our own chapter. To make up for this, we have decided to turn our Annual Membership Meeting in June into a gala birthday party. For more information, stay tuned to your AVOCET, or call Lynn in the office.

## THANKS AND GOOD LUCK, BOB WELCOME, DAVE

Many thanks to Bob Houghton, stepping down as Treasurer after 1 1/2 years. He has overseen the diversification of our investments and simplified our financial reporting systems. Good luck to Bob in his retirement, and we wish him and Barbara lots of fun as they travel and bird.

A welcome is extended to Dave Nauer, taking over the Treasurer position. Dave was the immediate past Treasurer, so the job is familiar. We are grateful for his experience and to have him on the board again.

## THE TICO EXPERIENCE -- PART VI

After an night in the cabinas in Tortuguero, on the northeast coast of Costa Rica, our Tropical Ecology students from San Jose State University hiked down the beach to nearby Tortuguero National Park headquarters. The chief ranger permitted us to camp in the yard, where hummingbirds worked the flowering shrubbery.

Along the short nature trail we found many eastern U.S. migrants one day, while the next day there were none. For the first time Howler Monkeys were plentiful and easy to study. A Purple-throated Fruitcrow and a Laughing Falcon added interest to our walks. One night a gringo ranger played some bird calls he had recorded. These helped us to find a White-collared Manakin, with its peculiar wing-clicking sounds, and to call in a Stripe-breasted Wren. A delight to us westerners was a Scarlet Tanager. Two warblers - Bay-breasted and Canada - were new to me as was the Red-eyed Vireo. The jungle yielded three ovenbirds on one walk - Slaty Antshrike, Chestnut-backed Antbird, and White-flanked Antwren - and a Red-throated Ant-Tanager. Three new hummingbirds (mango, barbthroat, and hermit) were here.

A student from Cornell University showed us five species of leaf-nosed bats caught in mist nets. Our own spider specialist caught a *Peripatus*, which occupies a whole phylum by itself (for example, birds are in Class **Aves** within the Phylum **Chordata**). When I studied Zoology I never expected to ever see this strange link between the annelids and insects.

To the Yellow-crowned Night Heron and the Gull-billed Tern I had seen coming up, we added a soaring King Vulture (rare) and a sitting Peregrine Falcon and caught a glimpse of a Gray-necked Wood-Rail, which I had given up hope of ever seeing. It took Dr. Skutch three years to associate this elusive bird with its call.

At our beach camp we saw Black Vultures on picnic tables. At a river mouth we found three species of kingfishers within a few minutes - Green-and-rufous, Pygmy, and Belted - and this completed all six of Costa Rica's kingfishers. But my greatest thrill at Cahuita was the Little Tinamou that flew low across the road just a few yards ahead of me.

A comfortable bus ride with no standees took us to San Jose for a rest, shopping, and a flight on a

DC-3 to Quepos, southwest of the capital. A short bus ride took us to Manuel Antonio National Park. The plane had turned back the day before because of an oil leak, and word had reached our advance detachment of students that the plane had crashed with five students aboard. We were received with open arms as if we had returned from the dead.

The rainy season was beginning, and our first really heavy rain caught me sitting on the porch of a cabin, relaxing after a bath. We set up camp on the beach next day, but gave up when a huge wave on the high tide washed through our tents; we portaged our gear through a tidal river, breast deep in water, to stay in a primitive hostel. Roaches and a toad shared my room, and over the low partitions I heard other travelers chattering in French, German, and Spanish.

We missed the Boat-billed Heron reported to live here, but saw another Banded Anteater and a Sandwich Tern. My last new life bird was one of the two dozen White Ibises that flew along the coast. Then we returned to Quepos so we could catch an early flight next day for San Jose.

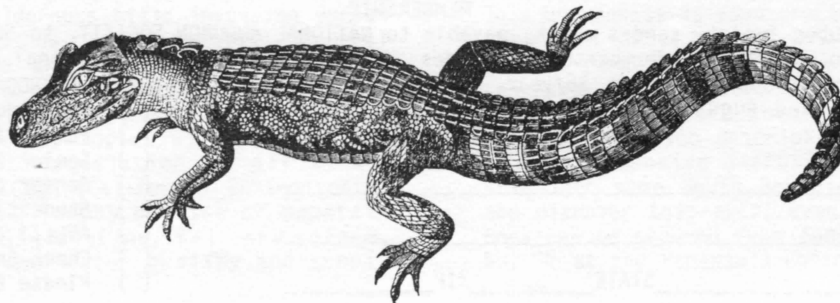
All good things must end sometime, and it is now time for my patient readers to make reservations for a flight to Costa Rica (don't tell me you have already seen all those birds).

To sum up our experiences, I saw 266 species of birds, of which 232 were life birds for me. I certainly missed 20 or 30 species that others in my group identified and we saw perhaps two dozen that we could never identify (for example, a possible Green Ibis seen from the plane window at Quepos airport and the always difficult woodcreepers). We missed many exciting birds by not being at the right place at the right time, but were happy to sample 58 of the 76 families in Costa Rica.

Perhaps some day I will see limpkins, sun-bitterns, potoos, jacamars, tapaculos, sharpbills, peppershrikes, shrike-vireos, and wrenthrushes. It was really strange that I did not identify anything in the quail or partridge family, but I may have seen some burst from some brush.

It was an exciting experience and one that I highly recommend to bird lovers who like to rough it in a foreign country.

Lee Lovelady



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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.

**NOMINATION TIME**

The Nominating Committee is in high gear preparing a slate of Officers and Directors for the upcoming year. We need names. If you would like to recommend yourself (don't be shy) or another member for consideration, please call Chairperson, Betty Groce, at (415)326-5540 immediately, if not sooner. We need your input.

Betty Groce



**SCVAS GRANTS**

The Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society continues its program of providing grants to studies and projects that advance the knowledge, appreciation and protection of wildlife and its habitats. Proposals for grants will be accepted through April 31, 1985 for consideration in the 1985 funding cycle. Grants will be awarded by June 15 to those proposals approved fully or partially by the SCVAS grants committee and board of directors.

Applications for grants must be submitted on a grants request form which can be obtained by writing to SCVAS Grants, c/o Donna Zetterquist, 55 Mountain Springs Drive, Santa Cruz, CA 95060. Each must be accompanied by a proposed budget and schedule for the study or project. After completion of the funded activity, the recipient may be asked to give a presentation at a SCVAS general meeting or to prepare an article for the Avocet.

Donna Zetterquist  
 Chairman, Grants Committee

**JANUARY VOLUNTEERS**

Thanks to Harry Beerbohm, Marion Lockwood, Tibby Simon, and Greg Meszaros for assisting in the office. Many back issues of AVOCETS were sorted, membership lists pruned, and magazines clipped. If you would like to volunteer to help in the office (it's fun and REALLY helps), please call Lynn at (415)329-1811.

**AVOCET BACK ISSUES?**

Do you have any copies of the following AVOCETS to donate to the SCVAS office, or to let us copy for our files? We are missing:

Feb 1948	Sept 1973	Feb 1978
Feb 1950	Feb 1976	Apr 1978
Sept 1950	Mar 1976	May 1978

**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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