

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

Mr Alan M Eisner
 3538 Farm Hill Blvd #4
 Redwood City, CA 94061

Non-Profit Org.
 US Postage Paid
 San Jose, CA
 Permit No. 5869

RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED



Volume 32, Number 7

September 1985

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.

- Sept. 4 **Bay Area Bird Photographers.** Wednesday, 7:30 pm. Baylands Interpretive Center. Bring slides you took on your summer vacation. Co-sponsored by the city of Palo Alto.
- Sept. 10 **Bird Discussion Group.** Tuesday, 9:30 am, at the home of Eve Case, 20537 Verde Vista Lane, Saratoga. Topic: Summer Bird Experiences.
- Sept. 11 **Field Trip South.** Wednesday, 9 am, half day. Birding along San Lorenzo River in Santa Cruz. Meet at A. K. Salz Tannery 9 a.m. Take Hwy 17 toward Santa Cruz, Hwy 1 - Half Moon Bay turnoff. Turn right at electric signal just over the river (River Street). Signs say "Hiway 9, Boulder Creek". Tannery is on the right - big red building - park near the leather store. Linda Hagelin (408)867-3046.
- Sept. 18 **General Meeting.** Wednesday. Refreshments at 7:30 pm, program at 8 pm. Palo Alto Cultural Center, Newell at Embarcadero. Don Roberson, author of *The Rare Birds of the West Coast*, will discuss *A Different Approach to the Identification of Shorebirds Stressing Aging*. This is a method anyone can learn. Slides will accompany the program.
- Sept. 21 **Birdwalk for Beginners.** Coyote Hills Regional Park. Saturday, 8:30 am, half day. Take Hwy 17 N to Jarvis and turn right to Newark. Meet at the last parking lot. Good time for migrating tanagers, warblers, and flycatchers. Call Vicki Silvas-Young for information (408)293-7124.
- Sept. 25 **Field Trip North.** Charleston Slough. Wednesday, 9 am. Meet at the east end of San Antonio Road off Hwy 101. Leaders: Rose Lind (408)736-8207 and Dolores Norton (415)941-1666.
- Sept. 29 **Moss Landing.** Jetty Road. Saturday, 9 am, half day. Meet at Marina parking lot near one-lane bridge in Moss Landing. From Hwy 1 in Moss Landing turn right just after PG&E plant. Follow the road to the right and park just before the bridge. Informal car pooling from 280 and Page Mill Rd. at 7:30 am. Possible pelagics and shore birds. For further information call Vicki Silvas-Young (408)293-7124.

FINAL ANNOUNCEMENT - BIRD CARVING CLASS

There are a few spaces left open in SCVAS' special class on beginning bird carving, taught by Hillary Hullen and David Ruegg, on Saturday, September 21. The class is limited to 12 participants, so please register soon to insure a reservation.

The workshop will cover basic techniques that will aid anyone with limited or no previous woodcarving experience in completing a pleasing bird carving. Each carver will have the option of carving a lifelike, stylized or country primitive bird.

Cost for the workshop is \$25 with an additional \$5 materials fee. Participants will need only a knife to complete a carving of a shorebird. For more information call Lynn at (415)329-1811, or send a check for \$30 to SCVAS, 2253 Park Blvd., Palo Alto, CA 94306 to register. You will be sent a confirmation.

NEW PALO ALTO CHECKLIST

The New Checklist Of The Birds of Palo Alto and Adjacent Areas, compiled by David Suddjian and Paul L. Noble, has been completed. Copies should be available free to the public by mid-September. Ask for it at the Palo Alto Baylands and Foothills Park interpretive centers.

The checklist treats the birds found in Palo Alto and the following adjacent areas: Los Trancos Open Space, Mountain View's Charleston Slough, Shoreline Park and Forebay, and suburban parts of Stanford Campus.

Of the 289 species recorded in the area described above, 206 regularly occurring species are represented by bar graphs accurate to 1/2 month. The remaining 83 species form a supplemental list. The number of known occurrences is listed for most of these species. Footnotes have been included to further define the occurrence of certain species.

Many thanks are offered to Bill Bousman, Ted Chandik and many others who provided records and comments. Thanks also to Richard Bacon and Karen Krieger for helping to print the text.

-David Suddjian

**ATTENTION PHOTOGRAPHERS
BAYLANDS PHOTO EXHIBITION**

To provide increased understanding and awareness of the San Francisco Bay Wetlands through the medium of still photography, these organizations are sponsoring a photo competition and exhibition: Baylands Conservation Committee, Ohlone Audubon Society, Peninsula Conservation Center Foundation, SF Bay Bird Observatory, Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society, and the Tri-City Ecology Center.

The competition is open to everyone. Subject matter is restricted to THE LAND, MARSHES, SLOUGHS, WATERWAYS AND SHALLOWS OF AND SURROUNDING SAN FRANCISCO BAY SOUTH OF THE SAN MATEO BRIDGE. Photographs depicting wildlife, plants and natural features of these areas, as well as photographs depicting the relationship of people to these areas will be accepted.

Selected prints will be on display at Vallco Fashion Park, Cupertino, from November 1-5, 1985 and at the San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge, Fremont, from February - May 1986.

Judges will be Ken Gardiner, nationally recognized bird photographer; Rose Hand, President, Palo Alto Camera Club; and Paul Kelly, Biologist, California Dept. of Fish and Game. Sponsors will present awards of ribbons, trophies and merchandise.

Each participant may submit up to 4 black and white and 4 color prints for judging, along with an entry fee of \$3.50. Entry drop/collection points include the Peninsula Conservation Center, Tri-City Ecology Center, SF Bay Bird Observatory, and Brooks Camera Stores at the following locations: Hillsdale, Fremont, Eastridge, and Pruneyard.

For more information and entry forms, please contact the SCVAS office, (415)329-1811.

ENTRY DEADLINE IS FRIDAY, OCTOBER 4, 1985.

ALL SCVAS PHOTOGRAPHERS ARE ENCOURAGED TO ENTER!!!



WILDERNESS CONFERENCE

The California Wilderness Conference will be held in Visalia October 25-27. The Conference, organized by the California Wilderness Coalition (with member organizations from the American Alpine Club to the Wilderness Society) hopes to reach 1,000 participants. There will be workshops, entertainment, speeches, raffles, booths and displays. Registration is \$15 til October 15, \$20 thereafter and at the door. For more information on this statewide conference, write or call the CWC at P.O. Box 269, Porterville, CA 93258, or call Bob Barnes at (209)784-4477.

**ENDANGERED SPECIES FUNDING
NEEDS YOUR HELP**

Just two years ago Assemblyman Bob Campbell successfully carried legislation to allow taxpayers to "checkoff" a donation on their income tax form to the state's rare and endangered species fund. The Department of Fish and Game has received over a million dollars in contributions from these donations, making it possible to greatly increase efforts to protect our rare and endangered species.

One problem with the program is that the donations are not tax deductible. In most states with these programs the donations are deductible, and the amounts the taxpayers give are quite a bit larger than they have been in California.

Now Assemblyman Frank Vicencia is carrying legislation which would make the donations deductible. This law, if signed by the Governor, would probably double the rate of contributions to the rare and endangered species fund.

Unfortunately, the State Department of Finance opposes this beneficial legislation on shortsighted fiscal grounds. The actual loss of revenue to the State would be miniscule in the context of the State's budget. To overcome this opposition, letters to the Governor are needed, asking him to sign AB47 when it reaches his desk. Point out in your letter the tremendous public support for this program, and the very small cost to the State in lost taxes (estimated at less than \$200,000). You can write the Governor at the State Capitol, Sacramento, CA 95814.

-Planning and Conservation League

AUDUBON ADVENTURES 1985-86

SCVAS will sponsor at least 10 classes in the Audubon Adventures program. Each class we adopt will receive a class set of the newsletter "Audubon Adventures", stickers, membership cards and a teacher's guide. The program is appropriate for grades 3-5, and is a supplement to an elementary science program, or can form the basis for a bird club. Teachers may apply for a one year membership by completing the form below and sending it to the SCVAS office, 2253 Park Blvd., Palo Alto, CA 94306. Teachers and members may also adopt a class by submitting the form and enclosing a \$20 check. Adopting a class frees the chapter's funds for other classrooms. If you would like to adopt a class, but do not have a specific one in mind, we can find a class for you.

Teacher's name _____

School _____

Grade _____ # of students _____

Address _____

City _____ Zip _____

I am applying for my class ().

I wish to adopt a class. Enclosed is \$20 ().

Signature _____

Donor's address _____

City _____ Zip _____

1985 BIRD-A-THON

As we began to count up the total we knew we had done well. Our goal was 130 species and as our count passed that mark we congratulated each other on a job well done. Our final total was 156 species.

It began 23 hours and 30 minutes before in the heart of Pescadero marsh on the San Mateo County coast. David Suddjian and I were participating in the 1985 National Audubon Society Bird-a-thon, this year honoring John James Audubon's 200th birthday. With weeks of planning, scouting and, most importantly, securing pledges behind, we started the clock at 3:00 pm on April 20, 1985. In Pescadero marsh we recorded six species of swallows and two swifts in the first 30 minutes. From there we canvassed the coast for pelagics and rocky shore birds. Unfavorable winds and an approaching weather front cut down on pelagics, but a Golden Plover at Pescadero beach made up for it. As darkness approached we returned to Pescadero marsh to call out some rails. A Virginia Rail obligingly called for us in the rain while we ate cold dinners. With no Sora Rails to be heard we drove back to Butano S.P. for owls. It was raining harder and our hopes for a high owl count diminished. We played a Screech-Owl tape and to our surprise one answered and gave us a fleeting glimpse in our spotlights. With the rain picking up we called it quits in favor of an early start the next day.

Upon rising at 5:00 am an osprey greeted us over our site in Butano. Despite drizzly conditions, birds were singing all over. Our count total quickly grew. We birded Gazos Creek Road and picked up many birds, but the Pygmy-Owls that David found two days earlier didn't show. A flock of Red Crossbills overhead finished Gazos Creek. Doing well on time, we drove back to the coast to look for pelagics we missed the day before. Bingo! We got a Pigeon Guillemot and an elusive oystercatcher at Pescadero. Our spirits lifted, we raced off along Pescadero Creek Road to the summit. Unfortunately the top of the hill was shrouded in clouds and the Lark Sparrows did not show.

Our next stop was Montebello OSP and by 7:30 am we were there. David's friend, Karen Kreiger, was waiting for us with some much appreciated coffee and blueberry muffins. Our appetites sated, we started down the trail for Solitary Vireos and Western Tanagers. The vireos showed, the tanagers did not. We had no time to waste dawdling, so it was off to Foothills Park in Palo Alto. There, lo and behold, a Western Tanager on a Monterey Pine. Fantastic! From the park we made a stop at Foothill College for the Red-shouldered Hawk. From there we motored to my house for Hooded Orioles and a Yellow-billed Magpie. An additional prize was a Nashville Warbler in my backyard.

Our next stop was Dumbarton Narrows for shorebirds. Although the tide was not favorable we picked up several species here. We lunched at Palo Alto Baylands where we ticked Clapper Rails, gulls and ducks. The Flood Control Basin produced Redhead and Green-winged Teal. One of our last targets was a Burrowing Owl at Shoreline Park in Mt. View. Alas, recent construction on a new industrial park had chased the owl away. With our deadline approaching we moved to San Francisquito Creek in Palo Alto. It was here that we recorded our last bird, number 156, a Green-backed Heron along the creek.

The day was done. Our team collected \$200.80, half of which will go to SCVAS and half to National in Sacramento. We wish to thank those who pledged us, for it was these contributions that made this bird-a-thon a big success. We know next year's bird-a-thon will be just as successful.

-Paul L. Noble

BAY AREA AUDUBON COUNCIL WETLANDS POLICY

The following statement has been adopted by the Bay Area Audubon Council including SCVAS for use in protecting wetlands from destruction. For information, please contact the office (415)329-1811.

It is the policy of the Bay Area Audubon Council, and its member societies, to promote the protection, restoration and enhancement of wetlands and marshes. In addition to the statements and policies contained in the WETLANDS RESOLUTION, promulgated by the Wetlands Coalition, June 1984, the Bay Area Audubon Council URGES:

1. That the QUANTITY AND DIVERSITY of wetland habitats be maintained or increased whenever possible.
2. RESTORATION as a viable and essential means to renew productivity in damaged wetlands. Our policy is to search out and identify sites suitable for restoration and to support efforts to restore them.
3. That MITIGATION for the loss of wetlands assure:
 - a) there be no net loss of wetland acreage.
 - b) mitigation acreage be of equivalent (or better) habitat value. Factors such as size, continuity, vegetation and wildlife requirements should be considered.
 - c) mitigation be accomplished on-site; or, if not feasible, at the closest site where similar, or better, environmental conditions can be created.
 - d) mitigation be provided before or concurrently with the development.
 - e) monitoring and enforcement plans sufficient to insure the success of the enhancement. Monitoring should be conducted by an agency independent of the development.
4. The retention, protection and enhancement of SEASONAL WETLANDS as an essential part of our total wetland resource. Seasonal wetlands are areas which become inundated or saturated during the rainy season, and include diked historic baylands, some now in agricultural use. They provide necessary habitat for migratory birds.
5. The retention of SALT PONDS, or their enhancement as more biologically productive habitat. Created from historic baylands, salt ponds should be preserved as bay related wildlife habitat whenever salt production is abandoned. Numerous species of water-birds, fish, and invertebrates now favor salt ponds over surrounding baylands with lower salinities.
6. Provision for and the protection of BUFFER ZONES between development projects and wetlands. These zones must provide areas of refuge for wetland species during high water periods and protection from human disturbance.
7. That PUBLIC ACCESS be governed by the sensitivity of the wetlands involved.
8. Establishment of WATER QUALITY AND QUANTITY INFLOW standards which protect the health of San Francisco Bay. The legislature should establish and maintain programs to monitor both bay and inflow water quality with specific emphasis on agricultural and urban/industrial toxic substances. When established, fresh water inflow standards must be enforced.
9. Strict ENFORCEMENT of existing laws and regulations pertaining to the protection of wetlands. We call upon the Army Corps of Engineers, Environmental Protection Agency, Bay Conservation and Development Commission, Regional Water Quality Control Board, and local governments to allocate adequate funding for enforcement, and to move rapidly in issuing citations and prosecuting violators.

FALL WILD BIRD SEED SALE

It's time to restock your bird seed supply for fall and winter, and to support your chapter's activities at the same time. We are again offering a variety of 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.

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 alone:

BLACK OIL SUNFLOWER SEED, high in oil content and nutritive value, this seed appeals to many species. STRIPED MEDIUM SUNFLOWER SEED, a slightly less nutritive, but larger, seed. Also attracts many species, and is good for added variety.

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

THIS IS A PRE-PAID SALE. Your order, including a check payable to SCVAS, must be received by MONDAY, OCTOBER 7. All orders must be picked up from the SCVAS office in the Peninsula Conservation Center on either Friday, October 25 between noon and 6 pm, or Saturday, October 26 between 10 am and 2 p.m. UNCLAIMED SEED WILL BE SOLD SATURDAY AFTER 2 PM 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 OCTOBER 7.

		# 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 7% Tax _____

TOTAL _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ Zip _____

Phone (____) _____

. . . AND HUMMINGBIRD FEEDING TOO!

As a special favor to SCVAs, hummingbird specialist Louise Blakey will be on hand Saturday, October 26, with a slide show, display and literature on how to attract hummingbirds with both plants and feeders. She will have her book, Our Hummingbirds, available for sale.



ANNUAL DINNER DONORS

SCVAS thanks the following businesses for their donations to the SCVAS Annual Dinner in June 1985: Monette's Pet Shop, Palo Alto; Peninsula Conservation Center Store, Palo Alto; Orchard Supply Hardware, Alum Rock Ave., San Jose.

CONGRATULATIONS TO WINNERS

This June, SCVAS awarded three prizes of National and SCVAS Membership to Science Fair entrants:

Teddy Cheeseman, for his project "How Many Birds Feed in My Yard?"

(Teddy received a Field Guide to the Birds of the Galapagos, since he is already a member.)

Rachelle Rands, for her project "The Effect of Acid Rain".

Lisa Snyder, for her project "Acid Rain on Building Materials".

Thanks to SCVAS judges Dave Johnston, Dave Nauer, and Diana Stillens.

FIELD NOTES - Bill Bousman

It's been a busy late spring and summer. Active birding uncovered 4 eastern vagrants: Tennessee Warbler, Magnolia Warbler, Ovenbird, and Rose-breasted Grosbeak. The Magnolia Warbler and Ovenbird are first county records. A Yellow-billed Cuckoo in Atherton may have been from the western population. Cattle Egrets were found nesting for the first time in the county and we obtained the first documentation of nesting Phainopepla.

The first report of **Brown Pelicans** was one in Alviso 22 June (Paul Noble-PN). Numbers built rapidly in July with 30 at Charleston Slough on 2 and 28 July (PN, Al Eisner-AE). A small number of **White Pelicans** "oversummered" in the Mallard Slough during April and May. Roy Lowe (RL) noted the first major return of nonbreeding birds on 12 May with 40 in Alviso. Flocks didn't move into the western portion of the area until 30 June when 65 were at Charleston Slough (Phyllis Browning-PB). A high count of 500 were seen there 28 July (AE). The only report of a **Little Blue Heron** was an adult seen at the Alviso heronry 22 May (RL). Approximately 10 **Cattle Egret** nests were observed at the Alviso heronry 22 May for the first confirmed county record (RL). Both eggs and nests with young were observed. **Green-backed Herons** have been seen in a number of places through the spring and summer. Two were along Matadero Creek west of Hwy 101 on 20 May, one was seen along Coyote Creek at Hwy 237 on 21 May, two more were along Adobe Creek west of Hwy 101 on 1 June, and a single was in the Matadero riparian 5 June (all David Suddjian-DS). Another was seen at Sargent 11 June. Four **Canada Geese** flying into the Palo Alto FCB on 9 June probably represent a local introduced population (Bill Degenhardt). A female **Wood Duck** was noticed at a Menlo Park feeder along San Francisquito Creek on 4 May (Betty Groce-BG) and a male was found on the 20th. We don't know which side of the creek they nested, but 6 downy young were found on 1 June and at least 5 were there 16 July (BG). One or two male **Green-winged Teal** over-summered with birds seen at the Palo Alto FCB 7 June (DS) and Charleston Slough 22 June (James Yurchenko, Amy Lauterbach-JY,AL). A male **Blue-winged Teal** was seen at Moffett Field 31 May and three were at Charleston Slough 1 July. **American Wigeon** are not found most summers, so four at Moffett Field 31 May and one in Adobe Creek 22 July (DS) were considered unusual. **Redhead** remained into early summer with a pair seen at Charleston Slough on 7 June (JY,AL). An immature male **Surf Scoter** also stayed into summer at Shoreline Lake on 1 July and was joined by a female on 17 July (DS). An **Osprey** was seen over Monte Bello OSP on 7 and 21 May (Briana Lindh-BL), very late for a migrant. The nearest breeding localities are in



Marin County. A female **Wild Turkey** was seen on Quimby Road near Grant Park 11 May (JY,AL). The second **Mountain Quail** sighting of the spring was of one on Coal Mine Ridge 22 May (Phil Hand). There has been no legal stocking of these birds in the Santa

Cruz Mountains in at least two decades, so they are probably from an unauthorized release (Bruce Elliott). Two calling **Virginia Rail** and a **Sora** heard in the Mountain View Forebay 1 June are one of the few recent summer records (PN). **Lesser Yellowlegs** have been well reported this summer. The first was in the Mountain View Forebay 14 July (PN) with others seen there and in Charleston Slough through 28 July (PB,DS,Ed Gustafson-EG,AE). The high count was six in the slough on 17 July (DS). Two **Ruddy Turnstones** at Charleston Slough 19 July (DS) are the first in two years. They're fairly common along the coast. **Dunlin** are rarely found here in June, so a breeding plumaged bird in Charleston Slough 1 and 2 July was a surprise (PN). **Least Terns** have been scarce in Charleston Slough in the last two years, so the 14-16 birds seen there in July including nine juveniles is heartening. First arrivals were 19 July (DS) and they have remained at least through 24 July (PB,PN). Totally surprising was a **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** well described from Atherton on 30 June (Mike Rothkopf). It was visiting a caterpillar-infested tree. There is only one other recent record for San Mateo county. A **N. Saw-whet Owl** was heard and seen on the P.A. Breeding Bird Count on 1 June on Langley Hill Rd. A male **Black-chinned Hummingbird** was seen in Monte Bello OSP on 14 May (DS) for one of our few recent records. They have nested in past years in the southern and eastern portions of the county. A **Western Kingbird** in Monte Bello OSP on 22 May (BL) seems late for a migrant. Nesting has been suspected in the Santa Cruz Mountains in recent years, but there is no evidence. Three **Purple Martins** seen at Loma Prieta 25 May (Don Starks, John Mariani-JM) were probably migrants. **House Wrens** have seemed more common in the Santa Cruz Mountains this year. Nesting birds were found in Stevens Creek CP on 10-11 May (PB, Dolores Norton) and an imm. in Palo Alto on 7 July was unusual for the flatlands (PB). **American Dippers** were again found nesting above Almaden Reservoir on 5 May (JM). They fledged young there last spring. **Phainopepla** were seen in late May around John Mariani's house in San Jose and eventually nested. A female was recorded feeding nestlings 8 July. Although these birds are rare but regular residents this is the first documented nesting record in the county. The P.A. Breeding Bird Count on 1 June resulted in two eastern vagrants. A **Tennessee Warbler** was found in downtown P.A. near San Francisquito Creek by David Suddjian and an **Ovenbird** was found in Monte Bello OSP by Paul Noble for a first county record. Misdirected eastern birds are often found in the coastal vagrant traps in June. On 13 June David Suddjian found a singing male **Magnolia Warbler** at Foothill College for another county record. The vagrant list was rounded out by an apparent first year male **Red-breasted Grosbeak** seen 28 June - 1 July in Los Gatos (Jean DuBois). **Black-chinned Sparrows** were recorded beyond their normal Loma Prieta haunts with six seen on Monte Bello OSP on 1 June (Peter LaTourrette) and again on 8 June (Jack Cole-JC). **Grasshopper Sparrows** were found also. The colony across from Vista Point in the Russian Ridge OSP numbered at least nine on 23 May (Roland Franz). A single bird was seen at Monte Bello on 8 June (JC), but a check on 23 July showed six birds of which 4 were immatures (DS). Three singing birds were at Sargent on 11 June. Upwards of 100 **Tricolored Blackbirds** were seen on the island in Grant Lake on 11 and 30 May (JY,AL), indicating this colony is healthy. **Red Crossbills** were seen in the local area at least through 1 June in Menlo Park (DS). Is this the end of the invasion?

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

NOT REALLY THE NEWS

According to Buff Lugnut, ornithologist extraordinaire, recent discoveries make it possible that at the next AAOU checklist revision the Willow Flycatcher (*Empidonax traillii*) will be divided into two species, the Lesser Willow Flycatcher (*Empidonax traillii*) and the Greater Willow Flycatcher (*Empidonax lugnutii*). Alternate choices for common names might be Lugnut's Flycatcher and Willow Flycatcher Classic.

Buff says that recent studies of breeding Willow Flycatchers, by Buff, have shown that there are two distinct breeding populations in some areas. "It took a long time to find out," explains Buff, "because the two kinds look just alike. But apparently the birds can tell the difference, we can't imagine how or why."

The Greater Willow Flycatcher is considerably rarer than the Lesser, Buff tells us. Endangered species status may be sought for it.

We asked Buff (now in the field studying the Alder Flycatcher) for suggestions for the birder who wants to anticipate the AAOU and take the Willow Flycatcher down to Greater or Lesser.

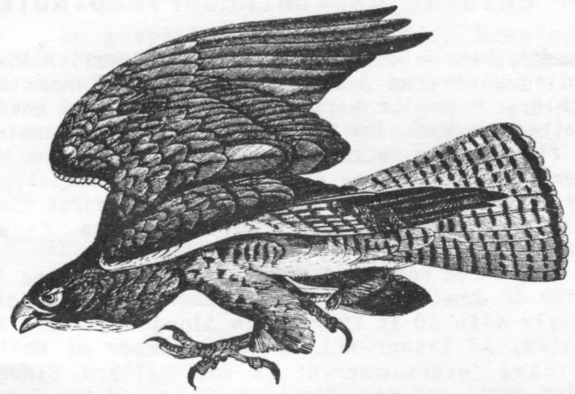
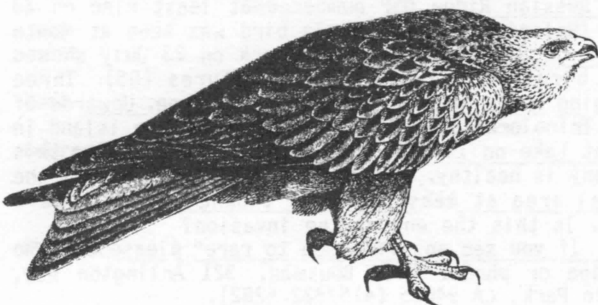
"The Greater is usually a few millimeters larger than the Lesser, but not always, there is some overlap. Unfortunately, this is difficult to assess, even in the hand. Both have the same 'fitz-bew' song, but the Greater delivers it with more brio. Occasionally you'll get a Lesser with the same delivery, and once in a while either species will have a song more like that of the Yellow-breasted Chat, but that's rare. When they land on a perch, the Lesser has a tendency to look to its right, whereas it's more common for a Greater to look to its left, or just stare straight ahead in a pointed manner. Of course this isn't a hard and fast rule. The female Lesser has more of a fawn shading than the male Lesser. Still, you can't really go by that. Some observers feel that the lower mandible of the Greater is brighter than the Lesser, but I disagree. As far as eye-rings go, it's debatable. Some say the Greater is slightly more likely than the Lesser to have a faint eye-ring, but recent evidence is that it's highly variable and depends mostly on whether the bird has been staying up late."

Suppose you see a pair of very large Willow Flycatchers, with bright lower mandibles, singing with a great deal of brio, with definite faint eye-rings, glancing to their left after alighting, and with a fawn tinge on the male's rump, but not the female's. Would this be grounds for reporting a sighting of Greater Willow Flycatchers?

"No," says Buff, "not unless it was a really experienced observer who'd spent lots of time in insect-infested brush observing both species, like I have. Or unless you shot them and measured the intestinal length. There's some indication of a reliable difference there. Happy birding!"

-S. J. McCarthy

© 1985



SANTA CLARA VALLEY AUDUBON SOCIETY STATEMENT OF INCOME, EXPENDITURES, AND INVESTMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED MAY 31, 1985

INVESTMENTS at cost on June 1, 1984 \$233,255

INCOME

Nat'l Audubon Soc dues	22,279	
Investment income	17,799	
AVOCET subscriptions	626	
Gifts/Memorials	1,390	
Christmas Bird Count	866	
Misc.	1,139	
		44,099
Book sales & other, net		1,392
TOTAL INCOME		45,491

EXPENDITURES

Administrative	24,255	
AVOCET	13,945	
Conservation/field trips	1,392	
Education/social	2,601	
Grants	219	
TOTAL EXPENDITURES		42,382

EXCESS OF INCOME 3,109

INVESTMENTS at cost on May 31, 1985 \$236,364
=====

GENERAL MEETING TOPICS

In addition to September's presentation by Don Roberson on Shorebird Identification, the Cheesemans have lined up some interesting programs for future General Meetings.

Terry Stevenson will talk about and show slides of the Birds of Kenya. Terry's an ornithologist who holds the old record of seeing 308 bird species in 24 hours.

Roy Lowe, wildlife biologist, will discuss South Bay wetlands and their status, with a discussion of areas targeted for development. This will be illustrated by slides of wetlands and wetland birds.

Ted Chandik, City of Palo Alto Naturalist, will give a program on the natural history of New Zealand's South Island.

Don Schmoltdt will talk on the Birds and Natural History of the Sutter Buttes. This program will be followed by a later weekend field trip to the Sutter Buttes.

Doug Cheeseman will present a program on the Birds of New Guinea, with an emphasis on various birds of paradise.

There will also be a program on the various projects that have received grants from SCVAS.

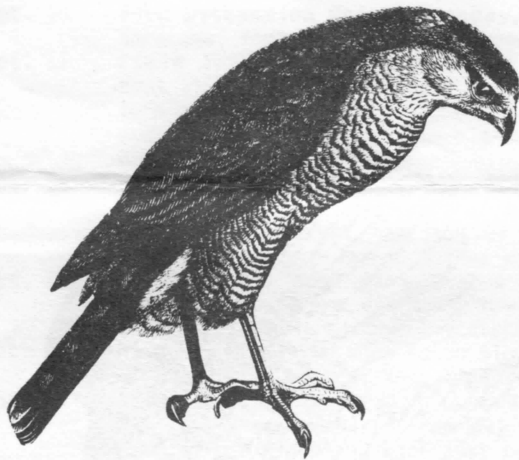
NON-AUDUBON CLASSES, TRIPS, AND EVENTS

The following are not sponsored by Audubon, but are listed for your information.

Spend your Christmas vacation this year in Costa Rica, birding, photographing and studying the natural history of their superb national parks with Ted and Zoe Chandik. Dec. 23, 1985-Jan. 4, 1986 (13 days). Cost \$1750 per person (plus airfare of \$566 from L.A.). Call Betchart Expeditions (408)245-9517 or Ted Chandik (415)493-5330 (evenings).

Among the Natural Excursions offered by the Point Reyes Bird Observatory are Monterey Seabirds, led by Rich Stallcup, Oct. 19-20, and Great Basin Winter Birds, led by Dave Shuford, Nov. 28-Dec. 1. For details on these great trips, call PRBO (415) 868-1221.

Back by popular demand are the Mono Lake Committee's Mono Lake and Yosemite Bus Trips. 3-day trips are scheduled for September 6-8, September 20-22, and October 4-6. Cost is \$185/person for a double room and \$250 for a single room, and includes transportation, two nights lodging, and a guided tour and lunch at Mono Lake. There will be plenty of time for hiking, birding, and relaxing. All proceeds go to protect Mono Lake. Call (415)956-7532.



San Jose State University offers a Photo Cruise of the South Pacific from Jan. 25-Feb. 15, 1986. The Royal Viking Star will stop at Wellington, Stewart Island, Christchurch, Milford Sound, Tasmania, Adelaide, and Melbourne. To learn more, call SJSU's Office of Continuing Education (408)277-3781.

Australian Safaris announces a two-week safari through the state of Victoria. The itinerary has been selected with the idea of spending most time in the field, rather than in a vehicle. Special emphasis on photography is available. For a brochure, call David Bozsik (415)792-7042 or John Archer (415)771-7831.

Through the Fremont Adult School, Alice Hoch will be leading two birding classes. A one-day Waterbirds class will take place September 28 at Point Reyes National Seashore. A six-week Birding Fields Trip class will meet Tuesday mornings from 9:30 am to 12:30 pm, from September 10th through October 15th. The class is designed for both beginning and experienced birdwatchers. For more information, call the Adult School (415)791-5841 or the instructor (415)657-0475.

De Anza College Professor Doug Cheeseman will give a 9 session lecture course with slides on birds, mammals, and natural history of Australia, New Guinea, the Galapagos, Peru, Amazon, Antarctica and E. Africa. Starts Oct. 3 and following 8 Thursday at 7:30 p.m. \$36.00. Call De Anza Short Course Office: (408)996-4673/4674 or Doug at (408)867-1371.

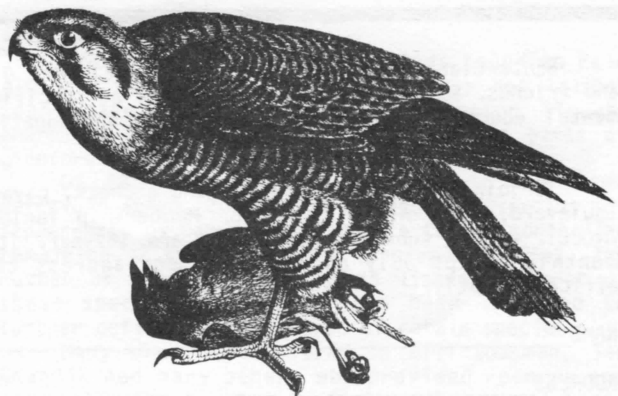
Doug and Gail Cheeseman are sponsoring two trips that SCVAS members are invited to participate in. Both are for people who want to see a maximum of wildlife with keen naturalists and birders who are non-smokers and enjoy being in the field all day. Please call Doug or Gail Cheeseman at (408)741-5330 or (408)867-1371. Suriname Natural History and Bird Tour - Feb. 15-March 11, 1986. Led by Paul Donahue. Paul has much experience in So. America including Suriname. He has done considerable bird recordings for Cornell. Total cost: \$3400 including all meals and airfare. Limit, 10. Galapagos and Peru Natural History - July 27-Aug. 18, 1986. Led by Paul Donahue and Ted Chandik. Both Paul and Ted have considerable experience in leading trips to So. America. Total cost including airfare \$3800.

Wild Horizons, Inc. offers a variety of photographic nature tours, mostly in the American West. Tours last a week and are led by experienced zoologists/photographers. Suitable for all levels of photographic experience. Call Alan at Crossroads Travel for more information (408)733-0642.

The Oceanic Society, a nonprofit organization for preserving the marine environment, is offering full day boat trips in Monterey Bay to observe marine mammals and birds, for \$35/person. The society also runs boat trips out to the Farallon Islands. Call (415)474-3385.

The Second Annual YSI Vasona Park 10-K Wildlife Run will take place Sunday, September 15. It is sponsored by Cornish and Carey Realtors, and will benefit the Youth Science Institute. There will be official T-shirts, food, entertainment, prizes and a drawing. Call the YSI (408)356-4945 or (408) 258-4322.

Coyote Point Museum will be offering three docent training classes this fall, including Exhibit Interpretation, Intertidal Interpretation, and Wildlife of the Bay Area. There will be an orientation meeting for new and prospective docents at the Museum on Friday, September 6, from 10-11:30 a.m. Anyone may attend. (415)342-7755.



Staff	Lynn Tennefoss (days)	415/329-1811	DIRECTORS (1983-86)	Richard Jeffers	415/325-9675	Publicity	Deborah Manley	408/749-8126
President	Kevin Monahan	408/559-8713	Barbara Hambelton	Barbara Hambelton	408/446-3645	Library	Myra Hodgson	415/326-3641
1st Vice Pres	Judy McEuen	408/251-3086	Roy Lowe	Roy Lowe	408/251-2323	Field Trips	Vicki Silvas-Young	408/293-7124
2nd Vice Pres	Diana Stillens	408/972-2777					Dolores Norton	415/941-1666
Treasurer	Dave Nauer	408/259-1283	DIRECTORS (1984-87)	Deborah Manley	408/749-8126	Membership	Linda Hagelin	408/867-3046
Rec. Sec'y	Courtenay Dawson-Roberts	415/327-5746	Mark McEuen	Mark McEuen	408/251-3086	Aud. Adventures	Elaine Gould	408/448-0622
Past President	Sue Liskovec	415/969-5542	Greg Meszaros	Greg Meszaros	408/985-7157	Hospitality		
						Conservation	Barbara Hambelton	408/446-3645
DIRECTORS (1982-85)			CHAIRPERSONS			Christmas		
Betty Groce	415/326-5540		Editor	Susan McCarthy	408/293-7498	Bird Count	Jim & Sue Liskovec	415/969-5542
Dave Johnston	408/258-4322		Assistant Editor	Virginia Bennett	408/973-2699	Grants	Donna Zetterquist	408/429-9716
Phil La Riviere	415/493-5540		Programs	Doug & Gail Cheeseman	408/867-1371	Photo Club	Pete LaTourrette	415/961-2741

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, 475 S 12th, San Jose, CA 95112.

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.

NAS INTRODUCTORY OFFER

As of July 1, 1985, the National Audubon Society has offered a special introductory membership rate to chapters, and will share those dues with the chapter. This will only occur if new members sign up through the chapter. If you would like to join NAS for the first time, or would like to give a gift membership, please send a \$20 check made out to National Audubon Society, to the SCVAS office, 2253 Park Blvd., Palo Alto, CA 94306. We will place you on the AVOCET mailing list, and forward the membership information to National. If you do not go through the chapter, SCVAS will not share in the first year membership dues. (SCVAS receives a dues share on all renewals, so please do not send in renewals to SCVAS.)

SCVAS THANKS . . .

Loretta and Mitch Mitchener for their contribution in memory of Vic Mann. James Balderston, Rigdon Currie, Anthony Ellis for Birdathon contributions. Gail Cheeseman, Barbara Hambelton, Diana Stillens for attending the SCVAS booth at DeAnza Days. Harry Beerbohm, Michelle Laver, Marion Lockwood, Tibby Simon for volunteering in the office during June and July.

DONATIONS

Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society welcomes gifts in general, or gifts in honor or memory of relatives and friends. Such donations will be used as specified, or, if unspecified, will be used to support environmental education and projects. All gifts and donations are tax deductible.

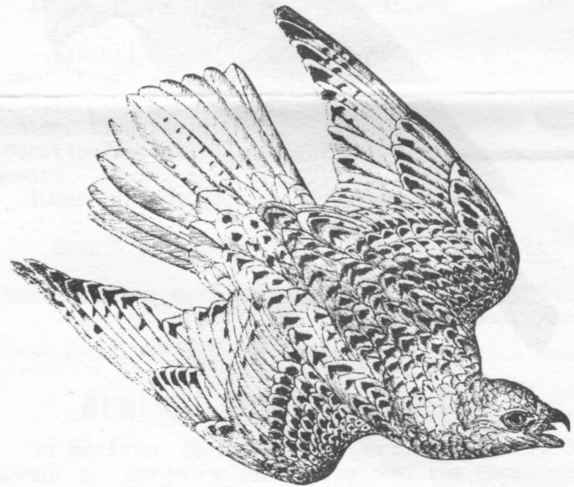
MEMBERSHIP

To join the Audubon Society send a check, payable to NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY, to SCVAS office, 2253 Park Boulevard, Palo Alto, CA 94306. Membership includes AUDUBON magazine, the national publication, and the AVOCET. AVOCET subscriptions alone are \$6/year. It is published monthly except July and August. Send address changes to the office promptly.

NAME _____
 ADDRESS _____
 CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

ITEMS FOR SALE

National Geographic Society Field Guide to Birds of North America (\$13.00 + .63 if you want it sent).
 SCVAS Birding at the Bottom of the Bay (\$6.55 + \$1 to send).
 Sequoia Audubon Society SF Peninsula Birdwatching (\$9.10 + \$1 to send).
 New Birds of the Sierra Coloring Book by Keith and Rob Hansen (\$5 + \$1 to send).



- CHECK CATEGORY
 Individual/\$30
 Family/\$38
 Senior Citizen/\$21
 Senior Citizen Family/\$23
 Student/\$18
 AVOCET only/\$6
 Check Enclosed
 Please Bill Me