

## SANTA CLARA VALLEY AUDUBON SOCIETY

Chapter C14 of the National Audubon Society  
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## 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.

- Dec. 4 **Bay Area Bird Photographers.** Wednesday, 7:30 pm, Baylands Interpretive Center. Brad Lowman will demonstrate some dos and don'ts of slide presentations. Co-sponsored by the City of Palo Alto.
- Dec. 8 **Charleston Slough/Mountain View Forebay.** Half day, Sunday, 9 am. Meet at E end of San Antonio Rd. off Hwy 101 for a day of wintering birds. Wheelchair access. HEAVY RAIN CANCELS. Leaders: Lynn Tennefoss (415)329-1811 and Allen Royer (408)251-6133.
- Dec. 10 **Bird Discussion Group.** Tuesday, 9:30 am at the home of Jean and Pat Dubois, 17150 Buena Vista Ave., Los Gatos. Subject: Feeder Birding.
- Dec. 11 **Field Trip South, Predatory Bird Center, UC Santa Cruz.** Wednesday. Limited to 10 people. May observe Peregrine, Bat-Orange-breasted and Aplomado Falcons, Harris's Hawk, and Elf Owl. Please call Gail Cheeseman for details and reservations. (408)741-5330 or 867-1371.
- Dec. 18 **KQED TV Show.** Wednesday, 8 pm. "Express" - a program on South Bay Wetlands. A must to see!
- Dec. 29 **San Jose CBC, [unclear] date.** (See story.)
- Jan. 5 **Woodside Road and Brannon Island.** Long day Sunday, 8 am. Take 680 N to 2nd Mission Blvd. turnoff. Meet in SE corner parking lot next to the Shell station. Carpool from there. Bring lunch and liquids for a day of Sandhill Cranes, Whistling Swans, and wintering hawks, geese, and ducks. RAIN CANCELS. Leaders: Betty Wyatt (408)255-6091 and Audrey Stoye (408)249-2108.
- Jan. 8 **Grant Ranch.** Wednesday, 9 am. Meet near Visitor's Center. Take Quimby from the 101 Tully exit or Mt. Hamilton Rd. from the 280 Alum Rock exit. Park is the first right past the intersection of Quimby and Mt. Hamilton Roads. Walk to Hall's Valley Lake for waterfowl, raptors, woodpeckers, etc. Leader: Gail Cheeseman (408)867-1371 or (408)741-5330.
- Jan. 12 **Post CBC Rarities Chase.** Half to full day Sunday. We will be looking for any exotics turned up in the Bay Area Christmas counts. Leader: Don Starks. Call Vicki Silvas-Young for reservations and information the week before the trip (408)293-7124.

## THE GOURMET GODWIT

The Gourmet Godwit, an illustrated cookbook compiled by Susanne Luther Methvin from 10 years of 'gourmet birding' in the Bay Area. A portion of the proceeds will go to the Mono Lake Committee. Send \$9.50 plus \$2 postage and shipping to Susanne Luther Methvin, The Bay Area Birdwatching School, 20 Buckingham Drive, Moraga, CA 94556.

## BAYLANDS PHOTO EXHIBITION

The Exhibition at Vallco was a rousing success. Watch for a full accounting in the January 1986 *Avocet*. If you missed the show, or would like to see it again, Syntex Gallery will be displaying many of the photos in a slightly smaller exhibition from the middle of December through January. The Gallery is located at 3401 Hillview in Palo Alto, off Foothill Expressway and Arastradero Roads. The Exhibition will then be at the SF Bay National Wildlife Refuge across the Dumbarton Bridge in Fremont from February 1 through May 31. The show has been very well received, and is worth a look!

## WILD TROUT STREAMS

The State Assembly will decide in January whether California's 18 Wild Trout Streams will be protected from the ravages of small hydroelectric developments. Assembly Bill 846 would place these waterways off-limits to these projects.

The 18 Wild Trout streams include stretches of the North Fork of the American River, East Fork of the Carson River, Clavey River, Fall River, Feather River, Hat Creek, Hot Creek, Kings River, South Fork of the Kings River, South Fork of the Merced River, Nelson Creek, Owens Creek, Rubicon River, Yellow Creek, Cottonwood Creek, Klamath River, Martis Creek Reservoir, and the McCloud River. They provide irreplaceable habitat for many other species as well as the trout.

AB 846 will face a critical test before the State Assembly in January. Protection of our Wild Trout Streams will be decided by a handful of votes.

Your letters to your Assemblymember urging them to vote for AB 846 will help make the difference!!!!

Send your letters to: The Honorable  
State Capitol Building, Sacramento, CA 95814.

-Planning and Conservation League

## SAN JOSE CBC--CHANGE OF DATE

The all-day counting of every kind of bird followed by a marvelous dinner and tally will be held Sunday, December 29 (Not December 15!). Your help is needed to make the day a success. It's important to cover all areas within the count circle to properly census common as well as uncommon species. Choose an area to your liking and call the section leader ASAP. As sections fill up, we may ask people to count in other areas. If you haven't done a Christmas Bird Count before, on-the-job training will be provided.

We need feeder watchers, too. This information is valuable. If you live within the count circle, will be home all or part of the day December 29, and are willing to watch your feeder, then call us before the count, and we'll work out the details. Rarities like wintering Bullock's Orioles and White-throated Sparrows are possible.

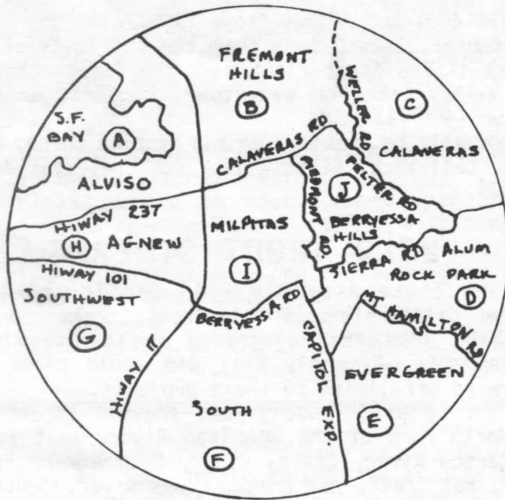
If you would like to help with the dinner, please call Lynn at the office. She would love to have some assistance.

Again, please join us for a day of exciting birding, good fellowship, and a tasty dinner.

Jim and Sue Liskovec (415/969-5542) are the San Jose CBC compilers.

### SECTION LEADER NAMES AND PHONE NUMBERS

A(Alviso)	Jean Dubois	(408)395-4264
B(Fremont Hills)	Vicki Silvas-Young	(408)293-7124
	Richard Jeffers	(415)325-9675
C(Calaveras)	Kep Stone	(408)263-3395
D(Alum Rock)	Dave Johnson	(408)867-7278
E(Evergreen)	Linda & Ron Hagelin	(408)867-3046
F(South)	Dave Nauer	(408)259-1283
G(Southwest)	Anne Wilson	(415)941-0966
H(Agnew)	Dick Stovel & Lisa Swagerty	(415)856-6105
I(Milpitas)	Pam Price	(408)251-3441
	Margaret Galvin	(408)245-4107
J(Berryessa)	Betty Groce	(415)326-5540



## FREDERIKSEN MEMORIAL FUND

On Saturday, Oct. 26, Carolyn Frederiksen of the Santa Cruz Bird Club was killed in an automobile accident. She was in Santa Maria on a trip to search for the Spotted Redshank. She was an outstanding birder and conservationist and for the past 6 years has done a lot of field research on the PRBO Snowy Plover survey. A memorial fund has been set up if people would like to send contributions: Cabrillo Memorial Fund c/o Frederiksen Memorial Fund, College Bank, Room 100, Cabrillo College, 6500 Soquel Ave., Aptos, CA 95003

## OTHER CHRISTMAS COUNTS

Point Reyes	Dec 14	Bill Lenarz	415/457-1642
Santa Clara Valley	Dec 15	Jim & Sue Liskovec	415/969-5542
Palo Alto	Dec 16	Clark Blake	415/854-8483 415/323-8111 Ext. 2221
Mt. Hamilton	?	Clark Blake	
Los Banos	Dec 19	Kurt Campbell	707/795-8492
Mt. Diablo	Dec 21	George Finger	415/933-2468
Morro Coast	Dec 21	John McDonald	805/528-4855
Oakland	Dec 22	Jeff Greenhouse	415/376-7107
Santa Cruz Bird Club	Dec 22	Bruce LaBar	408/476-7583
Ohlone	Dec 22	Phil Gordon	415/538-3550
Monterey	Dec 27	Don Roberson	408/375-0794
Crystal Springs	Dec 28	Frank Allen	415/344-9339
Southern Marin	Dec 28	Ken Howard	415/332-4117
San Francisco	Dec 30	Dan Murphy	415/564-0074
Monterey Pelagic-\$25	Dec 30	Debra Shearwater	408/688-1990
Moss Landing	Jan 1	John & Ricki Warriner	408/722-5589
Ano Nuevo	Jan 4	Frank Allen	415/344-9339

All these counts can use help. If you would like to participate, please call the compiler.

## LOS BANOS CHRISTMAS BIRD EXTRAVAGANZA

The Los Banos Christmas Bird Count combines the best of Central Valley birding (ibis, cranes, thousands of geese and ducks, and hundreds of raptors) with excellent opportunities for rare bird finding. Shorebirds are also abundant, and every area is excellent birding. The countdown dinner at a wonderful Basque restaurant is as fun as it is delicious. Whether a beginner or expert, you are warmly invited to participate. Nearly everyone is from outside the area, providing opportunities to carpool. Call or write Kurt Campbell: (707)795-8492, P. O. Box 268, Cotati, CA 94928. The count will be held on Thursday, December 19th.

## NON AUDUBON CLASSES, TRIPS, AND EVENTS

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

The Monterey Bay Christmas Pelagic Bird Count is in its 3rd year. This is the only pelagic bird count on the West coast. Held Monday, December 30, it is run by Shearwater Journeys, and costs \$25 in addition to the count fee. Call Debra Love Shearwater, (408)688-1990.

Mono Lake Committee is sponsoring a trip to the Galapagos, Ecuador, and Peru with an optional 3-day trip to the headwaters of the Amazon. The trip begins June 24, 1986, with costs varying from \$1805 up, if reservations are made before January 15. For full information send a self-addressed stamped 4 1/2 x 9 envelope to Adventure for MLC, c/o M. Bennett, 2719 Marin Ave., Berkeley, CA 94708. Part of the cost is a tax-deductible contribution to Mono Lake.

There still may be time to join Ted and Zoe Chandik's Natural History Expedition, Christmas in Costa Rica, from Dec. 23, 1985 - Jan. 4, 1986. For information call Betchart Expeditions' Rita Royal at (408)245-9517.

Short course on Marine Mammals and Birds by Doug Cheeseman, DeAnza College, Thurs., Jan. 9, 16 & 23, \$20.00. Also the Cheesemans have 3 pelagic trips organized for Dec. 29, Jan. 11 & 18. 7:45 am - 3 pm in Monterey Bay. Cost, \$30 ea. (408)741-5330.

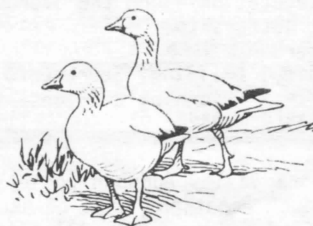
## FIELD NOTES-Bill Bousman

Hooded and Streaked-backed Orioles as shown in the field guides don't look much alike. In American Birds (37:140) Kenn Kaufman has pointed out that the winter Hooded Oriole has extensive tan or buff edges to its back feathers giving the appearance of a tan back with streaks or spots. In this plumage the Hooded resembles a winter Streaked-backed Oriole, leading to a number of winter misidentifications of Streaked-backed Oriole in Arizona. The Streaked-backed is a Mexican species we normally wouldn't expect to see in the U.S., but then we rarely see what we don't expect to. One frequented a San Diego feeder last winter and was carefully identified, raising the possibility that if the Hooded can be misidentified as a Streaked-backed, the Streaked-backed might be misidentified as a Hooded. A few Hooded Orioles overwinter in California, but are they all Hooded? In Santa Clara County we've averaged one a winter in recent years. If the rare Hooded Oriole shows up at your feeder this winter consider Kaufman's points: 1) the culmen (top of the upper bill) is straight in Streaked-backed, curved in Hooded; 2) malar area of Hooded is black, dropping straight down from the eye, orange feathering pushes into this area on the Streaked-backed; 3) Streak-backed has brighter orange on head contrasting with yellower areas; 4) back of Streaked-backed has black streaks down the middle of each orange feather, Hooded has black feathers with buff edges that wear off through the winter; and 5) the Hooded has a definite color contrast from the orange nape to the tan and black back, the Streaked-backed shows no demarcation line in color. And get a picture.

A flock of 13 **Snow Geese** visited the Palo Alto Flood Control Basin (FCB) 3 Oct for one of our few recent records (David Suddjian-DS). Two **Wood Ducks** flying over the Matadero riparian 18 Oct were in an unusual area. It's been a good autumn for our rarer duck species. **Blue-winged Teal** have been found regularly in October at the FCB with 4-5 birds seen there 3, 4, 17 and 24 Oct and 2 there on 31 Oct and 1 Nov (James Yurchenko-JY, Amy Lauterbach-AL, Terry Miller-TM, DS). A male **Eurasian Wigeon** has returned to the vicinity with sightings in the FCB on 9 Sep (DS) for one of our earliest records, Charleston Slough on 11 Oct (TKM) and 14 Oct, and in the FCB on 20 Oct (Lynne Aldrich fide DS). The first **Redhead** of the season were two seen on 3 Oct in the Palo Alto FCB (JY, AL). Four were there 17 Oct (DS). **Osprey** are a very rare migrant locally, but the one seen near the ponds at Metcalf Rd. on 13 Oct (Betty Wyatt) may winter there as one or two did last winter, feeding on the stocked trout. **Golden Eagles** are fairly common in the Mt. Hamilton Range, but rare elsewhere. However, in recent years there have been more reports of them away from east side hills. Representative sightings this month were one at Hidden Villa 28 Sep (JY, AL), and a number of bay shore locations: 1 at the FCB 11 Oct (TM), 3 over Alviso 12 Oct (Paul Noble-PN), and one at Shoreline 30 Oct (Bill Adams-BA). **Lesser Yellowlegs** were still seen during October with a high of 16 birds in the FCB 31 Oct (DS). **Spotted Sandpipers** have occurred regularly in Los Gatos with two along Los Gatos Creek 25 Oct and another at Vasona Res. 27 Oct (Gary McCurdy-GMcC). A single **Red Knot** at Charleston Slough 14 Oct has been the only report of this sandpiper, more commonly seen along the coast. Jaegers have been seen at Charleston Slough in the autumn for each of the last four years including an immature this year on 1 Oct (Peter Perrine). These birds have been immatures and when they could be studied they've been identified as Parasitic Jaegers. These immature jaegers pursue Forster's Terns and seek to have them disgorge their food. On

21 Oct, however, David Suddjian found a non-breeding adult **Pomarine Jaeger** at Charleston Slough. This bird preferred to pursue Western and California gulls. This is the first county record for this species. A first-winter **Glaucous Gull** at the Mountain View Forebay 15 Oct (DS) is one of our earliest fall records of this rare gull. The unidentified female hummingbird reported last month has been at Louise Bakey's yard in Los Altos at least through 1 Nov. It has helpfully turned out to be a male and is growing purple feathers on the throat. There is disagreement on whether it is an immature Costa's or a Black-chinned Hummingbird or possibly a hybrid. With luck and a few photographs we hope to make the identification. A few **Yellow-billed Magpies** seem to have hung on to their old habitats in the NW corner of the county. One in Palo Alto on 23 Oct is one of the more northern birds of recent years (Marilyn Nagy fide Lynn Tennefoss). We know from banding records in the Mt. Hamilton Range that **Winter Wrens** migrate through in the fall. Observations this fall in the Matadero riparian have shown them as regular migrants on this side of the valley as well with 2 on 17 Sep, 3 on 1 Oct, 2 on 3 Oct, 1 on 24 Oct, and 1 on 31 Oct (DS). **American Dippers** have continued to be seen along Los Gatos Creek above Vasona with two there 25 Oct (GMcC). Another was found in Alum Rock Park 10 Oct where they occasionally winter (PN). A late migrant **Blue-Gray Gnatcatcher** at the Matadero riparian on 22 Oct was unexpected (DS). Another late migrant in San Jose in the Dry Creek area was a **Wilson's Warbler** on 6 and 7 Oct (Marjorie and Alan Neal). The median fall date for birds banded on the Wool Ranch is 17 Sep. The first (and only) **White-throated Sparrow** of the season was one seen along Alpine Rd. on 20 Oct (Armin Ramel). Some early winter arrivals: 6 **Bufflehead** at Shoreline, 30 Oct (BA); **Water Pipit** there 21 Oct (DS); and **Townsend's Warbler**, Monte Bello OSP, 9 Oct (PN). Early movement of transition zone birds out of the coniferous forests: **Red-breasted Nuthatch**, Los Altos, 24 Oct (PN); **Golden-crowned Kinglet**, Menlo Park, 20 Oct; and **Pine Siskin**, Matadero riparian, 1 Oct (DS).

Don't miss the chance of doing one of the local Christmas Bird Counts. If you live in one of the count circles check your neighborhood out before count day. Look for flowering shrubs and trees and see if any unusual insectivorous or tropical species have stayed on. If you see an "uncommon to rare" write or phone: Bill Bousman, 321 Arlington Way, Menlo park, CA 94025 (415/322-5282).



## SEQUOIA AUDUBON SEMINARS

Sequoia Audubon is offering a series of seminars combining classroom learning with field trips. There will be a Shorebird Identification seminar taught by Dave Shuford of the Point Reyes Bird Observatory, with a class in San Mateo December 6 and a field trip to Bolinas Lagoon December 7. Maryann Danielsen will give a class on Raptors of the Bay Area January 7, with a field trip to Livermore January 11. Spring seminars will include Beginning Birdwatching and Owls of San Mateo County. Space is limited. Fees are usually \$10. Contact the Sequoia Audubon Society, (415)593-7368.

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					Photo Club			

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.

## SACRAMENTO RIVER UNDER SIEGE

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers wants to rip out part of California's most important fish and wildlife habitat along the Sacramento River between Red Bluff and Chico Landing and replace this lush vegetation with ugly rock rip-rap destroying one of California's most productive river systems.

If the project is approved, California's largest remaining salmon run would be devastated. Natural erosion from the river banks provides 85% of the gravels that the salmon need to reproduce. The rip-rap would cut off this source of gravels. The Corps, and its sister agency the Bureau of Reclamation, are largely responsible for the 80% decline in Sacramento River salmon experienced since 1950.

The project would also destroy vegetation which provides a home for more than 200 bird species, including the endangered Yellow-billed Cuckoo.

The beneficiaries of the project are some private landowners. The Sacramento River Preservation Trust estimates the \$22 million project would cost taxpayers \$10,000 per acre to save private lands worth only about \$2000 per acre.

AB 722 would protect the Sacramento River between Chico Landing and Red Bluff from the Corps' damaging project. The vote on AB 722 will be too close to call.

Your Assemblyperson needs to hear that you want the Sacramento River protected.

Please write to your Assemblyperson today urging him or her to support AB 722 with provisions that permanently protect the fish, wildlife, and riparian vegetation along the Sacramento River.

Send your letters to:

Assemblyperson  
State Capitol Building, Sacramento, CA 95814  
-Planning and Conservation League

## TAX CHECK-OFF THREATENED

A current bill in the Assembly would repeal the voluntary tax check-offs on the state income tax forms, including the endangered species check-off, a very popular and important source of revenue for protecting endangered species. New staff positions in the Department of Fish and Game to list endangered species and consult on environmental issues rely totally on these revenues. They also fund endangered species recovery projects such as reintroducing Bald Eagles to the Channel Islands and conducting an inventory of endangered plants.

The bill, AB 540, is pending in the State Senate Committee on Revenue and Taxation. What is needed is an amendment to AB 540 to allow the endangered species tax check-off to continue. Please write to your state senator and to the members of the Committee (Jim Ellis, Ruben Ayala, Marian Bergeson, Wadie Deddeh, John Garamendi (D-Stockton), Bill Lockyer (D-Hayward), Nick Petris (D-Oakland), and John Seymour). Wildlife supporters should write to the Committee at the State Capital, Sacramento, CA 95814 to work for this amendment to the bill.

-Martha Esserlieu

## DISCOVERING SIERRA BIRDS

Discovering Sierra Birds deals with 180 species of birds found in Yosemite and Sequoia-Kings Canyon National Parks, with descriptions of their habitat, and illustrations by Keith Hansen, Tad Theimer, and John Petersen. Co-authors Edward C. Beedy and Stephen L. Granholm spent three years assembling this book, following earlier years in field research. Send \$9.95 plus 6% sales tax, plus \$1 shipping and handling to Yosemite Natural History Association, Post Office Box 545, Yosemite National Park, CA 95389.

### 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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