

SANTA CLARA VALLEY AUDUBON SOCIETY

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The Avocet

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WETLANDS AND THE SUPREME COURT

In an 9 to 0 decision, the U.S. Supreme Court has denied the appeal of Riverside Bayview Homes, Inc., in a victory for proponents of seasonal wetlands preservation. US vs. Riverside Bayview Homes, Inc. brought before the Supreme Court the question of whether seasonally inundated wetlands are wetlands covered under the Clean Water Act, and are thus under the jurisdiction of the Corps of Engineers and their permit requirements. Specifically, the wetlands in question received their water from infrequent flooding by an adjacent waterway, or from rain water. Because the water did not come from frequent flooding by that waterway, the Riverside Bayview Homes claimed that the wetlands were not associated with the waterway, and thus were not covered under the Clean Water Act. The Supreme Court disagreed, stating that these wetlands were part of a wetland complex the Clean Water Act was designed to protect.

By their decision, the Supreme Court has clarified Congress' intent in the Clean Water Act to protect such wetlands. The impact this will have in the Bay Area is great. Many of our seasonal wetlands are of this type: not inundated frequently by nearby streams or bay, but rather by rainwater. The Corps has vacillated over the extent of their jurisdiction on these wetlands, and now has a clear mandate to strongly claim jurisdiction over these wetlands. They should now require mitigation for any wetlands destruction that occurs on these wetlands, or should deny permits where such mitigation is not included. We have felt in the past that they should be taking such stands, but now have added reason to expect further protection of wetlands by the Corps.

This is truly a victory for seasonal wetlands preservation!! (National Audubon Society's Washington staff had a major part in writing the brief that defended these wetlands. Hope Babcock, NAS Washington staff, has described the decision by the Court as "going about as far as they can go to protect wetlands".)

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.

SUTTER BUTTES TRIPS

February's General Meeting will feature Don Schmoltd discussing the Sutter Buttes, an 'island' in the Sacramento Valley. Don has also scheduled some 'open day' field trips to the Buttes. The trips are January 28, 'A Journey Through Time -- explore the sacred range of the Maidu'; February 1, 'Wet Side Story -- a look at both the abundant and rare birds of the valley, emphasizing marshlands, river and riparian forests'; February 15, 'Exploring the Buttes -- a discovery trip into the heart of the range'; and February 22, 'Washington's Birthday in the Buttes -- Wander about in the peaceful silence and beauty of this small world apart'. Fee for each trip is \$18. Write or call Don Schmoltd, 1799 Hwy. 20, #21, Colusa, CA 95932 (916)458-4385.

NEST RECORD PROGRAM

This year's one and only Nest Record Card Program participant really has outdone all other records. Betty Groce of Menlo Park has been working as a volunteer for Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology's Nest Record Card Program the past four years. In 1982 she found 91 nests of 21 species, in 1983, 317 nests of 27 species, in 1984, 39 species nesting, and in 1985, 36 species breeding with 176 pairs recorded on Nest Record Cards. Betty's work not only helps the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology provide data on breeding birds of this area, but her records have also aided Bill Bousman's mammoth job of documenting the Santa Clara County Breeding Bird List. If you would like to record nests that you observe, please call Gail Cheeseman at (408)741-5330 for Nest Record cards and instructions.

ORNITHOLOGISTS' CONVENTION

The 11th Annual Convention of Western Field Ornithologists, publishers of Western Birds, will be held February 7-9, 1986, in Sacramento, California. Outstanding field trips, workshops, presented papers, and the annual banquet will make for an event-filled meeting.

Expert birders will lead wide-ranging excursions to some of Central California's exceptional waterbird concentrations in the Central Valley and the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. Workshops will focus on field identification and regional breeding bird atlas efforts. Banquet speaker Dr. Arnold Small, author of The Birds of California, headlines the program of talks.

For more information and registration forms, write Tim Manolis, 3532 Winston Way, Carmichael, CA 95608.

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.

- Jan. 5 **Woodbridge 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. 8 **Bay Area Bird Photographers.** Wednesday, 7:30 pm. Baylands Interpretive Center. George Lepp, a professional nature photographer who also sells photographic equipment, will demonstrate problems and solutions in macro and nature photography. Co-sponsored by the City of Palo Alto.
- 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.
- Jan. 14 **Bird Discussion Group.** Tuesday, 9:30 am at the home of Eve Case, 20537 Verde Vista Lane, Saratoga. Topic: Albatross.
- Jan. 15 **General Meeting.** Wednesday. Refreshments at 7:30 pm, program at 8. Palo Alto Cultural Center, Newell at Embarcadero. Ted Chandik, the City of Palo Alto Naturalist, will present a program on the Natural History of New Zealand's South Island. Ted, an outstanding field trip leader, naturalist and teacher, is a speaker much in demand by many Audubon chapters. Immediately before his presentation Joan Priest will give a 20-minute slide talk on the status of Burrowing Owls in Santa Clara County. Joan heads a vital project to rescue nestlings from construction sites. January ushers in the beginning of the Burrowing Owl's nesting season -- the reason for combining this program with Ted's.
- Jan. 18 **Grant Ranch County Park.** Saturday, 9 am, half day. Beginner/Family trip. Take Hwy 101 or I-680 to Alum Rock Ave. E to Mt. Hamilton Rd. Follow Mt. Hamilton to Grant Lake (0.2 miles past Grant Ranch Park entrance). Highlights include possible Golden Eagle, Black-shouldered Kite and lots of ducks. Bring lunch, liquids. Heavy rain cancels. Leader: Vicki- Silvas-Young (408)293-7124.
- Jan. 22 **Field Trip North, Foster City.** Wednesday, 9 am. Take Hwy. 101 N to the Hillsdale Blvd. E turnoff. Follow Hillsdale about 1 mile to Shell Blvd., turn right, and in one-half block, park in the gravel lot on the left. Meet there or on the lagoon side of the Community Center. Leaders: Betty Groce (415)326-5540 and Dolores Norton (415)941-1666.
- Jan. 25 **Foster City.** Saturday, 9 am, half day. Take Hwy 101 N to Hillsdale Blvd. E turnoff. Follow Hillsdale about 1 mile to Shell Blvd. Turn right onto Shell. Go about 1/3 mile and park on right next to tennis courts. Highlights include possible Hooded Mergansers and Barrow's Goldeneye. Leader: Carol Zabel (415)948-5671.
- Feb. 11 **Bird Discussion Group.** Tuesday, 9:30 am at the home of Eve Case, 20537 Verde Vista Lane, Saratoga. Topic: Fulmar.

WETLANDS SUPPORT

Seven Bay Area members of the House of Representatives have taken up the cause of seasonal wetlands. Reps. Boxer (SF), Burton (SF), Lantos (SM), Miller (Pleas. Hill), Mineta (SJ), Dellums (Berk.), and Edwards (SJ) sent letters, in July and again in late October, to the Corps of Engineers stating a concern for wetland protection, and a desire for the Corps to take a more active role in providing that protection.

The second letter states "Since so few seasonal wetlands remain in the Bay Area, we believe that restoration is called for in every case of unauthorized work, and that this should occur as quickly as possible." and "Time is running out for SF Bay's seasonal wetlands. The scarcity of this invaluable resource demands that prompt effective remedies are applied to unauthorized activities that occur within the jurisdiction of the Corps of Engineers."

SCVAS has been actively involved in seeking seasonal wetland preservation, and we are very glad to see the issue has reached the federal level. We hope this is the beginning of a solution to the problem. We look forward to working more on this issue, and if you agree with the action taken by these Representatives, please take a moment to call or write them, and thank them for their involvement in this issue. Let them know that the Bay and its wetlands are important to you. Address all mail to: Rep. _____, House Office Bldg., Washington, DC 20515.

GRAZING FEE REVIEW AVAILABLE

The Public Rangelands Improvement Act (PRIA) of 1978 established current formulae for determining grazing fees on all public rangelands (Forest Service and BLM) for a trial seven year period. The agencies were directed to evaluate this program at the end of the evaluation period. The draft report (1985 Grazing Fee Review and Evaluation) is now available for public comment. It may be obtained at the following address: Grazing Fees, FS/BLM Central, 324 25th Street, Ogden, Utah 84401.

The report shows that the current system results in fee receipts from grazers which are less than the agencies' costs for range management. During 1983, grazers on public land paid an average of \$1.37 per animal unit/month, while grazers on private land paid an average of \$6.87 per animal unit/month! Public subsidy of grazing has promoted tremendous loss of topsoil, serious damage to native plants and loss of wildlife habitat. A fair market price for grazing rights would be an important first step to reducing grazing impacts.

The 1985 Grazing Fee Review and Evaluation does not address many of the so-called "multiple use" aspects of grazing, but it is an important document for environmentalists. The review does not indicate a deadline for public comment, but DAS members who wish to do so should write soon.

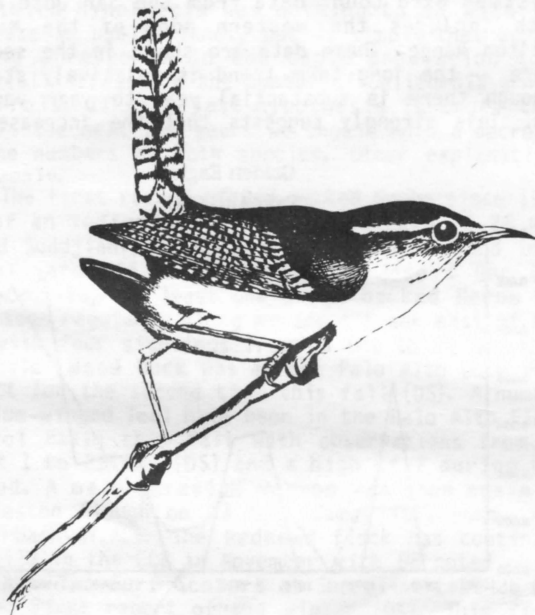
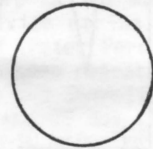
-John Harris
Burrowing Owl

OWL TV ARRIVES

National Audubon Society's OWL-TV will be aired on KQED, Channel 9, every Sunday at 11 am, beginning January 19. OWL-TV is a new educational series of 10 half-hour programs for children aged 7 to 11. An accompanying 32-page Teacher's Guide is available for \$2, and a discovery magazine called OWL has been written for each show. Subscriptions for OWL magazine (inc. a Teacher's Guide) cost \$10.95. Interested parents and teachers can write to OWL Magazine, 255 Great Arrow Avenue, Buffalo, New York, 14207, or call the SCVAS office at (415)329-1811 for information.

SCVAS PIN CONTEST

Can you fill in the space? All artists are asked to try their skill at designing a pin for SCVAS. Use our traditional emblem of an Avocet, or create your own conception of an appropriate SCVAS logo. The pin will be cloisonne and should have the words 'Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society' or 'SCVAS' on it. It will be 3/4" in diameter. You can draw your design larger than the finished pin. Help to make an image we can all love!! Winner will receive fame, acclaim, and . . . a free pin.



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MONO LAKE UPDATE

A rising tide of legal challenges is rocking the boat. For more than a year, a court has restricted the amount of water that the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power can divert from the Mono Basin. A lawsuit over Rush Creek, Mono Lake's largest tributary, has brought several thousand acre-feet of water into the lake. New legal action promises to deliver even more.

The timing couldn't be better. Although recent heavy winters gave the lake a reprieve, Mother Nature has not kept up with DWP's water exports. The lake is declining an average of one and a half to two feet per year. Forty-five years of diversions have reduced Mono Lake's volume by one half!

Unless DWP shares more water, there could be a replay of landbridged islands, abandoned gull colonies, increasing salinity, declining brine shrimp populations and thousands more acres of exposed alkali lake bed. North America's oldest and most life-productive lake could become a birdless chemical sump.

On September 4 Mono County Superior Court Judge David E. Otis concurred with Rush Creek's defenders that a trial must take place that will weigh the water needs of Los Angeles against the rights of a healthy Rush Creek to exist. Otis set the trial for August 4, 1986 -- enough time to conduct studies to determine the flows necessary to sustain a healthy fishery.

(Desiccated by DWP's diversions since 1941, lower Rush Creek was resurrected by the wet winters of 1982-83 and a thriving wild brown trout fishery was reborn. Since November '84, the Mammoth Fly Rodders, California Trout, the Mono Lake Committee and the National Audubon Society have managed through legal action to keep 19 cubic feet per second flowing down the stream and into Mono Lake.)

Rush Creek's defenders, joined by the Friends of the Earth, have asked the Third Appellate

District State Court to block DWP from lowering the level of Mono Lake any further.

Los Angeles seems unable to see the legal handwriting on the wall. Although Mayor Tom Bradley has proposed a sweeping new program of water conservation and storage, he has omitted Mono Lake and the Owens Valley from his plans.

He has not yet dealt with the area hardest hit by LA's thirst -- the Eastern Sierra. When Bradley talks about "environmental protections for the north," he mentions only San Francisco Bay and the delta.

Unfortunately, Bradley hears nothing but the DWP line on Mono Lake. In a recent letter to one of our members, he claims that "natural variations in the Mono Lake ecosystem, especially the effect of two abnormally wet winters, have had a much greater negative impact on the Mono Lake environment in the 1980-85 period than have water diversions and the lake level."

To those of us who have seen the rising lake submerge alkali, resurrect Negit Island, rejuvenate the brine shrimp hatch and restore the beauty of the Mono Basin landscape, Bradley's statement seems incomprehensible. Someone is pulling the wool over the mayor's eyes.

What you can do: Write Mayor Tom Bradley, City Hall, Los Angeles, CA 90012. Let him know that he will never allay northern fears so long as the LA DWP continues to devastate the Eastern Sierra. Commend him for backing conservation, but urge him to stand up for Mono Lake as well!!

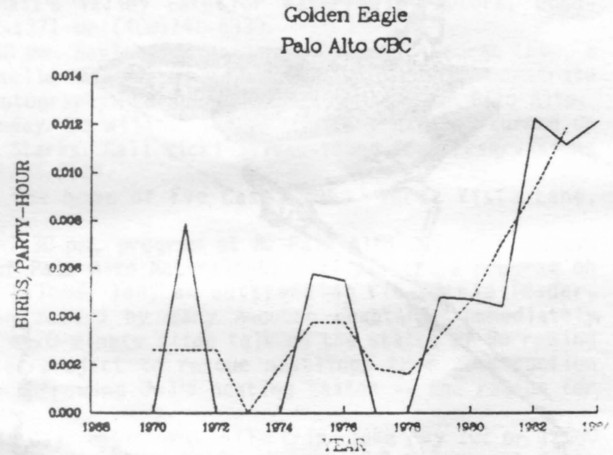
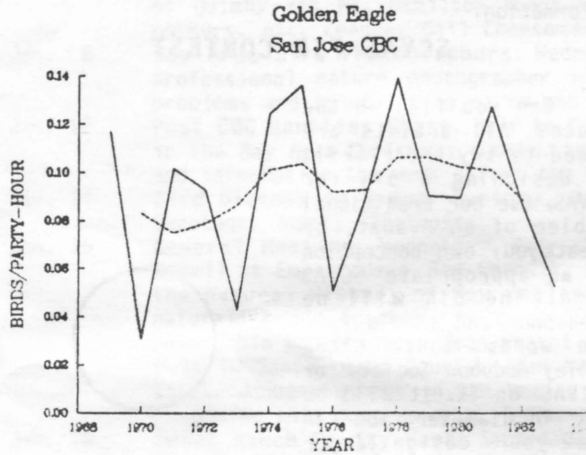
Tax-deductible donations to the Mono Lake Legal Defense Fund are much appreciated: Mono Lake Foundation, P.O. Box 153, Lee Vining, CA 93541.

-Mono Lake Committee
(The Committee adds that winter is a great time to visit the Mono Basin, with limitless possibilities for Nordic skiing.)

FIELD NOTES - Bill Bousman

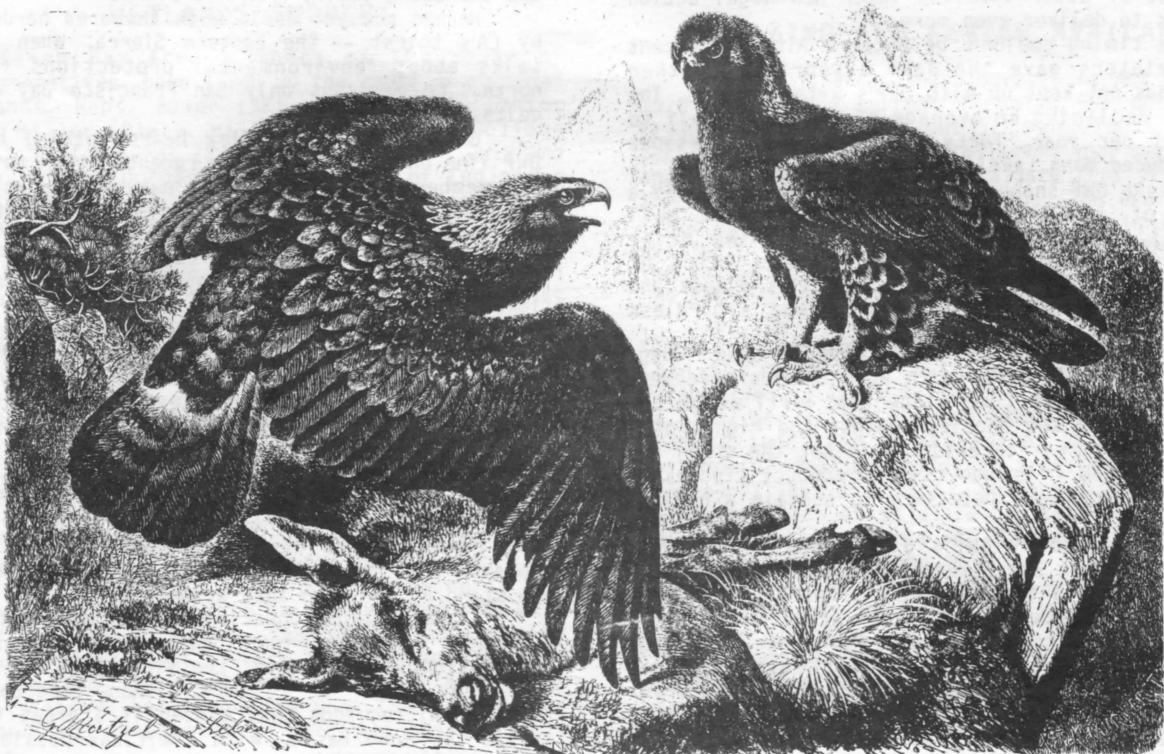
In recent years we've seen increasing numbers of Golden Eagles away from the Mount Hamilton Range, where they are considered fairly common. Does this increase in reports reflect an actual increase in the population or an increase in observer effort and interest in this spectacular raptor? To answer this question we need to look at data that include a valid measure of observer effort, and in this regard the Christmas Bird Count data are our best source of

west side of the Santa Clara Valley is real, but why? Could the increase be caused by a general increase in the eagle population? We can look at Christmas Bird Count data from the San Jose CBC, which includes the western edge of the Mount Hamilton Range. These data are shown in the second figure -- the long term trend is relatively static although there is substantial year to year variation. This strongly suggests that the increase in



information. The first figure shows the number of Golden Eagles recorded on the Palo Alto CBC over the last 16 years, normalized by the number of party-hours (probably the best way to account for observer effort). The solid curve shows year to year variation, while the dashed curve shows a running 3-year average to smooth the data. Over most of this period only single birds have been recorded. However, in recent years increasing numbers of birds have been observed in the Palo Alto circle. These data appear to show that the increase in Golden Eagles on the

Golden Eagles on the west side of the valley is a local phenomenon. Here things become speculative. I find it very interesting, however, that the increase seems to occur in the late 1970's, about the same time that we were seeing a substantial increase in public open space land through the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District. Are these things related? I think three hypotheses are worth considering. The first is that under private ownership eagles were occasionally shot, something that is less likely to occur on public, patrolled lands. The



FIELD NOTES--Bill Bousman

second is that rodent control methods used during the years these lands were used for grazing were detrimental to predators on top of the food chain. The third hypothesis has nothing to do with the increase in public lands, but is simply that we are seeing a response in the eagle population to a cyclical increase in the number of California ground squirrels. If this last hypothesis is true, then within the next few years we should note a decrease in the numbers of both species. Other explanations may apply.

The first record of **Red-necked Grebe** since 1980 was of an individual in Shoreline Lake 26-28 Nov (David Suddjian-DS). A **Cattle Egret** was found in a school yard off Meridian in San Jose 1 Dec (Ed Gustafson-EG). At least one **Green-backed Heron** has been seen regularly along Matadero Creek east of Hwy 101 with four sightings from 24 Oct to 24 Nov (DS). A female **Wood Duck** was at the Palo Alto Duck Pond 22 Oct for the second time this fall (DS). A number of **Blue-winged Teal** have been in the Palo Alto Flood Control Basin this fall with observations from at least 1 to 26 Nov (DS) and a high of 7 during the period. A male **Eurasian Wigeon** was seen again in Charleston Slough on 23 Oct (James Yurchenko, Amy Lauterbach-JY,AL). The **Redhead** flock has continued to build in the FCB in November with 88 noted on 28 Nov (DS). Two **Surf Scoters** at Shoreline Lake 26 Nov is the first report of the winter (DS). This flock will probably build through the winter months as it did last year. Also expected, **Common Goldeneyes** have returned to the lake with 15 there 28 Nov (DS). Completely unexpected, however, were two female **Barrow's Goldeneyes** identified there 26 Nov (DS). The identification of female goldeneyes is difficult and the field guides tend to be misleading - see Stallcup's article in the PRBO Newsletter. Autumn 1983 (available in the SCVAS library). **Hooded Mergansers** have returned to the pond at Skylanda just west of Hwy 35 with first reports as of 24 Nov and numbers up to 9 by 3 Nov. A female on a golf course lake at Shoreline 29 Nov was unexpected (DS). An **Osprey** was seen on 23 Nov on Bailey Rd. south of Coyote (EG) and may have been the same bird seen in October that was attracted to the fishing ponds at Metcalf Road. A **Red-shouldered Hawk** at Arastradero and I-280 17 Nov (Armin Ramel) is at the edge of the foothills where they are most often seen locally. Adult **Golden Eagles** reported from Moffett Field 13 Nov and Shoreline Park on 16 Nov and 29 Nov (DS) may represent one bird. An adult in the hills behind

Stanford 15 Nov (Paul Goldstein) is probably a separate bird. The bird at Shoreline on 16 Nov was hunting ground squirrels at the edge of the golf course - 55 ground squirrels were seen above ground at once, all in easy view. Less expected was an adult **Golden Eagle** in coastal San Mateo County near the Tunitas Creek Cut-Off on 10 Nov (Roland Franz, Cathy Gill). The first report of a **Merlin** this season was one along the Matadero riparian 24 Nov (DS). An adult **Peregrine** was at Jasper Ridge on 30 Nov (Bill Clark-BC). A **Prairie Falcon** has been seen twice along the west side of the bay, once on 31 Oct and again on 24 Nov (DS), both times hunting Mourning Doves. It is assumed that west side birds are winter visitors rather than resident Diablo Range birds, but this is difficult to demonstrate. A **Black Rail** at the Palo Alto Baylands on the November high tide 14 Nov (DS) was the only one reported. The last report of **Lesser Yellowlegs** was of 10 at the FCB on 10 Nov (DS). We seldom get any records after the first week of November. A **Sharp-tailed Sandpiper** in the salt pond north of the Alviso marina 17 Nov was only the third county record (Peter Perrine). A 1st winter **Glaucous Gull** has been seen repeatedly in the vicinity of Charleston Slough and Shoreline Lake with observations on 9, 26, 27, and 29 Nov (Phyllis Browning, DS). There are few records prior to December for the south bay. A male **Red-naped Sapsucker** was observed on the SCVAS trip to Jasper Ridge 30 Nov (Carl Beck fide Bill Clark). This sapsucker is now considered a species separate from the Red-breasted Sapsucker and is a very rare winter visitor to the bay area. A **Canyon Wren** was found along Coyote Creek in Henry Coe SP 27 Oct (JY, AL). **Winter Wrens** continue to be found in the Matadero riparian with sightings up through 24 Nov (DS). Have they wintered in this low elevation area in previous years? Individual **American Dippers** were found in separate locations in Henry Coe SP on 27 Oct (JY, AL). An immature **Northern Shrike** was found on the edge of the Palo Alto dump on 4 Nov (Bill Howe), but has not been seen since. They are very rare in the area with only one or two sightings each winter. A **White-throated Sparrow** returned to Betty Groce's feeder in Menlo Park on 12 Nov for at least the third winter. Nine **Evening Grosbeaks** were seen in Los Altos Hills 2 Nov (Paul Noble) - this is also the third winter these birds have been seen here.

If you see an "uncommon to rare" please drop me a note or give me a call: Bill Bousman, 321 Arlington Way, Menlo Park, CA 95025 (415/322-5282).

GREENBELT TASK FORCE

The Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors has created an advisory group called Preservation 2010 to study ways to preserve open space. The City of San Jose's Hillside and Greenbelt Task Force specifically seeks to preserve a greenbelt.

SCVAS applauds these activities, and has a representative on the City Task Force. We are also members of the Santa Clara County chapter of the Greenbelt Congress - a group formed to protect the natural environment in one of the greatest urban regions in the world as we are faced with tremendous pressure for another wave of growth.

If you would like to receive news bulletins on Santa Clara County's Greenbelt, have time to write letters, and/or to telephone the City and County offices to thank them for their activity, please call the office (415)329-1811, or send us your name, address and phone number.

GREENBELT CONGRESS

In October, a series of workshops for the Greenbelt Congress were held throughout the Bay Area. Co-sponsored by People for Open Space and chapters of the Greenbelt Congress, they were conducted to provide further information about land preservation techniques for open space. Specifically, they dealt with using the County General Plans and land trusts to protect lands that comprise each county's Greenbelt.

Each participant received a copy of a handbook published by the People for Open Space Greenbelt Action Program. A copy of this handbook, *Tools for the Greenbelt: A Citizen's Guide to Protecting Open Space*, by Judith Kunofsky and M. Thomas Jacobson, is available in the SCVAS library. It is an excellent guide to land conservation and preservation in California.

-Martha Esserlieu

BOTTLE BILL

Once again a bottle bill for California is before the State Assembly. It is called the Beverage Container Reuse and Recycling Act, AB 2020. It is sponsored by Assemblyman Burt Margolin (D-Los Angeles) and Senator Becky Morgan (R-Los Altos Hills).

The bill would place a minimum five-cent refundable deposit on all glass and plastic soda, beer, wine, and liquor bottles sold after June 1, 1986. (The inclusion of wine and liquor bottles is unusual.) Aluminum cans are excluded.

This deposit would encourage the return of all bottles, reducing litter on beaches, roads, and parks. Other benefits include reduced demand on landfills, with an estimated 80% reduction of container litter; this reduction means lower taxes for landfills and litter cleanup programs. Recycling would conserve both energy and water, reduce costs of the beverages, reduce hazards of injury from broken bottles, and improve economic opportunities in the recycling sector.

Nine other states have successful bottle laws-- Oregon, New York, Massachusetts, Vermont, Maine, Michigan, Iowa, Connecticut, and Delaware. The experience in all nine states has been reduced litter, increased recycling, and reduced costs to taxpayers and consumers. Bottle laws in these states are popular: in Oregon, 91% of the people support the law; and in Maine, an attempt to repeal it in 1979 was defeated by 84%. A similar bill was defeated in California in 1982 after strong opposition by the beverage industry.

The SCVAS Board has officially endorsed AB 2020, joining well over 48 other organizations and numerous newspaper editorial staffs. For more information, call Lynn Tennefoss at (415)329-1811.

-Martha Esserlieu

(The Bottle Bill campaign recently received a boost when it was discovered that officials in the beverage industry suppressed a study by the Stanford Research Institute which confirms the environmental benefits of the deposit law and refutes statements made by the beverage industry about the impact of the law.

The study, conducted 11 years ago for three glass manufacturers by the Stanford Research Institute, concludes that "the returnable bottle system has by far the lowest sum total of environmental impacts" of the various container systems (plastic, glass, aluminum, and steel).

The SRI report, which has never been released publicly, was mailed anonymously to CalPIRG, a nonprofit consumer and environmental group.

The report's conclusions were based on data submitted by the industry. The report notes, "This study used basic industry and other sources of data, and reviewed preliminary findings with the industries involved to check the validity of these findings."

The report compared environmental impacts-- energy and water use; air, land, and water pollution; materials input; and critical resource use--associated with each beverage container system, and found the returnable bottle to be superior in virtually every category.)

-Cal PIRG

WELCOME, TRISH

Trish Mulvey has been appointed by the SCVAS Board of Directors to fill a seat vacated by Greg Meszaros. She will serve the remainder of the 1984-87 slot.

PHOTO CONTEST AWARDS

88 photographs were chosen from 130 submitted to judges Ken Gardiner, Rose Hand, and Paul Kelly, and were displayed in the Baylands Photo Exhibition at Vallco Fashion Park in Cupertino, November 1-4. Hundreds of shoppers stopped to look at the exhibit located in the corridor between Emporium and J.C. Penneys, and many enthusiastic comments were heard. The awards ceremony on Friday night, November 1, recognized the following winners:

1st Place- Color- Anthony Cox, "Interpretive Center"

2nd Place- Color- Bill Field, "Song Sparrow"

1st Place- B&W - Dana Foy, "Baylands Sunset"

2nd Place- B&W - Bill Field, "American Avocet"

Spec. Award- Bird - Bill Field "Mirrored Avocet"

Spec. Award- Baylands - Esther Litton, "Slough Pattern"

Spec. Award- Use of Baylands - Jack Yaco, "Study in Accessibility"

Spec. Award- Bay Panorama - Bob Keys, "Impact of Man"

Honorable Mentions went to: William Hall, "Early Morning Reflections"; James Leach, "Stilt at First Light"; Pat Page, "Gulls at Knapp Property"; Terry Toomey, "Waterfowl Feather"; Norman Varnado, "Burrowing Owl"; Alan Walther, "Loggerhead Shrike"; Johanna Kaestner, "Towering Invasion"; and Dave Pierce, "Halcyon Days".

Selected prints from the Exhibition will be displayed at the Syntex Gallery, 3201 Hillview, Palo Alto, from the middle of June until the end of January. The Exhibition will then be displayed at the SF Bay National Wildlife Refuge, in Fremont, from February 1 through May 31, 1986. Please come take a look!

Prizes were donated by Keeble & Shuchat Photography, Brad Loman, San Jose Camera and Video, and Brooks Camera.

Financial support for the show was provided by Syntex, Corp. and by the show's sponsors. A total of 41 photographers participated in the show. (List follows).

Exhibitors are: Grace Agardy, Martin Beard, Robert Brummitt, Charles Cadman, Bob Corman, Rick Carver, Anthony Cox, Ken Cox, Daniel Curtis, Larry Epstein, Jay Evans, Corinne Fetter, Bill Field, Dana Foy, Robert Fox, George Francis, Susanne Francis, William Hall, Calvin Jones, Johanna Kaestner, Audrey Kass, Bob Keys, Peter LaTourette, David Laws, James Leach, Esther Litton, Helen MacKinlay, Rosalie Montoya, Peter Neal, Ed North, John Oram, Pat Page, Dave Pierce, Elsie Richey, Warren Rose, June Seabrook, Terry Toomey, Norman Varnado, Nicholas Vicari, John Vinson, Alan Walther, Tony Westlake, and Jack Yaco.

The goal of the Exhibition is to provide increased understanding and awareness of SF Bay Wetlands through the medium of still photography. The display's excellent photographic quality, and great variety of subject matter has accomplished that goal exceedingly well! Topics included bay panoramas, closeups of insects, sunsets, feathers, piers, boats, and of course many birds.

Thanks go to all those volunteers who assisted in the show. Lynn and Sally Walker, Rose Hand and Ken Gardiner for advice; Catherine Maxwell for entry-form/poster design; Ken Gardiner for brochure photo; and Gus Morrison, Armando Martinez, Donna Kirsacko, Kathy Hobson, Tibby Simon, Sylvia Thomas-Whitman, Mark and Judy McEuen, Barbara Cox, Karen Ingels, Ellen Gartside, Dave Nauer, and Dave Johnson for publicity, distribution, display preparation, setup and attendance. Debi Jamison assisted in all phases of the show, and special thanks go to Larry DeYoung, whose inspiration and involvement caused the idea to be carried out at all.

NON-AUDUBON CLASSES, TRIPS, AND EVENTS

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

San Francisco Bay Bird Observatory announces a class in Gull Identification, given by Don Starks. It will be \$20, with 3 lectures and 3 field trips. Time and date to be announced. Contact Don at (408)371-9720.

The Blue and Gold Fleet and the Oceanic Society announce a joint agreement to offer a full-scale whale-watching program out of S. F. Bay. The education-oriented cruises leave from Pier 39, cost \$25 and last 3 hours. They run Friday through Monday. You can reach the Blue and Gold Fleet at (415)781-7890 or the Oceanic Society at (415)441-1106.

If you book a place on the Mono Lake Committee's Cruise to the Galapagos by January 15, you'll receive a \$100 early bird discount. The trip, June 24-July 10, also goes to Ecuador, Peru, and, optionally, the Amazon. For more information, send a stamped, self-addressed envelope to Mildred Bennett, MLC Trip Coordinator, 2719 Marin Ave., Berkeley 94708.

The Missouri Botanical Garden offers a 15-day expedition to the national parks of Costa Rica, April 5-19, offered in association with Betchart Expeditions, Inc. The naturalist-led expedition will visit 6 parks and the Monteverde Cloud Forest, home of the Quetzal. Fee is \$2250 plus air fare. Call Betchart expeditions in Cupertino at (408)245-9517.

Sequoia Adult School is offering two birdwatching classes during the winter quarter, one with Wednesday evening lectures and Sunday field trips beginning January 8, and one with Monday evening lectures and Saturday field trips beginning January 6. Class fee is \$40. Instructor is Maryann Danielson. Register at first class. For information, call the school at (415)369-6809.

On February 5 the Committee for Green Foothills will present a program called 'Choices on the Coast', describing the beauty of San Mateo County's coast, recent developments and the problems confronting local residents and county planners. The site will be the Syntex Auditorium, 3401 Hillview, in Palo Alto. Admission \$5. Doors open at 7:30, show begins at 8 pm. For more information contact Donna Kirsacko at (415)327-5906.

Places are available on the Oceanic Society's spring whalewatching cruises to Baja California, some to the Sea of Cortez, others to San Ignacio Lagoon. Small groups of participants will explore local ecology, camp and practice wilderness skills. Contact Oceanic Society Expeditions Fort Mason Center, Building E, San Francisco, CA 94123 (415)441-1106.

Golden Gate Audubon Society is offering a series of Ornithology classes taught by Joe Morlan, co-author of *Birds of Northern California* and Rare Bird Alert compiler. Classes are free and take place at San Francisco's John Adams Community College. For information call the college at (415)561-1900 or (415)239-3070.

The Whale Center and the Oakland Museum are co-sponsoring a Symposium on Whales and Whalewatching January 10-11 at the Museum. Registration is \$12/day and the public is welcome. Contact the Whale Center at (415)654-6621.

The Nature Sound Society will present a discussion of Nature Sound Recording on Sunday, January 12, at the Richardson Bay Audubon Wildlife Sanctuary. Learn how to record pounding surf, an approaching electrical storm or the song of a Hermit Thrush. Call Paul Matzner at the Oakland Museum (415)273-3884.

Gail and Doug Cheeseman (Cheeseman's Ecology Safaris) have 2 spaces left on their Tanzania, Seychelles & Kenya safari from June 27 - July 26 (\$4400 plus airfare). They will also be operating two Monterey Bay pelagic trips in January, one on the 11th and one on the 18th. Cost is \$30. Call the Cheesemans at (408)741-5330 or 867-1371.

Alice Hoch will be teaching a Birding Field Trips Class through the Fremont Adult School, meeting Tuesday mornings beginning January 7. Call the Adult School for details at (415)791-5841. Also offered is a one-day field trip to the Delta to observe wintering waterfowl. The trip will be January 25. Call the school for information.

Sunbeam Ecology exploration is sponsoring two winter birding field trips led by Maryann Danielson. The January 24-26 class will visit the Santa Barbara area, and the February 14-17 class will visit Tule and Klamath Lakes. For further information call Maryann Danielson at (415)342-6919.

The Planning and Conservation League is sponsoring the 3rd annual Environmental Legislative Symposium February 8-9 at California State University of Sacramento. The purpose of the Symposium is to plan environmental strategy for the upcoming 1986 legislative session. Please call the PCL at (916)444-8726 or write PCL, 909 12th St., Suite 203, Sacramento, CA 95814.

GET A DUCK STAMP!

November is the month for our returning waterfowl. Again this year, before you go out to watch these multi-colored, beautiful plumaged birds, go buy a duck stamp. The birds will appreciate it. This purchase, required of all waterfowl hunters, goes to the preservation of wetlands so crucial to the continued abundance of these birds as well as other species. A federal duck stamp can be purchased for \$7.50 at most U.S. Post Offices and a state stamp, also for \$7.50, at Fish and Game offices. This year's state stamp features a pair of Ring-necked Ducks.

-Brian Weed
The Sanderling

WATER QUALITY FORUM

Should we be using bottled water? . . carbon filters? How do the underground tank leaks affect us? Where does our water come from?

The public is invited to find the answers to these and other questions at a forum on Water Quality in Santa Clara County on Saturday, February 8, 1986 from 9:15 am to 12:30 pm at West Valley College, Room SLA 10, in the Language Arts Building, 15A. (The nearest parking lot is Lot #7.) The sponsors of this meeting are the League of Women Voters of Los Gatos-Saratoga and the Santa Clara County Health Systems Agency. Admission is free.

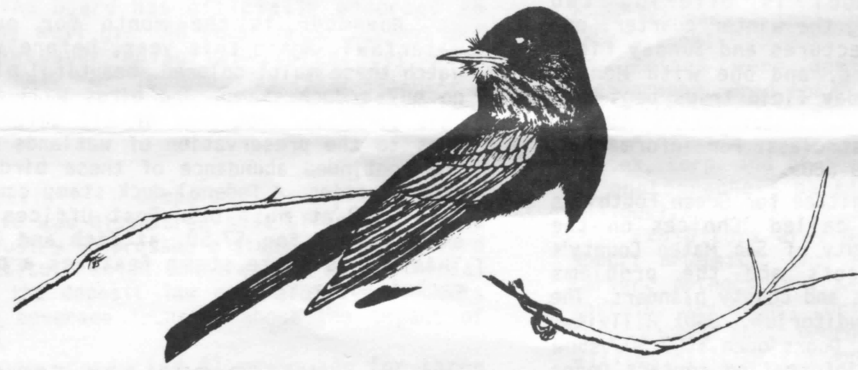
Issues to be covered include overland as well as underground water supplies, bottled water and filters, monitoring for pollutants, prevention and cleanup of underground spills, chlorination and chloramination, and risk assessment. The emphasis will be on water supplies in Saratoga, Campbell, Los Gatos, Monte Sereno, western San Jose and the nearby mountain communities. The public will be able to ask questions after the panelists' presentations. There will be panelists from Santa Clara Valley Water District, San Jose Water Company, local and state agencies, Santa Clara County Health Department, and the EPA.

For further information call Sharon Van Heuit, (408)353-2525 or Hudelle Newman, (408)395-8100.

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



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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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