

SANTA CLARA VALLEY AUDUBON SOCIETY

Chapter C14 of the National Audubon Society
2253 Park Boulevard, Palo Alto, CA 94306
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US Postage Paid
San Jose, CA
Permit No. 5869



The Avocet

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Mr & Mrs R Jay Andree
12579 Radoyka Dr
Saratoga, CA 95070

Volume 33, Number 4

April 1986

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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

Field Trip Coordinator for April - May Lou Burgin (408)253-7115

- Apr. 2 **Bay Area Bird Photographers.** Wednesday, 7:30 pm. Raymond Quinton, photo editor for SF's Ortho Books, will discuss bird photography from the publisher's point of view. He has been working on *The Birds Around Us*, a book project featuring the work of many authors and photographers, including some BABP members.
- Apr. 5 **Elkhorn Slough Boat Trip.** Saturday, 9 am. Meet at Jetty Rd. and Hwy 1, N of Moss Landing. We'll bird there for 1 hr; boat trip for 3 hrs up Elkhorn Slough. Limit of 14 people (3 small boats). Bring lunch. Cost \$8. Call Gail Cheeseman for reservations. Call Gail by 7 am if raining. (408)867-1371. Leader: Bernadette Ramer.
- Apr. 6 **Pinnacles Nat'l Monument.** Full day Sunday. 8:30 am. Meet at Choame pkg. lot on E side of Monument. From San Jose take Hwy 101 S to Hwy 25. S on Hwy 25 approx. 40 miles to Hwy 146. S on 146 5 miles to Monument. Entrance fee. Bring lunch, liquids, and hat. About 4 miles of level walking. Call leader if raining. Woodland birds and early migrants. Leader: Kevin Monahan (408)425-7841.
- Apr. 8 **Bird Discussion Group.** Tuesday, 9:30 am at the home of Eve Case, 20537 Verde Vista Lane, Saratoga. Topic: Pelican.
- Apr. 9 **Field Trip South.** Wednesday, 8:30 am. Fremont older open space preserve. Exit off 280 at Sunnyvale-Saratoga Rd. (also called De Anza Blvd.). Go S on Sunnyvale-Saratoga Rd. a little over 2 1/2 miles to Prospect Rd. W on Prospect across railroad tracks and up into hills 1 3/4 miles to the parking lot. Leader: Frank Farran (408)252-3874.
- Apr. 12 **Coyote Lake Park.** Saturday, 9 am. Half day. Take Hwy 101 S to Leavesley Rd. in Gilroy. Meet at the Denny's parking lot. Leader: Jean-Marie Spoelman (415)797-0265.
- Apr. 16 **General Meeting.** Wednesday. Refreshments at 7:30 pm, program at 8:00. Palo Alto Cultural Center, Newell at Embarcadero. "Where does our grant money go?" Three enthusiastic and outstanding recipients will assemble at the Palo Alto Cultural Center for a fascinating presentation of their projects. Dave De Santé from Point Reyes Bird Observatory uses computer analysis for his coastal scrub banding data. Tony Look, a true American hero in his campaign to save Calif. Redwoods, talks about his incredible experiences. Tony is featured in a new book by John Berger, "Restoring the Earth: How Americans are Working to Renew Our Damaged Environment". Then our friendly, inspirational resident ornithologist, Dr. Dick Mewaldt, will give a brief story of SFBB0's Coyote Creek Station.
- Apr. 19 **Steven's Creek Park.** Saturday, 8:30 am. Half day. Meet at the parking lot below the dam. Take Steven's Creek Blvd. W to Foothill Blvd. Turn left and follow Foothill for about 1.2 miles. Turn left down to parking lot. Emphasis will be on birding by sound. Bring lunch, if desired. Leader: Frank Farran (408)252-3874.
- Apr. 27 **Durham Ferry - Caswell St. Park.** Sunday, 8 am. Full day. Take I-680 N to Mission Blvd (Hwy 238). Meet at the Shell station at the intersection. Bring water, lunch, and fill up with gas. Entrance fee. Possible Blue Grosbeak and Swainson's Hawk. Leaders: Audrey Stoye (408)249-2108 and Betty Wyatt (408)255-6091.
- Apr. 30 **Field Trip North.** San Francisco Watershed. Wednesday, 9 am to 3 pm. Take 280 N to Millbrae Ave. exit. Follow the frontage road 2 blocks and turn left under the freeway to the dead end. We will go left through a gate to parking for car pooling to Pilarcitos Lake. There are nice flowers and birds and a hike to Stone Dam for those who wish. Bring lunch and plenty of gas if you intend to drive. Plan to stay until three since we must all enter and leave together. Our permit limits us, so reservations are a must. Call Kay McCann (415)327-4138 or Dolores Norton (415)941-1666.

Field Trip Coordinator for May - Bill Clark (415)326-7565

- May 3 **Searsville Lake and Jasper Ridge.** Saturday, 8:30 am. Half day. Meet at Stanford Univ. Jasper Ridge Preserve Main Gate (not Whiskey Hill Gate). From I-280 go W on Sand Hill Rd. about 2 miles to gate on left. Gate will be unlocked from 8:15 to 8:40 am. Please be prompt. Lunch optional. Limit 40 members. Contribution of \$2/person to the Preserve welcomed. Leaders: Jean and Bill Clark, Lynn Tennefoss, Carol Zabel. For reservations call Carol (415)948-5671.
- May 10 **Mines Rd. and Del Puerto Canyon.** Saturday, 8:30 am. Full day. Take Livermore Ave. S from flagpole in center of Livermore 0.7 miles to Nob Hill Shopping Center on left. Meet in far end of lot facing Pacific Ave. and Civic Center. We must carpool from this area because of limited pull-off space. Bring lunch, liquids and full tank of gas. No facilities en route. Specialties include: Lewis' Woodpecker, Rufous-crowned Sparrow, Lawrence's Goldfinch, Phainopepla, and Canyon Wren. Leaders: Lynn Aldrich and Peter Gottschling (415)325-9349.
- May 14 **South County Field Trip.** Wednesday, 8 am. Los Gatos Creek. Meet at the Los Gatos Library on Main St. off N. Santa Cruz Ave. Note: an hour earlier than usual. Leader: Gary McCurdy (408)395-2763.
- May 21 **General Meeting.** Doug Cheeseman and Rick Carver: two views of the Galapagos. More details next month.

CHAPTER ELECTIONS

SCVAS members present at the May 21 General Meeting will vote on the following nominated officers for 1986-87:

PRESIDENT - Judy McEuen: SCVAS First Vice President 1984-86. Active on Grants Committee 1982-86. Bird watcher and world traveler, offers natural history programs to children and community groups. Works as a dental hygienist.

FIRST VICE PRESIDENT - Dave Johnston: SCVAS Second Vice President 1985-86, Director 1982-85. Director of Youth Science Institute.

SECOND VICE PRESIDENT - Barbara Hambelton: SCVAS Director 1984-86, SCVAS Environmental Action Committee Chair, Supervisor, Customer Relations, Atari Computer.

TREASURER - Jules Resnick: SCVAS member, bird-watcher, enjoys nature photography and camping. Programmer/analyst at Stanford University.

RECORDING SECRETARY - Courtenay Dawson-Roberts, Jr.: Corr. Sec 1984-86. Director 1981-84. Environmental educator and conservation activist. Works at the Nature Company

DIRECTORS FOR THREE YEARS (1986-89)

Jim Anderson - M.S. Biology, San Jose State. Part-time lecturer in zoology, researcher and writer on ecology of S. F. Bay salt marshes, birdwatcher.

Jerry Vettson - Dentist practicing in Santa Clara Valley, active birdwatcher, interested in ecology trips and conservation.

Third candidate to be announced.

Any member present at the meeting may place names in nomination providing the written consent of the candidate has been obtained.

LOWE TRUST FUND

Until he was transferred to Oregon this fall, Roy Lowe was a biologist at the SF Bay National Wildlife Refuge. Roy was a SCVAS Board member, and was deeply involved in educating the public about the values of seasonal wetlands.

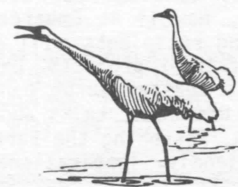
About a month ago, Roy's son Tyler suffered a tragic accident. He was swept out to sea, and it was 10 minutes before he could be recovered, with serious hospital expenses associated. A trust fund has been set up to help with his care, if members would like to contribute. Contributions may be sent to and checks made payable to: Lowe Trust Fund, First Interstate Bank of Oregon, Waldport Branch, Box 710, Waldport, OR 97394.

CONDORS ON HOLD

As of this writing, one California Condor has been captured. Already suffering from lead poisoning, it died. An intriguing report by a reliable observer of 1-2 unmarked condors is being investigated. A judge is temporarily debarring the capture of any more of the 5 (6? 7?) wild condors. Meanwhile the Department of the Interior continues to dodge the need to acquire the Hudson Ranch, the only suitable place to re-release condors (an excellent foraging habitat). As before, they are not moving to buy the ranch, even though the money has already been appropriated by Congress to do so. They have even backed out of a plan to lease the land.

Many people fear that if the ranch is developed, as the present owner plans, there will be no way to release birds if captive breeding succeeds. They would have to remain a zoo population. Some ask -- if all the condors are in zoos and can't be released, mightn't that clear the way to development in critical habitat nesting areas that are now protected?

Please call or write Secretary of the Interior Donald Hodel and tell him how you feel about this matter. Telephone (202)343-7351, or write Interior Dept., Washington D.C. 20414.



NEW EDITOR FOUND

Beginning with the May issue, the Avocet will have a new editor. Levona Sterngold has kindly offered to take over the task. She edits two other newsletters as well. Levona and her husband recently moved to the Bay Area from Fort Lauderdale, Florida, where they lived for 25 years, and where Levona was active in the Broward County Audubon chapter. She also edited the newsletter of her local Sierra Club. We're lucky to get such an experienced editor. In the future, material for the Avocet should go to Levona at 720 M Blair Court, Sunnyvale 94087. Her telephone number is (408)738-2859.

OILY BIRDS

On February 1, residents of the San Mateo Coast awoke to find globs of black goo coating the sand of their beaches. Over the next week, something else washed up on the shore--thousands of cold, wet, oil-covered birds. Estimates by PRBO give a total of 8,000 birds as having been affected by the spill, with many either DOA or lost at sea. A barge being towed is accused of being the culprits, but its owners refuse to accept the blame.

What was to be done? The US Fish and Wildlife Service and the Department of Fish and Game combined to set up cleaning stations. The southernmost was at Moss Landing's Emergency Bird Rescue Room --built to deal with spills caused by the Power Plant designed to handle 50 birds rather than the 600 they received. Marin Bird Rescue in San Rafael was the furthest north. In Morro Bay, where no center was set up, volunteers took several dozen birds into their homes to clean, care for, and release.

The largest station, handling perhaps 1400 birds, was a warehouse on the Agnew State Hospital grounds, loaned by the California Conservation Corps. Kathy Hobson, Executive Director of the San Francisco Bay Bird Observatory (SFBB0), and Jay Holcomb, former director of San Rafael's Bird Rescue, coordinated this center's activities.

Plywood was brought in and pens were constructed. Donations of Dawn dishwashing liquid (the best for cleaning oily birds), fish, towels and more poured in. Through it all, the birds arrived.

SCVAS was asked to coordinate volunteers and donations for the center. This immediately became a full-time job (as we're sure any of you who tried to call the office found out). The response to newspaper, radio, and TV pleas for help was tremendous. Hundreds of volunteers from all over the Bay Area came to the warehouse to help for a few hours, days or weeks. Donations of all kinds arrived. Many SCVAS members participated. Assisted by CCC workers (until flooding diverted them to filling sandbags in Gilroy) volunteers did EVERYTHING.

Walking in the door of the center, one's first sensation was shock at the sheer numbers of pelagic birds. At the peak, three huge rooms were full of knee-high plywood pens. In the corner of each huddled oily brown murrees squeezed together breast-to-back for warmth? comfort? security? All around people were changing bedding, tube feeding liquids or trout chow mixture to prevent weight loss and dehydration, or hand-feeding fish to still hungry birds.

In one corner, a kitchen was transformed into a washroom. Each bird was first weighed, given eye drops, and coated with mineral oil to loosen the crude oil. Then, in the washroom, each had its head carefully washed by a two-person team with Water-Pik, Q-Tips, Dawn, and lots of hot water (110 degrees -- birds have a higher body temperature than we do). Tub after tub of water became dark brown with oil as it came off the birds. Then the bird was sent to a second team who washed the body using equal care. Too much vigor could damage the feather structure, which is what keeps the bird waterproof. Not enough washing would leave a still-oily bird, so great care and patience were needed. Each bird went through at least five tubs of water, usually far more. Then, with a garden hose spray attachment, the poor birds were vigorously sprayed to remove every trace of oil or soap. They then went to a heated drying pen overnight.

In the morning, the clean birds went into large outdoor wading pools. It was a wonderful sight to see them, mostly Common Murrees, but also Western Grebes, Surf and White-winged Scoters, and Common,

Artic, and Red-throated Loons. They were splashing, preening, flapping their wings, and sparkling black and white in the sun.

The story isn't over yet. The Agnews Center released 550 birds. Many could not be saved. Some were transferred to other centers. 75 are at SFBB0, too sick to be released yet. The barge owners have yet to admit culpability or pay any recompense. Unexpectedly, places like Moss Landing' Bird Room, which existed before the spill, have been told that they will not, after all, be reimbursed for their expenses. All the released birds were banded. Perhaps we'll find out someday how they did back at sea once more.

Many thanks to all of you who donated goods, money, or time. Without you, none of the birds would have survived.

WILD AND SCENIC KERN RIVER

The Kern River will be Southern California's first Wild & Scenic River if Congress enacts legislation recently introduced that would protect 61 miles of the river's North Fork. But conservationists are concerned that the bill, H.R. 3934, authored by Rep. Charles "Chip" Pashayan (R-Fresno), could allow intensive development on the most popular portion of the river.

The North Fork Kern is known for the alpine scenery of its dramatic gorge near Mt. Whitney in Sequoia National Park. H.R. 3934 would add this and other wild stretches to the National Wild & Scenic River System. Habitat for rare Golden Trout and endangered California Condors would be protected from development schemes that have been proposed.

But an important stretch of river would be left open to development even if H.R. 3934 passes in its present form. Conservationists urge that protection also be extended to the "Johnsondale Bridge" stretch, by far the most popular stretch of wild river in Southern California. Within a three-hour drive of 9.7 million people, this 18-mile long canyon hosts 250,000 campers, anglers, picnickers, and boaters each year. It is a major recreational asset for California's most populous region, and essential for true preservation of the North Fork.

Out of every 1,000 miles of rivers in the U.S., less than two miles are preserved through the Wild & Scenic System. In the Kern, we have an opportunity to preserve one of the very few wild rivers in Southern California.

Please write your congressional representative (House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515) and senators Alan Cranston and Pete Wilson (Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510). Ask their support for Wild & Scenic for all 79 miles of the North Fork Kern.

-Patrick Carr
Friends of the River

MONARCH PROJECT

The Monarch Project is surveying overwintering Monarch butterflies in California. They seek reports of Monarch clusters, as soon as they're seen, and reports of butterflies marked with ink on the lower left hind wing. To help with this project, call Chris Nagano at the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History (805)682-4711.

FIELD NOTES - Bill Bousman

Santa Clara and Monterey counties don't have a common border, but they share a common stream, the Pajaro River. There are other similarities. Both are bisected by a major valley from northwest to southeast - the Santa Clara and Salinas valleys respectively. In both counties the east side of the valley is made up of drier hills, while the west side is in the wetter coastal mountains. The major valleys have been strongly affected by agriculture in both counties and this has affected the distribution of wintering species such as Sandhill Crane and Mountain Plover that once used these valleys. The riparian areas of both counties have been devastated and this shows up in the demise of the Yellow-billed Cuckoo and Bell's Vireo (although there is still a small breeding population of Bell's Vireo near the San Luis Obispo County line in Monterey County). At the northwest ends of the valleys, both have a major estuary - the San Francisco Bay in Santa Clara County and Elkhorn Slough and the Salinas River mouth in Monterey County. Once we reach Monterey Bay, however, all similarities end, for here we have Pacific Ocean and the tremendous variety of pelagic birds, something that is entirely missing in Santa Clara County.

The reason I have made these comparisons is that the Monterey Peninsula Audubon Society has published a new book, Monterey Birds by Don Roberson. This book covers a number of aspects of the birdlife of Monterey County, including some tours of the better birding spots, but the meat of the book is the species accounts. These include distribution graphs, maps for all breeding species, and detailed accounts including references to the best sources of identification material for birds that cause identification problems. What makes these accounts particularly interesting to me is the perspective Roberson brings to how the various county species fit into the statewide (or larger) scheme of things. This is definitely not a provincial book, and there is probably no better source of information available now that covers the distribution of the birds of central California.

This appears to have been an invasion year for **Tundra Swans**. The three immature birds at Pescadero Marsh were seen at least through 26 Jan (Don Osterbrock) and four more were found in runoff near Santa Teresa and Bailey in South San Jose 25 Jan to 2 Feb (Hugh McPherson-HMCP). We do not find these birds in the county every winter. When they do show up they may be anywhere which makes it exciting. A single **Snow Goose** turned up at Shoreline Lake and was seen 1-11 Feb (James Yurchenco-JY, Amy Lauterbach-AL, and Al Eisner-AE). Most winters we have only a single record at best, but this is the second or third sighting of the winter. A pair of **Wood Duck** found on the Los Gatos Creek percolation ponds 15 Feb were away from their usual haunts (Catherine Smith). At least two **Blue-winged Teal** have stayed in the Palo Alto FCB with the most recent sighting being 26 Jan (JY,AL). A male **Redhead** at Shoreline Lake 15 Feb was the only report for the month. A **Red-breasted Merganser** there 10 Feb (AE) was also unusual, for they are very rare away from the Alviso salt ponds. An **Osprey** near Bailey and Santa Teresa 25 and 26 Jan is one of our few winter records (HMCP). An immature **Rough-legged Hawk** at Monte Bello OSP on 9 Feb (Paul Noble-PN) is undoubtedly the same bird seen in January. They are also being found along the coast with one at Pigeon Point 25 Feb (Roland Franz). A **Merlin** in downtown Palo Alto 9 Feb (Emil Houle) was taking advantage of the abundance of frugivorous birds attracted to plantings of fruit-bearing shrubs. Two **Black Rail** were seen at the Palo Alto Baylands 11 Jan (JY,AL) and were observed mutually preening. A **Whimbrel** in

the Palo Alto FCB 5 Jan (JY,AL) is from a typical location; they are rare here in the winter. The 1st winter **Glaucous Gull** has remained in the area of Shoreline Lake and was seen 6 Feb (AE). The first county arrival this year for **Allen's Hummingbird** was a male in Monte Sereno 22 Jan (PN). A **Winter Wren** singing along upper Stevens Creek 9 Feb (PN) is in an area where they are known to breed. It is not clear when wintering birds leave the area.

If you see an "uncommon to rare" please drop a note or call: David Suddjian, 1136 Callas Lane, #1, Capitola, CA 95010 (408/479-9603).

REFUGE PROGRESS REPORT

The Citizens Committee to Complete the Wildlife Refuge is alive and well and proceeding to complete the San Francisco Wildlife Refuge. So far, fund-raising efforts have netted \$1400, which is being used for publicity and printing expenses. Five subcommittees have been formed: Political, Land/Technical, Publicity, Membership/Outreach, and Fund Raising. At the first Executive Board meeting in February, Rick Epstein and Florence LaRiviere were elected Co-chairpeople. The Committee will meet monthly on the first Thursday. If you would like to attend the meetings, please call Rick or Florence at (415)965-1931 or 493-5540, respectively.

The primary goal of the Committee is to complete the Refuge by diversifying its habitats. Most of the Refuge consists now of salt ponds and marshes; it is important to wildlife to include diked and seasonal wetlands as well. Members are working on defining the preferred boundaries of the expanded Refuge based on areas vital to wildlife. Brochures are being printed and are available for distribution. Local newspapers are covering the Refuge completion activities (if you can, please send copies of the articles in your paper to Barbara Hambelton, 10471 Miller, Cupertino 95014 -- this will help to document the breadth of the effort). Speakers and a good film are available for meetings. If you are interested in helping publicize the effort or in having a speaker for a group that you belong to, please call Trish Mulvey or Barbara Hambelton at (415)326-0252 or (408)446-3645, respectively.

Public support for this effort is essential. Congressman Don Edwards, who initially was instrumental in supporting legislation to establish the Wildlife Refuge, is very interested in the Refuge completion and has met several times with members of the Committee. Please let him know of your appreciation of his support of the completion (local phone number (415-792-5320). This contact will help him realize how widespread our support is.

If you are interested in working with the Committee, or have other questions, please contact Rick Epstein or Florence LaRiviere (at the above numbers).

--Martha K. Esserlieu

BIRDATHON

SCVAS will participate in the April 26, 1986 Birdathon, and proceeds will benefit Audubon conservation projects. For information about being either a counter or a sponsor, members are encouraged to call the office at (415)329-1811 or David Suddjian at (408)479-9603. David has counted in the past, and can give you hints on routes and numbers.

NON-AUDUBON CLASSES, TRIPS AND EVENTS

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

Excursions offered by Nature Explorations in April and May focus on writing, fishing, geology, wildflowers, owls, and spring on a coastal farm. Other trips focus on scenic areas from Coe Park to Point Reyes. For more information write or call them at 2253 Park Blvd., Palo Alto 94306 (415)324-8737.

The Nature Sounds Society offers an Ecology of Bird Song walk at Jasper Ridge nature preserve, led by Dave DeSante. He'll discuss song variations between individuals of the same species, and the factors that influence their songs. The walk will be 8 am - noon, April 20. Reservations required: call Jacquie Barshow at (408)379-5526.

Among PRBO's Natural Excursions is "Spring in California Deserts", April 13-19. The trip goes from Joshua Tree to the Amargosa Basin. Write or call them at 4990 Shoreline Hwy, Stinson Beach, CA 94970 (415)868-1221.

On April 19 there will be a public conference on the State of the California Coast, with speakers, films, workshops, and field trips. It will be held in Half Moon Bay. For more information call (415)328-5313.

Amateur naturalists who have had a college-level zoology class are invited to join Doug Cheeseman's Biology 4 class, Ecology/Field Biology, at De Anza College. Starts April 7, Lectures MWF, 12:30-1:20 pm; field trips, Friday 1:30-6:10 pm or all day Saturday. Memorial Weekend to Sequoia/King's Canyon. For more information call Doug Cheeseman, (408)741-5330 or 867-1371.

Openings for two teenagers on special trip organized by the Cheesemans to Galapagos and Peru, including hiking the Inca Trail with ornithologist Barry Walker of Cuzco and the Amazon and Napo Rivers with Amazon expert Paul Donahue, Aug. 3-26, \$2800, plus \$1289 airfare. Leaders: the Cheeseman family, (408)741-5330 or 867-1371. Cheeseman's Ecology Safaris.

Camp Unalayee, a non-profit wilderness summer camp for young people located in the Trinity Alps of northern California, is now accepting applications for this summer. Call Ben Harwood, Director at (415)328-1513. Financial aid is available. The editor of the *Avocet* went to this camp and had a splendid, splendid time.

The City of Palo Alto, in cooperation with Nature Expeditions International, Inc., presents a natural history expedition to the Sea of Cortez. Using the vessel *Baja Explorer*, they will visit at least seven islands. Participants will be able to investigate and photograph the flora and fauna of this unique region through such activities as whale-watching, birding, shelling, and snorkeling. This 9-day trip is from Saturday, April 26-Sunday, May 5. Cost is \$1590 plus airfare. Ted Chandik, Naturalist for the City of Palo Alto, will be one of the leaders. For further information please contact Nature Expeditions International, Inc., P.O. Box 11496, Eugene, Oregon 97440, (503)484-6529 or call Ted Chandik at (415)329-2382.

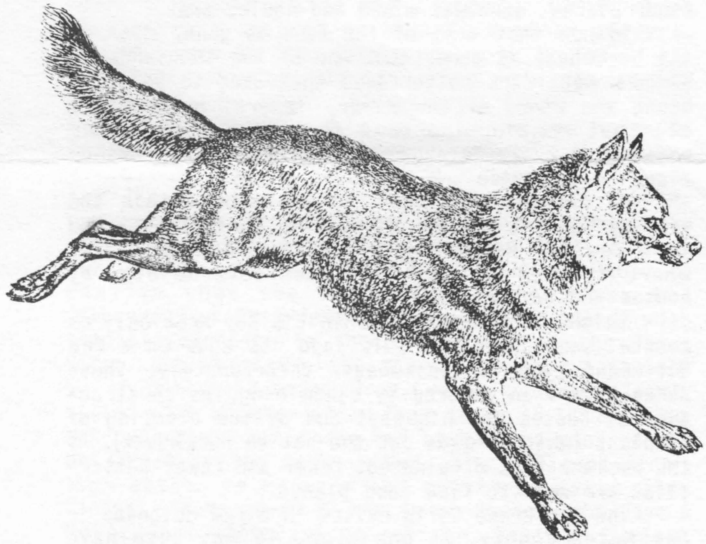
On Saturday, April 12th, the Fremont Adult School will offer a bird-watching trip along Mines Road near Livermore, noted for its wildflowers and birds. This field trip will be led by Alice Hoch, a birder for over 20 years and a teacher for the adult school since 1975. Also taught by Alice Hoch will be a Birding Field Trips Class meeting Tuesday mornings starting April 22nd. For more information on either class call the Adult School at (415)791-5841.

Desert wildlife, especially birds, will be the focus of a trip to the California desert areas,

April 13-19. The trip is led by Maryann Danielson and offered through Sunbeam Ecology Explorations. Some areas to be explored are Devil's Punchbowl, Mohave Narrows Regional Park, Morongo Valley, Joshua Tree National Monument, the Salton Sea and the San Diego area. Hoped-for birds include Leconte's and Crissal Thrashers, Gray Vireo, Western Yellow-footed Gull, Gull-billed Tern, Vermillion Flycatcher and more. Cost of the trip is \$175 which includes lodging (double occupancy). Food and transportation are the responsibility of the participants and may be arranged at a pre-trip meeting. For information, call Maryann Danielson at (415)342-6919.

San Jose State University programs allow you to explore the natural wonders of the redwoods, the island of Hawaii and Sequoia National Park. Each program offers general on-site lectures and information on the plants, animals, geology and ecology of the area. For complete information, call (408)277-3736.

The American Birding Association and Victor Emanuel Nature Tours will co-sponsor a youth birding camp (ages 11-18) during the summer of 1986. The camp will be held in southeast Arizona in the Chiricahua mountains, one of the best birding areas in North America. The headquarters for the camp will be the Cave Creek Ranch. Fee is \$695. Write to Victor Emanuel Nature Tours, Inc., P.O. Box 33008, Austin, Texas 78764.



WASHINGTON WOLF PROJECT

The Gray Wolf (*Canis lupus*) is an endangered species in all of the lower 48 states except Minnesota, where it is threatened. In Washington state the wolf was brutally eradicated in the early part of this century, although unconfirmed sightings of a lone wolf are occasionally reported. The Washington Wolf Project is a group of concerned Washingtonians with backgrounds and interests in canids who think it is time to revive the wolf in appropriate parts of its historic range in Washington.

They are seeking participation and support to reintroduce the wolf into the Olympic and North Cascades National Parks. If you have any comments or wish to participate, please contact Peter T. Jenkins, 226 Summit Avenue East, Seattle, WA 98102 or (206)322-5882.

--The Sanderling

BUTTERFLIES

Of eight insects on the United States Endangered Species List, all eight are butterflies. Of those eight butterflies, seven come from California. Of those seven, four are from the San Francisco Bay region. Thus, the Bay Area has the dubious distinction of being the endangered butterfly capital of the country.

The Endangered Species Act was signed into law in 1973, in response to the growing depletion of America's wildlife resources and citizen pressure from a growing environmental movement. The Act defines an endangered species as one that is in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its range. Under the law, an endangered species cannot be harmed, pursued, hunted, transported, or traded in interstate or foreign commerce without special permission.

Why do species become endangered? Our butterfly representatives of the Endangered Species List may give us a clue:

Lange's Metalmark butterfly is a beautiful orange, black and white resident of a sand dunes area along the San Joaquin River in Contra Costa County. It lays its eggs at the end of summer on a particular type of buckwheat that only grows in loose sand dunes.

At one time, the dunes ran for miles along the river, and there was lots of buckwheat for the butterflies to lay their eggs on. Over the last few decades, however, factories, streets and houses were built in places where the dunes used to be. And in other places, sand was mined and hauled away.

So now that most of the sand is gone, most of the buckwheat is gone, too. And of the thousands of Lange's Metalmark butterflies that used to be found along the banks of the river, several hundred are all that remain. The same is true for the other endangered butterflies from the Bay Area: Mission Blue, Smith's Blue and San Bruno Elfin.

Mission Blue survives in one spot within the city of San Francisco, one spot in Marin County and in a few San Mateo County locations. Other places where it used to live have been covered over by houses and factories.

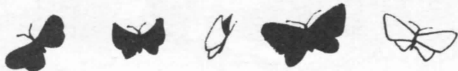
Smith's Blue occurs within the Bay Area only on coastal sand dunes where it lays its eggs on a few different types of buckwheat. Unfortunately, these dunes have been altered by sandmining, by construction of houses and highways and by the planting of iceplant (which crowds out the native buckwheat). As the buckwheat is eliminated, fewer and fewer butterflies are able to find food plants.

The San Bruno Elfin exists in a few colonies in San Mateo County. At one time, it may also have occurred in San Francisco, Marin and Contra Costa counties, where its food plant used to grow. Most of these areas were destroyed when roads and buildings were built.

It seems that all of our local endangered butterflies have suffered the same fate; as the human population has expanded, these butterfly populations have diminished to the point where they are facing extinction.

It's not too late to save the Bay Area species that are on the Endangered Species List. In the case of the butterflies (as in the case of most other endangered species) preserving critical habitat is the least that we need to do. To do otherwise is to encourage the extinctions of four Bay Area species.

--S. F. Bay Nat'l Wildlife
Refuge Newsletter, Tideline



FOR SALE

New for sale from SCVAS: Birds for Real by Rich Stallcup (\$6.40 plus 69 cents to send). Monterey Birds by Don Roberson (\$16.00 plus 69 cents to send). Guide to Bird Sounds by Cornell Library of Natural Sounds to accompany NGS Birds of North America (Tapes: \$20 plus 69 cents to send, Book: \$13 plus 69 cents to send). We still have copies of Sequoia Audubon Society's Peninsula Birdwatching (\$9.50 plus 69 cents to send). We also have Our Hummingbirds, (\$4.00 plus 69 cents to send) and the SCVAS patch (\$2 plus SASE to send).

BIRDING AT THE BOTTOM OF THE BAY is almost sold out!! We have about 20 copies left of our very successful site guide to the South Bay for \$6.50 plus \$1 to send. Hurry, if you haven't gotten a copy yet - we will not be reprinting in the near future.

BIRDING TECHNIQUES VIDEO, an hour long VHS videocassette to help birders sharpen their skills, is now available for rent from the SCVAS office. For a nominal charge, you can borrow the tape and view: 109 species of North American birds, how to choose and use binoculars and telescopes, how to choose and use field guides, how to attract birds in the field, and much more! Please call Lynn in the SCVAS office for more details: (415)329-1811.

SIERRA CLUB FUNDRAISER

The Guadalupe Group of the Sierra Club is hosting a John Muir-John James Audubon Birthday celebration and fund raiser at the J. Lohr winery in San Jose from 7-10 pm Friday, April 25. Tickets are \$7.00 per person for an evening of wine tasting, cheese, fruit, birthday cake, musical entertainment, and a winery tour. A limited number of tickets will be sold for the event. Send your check payable to "Sierra Club/Guadalupe" to Kathy Moe, 446 Mayellen Ave. #1, San Jose, CA 95126 by Friday, April 18, 1986. Tickets and a map will be sent upon receipt of your check. (Please include stamped self-addressed envelope with check.)

LEAST TERNS

The California Least Tern is an endangered species whose numbers are diminishing. In order to provide maximum protection to the bird it is important we know all of the areas essential to its survival and breeding success. It is not known how the Least Tern migrates from the southern latitudes to the Bay Area, but we suspect it must rely on certain stop-over locations for food and rest. Suitable habitat would be quiet, shallow waters along the coast such as that provided where creeks and rivers drain into the ocean. All observations of Least Terns are of great interest, but we would especially like birders to keep this small tern in mind while birding the coast or other waters this spring. The Least Tern arrives on the shores of S.F. Bay from late April to the first week in May. There are about 65 breeding pairs left in the Bay Area, and they need all the help we can give if we are serious about saving the population. Please send any observations to Leora Feeney (1330 Eighth St., Alameda, CA 94501 415/522-8525) or Laura Collins (1517 Woolsey St., Berkeley, CA 94793 415/843-3263). Include information on field identification, date, time, numbers of birds, activity and, of course, location of observation.

BOTTLE BILL DISAPPOINTING

The Bottle Bill recently passed by the Assembly (A.B. 2020) was a big disappointment to bottle bill supporters across the country. The compromise bill between Californians Against Waste and the beverage industry will be ineffective, it is believed. The bill places a redemption value of 1 cent on all beer and soft drink containers; it is included in the price of the beverage rather than as a highly visible deposit. Redemption values of containers that do not achieve 65% recycling by the end of 1990 will increase to 2 cents. Containers will be accepted only at recycling centers or machines, but retailers are not required to provide for recycling. Although it establishes a goal of 80% recycling, the bill does not enforce it. A.B. 2020 establishes a government commission dominated by beverage industry representatives to regulate, administer, and recommend changes in the system.

Experience with a similar bill in Alberta, Canada, has shown that it takes substantially higher redemption amounts than one cent to achieve 80% recycling, the goal of California's bill, particularly when retailers are not required to accept the containers. Yet A.B. 2020 does not provide for values of greater than 2 cents, even if the targeted recycling rate is not met. Since 9 of the 17 commissioners will be from the beverage industry, it is unlikely that deposit increases will be recommended by the Beverage Container Recycling Commission.

In summary, the following changes to A.B. 2020 are desired:

- 1) that consumers must find redemption centers to be convenient (retailers should be required to accept bottles or have machines);
- 2) that the deposits should be both visible and high enough to stimulate recycling; and
- 3) that the commission should be dominated by public representatives rather than industry representatives.

Please write to Assemblyman Burt Margolin (author of A.B. 2020), and State Senators Dan McCorquodale and Al Alquist, State Capital, Sacramento, CA 95814 to express your concerns.

--Martha K. Esserlieu

The PCC's Fifth Annual Auction

Thursday Evening, May 15
at the Peninsula Conservation Center
2253 Park Boulevard, Palo Alto

Events will get underway at 7 pm -- join your friends for wine, lemonade and popcorn; the silent auction tables will be open, so bid early and often!

At 7:30 our super auctioneer, Dick Alexander, will begin the live auction. Bid on dinners for two; mini-vacations at weekend retreats; tickets to theater evenings, guided hikes, and other adventures; and services ranging from car sitting to financial planning.

At 9 pm Dick will close the silent auction tables and you will see which items you have won. Topping off the evening is the suspense of the raffle drawing!

Bring your family, friends and checkbook, and join us in this lively evening in support of the Peninsula Conservation Center!

REVENGE STORY

A reader tells of meeting famed top birder Rufus Lugnut near an estuary where a Holarctic Skinflint had been reported. Our reader greeted Lugnut, who nodded distantly. Reader asked whether the Skinflint had been seen yet. Lugnut shook his head. Thinking Lugnut didn't care to talk, Reader shut up. Presently, as they waited, scanning the waters for the Skinflint, Lugnut asked, "How long have you been birding?" "About a year," chirped Reader. Lugnut sneered, but went on, "What's your life list?" "My life list? I'm not really sure." "Well, what have you seen?" "Ummm..." "Did you see the Hobart's Petrel?" "No." "Did you see the Greater Willow Flycatcher?" "No..."

Eventually Lugnut satisfied himself that Reader had never been anywhere or seen anything, or if he had seen it, hadn't really noticed the right field marks. He also had the wrong kind of binoculars, didn't know the right people, and had seen fewer birds in his first year than Lugnut had seen in his first week.

Reader writes that he felt rotten. He adds that he never did figure out what makes the Holarctic Skinflint different from the Circumpolar Skinflint, and that things like this happen to him all the time. How, he asks, can he have revenge on all those nasty numerical listing types who take all the fun out of birding? If he goes to Stockton to look for the Eastern Mudlark and runs into Rufus Lugnut again, what can he say?

We asked our birding guru, Edie Elderberry, who feels that even little old ladies in tennis shoes like herself deserve respect from other birders, what she does in like situations.

After one of Lugnut's type referred to the birds who come to Ms. Elderberry's feeder as 'trash birds', she trapped him in a corner and began to reminisce about the various places she had gone to visit her five lovely grandchildren and their families. She was describing her visit to her grandson Rick in Galveston and their visit to the lovely coast of Texas. Since she had been talking for quite a while it took the fellow a minute to realize that she was complaining about the inaccuracy of measurements given in bird books, with special reference to shorebirds seen on the Texas Coast. One Whimbrel, she griped, couldn't have been any more than 12 inches long, while the book clearly stated that Whimbrels ran from 15 to 18 inches long. Not only that, but there had been no barring on the primaries as the book showed. Also the book didn't even bother to mention the pretty cinnamon wing linings. As he gaped at her in amazement, she gave a meticulous description of an Eskimo Curlew, expressing her belief that it was a juvenile Whimbrel whose description had inexcusably been left out of the book. "Not only that," she told him, "Next year I went back and I saw that same bird again in the same place!" "Where?" he gasped. "Oh, I don't know, just a little out-of-the-way cove. Near Galveston somewhere."

Finally he stammered out something about the Eskimo Curlew. She looked at him kindly and told him that he was letting his imagination run away with him. "When you've been birding as long as I have," she told him, "you won't always be imagining that you've seen all those rarities. You'll be happy about the birds you really have seen." And she left him there.

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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 direction.

Avocet deadline is the first Monday of the month. Send contributions to the editor, Levona Sterngold, 720 M Blair Court, Sunnyvale 94087.



Looking For A Different Vacation?

*Let Your Senses Run Wild...
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* Wilderness Research Backpack
Participate in an extensive, ongoing research effort by Audubon biologists while backpacking in the spectacular Wind River Mountains. Learn the skills of bird and mammal censusing, bird banding, insect survey and collection, plant identification, and herbarium collection. Small groups of 10 persons will accompany our research staff on 12-day expeditions. Moderate hiking ability needed to cover 5-7 miles daily. Time is also allowed for fishing and relaxing.

* Audubon Ecology Camp in Wyoming
Clear, star-filled skies, evening campfires by snow-fed Torrey Creek, and the time spent among bighorn sheep, moose, mink, beaver, otter, and eagles highlight this adult Camp. The setting is a glaciated valley 7,500 feet high in Wyoming's Wind River Mountains, among 13,000-foot snow-capped peaks. Unique Birds, mammals, insects, and flowers are tools in the art of understanding this rugged mountain environment. There's also time for hiking, rock climbing, square dancing, canoeing, and volleyball - plus an optional trip down the spectacular Snake River in Grand Teton National Park. The facilities include original homestead cabins, providing rustic yet comfortable accommodations.

* Nature Photography Program
The Wind River Mountains and Yellowstone National Park are the settings for this field seminar on the use of 35mm camera equipment. Professional photographers Bill Ratcliffe (with 13 AUDUBON covers to his credit) and Perry Conway (producer of a dozen educational filmstrips) will guide you in photographing mountain scenery and wildlife.

FREE BROCHURE AND REGISTRATION INFORMATION
National Audubon Society
4150 Darley, Suite 5
Boulder, CO 80303
(303) 499-5409



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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