

SANTA CLARA VALLEY AUDUBON SOCIETY

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

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



The Avocet

1137g
Mr Alan M Eisner
3538 Farm Hill Blvd #4
Redwood City, CA 94061

Volume 33, Number 6

June 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 the Summer: Dave Nauer (408)259-1283.

- Jun 4 **Bay Area Bird Photographers.** Wednesday, 7:30 pm, Baylands Interpretive Center. Co-sponsored by the City of Palo Alto.
- Jun 10 **Bird Discussion Group.** Tuesday, 9 am, at home of Eve Case, 20537 Verde Vista Lane, Saratoga, to car pool for birding at Montalvo. Bring a sack lunch to be eaten at Wildwood Park, Saratoga, after the birdwalk.
- Jun 11 **South County Field Trip.** 9 am. Neary Lagoon and Antonelli Pond, Santa Cruz. Meet in the parking lot beside the tennis courts at Neary Lagoon on California. Take Rt. 1 N from 17. Turn left on Bay St. and left on California and take the first right turn into the park. Leader: Irene Manici (408)476-8309.
- Jun 18 **Annual Dinner.** Wednesday, 6 pm. Los Altos. Details in newsletter.
- Jun 27 **Skyline Ridge Preserve.** Sunday, 8:30 am, half day. Meet at intersection of Skyline Blvd (Hwy 35) and Alpine Rd. (Page Mill Rd.) above Palo Alto. Informal carpooling: Park & Ride, I-280 and Page Mill, 8:15 am. Restrooms at Montebello OSP one mile below Skyline. Leader: Bob Garcia (415)941-3826.
- Jun 29 **Skyline-to-the-Sea-Trail.** Sunday, 8 am, full day. Meet at Saratoga Gap, parking lot on S.E. corner of intersection of Hwy 9 and Skyline Blvd (Hwy 35). From Hwy 280 in Cupertino take Hwy 85 S. In Saratoga turn right onto Congress Springs Rd (Hwy 9). We'll hike part of "Skyline-to-the-Sea-Trail" about 8 miles. Bring lunch, liquids, walking shoes. Might see Western Tanager, Solitary Vireo. Leader: Vicki Silvas-Young (408)293-7124.
- Aug 3 **Ano Nuevo.** Sunday, 9 am. Take Hwy 84 through San Gregorio to Hwy 1, then S about 15 miles to New Year's Creek Rd (Ano Nuevo State Reserve). Meet in parking lot. There is a \$2/car fee, so you might carpool. Good time for early migrating shorebirds. Approximately 1/2 day trip, but bring liquids, lunch, and be prepared to walk. RAIN CANCELS. Leaders: Mark and Steve Miller (415)967-3429.
- Aug 16 **Jetty Rd. - Monterey Bay.** Saturday, 8:30 am. Take Hwy 1 S from Santa Cruz to Moss Landing. Turn right on Jetty Rd; trip meets right there. Trip will include Moss Landing area, Salinas R. mouth, and perhaps Pacific Grove. All day trip, so bring lunch, liquids and be prepared to walk. Leader: Don Starks (408)371-9720.



WHAT TO DO WHEN YOU SEE A BANDED BIRD

Most of us have come across birds marked with color bands at one time or another. Perhaps you've seen a banded gull on a pier or a banded Clapper Rail at high tide. What do you do with the details of your sighting? The easiest thing to do is go on with your birding and forget about it, but I strongly urge observers to take the trouble to report color-banded birds to the appropriate people. Sightings of color-banded birds provide essential information on migration, dispersal and distribution for a number of in-progress studies. Your sightings will always be appreciated and may be important. If you are interested, ask for a reply with information concerning the banded individual(s).

Several points should be noted when observing a banded bird. First, record the color and position of the bands while you are still in the field and looking at the bird. Color combinations are surprisingly easy to confuse and forget. Note the bird's exact location, its activity, and how many of its own species it's with. Record the time of day, habitat, viewing conditions, and tide and weather information if applicable.

Listed below are addresses where you can send your sightings of color-banded birds.

Snowy Plovers: Frances Bidstrup, 1270 Day Valley Road, Aptos, CA 95003. Frances appreciates information regarding the numbers and location of all the Snowy Plovers you see, not just banded individuals. Your sightings of this species in the San Francisco Bay Area are especially helpful as the Snowy Plover Project receives very little coverage of this area. Colors are: orange, red, white, blue, aqua, yellow, green, lime, pink, and brown tape covering metal bands. A band may sometimes appear metallic or colored when some metal shows.

Sanderlings: The Sanderling Project, P.O. Box 247, Bodega Bay, CA 94923. When observing a marked Sanderling, first note the color and position of its leg flag(s). This is like a normal band with a short stub sticking out one side. This stub is very visible and indicates the country in which the bird is banded. Next record the color bands. In addition, each bird carries a silver metal USF and WS band above the ankle on one leg or the other. It can be difficult to correctly read the sequence of these various bands as the Sanderling's legs go whirring back and forth, but persistence and practice will pay off. Also record the length of the beach the bird is on. Colors used are: red, yellow, green, blue and white.

Clapper Rails: San Francisco Bay Bird Observatory, P.O. Box 247, Alviso, CA 95002. Banded Clapper Rails should be sought in the South Bay salt marshes. Banded individuals are probably seen most frequently during the high tides at the Palo Alto Baylands, where the birders congregate. When reporting this species, draw a map showing any pertinent landmarks in and around the marsh (boardwalks, power poles, etc.) so the exact location is clear. If you are close enough, record the numbers on the band(s).

California Gulls: San Francisco Bay Bird Observatory, P.O. Box 247, Alviso, CA 95002. Many of the birds breeding at the recently founded, and rapidly expanding, gull colony in Alviso have been banded. Look for them in our area.

All other color-banded species: Bird Banding Office, Laurel, MD 20708. This address should be used as a clearing house for all color-banded species other than those mentioned above. This is especially true for other gull species, perhaps the most commonly seen banded birds.

-David Suddjian

VIDEO BIRDING

Available for rent at the SCVAS office, the VHS 70 minute cassette entitled "Techniques of Birding" is one of the many videos now available to the arm-chair birder. This video, however, has more than just pretty shots of 109 species of North American birds. It has useful information as well.

Noted veteran birder Arnold Small narrates and takes the viewer from a woodland habitat to a marshy shore, describing techniques for viewing and attracting birds. Small explains binocular and spotting scope use and gives suggestions on choosing and caring for your optical equipment. Also included are hints on choosing and using a field guide. Of particular help was Small's explanation of avian topography, describing terms for different parts of a bird's surface anatomy, information that even seasoned birders sometimes forget. Reference material is also described, including site guides and books on life histories of birds, magazines, as well as tapes of bird calls and songs that are available.

Overall this tape is geared for the beginner, but there is much information that advanced birders will find useful.

-Paul L. Noble



OIL SPILL BILL

SB2495. Senator Marks has introduced this bill in response to the recent tanker oil spill along our Coast which affected numerous birds. The intent of the bill is to ensure that adequate emergency response equipment and trained personnel are available to respond to offshore and port spills, explosions and fires. It would require owners and operators of vessels transporting petroleum and petroleum products or of oil production facilities to provide at 2 specified locations vessels which are capable of towing, firefighting, oil skimming, storing skimmed oil, and other clean-up activities. The owners and operators would be further required to prepare contingency plans and provide emergency response training for vessel and pipeline oil spills and offshore or port facilities explosions and fires. They would be assessed a fee of not more than \$250,000 annually. Write Senator Marks to support.

-The Redwood Log

MATADERO CREEK

David Suddjian's letter regarding Matadero Creek published in a recent issue of Avocet underscored the feelings most of us have about the value of riparian habitat. No one can seriously deny that riparian areas are valuable resources to both man and wildlife.

Likewise, residents in floodplains remind us regularly, and often vociferously, of the value to them of protection from flood hazards, especially after a damaging flood. People expect a reasonable level of protection from flood hazards and, given the considerable amount of flood-prone development that exists on the valley floor, it is more realistic to try to keep water away from people and their property than to keep people and property away from water.

In an effort to provide an increment of flood protection, the District selectively clears creeks and channels of vegetation on a regular basis where it owns land rights for this purpose. It does so with appropriate regulatory agency permits. In the case of Matadero Creek, the District owns a maintenance easement near the Palo Alto Flood Basin and it partially cleared the understory growth in December of 1985 in preparation for the wet months ahead. This was done with the cooperation of the City of Palo Alto Public Works Department and with a permit from the Department of Fish and Game to try to prevent or minimize flooding to adjoining properties located immediately upstream of Highway 101. These properties have been flooded in the past because floodwaters did not have a clear and unobstructed outfall to the Bay. As in 1983, when the District last cleared the understory growth in this area for the same purpose, no bulldozers or other mechanical equipment were used. The clearing was accomplished using hand labor and, although the objective of the work was to provide increased flood-carrying capacity for the creek, no clearing was done on the north bank. This is by long-standing agreement with the City of Palo Alto, from which the District acquired the easement in 1967.

Attributing the County's flood hazards completely to garbage dumped illegally upstream is wishful thinking. As with many other creeks, Matadero Creek is simply undersized for the amount of storm runoff it receives. Trash is a problem, but not the problem.

To assist them in being realistic in setting their yearly flood control goals, the District's Board of Directors and its staff regularly enlist the assistance of advisory committees (composed of representatives of the County, the various cities and the public at large), environmental consultants and various environmental groups. In addition, the District has on its staff an environmental specialist who has made us all more aware of the environmental implications of our decisions.

Our challenge to the environmental community is that it set realistic goals in order that we may assist each other in meeting our respective goals. To do so, we believe, requires that environmental organizations perhaps enlist the assistance of people with broad community-based expertise who can bring a balanced view to the decision-making process before conflicts arise and valuable resources are expended.

To individuals or groups who continue to be concerned over the District's flood control activities, we suggest that before alarming the community as a result of speculation about our actions, motives or methods, please understand that we are always available to discuss anything of concern at any time. We will be happy to meet with anyone in the field or at our office for this purpose.

Our thanks to Avocet for permitting us this space to respond to Mr. Suddjian's letter and to the many letters, cards and phone calls that we received in response.

-Stan N. Wolfe
Head, Project Development Branch
Santa Clara Valley Water District
(408)265-2600

BIRD SEED SALE

The results from the spring bird seed sale are in: a total of 8110 pounds of seed were sold, for a net of \$654, to be donated to the Mono Lake Fund. Thanks to all who helped in the fight to save Mono Lake, and are feeding their birds at the same time.



MANY THANKS TO THE DEPARTING EDITOR



Best wishes and many thanks go with the departing Avocet editor, Susan McCarthy, as she and her family leave the Bay Area for Texas. The consistent high quality of the newsletter as well as humorous and editorial articles have added much over the last 2 1/2 years. We'll miss you, Susan.

FIELD NOTES - David Suddjian

First off, I'd like to correct the misstatement I made in my previous column. In discussing some of the theories regarding spring vagrants I made the parenthetical statement that the stars are thought to be the stimulus for migration in many species. What I meant to say was the stars are thought to guide many migrants. The stimulus for migration is actually thought to be photoperiodism, or changes in day length. Now on to other things.

What do you make of shorebirds present in June and early July? How can you tell if a bird is a late spring migrant, a summering bird, or an early fall migrant? Don Roberson addressed this problem in his version of the "Changing Seasons" in American Birds, Volume 36, number 6. Much of the information presented here is gleaned from this source.

A number of studies on the migration and breeding biology of shorebirds have shown that patterns exist within the complex process of shorebird migration. These patterns can be used to construct guidelines that are helpful in understanding the temporal occurrence of the different species, ages, and in some cases, sexes. These guidelines can also aid in assigning a status (spring or fall migrant, or summering) to a given individual.

Rule number 1 - all shorebirds have three distinct plumages: juvenal, basic (winter), and alternate (breeding). The fact is fundamental to all shorebird identification. For some species, such as Marbled Godwit, juvenal and basic plumages look quite similar. But for many species the three plumages can be separated fairly easily. The Guide to the Identification and Ageing of Holarctic Waders by Prater et.al., and the N.G.S. Field Guide to the Birds of North America portray these plumages well. Most spring migrants have passed through our area by the end of May, but a few birds continue to straggle through into the second week of June. These birds are all in alternate plumage, so we can make Rule number 2 - all alternate-plumaged shorebirds before June 10 (approximately) are late spring migrants.

The earliest "fall" migrants, fresh from far northern breeding sites, arrive in our area around the last week of June. These birds are all adults in alternate plumage. So, Rule number 3 - with a few exceptions (notably Dunlin) adults migrate before juveniles. The very earliest juveniles arrive in our area in the last week of July. Thus, "fall" shorebird migration can be divided, for most species, into late June-August adult migration and August-September juvenile migration.

Observers who visit a site regularly during the course of migration soon notice that different species arrive at different times. Thus, Rule number 4 - each species of shore bird has a particular timing of its migration. The two dowitchers provide a good example. Short-billed Dowitchers generally precede Long-billeds by about a month, with adult Short-billeds migrating in late June-mid July and adult Long-billeds migrating in late July-August. Similarly, juvenile Short-billeds (remembering rule 3) migrate in August, while juvenile Long-billeds migrate in late August-September.

For a number of species (dowitchers, phalaropes, Western Sandpiper and others) it has been noted that females migrate before males. This brings us to Rule number 5 - for species in which the males have most or all of the chick-raising duties, females migrate earlier than males. Thus, an observer at Charleston Slough in early July is likely to see only female Western Sandpipers, with the longer, more drooped bills. A visit in late July should produce a large proportion of males (assuming females that will winter locally are taken into account. See below.)

While at Charleston Slough in late July, the same observer might note that, for a given species, alternate-plumaged, basic-plumaged and molting individuals are present. This can be explained by Rule number 6 - with a few exceptions, shorebirds molt into basic plumage when they reach their wintering grounds. Our big exception, the Dunlin, molts on the breeding grounds and migrates later (late September-October) than other species. Observing rule 6 we can expect Western Sandpipers, for example, in three different plumages in early August: alternate-plumaged adults (which will probably winter farther south), molting or basic-plumaged adults (which will probably winter locally), and juvenal-plumaged individuals (which, by the way, molt in October-November).

Each year small numbers of shorebirds remain through June to summer in our area. In Santa Clara Co. this has been especially noted for Willets, Marbled Godwits, and Black-bellied Plovers. These birds tend to be in worn basic plumage or incomplete molts. Studies have shown these birds to be sexually immature or otherwise impaired. Thus, Rule number 7 - summering shorebirds remain in basic plumage or incomplete molts. Using this rule, it's easy to separate summering birds from late spring and early "fall" migrants, both in alternate plumage.

There are always exceptions, but these guidelines should be helpful when examining shorebird migration, and should be taken into account when making identifications.



Two basic-plumaged **Red-throated Loons** at the Los Gatos Percolation Ponds (LGPP) on 25 Mar represent the first report of this species in 15 months, and the latest date for Santa Clara Co. (Chris Benesh-CB). A **Clark's Grebe** was present at Mountain View's Shoreline Lake through at least 30 Mar (Derek Curral, David Suddjian-DS). Another was noted in nearby Adobe Ck. on 19 Apr (Phyllis Browning). Although thought to be rare to uncommon, the exact status of this new species in Santa Clara Co. is uncertain. Please send the details of your sightings to help clarify the matter. One **Wood Duck** was still present at the LGPP on 25 Mar (CB). A pair was noted near San Antonio Junction on 12 Apr (Paul Noble-PN). The pair along San Francisquito Ck. in Menlo Park was joined by two more females on 23 Apr. All have been visiting a Menlo Park feeder (Betty Groce-BG). At least two **Blue-winged Teal** were in the Palo Alto FCB on 30 Mar 1(CB). Two **Redhead** were in the FCB on 27 Apr (DS,PN). This species has been quite scarce since their dispersal following the winter rains. One **White-winged Scoter** remained on Shoreline Lake as of 30 Mar, providing this species' latest County date (DS). An **Osprey** was noted at Searsville Lake in Jasper Ridge BP on 6 Apr (Bill Kirsher fide PN). This species is a rare but regular spring and fall migrant through our area. **Merlin** are very rare after Feb., so one present in central Palo Alto on 6 Apr is of interest (Carl Beck). Six **Wild Turkeys** were seen in Henry Coe SP on 21 Mar, including one displaying male (James Yurchenko-JY, Amy Lauterbach-AL). Allen Royer was surprised to find a **Greater**

FIELD NOTES -CONT'D

Roadrunner singing on top of his house in the hills above East San Jose on 23 Mar. The next morning the bird was calling from the top of a nearby tree. This species is noted only infrequently in this area (Allen Royer). One **Northern Saw-whet Owl** was still present at Monte Bello OSP on 9 Apr (PN). One **Vaux's Swift** was seen over upper Foothills Park in Palo Alto on 19 Apr. This swift is a rare but regular spring and fall migrant through our area, though most reports are from spring. Up to six **Lewis' Woodpeckers** were at San Antonio Junction on 12 Apr (PN). **Western Wood-Pewees** returned early with the first arrivals at Henry Coe SP on 12 Apr (JY,AL). The first **Western Kingbird** of the season was also at Henry Coe SP on 12 Apr (JY,AL). This species is considerably more common in the eastern hills than in the western portion of the County. A singing **Canyon Wren** was at China Hole in Henry Coe SP on 27 Mar (JY,AL). One **American Dipper** was still present in Steven's Ck CP on 28 Mar (Al Eisner-AE). The first **Solitary Vireo** of the season returned to Monte Bello OSP on 6 Apr. Up to 12 were present on 14 Apr (both PN). One **Nashville Warbler** was at Monte Bello OSP on 19 Apr (AE). 26 singing **Black-throated Gray Warblers** in Monte Bello OSP on 12 Apr is a very high count (PN). **Rufous-crowned Sparrows** were found in Monte Bello with one on 14 Apr, and two singing on 19 Apr (PN). This site is near the limit of this species' northern extension on the Peninsula. **Sage Sparrows** were singing in the chaparral at Henry Coe SP on 24 Mar. James Yurchenko considers them fairly common in that habitat within the park. The **White-throated Sparrow** remained at Betty Groce's feeder in Menlo Park until 8 Apr, an earlier departure date than in previous years. Other spring arrivals include: **Caspian Tern**, Steven's Ck CP, 12 Apr; **Olive-sided Flycatcher**, Steven's Ck CP, 12 Apr (both AE); **Ash-throated Flycatcher**, Monte Bello OSP, 14 Apr (PN); **Yellow Warbler**, Steven's Ck CP, 12 Apr (AE); **Western Tanager**, Skyline OSP, 27 Apr (DS,PN); **Black-headed Grosbeak**, Monte Bello OSP, 6 Apr; **Lazuli Bunting** Los Altos Hills, 26 Apr; **Chipping Sparrow** Monte Bello OSP, 9 Apr (all PN).

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).

ANNUAL POTLUCK DINNER

Please set aside the evening of Wednesday, June 18, for our annual potluck dinner. Beginning at 6 pm, we will be meeting at the home of Lynn and Martha Hunton, 25600 Fernhill Drive, Los Altos Hills. All members are very welcome, and are encouraged to attend, especially if you've never been to an annual dinner before!

We will have a feast, to which you may contribute accordingly:

A-G Main Dish
H-N Salad
O-S Hors D'oeuvres
T-Z Dessert

Please bring serving utensils.

SCVAS and the Huntons will provide liquid refreshments, plates, flatware, etc.

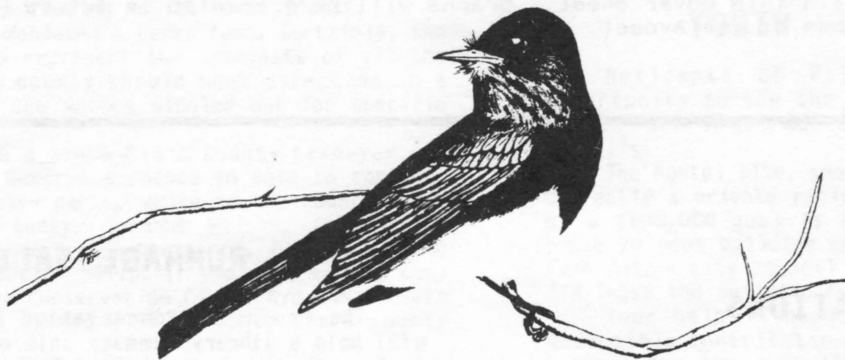
The evening will include a brief presentation by Glenn Olson, Vice President, NAS, Western Regional Office, and a multi-image audio-visual slide show of shore and desert birds (set to the First Movement of Beethoven's Fifth Symphony) by Kevin Monahan. Jean Richmond, author of Mt. Diablo Audubon Society's new Birding Northern California will be on hand to autograph and sell copies of her book. Please join us for what promises to be a fun, lively party. Have questions? Want directions? Please call Lynn in the office (415)329-1811.

WANT TO BE A STAR ON TV?

SCVAS has volunteered to answer phones for a KTEH TV Channel 54 Pledge Night in mid-August. We are requesting a Wednesday night to coordinate with their wildlife/nature series.

We need about 20 volunteers for one night only from 6:30 to 11:00 pm at their facility near the San Jose Airport. Dinner will be provided. SCVAS will get TV exposure to help spread our name and create goodwill.

Help support your local Audubon Chapter and local public broadcasting channel. Please contact Mark McEuen after 5:00 pm at (408)251-3086.




SANTA CLARA COUNTY CHECKLIST FIRST DRAFT REVISION (PARTIAL)

I am presently revising the 1975 Santa Clara County Checklist with the objective of showing distribution by weeks of the year rather than quarters and increasing the number of categories that describe how common a species is or is not. I intend to do this revision in two steps: first, a checklist of those species that were listed as uncommon to accidental on the previous checklist and include species that have been found since then or were not included on that list, and secondly, a checklist of all the species. The present sheets represent a partial draft for the first step, loons through hummingbirds. For each species I have graphed all the records known to me, showing the number of records for each week in the year (I have arbitrarily defined four weeks to the month). From these graphs I have drawn up the distribution lines that are shown on the attached sheets using the legend shown below. The definitions I have used are: an uncommon species is considered to be generally present in its preferred habitat, although not always found; a rare species is generally recorded at least once a year, but is not always present even in its preferred habitat; a very rare or casual species is not found every year; and a vagrant or accidental species has been recorded 10 or fewer times. The sources I have used for these graphs include the seasonal reports in *American Birds* and its predecessor *Audubon Field Notes*; Grinnell and Miller, 1944; Sibley, 1952; and records provided to me by individuals. Sources I have not used are the notebooks of the regional editors of *American Birds*, *The Gull*, or past issues of *The Avocet*. I have not used Christmas Bird Count records unless I was able to find out from other sources the number seen, the specific location of the sighting, and the observers. In some cases where limited details are available I have shown a question mark on the distribution sheets. For instance a December record is shown for Northern Fulmar. This bird was seen on a 1961 Christmas Bird Count at the Palo Alto Baylands, but I have not yet obtained the actual date. Or for Brandt's Cormorant there is a 1977 record of a bird at the Baylands, but no date known. In some cases there are no recent records and so there is no distribution shown. For instance, there are no records of Fulvous Whistling-Duck since the late teens(?).

The present purpose of this partial draft is twofold. First, it can be used as a reference to the most recent distributional information of the birds of Santa Clara County and what records are appropriate for the Field Notes column in *The Avocet*, that is, anything from rare to vagrant. Secondly, I hope that people with records on the rarer species that are not reflected here will provide those records to me. This is the only way that I can obtain unpublished records.

William G. Bousman, 12 Mar 86



	Common
	Fairly Common
	Uncommon
	Rare
	Very Rare or Casual
•	Vagrant
•.....•	Vagrant over indicated period

Retain this cover sheet. Graphs will be presented in future issues of the Avocet.

DONATIONS

Donations have been received in memory of Dr. Philip Haims from Mr. and Mrs. Don Patridge, Nila and Faz Ulla, Joyce Jarvis, Ed and Trula Ramos, and Elaine Ollila.

RUMMAGE SALE

The Peninsula Conservation Center Foundation will hold a library rummage sale on Saturday, June 7, from 9 am - 3 pm at 2253 Park Blvd., Palo Alto. Please mark your calendars!

As you clean out your closets, remember that the library would like your rummage. Please call Connie Sutton at (415)328-5313 for drop-off information.

PARKS IN JEOPARDY

We the citizens of Santa Clara County may never reap the full benefits of our investment in a County park system. The money to build and operate our parks is running out. The Supervisors have said that they don't intend to place on the November 1986 ballot a charter amendment requiring the transfer of county revenue into a parks fund. To refuse to consult their constituents on the popular parks mandate is neither responsive to the voters nor foresighted.

In 1972 and 1978 County voters, by nearly 3-1, mandated that a fraction of the county's property tax revenues be used for the creation and maintenance of a park system that all could enjoy. The voters didn't impose a new tax, but ordered an allocation of existing revenues. That mandate will expire in June 1978. Now the County Supervisors must decide whether to give the voters a chance to speak again. We think it's crucial that the Supervisors put the matter before the voters, and that the mandate be renewed.

Our parks provide a diverse range of recreational possibilities, from hiking and camping to bicycling, fishing and boating, within 20 minutes of over 1.4 million people. As the population of the Bay Region and Santa Clara County grows, the "escape hatch" afforded by a well-balanced park system becomes ever more important.

We can't afford to stop building our park system. Continued funding is necessary to develop the creekside trails and parkland close to our urban population to provide the attractive, usable, clean and safe recreation we all want. Moreover, we need to purchase lands to link trail segments and to round out existing park boundaries and to protect the highly valued edges of creeks like the Uvas.

Although the Supervisors acknowledge the popularity and value of our County parks, they argue that projected budget dilemmas necessitate a change in park funding method.

Trust us to continue to maintain and build our park system, they say. Yet, it was because of inattention to long term park projects by the Supervisors prior to 1972 that the voters mandated that money be transferred into a parks fund to be used only for park purposes.

Historically, Supervisors have deferred park projects in favor of short-term strategies for coping with limited budgets. Too often society neglects long-term needs as we struggle to meet short-term crises.

Although park advocates are concerned about the projections of a severe shortage of funds to meet the demands of the County budget, we don't think anything justifies the Board's refusal to put the question of park funding to its constituents.

The voter mandated a parks fund. Certainly, the Supervisors who represent the interests of all the people of this county should seek direction on a question which the voters singled out for specific attention.

If you are a Santa Clara County taxpayer and think that you deserve a chance to vote to continue funding for County parks, write to the County Board of Supervisors today: Suzanne Wilson, Chairwoman, Members of the Board of Supervisors, 70 West Hedding Street, San Jose, CA 94110. If you can, send a copy to the Peninsula Conservation Center c/o Loma Prieta Chapter of the Sierra Club or Santa Clara County Audubon.

-Linda Elkind

GLOBESCOPE REPORT

Presentations at Smithsonian Institute's Tropical Rainforest Conference, December 4-6, by Global Tomorrow Coalition, National Audubon and others, called for citizen support, policy direction and leadership within the U.S. to help conserve Earth's richest biological system. At the present cutting rates, the world will lose about half of the remaining 2.5 million acres of tropical forest by the year 2000, which provides habitat for an estimated 50 percent of the world's plant and animal species. What can you do?

Education: Use Global Tomorrow Coalition's Tropical Rainforest lesson plans and guide.

Public Policy: Support measures to improve and strengthen foreign assistance activities that affect tropical forests. Current legislation: HR 2957, S 1747 and HR 2958, S 1748.

Communication: Urge other community groups you are affiliated with to include programs and lectures on this topic.

Personal Action: Hundreds of thousands of acres of tropical forests are destroyed to provide pasture for cattle that are a source for cheap imported lean beef for fast-food chains. Find out the origin of the hamburger you eat.

Contact the SCVAS office (415/329-1811) for speaker suggestions and background information.

-Audubon Warbler, March 1986

SCIENCE FAIR WINNERS

Each year, the Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society awards prizes to students who present outstanding exhibits at the Santa Clara Science and Engineering Fair on subject matters relevant to SCVAS' concerns. These three students have been awarded memberships in the National Audubon Society for their 1986 Science Fair projects:

Lara Karan, "Preference of Color in Hummingbirds"; Beau Fernald, "Do Ants or Bees Have Color Preference?"; and Laura Arnstein, "San Francisco Bay Model".

YOUTH HOSTEL

Residents of Palo Alto have a unique opportunity to see the establishment of a youth hostel off Arastradero Road in the Palo Alto foothills.

The hostel site, known as the Arastra House, is currently a private residence on park land. \$51,000 of a \$100,000 goal is still needed to alter the house to meet building codes for a public facility. Palo Alto's city council voted last July to let the AYH lease the building for \$1/year.

Your help is needed. Please send your tax-deductible contribution today to AYH Golden Gate Council for the Palo Alto Hostel, 425 Divisadero, Suite 307, San Francisco, CA 94117, (415)771-4647.

Staff	Lynn Tennefoss (days)	415/329-1811	DIRECTORS (1984-87)	Deborah Manley	408/749-8126	Publicity	Deborah Manley	408/749-8126
President	Kevin Monahan	408/425-7841	Mark McEuen	408/251-3086	408/251-3086	Library	Myra Hodgson	415/326-3641
1st Vice Pres	Judy McEuen	408/251-3086	Trish Mulvey	415/326-0252	415/326-0252	Field Trips	Vicki Silva-Young	408/293-7124
2nd Vice Pres	Dave Johnston	408/258-4322	DIRECTORS (1985-88)	Karen Ingels	415/323-7284	Membership	Dolores Norton	415/941-1666
Treasurer	Dave Nauer	408/259-1283	Phil LaRiviere	415/327-5746	415/327-1254	Aud. Adventures	Linda Hagelin	408/867-3046
Rec. Sec'y	Courtenay Dawson-Roberts	415/327-5746	Don Price	415/969-5542	415/327-1254	Hospitality	Elaine Gould	408/448-0622
Past President	Sue Liskovec	415/969-5542	CHAIRPERSONS	Editor	Levona Sterngold	408/738-2859	Barbara Hambelton	408/446-3645
DIRECTORS (1983-86)	Richard Jeffers	415/325-9675	Editor Programs	Doug & Gail	408/867-1371	Conservation Christmas	Jim & Sue Liskovec	415/969-5542
Barbara Hambelton	408/446-3645	408/446-3645	Cheeseman	408/867-1371	408/867-1371	Bird Count	Donna Zetterquist	408/429-9716
Roy Lowe	408/251-2323	408/251-2323				Grants	Pete LaTourrette	415/961-2741
						Photo Club		

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.

NON-AUDUBON CLASSES, TRIPS AND EVENTS

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

Two openings on Doug and Gail Cheeseman's "Ecology of Tanzania, Seychelles, and Kenya" safari, June 27 to July 26, 1986. Cost: \$4400, plus airfare \$1700. Includes Lake Manyara, the Serengeti, Tarangire, and camping in Ngorongoro Crater in Tanzania, six days on Mahe, Praslin, Cousin, and La Digue in the Seychelles, and in Kenya: Mt. Kenya, Samburu, Lake Baringo, Kakamega Forest, Lake Victoria, the Mara, and Lake Naivasha. (408)741-5330, Cheesemans' Ecology Safaris.

The Point Reyes Bird Observatory offers a large variety of Natural Excursions at Sequoia and Kings Canyon, the Sierra and elsewhere. For information contact them at 4990 Shoreline Hwy, Stinson Beach, (415)868-1221.

Cruises to the Farallones offer opportunities to see rarely sighted whales and rarely seen deep ocean birds. Contact The Whale Center at (415)654-6621.

The Oceanic Society Expeditions, co-sponsored by the National Marine Sanctuary and Point Reyes Bird Observatory, offers boat trips to the Farallon Islands. Their number is (415)474-3385.

You'll have an opportunity to learn the territorial songs and calls of the nesting birds of Foothills Park on a walk sponsored by the city of Palo Alto at the park on Sunday, June 8, by meeting in the parking lot of the Orchard Glen picnic area at 9 am.

There are activities every Saturday and Sunday, including slide shows, nature walks and movies about outdoor topics, as well as special programs, during June at the city of Palo Alto Baylands Interpretive Center. The number is (415)329-2506.

The Palo Alto Junior Museum offers a variety of classes and workshops during the summer. Further information is available at (415)329-2610.

The Second Annual Field Recording Workshop will be held at the Sierra Nevada Field Campus of San Francisco State Univ. June 13-16. The program will include nature sound recording opportunities and field trips. The campus is located in the Tahoe Nat'l Forest and facilities include family arrangements. Call (415)273-3884 and ask for Paul for more information.

"Birds & Flowers of Point Lobos" will be a class offered by the Fremont Adult School on Sat., June 21. Alice Hoch, experienced teacher and birder is instructor. For information, (415)791-5841.

Birding Field Trips Class will meet from June 24 through July 29 at the Fremont Adult School. Various birding spots will be visited with instructor, Alice Hoch. For information, (415)791-5841.

A field trip series to study summer birds will be offered by Sunbeam Ecology Explorations. The trips will take participants to a variety of habitats to observe birds and magnificent landscapes, including Eagle Lake, Mt. Diablo, and others. Call (415)342-6919 for more information.

DONATIONS

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

MEMBERSHIP

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

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

Gift from _____

CHECK CATEGORY

- Individual/\$30
- Family/\$38
- Senior Citizen/\$21
- Senior Citizen Family/\$23
- Student/\$18
- AVOCET only/\$6
- Introductory Membership/\$20