

SANTA CLARA VALLEY AUDUBON SOCIETY

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

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The Avocet

1137g
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3538 Farm Hill Blvd #4
Redwood City, CA 94061

RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

Volume 33, Number 7

September 1986

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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

Field Trip Coordinator for September: Jim Liskovec (415)969-5542.

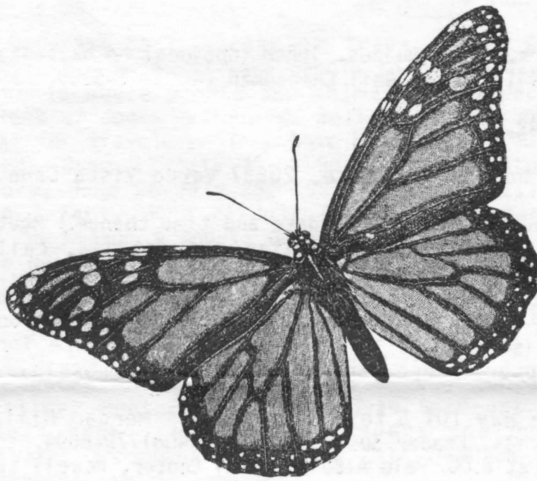
- Sept. 9 **Bird Discussion Group.** Tuesday, 9:30 am, at the home of Eve Case, 20537 Verde Vista Lane, Saratoga. Topic: Summer Bird Experiences.
- Sept. 10 **Field Trip North.** Wednesday, 1 pm. Charleston Slough. (Please note date and time change.) Meet at the E end of San Antonio Road, off Hwy 101. Leader: David Suddjian. For details, call Dolores Norton at (415)941-1666.
- Sept. 13 **San Lorenzo River.** Saturday, 9 am. Half day. Take Hwy 17 S to Santa Cruz, Hwy 1 N, take first right on River St. (sign says Hwy 9, Boulder Creek). Proceed 1/4 mile to A. K. Saltz Tannery on right. If late continue 1.5 mi. further to Paradise Masonic Park and ask at the office for directions to Hagelin Residence. Highlights: Dipper, Green Heron, and Wood Duck possible. Leaders: Linda and Ron Hagelin (408)867-3046.
- Sept. 14 **Coyote River Park.** Sunday, 8 am. Half day. Take Hwy 101 S to Cochran Rd. in Morgan Hill. Continue E on Cochran Rd. to parking lot. Rain cancels. Leader Susie Formenti (408)779-8694.
- Sept. 17 **General Meeting.** Refreshments at 7:30 pm, program at 8:00. Palo Alto Cultural Center, Newell at Embarcadero. "Behavior and Adaptations of the Birds of East Africa." Doug Cheeseman will select the best slides collected over eight years of photographing and leading trips in East Africa, illustrating bird behavior and ways that East African birds have adapted to their habitats, as well as emphasizing the incredible species diversity found in the varied habitats of East Africa.
- Sept. 21 **Monterey Hot Spots.** Sunday, 9 am. All day. Take Hwy 1 S to Carmel. Turn left at Rio Rd. and meet in the SW corner of the Safeway parking lot. The trip will look for rarer shorebirds and possibly vagrant landbirds. Bring clothing for a variety of weather. Leaders: Paul Noble (415)948-3876 and David Suddjian (408)479-9603.
- Sept. 24 **Field Trip South.** Predatory Bird Center, U.C. Santa Cruz. Meet 9:45 am at parking lot nearest Bay St. entrance to campus. Limit: 10 people. Call Linda Hagelin (408)867-3046 to reserve space.
- Sept. 27 **Birdwalk for Beginners.** Deer Hollow Farm. Saturday, 8 am. Half day. Meet at last parking lot at end of Cristo Rey Dr. Take I 280 to Foothill Expwy, S to Cristo Rey Dr. Rain cancels. Leaders: Sue and Jim Liskovec (415)969-5542.
- Sept. 28 **Coyote Hills Regional Park.** Sunday, 8 am. Half day. Take Hwy 84 to Thornton Ave. exit, just E of the new Toll Plaza. Go N on Thornton (Paseo Padre on new maps) about 1 mi. to Commerce Dr. Turn left into the park and meet at the lot near the entrance. Possible entrance fee. Leader: Grant Hoyt (415)969-7892.

Field Trip Coordinator for October: Richard Jeffers (415)325-9675.

- Oct. 4 **Marin Headlands, Rodeo Lagoon.** Saturday, 8:30 am. All day. From Hwy 101 take Alexander Ave. - Sausalito exit. Start downhill, swing left to tunnel entrance to Fort Cronkhite. Stay on this road. Meet at parking lot on S side of the lagoon before right turn across bridge. Highlights: migrating raptors, possible vagrant landbirds. Leader: Clark Blake (415)879-0007.
- Oct. 8 **Field Trip South.** Wednesday, 9 am. Half day. Chesbro Reservoir, Morgan Hill. Take Almaden Expressway S from San Jose, left on McKean Road (which becomes Uvas Road), 11 miles S to junction of Uvas Road and Old Oak Glen Road. Lunch optional. Leader: Emily Curtis (408)779-2637.
- Oct. 12 **Pt. Reyes.** Sunday, 8:30 am. All day. Meet at the Drake's Beach parking lot. From Hwy 1 take Sir Francis Drake Blvd. W. After 14 mi. turn left to Drake's Beach. Highlights: possible eastern warblers and migrant shorebirds. Leaders: Lynne Aldrich and Peter Gottschling (415)325-9349.

THE MONARCH PROJECT

The Monarch Project, a major endeavor of the Xerces Society, works to conserve and manage protectively the migratory Monarch butterfly and its overwintering sites in North America. Many of these localities are endangered by urban development and other human activities. These localities possess the specific environmental conditions required by the overwintering Monarchs. Monarchs are suspected of overwintering in the south San Francisco Bay area, but there are only a very few records from this region. Chris Nagano, biologist for the Monarch Project has requested that we report any sightings of large numbers of Monarchs to him, at: Entomology Section, Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County, 900 Exposition Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90007. The SCVAS office has a copy of "Guidelines for the protection of Monarch butterfly overwintering roosts in California" available upon request. Please call Lynn for more info. (415)329-1811.



CITIZENS COMMITTEE TO COMPLETE THE REFUGE

The Citizens Committee to Complete the Refuge has received a \$2500 matching grant from Save San Francisco Bay Association. The Committee, which is endorsed by 31 organizations, including all Audubon Chapters in the Bay area, is working for acquisition of acreage of seasonal wetlands in the original Refuge. Many species such as the cinnamon teal and the saltmarsh harvest mouse cannot survive without the seasonal wetlands this organization is trying to preserve. In order to permanently save these lands, it will be necessary to obtain new Congressional authorization and a major grass roots effort around the Bay. If you can help, please call (415)493-5540, and remember, your tax-deductible donation now will be matched dollar for dollar by the Save San Francisco Bay Association.

DONATION

A donation has been received in memory of Fanny E. Zwaal, a long-time SCVAS member.

SCVAS GRANTS AWARDED

In June, the SCVAS Board of Directors awarded the following grants for 1985-86:
Coyote Creek Riparian Station - \$200 - for bird seed.
The Peregrine Fund - \$690 - for VCR, Slide projector, movie projector, and projection screen for their new educational program.
Point Reyes Bird Observatory - \$190 - for mist nets.
San Francisco Bay Bird Observatory - \$700 - towards an outboard motor.
Sempervivons Fund - \$500 - panel at planned Castle Rock Interpretive Center.
Trail Information & Volunteer Center - \$100 - for trailbuilding tools.
Grant applications for the 1987-87 Grants cycle are due to SCVAS by March 31, 1987. The Grant Committee gives priority to grants for projects that are local, for materials not salaries, and for one-time rather than on-going costs. If you have an appropriate project, please call the SCVAS office to request a grant application form, at (415)329-1811.

THANK YOU, FLO HUNTER

Recognition and thanks are due to Florence Hunter on behalf of SCVAS. For the last four years, Florence has taken SCVAS' slide show on "Birds of the Peninsula" into classrooms, libraries and clubs - educating gradeschoolers about the birds and natural world around them. While no charge is made for her services, often donations to SCVAS are given in thanks for her visit. When not in the classroom, you may find Florence, a retired teacher, docenting at the P.A. Baylands or at Mtn. View's Deer Hollow Farm. SCVAS gratefully thanks Florence for her cheerful, energetic dedication to SCVAS and especially to the children she leads. If you would like to have Florence visit your child's school or club, please call the SCVAS office.

THANK YOU, MYRA . . .

The SCVAS library collection is getting more extensive all the time! For the last two years, the collection has been managed and improved by SCVAS Librarian, Myra Hodgson. Myra has been responsible for consolidating the collection, directing acquisitions towards site guides, field identification guides, and improving our collection of information on how to attract birds to your garden. She has also entered all new books into the PCCF library system.

SCVAS gratefully thanks Myra for all her work, and wishes her best of luck as she steps down from her position of librarian. We know her tradition of care and thoughtful planning leaves a strong base and excellent collection for the next librarian.

. . . LOOKING FOR A LIBRARIAN

We now have an opening for Library Chairperson for the SCVAS collection at the PCCF. Duties of this volunteer position include entering new books into the PCCF system (typing cards & spine labels, putting covers on books) as well as directing future acquisitions. Myra and the PCCF Librarian Connie Sutton are both available to train, and for ongoing assistance. Previous experience, although helpful, is not necessary. The work can be done in 1-2 mornings/afternoons/evenings a month - and times are very flexible.

GHOST NETS

More than 1600 fishing boats from Japan, Taiwan and South Korea are setting more than 20,000 miles of gillnet each night in the North Pacific to catch salmon, squid, pomfret and billfish such as marlin. The monofilament nets, stretching up to 35 miles also entangle tens of thousands of marine mammals and more than one million seabirds annually.

The fishery, which developed only in the last few years, is devastating marine life in the rich waters north of the Hawaiian Islands chain and the Aleutians. Many of the salmon in Alaska, Canada and the Pacific Northwest are in sharp decline because the fish are intercepted by the high-seas driftnet fishery.

Thousands of Dall's Porpoises, North Pacific fur seals and other marine mammals are drowning in the vast nets. U.S. scientists estimate that nine percent of the Tufted Puffins nesting in the Aleutians are dying in the nets each year, as well as five percent of the murrelets and untold hundreds of thousands of Short-tailed Shearwaters, remarkable birds that migrate all the way from Australia and New Zealand only to die while trying to feed on the fish trapped in the driftnets.

The foreign fisherman are also leaving a deadly legacy in the sea with hundreds of miles of lost and abandoned driftnets. These fine-mesh nylon webs do not degrade and break up in the cold waters, but sweep through the sea like Grim Reapers, entrapping everything in their way. As many as 50,000 fur seals may die in these "ghost nets" each year.

In the North Pacific, a body count in just one half of a free-floating 3500-meter gillnet yielded 99 seabirds, 75 salmon, one ragfish and two salmon sharks. And this net had been adrift (so it was established) for probably not more than a month; it's "ghost-fishing" life had only just begun.

The U.S. Senate held hearings on this issue last fall, where conservationists, fishermen and Senators called for a ban on the use of driftnets in any fisheries in the North Pacific, whether inside or outside the U.S. 200-mile zone.

Senators Ted Stevens and Frank Murkowski of Alaska, and Slade Gorton of Washington have demanded forceful action by the State Department and Commerce Department to halt driftnet fishing. To show support for their efforts, write to them as well as Senators Cranston and Wilson, and Representative Panetta.

- Animal Welfare Institute

NEW SCHEDULE

FOR KILAUEA POINT NWR

Effective 1 March 1986, Kilauea Point National Wildlife Refuge has been operating Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. for public visitation and is closed on federal holidays. Please note it is closed on weekends.

It has become one of the more popular places to visit on Kauai.

S.O.S. SALTON SEA

The Salton Sea is one of the most vibrant ecosystems in California and is the home of huge numbers of birds of many species. According to a report compiled by Parsons Water Resources, the Sea could be dead as soon as 1995 due to excessive salinity levels. The problem is that the Sea receives all the irrigation run-off from Imperial and Coachella Valleys, and this water contains significant levels of dissolved salts. Since the Salton Sea has no surface outlet, all the water that departs is by evaporation, but the salt remains and its concentration increases. If it increases much further, the ocean fish will no longer be able to survive, and so most of the water birds will disappear.

A major "Catch-22" has been created. Farmers have been told to use less water, which means that the Sea's level will go down, thus increasing the salt concentration dramatically. The Imperial Irrigation District has issued a Notice of Preparation for what it should study in its Environmental Impact Report on the transfer of water out of the Imperial Valley. The Salton Sea Coordinating Council, an organization dedicated to saving the Sea says we must have a task force, lead agency, and a firm commitment to maintain the Sea as a surviving ecosystem prior to any transfer of water or water rights.

To help save this invaluable area, please write immediately to: Imperial Irrigation District, Post Office Box 937, Imperial, CA 92251.

- Santa Barbara Audubon Society
Reprinted from The Sanderling
Monterey Peninsula A.S.



SOLUTION FOR LATE NEWSLETTERS

SCVAS will now offer a **special first-class mailing** of the AVOCET, for an extra \$2.50/year. If you are interested in receiving your newsletter via first-class mail, rather than by bulk mail, **please bring or send \$2.50 to SCVAS, 2253 Park Blvd., Palo Alto, CA 94306.** This is in addition to the regular membership rate for National Audubon members, or may be added to the \$6/year paid by newsletter-only subscribers. We hope this will solve the problem some members have been having with the Post Office's late delivery of bulk-mailed newsletters. We will begin with the October newsletter, and try this as an experiment for a year. If it is successful, a first class option will become permanent.

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.

FIELD NOTES - By David Suddjian

It's been a typically interesting spring and early summer with an Albatross over Atherton, a handful of rare spring shorebirds and another Eastern Warbler. The 6th annual Palo Alto Breeding Bird Count on 7 June was a big success with a record 23,337 individuals of 152 species tallied. All 7 June sightings in this report are from this census.

Two breeding-plumaged **Common Loons** paused in their migration at Mountain View's Shoreline Lk. on 44-5 May, in spite of the many wind surfers, providing the latest county record (Derrek Currall-DC). 2-3 **Clark's Grebes** were present into spring in Palo Alto's bayside areas (DC, Phyllis Browning-PB, Clark Blake-CB, Bob Roback-BR) with one remaining over Adobe Ck. through 3 Jun (PB). An unidentified **Albatross** was spotted flying over Atherton on 1 May but disappeared from view before it could be examined with binoculars (Peter Metropulos *vide* Joe Morlan). Previous albatross records within the Bay have been of ship-assisted Laysan Albatrosses that ride into ports such as Alameda's. This sighting is probably as far down the Bay as one has ever been. **Brown Pelicans** returned early to Charleston Slough with 1 on 29 May, 31 days ahead of the average arrival date for recent years (PB). This was followed by an unprecedented (for the date) 18 at Guadalupe Slough on 31 May (Paul Noble-PN). Pelicans were noted through 7 Jun, after which they appeared to retreat from the South Bay, only to return on 4 Jul with 7 at Charleston Slough (PB) and 153 there on 10 Jul (David Suddjian-DS). This was dwarfed by over 300 in the FCB on 17 Jul (James Yurchenco-JY, Amy Lauterbach-AL), the highest count ever reported in the county. All this parallels an early and big season for Brown Pelicans along the coast. Two **Am. White Pelicans** returned to Charleston Slough on 10 Jul (DS). One **Little Blue Heron** was at Alviso's Environmental Education Center on 8 May (Lee Lovelady, Steve Farone). Another, or the same, individual was at Charleston Slough on 14 Jun (Tibby Simons). Although extremely rare in the region, this species has been found in the county in 15 of the last 19 years. Single **Green-backed Herons** were reported at San Francisquito Ck. near 101 on 3 Jun (PN), over the Stanford Golf Course on 4 Jun (CB), and at Matadero Riparian on 7 Jun (DS). Are they breeding in the area or are these late migrants? **Canada Geese** are not often reported in the county in spring, so 2 at Crittenden Marsh on 10 May (PB) and 2 at Guadalupe Slough on 31 May (PN) are of interest. In addition, 1 at the Palo Alto Flood Control Basin (FCB) on 31 May was probably the same bird there on 6 & 7 Jun (PB, DS, Ed Laak, Paul Hawks-PH). The San Francisquito Ck. **Wood Duck** flock increased to 3 males, 3 females and 4 ducklings by 4 Jun, nesting for the second year (Betty Groce-BG). Nesting was also noted in Henry Coe SP on 29 Jun (JY, AL). Another female with young was at Loch Lomond in the Santa Cruz Mtns on 4 Jun (Mike Rothkopf). **Green-winged Teal** are rare in summer, so singles at Crittenden Marsh on 7 Jun (DS) and the Mountain View Forebay on 25 Jun (PN), along with 2 in the FCB on 4 Jul (PB, BG) are noteworthy. A pair of migrant **Blue-winged Teal** were seen in the FCB on 23 Apr (CB, BR) and again (same birds?) on 9 May (Peter LaTourrette-PLT). Summering Blue-wingeds were at the Forebay 27 Jun through at least 10 Jul, with a high count of 4 on 4 Jul (DS, PN, JY, AL). A female **Redhead** in the FCB on 19 Jul was interesting (DS). They have nested in the county previously. One **Greater Scaup** at Charleston Slough 7-15 Jun was unusual (CB, BR, DS). More expected, though still rare, were up to 5 **Lesser Scaup** in Charleston Slough and adjacent Adobe Ck 23 May-4 Jul (PB, PN, DS). A male and female on 4 July were seen in courtship

flight, and on 20 Jul a female and 1 duckling were found in the outer FCB (PB). This is at least the 4th time this species has bred in the county. One imm. male **Surf Scoter** on Shoreline Lk. 1 Jun - 10 Jul seems to have an injured wing, and may be the same bird that summered last year (PN, DS). One **White-winged Scoter** near the Dumbarton Bridge on 7 Jun was quite rare for the season (CB, BR). Three pairs of **Common Mergansers** were found at different sites E. of Mt. Hamilton on 23 Apr (CB, BR). Nesting was not noted at those sites, but on 29 Jun a female with 8 ducklings was found in Henry Coe SP for the first county breeding record (JY, AL). One **Osprey** was over Skyline Ranch OSP on 10 May (Jack Cole-JC) and another was at Jasper Ridge BP on 7 Jun (Bill Clark-BC). A few are expected each spring and fall, though the latter date is later than most. An adult **Sharp-shinned Hawk** was at Palo Alto's Foothills Park on 15 Jun (DS). This species is very rare in the county during the breeding season. Single **Golden Eagles** were over Ewing Hill above Duveneck Ranch on 26 Apr (JY, AL) and over Stanford on 4 Jun (BG). **Virginia Rails** were present at Monte Bello OSP through at least 29 Jun, with a high count of 4 calling on 16 May (DS, PN). They probably bred there this year. Singles in the Forebay on 7 Jun and the FCB on 10 Jul were more unusual (DS). Rarer still was a **Sora** in the forebay 7 Jun (DS). Northbound **Greater Yellowlegs** were last seen on 7 Jun in Adobe Ck. (DS), while southbound birds returned there on 4 Jul (PN). In past springs **Lesser Yellowlegs** have usually gone unreported in the county. This year things were different. One was in the Palo Alto I.T.&T. Fields on 17 Apr (PB, Ginny Bechinne), another was found at Charleston Slough on 29 May (PB, BG) and 2 were in Adobe Ck. on 6 Jun (PH). A breeding-plumaged **Solitary Sandpiper** in a flood control channel near Marriott's Great America 30 Apr - 1 May was an exciting find, providing the 3rd county record (Bruce Barrett). One **Whimbrel** in the FCB 20 Jun - 4 July is the only overwintering record in the county notebooks (PB), while 12 at Charleston Slough on 27 Jun were undoubtedly early southbound migrants (JY AL). Two Albino **Dowitchers** surprised observers at Charleston Slough 22 - 31 May. The birds were variously reported as Long-billed and Short-billed, and were noted associating with both species. They later moved to Adobe Ck. through 15 Jun, and 1 was still present in the Forebay through 10 Jul (JY, AL, PN, PB, DS, Ph, Lynn Tennefoss, Ed Gustafson). Did anyone identify their call? 1st summer-plumaged **Glaucous-winged Gulls** in the Charleston Slough area on 7 & 27 Jul were rare, but the expected age (DS, CB, BR, PN). One adult in the forebay on 29 Jun and a 3rd year bird at Charleston Slough on 13 Jul were more unusual (PB). A pair of **Nor. Pygmy-Owls** probably bred at Monte Bello OSP, where they were found on 7 & 29 Jun, and were heard duetting on the latter date (PN). **Nor. Saw-whet Owls** may have also bred at Monte Bello, with singles heard on 7 & 29 Jun (PN). One **Nighthawk Sp** was seen flying over Gilroy Hot Springs Rd. on 26 Apr (JC). The Lesser Nighthawk would not be the expected species, but all recent reports have been on Nighthawk Sp. A **Common Poorwill** on Ewing Hill on 7 Jun (CB, BR) was the only one reported. Skyline Ranch OSP was the spot for swifts this year. Pairs of the rare **Black Swift** were found there on 10 May (JC) and 29 May (PN). 2-3 **Vaux's Swifts** were present 24-29 May and 29 Jun, with 1 there on 13 Jul (all PN). This species has bred at least as close as Saratoga, but not since 1962. Did they breed at Skyline Ranch this year? A **Western Kingbird** in good habitat at Russian Ridge OSP on 29 Jun was enticing (PN). One **Purple Martin** over Skyline Ranch OSP on 26 May was the only one reported (PN). One **Red-breasted**

OBITUARY

Nuthatch near Skyline Ranch OSP on 7 Jun was quite rare. They breed in small numbers south and west of Skyline Ranch. While doing some geological work at Kaiser Permanente Quarry above Cupertino on 2-4 Jun Clark Blake found up to 6 **Rock Wrens**. This may be one of the only populations in the Santa Cruz Mtns. The quarry is closed to the public. One **Varied Thrush** reported near a feeder along Old La Honda Rd. on 7 Jun (Jennifer Green fide CB), and another near La Honda on 27 Jun (CB) were both extremely rare. The wintering population usually departs by early April, so these birds were either very late or summering. The nearest breeding areas are in Humboldt Co. One **Phainopepla** was found in Jasper Ridge BP on 14 May (David Regnery fide BC) and another, or the same was there on 17 May (Carol Zabel fide CB). Last August an adult with 4 juveniles was found nearby. Are we looking at the beginning of a range expansion? Three **Cedar Waxwings** in Menlo Park on 7 Jun were the last reported (DS). One **Nashville Warbler** was in Palo Alto on 4 May (Tom Olsen - TO), where rare, while 6 E. of Mt. Hamilton on 23 Apr are typical numbers for migrants in the inner coast ranges (CB, BR). This spring's Eastern vagrant was a singing **Chestnut-sided Warbler** found in Atherton for the Breeding Bird Count on 7 Jun (DS). Well-planted suburbs such as these are a good place to search for such birds. A **Yellow-rumped Warbler** on territory near Skyline Ranch OSP through at least 7 Jun indicated possible breeding (PN, DS). One **Townsend's Warbler** in Menlo Park on 7 Jun was a late migrant (DS). Of 13 **Hermit Warblers** reported from 23 Apr - 18 May, 12 were in the Mt. Hamilton range and 1 was in the Santa Cruz Mtns. - a typical split (CB, BR, JY, AL, JC, DS). Two **MacGillivray's Warblers** returned to Langley Hill Rd. by 2 May (DS, PN, M.OB.). A pair of **Western Tanagers** was nest-building at Skyline Ranch OSP on 24 May (PN), and males in Foothills Park on 15 Jun (DS) and Steven's Ck. CP on 27 Jun (Carl Beck-CBe, Holly Wilkens-HW) may indicate down-mountain breeding sites. Four singing **Rufous-crowned Sparrows** in Monte Bello on 29 Jun was a good count (PN). At least 2 others were at Kaiser Permanente Quarry on 4 Jun (CB) and 1 was along Old La Honda Rd. on 7 Jun (PN). Two **Black-chinned Sparrows** returned to Monte Bello OSP by 26 May (TO), and were found again on 7 Jun (Jeanne Jones). One at Alpine X Skyline Blvd. was in an unusual spot (PLT fide CB). One **Sage Sparrow** in Alum Rock CP on 8 May was in an area where they haven't been reported before (JC). **Grasshopper Sparrows** seemed a bit scarce this year though 1 was reported from Russian Ridge OSP 10 May - 7 Jun (TO, JC, PN), with 2 immatures there on 21 Jun (Christine Wolfe). Most interesting were 2 observed gathering nest materials near S.L.A.C. on 7 Jun (Karen Krieger, CBe, HW, Sara Bulter). This is an unusually low elevation for this species in our area. Two **Lawrence's Goldfinches** were at Smith's Ck. on 23 Apr (CB, BR).

Other shorebird arrivals: **Semipalmated Plover** - 20 Jul, Forebay (PB); **Willet** - 20 Jun, FCB, early (PB); **Long-billed Curlew** - 30 Jun, P.A. Yacht Harbor (PN); **Marbled Godwit** - 29 Jun, FCB (PB); **Western Sandpiper** - 10 Jul, Charleston Slough (DS); **Least Sandpiper** 6 Jul, Forebay (PB); **Short-billed Dowitcher** - 4 Jul, FCB (PB); **Long-billed Dowitcher** 10 Jul, Charleston Slough, early (DS); **Wilson's Phalarope** - 10 Jul, Mallard Salt Pond (DS); **Red-necked Phalarope** - 10 Jul, Mallard Salt Pond (DS).

If you see an uncommon to rare species please write or call David Suddjian at 1136 Callas Ln, #1, Capitola, CA 95010 (408)479-9603.

On July 4, Gary McCurdy died suddenly of heart failure. Gary had been doing some outstanding illustrations for the *Avocet* and, just before he died, had had his design of a flying avocet chosen for SCVAS's new enamel pin.

Those who met Gary know that he loved all of nature as much as he loved birds, and that he loved common birds just as much as the rarities. We first met Gary when he called to report his sighting of two Summer Tanagers at Vasona Creek. He showed the tanagers to many people and did an exquisite drawing of them which appeared in the *Avocet*. But, in describing the birding at Vasona Creek, he was as enthusiastic about the Black Phoebes as he was about the tanagers. He had a fresh, exuberant approach to birds that made him a joy to be with.

At the time of his death Gary was working on illustrations for a book on Bay Area birding by Pete Allen. We don't yet know whether the book will be published with the illustrations he had completed, or whether his drawings will be published separately. But we will publish that information when we get it.

We will miss him very much.

- Susan J. McCarthy



TRAVEL ARTICLES REQUESTED

Please send any comments or suggestions, about pleasant discoveries or problems that you have encountered on any of your birding travels, to the Editor or to the SCVAS Office. We would like to publish them!

NEW PHONE NUMBER

The new phone number for the Northern California Rare Bird Alert (operated by Golden Gate Audubon Society) is: (415)528-0288.

A FIELD GUIDE TO AMERICAN BIRDERS

1. **BACK-WINDOW BIRDER:**
Looks out window at the cute sparrow; owns no field glasses.
Thinks all LBBJ's* are one species.
Owns no bird books.
Never heard of *Turdus migratorius*.
Never heard of Yellow-rumped Warblers.
Never heard of Roger Tory Peterson; idolizes no one.
2. **BACK-YARD BIRDER:**
Has feeder in back yard, watches it regularly, borrows friend's field glasses.
Knows LBBJ's aren't all same species, but doesn't care why.
Owns a Peterson's East, West or Texas guide.
Thinks *Turdus migratorius* is a dirty word.
Has seen Audubon warblers, but not Yellow-rumped.
Knows Roger Tory Peterson wrote a book; idolizes James Audubon.
3. **HOBBYIST BIRDER:**
Goes on local field trips, owns field glasses, joins Audubon.
Can differentiate a few LBBJ's; curses at the rest.
Owns Peterson, North American and Audubon bird books.
Makes jokes about *Turdus migratorius*.
Makes jokes about "butter butts".
Idolizes Roger Tory Peterson.
4. **ACTIVIST BIRDER:**
Goes on out-of-state trips, keeps life list, joins Christmas counts.
Can identify most LBBJ's, curses a whole lot at the rest.
Has a shelf full of bird books, reads American Birds.
Knows why it's called a *Turdus migratorius*.
Refuses to extend diplomatic recognition to Yellow-rumped Warblers.
Has seen Roger Tory Peterson at conferences; idolizes Jim Lane.
5. **ACE BIRDER:**
Has birded 2-3 foreign countries, owns spotter scope, organizes Xmas bird counts.
Infuriates friends by identifying LBBJ's by call.
Has a bookcase full of birding books, subscribes to American Birds.
Knows lots of impressive scientific names besides *Turdus migratorius*.
Defends A.O.U. in the case of Yellow-rumped Warblers vs. The People.
Has talked with Roger Tory Peterson; idolizes the A.O.U.
6. **SUPERSTAR BIRDER:**
Flies 500 miles to see strays, doesn't need a spotter scope, criticizes accuracy of Xmas bird counts.
Has convinced the A.O.U. that all LBBJ's are one species.
Writes birding books, contributes to American Birds.
Tells colleagues it should be called *Turdus rubripectus*.
Wants to combine Yellow-rumped Warblers with Cal. Condors and Adelie Penguins.
Argues with Roger Tory Peterson but has an acknowledgement in his preface; idolizes no one.
*Little Bitty Brown Jobbers
- Phil Pryde (about a No. 4)
San Diego Audubon Society

THE 1986 WILDLIFE REPORT

The Audubon Wildlife Report 1986, second in an annual series, features the U.S. Forest Service in a lead chapter that could stand alone as a complete book, the announcement says. A comprehensive guide to wildlife management, the 1,000-page book continues the 1985 volume's in-depth coverage of such topics as marine mammal and endangered species management, wetlands protection and migratory bird conservation. Information on federal agencies, including the Bureau of Land Management and the National Park Service, is updated and expanded.

The 1986 edition includes new chapters on the federal role in international wildlife conservation and marine fisheries management and an analysis of a subject new to the report, state wildlife management. Twenty-three chapters are devoted to individual species such as the Whooping Crane, lynx, wolf, Loggerhead Shrike, Common Loon and Knowlton cactus.

To order, send \$34.95 plus \$2.50 for mailing (make check payable to NAS) National Audubon Society, 930 Third Ave., New York, NY 10022.



UPDATE ON MILE HI RANCH

Starting October 1, 1986 reservations will be required for daytime visits to Mile Hi/Ramsay Canyon, Arizona on Saturdays, Sundays and federal holidays. Visitors should be aware that daytime visits are restricted to the hours between 8 am and 5 pm all year long. Reservations can be made by calling (602)378-2785. No reservations are required weekdays. In view of the fact that Mile Hi is approximately 1000 miles from the Bay Area, Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society members may want to plan carefully before going.

- Joe Wissel

SCVAS FINANCIAL STATEMENT 1985 - 86

INCOME	
Investment	\$29,915.00
Dues	22,585.00
AVOCET Subscriptions	730.00
Christmas Bird Count	402.00
Gifts, Memorials	657.00
Photo Show	488.00
Field Trips	93.00
Bird Carving Class	330.00
Misc.	406.00
Sales, Net	3,323.00
TOTAL INCOME	\$58,929.00

EXPENSES	
Administrative	\$31,311.00
Newsletter	11,840.00
Environmental Action	3,674.00
Field Trip	185.00
Education	2,321.00
Entertainment	832.00
Grants	5,309.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$55,472.00
Net Income Reinvested	\$ 3,457.00

BALANCE SHEET

May 31, 1986

ASSETS:

Receivables	\$ 506.25
Cash	4,330.19
Investments	238,945.45
TOTAL ASSETS	\$243,781.89

LIABILITIES AND SURPLUS:

Accrued Expenses	\$ 3,960.35
Surplus Reserved for	
Long Term Program Support	220,000.00
Surplus Not Reserved	19,821.54
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND SURPLUS	\$243,781.89

For more information, please call the SCVAS office.

PEOPLE FOR OPEN SPACE

... is having its annual conference on The Greenbelt's Public Land: the Next 20 Years. Featured speaker is Paul Pritchard, President of the National Parks and Conservation Association and on the Senior Advisory Commission of the President's Commission on the American Outdoors.

The conference will meet on September 27, from 9-5, at the Clark Kerr Conference Center on the U.S. Berkeley campus.

The \$18.00 Conference fee includes lunch, wine reception, film screening of the premier showing of "Treasures of the Green Belt" and workshops throughout the day. Participants will receive the final report on the conference and summary of the new inventory of the region's publicly owned open lands.

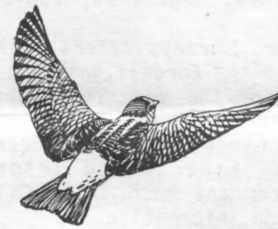
To register or for more information write "People for Open Spaces", 512 2nd St., SF 94107 or call 543-4291 and speak to Wendy Pulling or Judy Kunofsky.

STATE PARK SYSTEM NEEDS YOUR HELP

The California State Park System has been growing in acreage and visitor attendance while the number of staff members to care for these increases has remained almost constant since 1977. The System is suffering from a serious lack of staffing to adequately care for the precious habitat and historical resources that the parks were originally intended to preserve. The world's finest State Park System urgently needs your help. Please write Governor Deukmejian today and ask him to include necessary staff increases in the 1987-87 budget. Governor Deukmejian, State Capitol, Sacramento, CA 95814.

BANK SWALLOW OBSERVATIONS

The California Department of Fish and Game is initiating a survey of Bank Swallow (*Riparia riparia*) nesting ecology in California. We need data on Bank Swallow nesting colonies for an analysis of current and historical statewide distribution. Please submit information on colony location as precisely as possible (include map if possible), date, colony size (number of burrows and birds), historical swallow use if possible, current and historical land use practices, and any other pertinent information. Please include your name, address, and phone number. Send information to Joan Humphrey, 733 M St., Davis, CA 95616, (916)756-9531.



NEW BOOKS IN LIBRARY

We have quite a few new site guides in the library, just in time to guide your trips east for the fall migration!

New Jersey Field Trip Guide, by Summit Nature Club, 1979. An excellent guide to birding spots all over New Jersey. Good, clear maps and directions.

Birding the Delaware Valley Region, by John & Justin Harding, 1980. A comprehensive guide to birdwatching in Southeastern Pennsylvania, Central and Southern New Jersey, and Northcentral Delaware.

Finding Birds in the National Capitol Area, by Claudia Wilds, 1983. Good drawings, lots of sites, an outgrowth from a series of articles prepared for "Audubon Naturalist News", newsletter of Audubon Naturalist Society of the Central Atlantic States.

A Birdfinding Guide to Canada, edited by J.C. Finlay, 1984. Includes sites and special birds to see in each province and territory, including major cities; national, provincial and municipal parks; and sites in the high Arctic.

Sonoran Desert Spring, by John Alcock, 1985. Natural history of the Desert's plants, insects, animals and birds.

Handbook of North American Birds, Vol. 1, 2& 3, (Loons-Flamingo, Waterfowl Parts 1&2), edited by Palmer. A tremendous resource set, sponsored by the American Ornithologists' Union.

Staff	Lynn Tennefoss (days)	415/329-1811	DIRECTORS (1985-88)	Library	Myra Hodgson	415/326-3641
President	Judy McEuen	408/251-3086	Karen Ingels	Field Trips	Vicki Silvas-Young	408/293-7124
1st Vice Pres.	Dave Johnston	408/867-7278	Phil LaRiviere		Dolores Norton	415/941-1666
2nd Vice Pres	Barbara Hamblton	408/446-3645	Don Price		Linda Hagelin	408/867-3046
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Rec. Sec'y	Courtenay Dawson-Roberts		Jim Anderson	Aud. Adventures	Elaine Gould	408/448-0622
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			Cheeseman	Photo Club	Pete LaTourrette	415/961-2741
			Deborah Manley			

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 TRIPS AND EVENTS

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

Doug and Gail Cheeseman's trips, led by them and by other experts, take people to rare areas of the world where plants and animals have special problems of conservation, as well as holding great appeal for travelers. They have space on the Kenya Safari, June 19-July 11, 1987; Brazil Natural History, June 26-July 25, 1987; Galapagos Island Photo Safari, June 21-July 4, 1987; Galapagos, Peruvian Amazon & Andes: Queensland, Australia and Papua New Guinea, Aug. 8-29, 1987. Reach them at (408)867-1371.

Shearwater Journeys offers pelagic trips from Monterey Bay to the Cordell Bank and beyond. Fall is the peak time of the year for seabirds and during September there will be trips to the Monterey Seavalleys, Monterey Bay, San Juan Seamount and Cordell Bank. Experienced leaders and Debra Shearwater accompany each trip. Call (408)688-1990 for schedule and information.

Sequoia Adult School will offer two classes of interest to birders. Birds at home and in the field. For beginning/intermediate birders. The fall quarter of this year-long course will focus on water birds. Bird behavior and habitat preference as well as identification will be covered in the ten slide lectures and five Sunday field trips. Classes will be held at the San Carlos Senior Center, 7:30 pm - 9:30 pm, starting Wednesday, Sept. 10. Fee is \$40. Bird Study for serious bird watchers. This year-long course will blend identification and avian biology, focusing on birds found in California. The fall quarter will highlight birds in migration. Ten slide lectures and five Saturday field trips. Classes will be held at Menlo-Atherton High School, Rm. C-6, 7:30 pm - 9:30 pm, starting Monday, Sept. 8. Fee is \$40. The instructor will be Maryann Danielson. Registration is made at the first class. For further information, call (415)369-6809.

Fremont Adult School is offering a Birds of the Coast Field Trip as well as Tuesday and Wednesday Birding Field Trips classes, led by Alice Hoch starting in September. Call 791-5841 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