



## The Avocet

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

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### 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 April: Mary Lou Burgin (408)253-7115.

- Apr. 1 **Bay Area Bird Photographers Meeting.** Wednesday, 7:30 pm at the Baylands. Guest speaker, Gordon Sherman, with talk titled "How Does He Get So Close?" Co-sponsored by the City of Palo Alto.
- Apr. 4 **Coyote Lake County Park.** Saturday, 8:30 am, half day or longer if group desires. Take Hwy 101 S to Leavesley Rd. N of Gilroy. Exit E on Leavesley and meet at Denny's parking lot on left. Possible Park entrance fee. Highlights: Possible Common Mergansers, Early Warblers, Rufous-Crowned Sparrow & Wild Turkey. Leader: Jean-Marie Spoelman (415)797-0265.
- Apr. 6 **Bird Seed Sale Order Deadline.** (See article inside.)
- Apr. 8 **Field Trip South.** Wednesday, 8:30 am. Deer Hollow Farm. Exit off I-280 at Foothill Expy. Go one block S to Cristo Rey Drive and turn right. Go W on Cristo Rey almost one mile to Rancho San Antonio County Park sign. Go through gate to last parking lot. Leader: Frank Farran (408)252-3874.
- Apr. 11 **Pinnacles National Monument.** Saturday, 8:30 am, full day. Meet at Choame parking lot on E side of Monument. From San Jose take Hwy 101 S to Hwy 25; left on Hwy 25. Go approx. 40 mis S to Hwy 146; right on Hwy 146 to Monument. About 4 mis. easy walking. Entrance fee. Leader: Phyllis Swanson (408)274-2349.
- Apr. 14 **Bird Discussion Group.** Tuesday, 9:30 am at the home of Eve Case, 20537 Verde Vista Lane, Saratoga, (408)867-4748. Topic: Petrels.
- Apr. 15 **General Meeting.** Refreshments at 7:30 pm, program at 8 pm. Palo Alto Cultural Center, corner Newell and Embarcadero. Doug Cheeseman, professor of Zoology-Ecology at DeAnza College and SCVAS member, presents a program emphasizing animal behavior with slides of the mammals of East Africa. He will discuss cheetah, leopard, lions, wildebeest, topi, gazelles, elephants, rhinos and more.
- Apr. 18 **Stevens Creek Park** Saturday, 8:30 am, half day. Met at the parking lot below the dam. From Hwy 280 take Foothill Blvd. exit S which becomes Stevens Canyon Rd. Proceed past dam to bottom of hill and turn left into parking lot. Bring lunch. Emphasis on birding by sound. Leader: Frank Farran (408)252-3874.
- Apr. 22 **Coal Mine Ridge.** Wednesday, 8:30 am, half day. Take Hwy 280 to Alpine, S about 3.2 miles to stop at Portola Rd. Continue on Alpine .9 miles to parking on right just before Willowbrook. Bluebirds, vireos, warblers, views. Leader: Phil Hand (415)854-2623.
- Apr. 25 **Durham Ferry/Caswell State Park.** Saturday, 7 am, full day. Take I-680 N to Mission Blvd. (Hwy 238). Meet at the Shell Station at the intersection. Fill gas tank. Highlights: possible Blue Grosbeak, Swainson's Hawk. Park entrance fee. Leader: Grant Hoyt (415)969-7892.
- Apr. 26 **Searsville/Jasper Ridge.** Sunday, 8:30 am, half day. Meet at Stanford University Jasper Ridge MAIN gate (not Whiskey Hill Gate). Gate will be unlocked from 8:15 to 8:40 am. Please be prompt. From I-280, go W on Sand Hill Rd. about 2 miles to gate on left. Limited to 40 persons. \$2 gate fee. RESERVATIONS REQUIRED! Call Bill Clark (415)326-7567. Leaders: Bill Clark, Bill Kirsher, Bob Buell.

Field Trip Coordinator for May: Betty Groce (415)326-5540.

- May 1-2 **Bird Seed Sale Pickup.** (See article inside.)
- May 2 **Elkhorn Slough Boat Trip.** Saturday, 9 am. Meet at Marine Lab in Moss Landing for 3-hour boat trip. Limited to 14 persons. Bring lunch. Cost: \$8. Call Gail Cheeseman for RESERVATIONS. (408)867-1371. Call Gail by 7 am if raining. Take Hwy 1 S to Moss Landing. Turn right on Potrero Rd; go past Marina over bridge to Lab. Leader: Bernadette Ramer.
- May 10 **Carmel Valley/Chew's Ridge.** Sunday, 7:30 am, full day. Meet at intersection of Carmel Valley Rd. and Robinson Canyon Rd. Take Hwy 101 S to Hwy 156 E to Hwy 1 S to Carmel Valley Rd. in Carmel. Turn left onto Carmel Valley Rd. and go 6.9 miles to meeting place. Have full tank of gas and BE PROMPT! Specialties: possible Mountain Quail, Dusky Flycatcher. Leader: David Suddjian (408)479-9603.

## FIELD NOTES - Bill Bousman

The San Francisco Bay Bird Observatory (SFBBO) newsletter has instituted a new feature with the curious title of "Field Notes". In their first offering were the breeding records for Canada Geese from last spring. This includes a pair with young in Artesian Slough for a first county record, a pair with young at Coyote Hills, five pairs with young on Alameda Creek, and multiple pairs with 100 young on Lake Elizabeth in Fremont. Where do these birds come from? From an examination of the literature it appears that if you want to start an argument in the ornithological word the easiest way is to discuss subspecies of Canada Geese, where they breed, and where they winter. Palmer in the Handbook of North American Birds suggests that the subspecies that naturally winter in California are the Cackling, Aleutian, Lesser, and, perhaps, the Giant Canada Goose. These are, of course, the subspecies that we find wintering on Crystal Springs and Calaveras reservoirs in the winter. None of these subspecies have nested in California except in the far northeastern corner which is the edge of the natural breeding range of the Giant Canada Goose. With the advent of waterfowl management some subspecies have been transplanted to other areas and curiously enough once transplanted they may become sedentary and cease to migrate. Palmer states that both the Interior and Giant subspecies have been used in transplantations, although he believes far more of the latter have been used for this purpose. So where do our local nesting birds come from? The most likely explanation is that they are introduced birds, and probably come from stock that was originally transplanted to many places along the East Coast. If this is so we should be seeing more records away from the reservoirs in the winter and more local breeding records.

A small number of **American White Pelicans** have remained in the South Bay. Fifteen were at Charleston Slough on 14 Feb (Bill Bousman-WGB). The previous late record based on six years of census data for that location is the second week in December. It seems likely that these birds are over-summering, if you don't mind the use of that word to describe February. **Canada Goose** records away from their usual spots were six in the bay off Palo Alto on 17 Jan (Galen Chaney fide Paul Noble-PLN), two at Charleston Slough 14 Feb (WGB), and seven on Lake Cunningham 15 Feb (Grant Hoyt-GH). At least one **Eurasian Wigeon** has been in the vicinity of the outer Palo Alto FCB and Charleston Slough with sightings 3 Feb (April Sapsford), 14 Feb (Don Starks et al.), and 16 Feb (WGB). Eleven **Redhead** in the Palo Alto FCB 14 Feb (WGB) indicate they are still hanging around in reasonable numbers. A west side **Golden Eagle** was at Shoreline Park 4 Feb (Mark Sapsford). Continued sightings of **Merlin** include a probable **suckleyi** - the dark race in Menlo Park and a **columbarius** on the Stanford Campus, both 1 Feb

### NATURE GUIDE UPDATE PLANNED

Have you ever visited another community and wished you'd had a local naturalist to show you around? The Nature Guide is just that - a registry of naturalists who are proud to share their local wildlife with travelers. The latest edition of Nature Guide is currently being prepared. For more information, or to make suggestions for inclusion in the Guide (maybe yourself!), contact Clara Strode, 5535 Francis, Tacoma, WA 98422.

- From Earthcare Northwest  
Seattle Audubon Society

(Carl Beck-CB). **Prairie Falcons** at Joseph Grant CP 8 Feb (CB) and Mission Peak Regional Preserve 15 Feb (James Yurchenco-JY, Amy Lauterbach-AL) were in their expected habitats. Both **Virginia Rail** and **Sora** were found in the marsh near the old barn at Joseph Grant CP 15 Feb (GH). The status of these uncommon rails is not well known away from the heavily birded northwest corner of the county. A **Lesser Yellowlegs** was observed in Alviso Slough 7 Feb (Paul Hawkes) for one of our few February records. A **Spotted Sandpiper** on Coyote Creek, south of Metcalf Rd, 22 Feb (Jack Cole-JC) was in an area where they probably winter. A pair of **Long-eared Owls** was observed in Monte Bello OSP 15 Feb (PLN) Copulation at an apparent nest sight was seen and is the first evidence of breeding for this rare species since the early 1950's. An adult male **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** observed in Palo Alto 22 Feb represents the first County record of this very rare sapsucker (Alberta Jasberg-AJ). It came to a lombardi poplar used regularly by **Red-breasted Sapsuckers**. The throat and forecrown were red, but no red was on the nape. A **Red-breasted Nuthatch** has been seen in the same area 22 Feb-1 Mar (AJ). At least one **House Wren** was observed at Ed Levin CP 1 Mar (GH). One was found in this area in December, and the bird reported this month was likely the same one, although there are some early migrant records for March from the Wool Ranch. An **American Dipper** was found in Alum Rock Park 8 Feb (CB) where they are regular in the winter. A **Wilson's Warbler** along Coyote Creek south of Metcalf Rd 22 Feb (JC) was probably a wintering bird. The first birds recorded on the Wool Ranch arrived a month later. **Lawrence's Goldfinches** are particularly scarce in winter, so six along Mines Road in the county 22 Feb (GH, Milt Siebert, et al) were an interesting find. Our **Evening Grosbeak** winter continues with birds over Los Altos 26 Jan (12), 4 Feb (1), and 7 Feb (7); all PLN. The 13 records this winter far exceed any recent winter. Most of the birds have been found in residential areas from Los Altos to Menlo Park. Early arriving birds were 2 **Violet-green Swallows** in San Antonio Valley 22 Feb (GH et al).

If you see an "uncommon to rare" or spot early arrivals and migrants please drop a note or call: Bill Bousman, 321 Arlington Way, Menlo Park, CA 94025 (415/322-5282).

### CALIFORNIA WILDLIFE, COASTAL AND PARK LAND CONSERVATION ACT

Watch soon for news about this proposed bond act. SCVAS will be asking you to help gather signatures to place on the ballot in 1988, a bond act to purchase habitat, park and coastal lands. Money will be included to purchase critical Bay wetlands, and San Mateo coastal park land. For more information, or if you would like to help Board members organize the signature-gathering campaign, please call Lynn at the office, (415)329-1811. YOUR ASSISTANCE IS NEEDED!

### CHECKOFF FOR NATIVES

We as taxpayers have an opportunity to help save some of the 252 species of native plants and animals endangered in California - by using Line 90 on the California income tax form. More species of plants and animals are at risk of becoming extinct in California than in any other state - yet Californians have given less to the checkoff than residents of most of the other states with checkoff programs. Show your support and use Line 90!

## CHAPTER ELECTIONS

SCVAS members present at the May 20 General Meeting will vote on the following nominated officers and directors for 1987-88:

**PRESIDENT - Judy McEuen**, SCVAS President 1986-87, 1st Vice. Pres. 1984-86, Grants Committee 1982-87, Bird watcher and world traveler. Works as dental hygienist.

**FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT - Dave Johnston**, SCVAS 1st Vice Pres 1986-87, 2nd Vice Pres. 1985-86, Director 1982-85. Director of Youth Science Institute.

**SECOND VICE PRESIDENT - Barbara Hamblton**, SCVAS 2nd Vice Pres. 1986-87, Director 1984-86, Environmental Action Committee Chair. Supervisor, Customer Relations, Atari Computer.

**TREASURER - Jules Resnick**, SCVAS Treasurer 1986-87, birdwatcher, enjoys nature photography and camping. Programmer/Analyst at Stanford University.

**RECORDING SECRETARY - Courtenay Jackson**, SCVAS Recording Secretary 1984-87, Director 1981-84. Environmental educator and conservation activist. Works at The Nature Company.

### DIRECTOR FOR ONE YEAR (1987-88)

**Theresa Spinler** - SCVAS member, active birder, SCVAS KTEH phonathon volunteer, volunteer gift giving coordinator for KQED, member of Soroptimist International and Respite.

### DIRECTORS FOR THREE YEARS (1987-90)

**Grant Hoyt** - SCVAS CBC Section Leader 1985-87, Field Trip Committee Member and trip leader, active birdwatcher. Research assistant in cardiac transplantation at Stanford.

**Trish Mulvey** - SCVAS Director 1986-87, active member of Environmental Action Committee, member of Citizens Committee to Complete the Refuge, strong interests in wetlands and water policy. Marketing staff manager with AT&T.

**Chris Wolfe** - SCVAS CBC participant, active SCVAS member and birdwatcher for seven years. Benefits administrator.

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

## MOUNTAIN LIONS THREATENED WITH HUNTING PLAN

The Fish and Game Commission is considering a proposal by the Dept. of Fish and Game to allow mountain lions to be hunted for the first time in 15 years. The Dept. has no exact population data on the number of lions in the state, and such action cannot predictably reduce livestock domestic animal or wildlife species depredation, nor can it guarantee public safety.

Overwhelming public opposition to the Department's recommendation is needed to protect this majestic animal. Hearing attendance and letters of opposition are urgently requested. The April 10 hearing will be held at 9 am in Sacramento, at the Resources Bldg. Auditorium, 1416 9th Street. Letters should be sent to: Calif. Fish & Game Commission, 1416 9th ST., Sacramento, CA 95814 and to Gov. George Deukmejian, State Capitol, Sacramento, CA 95814.

In addition, Assemblyman Tom Bates (D-Oakland) has introduced AB 467, to give Mountain Lions specially protected status and not allow their hunting. If you support his bill, please let him know by writing him at 1414 Walnut St., Berkeley, CA 94709, and also let your local state legislator know that you want to see the bill passed. Please call SCVAS office for more information.

## LAST CALL FOR BIRD SEED

If you hurry, you can still order bird seed in our Spring sale. This is a pre-paid sale. Your order, including a check payable to SCVAS, must be received by MONDAY, April 6. ALL ORDERS MUST BE PICKED UP FROM THE PENINSULA CONSERVATION CENTER, 2253 PARK BLVD., PALO ALTO on either Friday, May 1 between noon and 6 p.m. or Saturday, May 2 between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. Please send your order, with your name, address and phone number, and a check to SCVAS, 415 Cambridge, #21, Palo Alto, CA 94306.

### BIRD SEED SALE ORDER FORM SPRING 1987

	# Bags	Cost
Premium Seed 20 lb @ \$ 7/bag		
" " 50 lb @ \$15/bag		
Western Wild 20 lb @ \$ 6/bag		
" " 50 lb @ \$13/bag		
Black Oil Sun. 20 lb @ \$12/bag		
" " 50 lb @ \$27/bag		
Striped Sun. 20 lb @ \$15/bag		
" " 50 lb @ \$34/bag		
Thistle 5 lb @ \$10/bag		
" " 20 lb @ \$35/bag		
Subtotal		
Add 7% Tax		
Total		

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

PLEASE RETURN THIS ORDER TO THE SCVAS OFFICE BY MONDAY, APRIL 6.

SCVAS, 415 CAMBRIDGE, #21, PALO ALTO, CA 94306

## NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY BIENNIAL CONVENTION August 24-28, 1987

It's not too early to begin making plans for summer and including the National Audubon Convention in your travels.

Auduboners from around the nation will converge on the campus of Western Washington University in Bellingham, Washington this August. The program will include speakers, workshops, entertainment, and a variety of field trips to the scenic areas of Puget Sound and the Pacific Northwest.

Registration forms and additional information will soon be sent to members. For more information, contact the Western Regional Office, 555 Audubon Place, Sacramento, CA 95825, (916)481-5332 or Richardson Bay Audubon Center, 376 Greenwood Beach Road, Tiburon, CA 94920, (415)388-2524.

			<b>DIRECTORS (1985-88)</b>					
Staff	Lynn Tennefoss (days)	415/329-1811			Library	Helen Shamble	408/984-2363	
President	Judy McEuen	408/251-3086	Neil Jackson	415/348-7917	Field trips	Betty Groce	415/326-5540	
1st Vice Pres.	Dave Johnston	408/867-7278	Don Price	415/327-1254		Dolores Norton	415/941-1666	
2nd Vice Pres.	Barbara Hambelton	408/446-3645				Linda Hagelin	408/867-3046	
Treasurer	Jules Resnick	415/961-8619	<b>DIRECTORS (1986-89)</b>		Membership			
Rec. Sec'y	Courtenay Jackson	415/348-7917	Jim Anderson	408/272-1159	Aud. Adventures	Elaine Gould	408/448-0622	
Past President	Kevin Monahan	408/425-7841	Jerry Vitenson	408/259-4663	Hospitality			
			Martha Esserlieu	415/487-1282	Environmental			
			<b>CHAIRPERSONS</b>		Action	Barbara Hambelton	408/446-3645	
<b>DIRECTORS (1984-87)</b>			Editor	Levona Sterngold	Christmas			
Deborah Manley		408/749-8126	Programs	Doug & Gail	Bird Count	Jim & Sue Liskovec	415/969-5542	
Mark McEuen		408/251-3086		Cheeseman	Grants	Donna Zetterquist	408/429-9716	
Trish Mulvey		415/326-0252	Education	Deborah Manley	Photo Club	Pete LaTourrette	415/961-2741	

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

National Audubon Society has set the schedule for Audubon Ecology Camps and Workshops for 1987. Brochures describing adult programs in ecology and natural history in Maine, Connecticut and Wyoming; youth ecology camp; field ornithology, nature photography, and wilderness research backpacking trips as well as an international ecology workshop in Trinidad, are available from the SCVA office. Call (415)329-1811 to have one sent to you.

Nature Sounds Society presents Andy Wiskes, professional sound recordist, discussing recording of ambient nature sounds with illustrations of digital sound recordings made in the Amazon rain forest, at 2 pm, Saturday, April 25, in the Oakland Museum Lecture Hall. NSS is also sponsoring its Third Annual Field Recording Workshop, June 13-21, at Yuba Pass, led by Greg Budney, Asst. Curator, Cornell Lab of Ornithology Library of Natural Sounds and other experts. For info, call Paul Matzner, (415) 273-3884.

Los Angeles Audubon Society will hold a Wildlife & Environmental Art Show from September 11-18. Entry deadline is July 15 for slides of all fine arts media, except sculpture and photography, in categories of landscape, seascape, animals, and birds. For info, contact K.R. Kindig, 603 South McCadden Place, L.A. 90005 or (213)931-6692.

Audubon Golden Trout Workshops will be held in the Sierra Aug. 2-22. An informal field natural history program consisting of naturalist-led hikes, sponsored by six Audubon chapters, the Camp is in the Golden Trout Wilderness. For details, write or call Cindi McKernan, 40 Sherril Lane, Redlands, CA 92373, (714)793-7897. Reservations should be made ASAP!

San Jose State University Continuing Education offers a variety of photographic workshops led by Carl Miescke, including a Tucson, Arizona trip, day at Monterey Aquarium and Sacramento River Cruise. For info, call the instructor at (408)243-6848 or SJSCE (408)277-2182.

Nature Explorations...Tuleyomne offers trip to Elkhorn Slough and Monterey Bay Aquarium on April 4, and Pt. Reyes Bird Watch led by David Wimpfheimer on April 16-17. For cost and info call (415)324-8737.

Planning and Conservation League Foundation is offering a spectacular 12 day cruise to Alaska from San Francisco Aug. 18-30. Purchase through PCL gives you a discount and a tax-deductible donation. For info, write PCLF Alaskan Cruise, 909 12th St., #203, Sacramento, CA 95814.

### SCVAS SPONSORS QUILTS

SCVAS has sponsored the showing of two special quilts at THE POWER OF CLOTH, Political Quilts 1845-1986, on display at the Euphrat Gallery, De Anza College, Cupertino from March 3 through April 19. Call Gallery, (408)996-4836 for hours. The Hudson River Quilt became an important educational tool in drawing attention to the serious pollution of the Hudson, and in raising money for the river's clean-up. The Mono Lake Quilt was coordinated by Helen Green of Golden Gate Audubon, and was made to dramatize the need to save Mono Lake, and to raise money for the cause. Twenty other quilts, expressing social and political issues of their day, are also exhibited in this unique show.

### 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, 415 Cambridge Avenue, Suite 21, Palo Alto, CA 94306. Membership includes AUDUBON magazine, the national publication, and the AVOCET. AVOCET subscriptions alone are \$6/year. Make checks payable to SCVAS. They are published monthly except July and August. Send all 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