



## The Avocet

1137g

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

Volume 34, Number 6

June 1987

### 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 June: Paul Noble (415)948-3876.

- June 3 **Bay Area Bird Photographer's meeting.** Wednesday, 7:30 pm at the Baylands (last meeting til Sept.). Member, Bill Ferguson, will speak on "Bird Photography without Blankets, Blinds or Boots." He will show slides from places around the world, primarily Australia, Europe and So. Africa.
- June 7 **Birdwalk for Beginners. Grant Ranch.** Sunday, 9 am, half day. Meet at Visitors Center. Take Hwy 280 E; turn right on Alum Rock Ave., turn right on Mt. Hamilton Rd. and follow to Park. Turn right into Park. So. County birders take Capitol Expy to Quincey Rd, turn right and follow to Mt. Hamilton Rd. junction. Turn right and go 1 mi to Park entrance. Park entrance fee: \$2. Specialties: Golden Eagle. Leader: Vicki Silvas-Young (408)293-7124.
- June 9 **Bird Discussion Group.** Tuesday, 9:30 am. Meet at the home of Eve Case, 20537 Verde Vista Lane, Saratoga, to car pool for birding at the home of Steve & Elwyn Dorman, 15086 Becky Lane, Los Gatos. Bring a sack lunch.
- June 10 **South County Field Trip, Neary Lagoon and Antonelli Pond, Santa Cruz.** Wednesday, 9 am. Meet in 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: Barb Scharfenstein (408)438-3727. Carpooling: call Gail Cheeseman (408)741-5330.
- June 13-14 **Robinson Flat, Tahoe Nat'l Forest.** Saturday & Sunday. Take I-80 to Auburn; 2 mis. past Auburn, exit onto Auburn-Foresthill Rd. At Foresthill, take Mosquito Ridge Rd. about 32 mis. to Robinson Flat Rd. At the intersection of Mosquito Ridge Rd. and Robinson Flat Rd. go left and proceed about 20 mis. to the campground. Meet at 6:00 am at the campground entrance on Saturday. Late comers meet there at 9:30 am. On Sunday, meet at the entrance a 6:00 am. We will bird on the way out after breakfast on Sunday. AAA Lake Tahoe map recommended. Closest motels in Auburn. Campground is in Nat'l Forest -- conditions are primitive, pit toilets and spring water. Camping fee. Call leader for details or questions. Anticipated specialties: Mtn. Warblers, Flycatchers, White headed Woodpeckers, Townsend's Solitaire, Finches, Grosbeaks, etc. Leader: Paul L. Noble (415)948-3876.
- June 17 **Annual Potluck Dinner.** Wednesday, 6 pm. All the details are inside.
- Aug. 16 **San Mateo County Coast.** Sunday, 9 am Sharp. Full day. Meet at Gazos Creek Coastal Access. Take Hwy 84 to Coast; go S on Hwy 1 to Access. Beginners welcome. Possible State Beach/Park fee. Specialties: Peak time of Shorebird Migration; some migrating pelagics, if weather is clear. PLEASE CALL LEADER WEEK BEFORE TRIP. Leader: Bill Bousman (415)322-5282.

FROM LYNN . . .

LAST AVOCET UNTIL SEPTEMBER

OFFICE CLOSED

The *Avocet* is not printed in July or August.  
Your next issue will be the September newsletter.

The Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society office  
will be closed for the month of July.



## SOUTH BAY WETLANDS LEGAL DEFENSE FUND

A new fund has been announced with a unique purpose. It will provide initial funds to local groups to pursue legal action to protect wetlands. This will free local activists to work with attorneys to put together legal cases; fundraising can then come later when the process is underway.

This fund was created with the court-awarded attorney fees from last summer's lawsuit of Citizens for Open Space in Alvarado (COSA). As is typical in these cases, the attorney's fees were paid by the developers rather than Union City. Because so many contributions to the lawsuit were made by boards and members of Bay Area conservation groups (including GGAS), COSA's executive committee decided to establish this fund with the court award. It is to function within the Citizens Committee to Complete the Refuge.

Use of funds must be approved by the Legal Fund's five member board which is organized to act quickly. Cases will be reviewed by environmental attorneys to determine merits of the suit and chance of success. When the fund is used it must be viewed as a loan to assure its continuance.

Tax deductible contributions to this fund are encouraged. It is expected to be an effective tool. Checks should be made payable to the Peninsula Conservation Center Foundation-Legal Fund, 453 Tennessee Lane, Palo Alto, CA 94306. Martha Esserlieu at (415)487-1282 can give further information about the fund.

- The Gull, Golden Gate Chapter

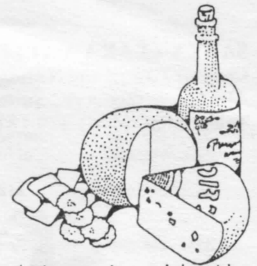
## PEN PAL WANTED

The SCVAS office has received a request from a senior citizen in Texas, who visits his family in this area, and would like to find a pen pal interested in corresponding about birds. He anticipates moving to the area sometime in the future, and would like to learn more about the local birds. If you are interested, please respond directly to: Walter McCollough, 2910 King Street, Houston, Texas 77026.

## PACIFIC FLYWAY

An exciting new publication is due this fall. Written by SCVAS member and Audubon contributing editor, Peter Steinhart, with photography by Tupper Ansel Blake, and partly underwritten by the National Audubon Society, Pacific Flyway will be released in September. Simultaneously, the California Academy of Sciences will be the starting place for a traveling exhibit on the Pacific Flyway, its value to the thousands of migratory waterfowl that use it, and threats to its continuing existence. Cal Academy's exhibit will feature not only stunning photographs by Blake, but also sounds of the flyway, and artifacts by people who have coexisted with those birds for hundreds of years. Please watch for more information about the landmark exhibit and book over the summer!

## ANNUAL POTLUCK DINNER



SCVAS members are invited to set aside the evening of Wednesday, June 17, for our annual potluck dinner. Beginning at 6 pm, we will be meeting at the home of Lyn 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 Dessert                      O-S Salad  
H-N Main Dish                  T-Z Hors d'oeuvres

Please bring serving utensils.

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

We are working on a short, but exciting program for the evening, to accompany the usual socializing!

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.

## TICK BITE WARNING

Very rarely people get ticks while on field trips. There is a relatively new infectious disease being spread by a tick "bite". It is called Lyme Disease, named for Lyme, Connecticut. This bacterial disease is caused by a spirochete *Borrelia burgdorferi*. In its early stages, it can be cured by oral antibiotics. Chances of getting Lyme disease are one percent of all tick bites. It is transmitted by "hard" ticks only, not the "soft" ticks.

Symptoms occur within a few days of the tick bite up to a month after. Usually a ring of discoloration around the bite occurs, looking similar to a target. However, symptoms can include a rash on a part of the body that was not the location of the tick bite. This rash can appear as round mosquito-type bumps turning into lines, accompanied by high fever. It could appear to be a case of hives.

If untreated in the first stage, it is believed that 10-20 percent of the victims advance to a second stage, and about 60 percent of those go on to a third stage. The second stage can include neurological and cardiac problems, including headaches, stiff neck, facial paralysis and tingling of the hands and feet. Also possible arrhythmias of the heart, which can cause dizziness. These symptoms decrease with time.

The third stage, which starts anywhere from several weeks to two years after the skin rash, is what appears to be a type of arthritis, which has flareups and remissions. Joints, particularly the knees, become swollen and painful. Treatment only works in two of three cases at this stage. This is something everyone should be aware of, but based on the rate of incidence, it's extremely unlikely one would be involved. Self-awareness is the key, in addition to occasionally checking the hair and body for ticks during and upon returning from field trips. Often a tick will remain on the body for some time before biting.

Ticks can be removed by tweezers. Grasp it firmly and pull slowly, being careful not to squeeze the tick's body fluids. If part of it remains, contact your doctor.

- Mt. Diablo Audubon Society



## PUBLIC TRUST: THE MONO LAKE- SAN FRANCISCO BAY CONNECTION

In July 1987 the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) will begin a three-year hearing process that will culminate in setting water quality standards and determining water rights that will affect San Francisco Bay and the Delta. Using the National Audubon Society victory in the Mono Lake decision as a precedent, a California Appeals Court has ruled that the Board must consider the public trust when establishing water quality, flow and salinity standards for the Bay and Delta. Furthermore, the Board must reexamine its water rights decisions with the understanding that no party has a vested right to appropriate water in a manner harmful to interests protected by the public trust. The following article is taken from a speech by Harrison Dunning, Professor of Law at U.S. Davis, to the Committee for Water Policy Consensus conference on the SWRCB Bay/Delta Hearings on September 20, 1986.

Scholars trace the public trust doctrine back to Roman Law. There is a very eloquent expression of the idea in Justinian's Institutes: "For certain natural resources, we have a legal regime that treats those resources as common to mankind; certain resources are so important to the well-being of the entire society that we treat them as common-law resources." Those mentioned in Justinian's Institutes are the air that we breathe, the sea so important to national and international commerce, the shores of the seas so we have access to the sea itself, and the running water.

We find the concept cropping up in Europe in the medieval period, we find the concept well represented in older English law, and we find it very firmly established in this country in the early 1800s. There is evidence of the public trust doctrine in our federal law. It is the basis upon which we say that when the state becomes a state it gets from the federal government sovereignty to control navigable waters and title to all the land beneath.

Important expressions of the public trust doctrine also occur in state law, and in recent years the idea has been broadened. Now it is not just navigation, commerce and fishing that are covered. Other things such as open space, ecosystem preservation, and wildlife habitat are included.

One case that is extremely important on this matter is the Mono Lake decision -- the National Audubon Society case that was decided by the California Supreme Court -- which challenged diversions made by Los Angeles through its Department of Water and Power pursuant to licenses issued by the State of California.

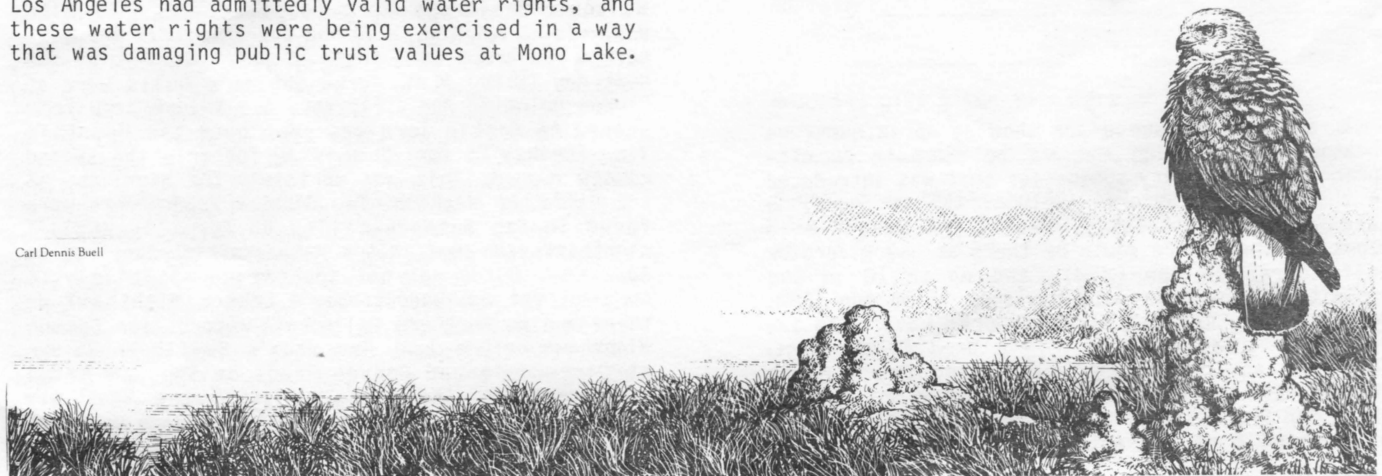
After a series of declines in the water level of Mono Lake and serious environmental damage, NAS came to the court; and after some very complicated proceedings, presented their position to the California Supreme Court. It was essentially that Los Angeles had admittedly valid water rights, and these water rights were being exercised in a way that was damaging public trust values at Mono Lake.

Audubon was particularly concerned about wildlife impacts. They said that because of this damage there should be an adjustment: the Department of Water and Power should adjust downward their diversions in order to protect the lake.

The California Supreme Court in 1983 unanimously concluded that the public trust doctrine claims raised by Audubon could be pursued: litigation continues to this day. The decision affirms that any exercise of a water right can be reexamined if it appears it is damaging to the public trust value. It says explicitly that the public trust doctrine and historical prior appropriation systems must be integrated, harmonized, and reconciled by the agencies and by the courts. Thus it is clear that agencies like the SWRCB must consider the environmental impact of water rights they are giving out.

In the Audubon Mono Lake case, the court also underscored the importance of diversions. It said that it is extremely important to California's contemporary habitability and prosperity that we have the aqueduct empire (Central Valley Project, State Water Project, and others). But it also said that "feasible mitigation" ought to be required. It suggests that the burden of proof requirements will have to be shaped in light of the public trust doctrine's protective mandate: If you must avoid unnecessary and unjustified harm to public trust values and you have to mitigate where feasible, then an agency might say to the diverters, "Show us the necessity and justification for diversion, otherwise 'No'."

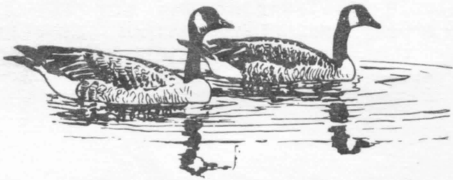
Carl Dennis Buell



## FIELD NOTES - Bill Bousman

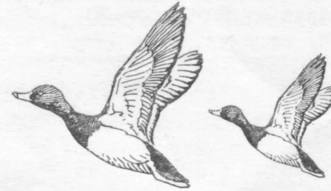
How many species of birds can you see in one day in the local area? The American Birding Association (ABA) has established a set of rules for what they call a "Big Day" and the competition is fierce to set a national or state record. Locally, things are more relaxed, but in recent years organizations such as PRBO or the SFBBO have tied the Big Day concept to fund raising efforts, called birdathons. Each participant pledges so much a species (whether they are counting themselves or are supporting someone else) and all the money goes to support a good cause. Thus the Birdathon gives the Big Day a little something else beyond just going out and having a good time. This year SFBBO ran a spring birdathon on the weekend of 25 and 26 April and so far I have received reports from three parties. Dave Suddjian (DLSu) and Paul Noble (PLN) get top honors with 180 species for the three county area of Santa Cruz, San Mateo, and Santa Clara. Clark Blake (CB) and I (WGB) did a Santa Clara County Big Day and made 147 species which is the high count for the last six years that Clark has been doing this on a regular basis. Grant Hoyt (GHO) and Dick Stovel (DSto) did a multi-county Big Day as well and got 139 birds. Unlike our Christmas Bird or Breeding Bird counts few true vagrants show up. The rarities that were found were all normal migrants, but just not in the right place; see below for comments on Arctic Tern and Lesser Nighthawk.

The south bay flock of overwintering **American White Pelicans** continues to be seen at Charleston Slough at least through 27 Apr (Phyllis M. Browning-PMB, James Yurchenco-JY, Amy Lauterbach-AL, Betty Groce-BG, Kathy Hawkes). The peak numbers have ranged from 32 to 37. **Green-backed Herons** tend to be skulkers and their true status is hard to determine. Scattered April reports do not seem to help the situation with two in the San Antonio Valley 24 Apr (CB, WGB), another along Arroyo Bayo on the E side of Mt. Hamilton 25 Apr (CB, WGB), one at the Mountain View Forebay the same day (PMB), and another along San Francisquito Creek at Geng Road 27 Apr



(PMB, BG). **Canada Geese** are showing up in numerous locations this spring and are believed to be offspring of a sedentary subspecies that was introduced in the East Bay. Records include: two at Shoreline Lake 4 Apr (Nick Yatsko), two at the Mecalf Road ponds and three more south of there at the Riverside Golf Course 13 Apr (WGB), and up to 10 in the vicinity of the Palo Alto Baylands 25-30 Apr (PMB, BG, CB, WGB). Reports of **Wood Ducks** have come in, most from areas where they have bred in the past. Two were at Coyote Res. 4 Apr and two more at Chesbro Res. the same day (PLN). Six are now present along San Francisquito Creek in Menlo Park (BG). Two were found E of San Antone Jct. on 18 Apr (Mike

Mannoser-MM). Total numbers found in the San Antonio Valley on 24 and 25 Apr were five and about seven more were along Arroyo Bayo W of the valley (CB, WGB). A pair along Gazos Creek 28 Apr (Roland Franz-RF) was less expected. Single male **Blue-winged Teal** were found in Charleston Slough 11 Apr (JY, AL) and



in Adobe Creek 25 Apr (PMB). A pair of **Redhead** in the Palo Alto FCB 27 Apr (PMB, BG) is late for this species although they have remained to nest there in past years. A pair of **Common Mergansers** were found on Coyote Creek in Henry Coe SP 29 Mar where they nested last year (JY, AL). Three were found 4 Apr on Coyote Res. (PLN). Our unusual **Osprey** spring continues with individuals in migration over Coyote Creek at Metcalf Road 5 Apr (WGB), Stevens Creek CP 7 Apr (WGB), and S of Alum Rock Park 24 Apr (CB, WGB). A bird perched along Anderson Res. 20 Apr (Barry Breckling) is also believed to be a migrant. A west-side **Golden Eagle** was one on Black Mountain 12 Apr (JY, AL). **Merlin** leave this area in early April so one in Los Altos 23 Apr (PLN) was exceptional. The previous last departure date was 11 Apr. **Wild Turkeys** have been reported in Henry Coe SP with three there 18 Apr (JY, AL), and five were found on the ridge W of Hall's Valley off Quimby Road 20 Apr (Donald Osterbrook). **Virginia Rail** and **Sora** were found on the Arastra Property on 18 Apr (GHO) which is a new location for these species. Both species are rare at this time of year. Three **Lesser Yellow-legs** were found 27 Apr along Adobe Creek (PMB, BG). They are very rare in the spring and there is only one previous record for April. **Spotted Sandpiper** are found most frequently on their migration in May so one in alternate plumage 27-30 Apr along San Francisquito Creek at Geng Road is expected (PMB, BG, WGB). Two **Ruddy Turnstones** were found at the Palo Alto Baylands 25 Apr (CB, WGB); they are very rare anywhere in the county. Phalarope move through here in the spring much more quickly than in the fall. Two **Wilson's Phalarope** were found at the Palo Alto Baylands 25 Apr (CB, WGB) and approximately 425 **Red-necked Phalarope** were found at Ravenswood Point the next day (DLSu, PLN). Three **Sabine's Gulls** were at Pigeon Point 25 Apr (RF); they are seldom seen from shore. An **Arctic Tern** was seen over the Mountain View Forebay 26 Apr (DLSu, PLN) for only the second county record. This was certainly the highlight of the Birdathon Weekend. Two **Greater Roadrunners** were found in San Antonio Valley 25 Apr (CB, WGB). A nighthawk seen next to the Matadero riparian area 26 Apr (GHO, DSto) was not identified positively to species, but was undoubtedly a **Lesser Nighthawk** as there are no Northern California records for Common Nighthawk before June. Two **Vaux's Swifts** on 25 Apr at Cloverdale and Canyon Roads on the San Mateo coast and one the next day (RF) were the only migrants reported in April. A male **Calliope Hummingbird** netted at CCRS 15 Apr (fide Mike Rigney) is a



bit before the peak of migration of this locally very rare hummer. **Lewis' Woodpeckers** have been very scarce in the San Antonio Valley this winter, but have started to move back in. Six were seen near San Antone Junction 29 Mar (Chris Cutler *fide* DLSu), one was south of there 18 Apr (MM), and six were found distributed in the valley 24 Apr (CB, WGB). Two **Western Kingbirds** off upper Alpine Road in San Mateo County were in good breeding habitat 26 Apr (DLSu, PLN), but there are no San Mateo County breeding records. **Horned Lark** were along Russian Ridge across from Vista Point 26 Apr (DLSu, PLN) where they are believed to have nested for the last six summers. A **Bank Swallow** was seen along the San Mateo coast 20 Apr (RF) for a fairly early record. There have been a smattering of **Red-breasted Nuthatch** records away from their known breeding locations: one in Henry Coe SP 29 Mar (JY, AL), one in Los Altos 8 Apr (PLN), and one on Mt. Hamilton 25 Apr (CB, WGB). Twelve **Canyon Wrens** found singing along the Pacheco Creek drainage in Henry Coe SP 17 Apr (JY, AL) must be one of the larger concentrations in this part of California. A male **Phainopepla** was found in Henry Coe SP 17 Apr (JY, AL) and another male was near San Antone Junction 25 Apr (CB, WGB). A **Nashville Warbler** was found in the migrating flocks on the W side of Mt. Hamilton 25 Apr (CB, WGB). A singing male **Yellow-rumped Warbler** in Skyline Ranch OSP 26 Apr (DLSu, PLN) was in the same place as one suspected of nesting last year. Two **Hermit Warblers** were found on the E side of Mt. Hamilton on 25 Apr

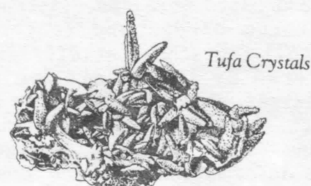


(CB, WGB). A **MacGillivray's Warbler** was found 19 Apr in Windy Hill OSP (Gloria Heller-GHe) in habitat very similar to where they breed on Langley Hill Road a few miles to the south. Individual **Lark Sparrows** were found 27 Mar near Crittenden Marsh (Jack Carroll *fide* DLSu) and 5 Apr near Mountain View Forebay (PMB); are these local migrants? **Tricolored Blackbirds** have nested in a sizable colony in Grant Lake for the last few years and sizable numbers were there 24-25 Apr (CB, WGB). There have often been very small colonies in the valley as well in past years although apparently not in the same location each year. Three to four birds near Morgan Hill 22 Apr (Don Starks -DSta) suggest nesting in the vicinity. There are few recent local records of **Yellow-headed Blackbird** so a male at the entrance of Bayfront Park in Menlo Park 27 Apr (PMB, BG) is of great interest. **Lawrence's Goldfinches** have been reported from Henry Coe SP where three pairs were found in scattered locations 17-18 Apr (JY, AL); two were found at Smiths Creek on the Mt. Hamilton Road 25 Apr (CB, WGB) where they nest each year in the conifers; and two were found near Morgan Hill 27 Apr (DSta). Is our **Evening Grosbeak** winter at an end? Maybe not, 20 were still around Skylanda on 7 Apr and four were there 18 Apr (GHe).

First arrivals noted: **Caspian Tern** at Charleston Slough 9 Apr (WGB); **Olive-sided Flycatcher** on Canyon Road 20 Apr (RF); **Western Wood-Pewee** at Stevens Creek CP 21 Apr (WGB); **Western Flycatcher** banded at CCRS 31 Mar (*fide* PLN); **Ash-throated Flycatcher** at Henry Coe SP 17 Apr (JY, AL); **Western Kingbird** on Gilroy Hot Springs Road 4 Apr (PLN); **House Wren** at Coyote Res. 4 Apr (PLN); **Swainson's Thrush** on Canyon Road 21 Apr and a **Solitary Vireo** there 16 Apr (both RF); **Yellow Warbler** in Stevens Creek CP 21 Apr (WGB); **Black-throated Gray Warbler** at Henry Coe SP 29 Mar (JY, AL); **Western Tanager** on Mines Road 25 Apr (CB, WGB); **Black-headed Grosbeak** at Monte Bello OSP 7 Apr (PLN); **Lazuli Bunting** at Monte Bello OSP 25 Apr (CB, WGB); and **Chipping Sparrow** at Monte Bello OSP 7 Apr (PLN).

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

## MONO LAKE



The gulls, grebes and phalaropes of Mono Lake cannot fight this battle - we must do it for them! As we go to press in early May, contributions to our 1987 Mono Lake Fund Drive are just beginning to arrive. Our goal is to raise \$10,000 to continue the crucial legal defense of Mono Lake. If you have not yet contributed, please send the attached coupon, or the envelope enclosed in the May *Avocet*, with a tax-deductible check, to the NAS - MONO LAKE LEGAL FUND by July 4. ANY contribution helps and is greatly appreciated! The legal victories at Mono Lake are YOUR victories.

Yes, I am pleased to enclose a contribution towards the fight to save Mono Lake, for the amount of: ( ) 500 ( ) 100 ( ) 50  
( ) 25 ( ) 15 ( ) Other

\*Contributions of \$50 or more will receive a copy of the Mono Lake Guidebook.  
( ) Forget the Guidebook. Give my whole contribution to the Mono Lake Fund.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Memorial gift given in memory of \_\_\_\_\_

PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO THE N.A.S. - MONO LAKE FUND. Send to: SCVAS, 415 Cambridge Ave., Palo Alto, CA 94306.



## NON-AUDUBON TRIPS AND EVENTS

Sunbeam Ecology Explorations offers summer field trips to study birds in a variety of habitats. On June 6 Birdbanding at Palomarin and Audubon Canyon Ranch; June 20 Oystercatchers and wildflowers and Western Gulls at Point Reyes; July 18 Mt. Hamilton to see altitudinal changes in flora and fauna; August 1 nesting summer birds on the San Mateo County Coast and on August 15 to Bodega Bay for early migrating shorebirds. Entire series at \$45 or individual trips at \$10 each are available. Instructor is Maryann Danielson. For more information call 415/342-6919.

Fremont Adult School offers a "Birds and Flowers of Pt. Lobos" class on Saturday June 20. Cost of the class is \$14.50. Preregistration by Tuesday June 16 to Fremont Adult School, 4700 Calaveras Ave., Fremont 94538. Include fee and a stamped self-addressed envelope. Instructor is Alice Hoch, experienced birder and teacher. For more information, call the school at 415/791-5841.

Also offered by the school are two "Birding Field Trip" classes. They will meet on five mornings from 9:30 am to 12:30 pm on Tuesdays and Wednesdays, commencing June 23 and June 24. Instructor is Alice Hoch. For more information call the school, 415/791-5841.

The Nature Sounds Society presents its Field Workshop June 19-21 which will emphasize the skills, knowledge and equipment needed to obtain quality field recordings of birds, other animals and ambient sounds of the environment. The cost is \$100.00. For information contact Paul Matzner or Bob Love of the Nature Sounds Society, the Oakland Museum, 415/273-3884.

Wildlife Rescue, Inc., a non-profit group based in Palo Alto, provides care and treatment to injured and orphaned native wildlife, co-sponsored by Palo Alto Animal Services for Wildlife Rescue. They are holding an auction on June 27 at 7 pm at the Mitchell Park Community Center, 3800 Middlefield Rd., Palo Alto. The cost is \$15 per person, including champagne and hors d'oeuvres. For more information, 415/494-7926.

The Whale Center offers interested persons a chance to "adopt" a Gray Whale. Cost of a year-long adoption is \$50, tax-deductible, which helps support the Whale Center's conservation work to protect whales and their ocean habitat. The Whale Center is a nonprofit conservation, education and research organization based in Oakland. For a free brochure call 415/654-6621.

Walden West Treks, a Santa Clara County Office of Education sponsored, non-profit organization, will be providing youths with a challenging, fun and safe backpacking opportunity. Beginning and intermediate trips to Santa Cruz and Sierra Nevada Mountain sites run throughout the summer and last 4 to 9 days. For more information call 408/867-5950.

San Jose State's Field Studies in Natural History programs will offer a rafting trip to the Grand Canyon June 28-July 4 and July 4-12 and study trips to the East Side of the Sierra July 12-18 and Mendocino Landscape August 9-15. These are exciting outdoor learning adventures for adults and children (Grand Canyon trip for adults only). For further information contact Janet Cloud, 408/277-3736.

Rick Carver will lead a trip to the Falkland Islands in January, 1988. Albatross, Petrel, Swans, Caracara, penguins and seals will be seen on this trip which is limited to only nine people. For more information contact Peabody Travel, 415/348-3005.

## SCVAS GRANTS AWARDED

In May, the SCVAS Board of Directors, following recommendations of the Grants Committee, awarded the following grants for 1986-87:

DAVID LAVORANDO - \$400 - research on kestrels  
THE PEREGRINE FUND - \$750 - preparation of brochure  
POINT REYES BIRD OBSERVATORY - \$520 - computer entry of banding data  
TRAIL CENTER - \$250 - publish map of area's open space trails  
WILDLIFE RESCUE - \$300 - fund avian necropsy study  
YOUTH SCIENCE INSTITUTE - \$780 - publish booklet on saving orphaned wildlife.

Grant applications for the 1987-88 Grants cycle are available now and due by March 31, 1988. 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.

## NEW BIRD ALERT

The Fresno, Kern, Kerncrest, and Tulare County Audubon chapters are now providing a new tape recorded message, available 24 hours a day, and changed weekly, of bird sightings, bird trends, birding locations, field trips, and Audubon chapter meetings for their areas. The Southern Sierra/San Joaquin region is one of the most diverse in the United States. It encompasses the southern San Joaquin Valley, southern Sierra Nevada, western Mojave Desert, eastern coastal ranges, four national forests, five river drainages, two national parks, and three national wildlife refuges. Southern Sierra /San Joaquin Bird report (209)782-1237.

- Audubon Leader

# Congratulations

## 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 1987 Science Fair projects:

Eric Schmitz, "Plant Growth in Simulated Gravity"  
Kristina Kuest, "Why Whales Beach Themselves"  
Quam Pham, "Power of Plant Leaves to Absorb Water".



## CALIFORNIANS FOR PARKS & WILDLIFE

SCVAS is gearing up for an initiative campaign that will place a bond act on the June 1988 statewide ballot to purchase essential wildlife habitat critical for the survival of numerous species of wildlife. We join National Audubon Society, the Planning and Conservation League, Sierra Club, Defenders of Wildlife and dozens of other statewide and local organizations in working to give the voters a chance to approve purchase of habitat for rare and endangered species, wetlands and riparian areas throughout the state, as well as additions to the State Park System.

A coalition of groups led by the Planning and Conservation League has decided to use the initiative process because of the refusal of state legislature to place three important conservation bond acts on the state ballot in 1986. One, sponsored by The Nature Conservancy, would have protected wildlife habitat. Another, sponsored by the Planning and Conservation League, would have acquired parkland, wildlife habitat and open space near urban area. The third would have provided funding for the Coastal Conservancy for their coastal protection program.

Many areas of particular importance to Audubon members are covered in the bond act. These include over \$25 million for acquisition of wintering waterfowl wetlands in the Central Valley, over **\$13 million for wetlands in San Francisco Bay**, \$1 million for Pescadero Marsh, and approximately \$10 million for riparian habitat acquisition throughout the state. Practically every habitat type in California would benefit from the passage of this measure.

Your help is needed to make this Bond Act a reality! To place this initiative on the ballot the campaign will have to gather more than 600,000 signatures between June and November. **SCVAS HAS SET A GOAL OF OBTAINING 5,000 SIGNATURES.**

You can contribute in as simple a way as filling out a petition at the SCVAS office, at a general meeting, on a field trip, or anywhere that you encounter signature gatherers at work! Or, join a signature gathering group. We will provide training, all the materials you will need, a partner or two with whom to work, and a location to cover. **You need only commit 3 or 4 hours of time.** Kick-off day for signature gathering is June 15. Please call the SCVAS office at (415)329-1811 to join in qualifying this important initiative. And watch for additional articles in your daily paper, and future Avocet issues.

If the Audubon chapters and members in California can help make this initiative a high priority, tens of thousands of acres of wetlands, riparian habitat and other critical parklands and important wildlife habitat will be preserved forever!

- Audubon Leader and Lynn Tennefoss

### PHOTO NOTE

Be sure to take a look at the cover of the just-released issue of Birding magazine, December 1986 (available in PCCF Library). Featured is a fine photo by SCVAS member Peter LaTourrette, of the very rare Eurasian Dotterel, taken in Point Reyes, September 1986. It's a terrific shot!

## GARBAGE CRISIS

Appanolio Canyon, a large canyon adjacent to the present Ox Mountain (Los Trancos Canyon) sanitary landfill, is being proposed as the County's next landfill site. The Army Corps of Engineers will be the lead agency for performing an EIS, a process which could take more than two years to complete. Since this project would destroy a mile of streambed which is known habitat for Steelhead trout, and could destroy several acres of wetland (including habitat for the endangered San Francisco Garter Snake), the Department of Fish and Game and the State Water Quality Board have concerns that need to be addressed. It appears that ash and cinder from a waste-to-energy plant (proposed to be built in Redwood City by Combustion Engineering Corporation) will in fact be the major fill material rather than the 'household variety' garbage. Such ash has a very different characteristic as a landfill and concerns such as toxic leaching have yet to be addressed. CGF has recommended to the County Board of Supervisors that methods be explored that will extend the life of the present facility including an aggressive recycling program. This would provide time for a well-considered decision to be made about Appanolio Canyon.

- Green Foothills, Committee for Green Foothills

### DONATIONS

Donations to the Chapter  
have been received:

IN MEMORY OF RAY CARLSON  
FROM THE WOMEN'S CLUB OF  
TRADE WINDS MOBILE HOME PARK

For lecture and slide show presentation  
FROM SANTA CLARA VALLEY  
DISTRICT GARDEN CLUB

### LATE BREAKING NEWS

We have just learned that the National Audubon Society will be receiving a grant from the **Irvine Foundation** for the purposes of acquiring additional Central Valley wetland areas! The gift of \$500,000 will be in the form of a challenge grant where the foundation will match dollar for dollar money raised independently by National Audubon for habitat acquisition in the area. Many thanks to the Irvine Foundation for this generous donation.

- The Gull, Golden Gate Chapter

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General meetings are open to the public. Board of Directors meetings are open to all members. Call the office for times and direction.

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

## SOUND SCULPTURE EVENT

From "Farallon Poop Sheet #32",  
 Point Reyes Bird Observatory

The Big Spring Event is Bill Fontana's Sound Sculpture. What is a Sound Sculpture? Natural art, carefully communicated through the wonders of modern technology -- in this case, an aural glimpse into everyday life on the Farallones for thousands of breeding seabirds. On April 10th, Henry Corning made the first media trip of several for Bill and the crew to determine the best locations for microphones. They settled on Garbage Gulch for elephant seal sounds, the Murre blind for murre and cormorant sounds, Sea Lion Cove for Steller sea lion sounds, and halfway up Lighthouse Hill for the dainty calls of Pigeon Guillemots, Western Gulls, and storm petrels. And then in addition there will be a hydrophone in the water off the north landing buoy.

Over a mile of cable is being set in place this week, connecting the microphones to the AT&T transmitting dish near the carpenter shop. These mikes will be coordinated with 10 microphones on the Golden Gate Bridge, and the whole wonderful marine sound will be broadcast on May 31st from 9-10am on all PBS stations. There will be a full exhibit at the Museum of Fine Arts in downtown San Francisco for two months, giving the pigeons and tourists a thrill as the cries of Farallon auklets fill the air. Please watch your papers for news of this extremely unusual art work -- a chance to reminisce for some of you; for others, it will be the other half of the story I can't communicate adequately in writing. Stay tuned - they'll be listening in Germany as well. Can you imagine?

## MOUNTAIN LION BILL

As the Avocet goes to press, the Fish and Game Commission has approved hunting of mountain lions for the first time in 15 years. In response, Assemblyman Tom Bates (Oakland) has sponsored AB 467, to extend the prohibition on hunting mountain lions, making them once again a protected mammal. The bill is co-sponsored by Senator Rebecca Morgan (Los Altos Hills). If you would like more information on the current status of this bill, or if you would like to voice your opinion of this protective measure, please contact:

Assemblyman Tom Bates, State Capital, PO Box 942849, Sacramento 94249.

Senator Rebecca Morgan, State Capital, Sacramento, CA 94248.

## GOOD NEWS FOR MALHEUR

Your letters to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and to the Governor have been very effective! It was, in part, because of environmentalists' concerns that Governor Atiyeh, speaking officially on behalf of the State of Oregon, opposed the Corps' proposal to build a 17-mile canal to drain the flood waters from the Malheur Basin.

This is very good news, since the Corps has stated publicly that it won't pursue a project the State of Oregon opposes. However, Witt Anderson, project manager for the Corps of Engineers, cautioned that this does not mean the project is officially "dead". The Corps must still consider other sides of the issue, and make a final decision in an Environmental Impact Statement. Nevertheless, prospects look very good for a non-structural solution to the flooding situation -- thanks to you!

- The Audubon Warbler, Audubon Society of Portland

### 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.

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