

SANTA CLARA
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The Avocet

Al 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, warm clothing, lunch (optional on half-day trips) and liquids. If you can provide or need transportation, call Dolores Norton (415)941-1666 or Gail Cheeseman (408)741-5330.

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

- Dec. 2 **Bay Area Bird Photographers.** Wednesday, 7:30 pm at the Baylands. Guest speaker is Bob Nansen, leader of the natural history trips for Betchart Expeditions.
- Dec. 5 **Lake Merritt / Eastbay Shore.** Saturday, 9 am. Full day. Meet at the Rotary Science Center in Oakland. Take I-880 N to Oak St; E on Oak. Oak then becomes Lakeside, then Harrison. Right on Grand. Right on Bellevue to meeting place. Parking fee. Lunch advised. Possible Barrow's and Common Goldeneyes and Hooded Mergansers. If you like ducks this trip is for you. RAIN CANCELS. Leaders: Alan Royer (408)288-7769 and Lynn Tennefoss (415)329-1811.
- Dec. 6 **Princeton Harbor / Half Moon Bay.** Sunday, 9 am. Full day. Meet at the Princeton Harbor parking area near the Harbormaster's office. From I-280 take Hwy 92 W to coast. Take Hwy 1 N to Princeton. Bring lunch and liquids. Highlights: Loons, bay ducks and shorebirds with the possibility of a Rock Sandpiper. Dress in layers. HEAVY RAIN CANCELS. Leader: Rod Norton (408)370-7448.
- Dec. 8 **Bird Discussion Group.** Tuesday, 9:30 a.m., at the home of Jean and Pat Dubois, 17150 Buena Vista Ave., Los Gatos. (408)395-4264. Topic: Birds of Antarctica.
- Dec. 9 **Field Trip South.** Neary Lagoon and Seacliff Dr., Santa Cruz. Wednesday, 9 am. Meet in parking lot beside the tennis courts at Neary Lagoon on Calif. Take Rt. 1 N from 17. Turn left on Bay st. and left on Calif. The park is the first right turn. Leaders: Irene Manici and Barb Scharfenstein from the Santa Cruz Bird Club. Call Gail Cheeseman for details and carpooling. (408)741-5330.
- Dec. 12 **Birdwalk for Beginners.** San Leandro Regional Shoreline/Arrowhead Marsh. Saturday, 9 am. Half day. Meet at the San Leandro Regional Shoreline on Doolittle Blvd. in the north parking lot by the cafe and restrooms. Take I-880 N to 98th Street-Oakland Airport exit. Go W, turn right onto Doolittle Blvd. Meeting place is about 2 miles ahead on right. Park in the N lot near the cafe - NOT the launch ramp. Bring scopes if you have them. Anticipated species: Wintering waterfowl incl. scaup, teal, wigeon, etc. RAIN CANCELS. Leader: Audrey Stoye (408)249-2109 and Betty Wyatt (408)255-6091.
- Dec. 13 **Alameda Creek Flood Control Area.** Sunday, 8:30 am. Half day. Meet in the creekside park by Alameda Creek in Fremont. From peninsula, take Hwy 84 across Dumbarton Bridge and continue across Hwy 880. You are now on Decoto Rd. Proceed about 2 miles to Alvarado-Niles Rd. Turn right and continue into Niles district, go under railroad line, and cross Mission Blvd. About 150 yards E of Mission, exit right onto Old Canyon Rd., cross over creek and turn left down into the park. If coming from the south bay, take I-680 or I-880 to Mission Blvd. and go N to Niles Canyon Rd. Turn right and proceed as above. Refer to Alameda Co. road maps. Highlights: Common Mergansers, Wood Ducks, Snipe, etc. RAIN CANCELS. Call leader AFTER 6 am if in doubt. Leader: Phil Hand (415)851-2623.
- Dec. 20 **Christmas Bird Count.** See inside for details.

Field Trip Coordinators for January: **Chris and Claire Wolfe (408)245-9359 and (408)733-5654.**

- Jan. 9 **Stockton Sewage Ponds.** Saturday, 9 am. Full day. Meet at the plant. Take I-580 to I-5, continue N on I-5 to Hwy 4 exit in Stockton. Turn left at signal and go about 1 mile to John Turk Rd. Turn right and park on the paved portion near the first large pond. Trip limited to 20 participants. BY RESERVATION ONLY. Carpooling strongly advised. Bring lunch, water and, if driving, full tank of fuel. Bring a spotting scope and dress in layers. Highlights: Gulls, and a good variety of waterfowl. For reservations and more info call Mark and Steve Miller (415)967-3429 after 7 pm.
- Jan. 10 **Post CBC Rarities Chase.** Sunday. Full day. Leader Don Starks. Call Clair Wolfe for information on meeting place, etc. The Week Before the Trip ONLY! (408)733-5654.



The Christmas Bird Counts are a marvelous idea. Each year we try to count as many birds as we can in one 15-mi diameter circle during a 24-hour period. Fortunately, we can choose the day in a two to three week period and therefore we can participate in more than one count if we wish. Part of the attraction of the CBCs is the competition, part is related to the social aspect, and part is hearing about the really exceptional birds that always turn up. However, the long-term value of the CBCs is not in the rarities that are found or the maximum species count, but rather in providing a set of data that can give us some idea of the status of winter bird populations in our local communities. We need to be careful in using these data, however, in that the number of participants will affect how many birds are recorded. We must use some sort of normalizing factor such as the number of parties, or number of observers, or the party-hours in the field to remove this effect. Another concern is the quality of the observations and this is almost impossible to determine. It is sometimes difficult to convince a CBC counter that the 75th junco of the day, or the 150th waxwing is just as important as the oriole that was found by somebody else in a flowering eucalyptus. Don't miss the chance of doing one of the local Christmas Bird Counts this year. If you live in one of the count circles check your neighborhood out before count day. Look for flowering shrubs and trees and see if any unusual insectivorous or tropical species have stayed on. If you have a fruit tree that is popular see if any unusual birds are attracted. If you have a bird feeder, check it for the occasional rarity.

Brown Pelicans have tapered off as we expect them to in October. Unexpected was the second fall report of a bird away from the bay habitat. A bird was seen on 21 and 23 Oct at Vasona Res. (Jean DuBois - JDuB). A **Green-backed Heron** was found in the Matadero riparian on 26 Sep (Clark Blake - CB) and 25 Oct (Rich Jeffers - RJ). A single male **Blue-winged Teal** was along Adobe Creek 30 Sep and a pair was seen in the same vicinity 14 Oct (both Mike Rogers - MRo). A **Eurasian Wigeon** along Adobe Creek in the Palo Alto FCB 25 and 29 Oct is the first found this season (Mike Mammoser). Twenty-five **Common Mergansers** on Almaden Res. 27 Oct is a good concentration for winter (Gerald Anderson). A few **Golden Eagles** were reported at the edge of the Santa Cruz Mountains as we have come to expect: two at Monte Bello OSP 6 Sep (Briana Lindh), one at Deer Creek Rd. and I-280 17 Oct (Grant Hoyt - GHo), and one over Ranch San Antonio OSP 25 Oct (Jim & Sue Liskovec). **Lesser Yellowlegs** taper off in October in their favored spots and this month was normal with two in Charleston Slough 26 Sep (CB), two at the forebay 30 Sep (MRo), and one still there on 11 Oct (MRo). Three **Ruddy Turnstones** on the San Francisquito Creek delta 12 Oct (Bill Bousman - WGB) were in an area where they have been found a number of times before. Nine **Red Knots** were there the same day as well. **Pectoral Sandpipers** are usually the last of the rare migrant shorebirds that come through the South Bay. One was found 4 Sep in the Mountain View Forebay (PLN) and then between 24 and 30 Sep one to six were found there (MRo). At the Sunnyvale sewage ponds two to four were seen between 24 and 29 Sep (April Sapsford), suggesting a slightly better flight year than we normally see. The juv. **Sabine's Gull** noted last month stayed through 5 Oct (RJ, MRo) at the Palo Alto Duck Pond. Good pictures of this first county record were obtained by Alan Walther. Many **Lewis' Woodpeckers** were found on a Big Day visit to San Antonio Valley 26 Sep (CB). a **Red-breasted Nuthatch** at Coyote Hills RP 3 Oct (GHo) is the only report of fall movement this year. Last October six reports were received in the local area. The Coyote Creek Riparian Station continues their fall of true rarities with another first county record. An adult **Brown Thrasher** in worn plumage was netted on 3 Oct (fide Dick Mewaldt). This eastern species averages about six records a year in California, largely at the vagrant traps. Unlike many of the rare flycatchers and warblers banded at the station the Brown Thrasher is readily identifiable if well seen. A **Phainopepla** in San Antonio Valley 26 Sep (CB) is from an area where they are sometimes found.

Miss Emily Smith of Saratoga was one of the most beloved and knowledgeable members of the Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society. At its Charter Meeting at the Saratoga Inn on 8 January 1925, Miss Emily (as we called her in the 1950s and 1960s) was elected Corresponding Secretary by the 45 members present. An excerpt from meeting minutes of 7 October 1926 states in part "An excellent meal, for the insignificant sum of twenty-five cents, was prepared and served by a committee of our younger members under the very capable leadership of Miss Emily Smith."

At the membership meeting 20 April 1931, Miss Emily presented the program titled "Swifts, Especially Black Swifts". This was based in part on her paper "Black Swifts nesting behind a waterfall" which appeared in *The Condor* for March-April in 1926. In that article is a photograph of Berry Creek Falls with coordinates pinpointing the locations of three nests. Berry Creek Falls is in Big Basin Redwood State Park near a grove which has since been dedicated as the Emily Smith Redwood Grove. Many of us are also familiar with the Emily Smith Overlook on the main trail in Castle Rock Park.

I remember well a SCVAS field trip led by Miss Emily in the mid-1950s to a Black Swift nest in a sea cave on the coast north of Santa Cruz. Even though we entered the cave at low tide, we had to time our entry and exit to come between waves washing into the entrance of the cave. The single gray downy young in a damp moss edged nest on a ledge was clearly visible to the few of us over six feet tall. The others took advantage of the long-handled mirror furnished by Miss Emily. For many years she was the leader behind the scenes for the SCVAS Wednesday Field Trips.

A graduate of Vassar College in New York, Miss Emily worked as a part-time instructor and assistant in the then Department of Natural Sciences at San Jose State in the 1930s and 1940s. In cooperation with faculty members, including the well known ornithologist Dr. Gale Pickwell, she helped produce a series of booklets on nature used for many years in Science Education. In the early 1950s Miss Emily worked closely with Dr. Charles G. Sibley, then ornithologist at San Jose State, and who is now President of the American Ornithologists' Union.

A note in *The Avocet* for April 1961 states in part, "The training course for field trip leaders that was so successful in the fall will be offered again this spring by Dr. Tom Harvey of San Jose State College and Miss Emily Smith, former teacher there....For more details and registration, please call Dr. Evelyn Case...(CH 3-2467)."

In the late 1960's Miss Emily suffered from an Alzheimer-like disease. In that difficult period, I helped her sister, Miss Betty Smith, with the mechanics of donating Miss Emily's fine natural history library to San Jose State and to the then young Point Reyes Bird Observatory.

Lynn Tennefoss was recently informed that the SCVAS has received a substantial bequest from the estates of Miss Emily Smith and Miss Betty Smith. Miss Emily died in the early 1970s. Miss Betty, who was more interested in literature and the fine arts, died this past summer. They had arranged that their estates would go to probate only when both were deceased.

I remember Miss Emily as a scholarly, warm-hearted, gentle teacher-leader who from the 1920s to the 1960s enriched the lives of generations of college students and persons of all ages especially in the Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society.

-Dick Mewaldt

Some arrivals: Five **Canvasbacks** in Palo Alto 25 Oct (RJ); a female **Ring-necked Duck** at Arastradero Lake 17 Oct (GHo); a **Bufflehead** in Palo Alto 25 Oct (RJ); **Dunlin** in Palo Alto 25 Oct (RJ); **Varied Thrush** in Sunol 20 Oct (Milton Seibert) and Menlo Park 25 Oct (WGB) appeared to come with the first autumn storms; and a lowland return for **Pine Siskins** in Los Gatos 24 Oct (JDUB).

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

SAN JOSE CBC

The all day counting of ducks, geese, hawks, sparrows, and rarities followed by a marvelous dinner and tally will be held on Sunday, December 20. Your help is needed to make the day a success. It is important to cover all areas within the count in order to properly census the common to abundant species, as well as the uncommon to rare ones. Choose an area to your liking and call the section leader ASAP. As sections fill up, we may ask people to count in other areas. If you have not done a Christmas Bird Count before, on-the-job training will be provided!

We need feeder watchers, too. This information is just as valuable as the data obtained in the field. If you (1) live within the count circle, (2) will be home all or part of the day on December 21, and (3) are willing to watch your feeder(s), then call us before the count and we can work out the details. Rarities such as wintering Northern Orioles and White-throated Sparrows are possible.

If you would like to help with the dinner, please call Lynn Tennefoss at (415)329-1811. She would love to have some assistance before and on December 20.

Again, please join us for a day of exciting birding, good fellowship and a tasty dinner.

Jim and Sue Liskovec have recruited Grant Hoyt (415)969-7892 and Mark McEuen (408)251-3086 to assist with the San Jose Christmas Count. Please call. We want to hear from you!



SECTION LEADERS - 1987 SAN JOSE CBC

A(Alviso)	Jean Dubois	(408)395-4264
B(Fremont Hills)	Ed Laak	(415)324-1895
C(Calaveras)	Kep Stone	(408)263-3395
D(Alum Rock)	Dave Johnston	(408)867-7278
E (Evergreen)	Don & Jill Crawford	(408)270-1102
F (South)	Rod Norden	(408)996-6442
		(408)370-7448
G (Southwest)	Anne Wilson	(415)941-0966
H (Agnew)	Dick Stovel & Lisa Swagerty	(415)856-6105
I (Milpitas)	Paul Nobel	(415)948-3876
J (Berryessa)	Chris Wolfe	(408)987-6033
	Claire Wolfe	(408)733-5654

OTHER CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS

Pt. Reyes	Sat., Dec. 19	Mt. Hamilton	Wed., Dec. 23
Crystal Springs	Sat., Dec. 19	Ano Nuevo	Sat., Dec. 26
Ohlone	Sun., Dec. 20	Madrone	Sun, Dec. 27
SCVAS	Sun., Dec. 20	San Francisco	Mon, Dec. 28
Oakland	Sun., Dec. 20	Mt. Diablo	Sat., Jan. 1

All these counts can use help! If you would like to participate, call SCVAS office for compilers' names.

PALO ALTO CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT will be held on Monday, Dec. 21 this year. If you are interested in participating, please call Bill Bousman, (415)322-5282.

MT. HAMILTON CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT will be on Wednesday, Dec. 23. The local contact is Bill Bousman, (415)322-5282.

CAL PAW INITIATIVE SIGNATURE DRIVE MEETS GOAL

As of NOVEMBER 1, SCVAS members had gathered 5062 signatures, a small but certain margin above our goal of 5000! Statewide, Californians for Parks and Wildlife gathered over 650,000 signatures, guaranteeing presence of the Bond Act on the June 1988 ballot. Thanks to all members who circulated petitions with SCVAS or on your own - your efforts had results! Participating SCVAS members included:

Wanda Alexander, Jane Becker-Haven, Bill Bousman, Signe Boyer, Robert Buell, Gail Cheeseman, Yvonne Cheung, Bill & Jean Clark, Mutsuko Davis, Diane Dryer, Shawneen Finnegan, Betty Buckley Finnegan, Lindy Gardiner, Rose Green, Betty Groce, Genevieve Gullahorn, Connie Hancock, Myra Harmer, Ann Harrington, Chip Haven, Barbara Hawley, Neil Jackson, Richard Jeffers, Ed Laak, Amy Lauterbach, Wendy Lee, Peter Leider, Jim & Sue Liskovec, Jean Lyons, Claire McEuen, Mark & Judy McEuen, Ted Mill, Elaine Moise, Barbara Monahan, Trish Mulvey, Paul Noble, Bob & Mary Noyes, Kathryn Parker, Don & Dee Price, Nancy Ray, Mary-Lyle Rempel, Jules Resnick, Hawkeye Rondeau, Allen Royer, Jean Shurtleff, Margaret Slemmons, Kathleen Smith, Peter Steinhart, Audrey Stoye, Lynn Tennefoss, Alan Thomas, Cindi West, Claire Wolfe, Christine Wolfe, Judith Yarborough, James Yurchenko.

GIFTS AND MEMORIALS FOR GAYLORD ANDROES MEMORIAL EDUCATION FUND

From Mrs. Charlene Androes

IN HONOR OF MRS. ELIZABETH J. BANFILL

From IBM

FOR THE NAS - MONO LAKE LEGAL FUND

From Craig F. Adams

HOLIDAY SALES

Please remember SCVAS when you think of holiday gift giving:

NEW!!! We're experimenting. **THE WALTZ OF THE WHIPPOORWILL**, a new collection of music played on acoustic guitar, mandolin, fiddle, bass and harmonica, with each piece based on a birdsong. Musician Joe Weed has offered this fine cassette tape to SCVAS to sell as a benefit to the chapter. \$9 each, available from office or at meetings.

TRACKS IN THE SKY: WETLANDS AND WILDLIFE OF THE PACIFIC FLYWAY, now that you have seen Peter Steinhart's poetic prose and Tupper Ansel Blake's wonderful photographs in the November issue of AUDUBON, wouldn't you like to get a copy of TRACKS and benefit SCVAS at the same time! \$32 (+ \$1.20 to send).

NGS FIELD GUIDE TO BIRDS OF NORTH AMERICA @ \$13, NAS BANQUETS FOR BIRDS @ \$2.50, SAVE WETLANDS AUTOSHADOWS @ \$5 (all + .69 to send), AND MORE.

When ordering, please make checks out to SCVAS, 415 Cambridge Ave., #21, Palo Alto, CA, 94306 or call (415) 329-1811.

And please remember, gift subscriptions to National Audubon Society ordered through SCVAS benefit the Chapter. Please see back page for subscription information. Gift certificates available.

Staff	Lynn Tennefoss	415/329-1811	DIRECTORS (1986-89)		Education		
President	Judy McEuen	408/251-3086	Jim Anderson	415/272-1159	Library	Helen Shamble	408/984-2363
1st Vice President	Dave Johnston	408/867-7278	Jerry Vitenson	408/259-4663	Field Trips	Paul Noble	415/948-3876
2nd Vice President	Barbara Monahan	408/425-7841	Martha Esserlieu	415/487-1282		Dolores Norton	415/941-1666
Treasurer	Jules Resnick	415/961-8619				Linda Hagelin	408/867-3046
Rec. Secretary			DIRECTORS (1987-90)		Membership		
Past President	Kevin Monahan	408/415-7841	Grant Hoyt	415/969-7892	Audubon Adventures	Elaine Gould	408/448-0622
			Trish Mulvey	415/326-0252	Hospitality		
			Christine Wolfe	408/245-0359	Environmental		
					Action	Barbara Monahan	408/425-7841
			CHAIRPERSONS		Christmas		
DIRECTORS (1985-88)			Editor	Levona Sterngold	Bird Count	Jim & Sue Liskovec	415/969-5542
Theresa Spinler			Programs	Doug & Gail	Grants	Donna Zetterquist	408/429-9716
Don Price		415/327-1254		Cheeseman	Photo Club	Pete LaTourrette	415/961-2741

TRACKS IN THE SKY RECEPTION A SUCCESS!

More than 170 people sipped wine in African Hall, strolled through the Tracks in the Sky exhibit, and heard a lecture illustrated with slides by PETER STEINHART and TUPPER ANSEL BLAKE, at the California Academy of Sciences in San Francisco on Tuesday, October 13. The evening was enjoyed by everyone!

And it would not have happened without the support and hard work of many volunteers. Thanks to Tibby Simon for office assistance at all stages, and to Deborah Manley for addressing hundreds of envelopes, making all of the name tags for the event, and with Steve Shugars, welcoming all attendees to the reception. Peter Leider distributed books, and in general provided indispensable assistance at the Academy. George Ellman and Madrone Audubon Society provided cheese for hors d'oeuvres, while Robin Leong of Napa-Solano Audubon Society arranged to have all wine and mineral water donated. Kimery Wiltshire, and Executive Director Martha Davis, of the Mono Lake Committee gave frequent, welcome advice and support, as did Dan Taylor and Glenn Olson of the Western Regional Audubon Office in Sacramento. And most of all, thanks to everyone who contributed to the success of the event by attending, giving a donation or purchasing a Tracks in the Sky book. YOU made it all possible!

BIRD SEED SALE A SUCCESS

SCVAS members raised over \$1500 for SCVAS in the Fall Bird Seed Sale. If you missed ordering seed, there will be another sale in the spring. Thanks to volunteers Susie Chevalier, Grant Hoyt, Mark and Judy McEuen, Jules Resnick, Steve Patchin, and Jerry Waldorf for distributing hundreds of bags of bird seed.

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 / \$61
- Introductory Membership / \$20

NON-AUDUBON PROGRAMS

These are not sponsored by Audubon but are listed for your information.

Save SF Bay Association Biennial Conference Dec. 5, Boalt Hall, Bekerely, on Fresh Water Diversion: Critical Threat to the Health of the Bay. For more info call (415)849-3044.

Winter courses at Palo Alto Adult Education include Introduction to Birdwatching, starting on Jan. 5, meeting on eight Tuesdays and three field trips. Intermediate Birdwatching meets Monday nights, beginning Jan. 4. It has eight lectures and three field trips. Both courses will be taught by Jim Rosso. Further information from Jim, (415) 968-7176, or Palo Alto Adult Ed., (415)329-3752.

The 1987 Annual Meeting of the Pacific Seabird Group, December 16-20, at Asilomar Conference Center in Pacific Grove. Featured this year will be a symposium, "Alcids in the Marine Environment", a special papers session and workshop on research efforts and management of the Marbled Murrelet, and an evening at the Monterey Bay Aquarium. For more info, call Breck Tyler, (408) 429-4514.

You can join naturalist-led tours of nature trails at Palo Alto Baylands on Dec. 5, 12, 13 and 20. Call (415)329-2506 for more info.

High Tide Walk will meet at Bayland Center, 10 am, Sun. Dec. 20. Call (415)329-2506 for more info.

Doug and Gail Cheeseman have organized three Saturday marine mammal and seabird trips out on Monterey Bay from the Monterey Fishermans' Wharf on Chris' "New Holiday". Allen Royer, Lynn Tennefoss and David Suddjian will help lead the trips. 7:45 am - 3 pm, Jan 16, 23 and 30. Reservations are necessary. Mail cost of trip (\$30) to the Cheesemans, 20800 Kittredge Rd., Saratoga, CA 95070, (408)741-5330.

Doug Cheeseman is teaching a short course at DeAnza College on the mammals and birds of East Africa, Australia, and the Galapagos for five thursdays, 7:30-9:30 pm. Jan. 14 - Feb. 11, cost \$30. To register call the DeAnza Short Course Office at (408)996-4673. For details call Doug at (408)741-5330 or (408)867-1371.