



The Avocet

540w
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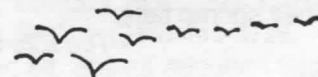
January 1988

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

- Jan. 6 **Bay Area Bird Photographers - General Meeting.** Wednesday at the Baylands at 7:30 pm. Guest speaker is Maryann Danielson, a bird photographer, who teaches birding classes and also leads birding trips. Co-sponsored by the City of Palo Alto.
- Jan. 9 **Stockton Sewage Ponds.** Saturday, 9 am. Full day. Meet at the ponds. 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.
- Jan. 12 **Special Slide Show on Birds of Northeast Scotland,** Tuesday, 7:30 pm for program, Palo Alto Cultural Center, corner Embarcadero and Newell. GO TO MEETING ROOM OFF LOBBY, NOT THE AUDITORIUM IN BACK. Co-sponsored with the City of Palo Alto Arts and Sciences Division. Minette MacDonald, operator of Borrobol Birding, will show slides of the birds, wildflowers, archeology and history of Northeast Scotland, and features buzzard, goshawk, divers, plovers, red grouse, black grouse, ptarmigan, waders, and colonial nesting birds of the Orkneys.
- Jan. 12 **Bird Discussion Group.** Tuesday, 9:30 am at the home of Eve Case, 20537 Verde Vista Lane, Saratoga. Topic: Burrowing Owls.
- Jan. 16 **Owling - San Mateo County.** LIMITED TO 12 PARTICIPANTS BY RESERVATIONS ONLY. Leader: Paul L. Noble (415)948-3876.
- Jan. 16 **Pescadero Area Marsh and Coastline.** Saturday, 11:00 am, Afternoon trip. Meet in the parking area on the W side of Hwy 1 between the bridge and Pescadero Rd. Or park on the W side of the highway before the bridge. Bring lunch. Possible state beach fee. Anticipated species: Rocky shorebirds and waterfowl, gulls, terns, etc. Trip will end around 3 pm. HEAVY RAIN CANCELS. Leader: Paul L. Noble (415)948-3876.
- Jan. 17 **South Santa Cruz County.** Sunday, 9 am. Full Day. Meet in the Watsonville Community Hospital Visitor's Parking Lot. Take Hwy 17 to Santa Cruz. Go S on Hwy 1 and take the Airport Blvd. exit E. Turn right on Green Valley Rd. and then immediately left into the hospital. The visitor's parking area is near the creek. Bring lunch and waterproof footwear. HEAVY RAIN CANCELS. Highlights: A variety of wintering land and waterbirds plus possible rarities. Leader: David Suddjian (408)479-9603.
- Jan. 20 **General Meeting.** Palo Alto Cultural Center, corner Embarcadero and Newell. Refreshments at 7:30 pm, program at 8 pm. Kevin Monahan, past President of Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society is our featured speaker. Kevin will present an incredible program, described inside.
- Jan. 23 **Woodbridge R. and Northern San Joaquin Valley.** Saturday, 8 am. Full day. Meet in the SE corner of the parking lot next to the Shell station at the second Mission Blvd. exit off I-680 in Fremont. Carpooling from here. Bring lunch and be prepared for cold conditions. HEAVY RAIN CANCELS. Highlights: Tundra Swans, Sandhill Cranes, geese and raptors. Please call leader if planning to attend. Leader: Grant Hoyt: (415)969-7892.
- Jan. 24 **Foster City.** Sunday, 9 am. Half day. Take Hwy 101 N to Hillsdale Blvd E. Follow Hillsdale about 1 mi. to Shell Blvd. Turn right and go a third of a mile and park near recreation building. Highlights: possible Hooded Mergansers, Barrow's Golden Eyes, Red Knots. Leader: Dolores Norton (415)941-1666.



Field Trip Coordinator for February: Paul L. Noble (415)948-3876.

- Feb. 6 **Monte Bello OSP.** Saturday, 8:30 am. Half day. Meet in the preserve parking area 7 mi. up Page Mill Rd. from I-280 — or 1 mi. down from Skyline Blvd. Three miles of moderate hiking. Highlights: Techniques for birding for wintering passerines in a woodland habitat. **HEAVY RAIN CANCELS.** Leader: Paul L. Noble (415)948-3876.
- Feb. 7 **Trip for the Gullible. Palo Alto and Mt. View Bay Margins.** Sunday, 9 am. Half day. Meet at the Palo Alto Duck Pond. Take Embarcadero Rd. E off Hwy 101. Here's your chance to bone up on your gull identification. All aspects of gull ID will be addressed including ageing by plumage. beginners welcome - you have to learn your gulls sometime! Heavy rain cancels. Leader: Bill Bousman (415)322-5282.
- Feb. 13 **Elkhorn Slough Boat Trip.** See details in February *Avocet*.
- Feb. 14 **Grant Ranch.** See details in February *Avocet*.

FALL FIELD TRIP REPORTS

Twenty-six adults and three enthusiastic children launched the 1987-88 calendar of field trips for SCVAS on Sept. 12. Starting at Gazos Creek on the San Mateo Coast and working one mile inland through the riparian habitat. 95 species were heard or seen by participants. Areas checked included Gazos Creek, Gazos beach overlook, Pigeon Point, Pescadero Marsh and Pescadero beach overlook.

The three children spoke only Italian, which necessitated much pointing to pictures in field guides by all hands helping to find the birds for "the kids". Highlight of the trip for the youngsters seemed to be the first scope view of oystercatchers. For the adults, the snowy plover colony, the jaeger, the Vaux's swifts, and rails and the miscellaneous shore birds probably ranked somewhat higher. A number of "lifers" were tallied by participants since we had visitors from New Hampshire, and Washington, along with some new and semi-new birders. The leaders appreciate the help of all participants who made this co-op-find-the-birds-trip a success.

- Audrey Stoye & Betty Wyatt

The September 27 field trip to Ft. Cronkhite and Marin Headlands was a great success. Starting at Rodeo Lagoon we had a faraway look at a Red-necked Phalarope (thanks to a Questar) and close looks at Pectoral Sandpipers. At Ft. Cronkhite there was a small flock of chickadees, warblers, etc., that included two different Palm Warblers. Nearby, a late Blue-gray Gnatcatcher was seen by part of the group. The big excitement, however, was at the hawk lookout where an incredible number of people turned out, in response to a newspaper article. Those that waited until 1:20 P.M. sight of an immature Broad-winged Hawk and a second one was seen at very close range at 1:45 p.m.

TURTLE-EXCLUDER DEVICES

After a long campaign, the Center for Environmental Education has succeeded in getting TED's (Turtle-Excluder Devices) named as requirements in the regulations governing commercial shrimp fishing in the Gulf of Mexico and Atlantic coastal waters. Thousands of green (sea) turtles have been killed by drowning in the shrimp nets. The use of the TED's also reduces very greatly the "incidental" take of unwanted finfish by the shrimp trawlers while making very little difference in the number of shrimp they can capture. Now the campaign will be to get shrimp fishery operations in other countries and oceans to adopt similar protective attachments of their shrimp nets.

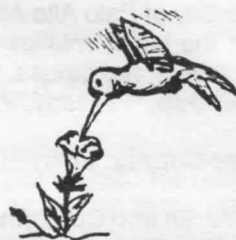
- *The Kite Call*, Ohlone Audubon Society

SCVAS GRANTS

The Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society continues its program of providing grants to studies and projects that advance the knowledge, appreciation, and protection of wildlife and its habitats. **WE ESPECIALLY ENCOURAGE COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY STUDENTS TO APPLY.** Proposals for grants will be accepted through March 31, 1988 for consideration in the current funding cycle. Grants will be awarded by May 15 to those proposals approved fully or partially by the SCVAS grants committee and board of directors.

Applications for grants must be submitted on a grants request form which may be obtained by writing to SCVAS Grants, c/o Donna Zetterquist, 55 Mountain Springs Drive, Santa Cruz, CA, 95060. Each must be accompanied by a proposed budget and schedule for the study or project. After completion of the funded activity, the recipient may be asked to give a presentation at a SCVAS General Meeting or to prepare an article for the *Avocet*.

- Donna Zetterquist, Chair,
Grants Committee



FEEDING WINTER-HUNGRY HUMMERS

Do not take your hummingbird feeders down if you have hummers feeding. Unfortunately, a TV program on hummingbirds advised mistakenly to take syrup feeders down by Labor Day so was to not keep hummers from migrating.

It is normal for many of the Anna's hummingbirds, the common species in our area, to stay here throughout the entire year. As the seasons advance there are progressively fewer plants in flower that can provide hummingbird sustenance. Hummingbirds that do stay and have access to a feeder can easily make it through the winter. Those birds with a strong migratory sense will leave, regardless of the presence of plants or feeders.

A properly maintained syrup feeder becomes even more important in the fall and winter. Feeders should be cleaned and filled with fresh syrup at least once a week.

Please tell others. Many have been confused.

- Louise Blakey

JANUARY'S PROGRAM

KEVIN MONAHAN

Kevin will present an evening of jazz, classical, and rock music synchronized by computer to images of California birds and wildlife. Using multiple screens and projectors, Kevin blends visual images and musical theory with an environmentalist's view of wildlife art. Realizing the great loss of wildlife habitat in California through both ignorance and intent, Kevin seeks to photograph wildlife as individuals to demonstrate the importance, beauty, and uniqueness of even one bird or animal. Kevin has photographed in the mudflats, grasslands, and deserts of California for a number of years. His lecture will mix the multimedia shows with a discussion of his art, technique, and view of the environment.

After viewing slides of Brazil, Malaysia and Australia, it will be refreshing to return to our native fauna and flora for this and the next two general meetings. Don't miss our California birds program with an outstanding former president of Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society. Join us on January 20.

SCVAS ENDORSES GREENBELT RESOLUTION

At the December Board Meeting, SCVAS' Board of Directors unanimously endorsed a resolution in support of the Bay Area Greenbelt:

WHEREAS, the greater Bay Area is a special place to live, providing a unique quality of life; and

WHEREAS, we recognize that the Bay Area is a special place because of the current balance between urban areas and the diverse, highly valuable open space in the nine Bay Area counties; and

WHEREAS, a metropolitan Greenbelt is a large system of protected and productive open space which guides the growth of cities and is essential to the social, economic and ecological well-being of the region and its residents; and

WHEREAS, a metropolitan Greenbelt provides essential habitat for birds and wildlife, including endangered plants and animals; and

WHEREAS, the existing Bay Area Greenbelt, by physically separating communities, enhances civic identities and, if protected, promotes a more compact, efficient pattern of development; and

WHEREAS, public policy in each of the nine Bay Area counties already designates much of the Greenbelt for agriculture, open space, wetlands, watershed or other Greenbelt uses, and

WHEREAS, without official protection for the Greenbelt, the region will in the next few years permanently lose large expanses of its open space:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society hereby supports official protection of a permanent Bay Area Greenbelt.

Volunteers who would like to join an existing Santa Clara County Greenbelt Coalition are invited to call the SCVAS office (415) 329-1811, for information about the next meeting. Please support this exciting and valuable community effort!

THREE NEW WILD AND SCENIC RIVERS FOR CALIFORNIA

"November 1987 will go down in California river history!" President Reagan has signed into law bills including the Merced, Kern and King Rivers as part of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. 71 miles of the main stem of the Merced, from its headwaters to the town of Briceburg and the 43 mile South Fork are now Wild and Scenic. This includes river within Yosemite National Park, the Stanislaus and Sierra National Forests, and an area managed by the Bureau of Land Management. In addition, 8 miles of river between Briceburg and the Lake McClure Reservoir is now a Wild and Scenic Study River. The BLM and Dept. of Interior have up to three years to make a recommendation to Congress about permanent designation.

A total of 81 miles of the Kings River, including the entire South and Middle Fork and five miles of the main stem were protected. These stretches of river are within Monarch and Sequoia-Kings Canyon Wilderness areas. Eleven miles of the main river were designated as the Kings River Special Management Area, including the proposed site of Rodgers Crossing Dam. The area protected is not just a 1/2 mile river corridor, but 48,000 acres of land, protecting the canyon nearly from rim to rim. Dam projects, commercial timber harvesting and new mining claims will be prohibited in this area, and off-road vehicle use limited to current levels.

78.5 miles of the North Fork, and 72.5 miles of the South Fork of the Kern River are Wild and Scenic now. Protected river miles are within Sequoia National Park, Golden Trout Wilderness, South Sierra Wilderness, Domelands Wilderness, and Sequoia National Forest, and include the Forks of the Kern rafting run on the North Fork.

- from *Cross Currents*, Friends of the River



ENVIRONMENTAL LAW SYMPOSIUM

The Planning and Conservation League will hold the Fifth Annual Environmental Legislative Symposium on January 30 and 31, 1988, at the Clarion Hotel in Sacramento. A wide variety of panels, each led by 3 to 5 experts, will cover such topics as CEQA; Planning and Urban Growth; Coastal Protection and Ocean Pollution; Environmental Computer Usage; Forestry and Native Plants; Fundraising, Lobbying and the Press; Local and Statewide Initiatives; Sustainable Pesticides; Transportation and Air Quality; and Water Development. Sunday's program will include several debates and presentation of PCL's Environmental Legislator of the Year award.

For more information, contact PCL, 909 12th St., Suite 203, Sacramento, CA, 95814, (916) 444-8726.

-Audubon Endeavor, Mt. Shasta Audubon Society

FIELD NOTES -- Bill Bousman



Last winter I invited comments on which birds feed on which flowering shrubs or trees. I have gotten a few notes from people. Five trees or shrubs have been mentioned: Chinese pistache, persimmon, toyon, pyracantha, and pineapple guava (petals). So far 23 species have been recorded feeding on at least one of these plants. It's probably no surprise, but the grand winner is the American Robin who has been seen feeding on each of these.

The first loon reports of the season are a juv. **Red-throated Loon** in the old Palo Alto Yacht Harbor 22 Nov (Ron Thorn - RST) and a **Pacific Loon** at Shoreline Lake 28 Nov (Mike Rogers - MR). Both are the earliest records we have had in recent years. **Brown Pelicans** have lingered into November at Shoreline Lake and the vicinity with three there 1 Nov and one reported there through 28 Nov. An additional bird was at Charleston Slough on the latter date (all MR, Richard Jeffers - RJ). **American Bitterns** usually show up in September or October. The first report I've received this fall was of a single bird at the Mountain View Forebay 28 Nov (Phyllis M. Browning - PMB). A "calico" **Little Blue Heron** has been seen in Charleston Slough from 15 Nov through at least 29 Nov (James Yurchenco - JY, Amy Lauterbach - AL, Lynn Teneffoss, PMB, Betty Groce - BG, and Gloria Heller). The bird has bright yellow lores rather than slate-blue lores and this suggests it may be a hybrid **Little Blue Heron X Snowy Egret**. Crosses of this type have been reported locally before. An adult was found in the winter of 1972-73, a "calico" bird was seen in August 1979, and an immature was reported in the Alviso heronry in the summer of 1980. The Little Blue Heron "calico" plumage is observed normally as the immature bird molts into the adult plumage. In this case what we may have is a full adult, but in a hybrid plumage. A bird in the general vicinity last fall had a similar plumage, but was never seen. Normally, we do not see Little Blue Herons after September - it may be that the Snowy genes are keeping this bird around. A **Green-backed Heron** at the Mountain View Forebay 28



Nov (PMB) was the only report this month. Only one **Blue-winged Teal** was found this month, a male at the end of the wastewater outfall at the Palo Alto Baylands 22 Nov (Jack Cole). **Eurasian Wigeon** have been found in better numbers with one on 29 Oct (RST), three on 31 Oct (Mike Mammoser - MM), two on 7 Nov (MM), and one on 28 Nov (PMB), all from Adobe Creek in the Palo Alto FCB. **Redhead** were first noted at their regular location - the North Pond in the Palo Alto FCB 31 Oct (MM) when two males were present. Surprisingly, their numbers have not built up as they usually do in November; only one was noted on 23 Nov (PMB). Two **Greater Scaup** were on Shoreline Lake 25 Nov (Paul L. Noble - PLN). They are resident each winter in small numbers in the south bay, but we tend to ignore their arrival and departure because of identification difficulties. The wintering flock of **Common Mergansers** remains at Almaden Res. with 20 seen 30 Nov. An **Osprey** was seen the same day at Chesbro Res. for one of our few November records (both Alan M. Eisner - AME). Good numbers of **Merlins** have been reported this month. The first was one in the vicinity of Charleston Slough 29 Oct (RST). Additional birds were found in Los Altos 11 Nov (PLN), the Palo Alto Baylands 22 Nov (RST), and Moffett Field 24

Nov (Bill Bousman - WGB). The 22 Nov bird was a female of the prairie race (Richardson's Merlin) which is seldom found in California. The first high tide of the winter 23 Nov brought out the birders at the Palo Alto Baylands and at least one **Black Rail** was present (MM, PMB, BG). Very few **Lesser Yellowlegs** are found after October. Those that are found are generally widely dispensed rather than being concentrated in the vicinity of the Mountain View Forebay. One seen near the Baylands Interpretive Center 20 Nov (Peter Metro-pulos - PJM) was typical of our winter locations for this species. A **Spotted Sandpiper** was found on San Francisco Creek near Geng Road 29 Nov (Ed Laak); it is also a rare, but regular winter resident. The last of the season's **Pectoral Sandpipers** were in outer Charleston Slough 25 Oct and the Mountain View Forebay 28 Oct (both MR). A flock of 50 **Bonaparte's Gulls** turned up on Vasona Res. 15 Nov (Jean DuBois). They have not been noted here in past winters. By 24 Nov the number had declined to 1-2 birds. We do not normally see this species away from the bay. Two **Short-eared Owls** in the Palo Alto FCB 7 Nov and a third bird in the Palo Alto Baylands the same day (MM) is good news indeed. It appears that this species had excellent nesting success in the delta marshes this summer. It will be interesting to see if they are extensively reported on the CBC's this winter. A **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** showed up in the same tree as last February in Palo Alto on 23 Nov (Alberta Jasberg - AJ). It seems likely that this is the same male that visited last winter. Unfortunately, the bird has not been seen again. This is only the second county record for this eastern species. The only report of **Red-breasted Nuthatches** was of two on the Santa Clara side of Castle Rock SP 6 Nov (David Suddjian - DLSu, Bob Merrill - BM). These are part of a resident population. A female **Nashville Warbler** was banded at the Coyote Creek Riparian Station 12 Nov (fide Dick Mewaldt). The late date suggests a possible wintering bird. A **Swamp Sparrow** was found along the Palo Alto Baylands wastewater outfall 20 Nov (PJM). We don't find this species every winter. A **White-throated Sparrow** was found 30 Oct at Villa Montalvo (Alan Walther). Three flocks of **Red Crossbills** totalling 72 birds were flying at Castle Rock SP on both sides of the county line 6 Nov (DLSu, BM). A single bird was at Monte Bello OSP 8 Nov (PLN). A flock of 20 **Evening Grosbeaks** were over Los Altos 25 Nov (PLN). Perhaps we will have a finch winter.

First arrivals: **Lesser Scaup**, 25 Oct, end of Stevens Creek (RJ); **Surf Scoter**, 7 Nov, Shoreline Lake (MM) - about 30 birds joined the two summering birds; **Common Goldeneye**, 14 Nov, Shoreline Lake (PMB); **Common Snipe**, 1 Nov (late), Palo Alto FCB (RJ); **Mew Gull**, 25 Oct, Palo Alto Duck Pond (RJ); **Herring Gull**, 23 Sep, Charleston Slough (DLSu et al.); **Thayer's Gull**, 31 Oct, Palo Alto FCB (MM); **Red-breasted Sapsucker**, 5 Oct, Palo Alto (AJ); **Lincoln's Sparrow**, 17 Oct (late), Arastradero OSP (Grant Hoyt).

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



NATURE SET TO RECOVER LAND AFTER WILDFIRE

Dormant Seed Bank of California Native Plants Awaits First Rains

Recovery of California's thousands of acres of charred forests, chaparral brush and grassland is set to begin with the first fall rains. "Although wildfires have always been a part of the natural process, no one can question the magnitude of the destruction of thousands of acres of valuable timberland, wildlife habitat and personal property consumed in the recent fires," said Susan Cochrane, coordinator of the Department of Fish and Game's Endangered Plant Project.

"Fortunately," Cochrane continued, "the soil already contains a dormant seed bank of native plants, and recovery can happen to a large extent without artificial seeding of invasive non-native plants.

"Many seeds of native plants are adapted to fire. They may not have been able to germinate for many years because of heavy forest or ground cover, or may actually need fire to help them germinate and start the natural revegetation process when the rains begin. And the roots of many native plants remain alive after fires and can send up new shoots with the advent of rain," she added. This natural revegetation will be most beneficial in the recovery of much of the burned forests, and will provide for soil retention and a revitalized natural habitat for the state's fish and wildlife.

The public perception, however, is that artificial measures must begin at once to restore the burned areas. Reseeding with non-native ryegrass has been a primary method used. Ryegrass, however, quickly produces a thick mat of vegetation that crowds out native plant seedlings. Unlike native plants that actually enrich the soil, ryegrass strips the soil of important nutrients. Areas seeded with ryegrass are also subject to flash grass fires that leave the land bare, killing off any remaining struggling native seedlings. And ryegrass must wait for the first rains in the same way as the natives.

In reality, studies have shown that native plants can revegetate just as quickly and far more economically. Many Californians can recount tails of expansive wildflower displays in the spring following autumn fires. Such beauty is nature's first step toward full recovery.

Meanwhile, botanists and ecologists from state and federal agencies, along with the California Native Plant Society, have urged the restrained use of artificial reseeded, especially ryegrass.

The United State Forest Service has stated that its policy will be to reseed only in areas that have already been disturbed, such as areas impacted by heavy fire-fighting equipment or likely to suffer severe erosion.

In Mendocino Forest alone, such damage amounts to about 25 percent of the burned areas; the remainder will be allowed to regenerate naturally. In a recent statement, Charlice Danielsen, president of the California Native Plant Society, praised the Forest Service for its "thoughtful approach to forest recovery that benefits the cause of native vegetation." →

\$1.00 USER FEE TAKES EFFECT DEC. 1 AT FOUR WILDLIFE AREAS

A \$1 daily user fee takes effect Dec. 1 at four state wildlife areas to help defray operating costs. Adults age 18 or over who are not licensed hunters, anglers or trappers will be required to pay the fee, the Dept. of Fish & Game announced. The four areas affected are **Gray Lodge, Los Banos, San Jacinto, and Imperial.** Signs are being posted directing visitors to take and fill out an envelope, insert one dollar per adult visitor, tear off the stub providing a record of payment, and insert the envelope in the "iron ranger", a waist-high cylindrical slotted metal container. Visitors must keep the stub while in the area.

THE COMPANY OF GULLS

*Because I tear the dried crust
from the cheese sandwich and toss it*

*one after another they collect,
a Heerman's catches a potato chip*

*mid-air like a dog, three
(one with one leg) scrap*

*over chunks of banana salted
with sand, thin strips of skin*

*are snatched by the brown mottled
young who turn and gobble,*

*a first-year Western cries, mee-mee,
another eschews strings of celery,*

*the white-headed adults, mantles hunched,
wait nonchalantly as if they know*

*chocolate cake with chocolate icing
is coming; I don't offer black olives,*

*they might not be eaten, a waste,
or hard-boiled egg out of respect.*

*Afterwards some lounge around, heads
on backs, but eyes open, just in case.*

*Diane Quintrall Lewis
(SCVAS Member)*

Eventually planting of tree seedlings will be needed to help start a new crop of timber in the national forests, but new growth of native shrubs, herbs and grasses will provide a better habitat for California's wildlife.

A coordinated effort on the part of state and federal agencies, conservation organizations and landowners — all of whom have a stake in land recovery — is essential to make sure that the opportunity created by the recent fires to restore native California plants and wildlife habitat is used to its fullest advantage.

GIFTS AND BEQUESTS

SCVAS is using funds from the Emily Smith bequest, mentioned in the December *Avocet*, to contribute to the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation's S.F. Bay Wetlands Preservation and Restoration Fund. The rest of the bequest will be used to finance high priority chapter environmental action activities. We encourage all members to consider naming Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society as the recipient of donations and bequests - and thereby help us support productive and important conservation and educational projects.

Gifts and Memorials

*For the Gaylord Androes Memorial Education Fund
From James and Rosemary Klock*

*For SCVAS General Fund
From Steve Miller*

NEW BIRDING MAGAZINE PUBLISHED

A new periodical catering to birders has been published in the last year. It's called 'Birder's World' and I recently had the opportunity to peruse a copy. Published bimonthly (6 issues a year), this standard-sized magazine has much to offer. Resembling a combination between Audubon, Birding and Birdwatchers Digest, the content combines feature stories with a dozen departments dealing with birding locales, rare bird reports, conservation issues and a unique look at birds in art. Stories in the issue I looked at were interesting and well written. The photo essay on cliff-nesting Canada Geese was outstanding. Indeed the most impressive part of the magazine is the photography itself. Sharp color photos are generously spread throughout. My issue did not include a story on bird identification and I feel the magazine will not include many such articles that are strictly identification oriented as this information is available in other publications.

Overall this magazine is geared for the general birding population without giving the reader a heavy dose of coverage on any one subject or aspect of birding. I highly recommend this publication to all birders, especially to those that have been turned off by the more regimental birding publications available today.

- Paul L. Noble

Wolf Update

On August 3, 1987 the Rocky Mountain Wolf Recovery Plan was approved by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The plan calls for the reintroduction of wolves to Yellowstone National Park and the natural resettlement of wolves to northwestern Montana and central Idaho. However, National Park Service Director William Mott has conceded to pressure from the Wyoming Congressional Delegation and put the plan "on hold." Defenders of Wildlife's Hank Fischer states that "an overwhelming majority of Yellowstone Park visitors as well as most people in Wyoming want wolves in Yellowstone" and that "major conservation issues like this one take constant pressure and effort." Fischer emphasizes the importance of letting officials and representatives know that people outside Wyoming support the restoration of wolves to Yellowstone Park. Defenders is also considering the establishment of a permanent compensation program for all three wolf recovery areas in the Northern Rockies, to "shift the economic burden of wolf recovery from the individual live-stock producer to those people who support having wolves in Montana".

If you want to see the Rocky Mountain Wolf Recovery Plan implemented, please write: William Penn Mott, Director, National Park Service, Department of the Interior, C Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20240.

- Defenders of Wildlife
Activist Network News, August, 1987.

BAAC MEETING

The next Bay Area Audubon Council Meeting will take place from 9 am until 3 pm on Saturday, January 9, 1988, at National Audubon Society's Richardson Bay Sanctuary, in Tiburon. SCVAS is hosting this meeting, and we encourage members to attend. It is an excellent opportunity to learn about regional conservation matters, as well as get an up-to-date report of National Audubon Society activities. Car-pooling is available; for more information please call Lynn at the office, (415) 329-1811.

ARCTIC NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE VIDEO

The Northern Alaska Environmental Center has produced a 25 minute VHS videotape on the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, chronicling significant wildlife and wilderness resources, interviews with Alaskan Natives, comments of a caribou biologist and scenes of Prudhoe Bay oil field pollution impacts. "Arctic Refuge: Treasure of the North" is available from NAEC, 218 Driveway, Fairbanks, AK 99701, \$15 postpaid.

NON-AUDUBON TRIPS AND EVENTS

The following trips and events are not sponsored by Audubon but are listed for your interest:

- Alice Hoch, 26-year birder and teacher since 1975, will teach a Tuesday Birding Field Trips Class, sponsored by the Fremont Adult School, beginning on January 5, 1988. Each Tuesday the class, designed for beginners and experienced birders, will visit a different birding spot to study field identification, life styles and ecology of local birds. Registration for the class, which will meet on six Tuesday mornings, starting January 5, will be at 9:30 am in Room 1 of the Fremont Adult School, 4700 Calaveras Ave., Fremont. Call the school, (415)791-5841, for more information.

- A one-day field trip to observe birds in the Delta will be held on Saturday, Jan. 23. There will be an opportunity to view hundreds of Sandhill Cranes on their wintering grounds in the delta of the San Joaquin and Sacramento rivers, where they are expected to be practicing their nuptial dance. Many other birds will also be observed. Pre-registration by January 19th is a must, by mail or in person at the Fremont Adult School, 4700 Calaveras Ave., Fremont 94538. Include \$17.50 fee and a stamped, self-addressed envelope. Alice Hoch will lead this trip. For information on equipment, transportation, car pools, food, etc. call (415)791-5841.

- Sequoia Adult School will offer Birding Basics, for beginning and intermediate birders. The class will concentrate on wintering landbirds, their identification, biology and history. Nine inside lectures and five Sunday field trips will start on January 13 at 7:30 pm at the San Carlos Senior Centers. The fee is \$40 and registration will be at the first class. Call (415)369-6809 for more information.

- For more advanced birders, a class will deal with the behavior and activities of winter birds. Nine slide lectures and five Saturday field trips will begin on January 11 at 7:30 pm at Little House in Menlo Park. Fee is \$45 and registration is at the first class. Call (415)369-6809 for more information.

- Palo Alto Adult Education will hold two winter courses, taught by Jim Rosso. Introduction to Birdwatching starts on Jan. 5, meeting on eight Tuesday evening and having three field trips.

Intermediate Birdwatching meets Monday nights, starting January 4, for eight evenings and three field trips. Further information from Jim (415)968-7176 or Palo Alto Adult Ed, (415)329-3752.

- San Jose State U. is planning field trips which will earn you university credits. January 3-13, a trip goes to the lower Colorado and Chihuahuan deserts of So. California and Colorado. Death Valley from March 27 - April 2 and more coming up.

You don't have to be a SJSU student to join any trip. Call (408)277-3736 for information.

- The Mono Lake Committee is planning a trip to Antarctica for January 1989. Ten cabins have been reserved: the all-inclusive cost for the 15-day cruise is about \$6000, of which \$500 is tax deductible. For full information, send a 5x10" stamped, self-addressed envelope to: Antarctica, c/o M. Bennett, 2719 Marin Ave., Berkeley 94708.

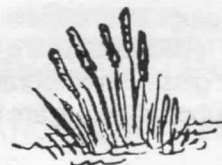
In addition to the Antarctica trip for January 1989, there will be a tour and trek in Bhutan in October, 1988. Bhutan, a small mountainous country, is in the Himalaya east of Nepal. The trip will cost \$3200 (\$300 tax-deductible) plus airfare. For brochures send a self-addressed stamped envelope (5x10) to M. Bennett, 2719 Marin Ave., Berkeley 94708.

- Youth Science Institute is sponsoring three field trips in February: a Monterey Bay Whale Watch on Sun, Feb. 7 from 8 am to 3 pm. The tour will meet at Sam's Fishing Fleet, Fisherman's Wharf, Monterey Bay and will cost \$30 for member, \$34 for non-members. Leader is David Johnston; a trip to Ano Nuevo State Preserve for a view of four species of seals and sea lions will be on Sun, Feb. 14 from 10 am to 4 pm. Fee is \$15 members and \$18 non-members. Leader is Nancy Childs; a winter bird walk through Vasona Lake Park, Los Gatos Creek and the percolation ponds in Los Gatos will take place on Sat, Feb 20 from 8:30 am to 11:30 am. There is no cost for this trip, open to all birding enthusiasts. The leader is Suzanne Van Stee. For more information about any of these trips call JoAnn Souza, YSI, (408)356-4945.

- Spring birding classes will be offered by the San Francisco Community College District. The offerings, which meet for seven or eight weeks at \$40 and \$45, are Ornithology I, an introduction to avian biology, which begins on Tues. evenings starting Jan. 19; Ornithology II, an in-depth systematic study of identification and status of waterbirds, meeting on Wed. evenings beginning Jan. 20; Ornithology III will cover landbirds, beginning on Thurs. Jan. 21. Optional field trips may be arranged. More information, (415)776-8247.

- A handsome wall calendar and stamped T-shirts are offered for sale by the Save Phillipine Eagles Foundation in order to promote public awareness of the rapid decline of the Phillipine rainforest. Mike Kapis, director of SPEF, hopes to use the proceeds from this sale to provide scholarships for students in the Phillipines who are interested in majoring in conservation or environmental areas.

The calendars are \$5.75; the T-shirts \$12, in sizes for children and adults (includes postage and handling). Send your check or money order, (and sizes) to SPEF, P. O. Box 7177, San Jose, CA 95150.



DUCKS UNDER SEIGE

Last summer, National Audubon Society released several of their special television programs to public television networks nationwide. Public television stations then could choose whether or not to air those shows. KQED -TV in San Francisco did tape the programs, but have not aired them yet. SCVAS has a particular interest in one of the specials, Ducks Under Seige, because it chronicles our fight to save wetlands in South San Francisco Bay, and several members are featured!

If you would like to encourage KQED to air Ducks, and other fine NAS television programs, drop them a postcard and tell them so. They will get back to you with the time and day it is to be shown, when scheduled. KQED, 500 Eighth St, San Francisco, CA, 94103, ATTN: Programming.

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Donna Zetterquist		408/429-9716		Cheeseman	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.

SAVE WETLANDS COFFEE MUG

Help get the message out! The Citizens Committee to Complete the Refuge has created a new fundraiser. Their unique autoshade with the "Save Wetlands" message now has a companion coffee mug, with the same four color design. Mugs retail for \$8 each, autoshades for \$5. Both are available from the SCVAS office, or at General Meetings.



SF BAY WETLANDS PRESERVATION AND RESTORATION FUND

Public attention to the need for wetlands protection is paying off! The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation has accepted a \$50,000 donation from the Golden Gate Audubon Society, as seed money establishing the San Francisco Bay Wetlands Preservation and Restoration Fund. Contributions to this fund will facilitate acquisition of wetlands identified for inclusion in the new Refuge boundaries. Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society has followed GGAS's lead with a \$5,000 contribution, and other gifts from corporate and private foundations, including Audubon chapters are being actively solicited.

Audubon members are encouraged to contact their employers for contributions on behalf of the fund, and individual gifts are welcomed as well. For more information, contact SCVAS office.

NEW NATIONAL DIRECTOR

The western region now has a representative on the National Audubon Society Board of Directors. Bob Grant at P. O. Box 82367, Kenmore, Washington 98028, is an experienced Chapter activist and would like to hear from members with compliments, suggestions or complaints about any matter relevant to the National Board.

THE DESERT PROTECTION BILL (S. 7)

There has been no progress on Senate Bill 7 since last month. Primarily, Senator Pete Wilson has no firm position, which is giving the anti-protectionists time to plan and manipulate. With the summer recess behind us and other more visible items before the Senate, we all need to consider writing Senator Wilson requesting that he adopt the "pass S. 7" position so we can move ahead in establishing a Mojave National Park. Write Senator Wilson, Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC 20510.

- *The Kite Call*, Ohlone Audubon Society

MAGAZINE ISSUES SOUGHT

Ron Norden is looking for selected issues of American Birds from 1982 - 1986. He needs all of the No. 1 issues of those years as well as many others. He is also looking for some issues of Birding in the same time frame. Rod will pay for these back issues. Call him at (408)996-6442(w) or (408)370-7448(h).

DONATIONS - Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society welcomes gifts in general, or gifts in honor or memory of relatives and friends. Such donation 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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CHECK CATEGORY

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- Senior Citizen / \$21
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