

SANTA CLARA VALLEY AUDUBON SOCIETY  
 Chapter C14 of the National Audubon Society  
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**1988 SCVAS BIRDATHON**

Few people think of birdwatching as a competitive activity, much less as a way of raising money. But on Sunday, April 24, Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society will take part in what is being touted as the WORLD'S LARGEST COMPETITIVE BIRDWATCHING EVENT, the 1988 Audubon Birdathon, organized by National Audubon Society. SCVAS members will use their birding skills to raise money for Audubon's local and national environmental, research, education and action programs. Local members, from beginners to experts, can join birders across the country scanning the skies and bushes in a one-day marathon attempt to identify as many bird species as possible.

And what are we raising money for? Well, there are two very worthy causes. This year's Birdathon is dedicated to the memory of David Gaines - founder of the Mono Lake Committee (see March 1988 Avocet) **Half the money raised will go to the National Audubon Society Mono Lake Legal Fund**, in continued support for efforts to preserve this beautiful and ecologically vital natural wonder.

**The other half of the proceeds will be matched by SCVAS, and donated to the SF Bay National Wildlife Refuge.** These funds will be used to print teacher education guidebooks, construct a water control structure, and build a boardwalk. Specifically requested by Refuge managers, these improvements will be used and appreciated by us, SCVAS members, in the near future.

Individuals, teams, and Audubon chapters are competing for prizes based on the most species seen and the greatest amount of money raised. **Prizes include binoculars, outdoor equipment, cameras, books, gift certificates and more donated by Minolta, Nikon, Timberland and Zeiss, among others. Local merchants have also donated prizes, including a gift certificate from Phileas Fogg's Books and 8X40 binoculars from Smith & Hawken. All participants have a chance of winning something!**

Continued on Page 2

YES! I want to support the 1988 Birdathon as a:

Counter. I/we want to have my/our own team. Please send more information to the person indicated below.

Sponsor. I/we pledge the following amount per species seen to the Team circled below. (with estimated # of species to be seen.)

5¢    10¢    20¢    25¢    50¢    \$1    \_\_\_\_\_ other

Vagrants    Wrentits    Roadrunners    If You've Seen One  
 (130-50)    (100)    (60)    (20)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

# 1988 SCVAS BIRDATHON

(Continued from Page 1)

SCVAS is fielding four teams of sharp-eyed birders for you to choose from to support, in their maniacal pursuit of maximum bird species.

**GRANT HOYT and DICK STOVEL**

**"THE VAGRANTS"**

**AUDREY STOYE, DOUG and GAIL CHEESEMAN**

**"THE WRENTITS"**

**CHRIS and CLAIRE WOLFE**

**"THE ROADRUNNERS"**

**JULES RESNICK, MARY ANN LEER, CHRIS and MARLENE BEKINS**

**"IF YOU'VE SEEN ONE BIRD, YOU'VE SEEN THEM ALL"**



**Choose your favorite, and pledge to donate a certain amount of money per species spotted.** (Example; you want the WRENTITS to do well, so you pledge 20¢ per species; they find 50 species, so you owe 20¢ x 50 = \$10.00)

If the team concept doesn't appeal, go out on your own, and get your friends, neighbors and co-workers to help you out by sponsoring **YOU** on the Birdathon. Or form a team with your regular birding pals and collect sponsors. We will send you a sponsor form, and pledge cards. The SCVAS teams will probably find between 60 -150 species. We suggest a minimum pledge of 10¢ per species, but please consider more. Any contribution will be gratefully accepted.

Let's show NAS and other local chapters that our chapter knows how to compete with the best of them! Sign up now as a participant or sponsor in the 1988 Birdathon, using the attached form. We need your support for this new and exciting fundraiser, and we need the support of non-members too. **Help make April 24 a BIG DAY for the chapter - and SIGN UP NOW!**

For info on participating as a counter, please call Grant Hoyt at (415)969-7892 or Lynn Tennefoss at (415) 329-1811.

## ESTUARY AWARENESS WEEK

Governor Deukmejian, along with the twelve Bay-Delta counties' City Councils and Boards of Supervisors, will be asked to proclaim the week of April 24 as "Estuary Awareness Week", highlighting the importance of the Estuary to citizens of the Bay Area. Watch for more information in newspapers and the May issue of AVOCET, or call the EPA's San Francisco Estuary Project at (415) 464-7990.

## FUND RAISER FOR SCVAS

The Cheesemans' Australia tour, Oct. 14 to Nov. 5, includes a \$200 donation per person to SCVAS. The cost including airfare from San Francisco is \$4,156.00. If you are interested in experiencing springtime in Australia with wild-life, culture, Expo. and great Aussie naturalists, call Cheesemans' Eco. Safaris at (408) 741-5330. (Note: The Cheesemans will donate an additional \$3,000.00 if there are 16 people on the trip.)



### FUNDRAISING QUESTIONNAIRE

SCVAS is getting very involved in many different projects, and costs keep rising. The Board of Directors would like YOUR opinion of the kind of fundraiser you would support. Please indicate which, if any, of the following ideas appeal to you, or if none of them do. Any new ideas are very welcome!

I would participate in a SCVAS benefit:

Pizza feed at a local pizza parlor

Barbeque at a local nature center or park, with speaker or entertainment

Dinner-dance with silent auction

Other \_\_\_\_\_

I don't think SCVAS should do any more fundraisers.

I would like to be on the Fundraising Committee and help SCVAS with fundraising activities.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Please return to the SCVAS office, 415 Cambridge Ave, Suite 21, Palo Alto, CA 94306.



# 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 April: Bill Clark (415) 326-7565.

- Apr. 2 **Coyote Lake County Park.** Saturday, 8:30 am. Half to full day. Meet at the Denny's on Leavesley Rd. in Gilroy. Take Hwy 101 S from San Jose to Gilroy. Exit at Leavesley Rd. Go over freeway and then left into Denny's. Go to back of building. Bring lunch. Possible park entrance fee. Highlights: Early warblers, Wild Turkey, Rufous-crowned Sparrow, etc.. Leader: Jean-Marie Spoelman (415) 797-0265.
- Apr. 6 **Bay Area Bird Photographers.** Wednesday, 7:30 pm at the Baylands Interpretive Center. Tom Rountree will present a slide program, "South Bay Album", photos taken in San Francisco Bay. Co-sponsored by the City of Palo Alto.
- Apr. 9 **Coal Mine Ridge.** Saturday, 8:30 am. Half day. Take Hwy I-280 to Alpine, S about 3 miles to stop at Portola Rd. Continue on Alpine .9 miles to parking on right just before Willowbrook. Heavy rain cancels. Lunch optional. Bluebirds, vireos, warblers, views. Trip limited to 10 people. Call for reservations. Leader: Phil Hand (415) 851-2623.
- Apr. 12 **Bird Discussion Group.** Tuesday, 9:30 am at the home of Eve Case, 20537 Verde Vista Lane, Saratoga. Topic: Short Eared Owls. Call Pat Dubois, (408) 395-4264.
- Apr. 13 **South County Field Trip.** Wednesday, 8:30 am. Half day. Stevens Creek Park. From I-280 exit onto Foothill and proceed S 2.1 miles to first park entrance. Meet at first parking lot (Chestnut Picnic Area). Leader: Frank Vanslager (408) 257-3647.
- Apr. 16 **Pinnacles National Monument.** Saturday, 8:30 am. Full day. Meet in the Chalone Creek Parking Area. Take Hwy 101 S to Hwy 25. Go about 40 miles S to Hwy 146. Right on 146 to Monument. 4 miles easy walking. Entrance fee. Leader: Phyllis Swanson (408) 274-2349.
- Apr. 17 **Shorebird Census.** (Details in March Avocet.)
- Apr. 17 **Henry Coe State Park.** Sunday 8:30 am. Full day. Meet at the Park Headquarters. Take Hwy 101 S from San Jose to Dunne Ave. exit E. Continue on Dunne towards hills, across Anderson Dam to Park about 13 miles. Bring lunch and water. 5 miles moderate hiking. Leaders: Jim and Sue Liskovec (415) 969-5542.
- Apr. 20 **General Meeting.** Wednesday. Palo Alto Cultural Center, corner of Newell and Embarcadero. Refreshments at 7:30 pm, program at 8 pm. See inside for program.
- Apr. 22-25 **Spring Desert Trip to Joshua Tree Nat. Mon. and Salton Sea.** Friday through Monday. Join Don Starks and Paul Noble for an extended trip to Southern California. See full details inside Avocet.
- Apr. 23 **Jasper Ridge Biological Preserve, Stanford University.** Saturday, 8:30 am. Half day. Meet at the preserve MAIN gate. Take Sand Hill Road W off I-280. Go 2 miles to gate on left. \$2.00 gate fee. 2-3 miles of easy walking. Lunch optional. Limited to 40 people. BY RESERVATION ONLY. Highlights: Lake, marsh, woodland and grassland species plus wildflowers. For reservations call Bill and Jean Clark (415) 326-7565. Leaders: Bill and Jean Clark, Winkie Lennihan, Lynn Teneffoss.
- Apr. 24 **SCVAS Birdathon.** Sunday.
- Apr. 27 **Field Trip North.** Wednesday, 9:00 am. Edgewood Park. Take I-280 N to the Edgewood Rd. turnoff. Turn left on Edgewood and park along the road before you get to Canada Rd. Nice serpentine area flowers. Lunch optional. Leaders: Rose Green (415) 493-8378 or Dolores Norton (415) 941-1666.
- Apr. 30 **Durham Ferry/Caswell State Park.** Saturday, 7:00 am. Full day. Meet at Ohlone College in Fremont. Take first Mission Blvd. N off I-680 to Ohlone College approximately 3 miles. Park at first lot on right. Carpooling from here. Park entrance fee. Anticipated species: Blue Grosbeak, Swainson's Hawk. Leader: Grant Hoyt (415) 969-7892.



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

- May 7 **Arastradero OSP.** Saturday, 7:30 am. Half day. Meet at the Page Mill Rd. Park 'n' Ride lot at the I-280 intersection. Limited to 25 participants. BY RESERVATION ONLY. Highlights: Breeding birds of oak woodland and riparian habitats. For more info and reservations call leader: Grant Hoyt (415) 969-7892.
- May 8 **Monte Bello OSP.** Sunday, 8 am. Half day. Meet in the parking lot at the preserve 6 miles up Page Mill Rd. from I-280 or 1 mile down from Skyline Blvd. 3-4 miles of moderate hiking. Bring water and lunch. Long pants advised (ticks). Highlights: Woodland breeding birds in full song and possible interior species migrants. Leader: Mike Rigney (408) 378-1224.
- May 15 **Stevens Creek County Park.** Saturday, 8 am. Half day. Meet in the first parking area below the dam. 1-2 miles easy walking. Highlights: Breeding birds and migrants. Leader: Phil Hand (415) 851-2623.

## FIELD NOTES - Bill Bousman



As we learn more about the habits of our local birds we learn how to take advantage of those habits or responses in our observations. There is no better example of this than our response to high tides along the bay. We have learned that the secretive rail species are forced from cover by these tides and often disoriented. This makes a seldom-seen species much more readily observed. In a sense the high tide is a concentrating factor that makes it easier for us to see the rarer birds. These are other concentrating factors that allow better looks at rarities, but none quite so obvious as the high tides. One of these is the effect of winter-flowering eucalyptus trees. A particularly striking example of this for me was a short walk along San Francisquito Creek in January. In a space of less than a half mile I found two male Western Tanagers, a female Nashville Warbler, and three Orange-crowned Warblers associated with flowering eucalyptus. None of these trees were in flower at the time of the Palo Alto Christmas Bird Count this year and, hence, none of these species were recorded along the creek. It seems very clear that all of these birds are wintering locally, but we only see them when they are concentrated at some substantial resource. I think that we will find nearly any of our rare wintering species in the valley somewhere if we keep our eyes on the flowering of the eucalyptus stands. It is really a little like reading a tide table except it requires walking around a bit and keeping our eyes open. If you try this next winter note that the Yellow-rumped Warblers and House Finches will tell you when a tree is producing copious nectar. Watch out for the staining that develops in a circular pattern around the bills of birds feeding in eucalyptus, as this can cause some confusion in the identification.

Loons have continued locally on into February. A **Red-throated Loon** remained at Vasona Res. at least through 18 Jan (Ed Gustafson-EG), while one has remained at Shoreline Lake through 16 Feb (Mike Rogers). A single **Pacific Loon** was found at Vasona Res. on 18 Jan and was joined by a second bird on 20 Jan. Both birds were seen through 31 Jan (EG). A belated report of three **Cattle Egrets** at the Lexington Res. dam 21 Dec (Dick Erickson-RAE) is of particular interest as this species seemed to be becoming more common up through 1984 or 1985, yet there are no county records since then. The success or failure of a species on the edge of its range is always an interesting phenomenon. A pair of **Wood Duck** were found at the upper end of Stevens Creek Res. 14 Feb (Steve O'Neill-SO'N) where they are seldom reported. Seven birds have returned to a feeder and nest boxes in Menlo Park (29 Feb, Betty Groce) where they have nested in past years. **Blue-winged Teal** have been found in their usual haunts in small numbers with a pair in the Palo Alto FCB 14 Feb (Rich Jeffers-RJ) and 28 Feb (Bill Bousman-WGB). Another pair was seen in Charleston Slough 15 Feb and four birds were there 4 Mar (WGB). A **Eurasian Wigeon** on Grant Lake 10 Feb (Gail Cheeseman) was from an area where I have no previous records. A male in the Palo Alto FCB 15 Feb (RJ) was in a more typical location. We usually only find **Hooded Mergansers** in the county one winter out of two, so this has been an unusual winter with birds found in three places. Four birds were still

at the Campbell percolation ponds 1 Feb 88 (EG) and four more mergansers were seen on Stevens Creek Res. 14 Feb (SO'N) which is a new location for the species. **Common Mergansers** have also been found in good numbers with 50 on Calero Res. 24 Jan and 32 on Uvas Res. the same day (AJ Eisner-AME). An **Osprey** over the Los Gatos Creek percolation ponds 19 Feb (RAE) was an early migrant. Our peak numbers occur in March and April. **Merlin** continue to be seen in greater than usual numbers with two seen in Menlo Park 14 Feb (Carl Beck, Holly Wilkins) and one in Los Gatos 28 Feb (Mike Feighner). One of the Menlo Park birds was a female of Richardson's (prairie) race. At least one **Black Rail** was seen at the Palo Alto Baylands on the high tides of 16-17 Feb (RJ). A **Common Moorhen** in Los Gatos Creek Park 24 Jan (Alan & Marjorie Neal-A&MN) extends the range upstream of this freshwater species for records that I have. A wintering **Spotted Sandpiper** was seen there the same day (A&MN). A **Northern Pygmy-Owl** was seen on Quimby Road above Jos. Grant CP 21 Feb (Darrell Anderson). A **Short-eared Owl** was over the Palo Alto FCB 15 Feb (WGB). The Mt. Hamilton CBC had a total of 76 **Lewis' Woodpeckers** 23 Dec (*vide* Don Schmoltdt-DSc). This is up from last year's very low seven birds and is substantially higher than the long-term average. A **Western Wood-Pewee** at Sanborn CP 27 Feb (Jack Cole-JC) is extraordinary and is one of our very few winter records. The earliest migrants arrive in the second week of April. Fourteen Phainopepla were seen on the day of the Mt. Hamilton CBC, 23 Dec (*vide* DSc, WGB, Larry Parmeter). This number is above the long-term average for the area. A **Solitary Vireo** at Sanborn CP 27 Feb 9JC) may have been an early migrant rather than a wintering bird as the earliest arrival dates include the third week in March. Three **Orange-crowned Warblers** along San Francisquito Creek 31 Jan (WGB) were attracted by the flowering eucalyptus trees and represent a typical wintering populations. A female **Nashville Warbler** in one of the same trees is much more rare. Two male **Western Tanagers** were found in the same stretch of creek below Middlefield Road, each having staked out its own territory. The **Black-throated Sparrow** wintering in San Jose was still there as of 5 Mar (Frank and Duane O'Sullivan). A **Swamp Sparrow** was found on the Stanford Campus 31 Jan (Hugh Possingham) for one of our few records away from the bay. However, when found along the bay it is almost always associated with a source of fresh water. Twelve **Red Crossbills** at Monte Bello OSP 6 Feb (Paul Noble-PLN) is our only report this month and contradicts my prediction that we would start to see many of the birds feeding in residential areas as a spring approached. **Evening Grosbeaks** are still being found in the residential areas with 12 in Los Altos on 25 Feb and 8 on 26 Feb (PLN). Early arrivals: four **Tree Swallows** over the Palo Alto FCB 28 Feb (WGB); two **Barn Swallows** there 4 Mar (WGB); and an **Orange-crowned Warbler**, Sanborn CP 27 Feb (JC).

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



## BE A TEN MINUTE ACTIVIST

Even if you are a very busy person, and most SCVAS members are, with these simple activities, **YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!**

1. National Audubon Society is gearing up for this year's effort to continue to acquire critical wildlife habitat along the San Joaquin River, the Sacramento River, and San Francisco Bay. These key wetlands areas provide habitat for more endangered species than any other habitat type in California. They are the wintering grounds for waterfowl and shorebirds of the Pacific Flyway.

The Central Valley has been ranked number one in the nation in terms of its wetlands and wildlife by the US Fish and Wildlife Service. The new North American Waterfowl Plan calls for the preservation of an additional 80,000 acres of Central Valley Wetlands. The San Joaquin River National Wildlife Refuge winters the entire population of the endangered Aleutian Canada Goose, 1500 Greater Sandhill Crane and 500 White pelicans, a nesting colony of 250 Great Blue Herons, Great Egrets and Double Crested Cormorants.

Congress is being asked for \$5 million from the Land and Water Conservation Fund for the San Joaquin River National Wildlife Refuge.

Congressman Don Edwards is introducing legislation to allow additional seasonal and freshwater wetlands to be added to the San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge.

**Please write a short note to Senator Alan Cranston, expressing your support for new National Wildlife Refuge areas. We need to stress to him the importance of protecting wildlife areas as units of the National Wildlife Refuge System. Urge him to help protect our greatly diminished wetlands and riparian areas so wildlife will have a place to live.** You may want to mention support for specific wetland areas Audubon is leading the charge to protect: additions to the SF Bay National Wildlife Refuge, and the San Joaquin River Refuge. If you have time to write Senator Wilson too, that would be helpful as well.

•Senator Alan Cranston, Ste 112 Hart Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC 20510

•Senator Pete Wilson, Ste 720 Hart Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC, 20510

2. **Call the National Audubon Society Hotline (202) 547-9017.** It will tell you background information and current status of an Audubon priority issue, and who to call to do the most good.

..... and if you have more time, or the inclination, we have several opportunities for you to join our ACTIVE Environmental Action Committee, and participate in the worthwhile conservation activities of the chapter:

1. Eagles, mountain lions and deer still live in Santa Clara County. Our open spaces are great for birdwatching, hiking, photography, and as a limit to urban sprawl. **We need volunteers to join Trish Mulvey on the Santa Clara Valley Greenbelt Coalition**, meeting monthly in San Jose. Emphasis right now is on forming an Open Space District for the area of Santa Clara County not part of Mid-Peninsula Open Space District.

2. Do you like to socialize? Want to meet new people? Well, we have just the opportunity for you! SCVAS will participate in several fairs and events in the next few months, and **we need volunteers to help at our booths for 2-3 hour shifts.** You will hand out membership forms, sell books, do a simple coloring activity with children, and be accompanied by SCVAS staff or board member to help answer questions.

Upcoming events include:

Youth Science Institute's Wildlife Day, Sunday, March 27, Alum Rock Park, San Jose, 10 am-4 pm

Shoreline Park Celebration, Sunday, June 5, Shoreline Park, Mountain View, 11 am-4 pm

De Anza Days, Sunday, June 5, De Anza College, Cupertino, 9 am-4 pm

3. SCVAS needs a **volunteer representative to the South Bay Committee of the Bay Area Trail Council (BATC).** BATC is a newly formed organization, responsible for planning a trail around the Bay Area atop the ridges of our surrounding mountain ranges - a 10 county project, currently administered by the National Park Service and People for Open Space. The South Bay Committee will concentrate on the trail from San Francisco south along the Santa Cruz Mountain range, crossing over the Coyote Valley south of San Jose, and continuing north along the Diablo Range to Henry Coe State Park.

**TO VOLUNTEER FOR ANY OF THESE ACTIVITIES, PLEASE CALL THE SCVAS OFFICE AT (415) 329-1811.**

## SPRING DESERT TRIP

Don Starks and Paul Noble are leading a four-day birding trip to the Joshua Tree National Monument - Salton Sea area. Dates will be Friday, April 22 through Monday, April 25. Don has led this trip in the past for SFBBO with great success and fun. His last spring trip resulted in such highlights as Brant, Fulvous Whistling Duck, Golden Plover, Gull-billed Tern, Yellow-footed Gull, and Macgillivray's Warbler. This list does not include all the usual species to be found in the varied habitats we will visit. Be prepared for heat, of course, but I might add that it snowed on our camp (Joshua Tree) the first night we were there last time. Accommodations are available near Joshua Tree and Salton Sea for those who prefer and a group camp is being reserved for those who like to sleep under the stars. If time permits, we may visit Morongo Valley and the Taft area. Why Taft? Leconte's Thrasher! Allow 10 hours Friday for the drive down and we'll start early Saturday on our birding adventure. \$30 a person and call Don at (408)371-9720 for further information.

## NEW DIRECTOR WELCOMED!

SCVAS is glad to welcome Rob Colwell to the SCVAS Board, filling a current vacancy for a one year term. Rob, a lawyer in Palo Alto, and his wife Rita became members of SCVAS several years ago, because of their interest in birdwatching.

## CHAPTER ELECTIONS

SCVAS members present at the May 18 General Meeting will vote on the following nominated officers and directors for 1988-89:

**PRESIDENT - Dave Johnston**, SCVAS 1st Vice Pres 1986-88, 2nd Vic Pres 1985-86, Director 1982-85. Director of Youth Science Institute.

**FIRST VICE PRESIDENT- Barbara Monahan**, SCVAS 2nd Vice Pres. 1986-88, Director 1984-86, Environmental Action Committee Chair. Supervisor, Customer Relations, Atari Computer.

**SECOND VICE PRESIDENT - Martha Esserlieu**, Director 1986-88, active Environmental Action Committee member, founder of Citizens for Open Space in Alvarado, and Co-chair of Citizens Committee to Complete the Refuge. Environmental Scientist.

**TREASURER - Don Price**, Director 1985-88, Finance Committee Chair, involved with a group reforesting a section of Stanford's Arboretum. Works with the Controller's Office, Stanford University.

### **DIRECTORS FOR THREE YEARS (1988-1991)**

**Jules Resnick** - Treasurer 1986-88, birdwatcher, enjoys nature photography and camping. Programmer/analyst at Stanford University.

**Theresa Spinler** - Director 1987-88, Fundraising Committee Chair, Finance Committee member, SCVAS KETH phonathon volunteer, active birder.

**Donna Zetterquist** - Grants Committee Chair, Recording Secretary 1982-83, Director 1980-83, birdwatcher and photographer, field trip leader and part-time naturalist. Sales Engineer.

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

**MONO LAKE** - There are numerous items of interest involving Mono Lake. The Mono Lake Committee and Los Angeles Dept. Of Water and Power have entered an agreement to fund a study of water supply alternatives for Los Angeles. The study, to be finished this July, will be done by the Environmental Defense Fund. Through court action a preliminary injunction has been won guaranteeing interim flows down Lee Vining Creek, Mono's second largest tributary amounting to 5 cubic feet per second. This, coupled with similar court-mandated flows down Rush Creek of 19 CFS, has helped Mono Lake reach its current level of 6378 feet. Precipitation appears to be normal for the Mono Basin this year; a marked improvement over last year.

## THANKS TO VOLUNTEERS

Many thanks to office volunteers Tibby Simon and Peter Lieder, and library volunteer Rita Colwell. If you would like to spend 2 hours a week helping in the SCVAS office, please call Lynn at (415) 329-1811.

## GIFTS AND MEMORIALS

*In memory of Gaylord Androes  
From Hal and Mary Plimpton*

*For general Chapter activities  
From Wayne Dyer*

*For environmental activism  
From Frederick Lee*

## FIELD TRIP COMMITTEE CHANGES

Field Trip Committee members Bill Clark and Betty Groce have stepped down after valuable years of service. Bill served on the committee since 1982 and his efficiency was unequalled. Betty came on in 1986, serving as Chairperson for a year, but an impending relocation forced her to step down. She remained on the committee for another year helping greatly in the transition to a new chairperson. The committee will miss these two dedicated, hardworking volunteers. We hope the best for them in their new endeavors.

Happily, two new volunteers have joined the committee. Mark Fenner has been active in SCVAS for years and his knowledge of birding hotspots will be of great value. Rod Norden has been an avid bird chaser and pelagic junkie and his enthusiasm will be an asset to the committee. If anyone would like to join the Field Trips Committee, call Paul L. Noble (415) 948-3876 for more info. It is a fun group and a good way to learn about local birding areas.

## APRIL GENERAL MEETING

A wonderful naturalist, Phil Gordon from Ohlone Audubon Chapter, will share his slides and knowledge of the great western North American deserts. Come see the wildlife, plants and vistas of the Painted Desert, Chihuahuan, Mohave, Great Basin Sage, Sonoran Desert of Baja, Vizcaino, San Joaquin and Colorado (SE corner of Arizona) with the emphasis on the deserts of California. Phil is well known to many members of our chapter as a leader and teacher and has spent much time exploring our western deserts.

Refreshments are served at 7:30 pm, program begins at 8:00 pm at the Palo Alto Cultural Center, corner of Newell and Embarcadero.

**Use LINE 45!**  
**Help Conserve Wildlife  
and Habitat at Tax Time.**



## LIBRARY DONATIONS RECEIVED

Taffy Chrisman and her family have donated a wonderful Collector's Edition in Folio of the Original Watercolor Paintings of John James Audubon. Complete with wooden case, stand and accompanying text, this collection of loose-leaf reproductions may be seen in the SCVAS office.

Mrs. Margaret McClean has donated the ornithological library of her late husband, Don McClean, to SCVAS. Over 150 volumes, numerous papers and pamphlets, and miscellaneous articles are now being prepared by volunteers for inclusion in the SCVAS collection. This fine collection will be much appreciated by SCVAS members, and we thank Mrs. McClean, and her family members Nancy and Leland Rianda, for the donation!

## STUDENT INTERN OPPORTUNITIES AT NATIONAL AUDUBON SANCTUARIES

The National Audubon Society offers students and recent graduates an opportunity to gain training and experience in sanctuary management, while providing Audubon sanctuaries with much needed help.

"Interns do everything from leading nature walks to running visitor centers; from collecting biological data for the sanctuary monitoring program to original ecological research; and from manual labor to building displays," says Frank Dunstan, Director of Audubon Sanctuaries. Program benefits for participants include:

- Career enhancing "hands on" experience in all phases of wildlife sanctuary work.
- Valuable references and a stronger resume.
- College credit can be arranged.
- Personal instruction.
- Housing, utilities, and uniforms are provided.
- Eligibility for scholarships to attend one of four Audubon Ecology Camps.

Internships, usually for three-month periods, are available throughout the year at participating sanctuaries in Main, South Carolina, Florida, Kentucky, Connecticut, Arizona, and California.

For additional program details and information, write: National Audubon Society, Sanctuary Department, 93 West Cornwall Road, Sharon, CT 06069

## COOPER'S ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY MEETINGS

Meetings of the Northern Chapter of the Cooper Ornithological Society will now be co-sponsored by National Audubon Society's Richardson Bay Sanctuary, and will be held at the Sanctuary, 376 Greenwood Beach Road, in Mill Valley. There will be two 3-hour talk series per year - a fall series, September to November and a spring series, March to May. Meeting dates will be the third Monday of the month. **Monday, April 18, Steve Laymon will discuss Spotted Owl research in the Sierra. Monday, May 16, Geoff Geupel from PRBO will discuss the Wrentit.** Members of the public are welcome to attend; meetings are free.

## ADVERTISING AND OFF-ROAD VEHICLE DESTRUCTION IN CALIFORNIA

*An open letter to Kazutoshi Hagiwara, Exec VP,  
Nissan USA*

Dear Sir:

During the recent Olympics I first saw Nissan's advertisement for the *Desert Runner* four-wheel-drive pickup. The short video showed Nissan four-wheel-drive pickups in a number of off-road areas, including the Eastern Mojave, a fragile desert environment which has long been subjected to extensive off-road-vehicle destruction. I was shocked to witness your company's apparent total disregard for the protection of our desert wildlands. I have long believed, and after seeing this advertisement am convinced, that the advertising campaigns of Nissan and other four-wheel-drive manufacturers have promulgated the attitude that driving off roads is fun, acceptable, and manly.

During the last decade, the deserts and many other types of California wildlands have been subjected to an overwhelming assault by four-wheel-drive vehicles, off-road-vehicles such as "three-wheelers" and "four-wheelers", and dirt bikes. Most of this destruction occurs on public lands that are not part of the California State Vehicle Recreation Area system, and is caused by individuals who succumb to the "macho" image that has been built up around pickups and "four-wheeling." Although proponents of this form of recreation claim that the destruction is caused by a few misguided individuals, I cannot imagine how such widespread damage to public lands not set aside for this use could have been caused by just a few individuals. I believe, rather, that such damaging behavior is the norm for most "off-roaders", and that Nissan, through its "wholesome" presentation in advertising of off-road driving, must accept a share of the responsibility for this destruction.

My wife and I are sorry that for the sake of sales your marketing philosophy must exploit fragile, beautiful, and increasingly rare environments. Unfortunately this form of advertising shapes the thoughts and attitudes of the American people, and I would ask you to reflect on the destruction that your vehicles have done to our beautiful country. While you undoubtedly would respond that it is not your vehicles but rather the drivers who are causing the damage, it is your advertising that has promoted and nurtured the desire in these people. Sales figures notwithstanding, Americans, including a number of prominent spokespeople such as Clint Eastwood and Charles Bronson, are speaking out in ever increasing numbers against the destruction of our valuable wildland heritage. I fear for Nissan's sake that other citizens who seek to preserve and protect America's wildlands will also recognize Nissan's and other off-road-vehicle manufacturers' complicity in the destruction of these wildlands, and will respond as we have by eliminating your automobiles from our list of candidates for a small economical commute vehicle.

- Kevin H. C. Monahan



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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

## NON-AUDUBON TRIPS AND EVENTS

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

A Natural History Trip to the Queen Charlotte Islands, recently made a National Park by the Canadian Gov't. is planned by the Sierra Club. Travel is aboard a sailing ship. This is a good trip for birdwatchers and wildlife enthusiasts. The dates are June 26 to July 2. For more information call the Sierra Club office, (415) 327-1202.

Youth Science Institute hosts its Sixth Annual Wildflower Show on Sunday, May 1, noon to 4:30 pm at the YSI Discovery Center in Vasona Park, Los Gatos. 200 species of native wildflowers in bloom, ferns of the Pacific Coast and medicinal and poisonous plants will be displayed. Numerous hands-on demonstrations and guided walks will be offered, as well as teas and baked goods made from native plants. Admission to the show is free; \$2.00 entrance fee to the park. Call (408) 356-4945 for information.

The Fremont Adult School offers Tuesday morning Birding Field Trips classes. Led by Alice Hoch, both the beginner and experienced birder will enjoy the top birding spots to be visited each week. The class meets from 9:30 am to 12:30 pm for six weeks, beginning on April 19th. For more information, call the school at (415) 791-5841.

Three one-week Golden Troup Workshops will be held in the Sierra July 31 through August 20, 1988. Sponsored by several California chapters of the Audubon Society, the informal natural history program consists of naturalist-led hikes. The Camp is located in the Golden Trout Wilderness in the southern portion of the High Sierra, at an altitude of 10,000 feet. For more information write to Cindi McKernan, 40 Sherril Lane, Redlands, CA 92373, (714) 793-7897.

A ten-day birding trip to Southeast Arizona, a favorite birdwatching area, will be led by Maryann Danielson and Jean-Marie Spoelman. The 1986 trip to the area numbered 161 species, including Mississippi Kites, Elf and Whiskered Owls, Rose-throated Becard and eight hummingbird species. The trip fee of \$600 includes nine nights in motels and leaders fees, but not food and air transportation to Tucson. For a detailed itinerary and/or more information, call Maryann Danielson at (415) 325-9349.

San Francisco State University's Sierra Nevada Field Campus offers the following courses with optional transferrable credits: Behavior of Birds June 6-10 and Birds of the Northern Sierra June 13-17. For further information please write Sierra Nevada Field Campus, School of Science, 1600 Holloway Ave., SF, CA 94132-9987.

Your help is needed to again stop mountain lion trophy hunting. If you want to participate in the 1988 campaign, call Rhonda Berry at (916) 442-2666.

Peninsula Conservation Center Foundation's Annual Auction will be held on Sunday, April 10, 11-5 pm at the Sunrise Winery. There will be picnics and hiking in addition to the Silent and Live auctions. Contact the PCCF for more information and directions to the winery.

The 17th Annual Spring Wildflower Show and Native Plant Sale, sponsored jointly by the Santa Clara Valley Chapter of the California Native Plant Society and the Ornamental Horticulture Dept. of Foothill College, will take place on April 23 and 24 from 10 am to 4 pm in the Student Union at Foothill College in Los Altos Hills. Hundreds of native plants will be on sale, as well as books, publications and posters. For more information call Glenn Rogers at (415) 985-5994.

**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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