



Volume 35, Number 5

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

- May 4 **Bay Area Bird Photographers**, Wednesday, 7:30 pm at the Baylands. Doug Cheeseman will present a program on wildlife from around the world. Co-sponsored by the City of Palo Alto.
- 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**. Two miles easy walking. Lunch optional. Highlights: Breeding birds of oak woodland and riparian habitats. Leader: Grant Hoyt (415) 969-7892.
- May 8 **Monte Bello OSP**. Sunday, 8 am. Half day. Meet in the parking area on Page Mill Rd. 7 miles up from I-280 or 1 mile down from Skyline Blvd. Moderate hiking of 3-4 miles. Bring water and lunch and wear long pants due to possible ticks. Highlights: Breeding birds and migrants. Leader: Mike Rigney (408) 378-1224.
- May 10 **Bird Discussion Group**. Tuesday, 9:30 am at the home of Eve Case, 20537 Vista Lane, Saratoga. (408)867-4748. Topic: Owl of your choice.
- May 11 **South County Field Trip**. Rancho San Antonio Open Space Preserve, 9 am. Meet in the third parking lot near the restrooms. Take I-280 to Foothill Blvd. S. Right on Cristo Rey Dr. to the park. Leader: Gail Cheeseman (408)741-5330.
- May 14 **Stevens Creek County Park**. Saturday, 8 am. Half day. Meet in the **first** parking area **below** the dam. 1-2 miles easy walking. Highlights: Spring breeding birds and migrants. Leader: Phil Hand (415) 851-2623.
- May 15 **Rancho San Antonio OSP**. Saturday, 8 am. Half day. From I-280 take Foothill Blvd. Turn right on Cristo Rey Drive. Go past Gates of Heaven Cemetery approximately 1.5 miles to **third** parking area. Meet near restrooms. Leader: Peter Latourette (415) 961-2741. Continued on Page 2
- May 18 **Skyline Ridge OSP**. Wednesday, 8:30 am (note 3rd not 4th Wed). Meet at intersection of Page Mill Rd., Skyline Blvd (Hwy 35) and Alpine Rd. Park in wide area at N.E. corner. Minimal hiking. Possible: House Wren, Lazuli Bunting, W. Tanager. Lunch optional. Leader: Jane Ardley (415)494-1787.
- May 18 **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 details.
- May 21 **Mines Road and Del Puerto Canyon**. Saturday, 8:30 am. Full day. Take Livermore Ave. S from flagpole in center of Livermore 0.7 miles to Nob Hill Shopping Center on left. Meet in the far end of the lot facing Pacific Ave. and Civic Center. We **MUST** carpool from here due to limited pull-off space. Bring lunch, liquids, full tank of fuel. No facilities en route. Specialties include: Lewis' Woodpecker, Rufous-crowned Sparrow, Lawrence's Goldfinch, Phainopepla, etc. Leader: Rod Norden (408)370-7448.
- May 22 **Birdwalk for Beginners**. Smith Creek. Sunday, 8:30 am. Half day. Meet at the Smith Creek Fire Station on Mt. Hamilton Rd., about 4.5 miles past Grant Ranch County Park. Moderate walking of 2-3 miles. Lunch optional. Bring water. No facilities. Highlights: Golden Eagle, Lazuli Bunting, warblers, flycatchers, Lawrence's Goldfinch, orioles. Leader: Alan Thomas (408)265-9286.

### Field Trip coordinator for June: Grant Hoyt (415) 969-7892

- June 4 **Sunol Regional Park**. Saturday, 8 am. Half day. Meet at the park main entrance. Take Hwy 680 to Sunol. Exit onto Calaveras Road. Follow signs to park. Entrance fee. Moderate walking of 4 miles. Anticipated species: Golden Eagle, Prairie Falcon, Rufous-crowned sparrow. Leader: Phil Hand (415)851-2623.
- June 5 **Waddell Creek / Rio del Oso**. Sunday, 8 am. Half to full day. Meet at the Waddell Creek / Rio del Oso entrance on Hwy 1 in southern San Mateo Co. Take Hwy 1 N from Santa Cruz or S from Hwy 84. Limited to 25 people by reservation. Possible entrance fee. Bring lunch. Highlights: Breeding birds of coastal and redwood habitats. Leader: TBA. More detail in June *Avocet*.
- June 18-19 **Yuba Pass and Sierra Valley**. Saturday and Sunday. Join Grant Hoyt and Paul Noble on a weekend trip exploring the north central Sierra Nevada Mnts. Look for full details in June *Avocet*.

## ALASKA'S RAIN FOREST FOR PULP

Still largely wild and pristine, North America's last temperate rain forest blankets the rugged coastline of Alaska's southeastern panhandle. Incorporated into the 17-million acre Tongass National Forest, spruce and hemlock often 800 years old shelter an area of incredibly abundant wildlife and unparalleled scenery.

Despite these rare qualities, current federal law and Forest Service contracts with two southeast Alaska pulp mills mean the continuing destruction of hundreds of thousands of acres of virgin timber. Ironically, American taxpayers fund the chainsawing. Because of the terms of their 50-year contracts, stumpage rates paid by the mills are only a fraction of the timber's value. In addition, the federal government annually spends around \$50 million to build logging roads and prepare sales for the two mills, one of which is wholly Japanese-owned.

In May hearings, Audubon vice-president Brock Evans called upon Congress to support legislation, the Tongass Timber Reform Act, that would eliminate the subsidy and 4.5 billion board feet per decade cutting goal established under the Lands Act in 1980. The timber program resulting from these unusual provisions, according to Evans, destroys crucial habitat for a range of wildlife including grizzly bear, Sitka black-tailed deer, and five species of salmon. In addition, the thousands of acres of clearcuts and hundreds of miles of logging roads adversely affect the region's healthier resource industries - commercial fishing and tourism.

Despite these devastating environmental consequences, Evans noted that the government has spent over \$287 million on the Tongass timber program since 1982. In return, the Forest Service has collected only \$32 million in timber receipts. Because of the combined fiscal and environmental loss, Evans asked Congress to cancel the Forest Service's unprecedented 50-year contracts with the two mills and to consider adding several prime scenic and wildlife areas to existing wilderness.

"Southeast Alaska is probably the least known part of that magnificent state, and yet, in the opinion of many - certainly myself - it is probably the most beautiful," Evans said, "It is clear that the economic future of southeast Alaska lies not in heavily subsidized timber operations which continue to lose money and jobs. The future rather is in tourism and the fishing industry, and a timber industry geared to a local, not a world, economy."

About half of the largest, oldest trees still stand on the Tongass. **Virtually none of them are protected in wilderness.** Your help is needed to ensure that some are protected for future generations. *Please write your Representative and Senators and urge them to:*

- 1) cosponsor the Tongass Timber Reform Act (H.R. 1516 in the House, S 708 in the Senate); and
- 2) support amendments that would terminate the 50-year contracts and incorporate critical areas of old-growth into existing Tongass wilderness.

- from The Gull

## NEW AT THE BOOK NEST

An Identification Guide to the Duck, Geese & Swans of the World. Steven Madge. \$35.00. This is the third volume in a series of guides which has included Seabirds and Shorebirds, both also published by Houghton Mifflin. Waterfowl covers 150 species of ducks, geese and swans, illustrating all major plumages and subspecies in color. Information on voice, population, distribution, range, habits and habitats are included for each species.

Hawks in Flight: A Guide to the Identification of Migratory Raptors. Peter Dunne, David Sibley and Clay Sutton. \$17.95. Shows how to recognize hawks by their general body shape, the way they move, and the places they are most likely to be seen. Covers the 23 diurnal raptors most likely to be seen over North America.

Birdbase. \$39.95. A data base manager for IBM-compatible personal computers. Up to nine different life lists can be displayed. Sighting records are sorted as they are entered and can be displayed with selection by one or more of the following: place, date, life list, species, first sightings. Changes are easily accommodated, including bird names, species splits and combinations. When weather prevents birding, the Find-a-name feature can be used to play Bird Name Trivia!

The Book Nest is located at National Audubon Society's Richardson Bay Sanctuary, Tiburon, (415) 388-2524.

**SCVAS STILL HAS COPIES OF NGS FIELD GUIDE TO BIRDS OF NORTH AMERICA AVAILABLE, \$13 (+.69 postage) as well as TRACKS IN THE SKY, \$32.**

## JIM LANE MEMORIAL FUND

Jim Lane was a prime mover in the organization of Sea and Sage and worked in it for about 20 years. He led field trips, supervised the Christmas Count and worked with every activity of the Society.

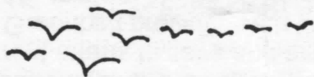
Jim eventually left Southern California to work as a guide for the Massachusetts Audubon Society Natural History Tours. Jim Lane died last March, and now the Massachusetts Audubon Society has established a memorial fund in his name, the proceeds of which will help the Tern Management Program. The program monitors the four species of tern that nest in New England: roseate, common, Arctic and least. Funded entirely by donations, the program employs two research biologists who are studying the tern's habits and requirements for survival in Massachusetts, and five research assistants who manage nearly 80% of all nesting terns in the Commonwealth.

Tax-deductible donations payable to Massachusetts Audubon Society/Jim Lane Memorial Fund can be sent to the Natural History Tour Office, Massachusetts Audubon Society, Lincoln, MA 01773.

- from Sea & Sage Audubon Society

## FIELD NOTES - Bill Bousman

**Red-throated Loon** have stayed at Shoreline Lake for most of March (Al Eisner-AME, Ron Thorn-RST, Bill Bousman-WGB, Phyllis Browing-PMB, Derek Currall-DCu). The greatest number found was three on 26 Mar (DCu). This is the first winter that we have had loons stay at a specific site for the season. A **Green-backed Heron** at the Mountain View Forebay 13 Mar (RST) is one of our few March records. **Wood Duck** continue to come to a feeder in Menlo Park along San Francisquito Creek. As of 24 Mar there were six pairs present (Betty Groce). **Blue-winged Teal** have been found in Charleston Slough with four there on 4 Mar and a pair on 17 Mar (WGB). An apparent male **Blue-winged X Cinnamon Teal** was in the slough on 17 Mar (WGB). He showed buff sides on the rump as in a Blue-winged and a faint facial crescent, but otherwise looked like a normal male Cinnamon. A male **Eurasian Wigeon** has been found regularly in the vicinity of the old Palo Alto Yacht Harbor with sightings 16 and 29 Mar (Shawneen Finnegan-SEF). A second male was found on 28 and 29 Mar at the mouth of San Francisquito Creek (SEF). Migrant Osprey are more likely to be found in the county in March and April than in any other month. Single birds at Skyline Ridge OSP on 13 Mar (Hugh Possingham-HPo) and Lexington Res. 20 Mar (David Suddjian-DLSu) fit this pattern. An adult **Bald Eagle** was seen at Calero Res. on 1 Feb (Ed Gustafson-EG) and 16 Mar (Alan Neal). There are few records away from Calaveras Res. and the Isabel Ranch for this bird. A single **Golden Eagle** over Lexington Res. 20 Mar (DLSu) is the only Santa Cruz Mountain sighting this month. Our **Merlin** winter has wound down with single birds



at the Arastradero Preserve 10 Mar (Grant Hoyt-GHo) and Skyline Ridge OSP 13 Mar (HPo). The total so far this winter is two to three times the long-term average. The only late winter report of a **Peregrine Falcon** is of one at Alviso 16 Feb (Tom Harvey, Chris Cutler). Seven **Wild Turkeys** near Coyote Res. 26 Mar (Jack Cole-JAC) are from an area where they are regularly found. A single **Lesser Yellowlegs** at the Mountain View Forebay 6 Mar (PMB) is one of our few March records. A **Spotted Sandpiper** on Coyote Creek 17 Mar (JAC) was probably a wintering bird. They are most widespread during the spring migration in May. Four **Caspian Terns** flying north from Capitola 18 Mar were on their normal transmountain route to the bay area (DSL); the first noted in the county was 24 Mar at Stevens Creek Res. (WGB). A single **Short-eared Owl** in the Palo Alto FCB 20 Mar (PMB) was our only late winter report. A calling **Common Poorwill** near Loma Prieta 18 Mar (DLSu) appears to be slightly early. Migrant **Rufous Hummingbirds** were found in Los Gatos (Mike Feighner) with individuals on 10, 11, and 18 Mar. A male **Red-naped Sapsucker** was found on the Gavilan Golf Course 22 Feb (Martha Grenley) and another bird was found along the San Mateo coast on Canyon Road on 3 Mar (Roland Franz-RF). We are finding this bird in the county about once every two years. A male **Pileated Woodpecker** on Canyon Road 3 Mar (RF) was downstream from where normally found. A **Pygmy Nuthatch** in Menlo Park 20 Mar (WGB) was in an atypical urban location. An **American Dipper** at Alum Rock 12 Mar (AME) was in a place where it has been seen regularly this winter. **Blue-gray Gnatcatchers** were found in typical habitat on 19 Mar with 5-6 at the Ar-

astradero Preserve (GHo) and 4-5 at Foothills Park (HPo). A female **Black-throated Gray Warbler** in Menlo Park 6 Mar (WGB) was probably a wintering bird. Our resident birds usually return in the last week in March and the first in April. The wintering **Black-throated Sparrow** in San Jose was reported up to 1 Apr (Frank and Duane O'Sullivan). The imm. **White-throated Sparrow** in Palo Alto has been seen at least through 26 Mar (PMB). **Red Crossbills** still remain in the area with three over Palo Alto 26 Mar (Paul Noble-PLN). Our other montane finch, the **Evening Grosbeak**, has been found in urban areas with three in Campbell 13 Mar (Don Starks) and 6 at Stanford University 18 Mar (PLN).

Early arrivals: **Western Flycatcher**, Stevens Creek CP, 24 Mar (WGB); **Violet-green Swallows**, Stevens Creek CP, 9 Mar (WGB); **N. Rough-winged Swallow**, Arastradero Preserve, 10 Mar (GHo); **Cliff Swallow**, Alviso, 13 Mar (PLN); **Barn Swallow**, Charleston Slough, 4 Mar (WGB)F; **House Wren**, Arastradero Preserve, 20 Mar (GHo); **Warbling Vireo**, Arastradero Preserve, 19 Mar (GHo); **Black-headed Grosbeak**, Gilroy Hot Springs Rd., 26 Mar (JAC); **Brown-headed Cowbird** (returning to urban nesting sites), Menlo Park, 20 Mar (WGB); **Hooded Oriole**, banded at CCRS, 16 Mar (fide Dick Mewaldt); and **Northern Oriole**, Lexington Res., 20 Mar (DLSu).

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

## FIELD TRIP REPORT

### MOSS LANDING, MONTEREY COUNTY, FEB. 20, 1988

With wonderful, warm and unseasonably dry weather, nineteen birders enjoyed a very productive day. Spending the whole day in the Moss Landing Elkhorn Slough area, we recorded 89 species of birds, three cooperative sea otters and two Western Pond Turtles!

The friendly and sharing participants had "up close and personal" views of such exciting species as: a male **Red Crossbill**, a male **Allen's Hummingbird** and **Osprey**, thanks to Frank's Questar telescope!

The other highlights of our field trip include the following: three **Clark's Grebes**, **Tundra Swan** (6-8 wintering at Elkhorn Slough), **Oldsquaw**, (a male in winter plumage), excellent views of a **Sora**, one **Lesser Yellowlegs**, **Long-billed Curlews** and Questar views of two **Red-shouldered Hawks** at the very close of the trip.

Thanks to all for a great time!

- Bruce LaBar

### MAY MEETING SPEAKER

Lee Hung, one of our SCVAS members, will present "Birds of Taiwan". Lee and a fellow photographer from Taiwan have collaborated to create a delightful program with top quality bird slides from the shorebirds to the high altitude species.

Both the Santa Cruz Bird Club and Sequoia Audubon have enjoyed Lee's slides and talk and we are really looking forward to it on May 18. Refreshments are at 7:30 p.m. Lee's program begins at 8:00 at the Palo Alto Cultural Center, Newell at Embarcadero.

## SCVAS BOARD MEMBER TRISH MULVEY RECEIVES NAS CHAPTER ACTIVIST AWARD

At the Western Regional Audubon Conference, held at Asilomar March 26 to 29, SCVAS member Trish M. Mulvey was honored with one of the first NAS Chapter Activist Awards. Thirty five awardees from the 5 western states were recognized for their outstanding contributions. Criteria for nomination specified that activists accomplished a record of extraordinary achievement on a priority conservation goal of the Chapter or of National Audubon Society; motivated others to get involved in conservation activism; and demonstrated effective grassroots conservation action as an unpaid volunteer. Trish is noted in the award's accompanying text: "Trish is either leading, or actively participating in, every conservation issue of concern to the chapter. Key to SCVAS' fundraising for the NAS-Mono Lake Legal Fund, she is an avid advocate for protection of the public trust. Active participant in the Citizen's Committee to Complete the Refuge, she has been central to efforts urging addition of threatened seasonal wetland to the SF Bay National Wildlife Refuge. Current concerns include toxics contamination in the Bay, the State Water Control Board's three year Bay-Estuary Study, her work as wetlands representative to the EPA's Estuary Project Public Advisory Committee, efforts to protect open space in Santa Clara County through the County's Greenbelt Coalition, and implementation of an Open Space District." We all know that just scratches the surface of Trish's involvement, and congratulate her on a very deserved award!

## UNION CITY CONSERVATION GROUP NEEDS HELP WITH LEGAL FEES

Union City's conservation group, Citizens for Open Space in Alvarado, needs help with fundraising to pay for a lawsuit to protect wetlands and outstanding wildlife habitat. COSA has been working for two years to protect 900 acres of wetlands and open space from development. After lengthy hearings, in 1987 the City Council approved a housing development plan that does not adequately protect wetlands and which does not even pay for itself. To challenge the project approval, we successfully collected signatures on petitions to call a special election. Unfortunately, we lost the election, largely because of opposition (Ponderosa Homes and 4 City Council members) expenditures of \$110,000 and the resources that bought.

Long before the election took place, the City Council tried to begin development, which violated our constitutional rights to vote on the development. Their approval of grading permits forced us to have to file a lawsuit to protect the 511 Area. It is this lawsuit we need help paying for.

The judge issued a stay, which prevented the grading from continuing, and kept the land undisturbed until the election, which was our primary goal. We were told that our case was a good one, and we succeeded in preventing the City Council from circumventing the constitutional process. However, because we lost the election, we lost the lawsuit.

And now, we need to pay for that lawsuit. Your tax-deductible contributions will help us a lot - please make your checks to "PCCF-Refuge (COSA)" and send them to COSA, 4626 Korbelt Street, Union City, CA, 94587

- Martha Esserlieu, President

## SAN FRANCISCO ESTUARY AWARENESS WEEK

The beautiful and productive San Francisco Bay-Sacramento/San Joaquin Delta estuary is home to six million people. As the largest estuarine system on the west coast of the United States, this environment is home to unique plants, fish and wildlife, and is vitally important to all Californians.

Last year, because of growing public concern for the health of the Bay and Delta, the EPA established the San Francisco Estuary Project. The Project is a five year cooperative program to promote effective management of the Bay-Delta estuary, and to restore and maintain its water quality and natural resources. Representatives from the public, private sector, all levels of government, and elected officials have convened to address the estuary's most critical problems, such as drinking water, irrigation, industry, ports, navigation, habitat, recreation, freshwater diversion, decline of natural resources, increased pollutant, and intensified land use. The Project participants will develop a Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan with specific actions, schedules, and commitments to solve these problems. SCVAS Director Trish Mulvey is a member of the Public Advisory Committee to the Estuary Project.

SCVAS members are invited to become involved in the SF Estuary Project. Call the Project office at (415)464-7990 and ask to be placed on the mailing list for future meetings and events, or call SCVAS at (415) 329-1811.

In recognition of the SF Bay and Delta's significance, Governor Deukmejian has proclaimed the week of April 24th as "Estuary Awareness Week". Many of the cities and counties surrounding the estuary have also endorsed the proclamation. The Estuary Project will hold its First Annual Meeting on Friday, April 29, 8:30 am to noon, at the Hyatt Regency in San Francisco. A registration fee of \$5 covers the program and continental breakfast. The panel discussion of "Achieving Consensus - Can It Be Done?" will feature noted consultants, public agency and elected officials, and will be moderated by television and newspaper journalists, including Steve Robitaille of the San Jose Mercury News. For more information, please call (415) 464-7990.

- Adapted from the Estuary Project  
public information brochure

## BIRDATHON 1988

By the time you have received this Avocet, the Birdathon may be over, but your part in it is not! There is still time to pledge funds to your favorite team or individual counter. Please call the SCVAS office to receive a pledge form, and support one of the intrepid SCVAS teams: Grant Hoyt & Dick Stovel, "The Vagrants"; Audrey Stoye, Doug & Gail Cheeseman, "The Wrentits"; Chris & Claire Wolfe, "The Roadrunners"; Jules Resnick, Mary Ann Leer, Chris & Marlene Bekins, & Trish Mulvey, "If you've Seen One Bird, You've Seen Them All". (see April Avocet for more details). Counters will vie for prizes donated by REI, Smith & Hawken, Phileas Fogg's Books, local garden centers, and the Nature Company - and even more offered by NAS.

And remember, all proceeds will be split between the National Audubon Society's efforts to Save Mono Lake, and the SF Bay National Wildlife Refuge's development of a teacher education packet and also construction of a water control structure. Call 329-1811 today to offer your support!

## BE A 10-MINUTE ACTIVIST

If you can take 10 minutes in your day, to help with even one of these simple activities, YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

1. **Write a member of the Bay Area Congressional Delegation and thank them for sponsoring HR 4272, to protect wetlands by adding them to the Refuge.** Representative Don Edwards has introduced HR 4272, Expansion of San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge! Legislation to add 20,850 acres to the Refuge was introduced March 29, 1988, cosponsored by the entire Bay Area Congressional Delegation. The bill adjusts the boundaries of the current 23,000 acre refuge to allow the addition of another 20,850 acres of additional lands, marshes, tidal flats, salt ponds, submerged lands and open waters in the San Francisco Bay area. These areas are designated in a map prepared by US Fish and Wildlife Service as "the most important wetland areas in South SF Bay located outside the existing refuge boundaries". All acquisitions will come from willing sellers. Don Edwards looks forward to working with colleagues and members of the public to pass this bill. The other co-sponsors are Barbara Boxer, Doug Bosco, Ron Dellums, Ernest Konnyu, Tom Lantos, George Miller, Norman Mineta, Nancy Pelosi, and Fortney Starks. PLEASE TAKE A MOMENT TO WRITE DON EDWARDS AND/OR ANY OF THE OTHER MEMBERS OF THE BAY AREA DELEGATION AND THANK THEM FOR SPONSORING THIS IMPORTANT BILL. TELL THEM YOU LOOK FORWARD TO SUPPORTING ITS PASSAGE. Address: Honorable \_\_\_\_\_, House Office Building, Washington, DC, 20515.

2. **Send for a sample of the AUDUBON ACTIVIST.** Call the SCVAS office at (415) 329-1811, and we will send you a free current copy of National Audubon Society's bimonthly newsletter specifically designed for chapter environmental activists. Each edition features issues of concern from around the country, both to keep you informed about ongoing large and small battles, and to give you the opportunity to write and fight back! The March/April 1988 Activist looks at Marbled Murrelets and their ties to virgin forests, discusses the pros and cons of irradiated groceries, features a thought-provoking editorial about the language of conservation, provides updates on Arctic oil drilling, clean air, toxic waste and Swampbusters, details many large and small pots of money available for purchase of public lands, and includes much more. For \$9/year, subscribers also receive targeted one-page Action Alerts from the NAS Washington, DC office, when wildlife or wilderness urgently needs your help.

## CONTRIBUTE TO SCVAS THROUGH PAYROLL DEDUCTIONS

Payroll deduction is a great way to give to your favorite charity - to make that tax-deductible contribution. And soon you'll be able to contribute to SCVAS and other environmental organizations through payroll deduction.

But we need your help to make that happen.

SCVAS is participating in workplace payroll deduction campaigns conducted by the Environmental Federation of California.

We're looking for companies who are willing to hear about the EFC - ones who might consider offering a choice in payroll deduction giving to their employees.

If you work for Apple Computer, Kaiser Permanente, the Federal Government, the State of California, the Cities of San Jose, Palo Alto or Santa Cruz, or the Counties of Santa Clara or Santa Cruz, you already have the option to choose SCVAS through an EFC campaign this fall.

If you work somewhere else and would like the option to choose SCVAS - or perhaps another environmental organization - as the recipient of your workplace contribution, let us know. With your help maybe we can convince your employer to offer that option to you and your fellow employees.

We all benefit.

Employees feel good - about their giving and about their company; overall giving increased when there's a choice - other payroll deduction campaigns win too; and the environment is protected! What more can you ask?

Please call the SCVAS office at (415) 329-1811 or Sue Liskovec, at (415) 969-5542.

## PINNACLES PROTECTS NESTING RAPTORS

New measures to protect nesting raptors have been taken in the Pinnacles National Monument. Selected rock formations have been closed to climbing or off-trail hiking for the duration of the nesting and fledging season in an effort to protect cliff nesting raptors. Selected rock formations containing active nests have been temporarily closed to exploration and establishment of new climbing routes. Visitors interested in preserving the raptor population at Pinnacles National Monument will find helpful information on bulletin boards at Chaparral campground and the Bear Gulch parking lot.

- National Park Service

The Palo Alto Breeding Bird Count will be held on Saturday, June 4. This is the ninth year that this summer equivalent of the Palo Alto Christmas Bird Count has been held. The same count circle is used as for the Christmas count. As with the CBC, the data obtained from this census is of great value over the long term in what it can tell us about our resident bird populations. The Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society will sponsor the count this year. If you would like to participate call Clark Blake, (415) 329-4951 (days) or Bill Bousman (415) 322-5282 (evenings).



## VIDEOTAPE AND SLIDE SHOWS AVAILABLE FROM SCVAS

SCVAS now offers a variety of videotapes and slide shows, available for a very small charge to school groups, clubs and interested individuals. Please call the office to arrange pickup and return - (415)329-1811.

WHAT IS THE LIMIT? National Audubon Society's video and companion teaching kit "Where do we go from here?", discusses the complicated issue of the alarming population explosion on our planet. Kit includes resource book with background information, group activities and questions for discussion. Geared for at least secondary level students.

DUCKS UNDER SIEGE Narrated by John Heard, this National Audubon Society Audubon Special television program is now available in videotape format, with companion teacher's guide including background information, discussion questions, follow-up activities, annotated bibliography, glossary and resource list. In this look at loss of wetland habitat, the related decline in waterfowl, and efforts to arrest this decline - south Bay Audubon activists are featured!

TREASURES OF THE GREENBELT Produced by People for Open Space, a 28 minute video explores the greenbelt existing within the nine San Francisco Bay Area counties - nearly four million acres of parks, farms, watersheds, forests and vineyards. Meet local characters including a Zen master of grapevine pruning, the rare Mission Blue butterfly and tule elk at Point Reyes. Information on current efforts to save and expand the Santa Clara County Greenbelt provided with the videotape.

Two 15 minute National Wildlife Federation Slide Shows with Educator's Guides, geared for elementary grades:

WE CARE ABOUT EAGLES, a lively and informative educational program commemorating the 200th anniversary of the Bald Eagle as our national symbol. Includes discussion of physical adaptations, life cycles, and behavior, habitat and prey of four other eagle species, and overview of environmental problems threatening eagles with extinction.

DISCOVER WILDLIFE IN YOUR WORLD explores the wildlife all around us, in national parks, schoolyards, and our own backyards.

## REPORTING WILD BIRD KILLS

Following the introduction of synthetic pesticides during the last century, the inadvertent poisoning of wild birds has become a recognized problem. Because of their persistence and eggshell-thinning properties, DDT and most of the organo-chlorine pesticides were phased out during the late 1970s. In their place, organo-phosphate and carbamate pesticides were introduced which, though less persistent, tend to be much more acutely toxic.

Because of this increased toxicity, there have been numerous cases of pesticide poisoning involving primarily waterfowl and raptors in recent years. The scenario often involves the poisoning of a number of ducks (as many as 150 in one case) followed by the poisoning of the raptors who take advantage of an easy food source, the dead ducks. In one case, the flies which subsequently fed on a dead harrier were killed due to the large amount of poison which had worked its way through the ducks and into the raptor: a true case of tertiary poisoning.

In conjunction with the California Department of Fish and Game, Mike Hooper and Barry Wilson at the Department of Avian Sciences at UCD are working to identify the occurrence and the causes of pesticide related bird mortalities. For this reason, we are asking the many birders from the local Audubon societies to keep their eyes open for individual or groups of dead birds while walking the many roads, levees, woods and marshes in the area. Many of the poisonings of the past have been reported by concerned hunters to their local game wardens. Knowing that birders are just as committed to wildlife, we encourage you to let us know about these kinds of incidents should you come across them. We can be reached in Davis at 752-3531 or 752-1300 during normal work hours or at 757-2523 during off hours.

Due to health and toxicity reasons, it is best not to try to recover these birds. However, reporting them to us will give us a chance to evaluate the situation and determine if pesticides might actually be the cause. As avian botulism and cholera are other rare causes of death in the valley, these must also be considered.

The regulation of pesticides to minimize their impacts on wildlife depends on the reports of these poisonings. Your help in notifying us of them goes a long way to identifying problems before they get out of hand.

- Mike Hooper  
Burrowing Owl, Dec. 1986  
Davis Audubon Society

## OFF ROAD VEHICLE DESTRUCTION IN CALIFORNIA

If you were inspired by Kevin Monahan's letter commenting on Nissan's advertisements for off-road-vehicles in the desert, (see April 88 AVOCET), and would like to write Nissan USA yourself, the address is :

Kazutoshi Hagiwara, Executive Vice President, Operations, Nissan USA, 18455 South Figueroa Street, Carson, CA, 90248. Home to more than 760 species of wildlife, deserts are our national treasure. It is in ALL our best interests to discourage thoughtless destruction of this increasingly rare environment.



## THE ESKIMO CURLEW LIVES!

To any birder, this is startling good news. Joseph Grinnell, now long deceased, who was the unchallenged authority on bird distribution in California in the first half of this century states in one of his publications that the Eskimo Curlew passed entirely east of the Rockies in migration. This would indicate that we aren't apt to see it here. Nonetheless, confirmed survival of a species thought by many to be extinct 70 years ago is most noteworthy.

- Frank Farran

The Eskimo curlew (*Numenius borealis*) has been thought by some people to be extinct or nearly so. A flurry of observations in coastal Texas in the early 1960's raised speculation that the bird still survived at that time. But few observations were made in the following years, and hopes again diminished. In the 1980's, however, there have been several observations of this species on migration in the central and southern United States and in several areas of Canada. One bird was reported on the Platt River in Nebraska in mid-April 1987. At least two more were reported along the Texas coast in late April and early May 1987. Finally, in late May, Canadian Wildlife Service biologists found a pair in the Canadian Arctic. Preliminary reports indicated that a nest may have been located.

- Endangered Species Technical Bulletin  
Vol. XII No. 8 (1987)



## WESTERN REGIONAL REPORT

**MARBLED MURRELETS.** On January 13, National Audubon together with a number of Audubon chapters in California, Oregon, and Washington submitted a petition to list the marbled murrelet as a threatened or endangered species. The murrelet is an old growth dependent species that appears to be declining throughout its range in the western United States.

**SPOTTED OWLS.** As you may have heard, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has denied a petition to list the northern spotted owl as threatened or endangered. In its official response the FWS stated "...our goal is to do what is best for the owl, not simply to list it"..."spotted owl habitat has declined but there is no clear indication how habitat loss is affecting the overall status of the owl population"..."we have an opportunity through existing programs and increased cooperation to address spotted owl requirements before listing becomes necessary." 17 days before the FWS announced their decision, FWS director and the chief of the Forest Service signed an interagency agreement committing the Forest Service to insure the continued existence of a well-distributed owl population throughout its national forest range.

## ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT NEEDS YOUR HELP

The following is the National Audubon Society Hotline Issue for the week of January 25, 1988. We will be offering selected Hotline Issues for your information, and hopefully to inspire you to WRITE YOUR CONGRESSIONAL REPRESENTATIVES and tell them what you think. If you would like to receive all hotline alerts, call (202) 547-9017. The message changes weekly.

In early December, environmental groups launched a full scale effort to pass the Endangered Species Act reauthorization without weakening amendments. We knew at least one amendment would be offered that would set a dangerous precedent for this premier wildlife law and unravel efforts to keep threatened and endangered sea turtles from going over the edge.

Soon, other Members of the House circulated their proposals and the list of bad amendments got longer and longer: an amendment to take the wolf off the endangered species list; and amendment to delist the leopard darter, a small fish found in Oklahoma; an amendment to delist the concho water snake in Texas; an amendment—well, you get the idea.

Those of you who have been calling the HOTLINE know that because of tremendous and heartening grassroots efforts, we prevailed on all fronts. Sensing defeat, some representatives never actually offered their bad ideas on the floor; the three weakening amendments that were brought to the floor all failed by significant margins, and the bill passed the House by a vote of 399 to 16.

While the story has a happy ending in the House, we have a long way to go in the Senate still. The bill in the Senate, S 675, is waiting for floor action. **You should write your two senators and ask that they cosponsor the bill. Also, write Senate Majority leader Robert Byrd and encourage him to bring the bill to the floor as soon as possible.** Byrd will be reluctant to put it on the Senate calendar because Senator Simpson of Wyoming has threatened to filibuster the bill. Simpson has concerns about how the Act affects certain predator issues, namely hunting grizzly bears and wolves.

It's important that we keep the pressure on the Senate to act on this bill. The fate of too many plants and animals depend upon a strong and well funded Endangered Species Act.

If you would like more information about this issue, the House vote or other issues, please call Connie Mahan at (202) 547-9009 or drop us a note at 801 Pennsylvania Avenue SE, Suite 301, Washington, D.C. 20003. We'd love to hear from you.

### GIFTS AND MEMORIALS

For general Chapter activities  
From Beverly Merrill

Staff	Lynn Tennefoss	415/329-1811	DIRECTORS (1986-89)	Education		
President	Judy McEuen	408/251-3086	Jim Anderson	415/272-1159	Library	
1st Vice President	Dave Johnston	408/867-7278	Rob Colwell	415/326-2400	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
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			Trish Mulvey	415/326-0252	Hospitality	
			Christine Wolfe	408/245-9359	Environmental	
					Action	Barbara Monahan 408/425-7841
DIRECTORS (1985-88)			CHAIRPERSONS		Christmas	
Theresa Spinler		408/559-1889	Editor	Levona Sterngold	Bird Count	Jim & Sue Liskovec 415/969-5542
Don Price		415/327-1254	Programs	Doug & Gail	Grants	Donna Zetterquist 408/429-9716
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

## NON-AUDUBON TRIPS AND EVENTS

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

- Don Starks is leading a birding tour of Arizona during the first week of August. Don is a birder of 20 years experience, much of it in Arizona. His trip will include all the hot spots of the area, including Ramsey Canyon, the hummingbird capital of the world. For itinerary and more info, call Don at (408)371-9720.

- On Saturday, May 21, Alice Hoch will lead an all-day Nesting and Singing birding trip. You must pre-register by Tues., May 17, at Fremont Adult School, 4700 Calaveras Rd., Fremont 94538. Enclose fee of \$15 and stamped, self-addressed envelope. For more info, call the school at (415)791-5841.

- Cheeseman's Eco Safaris has one opening on their Kenya Wildlife Safari, July 22-Aug. 14. Good chances for seeing over 60 species of mammals and over 500 species of birds. For more info, call the Cheesemans at (408)741-5330.

- "Birds of the Sierra Nevada" will be offered at the Sierra Nevada Field Campus of San Francisco State Univ. on June 13-17. For more info on course, location and instructors, call Jim Steele at (415)338-1571 before June 1, then (916)862-1230.

- The 1988 Environmental Stampede Benefit Auction, sponsored by the Planning and Conservation League Foundation, is slated for May 11 at the Capitol Plaza Holiday Inn in Sacramento. Numerous valuable items are up for bid during the evening. Admission is \$15. For more information, contact Chris Maupin, (916)484-7895.

## OTHER EVENTS

Youth Science Institute's Sixth Annual Wildflower Show, Sunday, May 1, Noon to 4:30 pm, Vasona Lake Park, Los Gatos. Features 200 native wildflowers, dyeing and spinning with natural fibers, gardening with native plants, herbal tea tasting and guided wildflower walks.

Information on Mono Lake Committee tours to Bhutan, Oct 1988, and Antarctica, Jan 1989 may be obtained by sending a stamped self-addressed business size envelope to "Antarctica" or "Bhutan" c/o M. Bennett, 2719 Marin Ave, Berkeley, CA, 94708. Approx. 10% of the trip fees are a tax-deductible donation to help save Mono Lake!

Shoreline Park Photography Contest entries may be submitted between May 2-6. Up to three black and white and three color prints will be accepted in the categories of panorama, Wildlife/Vegetation, and People Participation at Shoreline. For more information and entry forms, call (415) 966-6330.

REI and the Trail Center sponsor volunteer Trail Building Days to create a new trail on the east shore of Stevens Creek Reservoir, Saturdays, May 16, June 6 and June 27, at Stevens Creek County Park. BBQ compliments of REI will follow trail work from 9 am-3 pm. Call (415) 968-7065 or (408) 446-1991 for more info.

ABA Convention will be held June 27 to July 3, in Duluth, Minnesota. Birding workshops, field trips, guest speakers, social hours, dinner programs and more will be featured. For info. and registration materials, write to ABA Convention 1988, P.O. Box 6599, Colorado Springs, CA, 80934.



**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 \_\_\_\_\_

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### CHECK CATEGORY

- Individual / \$30
- Family / \$38
- Senior Citizen / \$21
- Senior Citizen Family / \$23
- Student / \$18
- Avocet* only / \$6
- Introductory Membership / \$20