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11378

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Volume 35, Number 6

June 1988

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 Gail Cheeseman (408)741-5330.

Field Trip coordinator for June and the summer: Grant Hoyt (415) 969-7892

- June 1 **Bay Area Bird Photographers**, Wednesday, 7:30 pm **Baylands**. Guest speaker is Lee Hung who will present a slide program on birds of Taiwan. Co-sponsored by the City of Palo Alto.
- 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 walk of 4 miles. Anticipated species: Golden Eagle, Prairie Falcon, Rufous-crown sparrow. Leader: Phil Hand (415)851-2623.
- June 4 Palo Alto Breeding Bird Count. Sponsored by SCVAS. Call Clark Blake (415) 329-4951 (days) or Bill Bousman (415) 322-5282 (eves) if you would like to participate.
- June 5 **Waddell Creek / Rio del Oso**. Sunday, 8 am. Half to full day. Meet at the Rancho del Oso Nature Center (Waddell Creek), 2 miles S of Año Nuevo S.R. or 7 miles N of Davenport on Hwy 1. Enter at the **south** side of Waddell Creek and proceed 1/4 mile and park at Nature Center. Trip reserved to 25 participants by **reservation only**. Call Grant Hoyt to reserve space on trip. Bring lunch. Walking of about 3 miles. Highlights: Breeding birds of coastal and redwood habitats. Leader: Lion Baumgartner (415) 969-7893.
- June 8 **Field Trip South. Coyote Creek Riparian Station**. Wednesday, 9 am. Limited to 10. Repeat of March trip to outstanding riparian habitat and bird banding led by ornithologist Dick Mewaldt. Meet in Alviso across from San Francisco Bay Bird Observatory at Harvey & Stanley Assoc, 906 Elizabeth St. near the Alviso Marina. Call Gail Cheeseman to reserve place, (408) 741-5330.
- June 8 **Annual Potluck Dinner**. Wednesday, 6 pm. Birdathon prizes will be awarded, and the new SCVAS t-shirt will be unveiled! Don't miss it!!! See details inside.
- June 12 **Breakfast Hike to Black Mountain**. Sunday **6 am**. Half day. Meet at the parking turnout at Monte Bello OSP about 1/10 mile E of the main parking area at Monte Bello. Bring some coffee and your favorite breakfast roll as we hike to the top of Black Mountain, to get a view of Rufous-crown sparrows and Black-chinned Sparrow. We will also see all the other breeding birds of this oak woodland and grassland preserve. Bring sturdy hiking shoes and water as it can be a warm return trip. But also be prepared for cool and foggy conditions. This is a fairly strenuous trek of about 4 miles, gaining about 800 feet in elevation on a steep firebreak. Leader: Paul L. Noble (415) 948-3876.
- June 14 **Bird Discussion Group**. Tuesday. Those wishing to car pool for a picnic lunch at Vasona Park meet at the home of Eve Case, 20537 Verde Vista Lane, Saratoga (408) 967-4748. All others will meet at the Nature Center at Vasona Park. Bring a lunch.
- June 18-19 **Yuba Pass and Sierra Valley**. Saturday and Sunday. Meet on Saturday at 8 am at Yuba Pass Summit approx. 12 miles E of Sierra City on Hwy 49. Join Grant Hoyt and Paul Noble on a two-day trip to some of the best birding habitats in the north-central Sierra Nevada Mnts. We'll spend Saturday exploring the Yuba Pass area, where Williamson's Sapsucker, Black-backed Woodpecker, Dipper, Townsend's Solitaire, Evening Grosbeak, seven warbler species, four flycatcher species and vireos may be found in prime breeding habitat and in full song. On Sunday we will bird our way east, looking for Mountain Bluebird, all three nuthatch species, Green-tailed Towhee, Sage Thrasher and other Great Basin species. We will end up in the unique and beautiful Sierra Valley for marsh species like Black Tern and Wilson's Phalarope. Camping is available at Wild Plum Campground and at Yuba Pass proper. Also along Hwy 89 N of Truckee there are several campgrounds available. Motels available in Downieville and Sierra City. There is no limit on number of participants, but please call one of the leaders if planning to attend. Leaders: Grant Hoyt (415) 969-7892 and Paul L. Noble (415) 948-3876.
- Aug. 20 **Año Nuevo and San Mateo Co. Coast**. Saturday, 9 am. Full day. Meet at the Año Nuevo State Preserve main entrance. \$3 entrance fee. Moderate hike of 4 miles. Bring lunch, liquids and layered clothing. Trip limited to 20 participants. By reservation only. Highlights: Returning migrant shorebirds. Leaders: Mark and Steve Miller (415) 967-3429.
- Aug. 27 **Mountain View Forebay and Charleston Slough**. Saturday, 12 noon. Afternoon trip. Meet at the E end of San Antonio Rd in Mt. View. Mountain View Forebay has been an excellent place to see migrant shorebirds in late summer, particularly the more rare species. We may see Bairds sandpiper, Pectoral sandpiper, Solitary Sandpiper and Semipalmated Sandpiper as well as the regular migrants. Be prepared for warm or cool weather. Leader: Paul L. Noble (415) 948-3876.

FIELD TRIP REPORT

Durham Ferry / Caswell S.P. April 30

Under less than ideal weather conditions, 17 SCVAS members managed to enjoy a long day of birding at Caswell State Park and Durham Ferry Recreation Area, two San Joaquin County hot spots. Unfortunately, on this day they were decidedly "cool" due to gusty winds which suppressed bird activity throughout the day. Black-chinned Hummingbird and Blue Grosbeak were absent from their usual roadside fence perches at Durham Ferry, where the wind made birding difficult. The old-growth riparian habitat at Caswell provided good protection from the wind, and the group enjoyed a lovely stroll through the park as House Wrens and Black-headed Grosbeaks poured out their songs and Tree Swallows perched near nest-holes. It seemed that vireo, warbler and flycatcher activity was down from previous years, and this also may have been weather-related. After a pleasant lunch in the picnic area of this little-used park, we returned toward Durham Ferry, stopping at a pond near a large cattle corral for some of the best birds of the day. Five Whimbrels, two breeding-plumage Wilson's Phalaropes, a Semipalmated Plover and several other duck and shorebird species were well-viewed, especially through Frank vanSlager's Questar. The return to Durham Ferry yielded two Swainson's Hawks, which were missing at Caswell. Some of us saw a weasel successfully dodge traffic on one of the back roads. In hopes of beating the wind and seeing a few more birds, two carloads of die-hards returned to the Bay Area via Del Puerto Canyon and Mines Rd., only to be thwarted by more wind, rain and even sleet. The scenery was gorgeous but the birds were quiescent and the birders tired, so we headed for home. A total of 82 species were seen or heard for the day.

- Grant Hoyt

AUDUBON TRIP ALMADEN PARK

The trip took place on a perfect spring day. Our first attempt was to spot the Wild Turkeys that are seen almost daily in the vicinity. Unfortunately our tactical decision to go up the east side of a hill where things were more "natural" was proven wrong by two people who opted for the west side. A sole turkey was noted quickly scurrying out of sight. Ironically as I write this I am looking at a turkey scratching the dirt under the trees on the east side of this very same hill.

There were no spectacular sightings but we did see a California Thrasher and a call from a Pygmy Owl was heard. Some of the best birding was a result of Phil Hand's keen hearing and knowledge of bird songs.

- Tom Roach
April 3, 1988

GIFTS AND MEMORIALS

*In memory of Evelyn Canfield
From Palo Alto Mayor Jack Sutorius,
Vice Mayor Larry Klein,
City Council members: Mike Cobb,
Leland Levy, Emily Renzel, Gail Wooley; and
City of Palo Alto: Bill Zaner,
June Fleming, Diane Northway, Mike Northrup,
Gloria Young.*

These poems were written by three second grade children in Ms. Carol Antisdell's class at Hacienda Science Magnet School, San Jose Unified District, with the assistance of Diane Quintrall Lewis, member of California Poets in the School and an active SCVAS member.

BLUE JAY

*Once I saw a bluejay.
It was bright blue. It was
so pretty I just gazed at
it. It flew down to me.
It just stared, I brought it in
my house I fed it some food
then put it in the cage with
my other bird but it did not
like it so I let it go. I let
it go in my backyard because
I have a bird bath there.*

—Lisa Stephan

THE EAGLE

*In the mountains far far out
there. there is an eagle. very
powerful. swoops down and
takes a mouse. the mouse squeaks
and squeaks!!! kicks and kicks!!! until
gulp the bird eats him*

—Alicia Graham

BIRDS

*Birds are neat Birds
like hawks and peacocks
a gull a bluejay a robin
a hummingbird and
maybe an owl or maybe
a crow an egret or a
woodpecker and almost
all of them fly
they all got color and
they all make sounds they
have feathers and a beak*

—Ray Texeira



GREEN FOOTHILLS FOUNDATION CREEK SLIDE SHOW

The Green Foothills Foundation of Committee for Green Foothills has received a \$2500 grant from IBM to prepare a presentation to excite public interest in the Santa Clara County streams which have valuable wildlife habitat, fish spawning reaches and special scenic and recreational value. Included in the presentation is a map which depicts both sections of county streams that remain in their natural state and sections of streams and rivers where those values have been lost as a result of flood control construction or development too close to the edge of the stream. The map has been completed and work on the slide show already begun. CGF welcomes photos of creeks or reminiscences about your favorite creekside haunts. For more info, call (415) 327-5906

- Linda Elkind, Legislative Advocate, CGF,
from Green Footnotes, April 1988

SCVAS BIRDATHON A BIG SUCCESS

Congratulations to SCVAS sponsors and participants in our first chapter-sponsored Birdathon—we managed to raise over \$3500 in one day of birdwatching! This money, which far exceeded our expectations, will be divided between the SF Bay National Wildlife Refuge, and the National Audubon Society's Save Mono Lake fund. The Refuge will use its half of the proceeds to build a much-needed water control structure and to print teacher education packets. National Audubon's proceeds will be donated to the ongoing effort to preserve Mono Lake, and are dedicated in memory of the late David Gaines, who championed this fight from the outset. Thanks to everyone who contributed their time and money to make this event a successful one; perhaps it will become an annual chapter fund raiser.

Four teams from the chapter officially competed for most species seen in a 24-hour period, and most money raised. Here's how they fared:

"The If You've Seen One Bird, You've Seen Them All" team of Jules Resnick, Trish Mulvey, Mary Ann Leer, and Chris and Marlene Bekins raised over \$1500, proving that a team doesn't have to see a lot of birds to raise money in a Birdathon (they stopped at 20 species, as promised, but obviously collected a lot of generous pledges!). This group deserves special congratulations for its outstanding effort.

"The Vagrants", consisting of Grant Hoyt and Dick Stovel, saw 148 species to take honors in that department, and raised \$200.

"The Wrentits", Audrey Stoye, Doug and Gail Cheeseman, saw 130 species and raised an impressive total of \$1400.

"The Roadrunners", Chris and Claire Wolfe, did their birding in the desert and saw 90 species, raising \$200.

Several other groups or individuals took up the challenge and did their own counting and fund raising, with excellent results. Bill Bousman and Clark Blake did one of their Santa Clara County birdathons and saw 141 species, while braving 3 inches of snow on Mt. Hamilton, raising \$185. Alan Waltner and friends totalled 108 species and \$250. Kathy Parker birded solo, seeing 79 species and gathering \$103. And special mention goes to transplanted Australian birder Hugh Possingham, who did his birdathon entirely by bicycle and found 105 species, raising \$200!

Chapter prizes have been donated from Smith and Hawken, REI, The Nature Company, Yamagami Nursery, Yerba Buena Nursery, musician Joe Weed and Philias Fogg Books. Thanks to these local merchants, most participants in the Birdathon will receive prizes for their efforts, to be awarded at the annual membership potluck dinner on Wednesday, June 8. By that time, results from other Birdathons around the country will be tallied, and one of our teams may also win a prize offered by National Audubon Society. Come to the dinner for final results of this successful new fund raising activity, and the awarding of prizes. Thanks to all who helped - let's go for \$4000 next year!

-Grant Hoyt, Birdathon Chair



OFFICE CLOSED

The SCVAS office will be closed from
June 15 to July 25.

ANNUAL POTLUCK DINNER

SCVAS members are invited to set aside the evening of WEDNESDAY, JUNE 8, for our annual potluck dinner. Beginning at 6 pm, we will be meeting at the home of Lyn and Martha Hunton, 25600 Fernhill Drive, Los Altos Hills. Birdathon winners will be announced and prizes awarded. Be the first to purchase one (or more) of SCVAS' stunning new t-shirt, designed by Luis Tam. All members are very welcome, and encouraged to attend. If you have never been to an annual dinner, it is VERY informal and a fun way to meet and mingle with fellow SCVAS members!

We will have a feast, to which you may contribute accordingly:

A-G Hors d'oeuvres

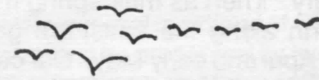
O-S Main dish

H-N Dessert

T-Z Salad

Please bring serving utensils.

SCVAS and the Huntons will provide liquid refreshments, plates, flatware, etc. Please join us for what promises to be a fun, lively party. If you have questions or want directions, please call the office at (415) 329-1811.



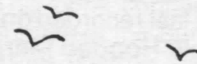
SANTA CLARA VALLEY SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING FAIR SCVAS AWARD WINNERS

The following students have won 1987 SCVAS Science Fair Awards, for outstanding exhibits on subject matters relevant to SCVAS' concerns. As prizes, each received an Audubon backpack, an Audubon field guide of their choice, and a SCVAS membership and pin. Entries were judged by Dave Johnston, Jim Anderson, and Donna Zetterquist.

Gregory Chin, an 8th grader at Bernal School, displayed The Effects of Acid Rain on Plants. An excellent project on a popular topic, Gregory received several awards.

Roldan Mallorca, member of the 6th Grade at Ocala School, had studied Polluted Water. Her investigative project took samples of drinking water from all over the south bay, and tested them for a number of pollutants.

Katherine Morton, who attends 7th grade at Queen of Apostles. Her project on Salinity in Brine Shrimp was relevant to the Bay and very well done.



SCVAS GRANTS

In May, the SCVAS Board of Directors, following recommendations of the Grants Committee, awarded the following grants for 1987-88:

THE PEREGRINE FUND, \$700, towards purchase of camera and monitor for interpretive center.

CRAIG STRONG, \$500, census Moss Landing Wildlife Area.

THOMAS SISK, \$1000, study bird communities structure at habitat edges.

JANIS TAYLOR, \$300, monitor Mission College Burrowing Owl colony

TRUST FOR HIDDEN VILLA, \$500, freeze-dry birds and animals for display in new Visitor Center.

FIELD NOTES - Bill Bousman

When we talk about habitats, generally what we mean by edge effect is the increased variety of birds that is found at the edges of biomes. But if we are looking at the distribution of one species then the edge refers to the edge of where it is normally found. After seven years of censusing Charleston Slough we have never recorded an American Robin there. If we find one someday it will mean very little - it is only an edge bird. Edge birds can tell us very little about the normal distribution of a species, particularly the temporal distribution. But the presence of a bird on the edge of its range should reflect what is happening in the center. A **Common Loon** was on Shoreline Lake on 23 Apr (Rich Jeffers-RJ) and this is a good example of an edge bird. The Common Loon is a common or fairly common wintering species along the California coast. We usually see a small influx of birds here at the end of the fall migration, but we do not appear to have any suitable wintering habitat and therefore these birds move on. I have no records for Common Loon after the second week in January. Then as their spring migration starts and they head north along the coast we get a smattering of records in late April and early May. Our county distribution of this species is largely a reflection of the coastal movements.



An apparent **Little Blue Heron** x **Snowy Egret** was seen in Alviso near the Environmental Education Center 16 Apr (Bill Bousman-WGB, Allen Royer). This bird was similar to the one seen last fall, but showed dark lores and an all dark bill. **Green-backed Heron** are apparently on nesting territories. A single bird was seen in San Antonio Valley 22-23 Apr (Clark Blake-CB, WGB) and another bird was flushed from a nest on Uvas Creek 23 Apr (David Suddjian-DLSu). **Wood Duck** have been found in a number of places this month. Two in the ponds north of Metcalf Road 9 Apr (Frank and Duane O'Sullivan-F&DO'S) are from an area where they are not regularly seen. More typical reports were of 1-2 birds in Arroyo Bayo 22-23 Apr (CB, WGB), 2-3 in San Antonio Valley on the same dates (CB, WGB), and 21 along Uvas Creek 23 Apr (DLSu). Twelve downy young were first found on 11 Apr from San Francisquito Creek near Stanford and 11 remained as of 29 Apr (Betty Groce-BGr). A pair of **Blue-winged Teal** in the Palo Alto FCB 16 Apr (Phyllis Browning-PMB *et al.*) were the only reports this month. Three **Redhead** were also found there 15-17 Apr (PMB *et al.*, WBG *et al.*, RG) and a female was last recorded on 19 Apr (RJ). An exceptional find was a female **Hooded Merganser** on Boronda Lake on 16 Apr (PMB *et al.*). **Common Merganser** have been well reported this month. A pair was noted along Smiths Creek 3 Apr (Amy Lauterbach-AL), a single male was along Arroyo Bayo 22-23 Apr (CB, WGB), a female was along Uvas Creek 23 Apr (DLSu), and a pair with two downy young was found on Almaden Res. 29 Apr for our second county breeding record (John Mariani-JMa). The only **Osprey** noted this month was of a bird over Sunol RP 1 Apr (Alan Walther). A number of **Golden Eagle** sightings were made this month on the west side of the valley. Single birds were seen over Summit Ridge 7 Apr (Bruce LaBar-BLaB *fide* DLSu), Palo Alto 16 Apr (RJ), and Rancho San Antonio OSP 16 Apr (PMB *et al.*). Two birds were over Croy Ridge west of Uvas Res. 21 Apr and a bird at Uvas Res. 23 Apr is believed to be part of this pair (DLSu). Finally, a sub-adult was seen over Stevens Creek CP 28 Apr (WGB). These sightings suggest that there are at least 2-3 pairs resident in the Santa Cruz Mountains.

The last **Merlins** of the winter were single birds at Stanford 24 Mar (Hugh Possingham-HPo) and the Arastradero Preserve 1 Apr (Grant Hoyt-GHo). These are typical late dates for this bird. Two male **Wild Turkeys** at Henry Coe SP 17 Apr (Mike Mammoser-MM *et al.*) are from an area where they are most common. A **Lesser Yellowlegs** on Adobe Creek in the Palo Alto FCB 15 Apr (PMB, BGr) was a very good find, we have few spring migration records. Exceptional was an alternate plumaged **Solitary Sandpiper** in San Antonio Valley 9 Apr (Dan Singer *et al.* *fide* DLSu). This is apparently the 6th county record and the earliest by far. Most spring records for this rare shorebird are from inland ponds rather than coastal areas. Two **Spotted Sandpiper** on San Francisquito Creek at Geng Rd. 15-16 Apr (PMB *et al.*) are typical of our April and May records. Five **Red-necked Phalarope** at Ravenswood Point 9 Apr (Ron S. Thorn) were early migrants. A first-winter **Glaucous Gull** at Charleston Slough 23 Apr (CM, WGB) was a surprise, but fits a pattern of spring migration in April and May for this species. None were reported as resident this winter. Suddjian and his co-workers in Santa Cruz have pointed out that Caspian Terns use a trans-montane route to move from their only known breeding colonies in the South Bay to the coast and back again during their nesting season. It seems likely that they also use this crossing during migration. It has been proposed that this route is also used by Least Terns for their migration as there are few sight records from the coast north of Santa Cruz for this species. Large numbers of **Caspian Terns** were found on Uvas Reservoir this spring with 50 there on 16 Apr (Clay Kempf *fide* DLSu) and 18 still there as of 23 Apr (DLSu). Were these birds taking advantage of a localized food resource or was this part of a normal stage prior to nesting? A **Northern Pygmy-Owl** was heard on Croy Ridge, elev. 1920 feet 21 Apr (DLSu), but far more accessible to local birders were 1-2 birds at Stevens Creek CP, elev. 400 feet 15-28 Apr (MM, RG, WGB). Copulation has been observed twice during this period. A single **Short-eared Owl** has been seen in the Palo Alto FCB on 26 Mar and 16 Apr (PMB *et al.*). **Vaux's Swifts** were first noted to arrive in Los Gatos on 14 Apr and numbers built to 15-20 by 16 Apr (Jean DuBois). Smaller numbers of birds have been seen along Matadero Creek 15 Apr (PMB *et al.*), Stevens Creek CP 16-28 Apr (PMB *et al.*, WGB), Uvas Creek 23 Apr and Uvas Res. 23 Apr (both DLSu). A male **Calliope Hummingbird** northwest of Uvas Res. 23 Apr (DLSu) was in the normal migration period for this rare hummer. A **Rufous Hummingbird** at Alum Rock Park 23 Apr (CB, WGB) was more toward the tail end of the migration for this species. **Lewis' Woodpeckers** seen in San Antonio Valley 22-23 Apr appeared to be in normal numbers (CB, WGB). A singing **Hammond's Flycatcher** was found on 1 May in Uvas Canyon (Paul Noble-PLN) is the first sight record for the county. There are a few spring banding records for this Sierran empid. It seems likely that this species would be recorded more often except for the extreme difficulty in its identification. **Western Kingbirds** move through the Santa Cruz Mountains every spring in small numbers although I am not aware of any local breeding evidence. Quite early was a bird at Stanford 24 Mar (HPo).

NGS POSTAGE INCREASE

Second edition versions of the National Geographic Society Field Guide to Birds of North America are available from the SCVAS office for \$13. Postage increases now require \$1.25 in addition to send the book. Please send orders to the office.

More typical were birds at the Arastradero Preserve 1 Apr (GHo), Palo Alto FCB 15 Apr (PMB, BGr), lower Arthur Creek 23 Apr (DLSu), and Edgewood Park 27 Apr (BGr et al.). Late transients may be expected into the middle of June. Two **Red-breasted Nuthatches** at a nest hole on Croy Ridge 21 Apr (DLSu) extend the known breeding range of this species in the Santa Cruz Mountains to the southeast. Two pairs of **American Dippers** were observed along Smiths Creek 3 Apr (AL). Two nests were found in the Twin Creeks area on 11 Apr (JMa). A single bird singing above Stevens Creek CP on 16 Apr (PMB et al.) was from an area where they are irregularly reported. Male **Phainopepla** were observed in two locations in San Antonio Valley 23 Apr (CB, WGB). Migrant **Nashville Warblers** have been reported in normal numbers with one on Hicks Road 17 Apr (JMa), a female along Uvas Creek 23 Apr (DLSu), and one at Stevens Creek CP 27 Apr (MM). An estimated 15 breeding **Yellow-rumped Warblers** on Croy Ridge 22 Apr extends the known breeding range of this species to the southeast also (DLSu). A male **Hermit Warbler** at Stanford 23 Apr (HPo) is our only spring report of this rare migrant (and rarer breeder). Similarly, a **MacGillivray's Warbler** at Chesbro Res. 15 Apr (JMa) is one of our few spring records. Two **Rufous-crowned Sparrow** were found behind the Villa Maria Picnic Area at Stevens Creek CP 24 Apr (MM). They are found in a few locations of appropriate habitat in the Santa Cruz Mountains. A **Black-chinned Sparrows** on Loma Prieta 24 Apr (RJ) was in a typical location and is the earliest record I have. The **Black-throated Sparrow** wintering in San Jose was last heard 2 Apr (F&DO'S). One or more **Grasshopper Sparrows** at Edgewood Park on 27 Apr (BGr et al.) suggest a possible new spot for us South Bay birders. Five or so **White-throated Sparrows** this month included some migrants. A wintering imm. bird in Palo Alto stayed at least through 14 Apr (PMB). Another imm. bird was found nearby 3 Apr (Rosalie Lefkowitz), but was determined to be a different bird. Another imm. was found dead in Los Altos on 31 Mar (PLN). An adult visited a feeder in Menlo Park 10-19 Apr and was replaced there by an imm. 19-25 Apr (both WGB). **Tricolored Blackbirds** were reported from Hall's Valley 22-23 Apr and Arroyo Bayo 22 Apr (CB, WGB). Both places have had breeding colonies in past years. Four **Red Crossbills** at Henry Coe SP 17 Apr (MM et al.) were the last reported for the season. Three **Lawrence's Goldfinches** were in San Antonio Valley 23 Apr (CB, WGB).

Early Arrivals or migrants: **Olive-sided Flycatcher**, 9 Apr, Alum Rock Park (Alan Eisner-AME); **Western Wood-pewee**, 12 Apr, Twin Creeks (JMa); **Ash-throated Flycatcher**, 7 Apr, Summit Ridge (BLaB fide DLSu) and Stevens Creek CP (WGB); **Swainson's Thrush**, 23 Apr, Uvas Creek (DLSu), **Solitary Vireo**, 9 Apr, Monte Bello OSP (WGB); **Yellow Warbler**, 17 Apr, Stevens Creek CP (RJ); **Black-throated Gray Warbler**, 9 Apr, Monte Bello OSP (WGB); **Wilson's Warbler**, 9 Apr, Monte Bello OSP (WGB); **Western Tanager**, 17 Apr, Henry Coe SP (MM et al.); **Lazuli Bunting**, 24 Apr, Calaveras Res. (GHo, Dick Stovel); and **Chipping Sparrow**, 17 Apr, Henry Coe SP (MM et al.).

Late departures or migrants: **Horned Grebe**, 23 Apr, Shoreline Lake (CB, WGB); **Canvasback**, 23 Apr, Palo Alto FCB (RJ, CB, WGB); **Bufflehead**, 2 Apr, Stanford (HPo); **Red-breasted Merganser**, 25 Apr, Alviso (RJ); **Common Snipe**, 23 Apr, Arroyo Bayo to Uvas Creek (CB, WGB, DLSu); **Hermit Thrush**, 23 Apr, Mountain View Forebay (CB, WGB); **Water Pipit**, 25 Apr, Alviso (RJ); and **Lincoln's Sparrow**, 23 Apr, Matadero riparian (CB, WGB).

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).

WESTERN FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS 1988 ANNUAL MEETING

The 1988 Annual Meeting of Western Field Ornithologists, publishers of *Western Birds*, will be held on Thursday through Sunday, October 6-9, 1988 in Monterey, California. A **Breeding Bird Workshop** will be held on Friday, October 7 and a **Papers Session** will be held on Saturday, October 8. Field trips will include Elkhorn Slough, Moon Glow Dairy and Salinas sewer ponds for shorebirds; Carmel River for vagrants; and several pelagic trips during the peak of the seabird migration! A pre-registration discount will be given to participants who register by mail before September 1.

For information and registration forms, please write Debra Love Shearwater, P.O. Box 1445, Soquel, CA 95073. Telephone (408) 688-1990.



FALL PROGRAMS SCHEDULED

The first two general meetings of SCVAS in September and October will be presented by two well-known members. At the meeting on September 21, Ted Chandik will describe the birds and natural history of Costa Rica. Ted has led several trips to this wonderful country and has presented the program to other local Audubon groups. The meeting on October 19 will feature Doug Cheeseman with many bird slides from a new safari that he and Gail are leading this August to Rwanda, Zimbabwe and Namibia. We have plans for many good bird talks next year. If you have suggestions for programs, please call Lynn at the Chapter Office.



WILDLIFE REPORT 1987

The AUDUBON WILDLIFE REPORT 1987 has arrived. This third volume in the series is the result of a co-publishing venture between Audubon and Academic Press Inc. Academic is involved with the production of the next volume as well. Utilizing its international sales force, Academic will oversee marketing and promotional activities to ensure that the book is as widely distributed as possible. NAS's partnership with Academic has reduced costs and increased the effectiveness of the report.

Each year National Audubon singles out one federal agency for special attention. This book contains the most thorough and up-to-date examination of the Bureau of Land Management available. The 1988 volume will follow the same basic format of its predecessors and will feature the National Marine Fisheries Service. If you want to cultivate an understanding of government conservation programs, be sure to utilize these reports. Also, if you need information on a particular wildlife species, check to see if it has been covered in one of the reports, for these accounts are written by the nation's top authorities.

The WILDLIFE REPORT has been well-received by conservationists and wildlife professionals. It is considered the ultimate reference on questions about the wildlife management bureaucracy. A growing number of schools are using the report for classes in wildlife management; for example, this fall, the 1985 book will be used as a text for a Wildlife Administration and Policy course being offered by Utah State University. For further information contact SCVAS office.

10 MINUTE ACTIVIST

1. **Telephoning the Audubon Hotline** will give you information on what you can do to help promote priority issues for SCVAS and National Audubon. For the June, July and August 10 Minute Activist Request, try calling the Hotline at least once a month, to see how you can help out. The message is changed weekly, so if you have the energy and time to call and respond more than once, please do. **Call 202 547 9009.**

2. **Endangered Species Act Reauthorization**

We're still playing a waiting game on Endangered Species Act reauthorization. S. 675 (Mitchell) would reauthorize the Endangered Species Act for five years, through 1992. Grassroots pressure continues to be our best hope of getting S 675 to the floor through the Senate. We are very pleased to see that Senator Alan Cranston (CA) is a cosponsor of S.675. He writes SCVAS to say "I will follow S. 675 closely to ensure that any proposed amendments will only serve to strengthen, not weaken, the Endangered Species Act". **You may want to thank Senator Cranston for his support, and also write Senator Pete Wilson, asking that he too vote to reauthorize this critical legislation.**
The Honorable _____, U.S. Senate, Washington, DC, 20510

3. **Arctic National Wildlife Refuge**

The May issue of AUDUBON features stunning photographs and compelling articles unveiling the northern treasure of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. The Arctic National Refuge drama continues to unfold in the House and Senate. Right now the action is in the House, where the Merchant Marine and Fisheries Committee will act on pro-development legislation within the next few weeks. A variety of bills are being considered, from Young's straight leasing bill, to Bonker, Lowery and Schneider's bill requiring a study of energy alternatives and development of a national energy policy pursuing the least cost alternatives before allowing drilling. **We are earnestly working to get letters into members of the committee with the simple message: reject oil and gas development in the Refuge. Support wilderness protection for this unique and wild corner of Alaska.**

Of special interest to SCVAS members: Congressman Ernie Konnyu sits on this committee. Last we heard (end of April) he was co-sponsor with Congressman Young (Alaska) of a straight leasing bill. Konnyu's states that he does not support drilling on the California Coast, but does support the National Energy Policy, and sees the need to continue new exploration in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. If you disagree with this position, please let him know: The Honorable Ernie Konnyu, U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, DC, 20515.

On the other hand, some opponents to Konnyu in the race for the 18th District seat take a different point of view. Jim Garrison opposes drilling in the Arctic, and told SCVAS that a high priority on his agenda for Washington is "to speak out on the need for a debate on this country's environmental policy". Anna Eshoo supports HR 39 (Udall), which would permanently protect the sensitive Refuge lands, by finally designating the area proposed for exploration as wilderness. Tom Campbell agrees with bills that require a review of the need for oil from the Arctic, before any drilling is allowed, and also does not want to see the site explored now.

OFFICE EQUIPMENT NEEDED....

Do you have a file cabinet in need of a new home? SCVAS's office is overflowing, and is in need of either or both a two drawer and a four drawer file cabinet. Any donations are tax deductible, and we will pick up the furniture. Please call the office at (415) 329-1811 if you can help.

.....AND VOLUNTEER INFORMATION MANAGERS TOO

Do you have a knack for organizing stuff? Do we have some projects for you! Volunteers are needed to help organize our clippings file, and to help read and process the many magazines and newsletters that come into the office. Please call the office if you are interested in helping for 2 hours a week or more. Much of the work does not need to be done in the office and may be taken home.



GIFTS AND MEMORIALS

*In memory of Terri Bernier
From Bruce and Audrey Langenegger*

*In memory of Mrs Marian Payne
From Stella and Derrill Angst*

If you would like more information on how you can help in the coming critical weeks of the Arctic Refuge campaign, please contact the SCVAS office.

4. **Federal Purchase of California Wetlands**

Congress is making Land and Water Conservation Fund appropriations for the next fiscal year. Six critical wetland areas, all part of the Pacific Flyway, have been identified as critical wetland areas appropriate as additions to the National Wildlife Refuge System:

- 1) San Joaquin River NWR (CA) \$5 million
- 2) San Francisco Bay NWR (CA) \$3.5 million
- 3) San Pablo Bay NWR (CA) \$4 million
- 4) Klamath Forest Marsh NWR (OR) \$3.5 million
- 5) Steigerwald Lake NWR (OR/WA) \$2 million
- 6) Sacramento River NWR (CA) \$3 million
- 7) In addition, Land And Water Conservation Funds are

requested to implement the North American Waterfowl Plan, nationwide, \$30 million.

The Plan, an agreement between the Canadian and United State governments, and recognized by Congress in passage of the Emergency Wetlands Resources Act last year, calls for preservation of 80,000 acres of California's remaining wetlands. The proposed additions would take a major step in protecting SF Bay and Central Valley habitat. **Letters are needed in support of these appropriations, to The Honorable Bill Lowery, U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, DC, 20515 and to The Honorable Alan Cranston and Pete Wilson, U.S. Senate, Washington, DC, 20515.**

AUDUBON CAMPS PROGRAM EMBARKS ON NEW INTERNATIONAL FOCUS

After 50 very successful years of providing substantive educational experiences to literally thousands of educators and environmental leaders across the country, this season saw Audubon initiate a new international emphasis.

The first International Ecology workshop was conducted this year at the famed Asa Wright Nature Centre in Trinidad. Forty participants . More were enrolled in this exciting educational venture that explored the Tropical Rainforest community, its fragile nature and the many threats facing this important global asset.

Workshoppers, including scholarship students from Trinidad, spent ten days exploring the richly diverse habitats of this remarkable island. While much emphasis was placed on the complexity of this important ecological community, many individual highlights added to the participants experience, chief among these events was the night vigil watching a Leatherback Sea Turtle laying her eggs on a remote beach.

Along with the exceptional learning experience, this program provided an opportunity to increase public awareness of the valuable natural treasures of Trinidad to its own populace. This was accomplished through extensive coverage in the national press and television showing, not only the intrinsic wildlife value, but the economic importance of these wild places as tourism destinations.

Future International Ecology Workshops are planned for such important natural areas as Kenya, Costa Rica, and the Galapagos Islands.

In addition to providing our members in the United States with a first-hand understanding of global environmental problems, the Audubon Camps program initiated another international effort to connect with environmental educators from other nations.

This year, in cooperation with the World Wildlife Fund, a scholarship program was set up for visiting educators from other countries to attend our prestigious Camp and Ecology Workshop programs during the summer. In this effort, Audubon chapters who cannot find appropriate candidates for scholarship funding in their own communities are being matched with visiting environmentalists from other countries, who do need this financial support.

The first scholarship under this initiative saw Miguel Pellerano, a Noyes Fellow and a National Park Service teacher in Argentina, attending the Ecology Workshop in Connecticut under the auspices of the Scarsdale Audubon Society (NY). Both the educational exchange and the networking opportunities presented made this a most productive effort. In addition to Sr. Pellerano, candidates were also involved from Brazil and Burma. Efforts will be made to expand this important, and far-reaching, opportunity for educators for the 1988 season. Plan on you and your chapter being a part of this global effort.



NEW TRIPS OR PROGRAMS

We are already beginning to plan for 1988-89. If you have an idea for a field trip, general meeting topic, or a specific speaker you would like for us to invite, let us know! Contact any board member with your suggestions, or send a card to the office.

SAVE BURROWING OWLS AND THEIR HABITAT

Historically, great numbers of Burrowing Owls inhabited the open spaces of Santa Clara Valley. Today, the owl's habitat is being destroyed at such a rapid rate that they qualify as a state "Species of Special Concern", the first step towards threatened status. In response to the dramatic decrease in burrowing owls in Santa Clara County, a coalition of individuals has been formed to try to change the situation. Named "Save BOTH", (Save Burrowing Owls and Their Habitat), the group will actively encourage land owners and developers to avoid destruction of existing Burrowing Owl habitat, and to incorporate the sites as natural areas in any development.

ALL SANTA CLARA VALLEY AUDUBON SOCIETY MEMBERS ARE INVITED TO JOIN SAVE BOTH.

Memberships are \$5. Each member will receive a fact sheet on Burrowing Owls, action alerts telling them when they can help by writing letters or attending meetings, a membership card and a special thank you gift. Your support will help in the fight to save these special birds. Membership checks for \$5 may be made out to SCVAS, and send to 415 Cambridge Avenue, Suite 21, Palo Alto, CA, 94306.

The first project for Save BOTH involves a large proposed development on land owned by Mission College in Santa Clara. The development as proposed would eliminate more than 16 nesting sites circling the college. Save BOTH would like to see some of the land left in a natural state, in order to preserve several of the nesting sites. Both the College and the developer are meeting with Save BOTH associates, in preliminary discussion of the issue. In addition, Save BOTH is circulating a petition recognizing the loss of Burrowing Owls in the County, and showing community support for retaining habitat within a development in order to save nesting sites. If you would like to sign or help circulate the petition, or to receive more information, please call SCVAS at (415) 329-1811.

WETLANDS AND ANCIENT FORESTS LEAD THE LIST OF AUDUBON WESTERN PRIORITIES

Representatives from 98 chapters in California, Oregon, Washington, Nevada and Hawaii have selected their key conservation priorities for the next two years. Leading the list are five top goals 1) protection of wetlands and riparian forests, 2) protection of old growth forests, 3) advancement of international programs to protect wildlife and habitat, 4) reauthorization of the federal Clean Air Act, and 5) protection for the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge in Alaska. "These issues will guide Audubon's conservation planning in the West through 1989", according to Audubon's western regional vice president, Glenn Olson.

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Donna Zetterquist		408/429-9716	Cheeseman	408/867-1371	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 SCVAS but are listed for your information:

- A trip early Sunday morning, Oct. 23, 1988, to the Cordell Bank is sponsored by Madrone Audubon in Santa Rosa. Viewings could include Blackfooted Albatross, Shearwaters, Alcids, Jaegers and Storm Petrels, as well as Humpback and Bluewhale, Dolphins and more. The cost is \$40. Send your check to Roger Marlowe, 401 Vine Ave., Sebastopol, CA 95472, and call him in the evenings at (707) 829-0705 for more information.

- Alice Hoch's next Birding Classes will begin on Tuesday, June 14 and run through July 19th. Sponsored by the Fremont Adult School, the classes meet each week at a different top birding spot. For more information, call the Fremont Adult School, (415) 791-5841.

- A field trip on June 25 to Point Lobos to observe the wild flowers and birds will be led by Alice Hoch, sponsored by the Fremont Adult School. Pre-registration by June 21 is necessary. For more information call the school, (415) 791-5841, or Alice Hoch at (415) 657-0475.

- There is still time to register for Don Stark's birding tour to Arizona from Aug. 5 to Aug. 14. \$985 includes lodging, transportation and round-trip air fare from San Jose. For more information call Don, (408) 371-9720 or call Carol Flores at Travel Network, (408) 354-6753, for reservation information.

- People for Open Space/Greenbelt Congress will hold a Summer 1988 "Taste of the Greenbelt" wine and food tasting series, featuring the agricultural and epicurean bounty of different parts of the Bay Area: June 25, Charles Krug Winery; July 23, Sunrise Winery, Cupertino; August 27, Landmark Vineyards, Marin; September 24, Mudd's Restaurant, San Ramon. \$20/each or 4 for \$65. For info. brochure, call (415)543-4291.

- Walt Anderson and George Peyton are leading a birding tour to Madagascar departing Sept. 24, 1988, with an optional extension to see the mountain gorillas in Rwanda, through Oct. 19. For more information, call Carla Munt, (408) 245-9517.

- Richardson Bay Audubon Center hosts a festive brunch and fund raising auction for the Center and Sanctuary on Sunday, June 5 at 10:30 a.m. in the meadow by the Lyford House at the Center, 376 Greenwood Beach Rd., Tiburon. Brunch features poached salmon and there will be bargains in auction items as well. Tickets are \$25/person, raffle tickets \$20 each. For reservations, call (415) 388-2524.

- A summer field trip series to study birds in a variety of habitats is offered by Sunbeam Ecology Explorations. Included is Yosemite on June 10-12, Tomales Bay State Park on June 18 for breeding and Spotted Owls, birding along the San Mateo coast on July 19, Woodland Sugar Ponds on July 30 for migrating shorebirds, San Mateo coast for nesting summerbirds on August 6 and Outer Point Reyes for vagrant landbirds and shorebirds on August 27. Participants may sign up for the series or individual trips. For prices, reservations and details call Maryann Danielson, 325-9349.

- Doug and Gail Cheeseman have two cancellations on their Safari, July 21-Aug. 11, that they are leading with Don Turner in Rwanda and with Ian Sinclair in Zimbabwe. The cost is \$3,800, plus airfare \$2,240. These two openings include the national parks of Tsavo and Amboseli in Kenya, a week in Rwanda with two days in Volcanoes National Park, home of the Mountain Gorilla, and a week in Zimbabwe in the Vumba Mtns., on the Zambezi River, and in the Victoria Falls area, including the Botswana side. Phone Cheesemans' Eco. Safaris at (408) 741-5330.



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 or subscribe to the *Audubon Activist*, 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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- Avocet* only / \$6
- Audubon Activist* / \$9
- Introductory Membership / \$20