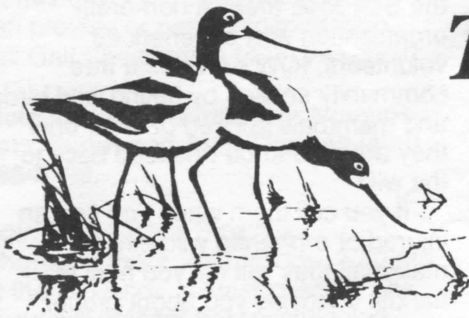


SANTA CLARA VALLEY AUDUBON SOCIETY  
Chapter C14 of the National Audubon Society  
415 Cambridge Ave., Suite 21, Palo Alto, CA 94306  
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# The Avocet

Volume 35, Number 9

November 1988

## SEASONAL WETLANDS: WHY WE FIGHT TO SAVE THEM

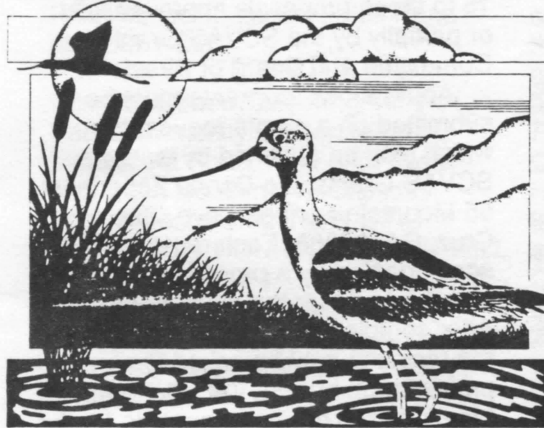
The following is adapted from an article by Kevin Monahan, a past President of SCVAS:

Historically San Francisco Bay included 200,000 acres of wetlands habitat. This acreage has been reduced to 37,000 acres today, with South Bay seasonal wetlands representing a small fraction of the total. The small amount of remaining acreage is critical, yet piecemeal destruction of this habitat has disrupted its continuity around the Bay shorelands. As these remaining acres disappear or are divided into smaller to destruction and degradation by construction and associated support activities, illegal entry, and abuse by off-road- vehicle users.

Seasonal wetlands serve a critical environmental role and their destruction can no longer be ameliorated. The manufacturing of artificial wetlands, as is required by law to replace development that must occur in a wetland, is a high-risk, low-yield process which does not have a demonstrable record of success. Off-site mitigation, in which a developer purchases a piece of property distant from the development site and creates/restores an equivalent wetland, may not result in a net loss of wetland habitat, but does contribute to fragmentation of the habitat and seldom helps wildlife that used the original destroyed habitat.



Citizens must work now to preserve the remaining wetlands habitat in San Francisco Bay. You are the eyes, ears, and conscience of environmentalism in our Bay. A few acres may not seem like a large loss to some, but to others, like the Burrowing Owl chicks, its loss can mean the difference between life and death.



## A BONUS AT THE BOTTOM OF YOUR BALLOT - MEASURE B

Yes on Measure B! Measure B will continue the Santa Clara County Park Fund, to complete trails and park facilities for hiking, bicycling, birding, boating, horsebacking and other uses. It does not increase taxes, but guarantees that the same proportion of your existing taxes will continue to be used for park acquisition, improvements, maintenance, and ranger staffing to insure an adequate park program for Santa Clara County residents. For more information, please call (408)983-0539

## ... AND A RECENT SUCCESS STORY

Letters and calls objecting to wetlands destruction on pertinent projects DO make a difference. We are pleased to note that the Sunnyvale Parks and Recreation Commission has just taken an important step towards protecting South Bay wetlands, and we hope that by the time you read this, the Sunnyvale City Council and Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors will have agreed with that decision.

SCVAS, Save Our South (SOS) Bay Wetlands, and other groups have worked hard to convince these entities that a Master Plan in existence since 1980 for Sunnyvale Baylands Park was out of sync with current knowledge about wetlands. The 1980 Master Plan called for a 30 acre lake to be placed in the middle of what we now know are existing wetlands, on a parcel bordered by the Twin Creeks softball complex, 237, and Calabazas Creek. After two years of meetings, completion of an EIR, and with evidence from both the Corps of Engineers and the US Fish and Wildlife Service agreeing with our premise that a lake would be destructive to wetlands on the site, the Park and Recreation Commission has recommended that the City Council approve a Master Plan Alternative with no lake, but a larger number of picnic areas, and with no impact on the wetlands! They also recommended further studies to develop an environmental studies area, highlighting the wetlands environment. SCVAS applauds the Commission for their decision!!!

## WORKING FOR A "CLEAN SOUTH BAY"

Reflecting our high priority for wetlands protection and water quality, SCVAS is co-sponsoring CLEAN (Coalition for Effluent Action Now), along with Citizens for a Better Environment, Save S. F. Bay Association, Peninsula Conservation Center Foundation, Sierra Club, and about forty other environmental organizations and Bay user groups.

CLEAN efforts focus on the three South Bay sewage treatment plants - Palo Alto, Sunnyvale, San Jose/Santa Clara - which now collectively discharge 60,000 POUNDS of toxic metals every year into south SF Bay, and which project a 25% INCREASE by 1995. Their freshwater effluent flows over more than 550 acres of wetlands, causing conversion from salt marsh (habitat for endangered Clapper Rail and Salt Marsh Harvest Mouse) to fresh or brackish marsh. Degradation results from concentration of toxic metals in water and sediments, and their accumulation in the food chain.

We find it unacceptable that the most sensitive area of San Francisco Bay is governed by the weakest toxics standards in all of this great estuary. The South Bay is so vitally important and sensitive to pollutants that ALL waste water discharges of concern are explicitly prohibited under state and federal rules, in the Basin Plan and Bays & Estuaries Policies. However, the prohibition has never been enforced, although studies continue.

We joined in a petition to the Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) asking them to adopt protective water quality standards before discharge of toxic metals in the extreme south bay. CLEAN South Bay endorsed investigation of opportunities to identify and reduce toxic metal loadings from commercial, industrial and domestic sources before pollutants are washed down the drain. We also requested mitigation for conversion and degradation of wetlands, salt marshes and mudflats.

As the AVOCET goes to press, it is expected that the RWQCB will act on permits for the South Bay sewage treatment plants at their mid-November meeting. If you would like more information about this issue, and are interested in supporting CLEAN South Bay, please contact the SCVAS office.

-Trish Mulvey, SCVAS Board Member

## NOTE CHANGE OF MEETING PLACE FOR NOVEMBER GENERAL MEETING

The Palo Alto Cultural Center Auditorium is unavailable in November, so WE WILL BE MEETING AT THE MITCHELL PARK COMMUNITY CENTER, 3800 MIDDLEFIELD ROAD, PALO ALTO. To reach the center, turn on Middlefield, heading north from San Antonio Road or south from Page Mill Road. Located between East Charleston and East Meadow on Middlefield, there is plenty of parking behind the Center.

## SCVAS GRANTS

The Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society continues its program of providing grants to studies and projects that advance the knowledge, appreciation, and protection of wildlife and its habitats. WE ESPECIALLY ENCOURAGE COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY STUDENTS TO APPLY. Proposals for grants will be accepted through March 31, 1989 for consideration in the current funding cycle. Grants will be awarded by May 15 to those proposals approved fully or partially by the SCVAS Grants Committee and Board of Directors.

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

-Donna Zetterquist, Chair, Grants Committee

## HOLIDAY NUT SALE TO BENEFIT LIBRARY OF PCC

Fresh pecans, walnuts, and almonds for sale in one pound bags. Free nut recipes with purchase. Visit the Conservation Store at 2248 Watson Court, Palo Alto, 9:30-5 pm, Monday thru Friday. Open Saturdays starting Nov. 19. Nuts go on sale Nov. 1st. For more information, call (415) 494-9301.

## INJURED AND ORPHANED WILDLIFE

Injured and Orphaned Wildlife (IOW) is a new rehab group located in the San Jose area. A non-profit organization with experienced volunteers, IOW provides a free community service by taking wild birds and mammals in need of care, until they are able to be released back to the wild.

If you call them when you find an injured or orphaned wild bird or mammal, they will tell you how to handle it, advise you about proper emergency care, and put you in contact with a trained volunteer who will take the bird/mammal until it can be released. Their numbers are: (408) 946-4212 and (408) 266-2289.

As a non-profit organization that survives solely on donations from the public, they offer a Wildlife Sponsorship Program, and also welcome general contributions- both are tax-deductible. New volunteers are welcomed at any time to help with in-home care of wildlife, to answer phones and to assist with fundraising, publicity and other organizational needs. Please call the hotline numbers above to receive more information.

## BOARD ACTIONS

- At their Oct. meeting, the SCVAS Board moved to endorse Measure B for Santa Clara County. (see article)
- The following Committees are actively meeting, and members are welcome to attend: AVOCET, Education, Environmental Action, Field Trips, Five Year Plan, and Grants. Please call office for meeting times and places.

## "GRIZZLY'S TALES" AT NOV. MEETING

Robert "Grizzly" Grover will present a program titled "Grizzly's Tales" at the General Meeting on November 16. The program will be stories, poetry, and slides of Alaska's Denali National Park, which includes the magnificent Mt. McKinley. This will be an entertaining and inspiring program about one of our last wilderness areas. Grizzly Grover will talk about the encounter that earned him his nickname as well as discuss with slides and poetry, the beauty and wildness of Denali National Park.



## 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 Gail Cheeseman (408) 741-5330.

**Field Trip Coordinator for November:** Karen and Alan Thomas (408) 265-9286.

**Nov. 2 Bay Area Bird Photographers** Wednesday, 7:30 pm. at the Baylands. Guest speaker Lee Hung will present her rescheduled slide show on the birds of Taiwan. Co-sponsored by the Arts and Sciences Division of the city of Palo Alto.

**Nov. 5 Salinas River Mouth** Saturday, 8:30 am. Full day. Meet at Jetty Rd. and Hwy 1. Take Hwy 1 S from Santa Cruz to Moss Landing. Turn right on Jetty just before the town of Moss Landing. Bring lunch. HEAVY rains prior to trip may alter trip itinerary. HEAVY rain on trip date CANCELS. Leader: Bruce LaBar (408) 476-7583.

**Nov. 6 Stanford University Jasper Ridge Biological Preserve** Sunday, 8:30 am. Full day. Trip limited to 40 participants by reservation only. Take Sand Hill Road off I-280 west 2 miles to main gate on left. Gate will be unlocked from 8:10 to 8:30 am. Be prompt. Trip goes rain or shine. Gate fee. 2 1/2 miles moderate walking. Highlights: 60-70 species, plus possible Ring-necked Ducks and Wood Ducks. Leaders: Bill & Jean Clark, Bill Kirsher, Bob Buell, Winkie Lennihan. For reservations call (415) 326-7565.

**Nov. 8 Bird Discussion Group.** Tuesday, 9:30 am. at the home of Eve Case, 20537 Verde Ln., Saratoga, (408) 867-4748. Topic: Western Tanager.

**Nov. 9 Field Trip South, Campbell Percolation Ponds (Los Gatos Creek Co. Park)** Wednesday, 9 am. Take Winchester to Hacienda, right on Hacienda to Dell, left on Dell and right at park entrance. Meet in parking lot. Leader: Gail Cheeseman (408) 741-5330.

**Nov. 12 Princeton Harbor** Saturday, 9 am. Full day. Meet at the Princeton Harbor parking area near harbor-master's office. Take Hwy 92 W to Hwy 1. Go N on 1 to Princeton. Bring lunch and water. 2 miles walking with option of 1 more difficult mile. HEAVY rain cancels. If in doubt call prior to trip. Highlights: Wintering shorebirds, waterfowl, possible Rock Sandpiper. Leader: Rod Norden (408) 996-6442.

**Nov. 13 South Santa Cruz County** Sunday, 9 am. Full day. Meet at the Watsonville Community Hospital. Take Hwy 17 S to Santa Cruz. Then Hwy 1 S to Airport Blvd. exit. Take Airport Blvd. E and turn right onto Green Valley Rd. Then turn left immediately into the Watsonville Community Hospital. Meet in the visitors parking lot near the creek. Bring lunch. RAIN cancels. Highlights: waterbirds, shorebirds and wintering landbirds. Leader: David Suddjian (408) 479-9603.

**Nov 16 Field Trip North Coyote Hills Regional Park** Wednesday, 8:30 am. Meet at park entrance. Take Hwy 84 to Fremont and look for Thornton Ave. exit. Go N on Paseo Padre to Commerce Dr. Turn left into park. Lunch optional. RAIN cancels. Leader: Phil Hand (415) 851-2623.

**Nov 16 General Meeting** Mitchell Park Community Center, 3800 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto. (Note change in location). Wednesday, 7:30, refreshments, NEW BIRD IDENTIFICATION WORKSHOP WILL BE FROM 7:45-8 PM, 8 pm program. Program features Robert "Grizzly" Grover with stories, poetry, and slides of Alaska's Denali National Park. (See article)

**Nov 19 San Leandro Regional Shoreline/Arrowhead Marsh** Saturday, 9 am. Half day. Meet at the San Leandro Regional Shoreline on Doolittle Blvd. in the N parking lot by the cafe and restrooms. Take I 880 N to 98th St.- Oakland Airport exit. Go W, turn right onto Doolittle. Meeting place is about 2 miles on Park in the N lot near the cafe. Not the launch ramp. Bring scopes. RAIN cancels. Highlights: Scaup, teal, wigeon, etc. Leaders: Audrey Stoye (408) 249-2108 and Betty Wyatt (408) 255-6091.

**Nov 20 Birdwalk for Beginners: Ed Levin Park** Sunday, 8:30 am. Meet in the old school yard across from park. This is the 2nd school going E on Calaveras Blvd. Take Calaveras E off I 680 and follow to park. Lunch optional. Highlights: Raptors, woodpeckers, some waterfowl. Leader: Frank Vanslager (408) 257-3647.

**Field Trip Coordinator for December:** Christine Wolfe (408) 245-9359

**Dec 3 Binocular and Scope Workshop** Saturday, 2-4 pm, Palo Alto Cultural Center, on corner of Embarcadero and Newell Ave, in Palo Alto. (See article)

**Dec 3 Beginners Trip to Elkhorn Slough** Saturday, 9 am. Half day. Meet at Jetty Rd. off Hwy 1 in Moss Landing. Bring lunch and liquids, dress warmly. RAIN cancels. Wintering shorebirds, ducks. Designed for beginners. Kevin & Barbara Monahan (408) 425-7841.

**Dec 4 Lake Merritt and Alameda Shoreline** Sunday, 9 am. Half day. Meet at the Rotary Science Center in Oakland. Take I 880 N to Oak St.; E on Oak. Oak then becomes Lakeside, then Harrison. Right on Grand. Right on Bellevue to meeting place. Lunch advised. Easy walking 2-3 miles. Possible parking fee. Highlights: Common and Barrows Goldeneyes, Hooded Merganser. If you like ducks this is the trip for you. Beginners encouraged to attend. Close to Oakland Museum, Birds of California exhibit. RAIN cancels. Leaders: Allen Royer (408) 288-7768 and Lynn Teneffoss (415) 329-1811.

**Dec 10-11 Gray Lodge Weekend** Gray Lodge and Sacramento Wildlife Refuges. Saturday, Sunday, 9 am. Both days. Meet at the Gray Lodge Checking Station on Pennington Rd. Gray Lodge is 4 hours N of Palo Alto on US 99. Follow signs W from either Gridley or Live Oak. Overnight camping or Colusa Motel. If planning to attend call Gail Cheeseman for reservations and details. Be prepared for bad weather. HEAVY rain may cancel. Call Gail early Friday to confirm. Highlights: Wintering ducks, geese, swans. Leaders: Gail Cheeseman (408) 741-5330 and Don Schmoltd (415) 236-5612.

## FIELD NOTES - Bill Bousman

The purpose of this column is not so much what is rare as what is unusual or interesting or out of place. A first county record is always exciting (and you will find one below), but also of interest are common or less common species out of habitat or here at the wrong time of year. Sometimes an observation may make no sense at all to an individual observer except that it seems strange. My regular contributors (bless 'em) frequently send me things that don't make the column, but may help our understanding when they are combined with other information. I try to put these things together, even when they don't make sense to me, and pass them on to the regional editors of American Birds -sometimes at that level things do make sense.

A case in point. Last fall I received reports of single Brown Pelicans at three different inland, freshwater locations. The bird itself is regular at observers they found that the Brown Pelican population in Monterey Bay suffered a massive die-off last fall (AB 42:128). The proximate cause of death was a bacterium, but the suspicion was that the birds were unable to obtain their normal prey. Other fish-eating birds did not encounter the same problem. Some birds were seen to forage inland on the Pajaro River and then there were our inland reservoir birds - it is hard to believe that the coastal mortality and changes in behavior seen locally are not related. This information would not now be tantalizing us if it weren't for the original observers' curiosity and the reporting system we have in place.

A number of records come this month from the PRBO Birdathon. The team of Grant Hoyt, Paul Noble, and Mike Mammoser scored 136 for their day on 24 Sep, starting from Robison Canyon (six owls!) in Monterey County and winding up in the South Bay. Clark Blake and I did a Santa Clara County Big Day on 25 Sep and found 129 species (with only one owl), which is our September best.

### GREBE TO HERONS

We are slowly putting together the status of Clark's Grebe. None were found on the Palo Alto BBC in the flocks of Westerns; a single bird was found 28 Aug at the Sunnyvale Water Pollution Control Plant (WPCP) (Peter

Metropulos - PJM). The seasonal high for Am. White Pelicans was of 550 counted in the vicinity of Charleston Slough 4 Sep (Al Eisner - AME). The purported Little Blue Heron X Snowy Egret has been found locally again this year with a report from the Palo Alto FCB 7 Aug (PJM) and at Charleston Slough on 5 Sep (Marvin Hoffman) and 21 Sep (Tovar). There are few acceptable records in the Bay Area for Little Blue Heron after August, unlike the Snowy Egret that winters here. Green-backed Herons have been found in good numbers this month with adults found in the Matadero riparian 14 Sep (Paul Noble - PLN), the Mountain View Forebay 15 Sep (Mike Rogers - MRo), at Shoreline Lake the next day (Bill Bousman - WGB), one east of San Antone Jct. 24 Sep (Clark Blake - CB, WGB), and the Sunnyvale WPCP 25 Sep (PJM).



### GEESE TO DUCKS

Our resident Canada Goose flock appears to be expanding with 31 noted 21 Aug at the Palo Alto Duck Pond (David Suddjian - DLSu) and 37 over the Palo Alto FCB 27 Aug (Phyllis Browning - PMB). Three Blue-winged Teal at the Sunnyvale WPCP 17 Sep (PJM) were our only report. A Ruddy Duck with four ducklings at Grant Lake 25 Sep (CB, WGB) is a very late breeder.

### HAWKS TO TURKEYS

Two Red-shouldered Hawks at Henry Coe SP 25 Sep (James Yurchenco - JY, Amy Lauterbach - AL) constitute the first record for the park. They are occasionally found in winter to the north in the San Antonio Valley. One at the Sunnyvale WPCP 25 Sep (PJM) was closer to the bay edge than they are typically found. This species is slowly expanding in numbers through-out the west - pretty nice, huh?

Our first Merlins show up in the latter part of September; the first arrival this fall was of a bird at the Sunnyvale WPCP 21 Sep (PJM). Another Merlin was at the Arastradero Preserve 24 Sep (Jim & Sue Liskovec) then on 25 Sep there were four sightings of single birds from the Sunnyvale WPCP to the Palo Alto Baylands (CB, WGB). Were there four birds or one? Overshadowing the Merlins were the reports of Peregrine

Falcons. One was seen along south Coyote Slough 17 Aug (Tom Harvey TH, Chris Cutler). An imm. was at Charleston Slough harassing shorebirds 3 Sep (PMB). Was the imm. seen there on 25 Sep (CB, WB) the same bird? And what are we to make of an adult and an imm. at Guadalupe Slough (PJM), an imm. at Alum Rock Park (CB, WGB), and an adult and imm. at the Palo Alto Baylands (CB, WGB) all on 25 Sep? James Yurchenco and Amy Lauterbach are starting a bi-weekly census at Henry Coe SP which will greatly increase our knowledge of the avifauna of this lovely park. Wild Turkeys there on 11 and 25 Sep were in two flocks totaling 15-16 birds and suggests that within the confines of Coe, at least, this species is uncommon to fairly common.

### SHOREBIRDS

A Lesser Golden-Plover in the Mountain View Forebay 12 Sep (Claire Wolfe) is one of few records for this very rare plover. It did not stay long here. Lesser Yellowlegs have been abundant through the first half of September at their favored haunts from the Palo Alto FCB to the Sunnyvale WPCP (many obs.). High counts included 20 in the FCB 5 Sep (PJM), eight in the Mountain View Forebay 11 Sep (WGB), and 28 at the Sunnyvale WPCP on 5 Sep (PJM). A Wandering Tattler along the Alviso salt ponds 18 Aug is only our fourth county record (TH). Another misidentified shorebird of the rocky coast was a Black Turnstone found 10 Sep near the Palo Alto FCB outlet structure (Mary W. Smith). I am aware of one previous "record," but there is no date or associated observer. Red Knots were found in Charleston Slough again with 16 there 5 Aug and 5 on 9 Aug (PJM). A single bird was at the Sunnyvale WPCP 21 Sep (PJM). A Baird's Sandpiper was also there from 5 to 21 Sep (PJM).

September is our best month for Pectoral Sandpiper. Three were in the Mountain View Forebay 4 Sep (JY, AL) and a single there 13 Sep (AME). Three were also found in Charleston Slough 11 Sep (WGB). On 25 Sep three more were found in Grant Lake (CB, WGB) and eight to nine birds were at the Sunnyvale WPCP 25-29 Sep (PJM).





## LANDBIRDS

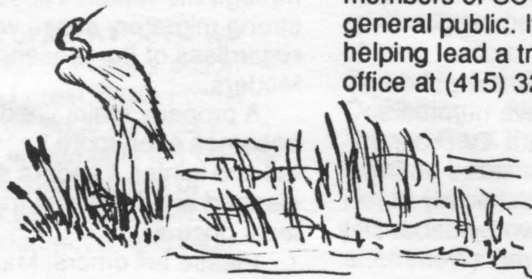
The local status of Vaux's Swifts is difficult to determine as southbound migrants may be more common in much of the country than birds dispersing from the edge of their limited nesting areas as the eastern edge of the Santa Cruz Mountains. One of three birds were seen 13-26 Aug in the vicinity of Saratoga and Los Gatos where they have bred in the past (DLSu, Geri A. Brown). One was at the Palo Alto FCB 27 Aug and at the Sunnyvale WPCP three were seen 13 Sep and two on 25 Sep (all PJM). Six or so Lewis' Woodpeckers in the San Antonio Valley 24-25 Sep are about what is expected for a hurried visit (CB, WGB). One above Smiths Creek 25 Sep was well out of their typical range. Willow Flycatchers were found in good numbers (for non-banders) this fall with one seen in the Matadero riparian 10 Sep and another the same day at Coyote Hills RP (PLN, GHo, Mike Mammoser). Another migrant at the Sunnyvale WPCP 25 Sep (PJM) was out in the tules! A male Phainopepla was in San Antonio Valley 25 Sep where they are a rare resident. Three (a family?) on Arroyo Bayo 25 Sep had moved in for ripening berry plants (all CB, WGB). An adult Black-throated Blue Warbler was undoubtedly the bird of the month on our first county record! Peter Metropulos found it on 25 Sep in the eucalyptus in front of the Sunnyvale WPCP facing Caribbean. Our other vagrant this month was an Ovenbird caught by a cat in Palo Alto 17 Sep (fide Joyce Long). This is our second county record for Ovenbird and the first we've encountered in fall migration. A large flock of Tricolored Blackbirds at the Sunnyvale WPCP 25 Sep (CB, WGB) are probably wintering birds as the nearest (?) known breeding colony is Grant Lake. A single Red Crossbill in Menlo Park 29 Aug (PJM) raises the question of whether there was any breeding in the Santa Cruz Mountains this summer. A Lawrence's Goldfinch in the San Antonio Valley 25 Sep and six more along Arroyo Bayo the same day (CB, WGB) were from areas where they are typically found.



Early arrivals: Ring-necked Duck, 25 Sep, Henry Coe SP (JY, AL) and Grant Lake (CB, WGB); Sora, 9 Aug, Mountain View Forebay (PJM); Common Snipe, Red-breasted Sapsucker, 25 Sep, Arroyo Bayo, (CB, WGB); Say's Phoebe, 25 Sep; Alviso (CB, WGB); Ruby-crowned Kinglet, 25 Sep, Menlo Park (WGB); Hermit Thrush, 25 Sep, San Antonio Valley (CB, WGB); Yellow-rumped Warbler, 11 Sep, Henry Coe SP (JY, AL); Townsend's Warbler, 15 Sep, Jasper Ridge BR (Hugh Possingham); Fox Sparrow, 11 Sep, Henry Coe SP (JY, AL); Lincoln's Sparrow, 17 Sep, Alviso EEC (WGB); Golden-crowned Sparrow, 23 Sep, Stevens Creek at Crittendon (WGB); and White-crowned Sparrow, 12 Sep, Alviso EEC, (PLN).

Late departures: 12 Wilson's Phalarope, 5 Sep, Sunnyvale WPCP (PJM); Ash-throated Flycatcher (very late), 25 Sep, San Antonio Valley (CB, WGB); Tree Swallow, 25 Sep, Sunnyvale WPCP (PJM, CB, WGB); Cliff Swallow, 25 Sep, Sunnyvale WPCP, (PJM); House Wren, 27 Aug, Stevens Creek at Crittenden Lane (WGB); Black-throated Gray Warbler, 25 Sep, San Antonio Valley (CB, WGB); Wilson's Warbler, 26 Sep, Sunnyvale WPCP (WGB); Western Tanager (2), 25 Sep, Arroyo Bayo (CB, WGB); Black-headed Grosbeak (very late), 25 Sep, Arroyo Bayo, (CB, WGB); and Hooded Oriole, 15 Sep, Palo Alto (PMB).

If you see "uncommon to rare" please write or call: Bill Bousman, 321 Arlington Way, Menlo Park, CA 94025 (415) 322-5282.



## CORRECTION NOTED

The October AVOCET mistakenly listed an incorrect address for Debra Shearwater, Shearwater Journeys. The correct address to write for information on Monterey Bay and other pelagic trips is P.O. Box 1445, Soquel, CA, 95073. The phone number was correct: (408)688-1990.

## BINOCULAR AND SCOPE WORKSHOP

Which one to choose? Big or small? Porro-prism or roof prism? 8 power or 10 power? Would you like to know more about binoculars and scopes? If the answer is yes, please join SCVAS on Saturday, December 3, from 2 to 4 pm, at the Palo Alto Cultural Center. All members and the general public are invited to attend a special Binocular and Scope Workshop. Co-sponsored by the City of Palo Alto, Arts and Sciences Division and the San Francisco Bay Bird Observatory, we will feature lectures on how to choose and care for optics. In addition, representatives from many popular manufacturers will be present with displays of their products, to help you compare and understand many of the different models now on the market. It's free, and no reservations are needed. For more information, please call the SCVAS office.

## MONTHLY FIELD TRIPS FOR BEGINNERS

Starting in December, we will hold a regular Introductory Birdwalk for Beginners at Charleston Slough, to meet at 9 am on the second Sunday of every month. Leaders of these field trips will emphasize the basics: what to expect on a birdwatching trip, what to bring, how to use a field guide, and identification tips on many local species seen at the baylands. Tailored for those who have never been on a field trip before, we welcome all members of SCVAS and of the general public. If you are interested in helping lead a trip, please contact the office at (415) 329-1811.

## CALENDER

**Dec 11 Introductory Birdwalk for Beginners at Charleston Slough**  
Sunday, 9 am, half day. Meet at the E end of San Antonio Road, in Mtn. View. Easy walking of 2 miles. (See article) Learn the basics of waterfowl, shorebirds, raptors. Leaders: Lynn Tennefoss (415) 329-1811, and Kathy Parker (408) 358-2832.

## OTHER CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS

Palo Alto	TBAC. Blake/Bill Bousman	415/322-5282
Pt. Reyes	Dec. 17 Dave Wimpheimer	415/663-1363
Crystal Springs	Dec. 17 Barry Saupe	415/726-1081
Santa Clara	Dec. 18 Jim/Sue Liskovec	415/969-5546
Ohlone	Dec. 18 Phil Gordon	415/538-3550
Oakland	Dec. 18 Lina Prarie	415/549-3187
San Francisco	Dec. 21 Dan Murphy	415/564-0074
Mt. Hamilton	Dec. 20 Don Schmoldt	415/236-5612
Monterey Bay	Pelagic \$29	
	Dec. 29 Debra Shearwater	408/688-1990
Ano Nuevo	Dec. 31 Barry Saupe	415/726-1081
Mt. Diablo	Dec. 31 Maury Stern	415/284-5980
Madrone	Dec. 31 Betty Burrige	707/527-0225
Southern Marin	Dec. 31 Ken Howard	415/332-4117
Moss Landing	Jan. 1 John/Ricki Warriner	408/722-5589

All of these counts can use help! If you would like to participate, call the compilers.

## SECTION LEADERS - 1988 SAN JOSE CBC

A (Alviso)	Jean Dubois	(408) 395-4264
B (Fremont Hills)	Ed Laak	(415) 324-1895
C (Calaveras)	Mike Mammoser	(408) 248-2288
D (Alum Rock)	Dave Johnston	(408) 867-7278
E (Evergreen)	Larry Parmeter	(408) 241-0663
F (South)	(J & S Liskovec)	(415) 969-5542
G (Southwest)	Anne Wilson	(415) 941-0966
	Grant Hoyt	(415) 969-7892
H (Agnew)	Dick Stovel/Lisa Swagerty	(415) 856-6105
I (Milpitas)	Paul Noble	(415) 948-3876
J (Berryessa)	Chris Wolfe	(408) 987-6033
	Claire Wolfe	(408) 733-5654

## FEEDING WINTER-HUNGRY HUMMERS

Due to a number of television and radio stations transmitting erroneous information, we repeat the following article about feeding hummingbirds in the winter:

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

It is normal for many of the Anna's Hummingbirds, the common species in our area, to stay here throughout the entire year. As the seasons advance there are progressively fewer plants in flower that can provide hummingbird sustenance.



Hummingbirds that do stay and have access to a feeder can easily make it through the winter. Those birds with a strong migratory sense will leave, regardless of the presence of plants or feeders.

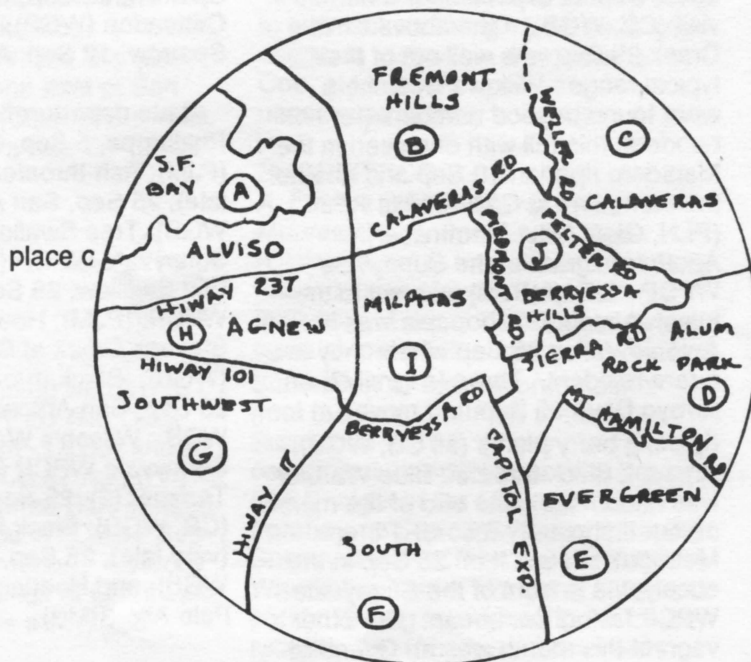
A properly maintained syrup feeder becomes even more important in the fall and winter. Feeders should be cleaned and filled with fresh syrup at least once a week.

Please tell others. Many have been confused.

- Louise Blakey

## SAN JOSE CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

SCVAS is again sponsoring the San Jose Christmas Bird Count (CBC), to be held on Sunday, December 18. If you are new to Christmas Counts or are a new birder, please don't let that stop you. We need people of all abilities. Save December 18 for an exciting day of birding followed by a dinner and tally get-together. For more information, call compilers Jim and Sue Liskovec (415) 969-5542 or one of the section leaders below.



## CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT DINNER

Prepare now for a gastronomic feast! In fact, plan to help create one! Volunteers are needed to help make lasagna, salad, and desserts ahead of time, as well as to assist in set up and clean up on the afternoon of the Count. Loans of HOT TRAYS for the dinner will be very appreciated. The dinner will be held in a new location, at the Campbell Community Center, on the corner of Winchester and Campbell Avenues, on Sunday, December 18. Please call the office if you'd like to help: (415) 329-1811.



## 10 MINUTE ACTIVIST: ANCIENT FORESTS COMING UNDER THE AXE

For November's 10 Minute Activist (just takes a few minutes to make an impact), we urge you to inform yourself about big trees. There are less than 20,000 acres of virgin old-growth redwood forests in California. Most of these forests are in Humboldt County, and belong to Pacific Lumber (PL), recently taken over by Charles Hurwitz and Maxxam with junk bonds. Hurwitz more than doubled the cut overnight using the assets (trees) to pay off the junk bonds. PL/Maxxam's plan is to cut ALL the old trees. They say it will take 20 years, we say 5 years.

What does that have to do with you, far away in Santa Clara County? LOTS. Old growth, ancient forests, big trees, belong to all of us. And what's more, they are habitat for birds and animals that cannot go anywhere else. Environmentalists urge that Marbled Murrelets, and Spotted Owls be listed as endangered species because their habitat (ancient forests) is disappearing under the saw at an unprecedented rate. We share in the responsibility of keeping humans' impacts from driving them to extinction.

Yet this issue is hidden from most of the public. Unless you make an effort, the hideous spectre of clear-cut forests is out of sight. We in Santa Clara County are lucky to have Big Basin and its associated large redwoods saved for posterity. We also know that those forests are splendid, and representative sections should remain throughout what was once a continuous band of trees, stretching from the Oregon border (and beyond) through Santa Cruz.

So what can be done? It is legal for Pacific Lumber to cut their trees (unless we buy them) but according to the law they must mitigate associated adverse impacts on old-growth dependent wildlife species. The Dept. of Fish and Game (DFG) has chosed seven wildlife species as old-growth indicators, representing an additional 20 to 30 inhabitants of the forests. DFG wants the timber companies to tell them what birds and animals live in the forests they propose to log, so that the Dept. can recommend mitigation measures to keep these species from extinction. The timber companies are

refusing to give that information. In a show of strength, the State Director of Forestry, Jerry Partain, denied two timber harvest plans submitted by PL when they refused to supply the needed information. However, when PL appealed the denial to the Deukmejian appointed State Board of Forestry, they won 8-0! But this decision will not go unchallenged. Information is the foundation of the CEQA process - without it, projects cannot be adequately analyzed, and their adverse impacts mitigated.

On June 17th, the Sierra Club and Environmental Protection and Information Center of Garberville filed suit in Humboldt County against the Board of Forestry and PL/Maxxam. Local Audubon Societies are supportive of this suit, and encourage all Audubon members to give generously. For November's 10 Minute Activist, if you would like to contribute to the valiant effort Northern California environmental groups are making, please make your checks to: "Sierra Club Foundation", and note "SC vs. BOF", and send to Gail Lucas, 30001 Navarro Ride Road, Albion, CA, 95410.  
- adapted from Gail Lucas, Sierra Club State Forest Practices Task Force Chair

• NAS's Audubon Activist, a bimonthly newsletter detailing NAS' and chapters' environmental activities, is a good source for more information about old growth issues. To subscribe, send \$9 to Audubon Activist, 950 Third Ave, NY, NY 10022.

• Old Growth is one of five High Priority issues chosen by National Audubon Society and its 500 chapters for 1987-89.

• Future issues of the AVOCET will detail other Ancient Forests action issues: Tahoe Forest Basin Forest Service plans for huge clearcuts, NAS's lawsuit challenging the US Fish and Wildlife Service's denial of petitions to list the spotted owl as threatened/endangered, and more.

## GOODBYE TO DEBBY JOHNSTON

SCVAS thanks departing Board Member Debby Johnston for her contributions to the organization, and wishes her good luck in her move to a new job in the North Bay.

## GIFTS AND DONATIONS

Thanks to John Eshbah for donating two much needed bookcases to SCVAS. Anyone have a spare 4 drawer file cabinet?

## DONATIONS TO LIBRARY

Parrots of the World by Joseph M. Forshaw, illustrated by William T. Cooper has been donated by Betty Groce. 584 pages of beautiful plates interspersed with descriptions, distributions and general notes about the world's parrots.



## MAILING LIST

A note to our members: Occasionally we make our mailing list available on a one-time-only basis to another carefully screened conservation organization with goals similar to ours. If you prefer that your name not be included, please drop us a note, and we'll be happy to take care of it.

## GOODBYE AND GOOD LUCK TO JACK AND BETTY GROCE

Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society bids a very sad goodbye to Jack and Betty Groce as they move to Santa Rosa. Betty is a former Board member and Field Trip Committee Chair, who has contributed much to the chapter, both in her work on behalf of the chapter and in her extensive good spirits. Betty has turned in hundreds of Nest Record Cards as part of Cornell University Laboratory of Ornithology's North American Nest-Record Card Program. She has watched several years worth of Wood Ducks broods along San Francisquito Creek, and aided in their successful attempts by providing guidance to an Eagle Scout who built and placed nesting boxes in critical locations along the Creek. AND, she has maintained a very popular (for birds and birders) feeding station in her backyard along the Creek, providing many birders with comfortable and assured viewing for their year-records of White-throated Sparrows and other species. Our loss is Santa Rosa's gain, and we wish the Groce's good birding in their new home!

<b>Staff</b>	Lynn Tennefoss	415/329-1811	<b>DIRECTORS (1987-90)</b>		<b>Education</b>		
<b>President</b>	Dave Johnston	408/867-7278	Grant Hoyt	415/969-7892	<b>Library</b>		
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<b>Rec. Secretary</b>	Mark McEuen	408/251-3086	<b>DIRECTORS (1988-91)</b>		<b>Membership</b>		
<b>Past President</b>	Judy McEuen	408/251-3086	Jules Resnick	415/961-8619	<b>Audubon Adventures</b>	Elaine Gould	408/448-0622
			Theresa Spinler	408/559-1889	<b>Hospitality</b>		
			Donna Zetterquist	408/429-9716	<b>Environmental</b>		
					<b>Action</b>	Barbara Monahan	408/425-7841
<b>DIRECTORS (1986-89)</b>			<b>CHAIRPERSONS</b>		<b>Christmas</b>		
Jim Anderson		415/272-1159	Editor	Levona Sterngold	<b>Bird Count</b>	Jim & Sue Liskovec	415/969-5542
Rob Colwell		415/326-2400	Programs	Doug & Gail	<b>Grants</b>	Donna Zetterquist	408/429-9716
Debby Johnston		408/262-5513		Cheeseman	<b>Photo Club</b>	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

## SLIDES NEEDED FOR EDUCATION PROJECT

Calling all photographers! SCVAS is in need of slides portraying the following birds. We would prefer closeup views:

Hummingbirds at a feeder, and feeding on flowers  
 Scrub Jay  
 Stellar's Jay  
 Brewer's Blackbird  
 Starling  
 Robin, on lawn, feeding  
 Cedar Waxwing, in a school yard if possible, and a flock eating berries  
 Killdeer, nesting, doing broken wing act  
 California Gull in a schoolyard  
 Brown Towhees - feeding, and resting  
 Turkey Vulture and Red-tail Hawk flying, with good view of underside patterns  
 House Finch and House Sparrow, individual pictures as well as both in the same yard at the same time, and nesting  
 Mockingbird, singing  
 California Quail, covey in habitat and mail on fence  
 Mourning Dove, perched and calling  
 Rock Dove, at freeway overpass or bridge  
 Western Bluebird and Blue Jay (to compare to our jays)

## THANK YOU, FIELD TRIP LEADERS

Last season's field trips were a great success. We scheduled over 60 trips attended by more than 1000 participants. This year promises to be just as successful. Credit for such successful trips cannot go completely to the Field Trips Committee - most credit goes to our leaders, who take time out of busy lives to teach others the wonder of field identification. We on the Committee thank those people who led trips for us last season: - Lion Baumgartner, Clark Blake, Bill Bousman, Phyllis Browning, Bob Buell, Ted Chandik, Doug and Gail Cheeseman, Bill and Jean Clark, Betty Groce, Phil Hand, Grant Hoyt, Dave Johnston, Bill Kirsher, Bruce LaBar, Pete LaTourrette, Winkie Lennihan, Jim and Sue Liskovec, Peter Metropoulos, Mark Miller, Steve Miller, Rod Norden, Paul Noble, Dolores Norton, Bernadette Ramer, Mike Rigney, Tom Roach, Allen Royer, Jean-Marie Spoelman, Don Starks, Dick Stovel, Audrey Stoye, David Suddjian, Phyllis Swanson, Lynn Tennefoss, Alan and Karen Thomas, Bill Von, Vicki Silvas-Young, Bob Yutzy  
 -Paul Noble, Field Trips Committee Chair

## NEW FEATURE AT GENERAL MEETINGS

In November, the General Meeting will begin with refreshments at 7:30, but at 7:45 pm, we will introduce a new event - Bird Identification Workshop. Each month, from 7:45-8 pm, various experts will elucidate difficult or confusing identification problems of a species or genus of birds. November 16, Paul Noble will discuss Some Identification Problems with Owls, illustrated by slides and sounds.



## THANKS TO OFFICE VOLUNTEERS

Kudos go to SCVAS office volunteers Tibby Simon, Yana Arnold, Louise deVries, and Janis Laymon, for their assistance in September. LOTS MORE help is needed - sending mailings, updating the membership list, helping with AVOCET production, and sales accounting. Please consider stopping by for two or three hours/month, to give us a hand! Call the office at (415) 329-1811 for details.

**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.

## CHECK CATEGORY

- Individual / \$30
- Family / \$38
- Senior Citizen / \$21
- Senior Citizen Family / \$23
- Student / \$18
- Avocet* only / \$6
- Audubon Activist* / \$9
- Introductory Membership / \$20

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