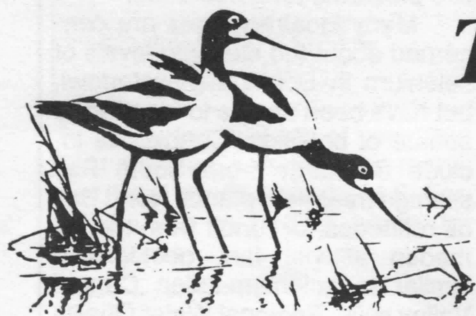


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11378

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# The Avocet

December 1988

Volume 35, Number 10

## BINOCULAR AND SCOPE WORKSHOP

Have you been thinking about buying binoculars? Or want to know more about the best way to care for binoculars you already have? Then this workshop is for you! Please join SCVAS on **Saturday, December 3, 2 to 4 pm, at the Palo Alto Cultural Center** for a special **free** Binocular and Scope Workshop, co-sponsored by the City of Palo Alto, Arts and Sciences Division, and the San Francisco Bay Bird Observatory. Along with several lectures on how to choose and care for optics, you will have the opportunity to see and use a wide variety of new and traditional products. Manufacturer's representatives attending include: Leitz, Bushnell/Bausch & Lomb, Swift, Zeiss, Kowa, Celestron, Nikon, Pentax, Swarovski, Minolta, Meade and Steiner. **Bring your binoculars** to clean them with the oversight of an expert! No reservations needed; for more information, please call the SCVAS office.

## CBC T-SHIRTS

New this year! Four-color all-cotton T-shirts of a white pelican, drawn by chapter member Edward Rooks, commemorating the 1988 CBC will be available from the office or at the CBC dinner. \$10 each, this will be a limited edition, with only a few dozen printed.

## SAN JOSE CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

The all day counting of ducks, geese, hawks, sparrows, and rarities followed by a marvelous dinner and tally will be held on Sunday, December 18. But we need your help to make the day a success! It is important to cover all areas within the count in order to properly census the common to abundant species, as well as the uncommon to rare ones. Choose an area to your liking and call the section leader ASAP. As sections fill up, we may ask people to count in other areas. If you have not done a Christmas Bird count before, on-the-job training will be provided!

We need feeder watchers too. This information is just as valuable as the data obtained in the field. If you (1) live within the count circle, (2) will be home all or part of the day on December 18, and (3) are willing to watch your feeder(s), then call us before the count and we can work out the details. Rarities such as wintering Northern Orioles and White-throated Sparrows are possible.

The CBC Dinner will be held at the Campbell Community Center, on the corner of Campbell Ave. and Winchester Blvd. All counters and other interested members are invited to attend. **VOLUNTEER COOKS AND BAKERS ARE NEEDED** - please call SCVAS office to volunteer.

Again, please join us for a day of exciting birding, good fellowship and a tasty dinner.

- Jim and Sue Liskovec (415) 969-5542. Please call. We want to hear from you!

## 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)	Greg Meyer	(408) 336-3513
	Chris Otahal	(408) 245-6488
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

## PRO ESTEROS

A new, bi-national conservation organization has been formed that is committed to protecting the estuaries of Baja California, Mexico. The vast Baja marshes are still in close-to-pristine condition, but several are threatened with development that could degrade or destroy them.

Development plans at Ensenada and San Quintin are of immediate concern as these marshes are vital habitat for several U.S. endangered species of birds, including the light-footed clapper rail and the California least tern. The group is called *pro Esteros*, and is co-chaired by Silvia Ibarra-Obando (Mexico) and Barbara W. Massey (U.S.). The group is being incorporated in Mexico as a non-profit organization and will have a U.S. chapter. Charter membership is \$10 and additional seed money is gratefully accepted. Checks should be made out to *pro Esteros* and sent to Barbara Massey, 1825 Knoxville Ave., Long Beach, CA, 90815.

## BAY-DELTA HEARINGS CONFERENCE, JAN. 7

The State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) has released drafts of the "Water Quality Control Plan" and "Pollutant Policy Document" for the San Francisco Bay Delta Estuary. Public hearings to receive comments on the plans will be held throughout the state beginning in January - Bay Area hearings are scheduled in Concord, February 7-9, 1989.

SCVAS is on the Steering Committee of a coalition representing a broad spectrum of regional interests concerned with protecting the estuary. The coalition, "The Bay-Delta Hearings Coordination Project", is sponsoring a conference on January 7, in Oakland, to examine impacts of the SWRCB draft standards on the estuary and on residents of the region. SCVAS members are encouraged to attend - if you would like more information, please contact SCVAS (415) 329-

1811 or David Fullerton at the Committee for Water Policy Consensus (415) 682-6633.

Coordinator Fullerton points out: "The health of the Bay and Delta is not an issue for environmentalists alone. All Bay Area sectors have a stake in a clean and healthy bay, from business to labor, from fishermen to windsurfers, from government to the average citizen. For that matter, the Bay and Delta are priceless treasures for all Californians."

When the draft documents were released, Supervisor Sunne Wright McPeak, Chair of CWPC said, "For the past fifty years, water development has been chipping away at the fresh water flows needed to sustain the beneficial uses of the Bay and Delta. We fervently hope that in these documents the State Water Board has redressed that balance and fulfilled its public trust responsibilities."

- Trish Mulvey, SCVAS Board Member

## SELENIUM THREAT TO SOUTH BAY WATERFOWL

As you may have read in local newspapers, the State Department of Health Services has determined that selenium levels in Bay diving ducks are high enough to warrant the first Bay-wide advisory against consumption of these birds. 1988 California Waterfowl Hunting Regulations warn against eating more than 4 oz per week of Greater Scaup meat from the central Bay, and from the south Bay, per two week period of time; pregnant or nursing women, and children aged 15 and under, should abstain from eating any scaup or scoters; all individuals are advised to avoid duck livers.

This is the most stringent health warning for selenium anywhere in the state. The level of selenium found in South Bay birds is equivalent to that known to cause reproductive failure at Kesterson; but because scaup and scoter do not breed in the Bay Area, we have no information about current reproduc-

tive problems for these birds.

Many local agencies are concerned about the elevated levels of selenium in South Bay waterfowl, but have been unable to identify the source of pollution. Candidates include discharge from South Bay sewage treatment plants, North Bay oil refineries, or runoff from the Almaden alluvial fan, geologically similar to selenium-laden Central Valley soils. Regional Water Quality Control Board staff say there is no evidence of elevated selenium levels in sewage treatment plant effluent. They hope the Santa Clara Valley Water District's ongoing non-point source runoff studies will provide clues to the source of selenium, and that efforts to limit selenium discharges from oil refineries will help.

Partly for the reasons stated above, the Regional Board recently refused to set toxics standards for heavy metals and pollutants such as selenium in the South Bay. As a co-sponsor of the Coalition for Effluent Action Now (CLEAN) South Bay, SCVAS has petitioned the State Water Resources Control Board to review that decision. While the State Board considers our appeal, it is essential that Palo Alto, Sunnyvale and San Jose/Santa Clara sewage treatment plants not be granted their requests for exemption from Basin Plan prohibitions that would otherwise protect the sensitive South Bay from pollutant discharges. These exemption requests are now scheduled for a public hearing and decision at the Regional Board's December 21st meeting, in Oakland.

Letters and testimony are needed now to support South Bay protection. If you would like more information, can write letters, or attend the hearing to show support for CLEAN, please contact SCVAS (415) 329-1811.



## TEN MINUTE ACTIVIST

Only ten minutes of your time CAN make a difference! This month we URGE you to write the U.S. Forest Service regarding plans for Mono Lake.

## MONO LAKE ACTION ALERT

The U. S. Forest Service has just released a draft Comprehensive Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement for the Mono Basin National Forest Scenic Area that, if strengthened and enforced, could lead to permanent protection for Mono Lake and the millions of migratory waterbirds that depend upon it for survival.

In a landmark decision, the Forest Service proposes keeping Mono Lake at a water level which protects the lake's sensitive and unique ecological balance and which lessens the risk of toxic air pollution from dust storms on Mono's exposed alkali lakebed.

The most important action you can take this year for Mono Lake is to comment on the draft management plan. COMMENTS ARE NEEDED BY JANUARY 19. Your letter is urgently needed to support the Forest Service's position on Mono Lake water levels as well as to request that the Forest Service adopt the Amenities Alternative (AMN) as its preferred management policy. **Send your letter to Dennis Martin, Forest Supervisor, Inyo National Forest, 873 North Main, Bishop, Ca, 93514.** Note: Copies of the draft plan are still available from the Inyo National Forest.

### POINTS TO INCLUDE IN YOUR LETTER TO THE FOREST SERVICE:

1. Praise the Forest Service (FS) for

its commitment to maintain Mono Lake at a life-sustaining level and to re-water Mono Basin streams. IMPORTANT: ask the FS to maintain Mono Lake in the upper reaches of the Amenities Alternative lake level range (6390-6380 feet) to provide an adequate buffer against dry years when the lake will shrink (the Mono Lake Committee advocates a management level of 6388 feet).

2. Ask the FS to adopt the Amenities Alternative (AMN) in place of the "Interpretive" (INT) management scenario. AMN provides the highest level of protection for Mono Lake. It offers a higher lake level range (6390-6380 feet) and greater insurance against Mono Lake falling below an acceptable level during dry year periods. The AMN alternative also provides the strongest protection for the Scenic Area's resources and includes enhancement of wildlife habitat, restoration of native plant and animal species, and preservation of visual and geologic values.

Under AMN, recreational facility development is precluded from key wildlife areas and only existing interpretive facilities would be re-designed or expanded. In contrast, too much interpretive development too quickly under the INT alternative, especially the expansion to new areas, could result in irreversible and unacceptable impacts to the Scenic Area.

3. Request that the highest priority be given to the maintenance and enhancement of wildlife, including the reintroduction of native species and restoration of riparian resources when conflicts occur. Also, ask the Forest Service to eliminate grazing from the Scenic Area, especially in areas where unacceptable impacts to riparian habitat have occurred, by closing allotments as permits expire.

4. Urge the Forest Service to use the soon-to-be-constructed \$4.3 million Scenic Area Visitor Center in Lee Vining as the focal point of interpretive activities, along with

existing developed sites, rather than create facilities in new, sensitive areas at Mono Lake.

5. Ask the FS for full public review of the "Recreation and Interpretive Composite Plan" which will specify details on campground development and other facilities. Request that emphasis be placed on the discovery of Mono's wilderness values rather than on developed interpretive experiences. Ask the FS to close roads which are redundant or provide access to sensitive areas. Also request that roads not be unnecessarily paved.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP AND SUPPORT OF MONO LAKE. To receive a more detailed Action Alert, call SCVAS at (415) 329-1811; for further info, contact Ilene Mandelbaum, P.O. Box 29, Lee Vining, CA, 93514, (619) 647-6595.

-The Mono Lake Committee

### WINTER ECOLOGY/ PHOTOGRAPHY WORKSHOP IN YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK

Join NAS expert leaders Dec.31, 1988 - Jan. 7, 1989 to explore one of the greatest wildlife areas in North America, learn about fire ecology and see first-hand the remarkable regenerative capability of the Yellowstone National Park ecosystem. For more information, contact the Registrar, Audubon Camps & Workshops, National Audubon Society, 613 Riversville Road, Greenwich, CT, 06831, (203) 869-2017.

### AUDUBON ADVENTURES FOR CHILDREN

SCVAS has a limited number of free classroom subscriptions still available this year for Audubon Adventures, the NAS newsmagazine for 4th-6th graders. Please contact Elaine Gould (408-448-0622) if you know of a classroom that would enjoy receiving Audubon Adventures. If you would like to sponsor a classroom, the cost is \$25.

## FIELD NOTES by BILL BOUSMAN

### PALO ALTO CBC

The Palo Alto CBC will be held on Monday, 19 Dec 88 and will be sponsored by the Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society. This count has exceeded 170 species for the last three years. If you are interested in helping on count day call Bill Bousman at (415) 322-5282 (evenings) or Clark Blake (415) 329-4951 (days).

Fall is our best season for vagrants, those birds on migration who have gotten off-course. If you want to see vagrants on a regular basis then you must go to the coast and visit the vagrant traps; comparatively few are found inland. But fall is our best season, and here you will read of five vagrant species found this period—a better than average season, I think.

The Christmas Bird Counts are coming up. If you live in one of the count circles check your neighborhood before count day. Look for flowering shrubs and trees and see if any unusual insectivorous or tropical species have stayed on. The eucalyptus do not flower at the same time each year—some years one tree may be dynamite and another year there will be nothing to feed on at count time. Yellow-rumped Warblers are a good indicator of food quality. If they are there in good numbers then there is probably something good to eat. If that's the case then work your way through the myriad of starlings, yellow-rumps, and house finches and see what you can find. If you have a fruit tree that is popular see if any unusual birds are attracted. Most of our winter Evening Grosbeak records are from fruit trees in the urban areas, not the conifers in the hills. If you have a bird feeder, check it for the occasional rarity.

### PELICANS TO HERONS

We are used to the **Am. White Pelican** as a local bird of the south bay, but they are also a wide-rang-

ing migrant. About 120 birds high over Anderson Res. 26 Sep (Emelie Curtis) is an unusual concentration away from the bay. We get most of our **Green-backed Herons** on spring and fall migration. The largest concentration in recent years has been in the vicinity of Los Gatos Creek CP with birds seen from 9 Sep. - 14 Oct. (David Suddjian - DLSu, Geri Brown - GAB, Alan Walther - AW). The peak count was of six adults on 28 Sep (DLSu, GAB).

### DUCKS TO HAWKS

Scattered Wood Duck reports are all from typical locations: 3 on the Pajaro River below Hwy 101 2 Sep (DLSu), 1 at Vasona Res. 30 Sep and 8 Oct (AW), and 9 along Uvas Creek 6 Oct (DLSu, Don Alley). The first Eurasian Wigeon of the season was a male in the Palo Alto FCB and Charleston Slough 22 and 23 Oct (Mike Mammoser - MJM, Bill Bousman - WGB). A west-side Golden Eagle was over Hwy 280 and Page Mill 3 Oct (Audrey Stoye, Betty Wyatt). A Merlin was in residential Menlo Park 15 Oct (WGB). They are as common in the urban areas as along the bay - they feed on the birds attracted to our fruits and berries. An imm. Peregrine was at the Mountain View Forebay 14 Oct (WGB).

### RAILS TO TERNS

A **Sora** at the Los Gatos Creek ponds 14 Oct (AW) was from a location I haven't had records from before. A **Common Moorhen** at Arastradero Lake 14 and 16 Oct was probably a wandering bird as they have not been found here regularly (Grant Hoyt - GH). **Lesser Yellowlegs** migration is nearly over by October. A single bird at the Mountain View Forebay 8 Oct (Mike Rogers - MRo) and two there 14 Oct (WGB) are expected. Less expected was a single bird away from the bay at Oka Pond 29 Sep (DLSu). **Spotted Sandpipers** at the Los Gatos Creek CP ponds 28-29 Sep (2 to 3, DLSu) and 14 Oct (AW) are from a typical location. A **Pectoral Sandpiper** at the Mountain View

Forebay 29 Sep (MRo) was the last report for the season. A late passage imm. **Common Tern** was at the Los Gatos Creek ponds 21 Sep (DLSu). There are almost no records away from the bay — was this migrant cutting across to the ocean as the Caspian Terns do?

### OWLS TO PHAINOPEPLAS

A **Northern Pygmy-Owl** was seen in Alum Rock Park 14 Oct (Jack Cole - JAC). A female **Northern Flicker** of the Yellow-shafted race seen at Sunnyvale Baylands 22 Oct (MJM) did not appear to have any Red-shafted characters. An **Eastern Kingbird** was found at Sargent along the Pajaro River 2 Sep by David Suddjian. This is the first county record for this eastern tyrannid. A **Red-breasted Nuthatch** at Skyline and Page Mill 15 Oct (Peter LaTourrette) was probably a dispersed resident bird. There has not been any lowland movement noticed yet. An **American Dipper** at Alum Rock Park 14 Oct (JAC) was at a location where they frequently winter. Three male **Phainopeplas** were seen in San Antonio Valley 29 Oct (MJM, Grant and Karen Hoyt - G&KH).

### WARBLERS TO BOBOLINKS

A vagrant **Tennessee Warbler** was at the Oka Ponds 21 Sept (DLSu) for our third county record. Two **Palm Warblers** were over the county line in Coyote Hills RP on 7 Oct (Bill Kirsher, Bob Buell). Two **Black-and-White Warblers** were found this month for the sixth and seventh county records! One was seen 21 Oct at the Stanford Faculty Club (Paul Noble) while a second was banded at the Coyote Creek Riparian Station (CCRS) 23 Oct (fide MJM, Dick Mewaldt). Finally, to round out the vagrants this month, a hatching year **American Redstart** was banded at CCRS on 27 Oct (fide David Johnson).

An imm. **MacGillivray's Warbler** was along Los Gatos Creek 29 Sep (DLSu). We usually have only one or two records a year for this western species. A **Rufous-crowned Sparrow** was found in Henry Coe SP 28



Aug (James Yurchenco, Amy Lauterbach) and is the first record for the park. Although we think of the Rufous-crown as a bird of the Diablo Range, it is sparsely distributed and appears to be limited to areas with Artemisia. **Lincoln's Sparrow** is more secretive than uncommon — DLSu found 15 at Oka Ponds on 29 Sep while WGB found 14 along Stevens Creek near the bay on 23 Oct. These numbers may include a large migrant component at this time of year. A **Bobolink** at Oka Ponds 28 Sep (DLSu) is our fourth county record.

**Early arrivals/migrants:** **Canvasback** and **Bufflehead**, Hall's Valley, 30 Oct (MJM, G&KH); **Thayer's Gull** and **Water Pipit**, Sunnyvale Baylands, 22 Oct (MJM); and **Cedar Waxwing**, Oka Ponds, 21 Sep (DLSu).

**Late departures/migrants:** **Caspian Tern**, Los Gatos Creek ponds, 19 Sep (GAB fide DLSu); and **Wilson's Warbler**, Los Gatos Creek ponds, 29 Sep (DLSu).

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

### ATTENTION BAYLAND RAPTOR WATCHERS

Citizens for Open Space in Alvarado is organizing a wintering Peregrine Falcon survey of the East Bay, in cooperation with the Santa Cruz Predatory Bird Research Group and at the encouragement of the US Fish & Wildlife Service. We are looking for volunteers, preferably with experience observing raptors and with access to a scope, who can make a regular commitment to do field observations. Please contact Mark Kamakea for more information. (415) 489-6755.  
- Mark Kamakea, COSA

### BURROWING OWL UPDATE

Large nesting populations of burrowing owls in the Santa Clara Valley are now an uncommon sight. However, one large colony of owls continues to nest year after year on the property surrounding Mission College in Santa Clara. We do not know how many years in the past owls used the site for nesting; but, we do know that the time remaining for the owls is running out. Approximately 60 acres of this land are scheduled for development by Interland Development Corporation. Of course, the development will have an adverse impact on the burrowing owls.

The population has been monitored for the past two years. In 1987, on the portion of land slated for development, 15 nest sites showed activity - each of the nest sites was very successful, rearing many chicks. This year, thirteen nests were active, but they were not nearly as successful. It is hard to determine why the success varied so much from one year to the next, since studies have only extended two years.

Despite the fact that this land will be developed in the near future, studies of the population will continue next year, and for as long as possible. The continual decline of burrowing owls throughout Santa Clara Valley, and much of California, makes study of viable sites of paramount importance. Research efforts so far have included monitoring numbers of owls on the site, noting success of nesting attempts, marking nest sites to protect them from mowers and other disturbance, and color banding of seventeen owls. In the future, artificial nest boxes will be installed. In addition, the group SAVE BOTH, has been in close contact with the college and the developer, urging that design of the new development include a remnant of viable habitat.

To support efforts to inform the community about the threat to burrowing owls, and to encourage this

and similar research projects, you are invited to join SAVE BOTH (Burrowing Owls and Their Habitat). \$5 membership checks may be sent to P.O. Box 700021, San Jose, CA, 95170-0021.

- Janis Taylor, President, SAVE

### MANY THANKS TO VOLUNTEERS

Thanks are gratefully given to: Glenn Herreman, Ray Hosler, Jim and Sue Liskovec, Esther Snively, and Dr. Denny Mallory for donations of slides; Craig Adams, Gail Cheeseman, Victor Collard, Rob Colwell, Dan Fitzsimmons, Grant Hoyt, Dave Johnston, Sue Liskovec, Bill Pokross, Jules Resnick, Edward Rooks, Jerry Waldorf, and Nick Yatsko for assisting with the bird seed sale; Andrew Kellock and Luis Tam for artwork; Edward Rooks for his design of the CBC T-shirt; Louise deVries, Nancy Doty, Peter Leider, Tibby Simon for office assistance; Mary Maslok, Jean Shurtleff, Dottie Starr for General Meeting cookie contributions and Pat Mohan for sales assistance. LOTS MORE help is needed in the office, please call (415) 329-1811 if you'd like to join the ranks of SCVAS Volunteers!

### CORRIGENDA

Last issue the Field Trip Committee offered thanks to our field trip leaders for leading trips last year. Unfortunately, due to a clerical error, Frank Vanslager was overlooked. We on the Committee apologize to Frank for not acknowledging his frequent contributions as a trip leader!

### FALL BIRD SEED SALE A SUCCESS

SCVAS members helped net approximately \$1000 for SCVAS and \$500 for YSI in the Fall Bird Seed Sale!

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## DECEMBER

Field Trip Coordinator: 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 Beginner's 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 Tennefoss (415) 329-1811.

**Dec 7 Bay Area Bird Photographers.** Wednesday, 7:30 pm. at the Baylands. Al Wool, past President of SCVAS, will show his film, "Out Where the West Ends". Co-sponsored by the Arts and Sciences Division of the city of Palo Alto.

### 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 Schmoltdt (415) 236-5612.

### Dec 10 Alameda Creek

SATURDAY, 8:30 am. Half day. From Mission Blvd. turn east on Niles Canyon Road. (Hwy 84). Turn right onto Old Canyon Rd. Cross bridge and turn into park below road on left. Heavy rain cancels. Ducks, Herons, etc. OK for wheelchair access. Leader: Phil Hand (415) 851-2623.

### 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. Learn the basics of waterfowl, shorebirds, raptors. Leaders: Lynn Tennefoss (415) 329-1811, and Kathy Parker (408) 358-2832.

### Dec 13 Bird Discussion Group

Tuesday, 9:30 am at the home of Jean and Pat Dubois, 17150 Buena Vista Ave., Los Gatos, (408) 395-4264. Topic: Armchair Birding.

### Dec 14 South County Field Trip

WEDNESDAY, 9 am. New access to S.F. Bay Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, Fremont. Take Fremont Blvd. exit west from 880. Stay on Fremont Blvd. past Treatment Plant. Look on right for little refuge access sign at small willows beside chair link fence. Drive in beside fence to parking lot. Leader: Gail Cheeseman (408) 741-5330 or 867-1371.

**Dec 18 San Jose Christmas Bird Count.** See article.

**Dec 19 Palo Alto Christmas Bird Count.** See article.

## JANUARY

Field Trip Coordinator: Claire Wolfe (415) 733-5654.

### Jan 7 Stockton Sewage Ponds/Altamont Pass

SATURDAY 9AM. Full Day. Meet at the ponds. Take I-5 N to Stockton. Take Hwy 4 exit. Go left, cross bridge and turn right on John Turk Rd. Park at first large pond on right. Bring lunch and scopes. Dress in layers. Highlights: wintering waterfowl (Stockton) and Raptors (Altamont). Please call leaders if planning to attend. Heavy rain cancels. Leaders: Mark and Steve Miller (415) 967-3429.

### Jan 8 Post CBC Rarities Chase

SUNDAY 8:30 AM. Full Day. Meeting place and trip itinerary to be determined. Call Audubon office for recorded message AFTER Jan 2 (415) 329-1811. Leader: Don Starks.

### Jan 10 Bird Discussion Group

TUESDAY, 9:30 AM at the home of Eve Case, 20534 Verde Vista Ln., Saratoga (408) 867-4748. Topic: Trinidad Wildlife.

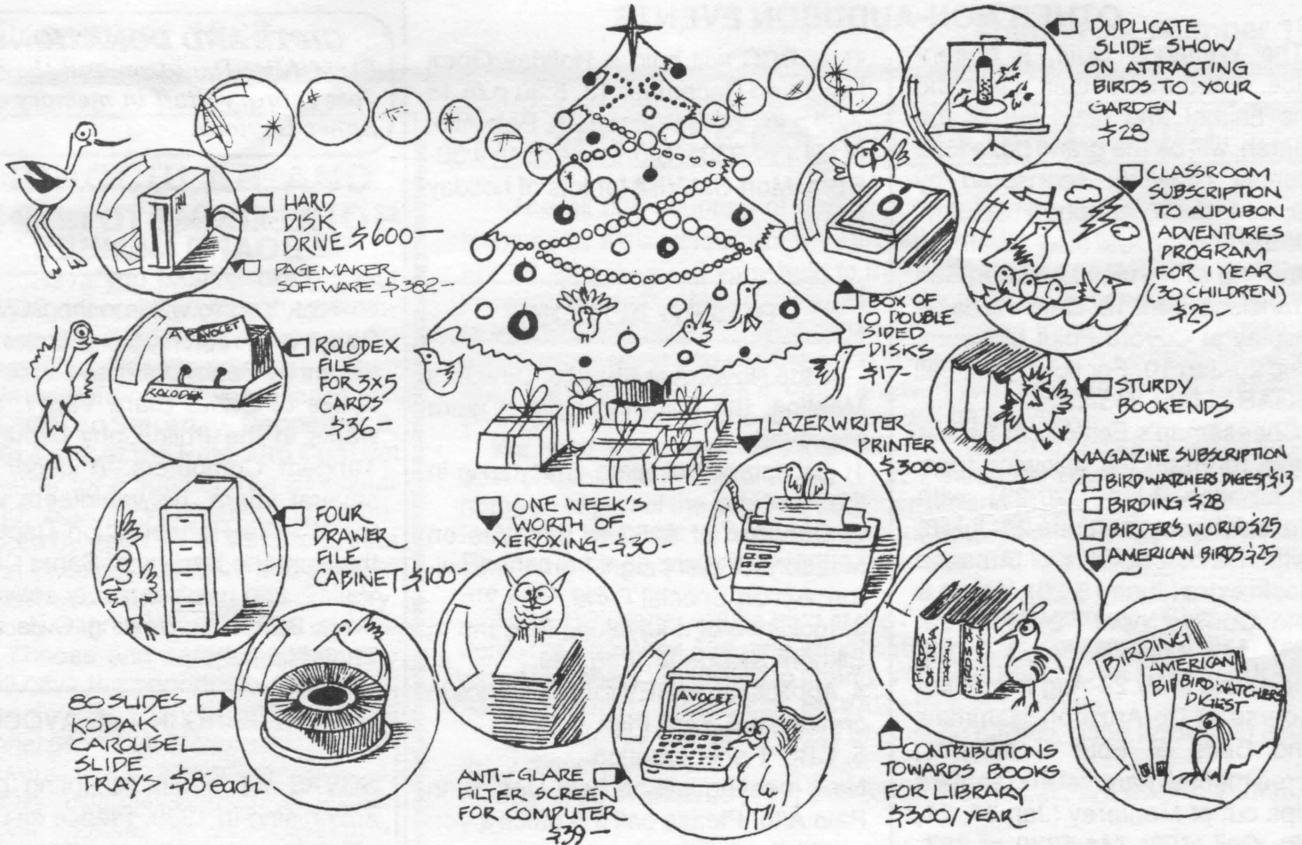
### Jan 14 Woodbridge Road

SATURDAY 8 AM. Full Day. Meet at the McDonalds parking lot next to the Shell station on Mission Blvd. in Fremont. Take I-680 to 2nd Mission Blvd. exit. Carpool from here. Bring lunch and plenty of fuel. Trip limited to 20. Call leaders for reservations. Anticipated species: Sandhill Cranes, Tundra Swans, etc. Leaders:



# CHAPTER WISH LIST

SCVAS works hard throughout the year to protect wetland habitat, provide highest-quality membership meetings and field trips, and keep you, our members, informed about a plethora of local, state and national issues of interest. And we know we couldn't do any of it without your help. Below, thanks to talented artist Luis Tam, are some of our "wishes" for the holidays and coming year. Your contributions of funds to purchase the items depicted below, or donations of the items themselves, will go a long way towards helping SCVAS continue to function in an effective manner!



Yes! I'd like to donate \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to SCVAS.

\_\_\_\_ Please use my gift where it is most needed

\_\_\_\_ If not previously contributed, please put my gift towards \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ Yes, I can donate the following item(s) \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

Staff Lynn Tennefoss 415/329-1811	DIRECTORS (1987-90)	Programs Doug & Gail
President Dave Johnston 408/867-7278	Grant Hoyt 415/969-7892	Cheeseaman 408/867-1371
1st VP Barbara Monahan 408/425-7841	Trish Mulvey 415/326-0252	Library Rita Colwell 415/326-2400
2nd VP Martha Nungesser 415/487-1282	Christine Wolfe 408/245-9359	Field Trips Paul Noble 415/948-3876
Treasurer Don Price 415/327-1254	DIRECTORS (1988-91)	Alberta Jasberg
Rec. Sec. Mark McEuen 408/251-3086	Jules Resnick 415/961-8619	Membership vacant
Past Pres Judy McEuen 408/251-3086	Theresa Spinler 408/559-1889	Aud. Adven. Elaine Gould 408/448-0622
DIRECTORS (1986-89)	Donna Zetterquist 408/429-9716	Hospitality vacant
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Rob Colwell 415/326-2400	Editor Levona Sterngold 408/738-2859	CBC Jim & Sue Liskovec 415/969-5542
Nick Yatsko 408/865-4831	Education Judy McEuen 408/251-3086	Grants Donna Zetterquist 408/429-9716
		Photo Clb Pete LaTourrette 415/961-2741

General meetings are open to the public. Board of Directors meetings are open to all members. Call office for times/directions. *Avocet* deadline is first Monday of month. Send contributions to editor, Levona Sterngold, 720 M Blair Court, Sunnyvale, 94087.

### OTHER NON-AUDUBON EVENTS

- The Wetlands Quilt, a queen-size, hand-made quilt depicting the animal and plant life of the marsh, will be the grand prize for a Benefit Drawing, sponsored by Golden Gate Audubon Society. Other fine prizes also awarded. Drawing at Randall Museum, San Francisco, Jan. 12. Quilt will be on display at Coyote Point Museum, Dec 20-Jan 10. For ticket info, call GGAS, (415) 843-2222.
- Cheeseman's Ecological Safaris have room on the following trips: Galapagos (June 20-29) with Dave Johnston or (June 20-July 6) with David Suddjian, Amazon Basin extra (June 13-20); Kenya & Mtn. Gorillas (April 7-26, June 22-July 14); Malaysia (July 7-30); Indonesia (July 28-Aug 24); Short Course at De Anza on Mammals and Birds of Four Continents; three marine mammal and seabird trips out of Monterey (Jan 14, 21, 28). Call (408) 741-5330 or 867-1371.

- The PCC will hold a Holiday Open House on December 13, 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. 2448 Watson Ct., Palo Alto, (415) 494-9301. Store now open 9:30-5 pm, Mon-Sat. Visit for lots of holiday items.

### BOARD ACTIONS

At the November Board of Directors Meeting, the following actions were approved:

1. Acceptance of paid advertising in the *Avocet*.
2. Donation of \$250 to the "Yes on Measure B" campaign, from the Environ. Action Special Fund.
3. Inclusion of a kayaking field trip to Elkhorn Slough for Feb., 89.
4. Application to REV for assistance in creating a 5-Year Plan.
5. CBC T-shirt creation.

Next meeting will be held Dec. 6, in Palo Alto. Please call the office if you would like to attend.

### GIFTS AND DONATIONS

*From Alice Davidson and the San Jose Library Staff in memory of Agnes Gaylord.*

### WELCOME TO NEW BOARD MEMBER

Nick Yatsko will join the SCVAS Board of Directors, filling a slot left vacant by Debby Johnston. Nick is a native of Santa Clara Valley, and works in the Philosophy Group at Tandem Computers. A birder for several years, he volunteers with the Wildlife Rehabilitation Dept. of the Humane Society of Santa Clara Valley, and has been very active in Save BOTH (Burrowing Owls and Their Habitat).

### ADVERTISING IN THE AVOCET

SCVAS will begin accepting paid advertising in 1989. Please call the office for rates and an information sheet.

**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 conservation projects. All gifts and donations are tax deductible.

**MEMBERSHIP** - To join the Audubon Society or subscribe to the Audubon Activist, send checks, payable to NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY, to SCVAS office, 415 Cambridge Ave., Suite 21, Palo Alto, CA 94306. Membership included AUDUBON magazine, the national publication, and *The Avocet*. *Avocet* subscriptions alone are \$6/year. Make checks payable to SCVAS. They are published monthly except July and August. **SEND ALL ADDRESS CHANGES TO THE OFFICE PROMPTLY.**

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#### CHECK CATEGORY

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