

The Avocet



June 1989

Volume 36, Number 36

Bay Wetlands Vanishing

A coalition of environmental groups, including SCVAS, released a landmark study on April 26, 1989 titled "Endangered Habitat: A Report on the Status of Seasonal Wetlands in San Francisco Bay and a Recommended Plan for Their Protection" It is the first evaluation of the cumulative loss of seasonal wetlands in San Francisco and San Pablo Bays. And the results are startling. **Since 1956, 61% of the seasonal wetlands found south of the Bay Bridge have been destroyed, by fill, degradation, or conversion.** If all development projects that are currently in planning stages are built, total cumulative losses in the South Bay will reach 73%. That means we would have only 4,927 acres remaining, of 17,953 acres present in 1956.

Wildlife are heavily dependent on seasonal wetlands. Recent studies suggest that Bay Area shorebird populations need seasonal wetlands as a part of their daily feeding and resting grounds. In addition ducks and other waterfowl use these habitats. Wildlife populations, including the endangered salt marsh harvest mouse, that depend on seasonal wetlands, have declined due to loss and degradation of their habitat.

Seasonal wetlands are supposed to be protected under the Clean Water Act. However, many seasonal wetlands are being lost on a piecemeal basis, often through weaknesses in the regulatory process or its enforcement. In many cases these losses take place illegally, with little or no penalty. This report gives the Corps of Engineers, responsible for enforcing the Clean Water Act, the information that ANY additional fill allowed in San Francisco Bay is significantly disruptive, and also shows just how much damage has occurred illegally.

Five major categories of recommendations are proposed in the report, the most sweeping is to the Environmental Protection Agency, whom we call upon to "declare as indispensable resources, all South Bay seasonal wetland and critically threatened North Bay seasonal wetland sites, and to protect them through the Clean Water Act.

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Yosemite Park Needs Your Help

The Yosemite Master Plan, a monumental grassroots effort on the part of concerned citizens, gave a loud and clear message to all branches of the Federal Government — MORE PARK, MORE WILDERNESS, MUCH LESS DEVELOPMENT! That message was delivered in the late 1970's, and to date little of that citizen mandate has been carried out. The April 23, 1989 issue of the San Francisco Chronicle carried an excellent summary of the problem in the This World section.

If you have birded, backpacked, or photographed in the park, if you have just sat by the Merced River,

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Chapter News

Many Thanks to Mark McEuen

This month, Mark McEuen will step down from his position as an officer, Recording Secretary, of SCVAS. Mark has been a Director of the Chapter for three years (1984-87), and Recording Secretary for two (1987-89). Mark organized SCVAS' participation in KTEH, Channel 54, telephone membership drives, and personally gathered hundreds of signatures in SCVAS' campaign to qualify the California Parks and Wildlife Bond Act (Cal PAW) for the ballot. He has been a member of the Grants Committee for over seven years, on the Finance Committee for three years, led field trips, been a tremendous help in organizing, setting up, and cleaning up for SCVAS' CBC and June Potluck Dinners, and ably assisted Judy McEuen, for the two years she was President. His great sense of humor, and objective concerns for the chapter's welfare will be sorely missed at Board Meetings, but he has promised to stay involved, and we will hold him to that promise!

Thanks for Donations...

The following donations have been gratefully received: Wine for CBC and Annual Dinners, from J. Lohr Winery; Slides for SCVAS slide shows, from Jerry Waldorf, Doug and Gail Cheeseman, Russ Lavenson, Dr. Denny Mallory, Esther Snively, Jim and Sue Liskovec, Glenn Herreman, Rigdon Currie and Ray Hosler; Slide carousels and trays, from Catherine Maxwell, and Doug and Gail Cheeseman; Rolodex, from Teresa Kasza; Bookends, from Dr. Eve Case.

...and to Volunteers

Many kudos are extended to Patricia Mann and Rose Green, Peter Leider, Sue Liskovec, Yana Arnold and Tibby Simon for volunteering their time. Office volunteers are still needed, to help with membership records, sales, answering the phone, and a variety of other tasks. If you have 2 hours a week, or can occasionally come to the Palo Alto office, please call (415) 329-1811.

Library Donations

Many books for the library collection have been generously donated over the last several months. Special thanks goes to Jo Pettit and Manette Wittgenstein.

Student Award Winners

The following students won 1989 SCVAS Science Fair Awards, for outstanding exhibits on subject matters relevant to SCVAS' concerns. As prizes, each received an Audubon field guide of their choice, a SCVAS membership and a pin. Entries were judged by SCVAS President, Dave Johnston.

Lam Phuong, 8th grade at J.W. Fair School, "Changes in Elodia"; Beau Fernald, 8th grade at Rolling Hills School, "How Does Light Affect Daphnia?"; Kelly Camarlinghi, 6th grade at Queen of Apostles, "Are Birds Attracted to Color?"

SCVAS Grants Awarded

In May, the SCVAS Board of Directors, upon recommendations of the Grants Committee, awarded

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Birdathon a Success

The 1989 SCVAS Birdathon was a big success! While some teams did not quite find the number of birds they were hoping for, everyone had a great time, and agreed to return again next year. Ten teams are now collecting their pledged amounts from neighbors, SCVAS members and friends, so the final total of funds raised is not available, but it looks like our goal of \$5500 will be met or exceeded! All funds raised will go towards NAS' Mono Lake Legal Fund, SCVAS' Wetlands Legal Defense Fund, and to the chapter's education projects. And it is not too late to donate!! Choose one of the teams below - any contribution will be gratefully accepted.

The total number of species seen per team follows the team name:

"If You've Seen One Bird, You've Seen Them All", 20; "The Poorwills", 118; "Eagle-eyed Goatsuckers", 162; "The Eagle Eyes", 94; "Sapsuckers", 110; "The Vagrants", 146; "Un-Common Loons", 102; "Me, Myself and I", 109; "Mangrove Cuckoos", 69; Dan Shattuck, "Meadowlark", 45.

Prizes for the most species seen, most money raised and other categories will be presented at the Annual June Members' Potluck Dinner, to be held at the Palo Alto Baylands on Wednesday, June 21 (see article on page 3). Prizes have been donated by the following generous businesses and individuals: California Academy of Sciences/Steve Bailey; REI, Inc.; Hummingbird Gardens/Karen Sullivan; Yerba Buena Nursery; Yamagami's Nursery; National Audubon Society; Smith & Hawken; Philius Fogg's.

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.

June Field Trip Coordinator:
Rod Norden (408) 255-3033

Wed, June 7, 7:30 PM
Bay Area Bird Photographers
Baylands Interpretive Center. Two speakers on Rwanda, Namibia, and Zimbabwe: Luis Tam with a slide dissolve show set to music and Doug Cheeseman featuring mammals and birds.

Sunday, June 11, 9 AM
Charleston Slough
Intro Birdwalk for Beginners
Leader: Rod Norden (408) 255-3033
Directions: Meet at the east end of San Antonio Rd. in Mtn. View. Trip stresses the basics of birding. Easy walk of 1-2 miles. Half day

Tuesday, June 13, 9:30
Bird Discussion Group
Meet at home of Eve Case, 20537 Verde Vista Lane, Saratoga, to carpool for birding at home of Jean and Pat Dubois, 17150 Buena Vista Ave, Los Gatos.
(408)395-4264 for more info. Bring a bag lunch.

Wed, June 14, 9 AM
Stevens Creek County Park
South County Field Trip
Leader: Jeff Caldwell (408) 252-1177.
Native plants and birds.
Directions: From I-280 exit onto Foothill, and proceed south 2.1 miles to first park entrance on left. Meet at Chestnut Parking Area in lower park, below reservoir. Half day.

Saturday, June 17
Predatory Bird Research Center, Santa Cruz
Leader: Nick Yatsko (408) 865-4831
Reservations required. Please Call Nick for more information

Sat-Sun, June 24-25
Yuba Pass & Sierra Valley
Leaders: Paul Noble (415) 949-1743 & Grant Hoyt (415) 969-7892
High Sierra birding and Great Basin specialities.
Directions: Meet at Yuba Pass @ 8 AM on Saturday. Motels available in Downieville and Sierra City. Camping at Wild Plum campground in Sierra City and at Yuba Pass proper. Call leaders if planning to attend.

Sat-Sun, June 24-25
National Audubon Society Conference
Reno, NV
"Beyond the Diving Rod: the Search for Refuge Water". A conference to discuss securing water rights for refuges in California and Nevada. Call 916-481-5332 for info.

Sunday, July 9, 9 AM
Charleston Slough
Intro Birdwalk for Beginners
Leader: Rod Norden (408) 255-3033
Directions: See June 11 fieldtrip.

Sunday, August 13, 9 AM
Charleston Slough

Intro Birdwalk for Beginners
Leader: Rod Norden (408) 255-3033
Directions: See June 11 fieldtrip.

Sat-Sun, August 19-20
PRBO Shorebird Census
Call SCVAS for more info.

June Membership Meeting & Potluck

SCVAS members are invited to set aside the evening of **WEDNESDAY, JUNE 21**, for the annual potluck dinner, to be held at the **Lucy Evans Baylands Nature Interpretive Center**, end of Embarcadero Road, Palo Alto. Beginning at **6 pm**, meet for hors d'oeuvres, dinner and a short program. A slide program on the Department of Fish and Game's new interpretive facilities will be shown, and Bill Bousman will present up-to-date results from the Breeding Bird Atlas Program. For the first time, we will present commendations for environmental activists, and prizes will be awarded to Birdathon counters. **ALL MEMBERS ARE ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND.** 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: A-G Salad; M-Q Dessert; H-L Hors d'oeuvres; R-Z Main dish. Please bring serving utensils.

SCVAS will provide liquid refreshments, plates, flatware, etc. For questions or directions, please call the office at (415) 329-1811.

Field Notes

by Bill Bousman

Waterfowl

Two *Common Loons* at Calero Res. 21 Apr (DLS) fit the normal pattern of spring migrants. Four *Eared Grebes* at Mississipi Lake in the middle of the Diable Range 29 Mar (CB) are from an area where they are rarely found. An oversummering flock of *Am. White Pelicans* has been

found in the vicinity of the Mountain View salt ponds 27 Mar-25 Apr with numbers ranging from six to twenty-five (WGB, CB, SHG). An adult *Little Blue*

Heron in a salt pond nw. of Alviso 23 Apr (PLN) is one of the earliest records we have. *Green-backed Herons* from Los Alamitos Creek 25 Mar (MFe), Alum Rock Park 5 Apr (JAC), and Coyote Creek at the Coyote Creek Riparian Station (CCRS) 12 Apr (MJM) are all from typical locations for either migrating or nesting birds. A *Greater White-fronted Goose* from Coyote Creek n. of Morgan Hill 7 Mar (RH) is a late record for this rare visitor. Three *Wood Ducks* in the San Antonio Valley 25 Apr and 2-3 birds along Arroyo Bayo 24-25 Apr are from typical locations (CB, WGB). The *Surf Scoters* at Shoreline Lake appear to have settled down to three birds for the summer. A female *White-winged Scoter* along Stevens Creek at Shoreline 1 Apr (MJM) was not expected. Two pairs of *Common Mergansers* at Calero Res. 21 Apr may nest nearby (DLS).

Raptors

Typical migrant *Osprey* were seen flying overhead at Stevens Creek CP 29 Mar and Alum Rock Park 5 Apr (both JAC). Less expected were two birds at Chesbro Reservoir 17 Apr where one was foraging (EC, JG). An imm. *Bald*

Eagle at the Sunnyvale Baylands 14 Apr (MFe) was a spring migrant. A *Red-Shouldered Hawk* along the Pajaro River 15 Apr (DLS) extends their known range in the county to our southern border.

They still appear to be rare anywhere on the east side of the valley. A *Ferruginous Hawk* in the hills s. of Metcalf Rd. 22 Mar (EC, JG) is one of the latest records we have for the county. *Merlin* have completed their astounding winter with a female at Shoreline 30 Mar (SHG), one in Los Gatos 9 Apr (MFe), and an exceedingly late bird at Stevens Creek CP 23 Apr (MRo). To give you some idea of the increase in sighting here are the winter totals for the last five years: 6-7-12-21-30.

The only report of a *Northern Pygmy Owl* was of one heard in the Gill ranch addition of Henry Coe SP 6 Apr (CB).

Turkeys to Woodpeckers

Wild Turkey reports away from their Coe Park metropolis include one heard on upper Page Mill Rd 15 Apr (PLN) and a female along Arroyo Bayo 25 Apr (CB, WGB). The earliest report of *Vaux's Swift* was of two in Los Gatos 17 Apr (MFe). The only report of birds

away from their Los Gatos center was at the Sunnyvale Baylands 25 Apr (MFe). A *Calliope Hummingbird* was banded at CCRS 12 Apr (fide MJM). They have had a very good hummingbird spring at the banding station there, however, I don't have all their records at this time. *Lewis' Woodpeckers* in San Antonio Valley 15 Apr (JAC) and 24 and 25 Apr (CB, WGB) are as expected.

Flycatchers et. al.

A *Willow Flycatcher* at Alum Rock Park 5 Apr (JAC) is extraordinarily early. Sierran Birds do not return until late May and early June. Migrating Willow Flycatchers in early April must represent an (unknown) coastal population. Four *Western Kingbirds* near Calero Res. 21 Apr (DLS) and two nearby in Santa Teresa CP 22 Apr (PLN) were in the southern Santa Cruz Mountains where they are rare migrants. The eastern side of the range shows strong Diablo Range affinities and breeding may be possible there. Two *Black-billed Magpies* were found off Metcalf road 21 Mar (JG). The birds were well-seen and *Yellow-billed Magpies* were nearby for comparison. Unlike the Yellow-billed Magpie which is sedentary, the Black-billed does make occasional winter excursions to the northern coast from its Great Basin range. As far as I know this record is as far south as they have occurred during an irruption as well as being a first county record. The birds could not be found later. An *American Dipper* in Alum Rock Park 27 Apr (AME) was singing along the creek in the mineral springs area. A *Phainopepla* was in San Antonio Valley 15 Apr (JAC) where they are often found.

Warblers and Sparrows

Nashville Warblers are scarce migrants so birds at Stevens Creek

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**Declining
Tricolored
Blackbirds have
been found in
large, nesting
aggregations**

Field Notes

Continued from previous page

CP 7 Apr (WGB) and Jackson Highlands 20 Apr (DL) are of interest. A *MacGillivray's Warbler* was banded at CCRS 9 Apr (fide MJM). Wintering *Western Tanagers* become more vocal as spring approaches and it is difficult to separate these bird from the actual migrants. An apparent wintering bird was watched in Los Gatos as it molted into its breeding plumage. There was no trace of red on the head in late March and early April, but by 22 Apr it had a brightly-colored head. New migrants were noticed the same day (MFe). The first *Grasshopper Sparrow* of the season noted at Russian Ridge was 1 Apr (JAC). An extensive trip in grasslands near Sargent in the southern Santa Cruz Mountains 15 Apr (DLS) counted 71 birds, a prodigious number. More typical were single singing birds at Jackson Highlands 20 Apr and at McKean and Bailey Roads near Calero Res. 21 Apr (also DLS). An imm. *White-throated Sparrow* has remained at a Menlo Park feeder through 29 Apr and was joined by an adult bird 23-30 Apr (WGB).

Other sightings

The *Tricolored Blackbird*, which appears to be declining at the center of its range, was found in large, nesting aggregations in the southern Santa Cruz Mountains. Flocks of 350 and 1150 birds were found in two stock ponds along Sargent Creek 15 Apr and a flock of 600 birds was estimated below Calero Res. dam 21 Apr (DLS). These are significantly higher numbers than found in the regular Grant Lake colony. *Lawrence's Goldfinches* have been found in large numbers in San Antonio Valley 15 Apr (JAC) and 24 and 25 Apr (CB, WGB). Eight were found at Coyote Creek near Gilroy, 16 Apr (RH).

Early Arrivals

Olive-sided Flycatcher, Stevens

Creek CP, 9 Apr (MRo); *Western Wood-Pewee*, Stevens Creek CP, 23 Apr (MRo); *House Wren*, Stevens Creek CP, 7 Apr (WGB); *Solitary Vireo*, Henry Coe SP 14 Apr (WGB); *Yellow Warbler*, Coyote Creek at CCRS (MJM) and Stevens Creek CP (MRo), 9 Apr; *Black-throated Grey Warbler*, CCRS (fide LRM) and Alum Rock Park (JAC), 5 Apr; *Wilson's Warbler*, Stevens Creek CP, 9 Apr (MRo); *Black-headed Grosbeak*, Los Gatos, 25 Mar (MFe); *Lazuli Bunting*, Sargent, 15 Apr (DLS); and *Chipping Sparrow*, Henry Coe SP, 13 Apr (WGB).

Late Departures

Common Goldeneye, Shoreline Lake, 15 Apr (MRo); *Water Pipit*,

Crittenden Marsh, 18 Apr (MRo); and *Lincoln's Sparrow*, Jackson Highlands, 20 Apr (DLS).

Observers: Clark Blake, William G. Bousman, Jack A. Cole, Emelie Curtis, Alan M. Eisner, Mike Feighner, Sister Helen Gilsdorf, Jane Glass, Rick Herder, Michael J. Mammoser, L. Richard Mewalds, Paul L. Noble, Mike Rogers, and David L. Suddjian.

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).

From National Audubon Society

Hello from Tucson:

Join us September 12-16, 1989 as we all learn more about Audubon - who we are, where we are headed, and some good ways to get there. Every two years we have an opportunity to come together, to listen and to learn, and to renew our commitment to conservation. The Audubon members of the six chapters in Arizona will host the 1989 Convention.

The Southwest is a favored vacation goal for all birdwatchers and an enchanting land for naturalists, photographers, and all admirers of wild scenic beauty. Many species of plants and animals reach their northern limits here, reflecting the proximity to Mexico. Tucson is situated in the Sonoran Desert, which contains the most diverse assemblage of plant forms of any desert in the world. Our September convention falls at the end of the rainy season when the desert has its



greenest and most magnificent appearance.

Plans are well underway for a variety of special attractions - an art exhibit, which includes an original Convention hummingbird poster by artist John O'Neil, a fund-raising contest and auction of original designer bird feeders, early morning bird walks, books and gifts from the Tucson Audubon Nature Shop, and many incredible trips and tours.

Contact the SCVAS for further details.

Environmental Action News

Oil Drilling off the California Coast?

The recent disaster in Prince William Sound with the Exxon Valdez which resulted in the largest oil spill (3,000 square miles as of April 9) should cause us in the lower 48, and California in particular, to stop and think! We are much too dependent on oil. We need to explore use of alternative energy sources much more vigorously! Even more important than that, the need for conservation of energy has to be stressed more by politicians, the media and yes, even conservation organizations for we are all responsible to some degree.

Another issue of concern with the recent environmental disaster in Alaska is oil drilling off both the California coast and in the fragile Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR). Though President Bush has delayed plans for opening up lease sales in Northern and Southern California, he is moving ahead with lease sales in the central part of the state, and the Alaskan coastal plain. An oil spill in these areas could be as much of a disaster as the spill at Valdez. We all use gasoline and we are thus going to have to drill for oil, but certain areas are much too fragile and we need to assess how it is regulated.

What we can all do is let our President know of our concerns

about the Alaska spill, and our objections to drilling off Central California or ANWR. We should also write other members of our congressional delegation in Washington, D.C. Let your elected officials know of the need to pursue alternative energy sources. We all need to remember that our President is a former oil company executive who needs to understand our concerns about oil exploration and our opposition to oil drilling off Central California.

—Jim Anderson, SCVAS member

Will the California Coast be the Next Prince William Sound?

Menlo Business-park Fill

On April 5, 1989, heavy machinery operators began to fill an uplands area of the Menlo Business Park, off University Avenue, near Bayfront Expressway in Menlo Park. In the process, approximately one acre of wetlands was also filled, without authorization.

Two years ago, the developer of the property had applied to the Corps of Engineers for a permit to fill all of the almost 20 acres of wetland existing on site, but was firmly denied. The District Engineer for the Corps cited the presence of endangered species habitat on the property, the lack of need for an office park to be located in a wetland, and the existence of other suitable sites, as reasons for the denial. He found that filling the

Ten Minute Activist

YOU can make a difference

California Wildlife Protection Initiative

Efforts to permanently stop the trophy hunting of the California Mountain Lion and protect the habitat of threatened and endangered species has begun with the gathering of signatures to place the California Wildlife Protection Initiative on the June 1990 ballot.

Voter approval of the Initiative will eliminate forever the sport hunting of mountain lions and provide \$30 million each year for the next 30 years to acquire diminishing habitat for the mountain lion, deer, threatened and endangered species.

In addition to stopping the mountain lion hunt, the Wildlife Protection Initiative will allocate funds for the protection of wetlands and sensitive coastal areas and for the enhancement of rivers and streams. Money will also be available to local agencies for habitat conservation programs.

With your help we can save a unique part of our wild, natural heritage for future generations to enjoy and respect. To volunteer, please fill out the *volunteer card* enclosed inside *The Avocet* and mail it today. Your regional Wildlife Protection Initiative coordinator will call you. For more information, call #415-493-5466.

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Environmental Action News

wetlands would clearly NOT be to the benefit of the public. The permit evaluation took over a year, and was subject to intense scrutiny by both the Corps and the public.

It is clear that a violation of the Clean Water Act has taken place. There is no question that wetlands have been filled, and that it is not in the public interest to accept that fill. Corps of Engineers needs to take timely and aggressive action against all such violations. To do so would require evaluation of the exact amount of fill placed illegally, issuance of an order to the developer to remove the fill, and if that order is not complied with, referral of the issue to the Department of Justice for enforcement. A set timeline should be followed within which these actions take place, with penalties for each deadline that is not met by the violator.

Instead, in the month since the fill took place, not even the first step has been accomplished. The Corps is relying on voluntary compliance on the part of the developer, who has apparently refused to cooperate. There is no set timeline within which decisions are made - instead it is a matter of judgement on the part of an almost hopelessly overworked, albeit concerned, Corps staff. This may well become another example of the countless acres of wetlands in S.F. Bay have been lost because the Corps has not firmly enforced their wetlands protection mandate.

Since 1975, 2008 acres of wetlands have been lost through unauthorized activities, in San Francisco Bay. This loss must stop! State Senate Resolution 28 requires the amount of wetlands in the state to be increased by 50% by the year 2000; President Bush has called for

a "no net loss" of wetlands policy. In order to accomplish these goals, the Corps MUST begin to act more swiftly and decisively. If you share our concern, **please write a letter to your federal representative. Ask them to urge that the Corps order restoration of the Menlo Business Park site, and to hold a hearing on Corps enforcement and seasonal wetland loss in the San Francisco Bay Area.** Such a hearing will illuminate the problems, and lead hopefully to a solution.

If you would like to know more about this issue, please call the SCVAS office at (415) 329-1811.

Save the Hill

Roadway construction that would destroy scenic and valuable habitat on St. Joseph's Hill Open Space Preserve in Los Gatos may be temporarily postponed, until after a public hearing in October 1989. The proposed two-lane roadway would cut across St. Joseph's Hill, formally dedicated last year as part of the Los Gatos Creek Park under the protection of the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District. Acres of chaparral habitat would be destroyed for the benefit of a single commercial institution - the proposed roadway would run from the California Western College, the former Guadalupe College Convent, purchased in 1983 by Dr. Kang Ming Ho, through the Open Space Preserve, to Lexington Dam.

Surveyor's work on the hill has already destroyed many manzanita shrubs, oaks and toyon bushes. The ravine to the right of the start of the existing public access trail would be filled with approximately 60,000 cubic yards of earthen debris

excavated from other parts of the hill.

At the Los Gatos Town Council Meeting 3 April 1989 evidence of serpentine and a possible asbestos hazard present in the ground along the proposed roadway was submitted. The Town Council voted

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Wetlands

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Bay Area state and federal legislators will need to throw their support behind these recommendations, as will local city, county and regional governments and agencies. Our report is available to any interested party, and will be widely distributed. If you would like a copy of this important document, please call the SCVAS office at (415) 329-1811.

Wetlands Discovery Program

SCVAS has received a generous grant from the Brownlee Foundation, to create a pilot seasonal wetlands education program. Designed to educate children about the diversity and value of wetlands in South San Francisco Bay, and the need to protect them, the program will focus on seasonal wetlands. A coordinator will be hired to carry out the first phase of the program: curriculum design and pilot program. The latter will consist of 4 classroom visits, 2 field trips, and a followup packet, to be given to each of six classrooms during the 1989-90 school year. Our thanks are gratefully given to the Brownlee Foundation for their support.

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General meetings are open to the public. Board of Directors meetings are open to all members. Call the office for times and directions. *The Avocet* deadline is the first Monday of each month. Send contributions to the editor, Jim Schwertman, 1168 Willow Glen Way, San Jose, CA 95125.

Non-Audobon Trips and Events

- The Environmental Volunteers are taking reservations for their fall training class for new docents. For more info on class schedule and fees, call 415-424-8035.
- Planning and Conservation League has a beautiful new recreational map of the American River, including trails and rafting info. Send \$3, to PCL, 909 12th St, #203, Sacramento, CA, 95814.
- Nature Sounds Society Annual Field Workshop, June 9-11, at Yuba Pass. Call 415-549-9364.
- Pescadero Marsh Nature Walks, every Sat, 10:30 am and Sun, 1 pm. Meet under Pescadero Bridge; call 415-879-0832 for info.
- Point Reyes Education Programs offer 5 day Natural History Camp for adults, July 31-Aug 4, call 415-663-1200.
- Mono Lake Foundation announces summer seminar program at Mono Lake. Call 619-647-6496 for details.
- SFBBO is looking for volunteers who would like to participate in field research. Interested? Contact Don Starks at 408-946-6548

Save the Hill

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neither in favor of granting nor denying Dr. Ho an extension on his use permit, and decided that no final decision could be made without first contracting for a new environmental impact report. A public hearing has been called for 16 October 1989. Further information may be obtained either by writing or calling: Citizens for the Preservation of St. Joseph's Hill
 Suite 109-237, P.O. Box 38008
 Los Gatos, CA 95031-8003.
 (408) 358-7858.

Mike Feighner, SCVAS member

Yosemite

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if you have read John Muir's writings, you know the magic of this wonderful place.

What can be done to ensure that the Master Plan is implemented? You can write to your Congressional representatives, and to Senators Cranston and Wilson, and ask them to do the following:

- (1) fund the Master Plan as proposed;
- (2) reject the National Park Service's recent idea to redo the

Chapter News

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the following grants for 1988-89:

McCellan Ranch Park, \$250, to create illustrations for four environmental educational pamphlets.

The Peregrine Fund, \$750, to reprint educational brochures about the Predatory Bird Research Group in Santa Cruz.

Please Note: The SCVAS Office will be closed for the month of August.

GIFTS AND MEMORIALS
In Memory of Blanche Galloway
 From Elinor Heath
In Memory of Robert Arrowood
 From Mark and Kay Vidovich

whole Master Plan process again. The recommendations made in the 1970's are still appropriate.

Letters to Republican's Tom Campbell and Pete Wilson are especially important.

You can also get personally involved in this important issue. For more info, please call Jim Liskovec (415) 969-5542.

DONATIONS - Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society welcomes gifts in general, or gifts in honor or memory of relatives and friends. 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 includes AUDUBON magazine, the national publication, and *The Avocet*. Subscriptions to the *The Avocet* alone are \$6/year. Make checks payable to SCVAS. *The Avocet* is published monthly except July and August. **SEND ALL ADDRESS CHANGES TO THE OFFICE PROMPTLY.**