

The Avocet



December 1989

Volume 36, Number 36

Participants still needed

Christmas Bird Count Nears San Jose Area

The all day counting of ducks, geese, hawks, sparrows, and rarities followed by a marvelous dinner and tally will be held on Sunday, December 17. 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 17, 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.

If you would like to help with the dinner, please call Lynn Tennefoss at (415) 329-1811. She would love to have some assistance before and on December 17. Please refer to page 2 for a complete list of section leaders.

Palo Alto Area

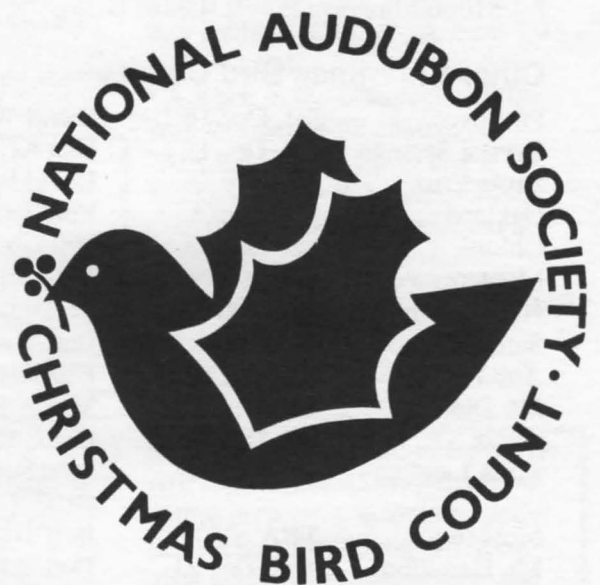
The Palo Alto Christmas Bird Count will be held on Monday, Dec. 18, the day after the San Jose count. As with the San Jose CBC, help is needed on this count at all levels. If you have counted before, check with the region leaders. If you are new to the count please call Bill Bousman or Clark Blake. Telephone numbers for all leaders are listed on page 2.

More Christmas Bird Count Info on Page 2

Order yours now!

CBC T-Shirts and Sweatshirts

CBC T-shirts and Sweatshirts are available from NAS through SCVAS. Please call the office (415) 3291-1811 if you would like to order a T-Shirt (\$10) or sweatshirt (\$20). They are red with the design below in green and white. Please specify size S, M, L, or XL.



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Chapter News

Christmas Bird Count Section Leaders

San Jose Area

Section	Leader	Phone
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)	Dave Johnston	408-867-7278
F (South)	Paul Noble	415-949-1743
G (Southwest)	Anne Wilson	415-941-0966
H (Agnew)	Grant Hoyt	415-969-7892
I (Milpitas)	Paul Noble	415-949-1743
J (Berryessa)	Chris Wolfe	408-987-6033
	Claire Wolfe	408-733-5654

Palo Alto Area

Section	Leader	Phone
1 - Bay North	Mike Mammoser	408-248-2288
2 - Bay South	Bill Bousman	415-322-5282
3 - Urban North	Clark Blake	415-329-4951(W)
4 - Urban South	Phyllis Browning	415-494-6360
5 - Foothills North	Jane Becker-Haven	415-321-0776
6 - Foothills South	Ruth Troetschler	415-948-4142
7 - Mountains North	Gloria Heller	415-851-2356
8 - Mountains South	Clark Blake	415-329-4951(W)

Other Christmas Bird Counts

Pt. Reyes	Sat, Dec 16	David Wimpfheimer, (415) 663-1363
Crystal Springs	Sat, Dec 16	Dan Keller, (415) 593-7368
Santa Cruz	Sat, Dec 16	David Suddjian, (408) 479-9603
Oakland	Sun, Dec 1	Lina Jane Prarie (415) 549-3187
Ohlone	Sat, Dec 23	Phil Gordon, (415) 538-3550
Monterey Pelagic	Thurs, Dec 28	Debi Shearwater, (408)688-1990
Napa-Solano	Thurs, Dec 28	Robin Leong, (707),643-1287
San Francisco	Thurs, Dec 28	Dan Murphy, (415) 564-0074
Ano Nuevo	Sat, Dec 30	Dan Keller, (415) 593-7368
Mt. Diablo	Sat, Dec 30	Maury Stern, (415) 284-5980
Marin	Sat, Dec 30	Diane Sierra, (415) 654-8124
Moss Landing	Mon, Jan 1	John/Ricky Warriner, (408) 722-5589
Monterey	TBA	Bob Tintle, (408) 373-7669
Mt. Hamilton	Thu, Dec 21	Don Schmoldt, (415) 236-5612
Palo Alto	Mon, Dec 18	Bill Bousman, (415) 322-5282
Los Banos	Fri, Dec 29	Arthur Bailey, (805) 964-5741

Gifts and Donations

SCVAS gratefully thanks Jena Shurtleff for her donation of the brand new A Guide to Birds of Costa Rica, in memory of Audrey Herman.

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And thanks to Steve Heagerty for his donation of a slide for the SCVAS Schoolyard Birds slide show.

From Calvary Outreach Committee for General Conservation

SCVAS OFFICERS

Staff	Lynn Tennefoss	415/329-1811
President	Dave Johnston	408/867-7278
1st VP	Grant Hoyt	415/969-7892
2nd VP	Trish Mulvey	415/326-0252
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Rec. Secty.	Theresa Spinler	408/559-1889
Past Pres	Judy McEuen	408/251-3086

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Donna Zetterquist	408/429-9716

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Field Trips	Paul Noble	415/948-3876
	Alberta Jasberg	
Membership		Vacant
Aud Adven	Elaine Gould	408/448-0622
Hospitality	Vacant	
Env. Act.	Vacant	
CBC	Jim & Sue	
	Liskovec	415/969-5542
Grants	D. Zetterquist	408/429-9716
Photo Club	Pete LaTourrette	415/961-2741

General meetings are open to the public. Board of Directors meetings are open to all members. Call the office for times and 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.

Leftover Seed

Despite being interrupted by the earthquake, the Fall Seed Sale was our biggest success ever!! Thanks to all seed purchasers for your patience with delays and some small confusion, and for your support of SCVAS. We made close to \$3000, with an order that exceeded a total of 10 tons! There are a few bags of seed remaining unsold - Western Wild and Black Oil; to purchase please call the office (415) 329-1811.

and Education Projects

From J. Stevens Robey for General Conservation and Education Projects

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 Dec: Betty Wyatt (408) 255-6091

Sat, Dec 2, 9 AM

Lake Merritt/Alameda shoreline

Leader: Allen Royer (408) 288-7768

Directions: Meet at the Rotary Science Center, Lake Merritt, Oakland. Take I-880 N to Oak St., then E on Oak which becomes Lakeside, then Harrison. R on Grand. R on Bellevue to meeting place. Lunch advised. Rain cancels. Poss. parking fee. Trip is good for beginners. Lots of ducks, close-up. Half day.

Sun, Dec 3, 2 PM

Elkhorn Slough Boat Trip

Leaders: Doug and Gail Cheeseman (408) 741-5330

Directions: Meet at 1:45 PM at the quake damaged at the Moss Landing Marine lab. Turn right off Hwy 1 in Moss Landing at the "Whole Enchilada" cross bridge and look for leaders and their boats. Trip limited to 12 participants. Call early for space. \$12 fee for boats and drivers. BAring warm clothing and warm drinks. Half day.

Wednesday, Dec 6, 7:30 PM

Bay Area Bird Photographers

Baylands Interpretive Center @ the East end of Embarcadero, Palo Alto, Co-sponsored by the City of Palo Alto, Open Spaces & Sciences Division
Member Rod Norden is going to share with us his trip to Peru with ornithologist Ted Parker. We will see scenes and wildlife ranging from the lowland Amazonian rainforest at Tambopata to the Andean highlands of Abra Malaga.

Sat, Dec 9, 9 AM

SFBBO/SCVAS CBC Tune-up

Leaders: Don Starks, Bill Bousman, Paul Noble

Info: SFBBO (408) 946-6548

Directions: Meet at SFBBO hdqtrs in Alviso, 1290 Hope St. Here's a chance to brush-up on flock counting skills. Intro for new counters and how to report and document rarities. Open to all area Christmas counters. Coffee and donuts will be provided. Bring boots and rain gear for flock count Main session will be indoors.

Sun, Dec 10, 9 AM

Charleston Slough

Leader: Rod Norden (408) 255-3033

Birdwalk for beginners. Basics of birding with emphasis on shorebirds and waterfowl. Meet at the east end of San Antonio Rd. in Mt. View. Bring drinks. Half day.

Tuesday, Dec 12, 9:30 AM

Bird Discussion Group

At the home of Jean and Pat Dubois, 17150 Buena Vista Ave, Los Gatos, (408) 395-4264. Topic: Picture Window Birding. All members are invited to attend these monthly open discussions about different species. Call for details and directions.

Sat, Jan 6, 8 AM

Post CBC Rarities Chase

Leader: Grant Hoyt (415) 969-7892

Directions: Meeting place and itinerary to be determined after area Christmas Counts. Bring lunch, water, full tank of fuel. Hvy rain cancels. Call leader for info after Jan 3. Full day.

Sun, Jan 7, 9 AM

Oak Hill Cemetery

Leader: Alan Thomas (408) 265-9286

Directions: Meet at the corner of Monterey Hwy and Curtner in S San Jose. Park in the lot in front of admin bldg. Hvy rain cancels. Highlights: Wintering passerines.

Members Please Note:

There is no General Membership Meeting in December with the Christmas Holidays. Plan to attend the January meeting on Wed, Jan 17 when Rod Norden will talk about our marine birds and mammals of the Cal Coast, as well as a special program from the Greenbelt Coalition on our streams, creeks and valuable riparian habitat, presented by SCVAS member Trish Mulvey.

Royal Society for Protection of Birds Meeting

Please attend a special December meeting, to be held at 7:30 pm at the Palo Alto Baylands Interpretive Center, east end of Embarcadero Rd, Palo Alto, on **Wed, December 13**. Clive Saunders, a past warden for the Coombes Valley, Staffordshire preserve and birding tour guide in the highlands of Scotland, has offered a slide show on the Royal

Non-Audubon Events

- Peninsula Conservation Center is selling shelled almonds, pecans and walnuts in one-pound bags to benefit the PCCF environmental library. Open 9-5 M-Sat., call (415) 494-9301 or visit for more info.
- Seattle Audubon offers two GREAT winter birding trips: Winter Birds of Western Washington, Jan 13-15, staying on Whidbey Island; and Winter Birds East of the Cascades, Feb 17-19, staying at Lake Chelan's Campbell Lodge. Call (206) 622-6695 or SCVAS for details.
- Restoring the Earth, announces publication of its Environmental Restoration Directory of the San Francisco Bay Area - analyzing over 200 restoration projects. Call (415) 843-2645 for more info.
- Doug and Gail Cheeseman with the help of Allen Royer, Lynn Tennefoss, and Rod Norden will lead 3 pelagic trips in Monterey Bay on Jan 13, 17, & 20, from 7:45 AM to 3 PM.
- A week in the Galapagos on the very wonderful 12 passenger "Andando", Mar 18-29 and 2 weeks in Costa Rica, April 13-28. Call Doug or Gail Cheeseman at (408) 741-5330 for details.

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Society for Protection of Birds. He will discuss the RSPB network of nature preserves, associated activities such as the Young Ornithologists Club, land management and research on species protection, and show slides of the birds of England and Scotland. Trish Mulvey, SCVAS Board Member, will begin the program with a short slide show about the streams and creeks in Santa Clara County and a proposed ordinance to protect them.

Field Notes

By Bill Bousman

Waterfowl

A *Common Loon* seen flying over the Palo Alto Flood Control Basin (FCB) 18 Oct (MRo) is the earliest county record I am aware of. A *Horned Grebe* on Mississippi Lake, Henry Coe SP 14 Oct (JY, AL) is one of our few records for the small reservoirs in the Diablo Range. *Brown Pelicans* have been scarce this fall. One at Charleston

Slough 13 Oct (MRo) was the only report for the month.

Wood Duck have been found along Coyote Creek at Burnett on

20 Sep (DLSu) and again in the area of the Los Gatos Creek ponds on 15 Oct (AV) and 2 Nov (MLB, RH). A pair of *Blue-winged Teal* in the Palo Alto FCB 9 Oct (PJM) are from an area where they are typically found. A *Eurasian Wigeon* from Charleston Slough 13 Oct (PJM) is also from a typical area, but a male found in the vicinity of the Oka and Los Gatos Creek ponds and seen on 15 Oct (AV), 2 Nov (MLB, RH), and 5 Nov (BR) is from an area where they are only rarely found. Twenty-two *Common Merganser* on Chesbro Res. 28 Oct (JG) is an apparent winter movement as none were seen there the week before (DLSu).

Raptors

A *Rough-legged Hawk* at the Sunnyvale Water Pollution Control Plant (WPCP) on 22 Oct (PJM) is early by at least a month. West side *Golden Eagle* reports include one over Santa Clara 6 Oct (CW) and a pair at Calero Dam 20 Oct (DLSu). A good early movement of *Merlin* has been recorded with individuals at Coyote Creek at Burnett 12 Sep

(DLSu, our earliest record ever), Los Gatos 15 Oct (DLSu), the Palo Alto FCB on 20 Oct (PJM) and 28 Oct (GHt), and the Sunnyvale WPCP on 29 Oct (PJM). Single *Peregrine Falcon* have also been found at the Sunnyvale WPCP on 20 Sep and the Palo Alto dump on 20 Oct (both PJM). A *Prairie Falcon* record from Henry Coe SP 24 Sep (JY, AL) is also of interest.

Shorebirds

Once the August and September rush of *Lesser Yellowlegs* is past we occasionally find a substantial carryover into October. One near the Coyote Creek mouth 2 Oct (MJM) is within their normal interval, but birds seen in the Palo Alto FCB and the Mountain View Forebay from 28 Sep to 26 Oct with a peak count of 16 on 18 Oct (PJM, MRo) is less expected. We've had fewer *Pectoral Sandpipers* this season with one at the Sunnyvale WPCP 2 Sep (PJM), two at the Mountain View Forebay 30 Sep (MRo), five near the Coyote Creek mouth 2 Oct (MJM), and a single in the Palo Alto FCB 4 Oct (PJM).

Gulls & Terns

A juv. *Sabine's Gull* roosting at Charleston Slough 3 Oct (PJM) is only our third county record. To have had two different birds in a two week period is unusual for this pelagic migrant. Adding to this season's list of *Elegant Terns* were six at Charleston Slough on 3 Oct as well as the gull (also PJM). Another pelagic fall migrant we rarely find in the county is *Common Tern*. An imm. at Coyote Lakes Park near Metcalf Rd 18 Oct (DLSu) is our only inland record.

Swifts et.al

More information this month on the *Vaux's Swift* migration. Over Saratoga they were first noted with 20 on 24 Sep (DLSu, GAB) and last seen on 4 Oct with 59 counted in flocks of 2 and 3 (DLSu). *Lewis' Woodpeckers* appear to be on the move. One over Stanford on 21 Sep (PJM) and another at the Arastradero Preserve 14 Oct (LyT, G&KHt) are our first peninsular records since the winter of 1986-87. Incidentally, none could be found in San Antonio Valley on 27 Sep (WGB, CB) even though the oak mast crop appeared very good. A *Red-naped Woodpecker* at Coyote Creek near Burnett 12 Sep (DLSu) is the earliest record I have for this rare sapsucker. Twenty-five *Willow Flycatchers* were banded at the Coyote Creek Riparian Station (CCRS) this fall with the last record on 20 Sep. Two more were seen the same day on Coyote Creek below Anderson Dam near Burnett (DLSu). An *Ash-throated Flycatcher* at the Palo Alto WPCP 9 Oct (PJM) was exceptionally late. Our second county record of *Tropical Kingbird* was found on Coyote Creek near Burnett 18 Oct (DLSu). The date is typical for reverse migrants which normally show up along our coast. Our fall swallow migration has brought out some unusual records. A female *Purple Martin* along Guadalupe Slough 17 Sep (PJM) is one of our few fall records for this rare west coast species. Delayed migrating *Violet-green Swallows* were found at Henry Coe SP on 15 Oct (JY, AL) and along Coyote Creek near Burnett from 12 Sep-18 Oct (DLSu). In the latter case numbers peaked at about 300 birds and was reduced to six by the last date. In both cases most of the birds were immature. A single immature along the Matadero riparian on 26 Oct (MRo) probably represents an overwintering bird. A *Bank Swallow* at the Sunnyvale WPCP 17 Sep (PJM) is a very rare migrant - our

Rare Inland Sightings of both Sabine's Gull and Common Tern recorded

most recent record is for 1985.

Barn Swallows also lingered late with an imm. on Coyote Creek near Burnett 18 Oct (DLSu) being the last noted. A **Red-breasted Nuthatch** in oak habitat in Henry Coe SP 15 Oct (JY, AL) is the first evidence of a fall flight of this montane species. **Canyon Wrens** found at Henry Coe 24 Sep and 15 Oct (JY, AL) are always of interest. A **House Wren** in Saratoga 26 Sep (DLSu) is quite late for migration. Our first fall record of **American Dipper** away from nesting spots is from Coyote Creek at China Hole in Henry Coe SP 14 Oct (JY, AL). Fall migrant **Black-throated Gray Warblers** include three found on Coyote Creek near Burnett 20 Sep (DLSu), one at Henry Coe SP 24 Sep (JY, AL) and a total of seven banded at CCRS with the last recapture date 18 Oct. **Palm Warblers** at the Matadero riparian 6 Oct and the Palo Alto WPCP 7 Oct (both PJM) are our earliest records for this very rare vagrant. To add to our excellent fall for **Northern Waterthrush** another bird was banded at CCRS on 8 Oct, the latest fall date we have for this species. A **Green-tailed Towhee** was banded at CCRS on 1 Oct for the sixth county record and the second this year. A **Chipping Sparrow** banded at CCRS 8 Oct was unusual for that location. An adult at the Palo Alto WPCP 29 Oct (PJM) was even less expected. A **Vesper Sparrow** was found at the same site 9 Oct (PJM) for one of our few county records. **White-throated Sparrow** have turned up in greater numbers this fall with singles at the Matadero riparian on 6 and 22 Oct (PJM), one banded at CCRS 14 Oct, and one at a feeder in Los Altos 1 Nov (PLN). **Lawrence's Goldfinches** have been found regularly in the Diablo Range with three at Coyote Creek near Burnett 20 Sep (DLSu) and many recorded in goldfinch flock in Henry Coe SP on 14-15 Oct (JY, AL).

Observers

Clark Blake (CB), Bill Bousman (WGB), Geri Brown (GAB), Mary Lou Burgin (MLB), Jane Glass (JG), Roxie Handler (RH), Grant Hoyt (GHt), Karen Hoyt (KHt), Amy Lauterbach (AL), Mike Mammoser (MJM), Peter Metropulos (PJM), Paul Noble (PLN), Bob Reiling (BR), Mike Rogers (MRo), David Suddjian (DLSu), Lynn Tennefoss (LyT), Ann Verdi (AV), Chris Wolfe (CW), James Yurchenco (JY).

If you see an "uncommon to rare" or spot early arrivals and migrants please drop a note or call: Bill Bousman, 321 Arlington Way, Menlo Park, CA 94025 (415) 322-5282.



Farewell, Brown Towhee

Our familiar **Brown Towhee**, seen so often in our yards and on our lawns is no more. The Thirty-seventh Supplement to the American Ornithologists' Union Check-list of North American Birds has split the Brown Towhee into the **California Towhee** (*Pipilo crissalis*) and the **Canyon Towhee** (*Pipilo fuscus*). The former is the species found in California, as the name for once would indicate, while the Canyon Towhee will be found in the interior southwest. Two other splits affect birds commonly seen in California. The **Western Flycatcher** has been split into the **Pacific-slope Flycatcher** (*Empidonax difficilis*) and the **Cordilleran Flycatcher** (*Empidonax occidentalis*). The Pacific-slope is the expected species in California, while the Cordilleran will be found in the mountains of the Great Basin and in the Rocky Mountains. However, neither Empid species will be any easier to identify. The

Field Trip Report

Old Home Week at the EEC

Fifteen avid birders showed up for the bird walk at the Environmental Education Center, Alviso, on 11 October. Ages ran from over seventy to a few months. Frank Van Slager saved the day with his Questor and his birding skills. The best behaved and quietest birder was Terry Hart Lee's infant daughter, who managed to stay awake in the packsack for two hours but wasn't much help in spotting birds. It was a reunion for the leader, as some of the birders go back 14 years of friendship.

In spite of the rather gloomy weather, we saw 37 species. If there was a **Bittern**, it was flushed by a school group just ahead of us on the levee.

Lee Lovelady

California Gnatcatcher (*Poliophtila californica*) has been split from the **Black-tailed Gnatcatcher** (*Poliophtila melanura*), and again is the species expected in California.

In other changes, the **Water Pipit** (*Anthus spinoletta*) has been renamed the **American Pipit** (*Anthus rubescens*). The **Northern Hawk-Owl** has lost its hyphen becoming the Northern Hawk Owl, and the **Common Pauraque** has become less common by becoming just the Pauraque. The **Common Barn-Owl** has done both, becoming simply the Barn Owl. Perhaps the best news from this Supplement, however, is the absence of lumps (consolidation of two or more species into one), ensuring that this time around, at least, we will at worst stay the same on our lists and happily may gain a new species or three. - From *The Quail*, Mt. Diablo Audubon Society

Environmental Action News

Program Aired Anyway

'Ancient Forests' Loses Sponsors

On Sunday, September 24, the most recent World of Audubon television special, "Rage Over Trees" was aired on TBS without commercial sponsorship. The program documents the public debate over protection of the Northwest's remaining ancient forests on public lands. Every commercial sponsor to the program told Turner Broadcasting officials that they decided to pull the tv ads as a result of threats and intimidation by the timber industry.

This most recent action followed cancellation of underwriting for the entire Audubon television series by Stroh Brewery. Although Stroh was undergoing financial problems, the timber industry also launched a letter writing campaign and threatened the brewery with a boycott. "This is the last gasp in a desperate effort to stop the American people from seeing a major documentary film about the public debate over protection of the Northwest's remaining ancient forests on public land," said NAS President, Peter Berle. "We firmly believe the public will be furious about this attempt at censorship, which runs counter to every principle of free speech embodied in the First Amendment." Timber industry representatives have labeled Audubon as extremists when, in fact it is they who really are taking extreme actions, and Audubon represents the mainstream viewpoint on this issue.

Corporations that cancelled their commercial air time include Ford Motor Company, Dean Witter Reynolds Co., for their Discover Card, ITT Rayonier Inc., Hartford Insurance Group, Exxon, Michelin Tire Corp., Stroh, New York Life, and Citicorp. Audubon is now seeking a new underwriter for the series.

Turner Broadcasting needs to know that there is a large constituency that values Ted Turner's willingness to support the Audubon cause by airing the television program in spite of suffering large financial losses due to the pullout of sponsorship. It is especially important that Turner Broadcasting officials have documentation to this effect to help win back commercial sponsorship of the Audubon television series and keep it on the air.

Audubon members, family, and friends are strongly encouraged to send a letter to Ted Turner at Turner Broadcasting, 1 CNN Center, Atlanta, GA 30348-5366 expressing support and also asking him to continue sponsoring the Audubon television specials.

SCVAS has a copy of "Rage Over Trees" on video, if you would like to borrow it. We encourage you to show it to your family and friends, and view the truth about the logging industry, and what environmentalists are up against! Call SCVAS (415) 329-1811 to borrow the VHS video.

Santa Clara County Open Space Authority Approved

By Trish Mulvey

Governor Deukmejian signed legislation creating a Santa Clara County Open Space Authority to protect the greenbelt outside the area served by the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District. However, the real test will be in November 1990 when voters in San Jose, Santa Clara, Milpitas, Campbell, Morgan Hill, Gilroy and surrounding unincorporated areas will be asked to approve funding for land acquisition. A two-thirds majority vote will be needed to approve an annual tax of approximately \$25 per developed parcel.

Ten Minute Activist

YOU can make a difference

International Ban Sought on Drifting Death Nets

Whales, dolphins, seabirds, seals and many other creatures die after becoming entangled in the nylon filaments of high seas driftnets. Thirty to forty miles long and thirty to fifty feet deep, these nets often drift endlessly, literally strip-mining the seas of marine life.

H.R. 2958, The Marine Resource Protection and Driftnet Use Cessation Act of 1989, would direct the U.S. Secretary of State to secure an immediate international ban on the use of driftnets. Please ask your representative to co-sponsor this important bill. Write to your congressman at the U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, DC 20515.

Rustlin's, Prairie and Timbers
Audubon Society

The Open Space Authority will be started in February 1990 by an interim governing board of five members including one County Supervisor, two San Jose City Council members, and two City Council members from other cities in the jurisdiction of the Authority. The interim board will be replaced by five to seven elected district representatives in June 1992.

Funds raised by the parcel tax will be used by the Authority to purchase land or conservation

Continued on next page

Support group now forming

Have a H.E.A.R.T., Help Sea Turtles

The efforts of all concerned conservationists are needed now if sea turtles are to be saved. Although all seven species are protected under the Endangered Species Act, an estimated 11,000 to 12,000 sea turtles are drowned in shrimp nets each year. According to Commerce Department scientific estimates, over 90% of these deaths can easily and inexpensively be eliminated with the proper use of a TED, or Turtle Excluder Device.

A TED Amendment requiring shrimpers to use TED nets was passed three years ago but has yet to be enacted due to pressure from the shrimp industry. The TED net was developed by the National Marine Fisheries Service to enable shrimpers to allow entangled sea turtles to escape without harm, in addition to significantly reduce the 1.5 billion pounds of accidental finfish which are caught and tossed back dead overboard each year. Although TEDs cost only \$400 for the two year investment of a TED

net (less than 1% of the annual operating cost of a shrimp boat) and the use of TED nets has enabled some shrimpers to shrimp longer hours without having to empty the nets of drowned fish, to use fewer deck hands, and have caused no appreciable decline in the annual catch of shrimp, Gulf Coast statesmen supported by the shrimp industry have vehemently opposed the use of TEDs and continue to introduce anti-TED amendments to every bill proposed.

The National Marine Fisheries Service and a volunteer-based organization called HEART (Help Endangered Animals Ridley Turtles) have begun rescue efforts and a head-start program for young Ridley Turtle hatchlings, the most endangered of the sea turtle species. The hatchlings are gathered from a beach in Mexico, protected, and fed for ten months while they grow large enough to reduce the mortality rate. Over 9,000 sea turtles have been released, with the hope that this will increase their chance of

survival, but donations of used trucks, computers, and especially funding are desperately needed to continue these efforts.

A CALIFORNIA SUPPORT GROUP IS FORMING NOW TO HAVE PEOPLE TO WRITE TO THEIR REPRESENTATIVES AND SENATORS TODAY AND IN THE FUTURE WHEN THE NEED MAY ARISE, demanding firm enactment of the TED amendment that is long overdue. If the TED amendment is allowed to be thwarted, it weakens the Endangered Species Act, and all the other species which that bill currently protects. To support HEART, please send your contributions to HEART, North Harris County College, P.O. Box 681231, Houston, Texas 77268-1231. TO JOIN THE CALIFORNIA SUPPORT EFFORTS, PLEASE CONTACT CYNTHIA GAYA, 918 MORENO AVENUE, PALO ALTO, CA, 94303 or SCVAS office. All contributions to HEART are tax deductible.

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easements to protect open space preserves and provide low intensity trail use. According to the legislation: "Priority for open-space acquisition should be focused on those lands closest, most accessible, and visible to the urban area". The County Open Space Preservation 2020 Task Force recommendations are expected to be used as a guide. Top priorities include wetlands in the Bay Zone, Santa Teresa Ridge, Lexington Reservoir area, New Almaden area, and lands in Alum Rock, east Coyote, east Berryessa, east San Martin, east Gilroy and the east San Jose foothills.

Of the total funds raised annually by the Authority, approximately 15% will be earmarked for

park acquisition projects within city urban service areas. (This is a provision that is particularly important for residents of Santa Clara and Campbell since they are totally surrounded by other cities.) It is anticipated that this funding will be used for completion of creek park chains and protection of riparian habitat. The remainder of the funds will be spent for open space acquisition outside the urban service area.

What you can do: Obtaining approval of two-thirds of the voters for a \$25 per year parcel tax will be a substantial challenge. Your help is needed representing Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society as a participant in the grassroots level

Open Space Authority Campaign Committee being organized by the Santa Clara County Greenbelt Coalition. The Committee will have its first meeting in early December. Please contact Vicki Moore for more information or to sign up to participate (408) 983-0539. Volunteer assignments of all types are available now and continuing through the campaign until the November 1990 election.



SCVAS Gift Catalogue

With the Holiday Season upon us, please consider the items listed on the order form to the right. Your purchase of these items assists the chapter's educational, recreational, and environmental action programs. For a full description of any item, please refer to the November issue of *The Avocet*, or call the SCVAS office.

Non-Audubon Events

Continued from Page 3

Natural History of Trinidad and Tobago

Cheeseman's Ecological Safari's are offering a special tour of Trinidad and Tobago as a **benefit fundraiser for SCVAS**. The tour will see a wide variety of habitats from June 25 to July 8, 1990. Participants will visit the Mount Saint Benedict Guesthouse and trails, Nariva Swamp, Aripo savanna, and many other exotic locations. Leaders are uniquely suited for this trip: Trinidad native Edward Rooks, birder and wildlife artist, and Janice Rooks, Professor of Biology and Ecology at Santa Clara Univ, expert on Trinidad entomology. We urge SCVAS members to contact the Cheesemans at (408)741-5330 or SCVAS at (415) 329-1811 for more details about this great trip.

Calling All Barn Owl Owners

After teaching owl-pellet dissection at the Environmental Education Center, Alviso, for more than four years and instructing more than 7000 students, Lee Lovelady may have to shut down the activity because of lack of pellets for sale.

Anyone who knows the location of barn owls or great horned owls and see owl pellets on the ground, under palm trees, or in old barns and well towers, please help save this popular program. Pellets can be dropped off at the EEC, Alviso, or at the SFBBO. Please call Ev, Fran, or Lee at (408) 262-5513 or 5514.

HOLIDAY GIFT ORDER FORM

Name _____

Address _____

City, St _____ ZIP _____

Phone _____

Qty	Item	Each	Total
___	NAS Membership	\$20.00	_____
___	Avocet only	\$8.00	_____
___	NGS Field Guide	\$14.25	_____
___	Birder's Handbook	\$15.60	_____
___	SF Pen. Birdwatch	\$10.30	_____
___	Birding No. Calif.	\$11.40	_____
___	Best Birding	\$5.90	_____
___	Nature Guide	\$8.90	_____
___	Nat. Hist. of Pt. Reyes	\$16.25	_____
___	Banquets for Birds	\$3.00	_____
___	Beginner's Guide	\$1.00	_____
___	SCVAS Checklist	\$0.50	_____
___	Field List	\$1.00	_____
___	SCVAS T-Shirt	\$11.25	_____
	(Circle 1) S M L XL		
___	SCVAS Tote Bag	\$11.25	_____
___	SCVAS Notecards	\$2.00	_____
___	SCVAS Pin	\$3.50	_____
 or 2 for \$6.00		_____
___	Hummingbird T-Shirt	\$11.25	_____
	(Circle 1) S M L XL		
___	WETLANDS Carshade	\$5.90	_____
___	WETLANDS Mug	\$9.25	_____
___	Wetlands Cards	\$5.00	_____
___	Dunlin Cards	\$8.00	_____
___	Burrowing Owl Cards	\$5.90	_____

TOTAL DUE:

All prices listed above include tax and postage. Please make checks payable to SCVAS, and send to SCVAS, 415 Cambridge Avenue, Suite 21, Palo Alto, CA, 94306 (415) 329-1811.

DONATIONS - SCVAS welcomes gifts in general, or gifts in honor or memory of relatives and friends. All gifts and donations are tax deductible.

MEMBERSHIP - To join the National Audubon Society/SCVAS, send a check payable to NAS, to the SCVAS office, 415 Cambridge Ave., Ste. 21, Palo Alto, CA 94306. Membership includes "AUDUBON" magazine, and "The Avocet" newsletter. "Audubon Activist" quarterly subscription is separate at \$9/yr., with checks made payable NAS. "The Avocet" subscription alone is \$8/yr, with checks made payable to SCVAS.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS - Send all changes of address promptly to the SCVAS office.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ St: _____ Zip: _____

Gift from: _____

- ___ Introductory - \$20
- ___ Individual - \$30
- ___ Family - \$35
- ___ Audubon Activist - \$9
- ___ Avocet only - \$8