

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

The Avocet

January 1990

Volume 37, Number 1

Protecting wildlife and wetlands

BayKeeper Visits South Bay

San Francisco's BayKeeper, Michael Herz, will visit the San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center on Monday, February 5th, at 7:30 PM to share his experiences after the first six months as the "eyes, ears and nose" of the Bay.

The BayKeeper idea is a simple one: Put a person in a boat to patrol for, document and report violations of environmental laws protecting water quality, fish, wildlife and wetlands. The concept has been successfully tested on the East Coast, where Hudson and Delaware Riverkeepers and the Long Island Soundkeeper are kept busy helping protect their resources. The BayKeeper assists public agencies in prosecuting violators by providing supporting data, and when necessary, will also pursue litigation independently with the assistance of non-profit law firms.

Of course, one person in a boat can't do the whole job, so part of the BayKeeper's task is to train volunteers to do the same work—as observers on shore or in boats or planes. It is hoped that in the near future there will be hundreds of people around the Bay calling themselves BayKeepers.

SCVAS members with special interests in wetlands and water quality are especially invited to join us at the Refuge Visitors Center in Fremont to meet the BayKeeper and learn about this special program and how you can help protect the wildlife and wetlands resources of the Bay. Phone 415-792-0222 for more information about the BayKeeper's February 5th presentation at the Refuge. If you are not able to attend but would like more information about the BayKeeper, please call 415-567-4401.

News From the SCC Breeding Bird Atlas

The Santa Clara County Breeding Bird Atlas has completed its second full field season. Surprises for the season were the first county breeding records of Canvasback (Susie Formenti and Tom Esperson) and Spotted Sandpiper (Emelie Curtis). You don't have to atlas a block to

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Book Review

Eastern Sierra Guidebook

Genny Smith, long-time SCVAS member, has just edited and published the fifth edition of Mammoth Lakes Sierra: A Handbook for Roadside and Trail. In this eastern Sierra bestseller, you will find chapters on roads, trails, geology, plant communities, wildflowers, trees, birds, fish, mammals and history. Susan and Dean Rinehart of Palo Alto are among the major contributors. This guide to adventure and discovery on the eastern slope of the Sierra Nevada centers on the Mammoth Lakes area and extends from Rock Creek Canyon north to Lundy Canyon.

According to Genny, this edition is a complete rewrite because recent studies have produced a mountain of new information about the eastern Sierra. Wildlife biologists now know much more about the bighorn sheep and the pronghorn antelope which are being transplanted to their historic ranges. Scientists of many disciplines have focused on Mono Lake's ecology. Geologists have given us a whole new picture of the region's recent volcanic past. And several historians have cleared away some long-standing misinformation about the Mono Basin and the Mammoth Mining Company—their true stories are even better than the tall tales.

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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 January: Betty Wyatt (408) 255-6091

Wednesday, Jan 3, 7:30 PM

Bay Area Bird Photographers

Cosponsored with Palo Alto Open Spaces and Sciences Division
Baylands Interpretive Center @ the East end of Embarcadero, Palo Alto, Co-sponsored by the City of Palo Alto, Open Spaces & Sciences Division. Our speaker will be Pete La Tourrette, who will show slides from his trip to Brazil last year. Brazil is a fantastic destination for those interested in natural history, but its great expanse makes travel difficult. There will be scenes from Amazonia, the pantanal, Iguazu, and the Atlantic coastal forest.

Sat, Jan 6, 8 AM

Post CBC Rarities Chase

Leader: Grant Hoyt (415) 969-7892
Meeting place and trip itinerary to be determined after area Christmas Counts. Bring lunch, water, full tank of fuel. Heavy Rain cancels. Call leader for info After January 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 administration building. Heavy rain cancels. Highlights: Wintering passerines. Half Day.

Tuesday, Jan. 9, 9:30 am

Bird Discussion Group

At home of Eve Case, 20537 Verde Vista Lane, Saratoga, (408) 867-4748. Topic: Murres. All members are invited to attend these monthly open discussions about different species. Call for details and directions.

Wed., Jan. 10, 9 AM

San Jose Water Works Pond

Leader: Alan Thomas, 408-265-9286
Highlights: Wintering ducks, etc.
Directions: From 280 take Almaden Exp. For people from Los Gatos or Morgan Hill take Blossom Hill Rd. to Almaden Exp.

One block south past Blossom Hill Rd. on Almaden Exp. (at first light after Blossom Hill), go left into ponds. Park in gravel parking lot north of S.J. Water Works front entrance. Half Day Trip

Sun, Jan 14, 9 AM

Stockton Sewage Ponds/Woodbridge Road

Leaders: Mark and Steve Miller (415) 967-3429

Directions: Meet at the gate of sewage ponds off Hwy 4. Take I-5 N. to Stockton. Exit on Charter Way (Hwy 4). Turn left, cross bridge and look for group on levee on right. Heavy rain cancels. Layered clothing. Highlights: Gulls, Ducks, Cranes.

Sun, Jan 14, 9 AM

Beginners Trip to Charleston Slough

Leader: Rod Norden (408) 255-3033
Directions: Meet at the end of San Antonio Rd. in Mt. View at Terminal Way. Basics of birding with emphasis on shorebirds and waterfowl. Half Day.

Wed., Jan. 17, 7:30 pm.

General Membership Meeting

Cosponsored with Palo Alto Open Spaces and Sciences Division
Palo Alto Cultural Center, Embarcadero at Newell.

7:30 Refreshments; 7:45 Birdtalk; 8:00 Main program.

Bird talk will be on Yellowlegs with SCVAS member Paul Noble. Paul is another outstanding teacher and is offering several bird classes in 1990 through San Francisco Bay Bird Observatory (SFBBO). Main program will feature SCVAS member Rod Norden on "Marine Birds and Mammals of the Northern California Coast" Rod has lots of excellent slides and will take you on a typical year of pelagic trips, a wonderful way to understand the incredible cycle of marine mammals and birds so close to us. These birds travel up and down our coast, stopping to feed in certain months, especially in the very rich waters of Monterey Bay. Rod is one of the most talented boat trip leaders for Shearwater Journeys and the Cheesemans' January whale trips and his talk on marine birds and mammals will be outstanding.

Sat, Jan 20, 9 AM

Foster City

Leader: Dolores Norton (415) 941-1666
Directions: Meet at the Community Center on Shell. Take East Hillsdale Blvd. off Hwy

101 for 1 mi., then right on Shell for 1/3 mi. Highlights: Hooded Mergansers, Barrows Goldeneyes, Red Knot. Half Day.

Sun, Jan 21, 9 AM

Trip for the Gullible, Palo Alto Duck Pond

Leader: Bill Bousman (415) 322-5282
Directions: Meet at the Duck Pond. Take Embarcadero east off Hwy 101 follow signs to Duck Pond. Chance to brush-up on Gull ID. Half Day.

Wed, Jan 24, 9 AM

Foster City

Leader: Rose Green (415) 493-8378
Directions: Meet at the Community Center on Shell. Take East Hillsdale Blvd. off Hwy 101 for 1 mi., then right on Shell for 1/3 mi. Rain cancels.

Sat, Jan 27, 9 AM

Jan 27/28 Central Valley Weekend

Merced NWR & Los Banos WMA
Leader: Don Schmoltdt (415) 758-0820
Directions: Meet at the NW corner of Jct. of Rt. 59 and Sandy Mush Rd. Take Hwy 152 east past Los Banos 20 mi. to 59. N to meeting place about 7 mi. Allow 2.5 hrs., more if tule fog forecast. Informal carpooling at Park 'n' Ride lot at 280 and Page Mill Rd. (leave by 6:30) and Park 'n' Ride lot in Gilroy at Leavesly and Monterey Rd. (leave by 7:00 am). Full Day

Sun, Jan 28, 8:30 AM

Panoche Valley

Leaders: Jim and Sue Liskovec (415) 969-5542
Directions: Meet at the rest area on Hwy 5, 8 mi. S. of Los Banos. Please Carpool for this trip and on Saturday's trip to Merced. We go in full cars only! Bring CB radio, if you have one. Highlights: Raptors (Rough-legged, Ferruginous, Red-tailed in both light and dark morphs), Falcons, Sparrows, Plovers, Chukars! Both trips go rain or shine!!! Bring lunch, drinks and layered clothing. Full Day

Field Trip Coordinator for February: Mike Feighner (408) 354-0138

Friday, February 2, 7:30 PM

Special South County Meeting.

Saratoga Library, 13650 Saratoga Ave, west of Fruitvale.
7:30 refreshments, 8:00 program
Behavioral Ecology of Tropical Predators with Harry Greene from the Berkeley

Museum of Vertebrate Zoology. At La Selva Biological Station in Costa Rica, Harry Greene has been studying predators for the past 8 years. He has documented the richest predator assemblage in the world there, over 100 species of vertebrates that eat other vertebrates. He will describe radio tagging big snakes and analyzing Jaguar scat, and will show slides of predatory birds, mammals, fish, reptiles, and amphibians. He works with the Organization for Tropical Studies (OTS). OTS, incorporated in 1963 in the USA, as a non-profit international organization, provides leadership in education and the wise use of natural resources in the tropics. In addition to other field stations, OTS owns 3,800 acres of rainforest at La Selva in the Atlantic lowlands of northeastern Costa Rica, where Harry Greene does his research, adjacent to the 110,000-acre Braulio Carrillo National Park.

Sat, Feb 3, 7:30 AM

Fall River Mills

Leaders: Bob Yutzy, Bill Von (916) 246-2515

Combined trip with Wintu (Redding) Audubon. Directions: Meet at the Sears in Redding. Take the I-5 Hilltop exit N. to mall. Latecomers meet at Chevron Station in Fall River Mills. Redding is 6 hrs N. of Bay Area. Suggest participants stay in Redding or Fall River/MacArthur Burney. Rain or snow cancels. Full Day.

Sat, Feb 10, 9 AM

Livermore/Altamont Pass

Leader: Don Schmoltdt (415) 758-0820. Directions: Meet at the BP Station at I-580 and N. First St. (Hwy 84) in Livermore. Bring lunch and full tank of fuel. Highlights: Hawks, Eagles, Falcons. Full Day.

Sat, Feb 10, 7 PM

Alum Rock Park Owling.

Leader: Dave Johnston Call (415) 329-1811 for reservations.

Directions: Meet at Youth Science Institute in Alum Rock Park. Take Alum Rock Ave E off I-680 in San Jose. **Trip limited to 12 participants.** Bring flashlights and binoculars.

Sun, Feb 11, 9 AM

Beginner's Trip to Charleston Slough.

Leader: June DeBuhr (415) 948-2245 Directions: Meet at the end of San Antonio Rd. in Mt. View at Terminal Way. Basics of birding with emphasis on shorebirds and waterfowl. Half Day.

Colusa/Graylodge Report

On Nov. 24-25, about 20 birders braved the first rain in six weeks to share in the wonderful spectacle of thousands of ducks and geese at the Colusa NWR, Graylodge State Wildlife Refuge, and Sacramento NWR over the Thanksgiving weekend. We met at Colusa NWR on Friday morning and spent several hours enjoying the clear Central Valley air. Highlights from Colusa include one male Eurasian Widgeon, several White-faced Ibis, a flock of American White Pelicans which flew over our heads, and thousands of Snow/Ross' Geese and White-fronted Geese flying overhead. About 10 Wood Ducks and an Orange-crowned Warbler were also nice finds. Earlier, the FWS biologist at Colusa NWR said he had seen 600 Wood Ducks in the Colusa NWR area! We then drove the back roads to Graylodge, via West Butte Rd. Along West Butte Rd., we saw one of the largest Golden Eagles I've ever seen! The eagle had white outer tail feathers, somewhat like a junco! Emily Curtis felt that this tail pattern is characteristic of a fourth year bird. Near the junction of West Butte Rd. and North Butte Rd, we were graced with the presence of several Sandhill Cranes (calling!) and at least 8 Yellow-headed Blackbirds. In a blue oak grove along North Butte Rd., some of us got a brief glimpse at a Lewis' Woodpecker. At Graylodge, the evening flyout was spectacular as always! A Peregrine Falcon, illuminated by the evening sun as it flew over our heads as we prepared to watch the evening flyout, was special!

Saturday morning was spent at Sacramento NWR, where heavy rains dampened things. The ducks loved the rain, but things were a bit moist for those of us who braved the rain, and we gave up at around 10 AM.

A total of 86 species were seen.

- Don Schmoltdt



Phoebe Loves the Stones

As a lifelong baseball fan and a birder for 20-plus years, I have occasionally combined the two pastimes while taking in a relaxing afternoon or summer evening game at either the Oakland Coliseum or Candlestick Park. My ballpark bird list, which includes Golden Eagle, Red-tailed Hawk, White-throated Swift and Cliff Swallow as well as the more commonplace gulls, blackbirds and pigeons, is relatively small, but it increased by one under very strange circumstances last November in Oakland.

But I found myself at the Coliseum on Nov. 5 to watch an entirely different group of entertainers, the Rolling Stones. At 4:30, as the early evening shadows began to fall over the packed stadium, my wife and I and our small group of companions settled into our field-level seats. A colossal, six-story stage set, constructed of huge ramps, platforms, pipes, and random metal objects, stood impressively before us, filling up the entire outfield. The concert's opening act, an energetic bunch known as Living Colour, proved to be almost intolerably loud; even our group of veteran concert-goers agreed that this foursome was out of control, volume-wise. At approximately 5:00 my wife Karen turned to me in the middle of a particularly ear-shattering number and attempted to make verbal communication with me. With considerable difficulty I finally received her message; she was shouting, "There's a Say's Phoebe sitting on a pipe!" Since there were dozens of pipes of all shapes and sizes

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Field Notes

By Bill Bousman

Waterfowl

An imm. *Red-throated Loon* at Shoreline Lake 1 Dec (AME) has shown up at a typical time and locale. *Common Loon* reports include one bird of the Palo Alto Baylands 30 Oct (RS) and one overhead there on 12 Nov (GHt, MJM). *Snow Geese* anywhere in the south bay are unusual so a single bird at Bayfront Park on 12

Nov is interesting (AME). A male *Wood Duck* at the Los Gatos Creek CP ponds 5 Nov (A&MN) and three on

Coyote Creek at Burnett 12 Nov (DLSu et al.) are from typical locations. A female from the Palo Alto Duck Pond 27 Oct (MRo) and three birds from Charleston Slough 11 Nov (AS, BW) are from the edge of the bay where they rarely show up. *Blue-winged Teal* have been found regularly in the Palo Alto Flood Control Basin (FCB) along Adobe Creek with one or two birds seen 10 Nov (MRo), 11 Nov (AS, BW), and 23 Nov (MJM). A male across the levee in Charleston Slough 15 Nov (RL) may have been a different bird. It has been a particularly good fall for *Eurasian Wigeon* with at least six to seven birds present. One to three males have been found at Charleston Slough 11 to 23 Nov (MRo, AS, BW, MFe, AME, MJM). An additional male in Adobe Creek 10 Nov (MRo) may be part of this group, but one to two birds at the Sunnyvale Water Pollution Control Plant (WPCP) 5 Nov (CW) and 21 Nov (PJM) were not. A single bird in the Los Gatos Creek CP ponds 24 Nov (BM) is probably the same bird found earlier in the fall. A

female *Greater Scaup* at the Los Capitancillos Groundwater Recharge Facility (GRF) 22 Nov (DLSu) is the only record of this species that I have away from the bay. The bird of the month was undoubtedly the female *Black Scoter* at Shoreline Lake 15 and 16 Nov (MRo, JC fide MRo). This coastal bird reaches the southern end of its winter range off central

Black Scoter Sighted at Shoreline Lake

California, but is rarely found inland. The present county checklist indicates a previous record for this species, but I have not been

able to track it down. A female *Hooded Merganser* at the Los Capitancillos GRF 22 Nov, a pair at the Los Gatos Creek CP ponds 27 Nov, and 17 birds at Lake Elsmán on the same date (all DLSu) are early and represent high numbers for the county, although it is possible these birds are more common than believed on the infrequently birded GRF ponds in the Los Gatos and Almaden Valley areas. Numbers of *Common Mergansers* are starting to build on inland reservoirs such as Guadalupe and Almaden reservoirs and Lake Elsmán (AV, DLSu). A female *Red-breasted Merganser* at the Sunnyvale WPCP 13 Nov (PJM) is the first report for the season.

Raptors

Ferruginous Hawks have been found earlier this winter than usual and in greater numbers. The first was found near Gavilan College 7 Nov (fide DLSu). The next was an adult near Coyote Reservoir on 9 Nov (DLSu). A bird at Burnett and Hwy 101 was found on 12 Nov (DLSu, RAM, CKf).

One found at Arastradero Preserve 26 Nov (KHt) was from a site without a previous record, but the fifth bird for the month, and adult over San Jose Airport 27 Nov (DLSu), was from a typical location. West side *Golden Eagle* reports include adults over Mountain View 6 Nov (MRo), at Moffett Field 22 Nov (MRo), and at Arastradero Preserve 23 Nov (G&KHt). *Merlin* have easily matched their record pace of last winter. Normally, the birds we find are of the race *columbarius*, but this fall a male of the prairie race, *richardsoni*, has been found in Mountain View 5-26 Nov (MRo, MJM). Birds have also been found in Los Gatos on 7 and 12 Nov (MFe), Menlo Park 16 Nov (WGB), Moffett Field 17 Nov (MRo), and the Guadalupe River 27 Nov (DLSu). It is interesting to note that except for the Moffett Field record these sightings are from urban areas. It seems likely that the attraction is the flocks of fruit-eating birds that find our gardens a good food resource. *Peregrine Falcon* have been well report also with an imm. at the Palo Alto Baylands 11 Oct (RS), an adult there 12 Nov (MJM, GHt), both imm. and adult birds along lower Coyote Creek 21-26 Nov (MJM, GHt, BWo) and one at Moffett Field 22 Nov (MRo). *Prairie Falcons* found on Roop Road 12 Nov (DLSu, CKf, RAM), Canada Road the same day (RAM fide DLSu), and lower Coyote Creek 27 Nov (BWo) are away from known breeding areas.

Shorebirds

Thirty-six *Snowy Plover* on the Knapp property north of Alviso 19 Nov (MJM) are always a good find in the county. The dikes near the Alameda border are the only places where this species can normally be found in the county. A *Lesser Yellowlegs* at Charleston Slough 11 Nov (MJM) was the only

one found this month. A first-winter *Glaucous Gull* was found at Los Alamitos GRF 22 Nov (DLSu). This is the first record we have away from the bay and is very early. We have few records of *Common Poorwill* outside of the active period of calling in spring and summer so seven at Henry Coe SP along the road out of Gilroy Hot Springs 15 Oct (CB) are of interest. Some of these birds may remain here over the winter in a state of torpor — their actual status is unknown.

Swifts et al.

Two *Vaux's Swifts* at Scheller and Hwy 101 22 Nov (BMMo fide DLSu) are very unusual. They occasionally winter along the coast, but migration in the Santa Clara Valley is over by the first week in October. A male *Costa's Hummingbird* was seen at San Veron Park in Mountain View 5-8 Nov (MRo, MJM). This is the seventh county record; most appear to be post-breeding dispersals. A *Rufous/Allen's Hummingbird* at Los Capitancillos GRF 22 Nov (DLSu) was foraging on flowering eucalyptus. A single *Lewis' Woodpecker* continues to be found at the Arastradero Preserve 11-12 Nov (KHt, RS). A *Pacific-slope Flycatcher* on Camadero Creek at Bloomfield 11 Nov (DLSu) is an unusual lingering bird. Another lingering bird was a *Violet-green Swallow* at the Arastradero Preserve 19 Nov (GHt). Two *Golden-crowned Kinglets* at Anderson Res. 2 Nov (EC) and individuals banded at Coyote Creek Riparian Station (CCRS) 29 Oct and 4 Nov are the only records for this irruptive species this month. Wintering *Orange-crowned Warblers* have been noted in a number of riparian areas with records on lower Coyote Creek 12 Nov (GHt), San Francisquito Creek below Middlefield 23 Nov (WGB), and Guadalupe River upstream of I-880 (DLSu). Ten were banded at CCRS over the

period 2-29 Nov. A *Nashville Warbler* banded at CCRS 15 Nov and a female along Guadalupe River upstream of Capitol Expressway 22 Nov (DLSu) are probably both wintering birds. A *Black-throated Gray Warbler* in Menlo Park 7 Nov (PJM) is also probably wintering locally. A *Palm Warbler* along Camadero Creek above Bloomfield 11 Nov (DLSu) is the third record we have had this fall for this rare vagrant. Wintering *Western Tanagers* include one in Atherton 11 Nov (PJM) and a male along San Francisquito Creek below Middlefield 23 Nov (WGB). A *Vesper Sparrow* along Canada Road 9 Nov (DLSu) is the second record this fall that we have had for this rare sparrow. A *Sharp-tailed Sparrow* was found at the Palo Alto Baylands 14 Nov (AME, MFe) on the high tide that day. This has been a good fall for *Swamp Sparrows* with birds found upstream of the Coyote Res. dam 9 Nov (DLSu), one on Guadalupe River upstream of Meridian 22 Nov (DLSu), and along Matadero Creek 23 Nov (MJM) where a bird has been found regularly for the last four winters. *White-throated Sparrows* have been found above Coyote Res. dam 9 Nov (DLSu) and Arastradero Preserve 23 Nov (G&KHt). Singles were banded at CCRS 2 and 3 Nov as well.

Observers: Clark Blake (CB), Bill Bousman (WGB), Jim Corliss (JC), Emelie Curtis (EC), Al Eisner (AME), Mike Feighner (MFe), Grant Hoyt (GHt), Karen Hoyt (KHt), Clay Kempf (CKf), Rosalie Lefkowitz (RL), Mike Mammoser (MJM), Bob Merrill (BM), Peter Metropulos (PJM), Randy Morgan (RAM), Bryan Mori (BMMo), Alan Neal (AN), Marjorie Neal (MN), Mike Rogers (MRo), Rick Schermerhorn (RS), Audrey Stoye (AS), David Suddjian (DLSu), Ann Verdi (AV), Betty Wyatt (BW), Blair Wolf (BWo), and Chris Wolfe (CW).

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.

Breeding Bird Atlas

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contribute to the atlas; the records above were not obtained during regular field work. There are many ways to contribute to the atlas. The atlas is an affiliate of the Coyote Creek Riparian Station. Membership in the atlas is \$15 a year and provides membership in the Coyote Creek Riparian Station as well. Membership fees and contributions are tax deductible and may be sent to the Santa Clara County Breeding Bird Atlas, c/o Bill Bousman, 321 Arlington Way, Menlo Park, CA 94025.



SFBBO Offers Expanded Schedule of Classes/Tours

Once again, the San Francisco Bay Bird Observatory is offering classes and tours during 1990. Classes have been expanded compared to previous years, whereas the tours are very similar to those offered in the past. The classes are open to members and non-members alike.

Classes

Gull Identification with Don Starks in January (\$30 for members/\$45 for nonmembers)

Owl Biology with Paul Noble in March (\$30/\$45)

Contact SFBBO for more classes later in the year.

Tours

Joshua Tree N.M., the Thrasher Crasher Tour with Paul Noble and Don Starks, Feb 17-19 (\$45/\$60)

Contact SFBBO for more tours later in the year.

For more information, call the observatory at (408) 946-6548.

Environmental Action News

Programs now mandated by state **Recycling on the Peninsula**

Recycling has become an "in" thing to do. Almost everyone recycles something these days. Recycling has been recognized as not only an environmentally sound practice, but an economically necessary one in order to save landfill space, and provide planning time for a long-range solution to our growing waste stream problems.

California has just passed AB939, effective January 1, 1990, which includes a mandate that cities and counties implement recycling programs. Written into the bill is an accepted hierarchy of solid waste stream management: 1) source reduction, 2) recycling, 3) composting, 4) disposal.

When we prepare to buy a product we need to consider how it is packaged and keep this hierarchy in mind. Can the wrapping or the container be reused, recycled or composted? If not, we need to persuade the manufacturers to use recyclable materials and stop overpackaging their products.

Are we really recycling when we collect our bottles, cans, and paper? Some collected recyclables end up in landfills anyway because the demand for recycled materials is limited. There are also some laws that limit the amount of recycled material can be used in a new product. We can help create a market for recycled products, and influence legislation that can reduce costs of recycled materials, by making an effort to buy recycled products.

Palo Alto recently passed an ordinance making it mandatory for all retailers to offer customers paper bags only or a choice of paper or plastic bags. While there is some environmental pollution involved in the manufacture of

either type, the Palo Alto Plastics Task Force purports that using a non-renewable resource to make a product that is meant to have a short life-span is not desirable. Plastics are an integral part of our modern lifestyle; no one really expects all plastics to be banned. But, we can encourage their use for products that are meant to last.

Not all plastic materials are recyclable and the ones that are have limited uses. Plastic containers cannot be reformed into new plastic containers. They are shredded to make insulation or pot scrubbers, products that are not recyclable. Because the recycling opportunities for plastic are scarce, we should try to purchase products that are made of, and packaged in, truly recyclable materials such as paper, glass, and aluminum. Aluminum is an example of a truly recyclable material. We buy a product in an aluminum container, use the product, and recycle the aluminum which is used to make another aluminum container which can be recycled again and again.

It is important to keep up the established recycling efforts and to encourage more. Be aware when you purchase any item, express your concern to the retailers you frequent, find out what your school or place of employment is currently doing. You could be the person to make a difference.

When you recycle, make sure you do not mix materials. Sloppy recycling can actually "contaminate" the recycling efforts of others. While most SCVAS members already know quite a lot about recycling opportunities in their communities, the following information may be new and helpful:

Curbside Programs-City and County

If you are in an area without a curbside recycling program, call your elected officials and create a demand for one.

Magazines-Shiny paper magazines and catalogs can be recycled at the Peninsula Conservation Center (415-494-9301) and at some recycling centers.

Friends Outside volunteers (415-961-0555) distribute magazines to local jails.

Mixed Paper-To reduce the flow of unwanted mail to your home, request a Junk Mail Survival Packet from City of Palo Alto Recycling Program (415-329-2495).

White Paper and Computer Paper (No envelopes)-Call Palo Alto Recycling Program (415-329-2495) for information on how to start a white paper recycling program at your work site or school.

Used Motor Oil-Included in Palo Alto curbside program. Call 415-329-2495 for instructions. State Hotline for the nearest location (800-732-9225).

Tin Cans-Palo Alto curbside will accept cans. Include with aluminum cans.

Cardboard (Corrugated only, flattened)-Various recycling centers (see below).

Clothing, household items, repairable appliances, etc.-Drop off or call for pick-up; Goodwill Industries, Salvation Army or St. Vincent DePaul.

Newspaper-Various recycling centers (see below) and some grocery store parking lots.

Phone Books-Palo Alto curbside takes phone books. (Remove the cover from front, back and side. Separate into 1" thick sections and recycle with any newspapers.)

Miscellaneous-Clean plastic and metal containers with lids; large and small paper and plastic bags; medicine bottles and film containers are often needed by the Urban Ministry Program to help them distribute food and supplies to the homeless (415-853-8672).

Recycling Centers & Other Sources-Golden West Recycling Center, 415-591-66224
 Youth Enterprises Recycling, 415-364-3333
 A.S.S.U. Stanford Recycling Center, 415-723-0919
 Palo Alto Recycling Center, 415-329-2495
 (For a list of recycling centers in Santa Clara County, call Santa Clara County Citizens for Recycling, 408-292-4201. Also available at the PCC.)

Each of the following items may be recycled at recycling igloos located in some grocery store parking lots or reverse vending machines. (Your local grocery store should have a sign in the front window giving the location of the nearest igloo and reverse vending machine as legislated by the California Bottle Bill):

Aluminum cans-Reynolds Aluminum Buy Back Mobile Unit (800-228-2525).

Plastic beverage bottles-In Palo Alto, put them in with metal cans for curbside pick-up.

Glass bottles and jars-Even bottles and jars without the CA REDEMPTION VALUE mark can be recycled. Drop them in recycling igloos or take them to a recycling center.

Make a New Year's Resolution: "Through recycling and thoughtful purchases, I will halve the amount of things I send to the landfill in 1990."

- Nancy Olson, Member, Palo Alto War on Waste Committee

Natural History of Trinidad and Tobago

If you are thinking about a special vacation this summer, do consider the Cheeseman's Ecological Safari's benefit fundraiser for SCVAS to Trinidad and Tobago, to be lead by Edward and Janice Rooks. For more info, see Dec 89 AVOCET or call the SCVAS office.

Book Review

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One reviewer described MAMMOTH LAKES SIERRA as: "A relaxed, joyful book of discovery, written with love for the region's wild places and wild creatures." 6" X 9", 224 pages, paper, \$11.95. Available at the Peninsula Conservation Center Store and at Kepler's. For an autographed copy, send a check for \$12.67 to Genny Smith Books, 1304 Pitman Avenue, Palo Alto, CA 94301.

Winter Wildlife Seminar Series

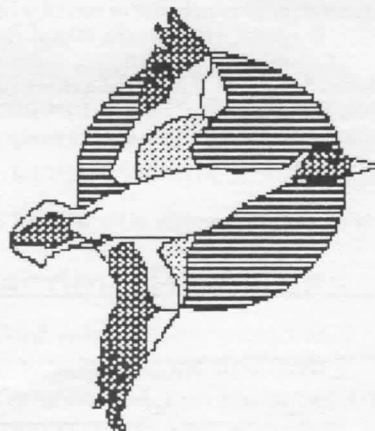
This lecture series is cosponsored by Palo Alto's Wildlife Rescue and SCVAS, takes place on the date mentioned, at 8pm, at 4000 Middlefield Road. Donation of \$2 requested:

Jan 11 Wildlife of Trinidad - Edward Rooks

Jan 25 Endangered Sea Turtles of California - Cynthia Gaya, H.E.A.R.T.

Feb 8 The Decline of Bay Area Burrowing Owls - Janis Taylor, SAVE B.O.T.H.

Feb 22 Oil Spill Rehab: Alaska and Beyond - Jay Holcomb, International Bird Research and Rescue Center



Chapter News

Thanks to Volunteers

Special thanks go to volunteers Cindy Lee, Glenda Lesondak, Rose Green, and Tibby Simon for their many hours of assistance in the SCVAS office. It is hard to imagine how the office functioned without their participation! In addition, many thanks to Sue Liskovec for assisting with the SCVAS telethon. If you are interested in helping in the office, please call Lynn at (415) 329-1811, there's lots to do!

SCVAS OFFICERS

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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.

Say's Phoebe

Continued from page 4

onstage, it took another minute for me to follow her directions and locate the pipe the alleged bird was sitting on, then I saw what she was talking about: barely visible through binoculars but undeniably perched on a large vertical pipe in front of 62,000 people was a Say's Phoebe.

I don't know how she spotted the bird, but we watched as it calmly sat atop that pipe high above the stage, apparently oblivious to the maelstrom of decibels surrounding it, for a couple of minutes before it flew to a mesh screen behind the stage and then disappeared into the twilight, presumably in search of a hearty insect dinner and a quieter place to bed down for the evening. Shortly thereafter, the Stones appeared, turned down the volume, and put on a spectacular two-hour performance, virtually erasing memory of the raucous opening act, but not of that gate-crashing, music-loving Say's Phoebe. Perhaps this avian rock'n'roller stayed up late and caught the Stones from a nearby light standard or other suitable perch; if not, he very likely retired for the evening with head pounding and ears ringing. Whatever the case, I collected a new "tic" for my ballpark list in a most unusual way.

Grant Hoyt

Non-Audubon Events

• SFBBO general meeting for Thurs., January 4th, is Ducks of San Francisco Bay with Louise Accurso. Call Don Starks at SFBBO in Alviso for details, 408-946-6548.

• Youth Science Institute offers many activities and events for the general public. For more info, call (408) 356-4945: After-School Classes for ages 3-3rd grade at Vasona Park; Footsteps Through Time is a new exhibit at Vasona Discovery Center, Mon-Fri, 9 am to 4:30 pm.; Docent Training Program, Tuesdays & Thursdays, Jan. 16-Feb 15 for all YSI facilities; Science Safari to Pescadero Wetlands, Sat., Feb. 24 for children and adults.

• YSI Bird Walk at Vasona Park on Jan 27 from 7 am to 11 am to view winter visitors. Small fee. Contact YSI by Jan 22 for reservs.

• 11th Annual Klamath Basin Bald Eagle Conference, Feb16-18, Klamath Falls, for info. call Charlotte Opp, (503) 882-8488.

• Mono Lake Bird Counters

Needed: Sat & Sun, April 21-22, Mono Lake Spring Shorebird Count and Sat, June 16, Mono Lake Spring Breeding Bird Count, for info call Emilie Strauss, (415) 843-6024. Also, Emilie would like your unusual bird sightings for the Mono Basin, in preparation for updating Dave Gaine's Birds of Yosemite and the East Slope.

• 1990 Premier River Conference and Festival, Friends of the River Foundation, March 16-18, Dominican College, San Rafael. For info, call Meryln Storm, (415) 771-0400.

• Sequoia Adult School in Menlo Park is offering birding classes, for beginning through advanced, starting in January; lectures and field trips. Contact Maryann Danielson, biologist, at (415) 369-6809 for details.

Attention IBM Employees!

Your donations to SCVAS are now eligible for matching on a two-for-one basis by IBM. If you would like to see your donation to SCVAS tripied, please request a Matching Grant form from your office.

Chapter Membership Dues

Chapter members are members of Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society and will receive *The AVOCET*. If you are particularly interested in local chapter events, and would like to give a little extra support to our hardworking chapter, or if you are a member of another chapter but would like to receive our newsletter, these categories are for you. Remember, SCVAS's share of your NAS dues is only \$5.50/year - which barely covers newsletter costs. WE CAN USE YOUR HELP! Please make checks payable to SCVAS.

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.

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