



The Avocet

The Newsletter of the Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society

March 1990

Clapper Rail Predator Sightings

In 1984, the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Office of Endangered Species estimated 4,000 clapper rails inhabited the San Francisco Bay shoreline. However, a winter high tide census in November and December of 1989, which covered all marshes known to harbor rails, yielded the low total of 400-500 birds. Swift action must be taken to stem the decline of rails, and both short and long term recovery actions must be implemented.

While biologists do not know all the reasons for the rapid decline of clapper rails in San Francisco Bay, they do have some theories. Habitat destruction is high on the list, as clapper rails are found only in tidal cordgrass marshes, areas that have been subject to destruction by development baywide. Contamination from toxics flowing into Bay waters is another threat - heavy metals moving up the food chain from sewage plant outfall to invertebrates to rails are highly suspect. And predation by invasive, non-native predators is a third critical challenge to rail survival.

You can help clapper rails. SCVAS, the seven other Audubon Society chapters around the bay, and Save San Francisco Bay Association, are asking their members to report sightings of potential predators of clapper rails. We will help the Dept. of Fish and Game establish a database of predator sightings. Such sightings are needed to establish and evaluate

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Local Pristine Wetlands To Be Dumped On?

Apanolio Canyon, just east of Half Moon Bay, is one of the rare places left in San Mateo County that has not been substantially altered by logging or farming. However, the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors has decided to spend \$25,000 in public funds to lobby for approval to permit filling of this pristine canyon with garbage. The proposal has raised the ire of conservationists, who wonder why the giant garbage collection company of Browning Ferris Industries needs the help of the taxpaying public to gain approvals of several state and federal agencies. (Army Corps of Engineers, US Fish and Wildlife Service, Environmental Protection Agency and Regional Water Quality Control Board) By hiring a Washington, DC lobbyist, the County appears to be applying political pressure on the professional staffs of these agencies, a practice that is of increasing public concern today.

BFI proposed to fill Digges Canyon (through which Apanolio Creek flows) with garbage to an elevation of 1250 feet. This means the irrevocable loss of an

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Nas Western Regional Conference

All members are invited to attend National Audubon Society's 1990 Western Regional Conference, held at Asilomar from April 7-10, 1990. The theme this year is "Protecting Ecological Landscapes", new strategies for managing wildlife habitat into the next century. Workshops will feature wetlands identification, trends for state nongame programs, ancient forests, Earth Day activities and much more. For registration materials and more info, please call SCVAS office at (415) 329-1811.

Chapter News

Birdathon Is Around The Corner

SCVAS Birdathon teams are already plotting their strategy for the April 1990 event. This year's twelve teams are determined to reach the goal of \$10,000 - designated to support National Audubon's Old Growth Forest campaign; Coyote Creek Riparian Station; the upcoming Burrowing Owl Census, co-sponsored by SCVAS and SAVE BOTH; and SCVAS Education Activities. Teams members will soon begin requesting sponsors - please help them meet their goal! A sponsor form will appear in next month's *Avocet*.

Nominating Committee

The Nominating Committee is preparing a slate of Officers and Directors for 1990-91. We need YOU to consider being a member of the Board of Directors! Perhaps you would like to be Hospitality Chair, or help organize the Christmas Bird Count? Persons interested in fundraising and membership recruitment will find lots of fun projects to plan for next year! Please contact Rob Colwell, Nom. Committee Chair, (415) 326-2400 if you would like to volunteer, or know of a well-qualified candidate.

Mailing List

Occasionally, SCVAS makes the *Avocet* mailing list available on a one-time only basis to another carefully screened conservation organization with goals similar to ours. If you prefer that your name be omitted, please let us know.

Donations And Ads

Many thanks to Whales & Tales of Palo Alto, both for a generous end-of-the-year donation to SCVAS, and for becoming our first newsletter advertiser. Ads are

sold to help cover costs of the newsletter, sent to 4500 members monthly - if you would like to advertise, please call for guidelines and rates (415) 329-1811.

Santa Cruz Bird Club

The Santa Cruz Bird Club is seeking new members! Founded in 1955, the Bird Club's purpose is to unite those with a common interest in wild birds. The Bird Club offers a continuing series of field trips led by experienced local birders. Monthly meetings and slide presentations are held at the Santa Cruz City Museum from September to June. The club's bimonthly newsletter, *The Albatross*, provides a listing of all club activities, with details of bird sightings in Santa Cruz County, the rest of California, and North America. Membership dues are \$10 per individual or \$14 per family. Send membership fees to New Memberships, Santa Cruz Bird Club, P.O. Box 1304, Santa Cruz, CA 95061. For more info call (408) 462-6524 or 479-9603.

New Books for Sale

SCVAS office now has copies for sale of the most recent edition (1989) of *Hawaii's Birds* by the Hawaii Audubon Society, for \$9 inc. tax (+\$1 to send). This field guide has beautiful photographs, and is a must for any trip to Hawaii. We also have back in stock the most recent edition (with supplement, 1988) of *Birds of Northern California, An Annotated Field List* by McCaskie, DeBenedictis, Erickson, Morlan, a summary of the distributional status of all native birds recorded in Northern California, for \$6 (+\$1 to send). Please send checks to the SCVAS office.

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General meetings are open to the public. Board of Directors meetings are open to all members. Call the office at (415) 329-1811 for times and directions.

The Avocet is published monthly (except for July and August) by the Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society, 415 Cambridge Ave., Suite 21, Palo Alto, CA 94306. Deadline is the first Monday of each month. Send contributions to the editor, Jim Schwertman, 1168 Willow Glen Way, San Jose, CA 95125.

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March 1990 Calendar

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 March: Grant Hoyt (415) 969-7892

Sat, Mar 3, 9 AM Birding Sail

The Second Joint Ocean Alliance/Audubon Society Birding Sail will be held on Saturday, March 3. Guests will be assigned to boats with experienced Ocean Alliance skippers. Boats will leave at 9 am from various locations around the Bay and return at 6 pm. A raftup and potluck lunch will be held at Treasure Island, with awards to boat spotting the greatest number of bird species. (Last year it was 47 species). Cost is \$15 for OA members, \$20 for nonmembers. Persons selected as birding docents will not be charged. If you would like to attend as a guest or docent, please call (415) 441-5970.

Sun, Mar 4, 8:30 AM

Steven's Creek County Park

Leader: Phil Hand (415) 851-2623

Directions: Meet at lower picnic area before reservoir. Take Foothill Blvd. west off I280, follow to Park turnoff on left. Heavy rain cancels. Half day.

Wed, Mar 7, 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. The program will be presented by member Mark Rauzon, who will show us slides from his recent trip to the Peruvian Amazon, at Paul Beaver's camp upriver from Iquitos. Although this program may sound similar to the one that Rod Norden gave in December, the areas involved are more than 1000 km apart, and there are many differences in the flora and fauna.

Sat, March 10

Coyote Creek Riparian Station

Leader: Allen Royer (408)288-7768

Bird banding including Hermit Thrush and White Crown Sparrow subspecies. Limited to 10 participants. Call for reservations. Heavy rain cancels. Half day.

Sun, Mar 11, 9 AM

Beginners Trip to Charleston Slough

Leader: Dick Stovel (415) 856-6105

Directions: Meet at the end of San Antonio Rd. in Mt. View at Terminal Way. Basics of birding with emphasis on shorebirds and waterfowl. Heavy rain cancels. Half Day.

Mon., Mar 12, 7:30 PM

Special South County Meeting

Please description in sidebar at below.

Tues, Mar 13, 9:30 AM

Bird Discussion Group

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

Wed, Mar 14, 9 AM

Chesbro Reservoir, Morgan Hill

Leaders: Jane Glass, (408) 779-3637, and Emily Curtis, (408) 779-2637

Directions: Take Almaden Exp. S from San Jose, left on McKean Rd (becomes Uvas Rd., 11 miles S to junction of Uvas Rd. and Old Oak Flen Rd. Lunch optional. Half Day.

Wed, Mar 21, 7:30 PM

General Membership Meeting:

Please see description in sidebar below.

Sat, Mar 24, 8 AM

Almaden County Park.

Leader: Tom Roach, (408) 268-6101.

Directions: Meet at Park'N'Ride lot at Almaden Expy. and Camden Ave. Moderate hiking of 3-4 miles. Bring lunch. LIMIT OF 25 PARTICIPANTS. Call to reserve space. Possible Turkey and migrants. Heavy rain cancels. Half Day.

Wed, Mar 28, 8:30 AM

Ed Levin Park

Leader: Alan Thomas, (408)265-9286

Directions: Take Calaveras Blvd exit off I680 in Milpitas. Continue 1.5 miles to meet in old school yard (2nd school), on left across from park. Half day, lunch opt., rain cancels.

Sat, Mar 31, 9 AM

San Francisco Bay Bird Observatory

Leader: Paul Noble (415) 949-1743.

Directions: Meet at the Bird Observatory Headquarters in the historic Bayside Cannery Bldg, 1290 Hope St. in Alviso. Take Gold off Hwy 237 into Alviso. Gold becomes Elizabeth. SFBBO is at end of Elizabeth. Tour SFBBO's headquarters and learn about current research projects. Bird walk follows tour. Heavy rain cancels. Half Day.

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Mon., Mar 12, 7:30 PM

Special South County Meeting

Saratoga Library, 13650 Saratoga Ave., west of Fruitvale. 7:30, refreshments, program will begin promptly at 7:40. Len Erickson will introduce long-term open space goals of the Greenbelt Alliance in this county. Main program, 8 pm: Owls with Jon Winter. Last month we had a studendous turnout to a special south county meeting on a Fri. evening, so we are trying another one. Jon Winter is the person who for the past 25 years has shown lots of birders where and how to find owls, especially the Great Grey Owl in Yosemite. Jon began in the summers of the late 60s working his way through college on lookout in the Tahoe National Forest. There one night he found a fledgling Flammulated Owl on the road and raised it. His entertainment was owling every night to the great enjoyment of other owlers, including Rich Stallcup, who often turned up to owl with Jon. His Master's thesis and subsequent studies of the Great Owl funded by Fish & Game, Audubon, and others lasted through most of the 80s. At one point Jon was teaching a class at Santa Rosa College and working in Yosemite, which he concedes was too much of a commute! At the present he is studying the Spotted Owl of the Old Growth Forests. In this owl hour he will not try to cover every species, but will concentrate on the behavior of the owls within our region and techniques of finding owls.

Wed, Mar 21, 7:30 PM

General Membership Meeting:

Cosponsored with Palo Alto Open Spaces and Sciences Division, at Palo Alto Cultural Center, Embarcadero at Newell. 7:30 refreshments, 7:45 Bird Talk will be on BIRD-ATHON, 8 pm program is on Socorro Island with Luis Bautista. Luis is Curator of Mammals and Birds at Calif. Academy of Sciences and a wonderful speaker. Socorro ("help" in Spanish) Island, 250 miles south of the tip of the Baja Peninsula, needs help and has become one of Luis' main projects. Socorro Island is home to 10 endemic forms of birds, one now extinct in the wild, five endangered. Luis hopes to restore the extinct Socorro Island Dove to its native habitat by captive breeding and release back to the island. Luis will also outline a program to restore native habitat essential to preserve the Socorro Island Dove and the other five endangered forms. It's interesting that the nearest relative of the Socorro Island Dove is the Mourning Dove and its second closest family member is the Passenger Pigeon. Luis' talks are always fascinating!

Field Notes

By Bill Bousman

Waterfowl

Red-throated Loon have remained at Shoreline Lake with 1-3 birds seen through 17 Jan (MRo, WGB, AME). Twenty-four Am. White Pelicans in what remains of Chesbro Res. 8-9 Jan was a surprise (JG). American Bittern this winter include one at the Palo Alto Baylands 11 and 20 Jan (MFe, AV, PJM), another at the Palo Alto Flood Control Basin (FCB) 22 Jan (WGB), and one inland at the Los Alamitos GRF 23 and 31 Jan (DLSu, CKf). Seventeen

Tundra Swans on Calaveras Res. 24 Jan (MFe) have been there since December. Four Greater White-fronted Geese over the Sunnyvale Water Pollution Control Plant (WPCP) 12 Dec (PJM) are the only report so far this winter. A male Green-winged Teal of the Eurasian race was at the Sunnyvale WPCP 22 Dec and another was at the Palo Alto estuary 11 Jan (both PJM). Eurasian Wigeon appear to have dispersed as we are not seeing the numbers we saw in December. One to three males have been found in the Palo Alto FCB 22 Dec-28 Jan (MRo, PJM), three males were at the Sunnyvale WPCP 22 Dec (PJM), a pair in the Palo Alto estuary 11 Jan (PJM), and a single male was at Shoreline Lake 13 Jan (MJM, JY, AL). Barrow's Goldeneyes have continued to be found irregularly at Shoreline Lake with a male seen through 4 Feb (MFe, GHt, DC) and two females as well on 20 Jan (MFe). Hooded Mergansers continue to be widely found with a female at Los Capitancillos GRF 19 Jan (DLSu) and four at Stevens Creek Res. 20 Jan (NY).

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Raptors

An adult Bald Eagle seen along Anderson Res. 26 Jan (EC) may have been the same bird seen the next day at Coyote Res. (DLSu et al.). An imm. Ferruginous Hawk was seen along Roop Rd. in the south county 27 Jan (DLSu). A dark-phase Rough-legged Hawk at Windy Hill OSP 14 Jan was

unexpected (JY, AL). An adult Golden Eagle over Mountain View 11 Jan (MRo) was our only west side report this month. Merlin continue to be found in un-

precedented numbers. A male of Richardson's race has been found in Mountain View 19 Dec and 23-24 Jan (MRo). A female has been seen at Moffett Field 22 Dec, 9 and 17 Jan (MRo). A male was seen at Stanford 11 Jan (MRo) and a single bird was along the Guadalupe River 16 Jan (DLSu). On 17 Jan a female was seen in Mountain View (MRo), on 22 Jan one was at Lexington Res., and on 27 Jan one was in the south county along Canada Road (fide DLSu). Finally, a male was in Menlo Park on 4 Feb (WGB). We have had as many reports this month as we obtained in a whole winter season prior to 1986!

Peregrine Falcon have also been well reported with one along lower Coyote Creek 11 Jan (DLSu et al.), two imm. there 15 Jan (GHt), and an adult at Moffett Field 24 Jan (MRo). A Prairie Falcon on Sierra Road 24 Jan (MFe) fills out this falcon month.

Shorebirds

The first Black Rail report since February 1988 was one at the Palo Alto Baylands 10 Jan (MFe).

A Spotted Sandpiper along lower Coyote Creek 11 Jan (DLSu et al.) is unusual in winter. A first-winter Glaucous Gull at the Sunnyvale WPCP 30 Jan (AS) is a good find.

Swallows to Grosbeaks

A single Violet-green Swallow at Los Gatos Creek CP 13 Jan (MFe) is unusual for the winter. A Winter Wren and an Orange-crowned Warbler along lower Coyote Creek 15 Jan are also good finds for the winter (GHt).

Wintering Sharp-tailed Sparrows continue to be found at the Palo Alto Baylands on the high tides with one seen 10 Jan (MFe). Swamp Sparrows continue to be found regularly this winter with two January reports: one along Adobe Ck. in the Palo Alto FCB 14 Jan (WGB) and another on the brushy edge of Shoreline Lake 20 Jan (MFe). A White-throated Sparrow at a Palo Alto feeder 12 Jan (SG) has been there on occasions since October. The absence of Lawrence's Goldfinch reports outside of the Diablo Range suggest they have withdrawn from last year's invasion. But in their Henry Coe SP fastness they are abundant. Reports for 6 and 27 Jan from Coe (JY, AL) record them in the hundreds - on the earlier date they were the most common species found. A single Evening Grosbeak over Los Altos 2 Jan (PLN) was our only report since the CBC. **Correction:** 12 Lawrence's Goldfinches were found at Monte Bello OSP 18 Dec.

Observers: Bill Bousman (WGB), David Coe (DC), Emelie Curtis (EC), Al Eisner (AME), Shirley Gehman (SG), Mike Feighner (MFe), Jane Glass (JG), Grant Hoyt (GHt), Clay Kempf (CKf), Amy Lauterbach (AL), Mike Mammoser (MJM), Peter Metropulos (PJM), Paul Noble (PLN), Mike Rogers (MRo), April Sapsford (AS), David Suddjian (DLSu), Ann Verdi (AV), Nick Yatsko (NY), James Yurchenco (JY).

If you find an "uncommon to rare" please drop a note or call: Bill Bousman, 321 Arlington Way, Menlo Park, CA 94025, 415-322-5282.

***Hooded Merganser,
Merlin, and Swamp
Sparrow sighted with
surprising regularity.***

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Sun, April 8, 9 AM

Beginners Trip to Charleston Slough

Leader: TBA, call SCVAS, (415)329-1811
Directions: Meet at east end of San Antonio Rd. in Mt. View, at Terminal Way. Basics of birding with emphasis on shorebirds and waterfowl. Half Day.

Sat - Tues, April 7-10

Audubon Western Regional Conference

See article on page 1.

Wed, April 11, 9 AM

Saratoga Foothills, So. Co. Field Trip

Leader: Harriet Gerson (408) 252-6244
Directions: Meet in the NW corner of the Argonaut Shopping Center, Saratoga-Sunnyvale Rd. opp. Pierce Rd. to carpool short distance. Be prompt or call leader for more details. Highlights: breeding birds of the oak woodlands. Half Day.

Want to help plan field trips? The Field Trip Committee is looking for new members. Committee meets quarterly. Please call the office (415) 329-1811.

Non-Audubon Events

- Slide lecture on the ecology & conservation issues surrounding ancient forests of the Pacific Northwest and beyond. Free, call for reservation, March 17, 1 pm, YSI at Vasona (408) 356-4945.
- Volunteers needed April 16-20, to help collect and key-out wildflower specimens for annual YSI wildflower show, April 21. Call YSI/Vasona for info: (408) 356-4945.
- "Sharing the Joy of Nature Conference and Retreat" with Joseph Cornell, June 24-29, Nevada City. For info call (916) 292-3775
- BayKeeper Training Program is being offered Thursdays, 7:30-10 pm, March 1- April 12. For more info, call (415) 567-4401
- GO GREENBELT! Greenbelt Alliance offers a week-long, 420 mile bicycle tour through the Bay Area Greenbelt, April 16-22. See the Greenbelt, help celebrate Earth Day, and draw attention to problems of urban sprawl. For more info call Vicki Moore at (408) 983-0539.
- SFBBO Classes and Tours: Owl

Biology w/Paul Noble, Mar'90; Sparrow Identification w/Don Starks and Paul Noble, May '90; Spring in Arizona with Don and Paul, May 12-20. For more details call (408) 946-6548.

• Randall Davey Audubon Center in Santa Fe, New Mexico offers spring adventures. Float SALT RIVER CANYON, Arizona, April 11-15 (\$525); Float CHAMA RIVER, New Mexico, May 11-13 (\$200) and 19-20 (\$150); Bird GILA COUNTRY OVERLAND, New Mexico, May 26-28 (\$200). Call (505) 983-4609 for info.

• There are still spaces available for Earl Lebow's 10 day trip to S. Manitoba and Churchill June 16-25. Call (408) 475-5328 for details.
• Shearwater Journeys is offering an all day pelagic boat trip on April 8. Fee \$48. Call (408) 688-1990 for more info.

Merced/Los Banos Wildlife Refuge Field Trip Report

Saturday, January 27 dawned absolutely clear and crisp! Temperatures were below freezing in the early morning hours, and a cold wind blew from the northwest most of the day.

Along Sandy Mush Road, east of Merced NWR, we found 3 Ferruginous hawks, 1 Rough-legged hawk, 1 Burrowing owl, and 45 Mountain plover (several within 100 feet of us!). Along Lone Tree Road, we found a flock of approximately 800-900 Sandhill cranes, and "V's" of Greater white-fronted geese flying toward the NWR. The calling of the cranes and geese was wonderfully haunting!

At Merced NWR, we were entertained by an adult Bald eagle harassing the 5000+/- Ross'/Lesser snow geese (mostly Ross'!) and 500 +/- Greater white-fronted and Canada geese grazing/resting in the refuge! Other noteworthy birds at the NWR included American

white pelican, at least 3 races of small Canada geese, Lesser yellowlegs, two Great horned owls sitting in nests, and Tree swallows.

On a lark (so to speak), we chose to bird the Santa Fe Grade between Los Banos and Gustine. This area had been recommended as more productive than Los Banos SWR. We were not disappointed! Large areas of marshes and ponds produced many waterfowl, shorebirds and raptors. Exceptional birds included a flock of 18 Marbled godwits, 30+ Bonaparte's gulls (both very rare in that part of the San Joaquin Valley), 80+ White-faced ibis, a fourth race of Canada goose (the Great Basin race), and one male Blue-winged teal.

The wind died down in the afternoon, providing calm water for wonderful reflections of the sunset as several coyotes howled, capping a great day! All totaled, we saw 78 species of birds.

- Don Schmoltdt

Oak Hill Cemetery Field Trip Report

Twenty-six hearty souls showed up on a blustery Sunday morning for a birding tour of Oak Hill Cemetery in San Jose. Through the overcast and bad light, we managed to see 29 bird species. California Quail were searching for food behind the administration building. A Northern Harrier was sweeping low over the hill near the cross for its breakfast, and a Red-tailed Hawk hung suspended with its head down searching for mice in a pasture adjacent to the cemetery while a flock of Western Meadowlarks flew about. A mixed flock of Brewer's and Red-wing Blackbirds together with Euro-pean Starlings dined on leftovers. Close by, Acorn Woodpeckers were busy storing acorns in a large oak.

A Hermit Thrush showed itself briefly while Golden-crowned Sparrows searched the

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Environmental Action News

Wetlands Protection Shot Down By White House

White House Chief of Staff John Sununu, former Governor of New Hampshire, Engineer, and long-time foe of the EPA, led the battle to waterdown a critical Memorandum of Agreement between the Corps of Engineers and the EPA to protect wetlands—and was very successful. The agreement, which was supposed to take effect in December but was postponed several times due to haggling over details, went into effect February 6, in a very different form from the original version. Both Bill Reilly, head of the EPA, and Bob Pages, Assistant Secretary of the Army Corps of Engineers fought hard to preserve the original agreement as much as possible, but the oil and gas industry, developers and local governments won the President's ear through Sununu. The original agreement held that in order to develop in a wetland, a "sequence" of certain steps had to be taken to avoid it, minimize the amount of loss, or if all else failed, compensate for its loss.

This agreement ended years of dispute between the Corps and EPA over federal wetlands mitigation policy by bringing the Corps into compliance with the requirements of existing law that wetland losses be avoided and where they can't be avoided, that these losses be compensated only as a last resort.

The policy direction reflected in the MOA is essential for achieving the President's affirmed "no net loss of wetlands" goal. Unless incentives are given to potential developers to avoid wetlands, they often choose them as the cheapest, most available land around to develop.

The changes made by the White House, with the President's

approval, make it impossible to achieve a "no net loss" goal because it arguably allows developers to fill wetlands instead of avoiding them and relieves developers of the requirement to replace lost wetlands when a "high proportion of land" is wetlands. This "deviation" from legal requirements opens a loophole in the law that you could drive the state of Alaska through.

This is bad news for everyone who cares about wetlands protection and it makes a mockery of President Bush's "no net loss" policy.

Support Native Forests Of The Americas

On May 5, 1990, Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society and the Center for Conservation Biology at Stanford, together with over 30 cosponsors, will present a one day conference, "Native Forests of the Americas", at Stanford University.

Workshops and panel discussions will cover biological aspects,

economics, conservation campaigns, litigative tools, and more. A few of the specific topics planned include Endangered Species of the Forests, Insects, Birds of the Tropics, Sustainable Forestry Practices, Noncommercial Values of the Forests, and Citizen Initiatives - all designed to educate and encourage citizens to participate in forest conservation.

The day will also include an ongoing art show, booths set up by the cosponsors, and films on the forests.

We are looking forward to an exciting, dynamic event on May 5. All interested are welcome to attend the conference - please save the day on your calendars. Come show your support!

Volunteers are needed for a wide variety of tasks associated with the conference, including finalizing speakers, logistics, publicity and other planning. Please call if you have some time to help, and for more information, (415) 329-1811.

Clapper Rail

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the extent of predator threat to rails. **Please save and use the form below, or call the SCVAS office at (415) 329-1811 if you see rats, red foxes, feral cats, or other predators in or near the Bay.**

Name _____
Address _____ City _____
Phone (d) _____ (e) _____
Sighting description:
Location: _____
Date & Time: _____ Number of animals: _____
Predator sighted: redfox / rat / feral cat / other _____
Previous sightings (where, when, how often)

SCVAS Supports UTC Community Action Plan

The SCVAS Board has agreed to endorse the Community Action Plan designed by the United Technologies Conversion Project, as part of the campaign against United Technologies Corporation's pollution of the Anderson Reservoir watershed. The plan included the following actions:

1. The Santa Clara County Planning Commission should conduct a full and thorough review of the UTC use permit.
2. EPA should immediately use its superfund emergency powers to stop the spread of UTC's underground plume of toxic chemicals and prevent the contamination of Anderson Reservoir.
3. Independent inspections by citizen groups with experts of our choice.
4. The RWQCB should impose maximum fines on UTC in order to discourage future irresponsible conduct.

Apanolio Canyon

Continued from page 1

entire natural and pristine headwater ecosystem. Apanolio Creek is a perennial stream and prime steelhead habitat. Nearly a mile of the creek would be buried under the landfill, with devastating impact both up- and downstream.

The mitigation plan proposed by BFI has been judged by hydrological and biological experts as woefully inadequate due to a lack of even the most basic understanding of ecosystems. For instance, the plan to create a linear trout pond landscaped with three or four selected riparian species, would be a totally artificial and synthetic "replacement habitat" of what is now a natural and self-sustaining environment of wetlands, riparian vegetation and indigenous species.

The landfill project poses a serious potential public health impact on the Half Moon Bay

aquifer. Many residents depend upon wells for their drinking water supply. All landfills leak. Leachate from the landfill could contaminate this aquifer, yet there has been little public attention given to this potentially serious effect.

Feasible alternatives exist to using just Apanolio Canyon. They include the "forefill" area of Corinda Los Trancos below the present landfill in an adjacent canyon, and Nuff Canyon, presently being used as a quarry. If the County used even one of these alternative sites, it would allow time for new technology to ameliorate the unending proliferation of garbage. Both sites are degraded, and could provide nearly 50 years capacity without recycling - much more with a successful recycling and waste reduction program.

For years, conservationists have urged San Mateo County to establish a recycling plan to extend the life of the present landfill, to almost no avail. A voluntary recycling program recently instituted was only conceived in response to the "crisis" of the present landfill nearing capacity. Conservationists are concerned that, given the County's track record, Apanolio Canyon's huge capacity (90 years) would become an instant disincentive for the fledgling recycling program, and could tempt the County to accept San Francisco's or other out-of-county garbage. That would compound the problem and urge more aggressive opposition on the part of all of us.

The following agency decision makers need to know that the public will not stand for wetlands destruction - especially when alternatives exist. You can help by writing and:

- urging the Corps to stand firm on protecting wetlands
- telling them wetlands and steelhead streams are important
- objecting to any violation of wetlands preservation policy
- supporting use of alternative, already-degraded sites

• encouraging the requirement of a mandatory recycling program
Write to:

- Lieutenant Colonel Stanley G. Phernambucq, District Engineer, Corps of Engineers, 211 Main Street, San Francisco, CA 94105
- Dan McGovern, EPA, 215 Fremont St., San Francisco, CA 94105
- Wayne White, Field Supervisor, USFWS, 2800 Cottage Way, Sacramento, CA 95825

Help Endangered Wildlife

California has some 260 native wildlife species officially listed by the state as Rare, Threatened, or Endangered. To help them survive, fill in Line 45 when you prepare your state taxes. Dollars contributed on Line 45 benefit literally thousands of California's plant and animal species by easing habitat and other pressures.

Use LINE 45 To Help California's Endangered Species.



FORM 540 California Tax Form

You may make a contribution of \$1 or more

43	Alzheimer's Disease	• 43
44	Senior Citizens	• 44
45	ENDANGERED SPECIES	• 45 $\$15$
46	Child Abuse	• 46
47	Olympics	• 47
48	Vietnam Veterans	• 48

There are more than 260 California wildlife species facing the threat of extinction. You can help them survive by filling in Line 45 on your State Tax Return. Even a little helps a lot, so please do what you can.

Illustrated here: San Joaquin Kit Fox

Santa Clara Valley
Audubon Society
415 Cambridge Ave., #21
Palo Alto, CA 94306

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage Paid
San Jose, CA
Permit No. 5869

Annual Spring Bird Seed Sale

You may still order seed in our Spring Bird Seed Sale. Your order, including a check payable to SCVAS, must be received by Monday, March 5. Please mark place and date of pickup. All seed must be picked up then. *Unclaimed seed must be resold at close of each sale, unless alternate arrangement have been made ahead of time!!!* Confirmations of orders will be sent upon receipt of order and check. For more information, please call SCVAS office at (415) 329-1811.

Lee French will be at both the PCC and REI sales with hummingbird attracting plants from Hummingbird Gardens. He will be at the PCC on Sat, Mar. 17 from 9 am until 4 pm - tell your friends, this is a great opportunity to purchase a wide variety of drought-tolerant plants!

Oak Hill Field Trip

Continued from page 5

ground for a tidbit. Everyone had good looks at a male Anna's Hummingbird and the light was right to see the brilliant red of his gorget. However, we didn't get very good looks at the resident Red-shouldered Hawks who showed themselves oh so briefly as they flew low through the trees. And only four people got to see the sleeping Barn Owl nestled under the fronds of a palm tree. Overall, it was a successful trip to this quiet place in the heart of San Jose.

- Alan K. Thomas

Bird Seed Sale Order Form Spring 1990

		# bags	Cost
Premium Seed	20 lb @ \$ 8/bag	_____	_____
	50 lb @ \$17/bag	_____	_____
Western Wild	20 lb @ \$ 7/bag	_____	_____
	50 lb @ \$15/bag	_____	_____
Black Oil Sun.	20 lb @ \$13/bag	_____	_____
	50 lb @ \$30 bag	_____	_____
Striped Sunfl.	20 lb @ \$15/bag	_____	_____
	50 lb @ \$34/bag	_____	_____
Thistle	20 lb @ \$10/bag	_____	_____
	50 lb @ \$35/bag	_____	_____
	Subtotal	_____	_____
	+ 7.25 %Tax	_____	_____
	Total	_____	_____

Please select ONE pickup location:

- PCC, 2448 Watson Ct., Palo Alto, Sat, 3/17, 9-11 am
- YSI, Vasona Park, Los Gatos, Wed, 3/21, 4-6 pm
- YSI, Alum Rock Park, San Jose, Wed, 3/21, 4-6 pm
- REI, 20640 Homestead, Cupertino, Wed, 3/28, 5-7 pm

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY, ST, ZIP _____

PHONE _____

This is a prepaid sale. Please send this order and a check payable to SCVAS, by **Monday, March 5** to 415 Cambridge Ave., #21, Palo Alto, CA 94306.

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. To give extra support to our hardworking chapter, or if you would like an *Avocet* subscription alone, consider SCVAS Subscriber, Supporter, Donor or Patron categories. All receive *The Avocet*, with checks payable to SCVAS.

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

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ St: _____ Zip: _____

Gift from: _____

- _____ SCVAS Subscriber-\$8
- _____ SCVAS Supporter-\$20
- _____ SCVAS Donor-\$35
- _____ SCVAS Patron-\$50 or more
- _____ Introductory - \$20
- _____ Individual - \$35
- _____ Family - \$38
- _____ Audubon Activist - \$9