



The Avocet

The Newsletter of the Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society

November 1990

Clarifying the "Initiative Soup" on the 1990 November Ballot

"Initiative Soup" was how Corey Brown of the Planning and Conservation League characterized the November ballot at a recent meeting of the Bay Area Audubon Council. As a guide for SCVAS members, we have compiled the recommendations based on endorsements given by the Sierra Club, the California League of Conservation Voters, the Planning and Conservation League, and the National Audubon Society. (Every group has not actively endorsed every recommendation.)

The SCVAS Board of Directors specifically endorsed Big Green (Prop. 128) and Forests Forever (Prop. 130) and opposed Propositions 135 and 138, which are sponsored by large agribusiness corporations and the timber industry. Each of these four initiatives will be addressed by informed speakers at a special forum on Tuesday, October 30, at 7:30 PM at the Palo Alto Cultural center, 1313 Newell Rd. (at Embarcadero), Palo Alto. The program is open to the public and is co-sponsored by the Peninsula Conservation Center and the American Association of University Women.

Remember! Every vote counts—but only if you vote.
—Trish Mulvey

ENVIRONMENTAL VOTER GUIDE

Proposition

125—Public Mass Transit Act

YES

Allows gas tax funds to be spent for equipment for rail systems, in addition to tracks and rails.

126—Legislature's Alcohol Tax Measure

NO

raises only one-fourth as much as Prop. 134, the Nickel-a-Drink Initiative, and puts the money into the same state general fund, where it could be diverted to uses unrelated to alcohol abuse.

128—"Big Green" - The California Environmental Protection Initiative

YES

Prohibits use of cancer-causing pesticides, protects ancient forests, prohibits oil drilling within 3 miles of shore, protects against oil spills, provides funds for urban and rural tree-planting, protects the ozone layer and reduces global warming.

130—The Forest and Wildlife Protection Act

YES

bans clearcutting, provides \$710 million in state bonds to purchase remaining ancient forests, requires sustainable forestry practices.

131—"Clean Government Initiative"

YES

Enacts key political reform to reduce the influence of special interest money, including providing public financing of campaigns. Establishes 12 year term limits for legislators.

134—Nickel-A-Drink Alcohol Tax Initiative

YES

Taxes beer, wine and spirits at a nickel a drink. Raises \$730 million each year for emergency and trauma care services, assistance for victims of alcohol and drug abuse, enforcement of drunk driving and other alcohol and drug laws, clean-up of vandalism and graffiti in parks, treatment and prevention of alcohol and drug-related illnesses.

135—"Big Brown"

NO

Sponsored by large agribusiness corporations, this initiative seeks to wipe out the pesticide control provisions of Prop. 128 ("Big Green") and roll back regulations on pesticide use.

136—"Schabarum Initiative"

NO

Makes it extremely difficult (2/3 vote required) to pass initiatives funding environmental projects and other programs through tax increases and ballot measures placed on the ballot by initiative. Would also invalidate the bond funds in Proposition 128 and 130 for buying ancient redwood forests.

137—Initiative Process

YES

Would require a vote of the people to change the initiative process. Protects the initiative process from legislators who would like to weaken it.

138—"Big Stump"

NO

Sponsored by the timber industry, it would wipe out the Forests Initiative (Prop. 130) if it wins more votes. This dangerous initiative is a timber company wish list, allowing timber companies to do virtually whatever they please with California's forests.

140—Legislative Term Limits

NO

Would too severely limit the terms of legislators, cut spending on expert legislative staff.

149—1990 Park & Wildlife Bond Act

YES

Provides \$437 million in state bonds for state and local parks and wildlife habitat.

Chapter News

Join the SCVAS Benefit Tour to Costa Rica!

The tour includes all the major ecosystems of Costa Rica. The itinerary includes the following national parks and reserves: Braulio Carrillo, Tortuguero, Manuel Antonio, Carara, Monteverde, Palo Verde, Lomas Barbudal, Volcan Poas, and La Selva (See Nov. 9 General Meeting notice below which includes several of these parks).

Flights to Tortuguero and Manuel Antonio are included in the price of this safari, which is a benefit for SCVAS conservation projects. Last year, the Cheesemans' Ecology Safaris donated \$2,000 to our conservation fund. This year they hope to do likewise.

Leaders: Outstanding resident and professional ornithologist Rafa Campos and SCVAS president Grant Hoyt and wife, Karen. The trip is limited to

10 people and is from March 30 to April 14, \$2,015, plus airfare from S.F., approximately \$650. For more information, call Gail Cheeseman at (408) 741-5330.

Birding at the Bottom of the Bay Available at the PCC Book Festival Oct. 27

Help support SCVAS. Please join us at The Peninsula Conservation Center for a Book Festival on Saturday, October 27th at 2 P.M. Meet some of the artists and authors and pick up a copy of *Birding at the Bottom of the Bay*. The book is \$10.00 (or \$11.50 if you can't make it and want it shipped to you). Copies are also available at the SCVAS office (415) 329-1811.

Special General Membership Meeting

Friday, November 9, 7:30 PM

Featuring *Wet and Dry Tropical Forests of Costa Rica*

Presented by SCVAS member Lee Hung and Dr. Gordon Frankie of UC Berkeley at the Saratoga Community Library, located at southwest corner of Fruitdale and Saratoga Ave. Costa Rica's amazing diversity of native habitats and plant and animal species will be featured with a focus on both tropical rainforest and tropical dry forest. Includes a half hour talk on each followed by a general discussion. Lee Hung who co-led a wildlife tour to Costa Rica last March will share some fantastic slides of night spotting for mammals and birds along a small canal in the lowland rainforest of Tortuguero National Park. She will also show slides of the Monteverde rainforest, which is quite different in climate and altitude from Tortuguero.

Most of us have heard a lot about rainforest and very little about tropical dry forest. Dr. Gordon Frankie has done many years of research on the reproductive ecology of flowering plants at Lomas Barbudal, a tropical dry forest in southern Guanacaste Province. Lomas Barbudal is now a Biological Reserve, thanks to the efforts of Gordon and his wife Jutta Frankie and the support group, Friends of Lomas Barbudal. (See write-up above about the April 1991 Costa Rican tour that is a benefit for the conservation projects of SCVAS). Dr. Frankie will cover the diversity of mammals, birds, (Lomas has over 200 of the 850 species in Costa Rica), reptiles, and insects of the region. The program would not be complete without some of the culture of the Costa Rican people. Jutta Frankie is Costa Rican and is dedicated to involving other Costa Ricans in constant vigilance and care of Lomas. She will have on hand some handmade crafts and books that make wonderful Christmas gifts, proceeds from which go to the upkeep of Lomas Barbudal.

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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, Marilyn Kjellen-Rogers, c/o SCVAS at the above address.

November 1990, Volume 39, Number 9

Editor Position Open

The position of SCVAS newsletter editor will open once again. After the December issue of the *Avocet*, Marilyn Kjellen-Rogers will not be able to continue as editor.

Needed is someone who can edit and produce a newsletter, preferably on a Macintosh using PageMaker. Please contact the SCVAS office if you are interested (415-329-1811).

November 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.

****Denotes Field Trip**

****Sat., Nov. 3, 8:30 AM**

Alum Rock

Leader: Dave Johnston (408) 356-4904. Directions: Take Alum Rock Ave. off Hwy. 680 or 101. E. to park. Meet at Youth Sciences Institute. Moderate trip, 3 mi. walk. Highlights: Dipper, Golden Eagle, Rufous-crowned Sparrow, Winter Wren, migrants. Lunch optional. Heavy rain cancels.

****Sun., Nov. 4, 9:00 AM Half Day
San Leandro Regional Shoreline**

Leaders: Betty Wyatt (408) 255-6091. Audrey Stoye (408) 249-2108. Directions: Meet at the San Leandro Regional Shoreline on Doolittle Blvd. in the north parking lot by the cafe and restrooms. Take I-880 north to 98th St. (Oakland Airport exit). Go west, turn right onto Doolittle. Go about 2 miles to parking lot (Not the Launch ramp). Highlights: scaup, teal, wigeon, etc.

**Wednesday, Nov. 7, 7:30-9:30 PM
Bay Area Bird Photographers**

Lucy Stern Baylands Interpretive Center. Co-sponsored by the Recreation/Open Spaces and Sciences Division of the City of Palo Alto. Features Mike Danzenbaker's previously postponed slide show of birds photographed within "day trip" range of our Bay Area homes. This showing will prove that although extensive travel is enjoyable, it is not a requisite for taking stunning wildlife photos.

General Membership Meeting Tuesday, November 20, * 7:30 PM

At the Palo Alto Cultural Center, corner of Embarcadero and Newell Roads. (*Date moved up because of Thanksgiving.) Co-sponsored with the Palo Alto Open Spaces and Sciences Division.

Richard Dale from the Coalition for Our Earth, will present *The Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, "The Last Great Wilderness."* This is a nationally acclaimed and stunning multi-media show about one of our last pristine ecosystems in North America. It is truly an uphill battle for the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. Richard will address the issues facing the Refuge, such as the current pressures to develop this fragile ecosystem for oil. The program will feature outstanding photography of the Refuge, an area graced with tremendous scenic beauty and many species of plants and animals. The area supports a subsistence group of people, the more than 10,000 year-old Gwich'in culture and other native people. Each summer more than 165,000 caribou migrate across the Refuge to give birth to their calves on its coastal plain. Called the "Serengéti of the North," the Refuge is home to such splendid species as Grizzly and Polar Bears, Arctic Fox, Snowy Owls, and Tundra Swans.

**Friday, November 9, 7:30 PM
General Membership Meeting
Wet and Dry Tropical Forests of Costa Rica** with SCVAS member Lee Hung and Dr. Gordon Frankie of UC Berkeley. (Please see page 2 for more information.)

****Sat., Nov., 10, 8:00 AM Half Day
Beginners Trip to Charleston Slough**
Directions: Take 101 to Mountain View, San Antonio Rd. exit east to parking lot. Bring drinks. Highlights: shorebirds and waterfowl. Leader: Nick Yatsko (408) 247-5499.

**Tuesday, November 13, 9:30 AM
Bird Discussion Group.**
Topic: Kingfishers, At home of Eve Case, 20537 Verda Vista Lane, Saratoga. (408) 867-4748.

****Wed., Nov. 14, 9:30 AM, Half Day.
Field Trip South County.**

Leader: Gail Cheeseman (408) 741-5330. Directions: Fremont Blvd. to SF Bay Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, Take the Fremont Blvd. exit (between Durham Rd. and Mission Blvd. Look for small "Public Shore" sign beside a chain link fence. Drive in by the fence to parking lot.

****Sat., Nov. 17, 9:00 AM Full Day
Delta Trip.**

Leader: David Yee (209) 951-1526. Directions: Take I-5 to Turner Rd. exit east to Thornton Rd., travel north 1 mile to Woodbridge Rd. West on Woodbridge approximately 2 miles to Ecological Reserve. Highlights: Sandhill Cranes, swans, geese, Ruff (possible!), Bendire's Thrasher, shorebirds, ducks, raptors. Bring lunch and drinks. Easy walking 1 mile. Heavy rain cancels.

****Sun., Nov., 18, 9:00 AM. Half Day
Coyote Point, Burlingame Bayfront**
Leader: Paul Noble (415) 949-1743. Directions:

Take 101, Dore exit. (Watch for brown state signs). Follow signs to Yacht Club. Highlights: waterfowl, loons, grebes. Heavy rain cancels.

**Tuesday, Nov. 20 7:30 PM
General Membership Meeting**
(Please see box below)

****Friday & Saturday, November 23 & 24, 9:00 AM. (Saturday half-day)
Sacramento National Wildlife Refuge**
Leader: Don Schmoldt (415) 758-0820. Directions: From Bay Area take Hwy. I-5 north through Sacramento, past Williams, then exit on Norman Rd. Go east to Frontage, north to the NWR. Also will visit Colusa and Grey Lodge NWR and Sutter Buttes perimeter. Bring lunch for both days and warm clothes. Motels available in Williams, Marysville and Colusa. Highlights: swans, geese, ducks by the thousands. Heavy rain cancels.

****Sun., Nov. 25, 9:00 AM Half Day.
Los Gatos Creek**

Leader: Mike Feighner (408) 354-0138. Directions: Take Hwy. 17 to Lark Ave. exit, go west on Lark to Oka. North to gate of percolation ponds. Beware of dogleg in Oka. Park along road near gate. Beginners welcome. easy walking. Highlights: Green-backed Heron, Spotted Sandpiper, kingfisher and ducks. Rain Cancels.

****Wed., Nov., 28, 8:30 AM
North County Field Trip, Coyote Hills Regional Park, Half Day**

Leader: Phil Hand (415) 851-2623. Directions: Take Hwy. 84 (Dumbarton Bridge) east towards Newark. Exit right on Thornton, left over freeway. Thornton becomes Paseo Padre. Left at Patterson Ranch/Commerce Rd 1 mile into park. Meet in entrance parking lot. Lunch optional. Heavy rain cancels.

****Sunday, December 2 9:00, AM.
Half Day Beginner Trip.**

Lake Merritt, Alameda Shoreline
Leader: Allen Royer (408) 288-7768, Co-leader: CJ Carlson. Directions: Take Hwy. I-880 to Oak St., Oak becomes Lakeside and then Harrison. Go east on Grand, right on Bellevue to Science Center. Bring lunch and change for parking. Highlights: waterfowl. Rain cancels.

****Sunday, December 9, 9:00 AM.
Half day Beginner Trip.**

Charleston Slough
Leader: Rod Norden. Directions: take Hwy. 101 to San Antonio Rd. exit. Drive east to parking lot. Highlights: shorebirds and waterfowl. Bring drinks. Rain cancels.

Field Notes

By Bill Bousman

Pelicans through Raptors

Brown Pelicans were found in better numbers this month along the bay with a peak of seven found at the Sunnyvale Water Pollution Control Plant (WPCP) 10 Sep (MRo). A female *Blue-winged Teal* at the Sunnyvale WPCP 24 Sep. was the only report (PJM). A male *Eurasian Wigeon* still in eclipse plumage was at the Mountain View Forebay 29 Sep (MRo) and is the first report for the season. An *Osprey* over Stanford 18 Sep (RSch) coincides with their fall movement in the county. An immature *Golden Eagle* at the Arastradero Preserve 23 Sep was the only westside report this month. A *Merlin* was seen there the same day (both G&KHt). An adult *Peregrine Falcon* was at Crittenden Marsh 3 Sep (PJM). A *Prairie Falcon* at Almaden-Quicksilver Park 19 Aug (TR) had probably dispersed from the Diablo Range population as they are not known to breed in the southern Santa Cruz Mountains.

Shorebirds

The largest flight of *Lesser Yellow-legs* comes through in September and this year has been no exception with records from the expected locations from the Sunnyvale WPCP to the Palo Alto Flood Control Basin (FCB). Maximum numbers were at the FCB with 22 on 7 Sep (PJM) and 10 there 14 Sep (MRo), 11 at the Mountain View Forebay 27 Sep (MRo), and seven at Crittenden Marsh 3 Sep (PJM). Three from the Oka Groundwater Recharge Facility (GRF) 24 Sep (AV) were away from the bay, but this species is more likely in freshwater or brackish habitats than in estuarine ones. The juvenile *Hudsonian Godwit* found at the beginning of the month was seen by many observers, although it became more difficult to find as the month progressed. It was found at least through 24 Sep (PJM). *Two Red Knots* were found again at Crittenden Marsh 3 Sep (PJM).

The *Pectoral Sandpiper* migration peaks in September and the flight this year has been normal. Two were along Lower Coyote Creek 2 Sep (GHt, ER) and an-

other was at the Mountain View Forebay the next day (PMB). Two were at the Sunnyvale WPCP 15 Sep with one still there 24 Sep (PJM). Another was inland at the Oka GRF on the 24th as well (AV).

Patagonia in southern Arizona has coined the term the "Patagonia effect." Simply stated it is that rarities attract birders and birders find new rarities. The Patagonia effect came into full play this month as scores of birders visited the Sunnyvale WPCP looking for the *Hudsonian Godwit*. An adult *Sabine's Gull* was found on

"It was a Ruff month"

9 Sep (see below) and then on 10 Sep. Mike Rogers and Jim Corliss found the first *Ruff* for the county, a juvenile male. This Eurasian sandpiper is a rare vagrant in California in the fall, but occurs widely. It was long overdue for the county list. Confirming this, a second bird was found 20 Sep at Grant Lake (CB, WGB), this time an adult male. Both birds were wary and could not be found subsequently.

Gulls and Terns

An immature *Parasitic Jaeger* was seen flying near Whisman Slough 3 Sep (PJM) for our first record since 1986. An adult *Sabine's Gull* turned up at the Sunnyvale WPCP 9 Sep (PJM) and was seen at least through 15 Sep by many observers for the fifth county record. All our records are from the last four years. Are people covering the south bay more intensively or are more of these striking birds wandering away from their pelagic migration routes? An *Elegant Tern* at Charleston Slough 23 Sep (PJM) is also a species on the increase in the south bay. An immature *Common Tern* was found 17 Sep at the Sunnyvale WPCP (PJM). A single *Least Tern* at Crittenden Marsh 3 Sep (PJM) was late for this species.

Swifts to Woodpeckers

Vaux's Swifts have shown a fairly

strong fall movement this year, mostly in the vicinity of Los Gatos where they sometimes breed. Two were over lower Coyote Creek 2 Sep (GHt, ER) and 16 were seen over the Sunnyvale WPCP 15 Sep (PJM). From 17 to 28 Sep migrating flocks of two to 24 were counted over Los Gatos (JDuB). In the fall period, 12 Aug-19 Sep 11 *Black-chinned Hummingbirds* were banded at the Coyote Creek Riparian Station (CCRS). This species is rarely identified in the county. Five *Rufous Hummingbirds* were banded from 7-29 Aug at the station. Eight *Lewis' Woodpeckers* in San Antonio Valley 21 Sep (CB, WGB) are typical for that area.

Flycatchers to Phainopepla

Single *Willow Flycatchers* were noted on lower Coyote Creek 2 Sep (GHt, ER), Sunnyvale WPCP 9 Sep (PJM), and the Palo Alto Water Quality Control Plant 23 Sep (PJM). Twenty-eight were banded at CCRS in the period 25 Aug-28 Sep, which is normal. Two *Dusky Flycatchers* were banded 22 Aug at CCRS. Late *Western Kingbirds* in the Palo Alto FCB 15 Sep (PJM), at CCRS 21 Sep, and Palo Alto 24 Sep (PLN) are of interest. A *Bank Swallow* at the Sunnyvale WPCP 17 Sep (PJM) is a rare migrant. We have had little movement of montane *Red-breasted Nuthatches* into the area in recent years. Individuals in Los Altos 25-25 Aug (G&KHt) and at Smith's Creek 21 Sep (CB, WGB) are suggestive of a weak fall movement. A *Golden-crowned Kinglet* netted at CCRS 29 Sep is one of the earliest county records. Three *Phainopepla* in San Antonio Valley and four along Arroyo Bayo 21 Sep (CB, WGB) were good fall numbers.

Vireos to Grosbeaks

The *Red-eyed Vireo* banded 12 Aug at CCRS was recaptured on 29 Aug. Amazingly, a second bird was banded 25 Sep for the second county record! A *Nashville Warbler* was along Arroyo Bayo 21 Sep (CB, WGB). A *Northern Waterthrush* was banded at CCRS on 6 Sep for the ninth county record. Nine *MacGillivray's Warblers* were also banded there 19-27 Sep. A female/immature *Black-headed Grosbeak* along Ar-

royo Bayo 21 Sep (CB, WGB) is late for this species.

Observers: Clark Blake (CB), Bill Bousman (WGB), Phyllis Browning (PMB), Jean DuBois (JDuB), Grant & Karen Hoyt (G&KHt), Peter Metropulos (PJM), Paul Noble (PLN), Tom Roach (TR), Mike Rogers (MRo), Ed Rooks (ER), Rick Schermerhorn (RSch), and Ann Verdi (AV).

For rarities in the county, please drop me a note, or phone: Bill Bousman, 321 Arlington Way, Menlo Park, CA 94025 (415) 322-5282.

California Rare Bird Alerts

Arcata	(707) 826-7031
Sacramento	(916) 481-0188
Monterey Bay	(408) 375-9122
	(408) 375-2577 update
Los Angeles	(213) 874-1318
Santa Barbara	(805) 964-8240
San Bernadino	(714) 793-5599
San Diego	(619) 435-6761
	(619) 479-3400 daily update
Morro Bay	805) 528-7182
South Sierra	(209) 782-1237
SF and N. CA	(415) 528-0288
	(415) 524-5592 update

Volunteer Trainers Needed for Calaveras County Christmas Bird Count

Penelope Bowen, a San Jose and Palo Alto Christmas Bird Count participant for several years has a cabin in the Arnold area and would like to begin a Christmas Bird Count in Calaveras County. The count will be centered in the Murphys and Arnold area on Saturday, December 29. Penelope is looking for some experienced volunteers from this area to help train some new inexperienced counters. Volunteers can bring sleeping bags and stay at her cabin. For further information, call Penelope at (415) 854-3387, or Nancy at (415) 321-6398.

November 1990

Field Trip Report Pelagic Trip to Monterey Bay

On Sept. 15th, two boats set out on Monterey Bay with everyone on board searching for seabirds and mammals. One group was led by Rod Norden, Allen Royer and Doug and Gail Cheeseman, and the other was led by Mike and Jim Danzenbaker and Debi Shearwater. Debi's boat came in from Half Moon Bay. Ours headed north almost to Davenport to get a jump on the expected afternoon chop so we could cruise back with the wind.

On Debi's boat they found a *Flesh-footed Shearwater* and both groups were lucky enough to have a *Long-tailed Jaeger* fly by closely. Both boats found lots of migrating seabirds: *Elegant Terns*, *Red-throated Phalaropes*, *Buller's* and *Pink-footed Shearwaters*, and *Sabine Gull*. *Black* and *Ash Storm-petrels*, plus many of the resident and wintering birds, such as *Common Murre*, *Pigeon Guillemot*, *Surf Scoters*, *Cassin's* and *Rhinoceros Auklets*, five species of gulls, *Pomerine Jaegers*, *Red Phalarope*, and even some early *Fulmars* already in the bay. We found a few Dall's Porpoises and one lone Pacific White-sided Dolphin, but they weren't interested in bow riding. A Northern

Fur Seal rode the waves. We came alongside a Mola Mola (sunfish) and Blue Sharks. Debi's boat found Humpback Whales off Moss Landing and two male Orcas cruising—a rare sight. Then while they tried to buck the current to go further north, we dropped into the Moss Landing area to find the Humpbacks and Orcas, definitely an incredible experience to have two six-foot dorsals appearing out of the blue, then disappearing for a five-minute dive before coming up to blow a few times. Over and over we watched the two male Killer Whales go down, then up again. We were taking off when the other boat returned to watch, having given up on the rough water outside. The Humpbacks were not as close as the Orcas, but one became quite acrobatic for a moment, slapping with his long white flipper that is about one third of his total length.

Debi has frequent pelagic trips. For her schedule call (408) 688-1990, or write to Debi Shearwater, Box 1445, Soquel, CA 95073.

Doug and Gail Cheeseman, with Rod and Allen, will lead Monterey Bay boat trips the last three Saturdays in January, during the peak of Grey Whale migration. Call (408) 741-5330, or write us at 20800 Kittredge Rd., Saratoga, CA 95070.

—Gail Cheeseman

San Jose Christmas Bird Count

The San Jose Christmas Bird Count will be held on Sunday, December 23. If you are new to Christmas Counts or a new birder, please don't let that stop you. We need people of all abilities. Save December 23 for an exciting day of birding followed by a dinner and tally get together. For more information, call CBC-compiler Paul Noble (415) 949-1743 or one of the Section Leaders, below:

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)	Rick Healy	(40) 554-6611 x 627
F (South)	Alan Thomas	(408) 265-9286
G (Southwest)	Anne Wilson	(415) 941-0966
H (Agnew)	Grant Hoyt	(415) 969-7892
I (Milpitas)	Paul Noble	(415) 949-6033
J (Berryessa)		

The Avocet 5

Environmental Action News

Toxics and Wetlands Victory for San Francisco Bay

Citizens' Appeal Granted to require South Bay Clean-up

In an historic victory capping sixteen years of controversy, environmentalists won a State Water Resources Control Board order for immediate toxics clean-up and restoration of wetlands essential for endangered species in the southern reach of San Francisco Bay. The South Bay, home of the largest urban National Wildlife Refuge in the country, has already been designated by the state and federal government as a "toxic hot spot" requiring priority attention.

The decision, a response to petitions filed by Citizens for a Better Environment on behalf of SCVAS and others, requires specific standards and effluent limits reducing the discharge of toxic pollutants to environmentally safe levels as soon as possible (but no later than April 1991). The limits will force reduction of toxic discharges from commercial, industrial and residential sources that are now passing through sewage treatment plants in San Jose, Sunnyvale, and Palo Alto into the Bay. The state board found these discharges violate the Clean Water Act because they contaminate fish, shellfish, and wildlife, and threaten public health.

The decision also requires San Jose and adjacent municipalities to restore salt marsh crucial for the endangered California Clapper Rail and the salt marsh harvest mouse. In addition to toxic threats, the low salinity effluent from the San Jose/Santa Clara treatment plant is the single most important cause of habitat destruction for the rail and the mouse since they were listed as endangered species in 1970.

The state board order overruled the San Francisco Regional Water Control Board in response to petitions appealing the pollution limits in South Bay sewage discharge permits. The

petition was filed by CBE on behalf of the 40 environmental, fishing and Bay-user groups which form CLEAN South Bay and by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The decision further denied a third petition by San Jose requesting to be excused from restoring endangered species habitat and permission to discharge even more toxics than allowed by the Regional Board.

In a TV interview, Tom Esperson, Sierra Club Wetlands chair, called the decision "wonderful, marvelous, fantastic." CBE spokesman Greg Karras pointed out that the decision ends years of fighting for toxic clean-up and wetlands restoration. "From now on, we will try to work with the dischargers to put the limits in place." he said.

Friends of Lomas Barbudal

On November 9 our Audubon chapter is having a meeting at the Saratoga library on tropical dry forest and rain forest of Costa Rica, (see Page 2 for announcement). We have invited Gordon and Jutta Frankie to be there that evening. They are doing for the Lomas Barbudal Reserve what we all would like to do: saving a huge tract of forest that is species rich. Gordon and Jutta have singlehandedly convinced the Costa Rican government and parks and reserves department of that country to set up the reserve at Lomas Barbudal. This is to provide protection for this beautiful big area of tropical dry forest that has permanent streams running through it.

The riparian habitat of Lomas Barbudal is fantastic. However, the Costa Rican Parks Dept. does not put any money into the reserve to maintain it. The park must be properly patrolled to prevent poachers from setting fires in this tropical dry forest to drive out the animals. If every poacher were allowed to continue, the re-

Ten Minute Activist

YOU can make a difference

Support Alternative C

The Bureau of Land Management is considering new action on the development (logging and recreational) of the South Fork Eel Wild and Scenic River, located in the Arcata Resource Area of the Ukiah District of California. This beautiful river corridor along the northern California coast range provides an important, long term nucleus of habitat for maintaining Spotted Owl distribution and dispersal. In addition, the endangered Peregrine Falcon and Bald Eagle use the area for feeding. Of the four planned actions proposed, **Alternative C** provides the most acreage with **no timber harvesting**, and the re-use of old logging roads for public access. Please write in support of Alternative C, South Fork Eel River Draft Management Plan, to:

District Manager or Bur. of Land Mgmt. 555 Leslie St. Ukiah, CA 95482	Area Manager Bur. of Land Mgmt. 1125 16th St. Arcata, CA 95521
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Comments must be received by
November 20, 1990.

serve could not survive.

The last few years have been a wonderful conservation story, but a continual struggle. Gordon and Jutta are working hard to keep the park patrolled, but they need help. People who wish to help can join the conservation group called "Friends of Lomas Barbudal." Dues go directly to protecting Lomas Barbudal. It is a great habitat for our wintering birds that go south and for migrants from South America that must rest in Central America as they fly up the isthmus. If you would like to contribute, the address for Friends of Lomas Barbudal is 692 Colusa Ave., Berkeley, CA 94707. Yearly dues are \$25.

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