



The Avocet

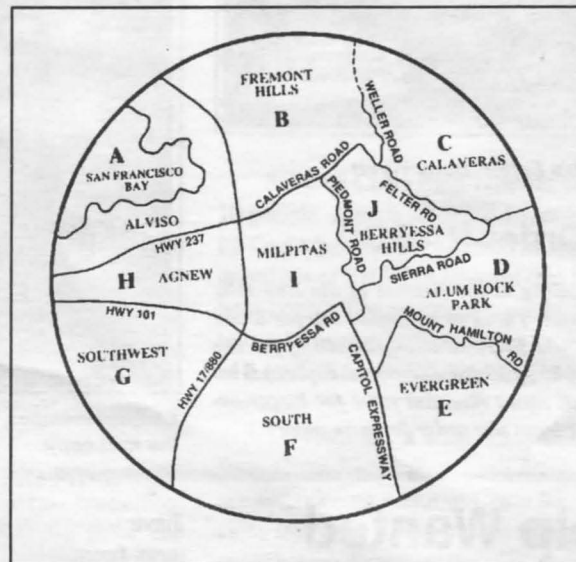
The Newsletter of the Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society

December 1990

Countdown to the 1990 San Jose Christmas Bird Count

Come join us for an all-day adventure in counting all the ducks, geese, hawks, sparrows, and rarities in the area. The count begins at or before dawn and will continue all day. Afterwards we'll all meet for a wonderful pot-luck supper and a tally of the day's results. To properly cover all the areas within the count, we need your help in this census of all the common to abundant and uncommon to rare birds. Just pick an area that is convenient for you and call the section leader (see bottom of page 3 for list). As sections fill up, we may ask people to count in other areas. Beginners are very welcome; you *don't* need to have done a count before. Volunteers are needed to spot, count and list birds. Dress warmly, bring a lunch and your binoculars. A mandatory \$5.00 CBC fee per participant covers compilation and publication costs.

Feeder watchers are also needed. This information is just as valuable. To participate, you'll need to live within the count circle, be home on December 23, and be willing to count the number of visitors to your feeder. Call us before the count for more information at (415) 329-1811.



Map by Bonnie Bedford-White

Palo Alto CBC December 17

The 31st Palo Alto CBC is sponsored by SCVAS and will be held Monday, December 17, 1990. All are welcome. For past CBCers, contact the Region Leader where you want to count. If you are new to the count call Bill Bousman and we will find a place where you can contribute.

- Region 1 (Northern Bay) - Mike Mammoser (408-248-2288)
- Region 2 (Southern Bay) - Mike Rogers (415-962-8907)
- Region 3 (Northern Urban) - Bill Bousman (415-322-5282)
- Region 4 (Southern Urban) - Phyllis Browning (415-494-6360)
- Region 5 (Northern Foothill) - Jane Becker-Haven (415-321-0776)
- Region 6 (Southern Foothill) - Ruth Troetschler (415-948-4142)
- Region 7 (Northern Mountain) - Gloria Heller (415-851-2356)
- Region 8 (Southern Mountain) - Clark Blake (415-747-0601)

Dear Audubon Members,

Thank you for your generosity! The response to my request for nature magazines was overwhelming. I have collected at least 500 beautiful issues. My students have used them extensively and I will be sharing extra copies with other teachers.

Your fantastic response has encouraged me to ask if you have other educational "throw aways" or, are any of you available to share slides or other scientific objects with elementary school children? We can always use globes, maps, old games, rock collections, magnifying glasses, pictures, international postcards, etc.

Thanks again for your support.

Mary Drumm (408) 739-1314

Chapter News

A Joyful Book Signing Party For BABOB



Babob's Editor, Betty Wyatt

One of the best parts of completing a project is the party that you have afterwards. About a dozen of the BABOB authors/artists met for a book signing on October 27. A large number of books were signed and a BABOB cake was shared. Fun was had by all.

BABOB is available at the SCVAS office, ready to be purchased for all your holiday gifts. BABOB will also be available on some field trips, at the Christmas Bird Count Dinner and at all General meetings.



Chapter member, Anne Moser, bought the first copy.

To Order BABOB

Birding at the Bottom of the Bay sells for \$10.00. Three to 10 copies sell for \$9.00 each. (Add \$2.50 shipping/handling for the first book, \$1.25 for additional copies.) Give us a call about discount rates for larger orders. (Please use order form on page 7.)

Help Wanted

Birdathon Coordinator

A coordinator is needed to help organize the Spring 1991 Birdathon. The Birdathon is a tremendous fundraiser for both SCVAS and the National Audubon Society. It is also a great way to involve a large number of our members and to raise money at the same time. Teams compete to see how many species of birds they can see or hear in a day and how many pledges they can solicit. Prizes will be awarded at our June Annual Dinner. This year we

have some new ideas to make it our biggest, funnest Birdathon ever. We'll be setting our first Birdathon Committee meeting in January. If you're interested in chairing the event or helping out in some way, Call Cecily at the SCVAS office at (415) 329-1811.

Membership Guru

An individual is needed to help update information in our voluminous mailing list. Hours can be flexible, but weekly schedule preferred. Please call Cecily at the SCVAS office at (415) 329-1811.

Welcome to New Supporting Members

SCVAS Supporter

Helen Brown, Erna Coker, Mary Haslam, Orville Jolly, Jr., Rose Linn, Catherine Whorton

SCVAS Donor

Kathryn Oliver-Garnett

The Avocet 2

More Chapter News Page 6

Gifts and Memorials

Dr. Tom Harvey

Apollo Taleporos

SCVAS OFFICERS

Staff	Cecily Harris	415/329-1811
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Env. Act.	Gail Cheeseman	408/867-1371
	Trish Mulvey	415/326-0252
CBC	Paul Noble	415/949-1743
Grants	D. Zetterquist	408/429-9716
Photo Club	Pete LaTourrette	415/961-2741

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

December 1990, Volume 39, Number 10

We're For The Birds!

Whales & Tales

Wildlife Store and Gallery

Hummingbirds Raptors
Songbirds Shorebirds

*Art, Gifts, Books, Clothing
and Kid's Stuff*

800-422-8253
429 University

415-326-1130
Palo Alto

December 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**

Entire Month of December

"Original Art of Birding at the Bottom of the Bay" exhibit at Palo Alto Baylands. See page 6 for more details.

**Sunday, December 2, 9:00 AM.

Beginners Trip to Lake Merritt/Alameda Shoreline. Leader: Allen Royer (408) 288-7768. Co-Leader: C.J. Carlson. Directions: Meet at the Rotary Science Center, Lake Merritt Oakland. Take I-880 no. to Oak St., east on Oak which becomes Lakeside, then Harrison. Right on Grand. Right on Bellevue to meeting place. Bring lunch. Rain cancels. Possible parking fee. Highlights: Many ducks.

Wednesday, Dec. 5, 7:30-9:30 PM.

Bay Area Bird Photographers. Mark Rauzon will offer a program on Jarvis Island. Co-sponsored by the Recreation/Open Spaces and Sciences Division of Palo Alto, the meeting is held at the Lucy Evans Bayland Interpretive Center, Palo Alto.

**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.

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

Tuesday, December 11, 9:30 AM.

Bird Discussion Group at the home of Jean and Pat Dubois, 17150 Buena Vista Dr., Los Gatos. (408) 395-4264. Topic: Window Building.

**Wed., Dec. 12, 9AM. Half day.

South County Field Trip Ed Levin Park. Leader: Shirley Gordon. Directions: 101 South to 237 East until it becomes Calaveras, or I-680 to Calaveras Blvd. in Milpitas. Continue 1.5 miles from I-680 to meet in Old School Yard (2nd school) on left across from park. Lunch optional. Rain cancels.

**Sunday, December 16, 9:00 AM.

San Francisco Bay Bird Observatory/Santa Clara Valley Audubon CBC Tune-up. Directions: Meet at SFBBO headquarters in Alviso. 1290 Hope St. Introduction for new counters. Brush up on flock counting skills and learn how to report and document rarities. Open to all area CBC counters. Come prepared for rain or mud.

Sunday, December 23. All day.

Christmas Bird Count and Dinner. (See front page for more information on how to get involved!)

**Sat., Dec. 29, 8:30 AM. Half day.

Alameda Creek Flood Control Area. Leader: Phil Hand (415) 851-2623. Directions: Meet at Creekside Park on Alameda Creek in Fremont. From the Peninsula, take Dumbarton Bridge, crossing I-880. You are now on Decoto Rd. In 2 miles you take a right at Alvarado Niles Rd. under the railroad and cross Mission Rd. Exit right, 150 yards east of Mission, on Old canyon Rd. Cross the creek and turn left into the park. From the South Bay: Take I-680 or I-880 to Mission Blvd. North, to Niles Canyon Rd. Right and proceed as above. Rain Cancels. Highlights: Common Mergansers, Wood Ducks, Snipes, etc.

**Sunday, January 6, 8:30 AM.

Post-CBC Rarities. Leader: Don Starks (408) 226-4134. Directions: Meeting place and itinerary to be determined after Christmas Bird Counts. Bring lunch, full tank of gas. Heavy rain cancels. Call leader for information after January 2.

Thursday, January 10, 7:30 PM

Special January 1991 General Meeting. (See box below.)

Special General Membership Meeting Thursday, January 10, 1991 7:30 P.M.

Palo Alto Cultural Center, corner of Embarcadero and Newell Roads. 7:30 PM for refreshments, 7:45 for program. A short update on the Santa Clara Breeding Bird Atlas, with Bill Bousman, Coordinator, to tempt us to attend an in-depth presentation to be given in May at the P.A. Cultural Center. Slides are by Pete LaTourette, a member of SCVAS and an excellent professional bird photographer. In addition, Mike Rigney, who heads up the Coyote Creek Riparian Station, has prepared a slide show explaining all the facets of this outstanding avian research group. Lots of new information on our local birds seep down to us from the station (CCRS) via Bill Bousman's great "Field Notes" column in the Avocet. Come enjoy a very informative evening on the current work toward understanding our local birds.

Non-Audubon Events

• **Monterey Bay Pelagic Trips**, led by Doug & Gail Cheeseman, Rod Norden, and Allen Royer on January 12, 19 & 26. 8A.M.-3P.M., \$40. Call Gail Cheeseman for more information at (408) 741-5330.

• **Weekend Workshops for Advanced or Working Photographers.** January 11-13, February 1-3. Taught by Ron Sanford, a professional travel and wildlife photographer. (916) 846-4687.

• **Orienteering Class**, taught by Jim Wiltens. January 19, 10AM-1PM. \$16. Pre-registration required. Call the Peninsula Conservation Center at (415) 494-9301 for more information.

Visit Costa Rica and Support SCVAS

SCVAS Costa Rica Wildlife Tour for 10 people, March 30-April 15, organized by Gail Cheeseman. Offered to Audubon members at \$1095 (a savings of \$110 off land costs). The proceeds have been designated to return to Costa Rica to "Friends of Lomas Barbudal." (See article in Nov. Avocet.)

SCVAS has a sister chapter in San Jose, Costa Rica called Tsuli Tsuli. If you are considering a tour to Costa Rica, consider this one. It will assure that you are contributing directly to the upkeep of Costa Rican forest, Lomas Barbudal Biological Preserve, which desperately needs funding for its protection. For trip itinerary, call Cecily at the SCVAS office (415) 329-1811 or Gail at (408) 741-5330.

CBC Section Leaders

For more information, call CBC-compiler Paul Noble (415) 949-1743 or one of the Section Leaders below:

Section & Leader	Phone
A Jean Dubois	(408) 395-4264
B Ed Laak	(415) 324-1895
C Mike Mammoser	(408) 248-2288
D Dave Johnston	(408) 867-7278
E Rick Healy	(408) 554-6611 x 627
F Alan Thomas	(408) 265-9286
G Anne Wilson	(415) 941-0966
H Grant Hoyt	(415) 969-7892
I Paul Noble	(415) 949-6033
J (Open)	

Field Notes

By Bill Bousman

Hérons and Ducks

The first *American Bittern* of the season was at the Palo Alto Baylands 30 Oct (PJM). The hybrid *Snowy Egret X Little Blue Heron* was at Charleston Slough again on 28 Sep (WGB) and 7 Oct (PJM). A flock of 14 *Blue-winged Teal* at Sunnyvale Baylands Park 12 Oct (MFe) is exceptional. Three there 18 Oct (MFe) and a male in the Palo Alto Flood Control Basin (FCB) 27 Oct-5 Nov (MMR, MFe, PJM, RSch, AW) are more typical numbers for fall. A male *Eurasian Wigeon* has been recorded in the Mountain View Forebay with sightings 4 and 19 Oct (MMR). Additional males were found at Crittenden Marsh 21 Oct and the Sunnyvale Water Pollution Control Plant (WPCP) 25 Oct (both PJM). Five *Redhead* were in the North Pond at the Palo Alto FCB 27 Oct (MMR, PJM). A single bird was at the Palo Alto Duck Pond 30 Oct (PJM).

Falcons

Merlin are again being well-reported this fall. One was found at Grant Lake 3 Oct (EA, AT). On 29 Oct singles were along the Matadero riparian and San Francisquito Creek (RSch), and the next day one was seen at the Mountain View Forebay (PJM). *Peregrine Falcon* have been seen regularly as well. An adult was at the Palo Alto Baylands 30 Sep (TAC). Individuals were at the Sunnyvale WPCP 6 Oct and the Palo Alto FCB the next day (both RSch). A bird at the WPCP 23 Oct was an imm. (MFe). Inland; a bird was seen over Arastradero Preserve 25 Oct (GHt). Finally, one was seen near San Francisquito Creek 20 Oct (RSch) being harassed by a Merlin. It is difficult to guess the actual number of birds involved in these sightings, but it has been a good month nonetheless.

Shorebirds

A juv. *Lesser Golden-Plover* of the race *dominica* was found in the Palo Alto FCB 23 Oct (MMR) and was seen by a number of observers through 28 Oct (MFe, MJM, AW). A second bird was seen as

well on 27 Oct (PJM). This is the latest record we have for this species in recent years; they are more typically found in September. It is widely believed that this race will obtain full species status soon and will be called the *American Golden-Plover* while the race *fulva* will be called the *Pacific Golden-Plover*. As expected, the number of *Lesser Yellowlegs* has fallen off in October. One to three have continued to be found in the Mountain View Forebay through 14 Oct (MMR, AME, TAC). Four to six birds have been

Unusual records of both shorebirds and warblers

in the Palo Alto FCB 14-28 Oct (MMR, PJM, MJM). In another example of the Patagonia effect, the interest in the Lesser Golden-Plover uncovered a *Stilt Sandpiper* in with the dowitchers in the North Pond of the Palo Alto FCB 25 Oct (MMR) for the third county record. To finish out the shorebird month a *Red Phalarope* was found in the old Palo Alto Yacht Harbor for the first record since 1987 (RSch).

Goatsuckers and Woodpeckers

The movements of *Common Poorwill* are not well known because of their nocturnal habits. We do know that some birds overwinter as they are found feeding and calling during warm periods. Three were netted and banded at CCRS 10-24 Oct (fide WGB), a first for that location. Why they were captured this year is a mystery, but it does suggest a migratory movement. A *Red-naped Sapsucker* was seen at Searsville Lake 22 Oct (BK), always a good find.

Flycatchers through Warblers

A *Willow Flycatcher* banded at CCRS 3 Oct (fide WGB) is late. A *Hammond's Flycatcher* netted there 1 Oct



Townsend's Warbler, John Mariani

is both exceptionally rare and late. *Rock Wrens* are expected in scattered locations throughout the county where the appropriate habitat of rocks and open ground is found. Two to three birds at Santa Teresa CP 6 and 20 Oct are typical in this respect (MJM, PLN). However, a single bird on rip-rap at the Mountain View Forebay 10 Oct (BR, RL) is well out of habitat. We have few records of migrating or dispersing birds away from known breeding locations. A *Townsend's Solitaire* at Sanborn CP 3 Nov (EG) is always rare. Perhaps it augurs an invasion this winter of montane birds. A juv. *Tennessee Warbler* banded at CCRS 9 Oct (fide MRi) is the fifth county record for this eastern vagrant. A *Blackpoll Warbler*, another vagrant, was near the Palo Alto Water Quality Control Plant 29 Sep (PJM). Although it is one of the more common vagrants along the coast, this is only the second county record. CCRS added another warbler to the vagrant list 11 Oct with an *Ovenbird*, a third county record.

Sparrows and Crossbills

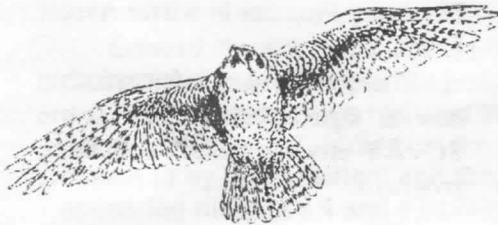
A *Sage Sparrow* east of Black Mountain 5 Oct (RSch) was in an area where the species hasn't been seen since 1985. But this is rough country and it is possible a few pairs could escape our notice for years at a time. Two *Sharp-tailed Sparrows* at the Palo Alto Baylands on the high tide 5 Nov (AW) were in an area where they have been found regularly for the last few winters. *White-throated Sparrows* have been banded at CCRS on 24 and 29 Oct and one was seen on a census there 4 Nov (MJM). Another bird was seen in Alum Rock Park 1 Nov (AME). A single *Red Crossbill* at Stanford 31 Oct (PJM) and a flock of 10 over El Corte Madera OSP 4 Nov (GGH) are the first reports since early 1989.

Field Trip Reports

Wilder Ranch, Waddell Creek & Rancho Del Oso — October 20, 1990

Observers: Ernie Abeles (EA), Bill Bousman (WGB), Ted Chandik (TAC), Al Eisner (AME), Ed Gustafson (EG), Gloria Heller (GGH), Grant Hoyt (GHt), Bill Kirsher (BK), Rosalie Lefkowitz (RL), Mike Mammoser (MJM), Peter Metropulos (PJM), Paul Noble (PLN), Bob Reiling (BR), Mike Rigney (MRi), Mike Rogers (MMR), Rick Schermerhorn (RSch), Alan Thomas (AT), and Alan Walther (AW).

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



Prairie Falcon, Emilie Curtis

Fifteen birders greeted the sun coming up over the beach and Wilder State Park with eager anticipation. Plenty of birds, including some surprises, added to a beautiful day of birding. The hike along the trail to the bluff overlooking Wilder State Beach produced *Black* and *Say's Phoebe*, *American Pipit*, *Yellow-rumped Warbler*, *Western Meadowlark*, *Lesser Goldfinch*, and five sparrows including *Fox* and *Savannah*. Scanning the beach and ocean produced *Red-throated Loon*, all three cormorants, *Snowy Plover*, *Black* and *Ruddy Turnstone*, *Whimbrel*, *Willet* and *Marbled Godwit*.

Everyone got great views of a *Rhinoceros Auklet* feeding just off the bluffs. Further along we saw six additional shorebirds for a total of 13, including an unexpected *Red Knot* in winter plumage, as well as several beautiful *Black Oystercatchers*. Seven types of gull were seen

including *Mew*, *Bonaparte's* and *Glaucous-winged*. Returning to the parking lot and the farm buildings near the visitor center for lunch, we were fortunate to locate a *Barn Owl* roosting in the lone palm tree.

After lunch we took a short hike into the hills above Wilder ranch and added *Sharp-shinned*, *Red-tailed* and *Red-shouldered Hawks* as well as spectacular views of the ocean and surrounding hills.

Heading north with a substantial list, we by-passed Laguna Beach for Waddell Creek and Rancho Del Oso. Added to the list were *Belted Kingfisher*, *Sora Rail*, *Townsend's Warbler*, and perhaps the best bird of the day, *Red-naped Sapsucker* about 1 mile up the trail from the ranger station. All in all, an excellent day of birding with a total of 79 species seen or heard.

— Earl Lebow

Marin Headlands Raptor Trip—October 7, 1990

Nine hardy birders arrived at 9:00 A.M. to find the gates half way up the road to the parking area for the Marin Headlands bunker 129 parking area closed (Thank you Mr. Bush and your budget crisis). We managed to talk to the NPS police (who were present when we arrived) into opening the gates for us, and got to the "hawk watch" at about 9:30 A.M., eagerly awaiting our first hawk.

The day was clear, calm, and warm, which does not bode well for migrating hawks. With thoughts of the 60-plus Broad-winged hawks observed last Tuesday, October 2, 1990, we hoped, and hoped, and hoped....

We spent 5 hours on the hill and saw approximately 75 raptors fly over during that time period. Highlights for the day included one sub-adult *Golden Eagle*, a possible dark morph *Red-legged Hawk*, and two *Black Swifts*. Just before we got to the "hawk watch," Phil Gordon observed several *Evening Grosbeaks* fly over! We had fun watching fly past other migrants such as *Varied Thrush*, *American Pipit*, *Vaux's Swift*, *Band-tailed Pigeon*, and *Townsend's Warbler*.

Raptors observed included around 25 *Turkey Vultures*, about 8 *Northern Harriers*, approximately 20 *Sharp-shinned Hawks*, close to 15 *Cooper's Hawks*, 1 *Red-shouldered Hawk*, about 15 *Red-tailed Hawks*, 1 *Buteo* sp. (possibly *Rough-legged*), 1 *Golden Eagle*, and 4 *American kestrels*.

Thirty-four species of birds were seen and great views, from the Farallon Islands to Mt. Diablo. Although we saw no really unusual birds, we did get looks at the common hawks, which is always a great thrill, and of course, there was always the great excitement of the anticipation that goes along with the "hawk watch." You never know what will appear on the horizon next, and with so many eyes (there were about 75 people at the "hawk watch"), every shout fired off a shot of Adrenaline and a multitude of speculations on the bird's identity!

At about 2:00 P.M., we gave up, quite content with having been fortunate to have been able to again witness that wonderful mystery in action—migration. I look forward to next year's "hawk watch."

— Don Schmoltdt

Holiday Nut Sale

to benefit the
Environmental Library
of the Peninsula
Conservation Center



Nuts go on sale November 1

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Almonds Pecans Walnuts
Shelled nuts in 1# bags

Just in time for the holiday s

**Receive free nut recipes with your purchase

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Center,
2448 Watson Court, Palq Alto
(Embarcadero Rd. East, Rt. on E. Bayshore,
Rt. on Watson Ct.)
415-494-9301

Environmental News

Greenhouse Effect and Coastal Drilling Subjects of National Audubon Books

National Audubon has produced an 80 page citizen's guide showing how individuals can reduce carbon dioxide emissions and thus reduce their impact on the buildup of greenhouse gases. To order *CO2 Diet for a Greenhouse Planet: Citizen's Guide to Slowing Global Warming*, send \$4.95 per copy to: Information Services, National Audubon Society, 950 Third Avenue, New York, NY 10022. For only \$1.05 more (send \$6), receive both the guide and a CO2 Diet Poster (a visually pleasing summary of diet tips.

Coastal Alert a citizen's guide to offshore drilling, has just been released by the Central Coast OCS Regional Studies Program and the Natural Resources Defense Council. This book demystifies the offshore drilling lease sale and development process. It ex-

poses the severe price our environment pays for offshore drilling. With facts and figures, this book explains why we shouldn't risk oil spills for energy. It includes a discussion of safe, practical and cheap alternatives to oil. And finally, through the history of citizen action in California, readers learn how to make their voice heard in the battle to save the coast. To order: call Island Press at 1-800-828-1302 X26. \$10.95

1991 Audubon Calendars

For those who haven't already ordered their 1991 calendars, the Peninsula Conservation Center is offering a 10% discount on all Audubon calendars. Call (415) 494-9301 for more information.

Hats Off To Our Wonderful Fall Volunteers

To Bonnie Bedford-White for creating the 1990 CBC Map;
To Michelle Conway for producing a BABOB flyer;
To Dave Pauly for creating the many maps for BABOB;
To Vickie Robins for producing a 1990 Holiday Gifts Catalog; and
To Tibby Simon for computerizing our Wetlands Discovery

Curriculum

And a round of applause for the following volunteers who made our Bird Seed Sale so successful:

Jay Abel, Yana Arnold, Janice Edgerly-Rooks, Tony Eppstein, Rose Green, Bobbie Handen, Grant Hoyt, Mike Johnston, Rene Lynch, Jules Resnick, Terri Segal, Jerry Waldorf and Nick Yatsko

And to all the folks at the five seed pick-up sites:

Peninsula Conservation Center, Pets Friend Animal Clinic, REI, Youth Science Institute (Alum Rock and Vasona Park).

And to the many hard working volunteers who helped make the second edition of BABOB happen:

Jay Abel, Bruce Barrett, Bill Bousman, Emelie Curtis, Ted Chandik, Gail Cheeseman, Jean & Bill Clark, Patrick Congden, Frank Farran, Mike Feighner, Mary Hallesy, Phil Hand, Terry Hart Lee, Ray Hosler, Grant Hoyt, Peter LaTourette, Amy Lauterbach, Sue & Jim Liskovec, John Mariani, Peter Metropulos, Paul Noble, Rod Norden, Dave Pauly, Edward Rooks, Allen Royer, Don Schmoldt, Milt Seibert, Don Starks, Audrey Stoye, David Suddjian, Alan Thomas, Betty Wyatt, and James Yurchenko.

1990 SCVAS Telethon Supports Environmental Education

Our second SCVAS Telethon was conducted the evening of October 12. We were pleased to again reach so many generous Audubon members. Our 1991 environmental education programs are off to a tremendous start, thanks to you. Watch for announcement of a special presentation of Schoolyard Birds and for updates on the Wetlands Discovery Program in winter Avocet issues.

There will also be information on how to sign up classrooms to use SCVAS environmental education programs.

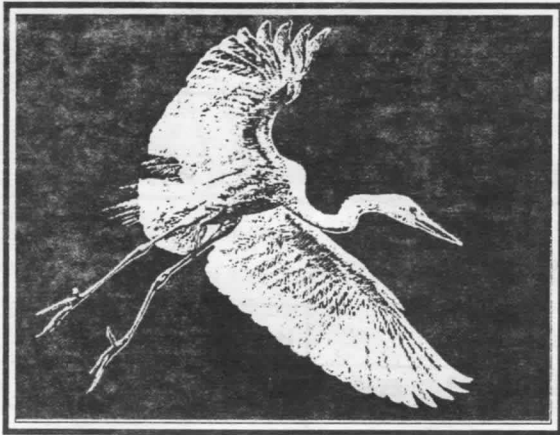
SCVAS Office Wish List

What would the SCVAS office like for Christmas?

- A copy machine that can do double-sided pages and collate.
- A VCR to show Audubon and other VHS tapes at educational trainings in the community.
- A push cart to assist in taking supplies to educational programs in the community.
- Wall shelving to better organize our small office. Our Education Committee is hoping for some supplies for its Spring '91 Wetlands Discovery Program:
- Assorted field guides for field trips for 4th-6th graders (birds, plants, trees, animals, fish, insects, etc.).
- Six small day packs to carry equipment into field.
- Six hand lenses to look for student field identification projects
- Six hand-held field microscopes. (~\$35.00 each)

If you have one of the above or would like more information about other SCVAS office needs, please call Cecily at (415) 329-1811. (Your donation is tax-deductible.)

Announcing a New Art Show!



Edward Rook's *Great Egret* (above) and *Savannah Sparrow*, (right) are just two of the works of art that will be featured in "Original Art of Birding at the Bottom of the Bay." The drawings by John Mariani and Emelie Curtis appearing on pages 4 and 5 of this issue are also from the book and will be included in the show.

"Original Art of Birding at the Bottom of the Bay" is the name of an exhibit on display during the month of December at Palo Alto's Lucy Evans Baylands Nature Interpretive Center. Come see originals of the maps and art work used in the production of the book. The Baylands are one of the sites highlighted in BABOB on pages 9-12. You might want to bird the duck pond or tidal salt marsh in the morning and visit the exhibit in the afternoon.

The Baylands Interpretive Center is open Tuesdays through Fridays from 2-5 PM and Saturdays 1-5 PM. To get there, take Highway 101 to Embarcadero east exit. Continue towards the Bay until you reach the parking lot at the easternmost end of Embarcadero Rd. For more information, call SCVAS at (415) 329-1811 or the Baylands at (415) 329-2506.



Savannah Sparrow, Edward Rooks

Special Offer From *Bird Watchers Digest*

Bird Watchers Digest, a bi-monthly magazine, has made a special offer to Santa Clara Valley Audubon members. SCVAS will receive \$7.50 from each *new* subscription (half of the subscription rate).

A recent issue included articles covering In Praise of Towhees, Mixed Winter Flocks, The Scanning Dipper, How to Attach Neck Straps, Christmas Bird Card Count, and many more. Book notes, let-

ters and puzzles, and regular contributing authors round out this magazine.

Send a \$15 check payable to SCVAS, along with your name and address, to the Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society, 415 Cambridge Avenue, #21, Palo Alto, CA 94306.

Bird Seed and More

Our Fall '90 Bird Seed Sale was a success, thanks to SCVAS members and other friends of the birds in the community. We raised over \$4000 from the sale! Thanks for your support! We'll offer another sale again in March. Watch for details in the *Avocet*.

Many people call the office and ask which birds prefer which food and how the food should be presented. On page 8 is a chart from the Sea & Sage Audubon Chapter in Orange County, CA.

Sources of information for the bird feeding chart include: *Bird Watcher's Digest*, *Project FeederWatch*, *Wild Bird* magazine, *The Bird Feeder Book*—by Don and Lillian Stokes, and the National Wildlife Federation.

BABOB Order Form

Please send me ___ copies of *Birding at the Bottom of the Bay*. (\$10.00 each or \$9.00 each for three to 10 copies. Add \$2.50 shipping/handling for the first book, \$1.25 for additional copies.) Send to:

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Food Preferences of Feeder Birds

SPECIES	STAPLE FOOD	OTHER FOOD	WHERE
Doves and Pigeons	Millet Small Seed Cracked Corn	Black-Striped Sunflower Seed	Ground
Woodpeckers	Suet	Sunflower Seed	Hanging Feeders
Jays	Sunflower Seed Cracked Corn Peanuts	Suet Fruit	Anywhere
Plain Titmice, Chickadees and Nuthatches	Sunflower Seed peanut Kernels	Suet	Prefer Feeders off the ground
Mockingbirds	Hulled Sunflower Seed	Suet Raisens Doughnuts	Ground
Blackbirds	Cracked Corn Seeds	Sunflower Seed Millet	Ground
Orioles and Tanagers	Chopped Fruit Suet Peanut Butter	Sugar Water	Hanging Feeders
Quail	Cracked Corn Millet	_____	Ground
House Finches and Goldfinches	Sunflower Seed Thistle Seed	Cracked Corn Millet	Anywhere
Sparrows	Peanut Butter Seeds Cracked Corn	Sunflower seed Millet	Ground
Hummingbirds	Sugar Water	_____	Hanging Feeder

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