



The Avocet

The Newsletter of the Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society

April 1991



Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society 1991 Birdathon

Will the Uncommon Loons beat the Buffleheads, or perhaps run into the Wrong Terns? Will the Cardinal Virtues find a Cardinal? (doubtful!).

Can the Vagrants come up with some spare change, or will the Poorwills strike it rich?

These and other burning questions will be answered on the weekend of April 27-28 as SCVAS' most avid birding/fundraising teams set out to count birds and collect dollars for the 1991 Birdathon, our chapter's biggest fund-raiser. Their success in reaching our goal of \$10,000 this year for Mono Lake and the Burrowing Owl census depends on YOUR contributions!

The Burrowing Owl census and the National Audubon Society's Mono Lake campaign represent two very worthwhile

causes. The owl census gives local volunteers a chance to assist respected scientists in collecting valuable data that could help save this increasingly threatened species and its habitat right here in Santa Clara Valley, while the lengthy and expensive struggle to save Mono Lake demonstrates the tenacity of concerned environmentalists in California and throughout the country as they refuse to let this natural wonder be destroyed.

Money raised in this year's Birdathon will be divided among these two projects and SCVAS' ongoing educational and environmental programs. Please take the time to fill out a pledge form (page 7) and sponsor the team of your choice. (The Uncommon Loons are the "official" SCVAS team and will be leading a Birdathon Field Trip on April 27th — see

Calendar of Events for details.) Getting involved is as easy as picking up a pen — the Loons, Wrentits, Buffleheads *et.al.* will do the rest for you!

To sponsor a team, simply pledge a certain amount per species (expected totals listed for each team). After your team has amassed its total species seen on the Birdathon day, you will donate your pledge X # of species seen. Example: a \$0.25 pledge X 100 species = \$25.00 contribution. Note the wide range of expected # of species seen - some teams use the full 24 hours while others bird half-days or less - and make your pledge accordingly.

Prizes will be awarded to the teams that raise the most money and see the highest number of species. Donors contributing \$50 or more will be recognized in *The Avocet*.

Date Set For 1991 SCVAS Burrowing Owl Census

The California Department of Fish and Game has classified the Burrowing Owl as a "species of special concern." This classification does not provide any special legal protection or allocate any funds for study. Burrowing Owl habitat has the same characteristics as prime land for development (open, flat to rolling grassland at lower elevations). With increased residential and commercial development of land, we're seeing a rapid decrease in the Burrowing Owl population. Here, in Santa Clara County, habitat loss is especially visible. In order for Fish and Game to reclassify the owl as "threatened" or "endangered," which offers more legal protection, scientific data concern-

ing population and habitat must be collected and analyzed and provided to them.

Dr. Dave DeSante of the Institute for Bird Populations has developed a proposal for a "Cooperative Census of Burrowing Owls in California." The project covers a large part of the greater San Francisco Bay Area and a part of the Central Valley.

The Institute is using a Geographic Information Systems (GIS) approach to define habitat characteristics for these owls. Four habitat favorableness categories will be utilized based on various slope and elevation characteristics. These are ranked 1 to 4, favorable to unfavorable for Bur-

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Birdathon Team List:

Pledge support for your favorite team! — page 7

Chapter News

Thanks to Some Much Appreciated February Volunteers:

☞ Jim Johnson for his continued efforts on updating our membership lists. To Yana Arnold and new volunteer Joyce Todd for their help on birdseed sale recordkeeping, and to Tibby for organizing our wetlands files.

☞ And to the members of the Field Trip Committee for the great job they've been doing this year.

Burrowing Owl Census

(continued from page 1)

rowing Owls. The entire area will be mapped and divided into 5 km square blocks. A census will be performed on 20-25% of the blocks. Extrapolations to estimate the total population will then be made.

SCVAS and other local Audubon chapters have been approached to participate in this census. SCVAS has agreed to contribute \$2000 and volunteers for censusing the 20-30 Santa Clara County blocks. Golden Gate Audubon Society has also joined the project. Phase I of this cooperative census will take place in spring '91.

Thirty volunteers are needed to census 5 km squares in Santa Clara County for a 6 week period (May 1-June 15). Each volunteer or team of volunteers will be trained in census techniques to identify Burrowing Owls and their burrows. Detailed map blocks and data sheets will be provided. Training will occur in early April.

Volunteers will cover the entire 5 km square block during early A.M. (sunrise to 10 A.M.) or late P.M. (4 P.M. to sunset) during the 45 day period when breeding Burrowing Owls are likely to be in their nests feeding their young. At this time one or both parents will always be present. Volunteers will need to provide a complete count of Burrowing Owls and an estimate of nesting pairs and mark these on the map.

Interested? Call Cecily at SCVAS office at (415) 329-1811 for more details.

Chapter Elections

SCVAS members present at the May 15 general meeting in Palo Alto will vote on the following nominated SCVAS Officers and Directors for 1991-92:

President: Grant Hoyt
 1st Vice President: Nick Yatsko
 2nd Vice President: Tony Eppstein
 Treasurer: Nancy Doty
 Recording Secretary: Yana Arnold

Directors filling 3 year term ('90-'93)

Earl Cilley
 Alan Thomas

Directors for 3 Years ('91-'94)

Fran McTamanev
 Trish Mulvey
 Mike Rigney

Use "Line 50"
To Help California's
Endangered Species.



FORM 540 California Tax Form

You may make a contribution of \$1 or more:

48 Alzheimer's Disease	• 48
49 Senior Citizens	• 49
50 ENDANGERED SPECIES	• 50 <i>\$15</i>
51 Child Abuse	• 51
52 Olympics	• 52
53 Vietnam Veterans	• 53

There are more than 280 California wildlife species facing the threat of extinction. You can help them survive by filling in "Line 50" on your State Tax Return. Even a little helps a lot, so please do what you can.

Pictured here: San Joaquin Kit Fox

SCVAS OFFICERS

Staff	Cecily Harris	415/329-1811
President	Grant Hoyt	415/969-7892
1st VP	Nick Yatsko	408/865-4831
2nd VP	Janice Edgerly-Rooks	408/246-5152
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Rec. Secty.	Yana Arnold	408/371-4393
Past Pres.	Dave Johnston	408/867-7278

DIRECTORS

Rob Colwell	415/326-2400
Geri Brown	408/749-4840
Kim Dreyfuss	415/857-1106
Jules Resnick	415/961-8619
Donna Zetterquist	408/429-9716
Tony Eppstein	415/326-1376
Alan Thomas	408/265-9286
Bobbie Handen	408/356-4263
Judy Wagner	415/941-7586

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Programs	Doug & Gail	
	Cheeseman	408/867-1371
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Field Trips	Edward Rooks	408/246-5152
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Aud Adven	Elaine Gould	408/448-0622
Hospitality	Benita Terry	
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 25th of the prior month. Send contributions to the editor, Michele Girard, c/o SCVAS at the above address.

April 1991, Volume 38, Number 4

A Rare Experience!

Whales & Tales
 Wildlife Store and Gallery

800-422-8253
 429 University

415-326-1130
 Palo Alto

April 1991 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. Trips highlighting chapters from our new site guide, "Birding at the Bottom of the Bay," are identified as BABOB trips. Field Trip Coordinator for April John Mariani (408) 268-6101.

**Denotes Field Trip

Wednesday, April 3, 7:30 - 9:30 PM.
Bay Area Bird Photographer Bill Ferguson will show slides from last summer's trip to Greenland and the Canadian Arctic. He will talk about the natural history of the region and how both humans and wildlife have adapted to living in such harsh conditions. The meeting will be held at Palo Alto's Lucy Evans Baylands Interpretive Center on East Embarcadero Rd.

****Saturday, April 6, 8:30 AM. Half day.**
St. Joseph's Hill OSP. Leader: Mike Feighner (408) 354-0138. Directions: From E. Main St. in Los Gatos take College Ave. to Jones Rd. to parking at the end. Highlights: Chaparral birds and panoramic views from a lofty height. Moderately strenuous hiking. BABOB trip.

****Sunday, April 7, 8:30 AM.**
Ano Nuevo State/Pigeon Point. Leader: Mark Miller (415) 967-3429. Directions: Hwy. 84 to Hwy 1, south past Pigeon Point to Ano Nuevo State Reserve (entrance fee). Meet at visitor center. Walk of about 3 miles. Highlights: Elephant Seals, migrating loons and seabirds. Bring lunch, liquids, warm layered clothing, and scopes. Half day or longer. Limit of 20 persons; call for reservations.

Tuesday, April 9, 9:30 AM.
Bird Discussion Group at the home of Eve Case, 20537 Verde Vista Lane, Saratoga (408) 867-4748. Topic: Bird Extinction, Why?

****Wednesday, April 10, 9:00 AM. Half day.**
South County Trip to Stevens Creek Park. Leaders: Bev Wallace (408) 741-3413, and Gail Cheeseman (408) 741-5330. Directions: Meet at first parking lot (Chestnut Picnic Area). From I-280 go south on Foothill Blvd. (becomes Stevens Canyon Rd.) 2.1 miles to Park entrance on left. Parking lot is down hill.

****Saturday, April 13, 9:00 AM.**
Pinnacles National Monument. Leader: Don Schmoltdt (415) 215-1910. Directions: From Hollister take Hwy. 25 south 30 miles to Hwy. 146, which leads into the monument. Meet at Bear Gulch Visitor Center. DO NOT ENTER MONUMENT FROM SOLEDAD. Highlights: Spring wildflowers and birds, with

chances for raptors, Canyon Wren, Sage and Rufous-crowned Sparrows, and Lawrence's Goldfinch. Several miles of moderate hiking. Call for reservations and carpooling details.

****Sunday, April 14, 9:30 AM. Half day.**
Beginners Trip to Charleson Slough. Leader: Rod Norden (408) 255-3033. Directions: Take 101 to Mountain View, exit San Antonio Rd. east to its end at Terminal Way. Birding basics with emphasis on waterfowl and shorebirds.

****Sunday, April 14, 9:00 AM. Full day.**
Special Joint SCVAS/Sierra Club Trip to Gilroy Hot Springs Rd. to Henry Coe Park. Leaders: Amy Lauterbach and James Yurchenko (415) 494-8062 and Sierra Club contact: Pat Rose (408) 884-4586. Highlights: Peak birding time plus views of proposed area for a huge condo/hotel complex. It may be too late to save this beautiful "quiet byway," (quote from BABOB p.98), but EIS should be questioned. Directions: Take Leavesly exit from 101 then left on New Ave. Take a right on Loop Rd. Travel 5.3 miles on this winding rd. which becomes Gilroy Hot Springs Rd. Stop at Gate # 5643, W.R. Branding name which will be open for parking cars inside the ranch off the road. Walk the 3 miles along GHSR to Coe Park entrance beside the riparian habitat. Bring lunch. Either continue on 1 1/2 mile loop inside Coe Park or bird back to cars. Come and get involved!

Wednesday, April 17, 7:30 PM.
April General Meeting, co-sponsored by Palo Alto Open Spaces and Sciences Division at the Palo Alto Cultural Center, 1313 Newell Rd, at Embarcadero. Topic: "Bird Navigation, Migration, and Conservation." (See box below.)

****Saturday, April 20, 8:30 AM. Half day.**
Stanford University Jasper Ridge Biological Preserve. Leaders: Winkie Lennihan, Bill Kirsher, Bill and Jean Clark. Directions: BY RESERVATION ONLY - call the Clarks at (415) 424-4371 or (415) 851-1501 and leave number. Limited to 40. Meet at the Preserve

main entrance (not Whiskey Hill gate). \$4 gate fee. Gate open from 8:10 to 8:30 ONLY. BE PROMPT!! Take Sand Hill Rd. west off I-280 about 2 miles to main gate. Trip goes rain or shine. 2-3 miles moderately strenuous walking. Bag lunch optional. BABOB Trip.

****Sunday, April 21, 8:30 AM.**
Stevens Creek County Park (birding by sound). Leader: Frank Farran (408) 252-3874. Directions: Exit I-280 south onto Foothill Blvd; travel 2.1 miles and turn left to enter park; go to 1st parking lot for Chestnut Picnic Area. Half day, but nice place to bring a bag lunch. BABOB Trip.

Monday, April 22, 7:30 PM refreshments, 8:00 program.
Special South County Meeting at Saratoga Community library, southwest corner of Fruitvale and Saratoga Avenues. The Birds of India with Sri Raj Singh, naturalist guide and owner of Expedition Tours. The Indian subcontinent stretches over a vast area. The people of India are a fascinating mixture and so are the birds of India with more than 1300 species, including 150 found nowhere else in the world. Here four biogeographical regions overlap bringing together birds from Southeast Asia, northern Eurasia, the Himalayas, and wintering Siberian birds. Raj Singh spends his life working on birding trips and cultural tours in India. We are fortunate to have him speak during his short visit to the USA. He will show slides of birds from several parks including the famous Bharatpur Bird Sanctuary, the tiger reserve at Banghavgarh National Park, birds and some mammals from Kaziranga National Park in Assam, plus a few of the Taj, the "Pink City" of Jaipur, and other attractions. This will be an outstanding lecture.

****Wednesday, April 24, Half day.**
North County Trip to Palo Alto Foothills Park. Leader: Alberta Jasberg (415) 493-9546. Call for time and carpool location. Reservations essential. As a P.A. resident, leader can admit 3 cars, 5 persons per car. Fee: \$2 per car. Highlights: Possible Lazuli Bunting, Blue-gray Gnatcatchers, and other spring arrivals. Lunch optional. (continued on page 5)

Wednesday, April 17, 7:30 PM. General Membership Meeting

Special preview of "The Birds Around Us," a slide show and curriculum made possible by the Gaylord Androes Memorial Fund. Dr. Luis Baptista, a wonderful lecturer, returns with a new lecture entitled "Bird Navigation, Migration and Conservation." Luis is chairman and curator of ornithology and mammalogy at the California Academy of Sciences. He has traveled to many places in North America, Central and South America, the Caribbean, and New Guinea. His research covers many aspects of bird life and he is co-author with Welty of the wonderful ornithology text, *The Life of Birds*. In this talk he will bring home the effects of tropical deforestation and its impact on our North American Bird Populations. He will also cover the fascinating topic of locating migrating bird populations based on their songs.

Field Notes

By Bill Bousman

Pelicans through Ducks

Small numbers of **American White Pelicans** have been found in the south bay after their normal movement in early January back to their breeding grounds. More surprising is a flock of 10-30 birds at Calero Res. 8-27 Feb (VH). **Green-backed Herons** are normally absent from their typical haunts in the winter months so an adult at the Sunnyvale Water Pollution Control Plant (WPCP) 1 Feb (MMR) is of interest. A male **Redhead** has remained on the Stevens Creek Res. with observations 16-22 Feb (MJM, RWR, WGB). Two female **Barrow's Goldeneyes** have also remained on Shoreline Lake with observations 10-28 Feb (PJM). One to three **Hooded Mergansers** have been seen on Stevens Creek Res. again on 10-17 Feb (CO, MJM, RWR) and three more birds were at the Oka ponds 25 Feb (MFe).

Raptors

A first-winter **Bald Eagle** over Jos. Grant CP 18 Feb (WGB) was undoubtedly one of the birds wintering at Calaveras Res., but the source of an adult at Calero Res. 25 Feb (VH) is uncertain. Two **Ferruginous Hawks** along the Pajaro River 23 Feb (DLSu, SL) are from an area that is not frequently birded. Another bird was found at Jos. Grant CP 24 Feb (MJM). An adult **Golden Eagle** over Mountain View 3 Feb (MMR) and an imm. at the Sunnyvale WPCP 17 Feb (PJM) were away from known nesting areas. A male **Merlin** of Richardson's race continues to be found in Mountain View with observations 6, 16, and 17 Feb (MMR). Another Merlin was found in Los Altos 23 Feb (LH, *et. al.*). **Peregrine Falcon** reports include an imm. on Guadalupe Slough 1 Feb and a bird at Moffet Field 12 Feb (both MMR).

Shorebirds and Gulls

A **Lesser Yellowlegs** on the Mountain View salt ponds 28 Jan (PP *fide* PJM) is rare here in the winter. A **Spotted Sandpiper** was found at Vasona Res. 2

Feb (PJM) for one of our few February records. A first-winter **Franklin's Gull** was found (or re-found) at Sandy Wool Lake in Ed Levin CP 14 Feb (MFe) and was seen at least through 17 Feb (AV). The extreme rarity of this species suggest that this was the same bird seen at the Palo Alto Baylands earlier this month. Two imm. **Glaucous Gulls** were found at the Sunnyvale WPCP 1 Feb (MMR), a first-winter bird was nearby at the Sunnyvale Baylands 9 Feb (WGB *et. al.*), and two were at the WPCP again on 17 Feb (PJM).

Does the early arrival of swallows herald an early spring?

Roadrunners to Wrens

Data from the first three years of our *Santa Clara County Breeding Bird Atlas* suggest that **Greater Roadrunners** are one of our rarest breeding birds. Thus, two birds found on Canada Road east of Gilroy 17 Feb (RH) and a single bird in The Villages, San Jose, 24 Feb (EA) are of considerable interest. Most of our swallows have arrived on earlier dates that any reports I have for the last 10 years. It seems likely that this is a result of warm temperatures and early insect hatches. Five to six **Tree Swallows** were over Sandy Wool Lake 14 Feb (MFe), seven **Violet-green Swallows** at Vasona Res. 2 Feb (PJM), a single **Northern Rough-winged Swallow** was at Lake Cunningham 22 Feb (EA), and a **Barn Swallow** was over Sandy Wool Lake 17 Feb (AV). A **Yellow-billed Magpie** in Regnart Canyon in Cupertino 14 Feb (J-AG) is about as far north as they get on the eastern edge of the Santa Cruz Mountains. There are no breeding records, however, north of the Santa Teresa Hills. A **Winter Wren** on Smiths Creek 24 Feb (MJM) is interesting as it appears away from the wintering populations in the valley, but we now know that this species nests in the Smiths Creek drainage in the Diablo Range.



Peregrine Falcon
Roger Tory Peterson

Sparrows and Orioles

A **Vesper Sparrow** was found at Ed Levin CP 14 Feb (MFe). This is one of our rarest wintering sparrows with only about 10 records for the county. A **Swamp Sparrow** at the Mountain View Forebay 10 Feb (PJM) continues the trend of the last two winters of this species being found more widely along the bay. A **White-throated Sparrow** was banded at the Coyote Creek Riparian Station 27 Jan. Another bird was seen below Vasona Res. 2 Feb (PJM). An adult and imm. continue to come to a feeder in Menlo Park through 28 Feb (WGB). A female Northern Oriole has visited a Los Altos feeder 1 Jan-8 Feb. A male was there on 26 Jan as well (both LBI).

Arrivals:

Rufous Hummingbird, Los Altos, 11 Feb (EMcG); **Cliff Swallow**, Los Gatos Creek, 25 Feb (MFe); and **Orange-crowned Warbler**, Stevens Creek CP, 16 Feb (MJM).

Observers: Ernie Abeles (EA), Louise Blakey (LBI), Bill Bousman (WGB), Mike Feighner (MFe), Jo-Ann Gholson (J-AG), Leonard Helton (LH), Rick Herder (RH), Vance Hopkins (VH), Susan Littlefield (SL), Mike Mammoser (MJM), Eleanor McGowan (EMcG), Peter Metropulos (PJM), Chris Otahal (CO), Peter Pyle (PP), Rob Reiling (RWR), Mike Rogers (MMR), David Suddjian (DLSu), and Ann Verdi (AV).

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

Environmental Action News

National Audubon Buys Unique Forest

The National Audubon Society has purchased a 116-acre tract of ecologically significant coastal rainforest in the Pacific Northwest, sparing the ancient trees and rich wildlife habitat from the ravages of logging. It becomes Audubon's first forest sanctuary in the Northwest.

Located near Florence, Oregon, the tract is part of Tenmile Valley, 5,400 acres of canopy forest and prime habitat for the threatened Northern Spotted Owl, as well as elk, black bear, and Bald Eagle. The valley also supports Oregon's largest known concentration of Marbled

Murrelets, now considered for the federal endangered species list.

The sanctuary is surrounded largely by national forest land. Tenmile Valley connects two wilderness areas, making the whole area the "largest intact coastal temperate rainforest in the lower 48 states," says Dan Taylor, Audubon's western regional representative.

And the purchase came just in time: Logging plans had been approved for the property, and cutting would likely have started immediately.

Marbled Murrelet Census

Volunteer researchers are needed to assist in the survey of potential Marbled Murrelet habitat in the Santa Cruz mountains. Survey activity includes four intensive dawn surveys at each old-growth stand. Surveys will follow protocol in Paton, et al., 1990, *Surveying Marbled Murrelets at Inland Forested Sites: A Guide*.

All surveys will be conducted during the months of June and July and will be centered out of the Sempervirens Fund Tin Can Ranch Field Facility near Saratoga Gap.

Currently there are three openings on the Dawn Survey Team and one opening on the Mapping and Data Base Team. Other support is also needed for this project and a variety of other wildlife studies involving the Santa Cruz Mountains. Dawn survey training will take place during the months of April and May and involve two four-hour field sessions in Big Basin State Park.

All activities will take place in throughout the Santa Cruz Mountains and involve working in the field under diverse conditions during early morning hours. Volunteers will need to provide transportation, food, hiking boots and clothing. Specialized survey equipment will be provided.

This project is intended to continue research that has previously been undertaken in the region and an advisory panel of Murrelet experts will provide direction and scientific review. Local colleges and universities are also providing researchers and technical support.

To volunteer for this project or to get more information about other Sempervirens Fund projects please contact: Shelton Douthit at (415) 968-4509 or write to: Shelton Douthit, Field Coordinator, Sempervirens Fund, Drawer BE, Los Altos, CA 94023.

April 1991 Calendar

(continued from page 3)

****Saturday, April 27, 8:00 AM. Half day.**

SCVAS Birdathon Field Trip; Arastradero OSP, Stanford Campus, Baylands. Leaders: "Uncommon Loons" Birdathon Team (408) 997-6171. Or call SCVAS office for more information (415) 329-1811. Directions: Take I-280 to Page Mill Rd., west on Page Mill Rd. to right turn onto Arastradero Rd. Meet in parking lot at Arastradero Open Space Preserve. Bring lunch, liquids. Participants are encouraged to contribute \$10 or to get pledges for the number of species seen. The team goal is 100 birds. **BABOB Trip.**

****Sunday, April 28, 9:00 AM. Half day.**

Castle Rock State Park. Leader: David Suddjian (408) 479-9603. Directions: Take Big Basin Way (Hwy. 9) toward Santa Cruz. Turn left at Skyline Blvd.; meeting place is parking lot on the right in 2.6 miles. Bring warm clothing, liquids. Lunch opt. About 4 miles of moderately strenuous hiking. Highlights: Good variety of woodland and chaparral species, spring migrants, and some of the best scenery in the Santa Cruz Mountains. Heavy rain cancels. **BABOB Trip.**

****Saturday, May 4, 8:30 AM. Half day.**

Smith Creek. Leader: Alan Thomas (408) 265-9286. Directions: Meet at Smith Creek Fire Station on Mt. Hamilton Rd., 4.5 miles past Grant Ranch. Lunch opt., no facilities. Bring munchies and liquids. Beginners welcome. Moderate hiking for 2-3 miles. Highlights: A good variety of woodland and riparian species.

****Sunday, May 5, 8:00 AM. Full day.** **Mines Rd/Del Puerto Canyon.** Leaders: Rod Norden (408) 255-3033 and Mike Feighner (408) 354-0138. Directions: Take south Livermore Ave. to 8th St. in Livermore. Meet at the Nob Hill Shopping Center. Please Carpool. Maximum of 10 cars on caravan with full cars only. Possible species include Wood Duck, Lesser Nighthawk, Costa's Hummingbird, Lewis' Woodpecker, Canyon and Rock Wrens, Phainopepla, Lawrence's Goldfinch, Northern Oriole. 12 hour trip, but participants may turn back at San Antonio junction. Bring lunch (dinner), full tank of gas. Limited facilities. Beginners welcome.

****Saturday, May 11, 8:00 AM. Full day+.**

Chew's Ridge. Leader: Mike Feighner (408) 354-0138. Call leader to sign up and for more information. Highlights: Mountain Quail, Flammulated Owl, Black-chinned Hummingbird, Purple Martin, Dusky Flycatcher, Western Tanager. Optional: Owling Saturday night, camp and return following morning.

****Sunday, May 12, 9:00 AM. Half day.**

Beginner Trip to Charleston Slough. Leader: Rod Norden (408) 255-3033. Directions: Take 101 to Mountain View, exit San Antonio Rd. east to its end at Terminal Way. Highlights: Basics of birding with emphasis on shorebirds and waterfowl.

Plan Ahead (See May Avocet issue for more details): May 18 Rancho del Oso/Waddell Creek; May 19 Henry Coe State Park.



Common Merganser with ducklings
Emelie Curtis

Audubon Adventures

Audubon Adventures is being used in 79 Santa Clara County classrooms this school year. That is a dramatic increase over last year and is due to Cecily's success in obtaining grant money. The following corporations have sponsored classrooms: Sandoz 6, IBM 19, Lucky Stores 5, Intel 14, Leslie Salt 9. The remainder have been paid for by SCVAS and private contributions.

— Elaine Gould

Other classrooms not listed in the February Avocet:

<u>Teacher</u>	<u>School</u>	<u>City</u>
Mildred Byrd	Harry Slonaker	San Jose
Gloria Collins	Schallenger	San Jose
Cloris Daniels	Hacienda-Valley	San Jose
Robert Devine	McKinley	Elkins Park, PA
Mary Drumm	Ann Darling	San Jose
Joe Fukasawa	Edenvale	San Jose
Nancy Girvin	Willow Glen	San Jose
Mary Goldberg	Country Lane	San Jose
Cynthia Hada	Meyer	San Jose
Richard Harlow	Wagner-Holt	Stockton
Jean Hefferlin	Trace	San Jose
Dorothy Heindel	Meyer	San Jose
Ann Horton	Willow Glen	San Jose
Janice Hubbs	Washington	San Jose
Sandy Jewett	Willow Glen	San Jose
Carole Kazanjian	Hillsdale	San Jose
Diana Lando	Empire Gardens	San Jose
Ruth Leymann	McKinley	Elkins Park, PA
Alene Mackey	Hillsdale	San Jose
Nick Marick	Edenvale	San Jose
Richard Markus	Allen	San Jose
Lenore Mills	Schallenger	San Jose
John Park	Hacienda-Valley	San Jose
Betty Parsons	Alta Vista	Los Gatos
Pat Porter	Trace	San Jose
Martin Quaeley	Empire Gardens	San Jose
Allen Royer	Edenvale	San Jose
Margaret Salmon	Schallenger	San Jose
Martha Smith	Washington	San Jose

Non-Audubon Events Baylands Clean-Up Day

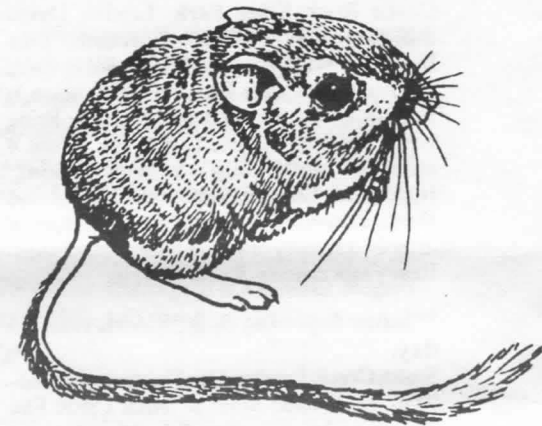
Sponsored by the cities of East Palo Alto and Palo Alto. Meet at 8:30 AM on Saturday, April 20 at the Palo Alto Athletic Center on Geng Rd. Kids are encouraged to participate. They must bring a signed consent form. Any children under 10 must be accompanied by adult. To volunteer: call City of Palo Alto Recreation Special Events (415) 329-2380. To be a team leader: Call (415) 496-6997.

Marine Science Institute

Four-hour voyage exploring life in San Francisco Bay. Get up close to a shark or ray. Get your hands in the mud looking for the Asiatic clam. Peer through a microscope to see what swims or floats. For ages 10 and up. Public trips available. 8am-noon on May 11; 8am-noon, June 15, a special trip for seniors. Adults \$30, students \$20. Reservations required. Call (415) 364-2760.

Three week tour to Australia

Oct. 5 - 27, led by Auduboners Lynne Aldrich and Peter Gottschling, and resident Aussie naturalists in each area; birding, mammal viewing, and snorkeling on the Reef; it's springtime there and lots of fascinating courtship from the animals. Call Gail or Doug Cheeseman for details (408) 741-5330.



Morro Bay Kangaroo Rat,
Endangered Species
— Ed Rooks

Have You Seen Any Turkey Vulture Roosts?

I am a biology student at California State University Hayward and am attempting to map out all of the Turkey Vulture roosts in the Greater Bay Area. I will also be counting the number of vultures at each roost. This information will be collected over several years. I would appreciate any information regarding possible roosts in the following counties: Marin, San Francisco, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Alameda, Contra Costa, Solano, Napa, and Sonoma.

—Lois E. Culp, 18630 Stanton Avenue, Castro Valley, CA 94546 (415) 538-1762.

Field Trip Reports

Panoche Valley Trip

Undeterred by reports of bird scarcity in the Panoche Valley, 16 birders enjoyed the annual SCVAS trip to this obscure region in the hills between Hollister and Los Banos on Feb. 24. Over 50 species of birds were seen, including a few elusive winter visitors, and the group studied these and the local resident species at a relaxed pace under perfect (though dry) weather conditions.

Leader Clay Kempf from Santa Cruz Bird Club took us up the BLM road at the eastern end of the Panoche Rd. where we had **Lark Sparrows** singing and a few **Ravens** but little else. On the way back down, however, we ran into a flock of dazzling **Mountain Bluebirds** which we observed at close range as they hovered and perched by the road in loose association with some **Horned Larks**. Later, at the traditional Mountain Plover spot near the Idria Rd. intersection, we spent a good half-hour searching the field for "rocks that move" and finally found a flock of 10 plovers. Shortly thereafter we were treated to great looks at the adult **Ferruginous Hawk** which is reliably found in the valley.



Prairie Falcon
Emelie Curtis

After a vain attempt at finding **Sage Sparrow** and **Chukar**, we stopped for lunch at a peaceful spot on the Idria Rd. and watched a pair of **Say's Phoebe's** investigate a possible nest site. **Golden Eagles** circled high above us showing varying amounts of white in wings and tails; by day's end we totalled 16 of these majestic raptors. Heading back towards the west we encountered small groups of **Lewis' Woodpecker** and **Phainopepla**, two "target" species which had been reportedly scarce, and an aberrant, pale yellow and white **Lesser Goldfinch** feeding with two normally plumaged companions. A **Merlin** surprised us at a pullout where we were looking for **Prairie Falcon**, which eluded us, and after scanning the skies for high-flying eagles (5 or 6 at once!) and "mystery hawks" which predictably turned out to be **Red-tails**, we headed for home.

Thanks to Clay Kempf for leading this informative and enjoyable excursion, and to the Golden Gate Audubon members who joined us. — Grant Hoyt

Bird Walk at Environmental Education Center

Sunshine and low wind greeted us at the Environmental Education Center in Alviso on 13 February. We went farther out into the heron rookery than on previous bird walks. I am so busy with field trippers that I am only vaguely aware of what is out there. Frank Vanslager and his trusty Questar brought waterfowl close in so that we could study the beautiful plumage of such birds as the **Red-breasted Merganser**, **Bufflehead**, **Glaucous-winged Gull**, and all three of our small grebes.

A small flock of **Savannah Sparrows** near the building surprised us. A **Black-crowned Night Heron** was seen carrying nesting material and, from the size of the flock, it appears this may be a good year for this heron. As we were leaving we stopped to admire our resident **Golden Eagle** on its PG&E perch. Altogether 14 of us arrived in eleven cars and saw 42 species.

— Lee Lovelady

Support Your Favorite Team! Support The Audubon Society!

BIRDATHON TEAMS

Name	Members	Expected # spec
"Uncommon Loons"	Nick Yatsko, Rod Norden, Cecily Harris	120
"Vagrants"	Grant Hoyt, Dick Stovel, Mike Mammoser	150
"If You've Seen One Bird..."	Trish Mulvey	20
"Wrentits"	Doug and Gail Cheeseman, Harriet Gerson, Luis Tam	125
"Poorwills"	Bill Bousman, Clark Blake	140
"Cardinal Virtues"	Don Price, Jules Resnick, Tony Eppstein	50
"Buffleheads"	Alan Walther, Paul Edstrom	130
"Maverick Murrelets"	Dave Johnston and friends	75
"Wrong Terns"	Bobbie and Cindy Handen and friends	50
"Double D's"	Mike and Jim Danzenbaker	150

Pledge Form:

Yes, I would like to support the SCVAS/NAS 1991 Birdathon. I pledge to contribute _____ per species observed by (name of team) _____.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

This is a gift from: _____

Please complete and mail this form to SCVAS, 415 Cambridge Ave., #21, Palo Alto, CA 94306

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Announcing SCVAS' Spring Membership Drive

Would you like to see SCVAS grow in its ability to offer conservation and education activities in Santa Clara County? Would you like to see more habitat saved for animal life in Santa Clara County? Of course you would! Would you like to help us accomplish this goal without having to resort to truckloads of "junk mail"? We thought you might.

Our spring membership campaign offers a simple way in which you, our members can help us do just that. Sponsor your friends to join as members of SCVAS or give a gift membership at the \$20 level or higher between April 15 and June 15. You will earn prizes for different levels of sponsorship:

- Avocetbring in 5 new membershipsearn 1 SCVAS pin or patch
- Clapper Railbring in 10 new membershipsearn 1 BABOB book
- Burrowing Owlbring in 15 new membershipsearn an SCVAS t-shirt
- Golden Eaglebring in 25 new membershipsearn a special birding trip

To take advantage of this offer, use the membership coupon below.

We'll keep a running tally and periodically announce these in *The Avocet*. Prizes will be awarded at the June Volunteer Recognition Dinner. Any questions, please call Cecily at the SCVAS office at (415) 329-1811.

Membership: We invite your membership in the National Audubon Society/SCVAS. To join, please complete and mail this form with payment to SCVAS, 415 Cambridge Ave., #21, Palo Alto, CA 94306.

National Audubon Society Membership: Check One
 Introductory \$20 Individual \$35 Family \$38
 Members receive *Audubon* magazine and *The Avocet* newsletter. Make check payable to National Audubon Society.

Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society Membership: Check One
 Subscriber \$8 Supporter \$20 Donor \$35 Patron \$50 and more
 Members receive *The Avocet* newsletter. Make check payable to SCVAS.

Audubon Activist - \$9: Activists receive a quarterly publication from the National Audubon Society. Make check payable to National Audubon Society.

Donation: SCVAS greatly appreciates your tax-deductible donation. Your gift helps to fund the Chapter's birding, education, conservation and research programs.

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