

The Avocet

The Newsletter of the Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society

December 1991

New Site, New Programs for SCVAS

by Grant Hoyt

Santa Clara Valley Audubon realized a long-time goal when our operations were moved into new headquarters at McClellan Ranch Park in Cupertino November 1. With a two-year lease agreement signed and delivered to the city at the end of October, we now occupy two offices of the Cupertino Environmental Center. City officials hope to find other environmental or nature-oriented groups to move into the remaining offices in the near future.

Staff, board members and volunteers who have helped with the move to McClellan are elated over the new site, located just minutes from Highway 280 in a beautiful natural setting along Stevens Creek. Not only are we now situated more centrally in the valley and much more accessible to south county members, but we also offer volunteers much-improved

working conditions at our new home in its semi-rural surroundings.

Opportunities for expanding our current programs at McClellan Ranch are tremendous, and new projects are being developed by enthusiastic chapter members. The Education Committee is planning a Children's Day in the springtime, and the Field Trip Committee will be offering bird walks at our new site, which is not far from well-known birding haven Stevens Creek Park. Plans for selling merchandise out of a small store on the premises are also being discussed.

The move to Cupertino is indeed exciting, but it brings up some significant questions about the direction this chapter wants to take in the future. With our commitment to research, education, environmental action (and don't forget birding!) we're moving towards becoming

one of the South Bay's leading environmental voices. In order to expand and improve, however, we'll need resources. That means more staff and more active volunteers to develop our programs, and more money to support these efforts.

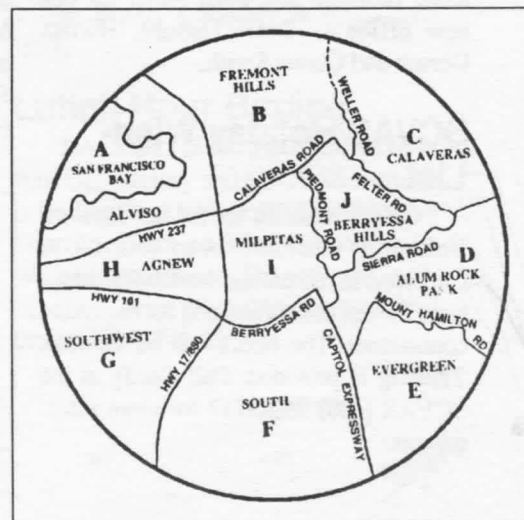
It also means intelligent, thoughtful planning, both long and short-term. Obviously it will take a couple of months to get settled in our new location, but by early 1992 we need to seriously address questions regarding our growth and development. WE NEED YOUR HELP! If you have the time, energy, and desire to volunteer in any capacity (e.g. office work, field trip leader, committee work, letter-writing, fundraising, planning) please contact the office. Help us make the move to McClellan Ranch the first step in building a stronger Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society. We'll only go as far as our members take us.

Countdown To 1991 San Jose Christmas Bird Count

Come join us for an all day adventure on December 15th 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 censusing 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 page 7 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 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 15, and be willing to count the number of visitors to your feeder. Call us before the count for more information at (408) 252-3747.



Chapter News

Double Your Donation to SCVAS with Corporate Matching Gifts

Does your company have a Matching Gifts Program? Often they do. You can double and sometimes even triple your donation to the Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society this year by providing your company with proof of your charitable contributions. Check with your company's Human Resources Department to see if they have a Matching Gifts Program. We would be happy to provide them with any additional information they might need.

Thanks to Hosts of Fall Bird Seed Bonanza:

- ◆ Peninsula Conservation Center,
- ◆ Pets Friend Animal Clinic,
- ◆ REI,
- ◆ Saratoga Horticultural Foundation,
- ◆ Youth Science Institute

Thanks Tandem!

We'll all be thinking of Tandem Computers every day when we are using all of our new office furniture at the Cupertino Environmental Center. We were pleased to receive tables and chairs for our conference room, desks, a file cabinet, a book shelf and a white board for the office.

And thanks to others who have donated furniture and other items for our new office — Janet Debuhr, Harriet Gerson and Genny Smith.

SCVAS Holiday Wish-List

On our wish-list for the holidays is a Volunteer Coordinator to join us in Cupertino to recruit and work with volunteers for our new office and for our many committees. The hours can be flexible. Training is provided. Call Cecily at the SCVAS (408) 252-3747 for more information.

Fabulous Fall Volunteers

◆ Thanks to the terrific individuals who helped to negotiate, pack, move and unpack to and from our new site: Yana Arnold, Rob Colwell, Earl Cilley, Tony Eppstein, Reed Freeman, Bobbie Handen, Grant Hoyt, Al Huber, Debbie Jameson, Sue Liskovec, Dee and Don Price, Jules Resnick, Mike Rigney, Ed Rooks, Al Spears, Joyce Todd, and Betty Wyatt.

◆ And A Special Thanks To: Gerrie Bourland at Bay Area Transfer and Storage for loaning a moving van and two drivers for moving day.

◆ The Bird Seed Bonanza is never possible without the help of many volunteers: Jae Abel, Craig Adams, Juliette Bryson, Laura Cline, Vic Collard, Rob Colwell, Lowell Cordas, Susan Dietrich, Debbie Eldredge, Tony Eppstein, Harriet Gerson, Bobbie Handen, Sylvia Hawley, Winnifred Herbert, Grant Hoyt, Rosalie Lefkowitz, Luella McFarland, Jan Murphy, Mike Rigney, Bob & Mary Noyes, Tibby Simon, David Skaar, Bonnie Spacek, Benita Terry, Joyce Todd, Jerry Waldorf, David Weber, Sonia Wilcomer, and Nick Yatsko.

Newsletter Editor Wanted

Would you like to be the editor of the *Avocet*? This is a volunteer job and requires about 10-15 hours a month to complete. Needed is someone who can edit and produce a newsletter, preferably on a MacIntosh using PageMaker. Some training is available. Please contact the SCVAS office if you are interested at (408) 252-3747.

Gifts & Memorials

To: Gilbert R. Barth, from Mr. & Mrs. Robert F. Kanze.

To: Mrs. Dorothy Renick Luttrell, from Mr. & Mrs. Harold Blank

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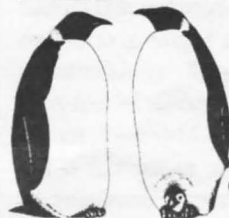
General meetings are open to the public. Board of Directors meetings are open to all members. Call the office at (408) 252-3747 for times and directions.

The Avocet is published monthly (except for July and August) by the Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society, 22221 McClellan Rd., Cupertino, CA 95014. Deadline is the 25th of two months prior. Send contributions to *The Avocet*, c/o SCVAS at the above address.

SCVAS is a chapter of the National Audubon Society.

December 1991. Volume 38, Number 10

Wildlife Gifts...



A Whale of a Choice.

Whales & Tales
Wildlife Store and Gallery

800-422-8253
429 University

415-326-1130
Palo Alto

December 1991 Calendar

On all field trips carpool and share expenses. Bring binoculars, field guides, warm clothing, lunch (optional on half-day trips) and liquids. Trips highlighting chapters from our new site guide, "Birding at the Bottom of the Bay," are identified as BABOB trips. Field Trip Coordinator for December is Ed Rooks (408) 867-4748.

****Denotes Field Trip**

Wednesday, December 4, 7:30-9:30 PM.

Bay Area Bird Photographers. Topic: East Africa, A Slide Show by Al Spears. Meeting takes place at Palo Alto's Lucy Evans Baylands Interpretive Center on East Embarcadero Road.

****Sunday, December 8, 9:00 AM.**

Beginner's Trip to Charleston Slough
Leader: Bill Kirsher (415) 854-3936.
Directions: Take Hwy. 101 to Mountain View. Exit at San Antonio Rd., head east to road's end at Terminal Way. Birding basics, with emphasis on shorebirds and waterfowl.

Tuesday, December 10, 9:30 AM.

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

****Wednesday, December 11, 9:00 AM.**

Campbell Percolation Ponds/Los Gatos Creek. Leader: Alan Thomas (408) 265-9286. Directions: Take Winchester south to Hacienda. Make a left on Dell and a right at Park entrance into the parking lot. Highlight: Wintering waterfowl. Rain cancels. Lunch optional. Easy walk of two miles.

****Saturday, December 14, 8:30 AM. Half day.**

Los Gatos Creek. Leader: Mike Feighner (408) 354-0138. Directions: Take Hwy. 17 south from San Jose to Lark Ave. exit, head west on Lark to Oka. Head north to gate of percolation ponds. Beware: Oka bends sharply at intersection left and then right again. Park along road near gate. Beginners welcome. Easy walking. Highlights: Green-backed Heron, Spotted Sandpiper, kingfishers, ducks. Rain cancels.

**Sunday, December 15.
Christmas Bird Count and Dinner**

Sunday, January 5, 8:30 AM. Full day.

Post CBC Rarities Chase. Leader: Don Starks (408) 946-6548 (days). Directions: Meeting place will be determined after Christmas Bird Counts. Bring lunch, water, and a full tank of gas. Heavy rain cancels. Call leader for info after January 1st.

****Sunday, January 12, 9:00 AM.**

Beginners Trip to Charleston Slough. Leader: Kathy Parker (408) 358-2832. Directions: Take Hwy. 101 to Mountain View, exit at San Antonio Rd., head east to its end at Terminal Way parking area. Highlights: Basics of birding, with emphasis on shore birds and waterfowl.

Non Audubon Events:

Fresh Nuts for the Holidays

As a benefit for the Peninsula Conservation Center Library, shelled almonds, walnuts, and pecans in one pound bags are available at the Peninsula Conservation Center, 2448 Watson Court, Palo Alto. Phone (415) 494-9301 for more information. Free nut recipes with purchase. Thanks and Happy Holidays!

Palo Alto Christmas Bird Count

The Palo Alto CBC will be held on Monday, December 16, 1991. If you have counted in the past and can count again, please call your Region Leader to sign up, otherwise call either Bill Bousman (415) 322-5282 or Clark Blake (415) 747-0601. This Count on occasion exceeds 170 species so there is always excitement and a chance for the really unusual. We have not received an announcement of the Count fee for this year, but it was \$4 in 1990.

Region One - Bill Bousman (415) 322-5282.

Region Two - Mike Rogers (415) 962-8907.

Region Three - Bill Bousman (415) 322-5282.

Region Four - Phyllis Browning (415) 494-6360.

Region Seven- Gloria Heller (415) 851-2356.

SF Bay Wildlife Society Crafts Sale Dec. 7th

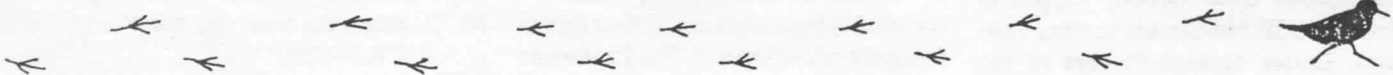
The San Francisco Wildlife Society is sponsoring their 11th Annual Christmas Wildlife & Nature Arts & Crafts Sale on December 7th and 8th. This show is a major fundraiser for the Society, which is a nonprofit organization dedicated to enhancing education and interpretive programs at the San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge. The Wildlife Arts & Crafts Sale will feature over 30 artists offering paintings, sculpture, wood carvings, photography and more. The show is being held at DeAnza College Campus Center from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM. Admission to the Arts and Crafts Sale is free, but there is a parking charge on \$1-\$2 on the DeAnza Campus.

Special SCVAS Shopping Night at The Nature Company

Come one, come all to a special Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society Shopping Night at The Nature Company, Valley Fair on Wednesday, December 11 from 6:00 PM to 7:00 PM. This is a special arrangement for SCVAS members to shop at The Nature Company. There will be a drawing for a \$100 pair of Nature Company binoculars. The Nature Company is contributing 10% of the proceeds of sales to SCVAS! And refreshments will be provided. So let's all plan on doing lots of Holiday Shopping that day! Valley Fair is located at Highways 280 and 880. The Nature Company is on the second floor. For more information, call Sabina Dukes at The Nature Company at (408) 249-3535.

Lunch Hour Birding

Don Starks of the San Francisco Bay Bird Observatory and a SCVAS member is leading Lunch Hour Birding Walks at Shoreline Park in Mountain View on Wednesdays at noon. The time and meeting place varies. If you are interested, call Don at (408) 946-6548.



Field Notes

By Bill Bousman

Pelicans through Raptors

A single **Brown Pelican** in the vicinity of the Palo Alto Flood Control Basin (FCB) 26-28 Sep (MMR, CB, WGB) marked the end of a poor season for this species locally. Two **Cattle Egrets** were seen at the Arzino Ranch, off Nortech Parkway 27 Sep (CB, WGB) and four were there 20 Oct (WGB). A female **Blue-winged Teal** was in the Palo Alto FCB 26 Sep (MMR). Two males were in the Mountain View Forebay 29 Sep (MJM, GHt) and a single male was there 7 Oct (PJM). Migrating **Ospreys** were seen at the Palo Alto Baylands 28 Sep (NCH *et al.*) and Skyline Ridge Open Space Preserve (OSP) 6 Oct (BC, SY). There were good reports of **Merlin** this month as we have come to expect. Individuals were along Coyote Creek below Hwy. 237 on 28 Sep (PJM) and 18 Oct (MMR). An apparent *richardsoni* race was seen in Los Altos 2 Oct (PLN). Two more were in urban Palo Alto 7 Oct and one was at the Mountain View Forebay on the same day (both PJM). On 23 Oct a single bird was at the Sunnyvale Water Pollution Control Plant (WPCP) (PJM). **Peregrine Falcons** have also been seen in good numbers with one to two birds along Coyote Creek below Hwy. 237 on 27 Sep (MMR), 1 Oct (MiF), 8 Oct (AW), and 18-19 Oct (MJM). An adult on the east side of the San Francisco Bay NWR 9 Sep (RSch), and single birds at the Sunnyvale WPCP 5 Oct (PJM) and Charleston Slough the same day (RWR) were from typical bayside locations. One over the Campbell percolation ponds 10 Oct (BB) was less expected. An imm. **Prairie Falcon** was at the San Jose-Santa Clara WPCP 18 Oct (MMR) was the first report this season of a wintering bird.

Wild Turkeys through Terns

A single **Wild Turkey** near the Long Ridge OSP 12 Oct and three in the vicinity on 27 Oct (Both JB) are from an area where they have not been recently reported. This species is occasionally trapped in Henry Coe SP and released to other locations. **Lesser Golden-Plovers** of the

dominica race have continued to be found near the Waterbird Management Area (WMA) on Coyote Creek below Hwy 237 with two on 26 Sep (PJM), three on 28 Sep (PJM), one on 1 Oct (MiF, MJM, KP, MMR) and one on 17 Oct (MMR). A few **Lesser Yellowlegs** continue to be found with one to four birds present at the WMA on lower Coyote Creek 27 Sep-19 Oct (MMR, MJM) and a single bird in the Mountain View Forebay 19 Oct (MMR). One of the most impressive shorebird displays this season has been the abundance of **Pectoral Sandpipers** in the vicinity of the WMA on lower Coyote Creek.

Fall vagrant highlights were first county records of Red-throated Pipit and Prothonotary Warbler.

In the past ten years we have encountered peak numbers ranging from 1 to 25 birds (mean 6.3). A census on 27 Sep (PJM) found 150 on the WMA and 57 on the drying ponds of the San Jose-Santa Clara WPCP. Peak numbers on 5 Oct were 158 at the WMA (MJM, PJM), and 80 were found on 21 Oct (MMR). More typical of past autumns were two at the Palo Alto FCB 26 Sep (MMR), singles at the Mountain View Forebay 7 Oct (PJM), 16 Oct (GGH), and two there 27 Oct (IMacG). Along with the vast number of **Pectoral Sandpipers** at the WMA a juvenile **Sharp-tailed Sandpiper** showed up 30 Sep and was present irregularly at least through 21 Oct (m.ob.). The **Ruff** saga at the WMA on lower Coyote Creek has continued to attract birders to the site. Of the four original birds found there in September the adult female has remained to at least 17 Oct (MMR) and the juv. male to 24 Oct (MMR). Observers have commented on the substantial plumage changes that have occurred in these birds during their four to five week sojourn here. A **Red Phalarope**



Willow Flycatcher
Endangered Species
Ed Rocks

at Charleston Slough 5 Oct (RWR) rounds out this fall's shorebird migration.

An imm. **Heermann's Gull** was found at the Sunnyvale WPCP 5 Oct (PJM) for the fifth record for the county. **Elegant Terns** have again graced the county with three at the Sunnyvale WPCP 13 Oct (MJM) and two at Alviso 16 Oct (SBT). This species has become regular in the fall in recent years. Not so regular is the **Common Tern**, of which one was seen in Alviso 17 Oct (SBT, PD).

Hummingbirds through Phainopepla

A late migrant *Selasphorus* hummingbird was at lower Coyote Creek 5 Oct (MJM, PJM). Two **Lewis' Woodpeckers** were seen in San Antonio Valley 27 Sep (CB, WGB) where they are normally resident. Single **Willow Flycatchers** seen along lower Coyote Creek 26 Sep, 28 Sep, and 5 Oct (PJM) were late migrants. A **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** above Halls Valley 27 Sep (CB, WGB) is a presumed migrant, but their fall movements are poorly known. A **Sage Thrasher** along Coyote Creek below Hwy 237 on 3 Oct (WGB, MiF, NJF, MRi) is only the fourth county record.

The highlight of our Siberian strays this month was not the Sharp-tailed Sandpiper nor the Ruffs, but a **Red-throated Pipit** that was near the WMA on lower Coyote Creek 16-18 Oct (CBe *fide* MRi, SBT). Fewer than four birds are normally reported from California in the fall, but this appears to be an invasion year. It is the first record for the county. A male **Phainopepla** in northern San Antonio Valley 27 Sep was from an area where they are often found. Another on the top of Mt. Hamilton the same day was less expected (CB, WGB).

(Field Notes, continued)

Warblers through Goldfinches

We find few vagrant warblers in our inland location so an imm. male **American Redstart** along Coyote Creek below Hwy 237 on 26 Sep (PJM) was an exciting find. Totally unexpected, however, was our first county record of a **Prothonotary Warbler** feeding in fennel at the Palo Alto Baylands 30 Sep-1 Oct (JM *fide* TAC). On 25 Sep a **Connecticut Warbler** was banded at Coyote Creek Riparian Station (CCRS) for our second county record (*fide* MRi). The first bird, found in September 1987, was also banded at the station. A **MacGillivray's Warbler** was found just east of Mt. Hamilton on 27 Sep (CB, WGB) and a female/imm. was along Stevens Creek below Hwy 101 on 11 Oct (MMR) which is late for this migrant. Late migrating **Chipping Sparrows** include one banded at CCRS 24 Sep (*fide* WGB) and another above Halls Valley 27 Sep (CB, WGB). A **White-throated Sparrow** was found at Jasper Ridge Biological reserve 16 Oct (JB-H). Forty to fifty **Lawrence's Goldfinches** found in San Antonio Valley 27 Sep (CB, WGB) show how common this bird can sometimes be in the Diablo Range.

Observers: Jane Becker-Haven (JB-H), Bonnie Bedzin (BB), Chris Benesh (CBe), Bill Bousman (WGB), Clark Blake (CB), Jobst Brandt (JB), Ted Chandik (TAC), Barbara Costa (BC), Penny Delevoryas (PD), Mike Feighner (MiF), Neil C. Heather (NCH), Gloria Heller (GGH), Grant Hoyt (GHt), Ian MacGregor (IMacG), Mike Mammoser (MJM), Peter Metropulos (PJM), Joe Morlan (JM), Paul Noble (PLN), Kathy Parker (KPa), R.W. Reiling (RWR), Mike Rigney (MRi), Mike Rogers (MMR), Rick Schermerhorn (RSch), Scott Terrill (SBT), Alan Walther (AW), Scott Young (SY).

RARITIES: Please drop me a note: Bill Bousman, 321 Arlington way, Menlo Park, 94025 (415) 322-5282.

Field Trip Reports

Marin Headlands Hawk Trip - September 29, 1991

The morning of Sunday, September 29th, dawned clear at the headlands, for the third time in as many weeks. Nineteen birders gambled on a clear day for our trip and won. The fog retreated for us.

Nine species of raptors were observed, including Turkey Vulture (23), Osprey (1), Northern Harrier (1), Sharp-shinned Hawk (60+), *Accipiter sp.* (10), Red-shouldered Hawk (13), Cooper's Hawk (29+), Broad-winged Hawk (20+), Red-tailed Hawk (10), *Buteo sp.* (4) and American Kestrel. The total number of hawks observed were 175+. On my scouting trip on Sept. 28th, I saw one Merlin (imm.) fly by at eye level. As it came near, it did a half barrel roll and grabbed at a monarch butterfly. The butterfly zigged in the right direction and the merlin continued southward without hesitation, empty taloned.

The 20+ Broad-winged Hawks included 17+ immature birds and three adults. A kettle of 8 Broad-winged Hawks hung around the headlands for a few min-

utes, and later, a kettle of 12 Broad-winged Hawks formed over a short period of time and circled over the vicinity of the headlands for about 10 minutes. It was an incredible opportunity to study this vagrant at close range and at leisure.

Other birds observed migrating past the headlands included many Band-tailed Pigeons and Vaux's Swifts, one Yellow-shafted Flicker, Townsend's Warblers, Yellow-Rumped Warblers, Cedar Waxwings, and Pine Siskin. Associated with a group of Band-tailed Pigeons were a flock of about 15 medium-sized shorebirds. They were not Dowitchers, so we boldly wished them to be some of the incredible numbers of Pectoral Sandpipers which have graced the Bay Area this fall. So much for wishful thinking. A total of 27 species of birds were observed or heard, along with many monarch butterflies migrating south. It was great to see monarchs and Broad-wings in the same thermal.

—Don Schmoldt

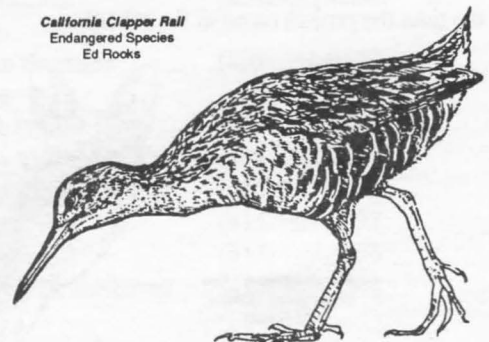
Rancho Del Oso and Waddell Creek - May 18, 1991

Eight eager birders met at the County Government Center in Santa Cruz for a drive up the Santa Cruz Coast to Rancho Del Oso. Two brief stops along the way turned up Grasshopper Sparrow, Rhinoceros Auklet, Pigeon Guillemot and Pacific Loon. Stopping at the mouth of Waddell Creek we saw Snowy Plover, Whimbrel and Red-breasted Merganser. The balance of the day was spent at Rancho Del Oso where we were greeted by Virginia Rails in the marsh, White-throated Swifts overhead and displaying Allen's Hummingbirds. Walking the new nature trail, we had Swainson's and Hermit Thrushes, Warbling Vireos, Orange-crowned and Wilson's Warblers and superb views of a Hairy Woodpecker at a nest with a mouthful of food. The remainder of the trip was spent searching for Pileated

Woodpecker without success. One had been heard the day before but on this day was silent. Nevertheless, the hike through the redwoods was beautiful. Winter Wrens were singing prodigiously, three flycatchers including Western Wood Peewee were heard and four swallows including Roughwing were seen. The trip ended with a total of 61 species seen and heard on a beautiful scenic day.

—Earl Lebow, Santa Cruz Bird Club

California Clapper Rail
Endangered Species
Ed Rocks



Environmental Action News

Future of County Trails Endangered!

On September 5th, the Santa Clara County Planning Commission passed an amendment to its Trail Easement Dedication Policy which severely limits trail easement dedication in rural subdivisions of less than five units. It requires that:

- A trail provide a clearly defined increase in value of the land.
- No alternative trail location is possible.
- Easement dedication will be required only "in very rare instances" and "only under extraordinary circumstances."

This amendment will probably make completion of the Bay Ridge Trail and its connector trails impossible; it will also impact the Bay Trail and proposed trails for connecting parks. It will be presented to the County Board of Supervisors at their regular meeting on Tuesday, December 10th.

On The Trail of The Red Tape Bird

Last year we all greeted with great enthusiasm the news that the state was putting together a *California Endangered Species Program* to be used and made available for every school in the state of California. As the months passed there was not a sign of such information. It turns out that material was indeed developed and printed, but there were no funds available to mail any of the packets. The Endangered Species packets were being held for postal ransom!

More time went by and those of us who were eager to have children develop a better awareness of how to save species were themselves becoming endangered. We feared the animals and plants we wanted to save might well be extinct by the time the project came to the schools.

What You Can Do:

First: Before December 2, send a postcard to the Board of Supervisors, 70 West Hedding, San Jose, CA 95110; tell them that as the County population grows, and the number of cyclists, hikers and joggers increase, the need for trails also grows; that for recreation and non-motorized travel, roads are unsafe. Say you support the Parks and Recreation Policy and Planning document as completed in August, 1991 — without the restrictive addition of September 5.

Second: Attend the Supervisor's meeting on December 10. Large numbers of trail users will have a profound affect on the Board.

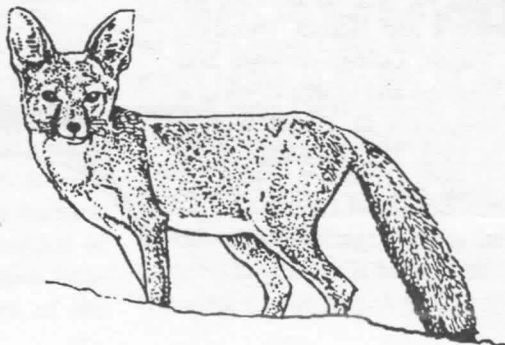
More questions? Call The Trail Center at (415) 968-7065.

I called Peter Steinhart, author of *California's Wild Heritage*, a beautiful book that is a part of the California Endangered Species packet. Peter told me to whom I had to write in order to clear the release of the materials for the Santa Clara County schools and who to contact at the warehouse. Bill Andrews was Peter's contact person in Sacramento and was extremely helpful.

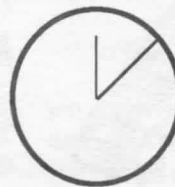
My son, Douglas, went to the warehouse in downtown Sacramento and picked up the 300 plus packets we had all been waiting for. These packets will be in the hands of teachers by the time you read this.

The moral of this story is — *you too can find the red-tape bird.*

—Bobbie Handen



San Joaquin Kit Fox
Endangered Species
Ed Rooks



Ten-Minute Activist

Please . . .

We Need More Armchair Activists

Santa Clara Valley Audubon has joined the growing number of Audubon chapters nationwide that are participating in the Armchair Activist program. Writing letters and making phone calls to government officials is the basis of this program. Each issue of the *Avocet* has an Action Alert article with a "What You Can Do" ending. You are given information on who to call or write and information on what to say. It only takes about half an hour per month. This program makes SCVAS more effective in preventing environmentally destructive policies and legislation in Santa Clara County and in other critical parts of the U.S.

Please join our "Action by Writing Team" so we'll know that you are responding to these articles. Just call Gail Cheeseman at (408) 867-1371 or Tony Eppstein at (415) 326-1376 to join.

Our "Phone Tree" still needs a few willing callers. A "Phone Tree" is set up as a circle. Only two calls need to be made by each participant. When you receive a call you would call the target number and the name after yours on the Phone Tree. The person at the top of the list, Tony Eppstein, is also the person at the bottom of the list so that he will know when the phone circle has been completed. The need for the "Phone Tree" is especially important at the end of the two legislative sessions when important issues are decided. The staff person who answers the call doesn't ask substantive questions. They often are just tabulating the number of calls. So, please call and get involved in the Armchair Activist program.

— from the Environmental Action Committee

Regional Government and the Bay Area's Environment Special Conference —

January 25, 1992

Environmentalists, look out! If you want to be relevant, you may have to be more regional. Here's a quick explanation.

All sorts of proposals are percolating locally and in Sacramento to create a new regional government and policies to manage growth and environmental protection in the Bay Area. Such a government could radically change the way environmentalists work to protect everything from wetlands to farmlands to the San Francisco Bay.

To help environmentalists sort through the maze of regional proposals — and to learn how you can make a difference in the process of setting regional policies — Greenbelt Alliance is hosting a special conference on "Regional Government and the Bay Area's Environment." The conference's strategy sessions will be crucial to making environmental objectives a central part of any new regional government in the nine Bay Area counties.

Mark your calendar now for this workshop-oriented conference on Saturday, January 25, 1992, from 9:00 AM to 4:30 PM. To be placed on the mailing list for details on the location and program, contact Greenbelt Alliance (415) 543-4291 or (408) 983-0539.

San Jose Action Plan for Wetlands Protection and Water Conservation Approved by RWQCB

In response to a State Water Resources Control Board Order, San Jose submitted an Action Plan designed to conserve and reclaim water so that wastewater flows from the San Jose/Santa Clara Water Pollution Control Plant will "not further adversely impact rare and endangered species." After petitions by the US Fish and Wildlife Service and Citizens for a Better Environment on behalf of SCVAS and other CLEAN South Bay members, the State Board and regional Water Quality Control Board has directed San Jose to address salt marsh loss affecting the California Clapper Rail and the Salt Marsh Harvest Mouse.

At its October 16th meeting, the Regional Board approved a resolution endorsing the San Jose Action Plan which has been successfully negotiated between City representatives, RWQCB and USFWS staff, and members of CBE, SCVAS and the Save San Francisco Bay Association. In his letter to the State Board

asking for their approval, Regional Board Executive Officer Steve Ritchie said, "The result of these efforts is a plan which all parties believe will satisfy the intent of the State Board order: namely to mitigate for past endangered species habitat loss and minimize or prevent such loss in the future through a combination of water conservation and reclamation." He urged that "the State Board act expeditiously on this request and acknowledge the effort that went into developing this consensus."

The participants in the negotiations are now planning to focus their efforts on source control programs sponsored by all three South Bay sewage treatment plants to reduce the heavy metals discharged in household products, in business and industrial production wastes, and toxics from cars as well as on other sources of stormwater pollution.

Questions may be directed to SCVAS Environmental Action Committee member Trish Mulvey who is our representative for these efforts at (415) 326-0252.

San Jose Christmas Bird Count to be Sunday, December 15

Christmas Bird Counts have been organized by the National Audubon Society for 92 years. The resulting census data is published in American Birds magazine. The San Jose count is conducted within a 15 mile diameter circle broken into 10 sections, A-I.

After the Count we'll meet for a hearty dinner and get together at Kelley Park in San Jose. For more information, call CBC-Compiler Paul Noble at (415) 949-1743 or one of the Section Leaders below. Volunteers of all skills levels are welcome.

<u>Section</u>	<u>Leader</u>	<u>Phone</u>
A (Alviso)	Jean Dubois	(408) 395-4264
B (Fremont Hills)	open	
C (Calaveras)	Mike Feighner	(408) 354-0138
D (Alum Rock)	open	
E (Evergreen)	Rich Healy	(408) 554-6611 X627
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)	Jim & Sue Liskovec	(415) 969-5542



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Santa Clara Valley
Audubon Society
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Palo Alto, CA 94306

480 J

Mr. & Mrs. R Jay Andree
12579 Radoyka Dr
Saratoga, CA 95070

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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
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

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
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Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society Membership: Check One
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 Members receive *The Avocet* newsletter. Make check payable to SCVAS.

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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