

# The Avocet

The Newsletter of the Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society

January 1992

## Avian Conservation Center at S.F. Zoological Gardens

Without proper management, as many as one-third of all diurnal birds of prey may become extinct in the next twenty years. Of the 28 species of raptors that breed in California, 21% are listed as endangered species and 39% are species of special concern because of declining populations. In 1978, the San Francisco Zoological Society created a conservation program for birds in response to public concern over the long term welfare of bird species with declining populations. The Avian Conservation Center occupies approximately 2 acres of the San Francisco Zoo. The facilities are temporary, pending development of a permanent Avian Conservation Center site away from the zoo grounds.

The overall objectives of this program, which focuses on aiding endangered raptors native to California are: 1) to in-

vestigate and bolster avian populations through field research, captive propagation, and reintroduction programs; and 2) To increase public awareness and appreciation of raptors through education programs for children, adults, and the scientific community.

The Avian Conservation Program (ACP) currently cares for 35 birds of 5 species. The birds maintained in the Avian Conservation Center include rare or endangered species that will benefit from captive management. The Center also works with species that are more common and are useful in developing techniques that may be applied to rarer species. To achieve the Centers' goals, captive propagation and field research, egg management, a Bald Eagle Recovery Program, and a Raptor Education program are employed.

Captive propagation is a useful tool for the preservation and recovery of endangered avian species when it complements habitat conservation and management practices. Captive breeding programs can produce stock for reintroduction programs aimed at re-establishing extirpated species into former habitat and can also be useful in preserving genetic variability. The ACP has achieved major accomplishments with the Barn Owl, Harris' Hawk, Peregrine Falcon, and Bald Eagle.

ACP maintained a Barn Owl breeding project between 1978 and 1980. An ethogram was developed for collection of breeding behavior data useful for management of Barn Owls and other raptors. Techniques for artificial incubation, hand-rearing, and release were also developed. An ethogram for captive management of

*(continued on page 5)*

## Special Field Trip to Avian Conservation Center on January 4

This visit to the Avian Conservation Center at the San Francisco Zoo will be the first in our new lecture/field trip series. (See story on page 1.) The Center is providing a slide presentation, a tour and a walkabout of the zoo in a special afternoon field trip on January 4th. The slide presentation; "Conservation in Zoos: Preserving Options for Endangered Species" will last about 1 and 1/2 hours. It discusses the issue of when ecosystems falter and animals are displaced from nature, that the world's zoos may be the only hope for the survival of some species. Zoos such as the San Francisco Zoo represent a unique

dedication of local human resources to the care of wildlife and they are racing to revise and improve their commitment to preserve endangered species. John Aikins, the Director of the San Francisco Zoo's Avian Conservation Center, will discuss some of the current strategies and applications that zoos are using to engineer the long-term survival of some species as well as the limitations of science and technology in zoo conservation programs. We will then tour the Animal Resource Center where 70 non-releasable animals are housed. The last hour will be a guided tour of highlights of the San Francisco Zoo.

Reservations are required with a \$5 fee covering all costs. *There are only 30 spaces available so please reserve early.* Send or bring your check to the SCVAS office, 22221 McClellan Road, Cupertino, CA 95014. Carpooling is highly encouraged. Meet at the Park 'n' Ride lot at Page Mill and Hwy. 280 so we can leave promptly at 12:20 PM. We'll begin the tour at 1:30 PM at the entrance of the San Francisco Zoo at Sloat and 45th Avenue.

For more information, call Cecily Harris at (408) 252-3747.

# Chapter News

## Thanks to December Cupertino Env. Center Volunteers:

Reed Freeman, Harriet Gerson, Barbara McCalla, John McLemore, Sonja Wilcomer, Joyce Todd, and Joyce Sebert.

## 1992 Wild Bird Audubon Calenders Now Available at SCVAS Nature Shop

The 1992 National Audubon Society Wild Bird Calenders are available for \$9.95 at the SCVAS Nature Shop. These lovely full color wall calenders feature twelve months of wild birds from around the world. But only a limited number are available, so stop by soon.

## First Annual Audubon Education Day

Santa Clara Valley Audubon is sponsoring its First Annual Education Day on Saturday, February 29 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at McClellan Ranch Park in Cupertino. The theme of the day is Native Wildlife and Local Habitats, chosen to coincide with our interest in preservation of native flora and fauna and their habitats. Students and their families and teachers are all invited to come. Participation awards are given to all attendees.

A special part of the day is a Native Wildlife Poster Contest open to Kindergarten through 6th graders. Students will be allowed to choose from a number of topics. Prizes will be given for each grade level.

During the day, there will be ongoing birding, nature walks and showings of National Audubon Society videos and slide shows, birdbanding and microscope demonstrations, brine shrimp labs, wetlands activities, a scavenger hunt and much, much more.

Mark your calenders now! Watch for more information in the February *Avocet* or call the SCVAS office at (408) 252-3747 to receive an Audubon Education Day brochure.

## Birdathon '92 Goal Set For \$10,000

Birdathon '92 is planned for the weekend of April 25-26, 1992. In order to achieve our biggest and best Birdathon ever, Birdathon Committee '92 needs a few volunteers. You can actually take part in many ways. You could join a Birdathon team or start your own, help fund-raise for teams, get prize donations, or make presentations at general meetings. Interested in helping the Chapter in its biggest fundraiser? Then call Cecily Harris at the SCVAS office at (408) 252-3747 for more information.

## Thanks!

A big thank-you to Measurex Corporation for 3 tables for our Education Department and Genny Smith for a table for our library.

## 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.



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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.

January 1992, Volume 39, Number 1

*Wildlife Gifts...*

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# January 1992 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 January is Edward Rooks (408) 867-4748*

**\*\*Denotes Field Trip**

**\*\*Saturday, January 4, 1:30 PM.**

**Half day.**

Special Field Trip to the Avian Conservation Center. A tour and lecture by John Aikin, Director of the Avian Conservation Center at the San Francisco Zoo. Reservation required. (See article on front page of *Avocet*.)

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

Post CBC Rarities Chase. Leader: Don Starks (408) 946-6548 (days). Directions: Meeting place and itinerary 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 2nd.

**\*\*Wednesday, January 8, 9:00 AM.**

**Half day.**

Sunnyvale Baylands. Leader: Shirley Gordon (408) 996-9863. Directions: Meet at Sunnyvale Treatment Plant, just east of intersection of Caribbean and Borregas, off Hwy. 237. Park in Public Shore Access Lot (left from Borregas). Lunch optional. Heavy rain cancels.

**\*\*Saturday, January 11, 8:00 AM.**

**Full day.**

Woodbridge Road/Delta. Leaders: Betty Wyatt (408) 255-6091 and Audrey Stoye (408) 249-2108. Directions: Meet at the McDonalds parking lot next to the Shell Station on Mission Blvd. in Fremont. Take Hwy. I-680 to 2nd Mission Blvd. exit. Carpool from here. Bring lunch, full tank of gas. Limit - 20 participants. Call leaders for reservation. Anticipated species: Sandhill Cranes, Tundra Swans, etc.

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

**Half day.**

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.

**Tuesday, January 14, 9:30 AM.**

Eve Case Bird Discussion Group at the home of Edward & Janice Rooks, 20537 Verde Vista, Saratoga. (408) 867-4748. Topic: Greater Roadrunner.

**Wednesday, January 15, 7:30 PM.**

January General Meeting. Topic: "Our Audubon Sanctuaries." 7:45 PM Announcements, 8:00 PM Program. Refreshments served. (See box below.)

**\*\*Sunday, January 19, 8:30 AM.**

**Full day.**

Panoche Valley. Leader: Clay Kempf (408) 761-2875. Directions: Meet at the grocery store in Paicines, 12 mi. S of Hollister on Hwy. 25. Highlights include Ferruginous Hawk, Prairie Falcon, Golden Eagle, Mountain Plover, Mountain Bluebird and possibly Chukar or Roadrunner. Bring lunch, liquids, full tank of gas, and please carpool.

**\*\*Wednesday, January 22, 8:45 AM.**

**Half day.**

North County Field Trip, Jasper Ridge Biological Preserve. Leaders: Jasper Ridge Docents. By reservation only (415) 493-9546. Limited to 24. \$4 gate fee. Directions: Meet at Main Entrance. Gate will be open from 8:30 - 8:45 only. Take Sandhill Rd. west off I-280 about 2 miles to gate on left. Rain or shine. Lunch optional.

**\*\*Saturday, January 25, 9:00 AM.**

**Full day.**

Merced Refuge/Santa Fe Grade. Leader: Don Schmoldt (415) 215-1910. Directions: Meet at the northwest corner of the junction of Rte. 59 and Sandy Mush Rd. Take Hwy. 152 east past Los Banos 20 miles to 59 N. Drive about 7 miles to meeting place. Allow 2.5 hours, more if tule fog is forecast. Informal carpool at Park 'n' Ride lot at Hwy. 280 and Page Mill Rd. (leave by 6:30 AM). and Park 'n' Ride lot in Gilroy at Leavely at Monterey Rd (leave by 7:30 AM).

**\*\*Saturday, February 1, 9:00 AM.**

**Half day.**

Princeton Harbor. Leader: Dan Keller (415) 365-2032. Directions: Meet at West Point and Stanford Avenues in Princeton. Highlights: Rock Sandpiper, wintering sparrows, Oldsquaw, and Harlequin Duck.

**\*\*Saturday, February 8, 9:00 AM.**

**Half day.**

Gull Identification at Palo Alto Duck Pond. Leader: Bill Bousmnan (415) 322-5282. Directions: Take Hwy. 101 to Palo Alto. Exit at Embarcadero. Drive east and follow signs to Duck Pond.

**\*\*Sunday, February 9, 9:00 AM.**

**Half day.**

Beginners Trip to Charleston Slough. Leader: TBA. 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

### Birding Basics

This series is for beginning and intermediate birders. The winter quarter of this lecture/field trip series will emphasize the identification and life style of our wintering bird populations. Seven slide lectures, starting Wednesday, Jan. 8 at 7:30 PM, will be held at the San Carlos Senior Center. Register at first class. Fee: \$20 (lecture only). Four field trips: \$25. For more information, call Maryann Danielson (415) 369-6809.

### Following Birds Through the Winter Season

This series is for intermediate and more advanced birders. Flocking, foraging strategies and a host of other adaptations utilized by our wintering birds will highlight this winter lecture/field trip series. The identification of birds in basic plumage will be a major objective. Seven lectures, starting January 6, at 7:30 PM will be held at the Little House, Menlo Park. Register at the first class. Fee: \$20 (lectures only) Four field trips: \$25.

### January General Meeting Wednesday, January 15, 1991 7:30 pm.

Speaker Jesse Grantham will join us from Audubon's Western Regional Office in Sacramento for an evening of slides of Audubon Sanctuaries in California and Texas. Jesse Grantham manages National Audubon's Sanctuary Program and serves as the coordinator for the Audubon Wetlands Campaign. He will also bring us up to date on the very important wetlands campaign.

In 1980 Jesse joined the Audubon Condor Research Team and became lead biologist. In 1986 he transferred to the Texas coast where he took over management of the 13,000 acres of land and water in the Audubon Sanctuaries stretching from Louisiana to Mexico which protects thousands of colonial nesting waterbirds. Come join us for this unique program for Audubon by a longtime Audubon member.

# Field Notes

By Bill Bousman

## Loons through Ducks

A **Common Loon** in the Palo Alto estuary 6 Nov (RSch) is the first of the season. A single **Brown Pelican**, perhaps the same bird, has been seen in the vicinity of the Palo Alto Baylands and Shoreline 30 Sep-24 Nov (DCu, JMCK, WGB). An **Am. Bittern** at the Palo Alto Baylands 21 Nov (MiF *et al.*) is the first of the season. A **Brant** at Charleston Slough 31 Oct (WGB) is one of the few records for the county. This bird appeared healthy unlike some of the birds that have been found in the south bay in the past. Four **Wood Ducks** on the Campbell percolation ponds 10 Nov (AV) and five the next day on the Oka ponds (RF *fide* MiF) were in an area where they frequently winter. Eight on Coyote Creek below Hwy 237 22 Nov (MRi) were less expected. A single male **Blue-winged Teal** along Adobe Creek in the Palo Alto Flood Control Basin (FCB) 5 Nov (BW *et al.*) and the Mountain View Forebay 17 Nov (AME) may have been the same bird. An eclipsed-plumage **Eurasian Wigeon** at Charleston Slough 1 Nov (MJM) is the only one so far this season. Six **Redhead** in the Palo Alto FCB 5 Nov (BW *et al.*) are the first of the season. They were found on the North Pond where they were abundant during the mid-80s but they have seldom been found on Shoreline Lake 11 Nov (RSch) and was found again 17 Nov (AME). This is the fourth winter when one or more birds have been regular here.

## Raptors through Gulls

An adult **Bald Eagle** at Coyote Res. 11 Oct (JMCK) is early for a wintering bird. An adult **Golden Eagle** at Arastradero Preserve 3 Nov (GHt) is the only west side report. This species becomes more widespread in the valley during winter using fields and drier areas along the bay. A female **Merlin** was seen over the Mountain View Forebay 29 Oct (DCu) and a male was nearby in the Palo Alto FCB (MMR). A single **Peregrine Falcon** was on Hooks Isle 6 Nov (RSch) and two were seen on outer Charleston Slough 10 Nov (AL, JY). Less expected was a bird over

Sunnyvale 11 Oct (JMCK). A **Black Rail** flew into the corner at the Palo Alto Baylands 21 Nov (MiF *et al.*) even though the tide was only moderately high.

A belated report of a **Solitary Sandpiper** in the Mountain View Forebay 11 Sep (DCu) brings the fall total to four birds, a number without precedent in the county. The incredible invasion of **Pectoral Sandpipers** this fall ended with a single bird at the Waterbird Management Area on lower Coyote Creek 3 Nov (MMR). An imm. **Heermann's Gull** at the Palo Alto Duck Pond 17 Nov (MS) is only the sixth county record.

## A Brant at Charleston Slough ended the fall migration

## Owls to Wrens

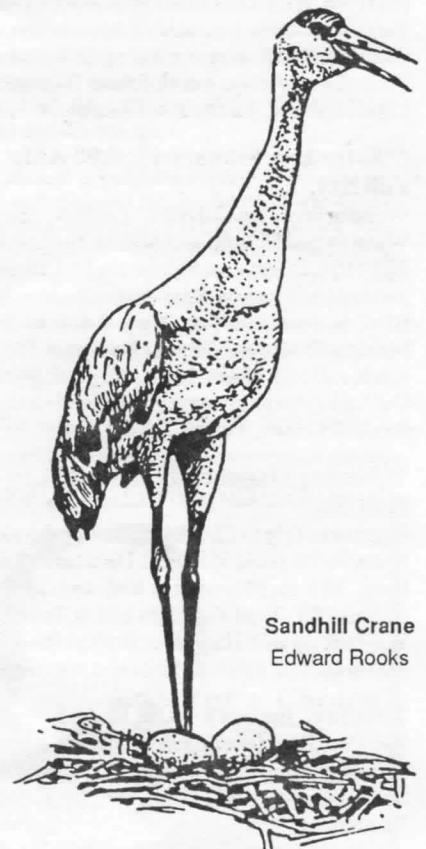
A **Northern Pygmy-Owl** at the Pichetti Ranch OSP mid-day on 28 Oct (MJM) was a treat, as always. A **Red-naped Sapsucker** has been found again this winter at the Jasper Ridge Biological Preserve. It was first found on 30 Oct (WL) and has been seen once since then (WL, BC; both *fide* JB-H). A **Northern Flicker** of the yellow-shafted race was banded at Coyote Creek Riparian Station 16 Oct (*fide* WGB) and another was found in Los Altos 8 Nov (PLN). A single **N. Rough-winged Swallow** along Coyote Creek below Hwy 237 22 Nov (MRi) is a lingering bird. Unlike the Tree and Violet-green Swallows that sometimes overwinter, this species is rarely found past September. A **Yellow-billed Magpie** in Los Gatos 11 Nov (RF *fide* MiF) is northwest of known breeding areas.

A tale of a **Rock Wren** that was released from a geologist's car in Menlo Park (*fide* CB) is of interest as it demonstrates why some birds are found out of range. The wren apparently flew into the geologist's open station wagon in a rugged portion of Stanislas County and remained quietly until the car was opened once more in Menlo Park. Few birds have

the habits of Rock Wrens with their love of crevices and confined spaces but nonetheless the story shows why man-assisted transport must be considered in judging a report of a rarity.

*Observers: Jane Becker-Haven (JB-H), Clark Blake (CB), Bill Bousman (WGB), Bill Clark (BC), Derek Currall (DC), Al Eisner (AME), Mike Feighner (MiF), Reid Freeman (RF), Grant Hoyt (GHt), Amy Lauterbach (AL), Winkie Lennihan (WL), Mike Mammoser (MJM), John McKean (JMCK), Paul Noble (PLN), Mike Rigney (MRi), Mike Rogers (MMR), Rick Schermerhorn (RSch), Martin Sidor (MS), Ann Verdi (AV), Betty Wyatt (BW), James Yurchenko (JY).*

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



Sandhill Crane  
Edward Rooks

## *(Avian Conservation, cont.)*

Harris' Hawks, and protocol for artificial incubation and egg manipulation were developed. ACP bred and reared the hawks and assisted the University of California at Santa Cruz Predatory Bird Research Group (SCPBRG) with release of over 40 birds along the lower Colorado River. Staff also conducted habitat surveys of the area to later evaluate the reintroduction program. The ACP has produced chicks from wing-injured Peregrine Falcon adults by artificial insemination. The chicks were transferred to SCPBRG for release. In addition, a colony of Cochon Hens was established and management protocol and techniques for surrogate incubation were established for Peregrine Falcon and other species' eggs.

Egg management is useful for increasing productivity and preserving options for the raptors in the off-display breeding program as well as birds breeding in the zoo's exhibits. Typically, the first clutch of eggs that a female lays is removed from the nest to induce the female to lay a replacement set of eggs. The second clutch of eggs may be left with the breeding pair or it may be removed to induce the bird to lay a third clutch of eggs. When the first set of eggs have hatched, the chicks are hand-raised for a few days until they are stable and then, if possible, are fostered to their parents. The second clutch are then set under the surrogate incubator. Artificial incubation has allowed aviculturists to save fertile eggs from deserted nests, pull eggs to induce more laying, and remove eggs from nests where predation or disease could cause high mortality.

The Bald Eagle Recovery Program was established in 1985. The objective of the program was to assist the recovery of Bald Eagles in California by providing stock for reintroduction projects. Although Bald Eagle populations have experienced a marked increase in numbers of birds over the past decade, the species' geographic expansion has been less encouraging. Eagle populations in California still occupy only about half of their historic range in the state and much habitat remains

## **Field Trip Report**

### **New National Audubon Sanctuary Toured**

SCVAS' annual trip to the northern Sacramento Valley drew 35 birders from four local Audubon chapters over Thanksgiving weekend, and participants were rewarded with spectacular views of geese, ducks, cranes, raptors and a visit to the newly-dedicated National Audubon Society Wattis Sanctuary near Colusa.

Chilled but undeterred by high winds, the group birded the Sacramento National Wildlife Refuge on Friday, where Snow, Ross', White-fronted and two races of Canada Geese were seen in the thousands, along with several duck species, White Pelicans, a Peregrine Falcon and even a White-throated Sparrow. After lunch we toured the Gray Lodge Wildlife Area where everyone got good looks at American Bittern (2), Eurasian Wigeon (11) and Sandhill Cranes (350+) in addition to still more thousands of ducks and geese. At dusk we watched the ducks, temporarily safe from hunters' bullets, fly out en masse for nocturnal foraging.

On Saturday we found our way to National Audubon's recently-acquired Paul L. Wattis Sanctuary, a 500-acre piece of thriving wetland habitat between Colusa and Gray Lodge. As we turned off the main road and stepped out of our vehicles, unsure if we'd found the right levee road, we were greeted by Snow Geese, Long-billed Curlews (280+), Sandhill Cranes, White-faced Ibis (65+), more Northern Harriers than anyone remembered seeing

in one place and a Rough-legged Hawk. Driving further we found the parking lot and got out and hiked around the perennial fresh-water marshes, ponds (including 28 nesting islands), riparian and grainfield habitat, flushing up 7 more American Bitterns, hundreds of Green-winged Teal and a Sharp-shinned Hawk, among others. While hunters eyed us quizzically as they drove by on the perimeter roads, we enjoyed the beauty and protection of the sanctuary.

Thanks to National Audubon for acquiring and managing this precious parcel of wetlands and riparian habitat. This field trip, one of the first by a Bay Area chapter since the sanctuary was dedicated in October, provided us with a stunning example of how National Audubon's wetlands protection program has opened up outstanding new birding areas. According to Glenn Olson of the NAS Western Regional Office, a strong effort is currently under way to acquire an additional 560 acres adjacent to Wattis, which would double the size of the sanctuary.

SCVAS will run a springtime field trip to the Wattis Sanctuary and nearby Sutter Buttes for a look at breeding bird activity in the region. In the meantime, members are urged to keep abreast of wetlands issues, both local and national, so we can continue to enjoy these inspiring birding experiences without the threat of wildland destruction.

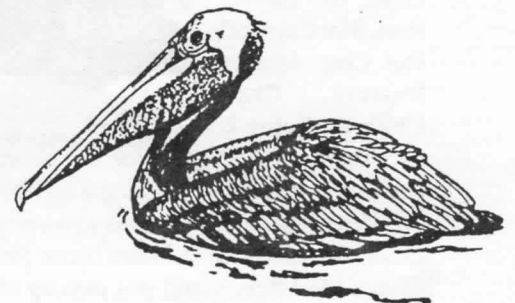
— Grant Hoyt

that seems suitable for reestablishment of breeding pairs.

The Raptor Education Program serves zoo visitors, school children, community volunteers and the scientific community. Programs include a conservation lecture series, public flight demonstrations, group tours, and a volunteer training program.

We are pleased to be offering a special field trip to the Avian Conservation Center on Saturday, January 4. Please turn to page 6 for more details.

California Brown Pelican  
Edward Rooks



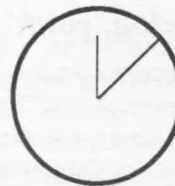
# Environmental Action News

## Books are Needed for Soviet Greens

The local Sierra Club chapters' USSR Environmental Issues Task Force is sponsoring a book drive to assist Soviet environmentalists in establishing libraries in Leningrad (Russia), Yaroslavl (Russia), Kiev (Ukraine) and Riga (Latvia). The need for environmental periodicals and books was expressed by Soviet participants at the NGO (Non-Governmental Organization) environmental conference held in Moscow last March. Helen Burke, Chair of the Bay Area Chapter's USSR Environmental Task Force, represented the Sierra Club at the conference and made an agreement to assist Soviet environmental NGO's with building their libraries. This program will be an exchange in which the Soviet NGO's will be asked to send the Sierra Club copies of their newsletters and newspaper clippings concerning local and regional issues.

**Here's What is Needed:** Preferably current (last 10 years) general books on ecology and the environment, periodicals published by environmental organizations, technical books, *i.e. Standard Methods for Testing Water*, wastewater treatment methods, etc., technical/professional journals related to environmental issues: water, air, hazardous wastes, etc., Environmental Educational Materials: elementary, high school and college books; teacher's materials, outdoor educational material, etc. Children's environmental education books and magazines.

**Here's What You Can Do:** Deliver Books or periodicals to the Volunteer Office of the Loma Prieta Chapter of the Sierra Club, 2448 Watson Ct, Palo Alto. Direct questions to: Marcia Nute, 4 Laurelwood Ct., San Rafael, CA 94901. (415) 457-9241.



## Ten-Minute Activist

### Help Establish Monterey Bay Sanctuary

In September 1990, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) released the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) and Management Plan for the proposed Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary. This area is a distinct national treasure with significant natural resources worthy of special protection. Some of its features include the West Coast's largest and deepest submarine canyon, 94 species of sea and shorebirds, and 26 species of marine mammals including southern sea otters, blue whales, and northern elephant seals. Many of these species are federal and/or state listed as threatened or endangered. A major issue facing this designation is the size or boundary of the sanctuary. Conservationists strongly support Boundary Alternative 5 which at 3800 square miles is the largest of the proposed boundaries. The boundary, along with a prohibition of offshore drilling, would protect both the sea otter range and the area jeopardized by offshore drilling (Lease #119). On October 9, 1991, Gov. Pete Wilson, Sen. John Seymour and Alan Cranston, and Congressmen Leon Panetta and Tom Campbell voiced their support of Boundary Alternative 5.

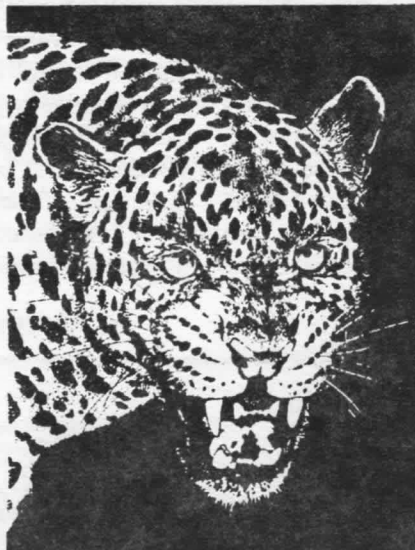
**Please send a letter soon to:** The Honorable Robert A. Mosbacher, Secretary of Commerce, U.S. Department of Commerce, Washington, DC 20230. Urge prompt establishment of this Sanctuary including boundary alternative 5 and the offshore drilling ban. Let him know that there is overwhelming public and political support to preserve our coastal and marine resources in California.

## Discover Belize! Reef, Rainforest & Maya Ruins

A special expedition to Belize and Tikal has been created by Betchart Expeditions for members of the Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society from April 1-11, 1992. Trip Leader, Dr. James McIver, entomologist and rainforest ecologist will guide you through the rainforests, marine reserves and archaeological wonders. The itinerary covers Crooked Tree Wildlife Sanctuary, Ambergris Caye, the Barrier Reef, Bird Caye and Hol Chan Marine Reserve, Chan Chich, the Belize Zoo and Tikal!

This trip is designed for the nature enthusiast. You'll be exploring a number of different types of ecosystems with many exotic animals to see and learn about. For all you life-listers, could you pass up an

opportunity to see some of Belize's bird species including the Northern Jacana, the Olivaceous Cormorant, Roadside Hawk or Gray-necked Wood-Rail?



There are seventeen spaces available on this trip. For each SCVAS member signed up, Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society will receive \$200! Please support our Chapter by joining this special SCVAS-sponsored trip. Expedition fee is \$2490 plus airfare (approximately \$500-\$600).

For more information, call Bob Nansen, Betchart Expeditions at (800)-252-4910. At one of our February General Meetings, we'll have some slides and more information available about Belize and about this special expedition.

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## Hot Spots for Bay Area Bird Photography

This list has been prepared by Mike Danzenbaker of the Bay Area Bird Photographers Group:

### Charleston Slough/Shoreline Park -

October - April: ducks, misc. shorebirds, possibly raptors, L. Shrike, sparrows, goldfinches, Soras, pipits, Burrowing Owl  
April - June: terns, nesting stilts, Avocets, Killdeer, Barn Swallows.

### Palo Alto Baylands -

winter high tides: rails, sparrows, Marsh Wrens, Yellowthroats, herons and egrets, possibly raptors, Salt Marsh Harvest Mouse  
October - April: ducks on the Duck Pond (esp. Scaup, Ruddy and Canvasback)

### Los Banos & Merced Refuge -

March - July: White-faced Ibis, miscellaneous waterbirds, nesting Cliff Swallows (under bridges that you can stand on)  
October - March: raptors, waterfowl, possibly Mountain Plover

### Panoche Valley -

October - March: sparrows, raptors (esp. Ferruginus Hawk), possible Mountain Plover  
March - April: possible Lawrence's Goldfinches

### Monterey Bay -

anytime: pelagic trips (best August - October), Jaegers, Tubenoses, Alcids, whales, dolphins

### Monterey Peninsula Coast -

anytime: sea otters, harbor seals  
January - April: beautiful breeding plumage Brandt's and Pelagic cormorants

### Point Pinos -

October - April: tame rocky shorebirds, Godwits, Willets, Whimbrels  
February - April: beautiful breeding plumage Heermann's and California Gulls  
anytime: good waves!

### Moss Landing Harbor -

October - April: miscellaneous shorebirds, loons, grebes, diving ducks

### Neary Lagoon (Santa Cruz) -

January - April: close Wood Ducks, Ruddy Ducks, Pied-billed Grebes, Red-winged Blackbirds, Marsh Wrens

### Coastline north of Santa Cruz -

April: there are scattered Pigeon Guillemot colonies - check the cliffs and beaches

### Princeton Harbor -

November - March: rocky shorebirds (Turnstones, Surfbirds, Rock Sandpiper)  
July - April: Tattlers, Black Oystercatchers, Willets, Godwits, Sanderlings, Black-bellied Plovers, Whimbrel  
July - October: Elegant & Caspian terns (on rocks around high tides)  
October - April: loons, grebes, scoters, sometimes Red-breasted Merganser

### San Francisco -

March - April: Allen's Hummingbird (in the parks)  
October - April: ducks (on ponds in the parks and at Sutro Baths)  
anytime: tame Scrub Jays, miscellaneous passerines (in the parks)

### Point Reyes -

August - November: eastern or even Asian vagrants  
anytime: California Quail, Horned Owl, sometimes Spotted Owl

### Elsie Romer Sanctuary (Alameda) -

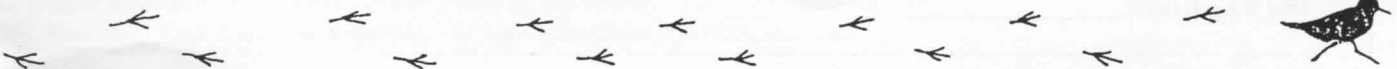
August - November: miscellaneous shorebirds, esp. Long-billed Curlews (best within an hour or so of high tide)

### Sunol Park (Alameda Co.) -

spring: nesting Western Bluebirds, possibly Nuttall's Woodpecker; also salamanders if rainy weather  
anytime: Yellow-billed Magpies

### Alviso (along Hwy 237) -

anytime: Burrowing Owl (numbers seem down; harder to find lately)

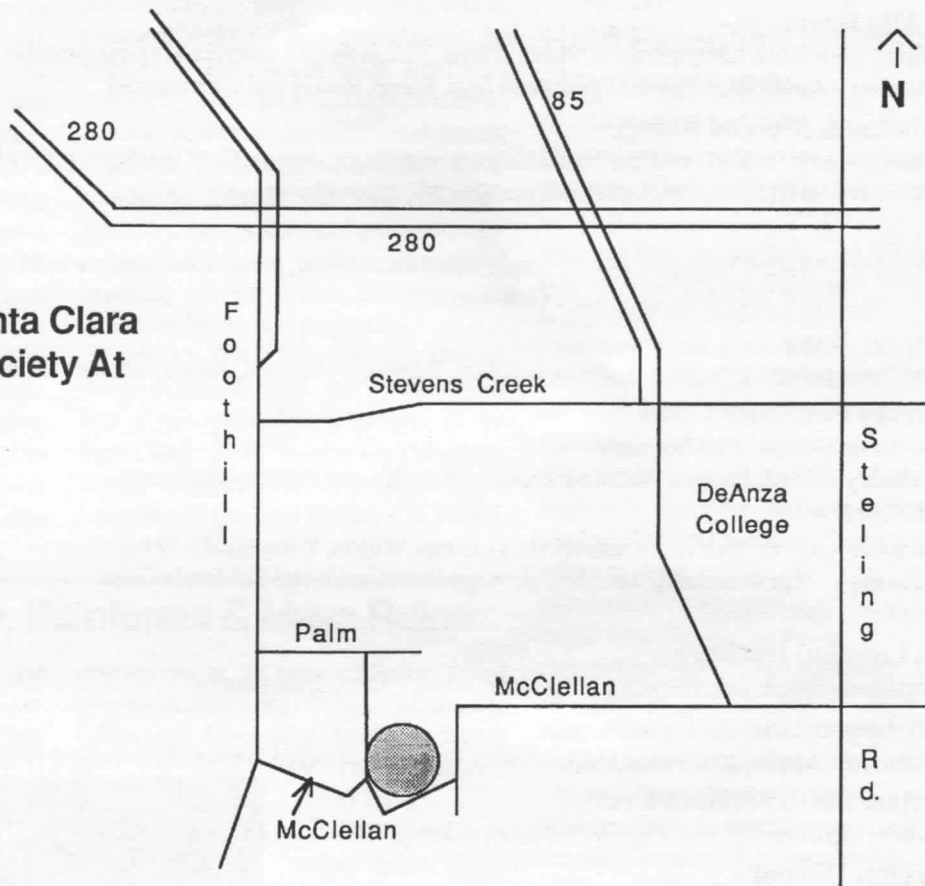


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