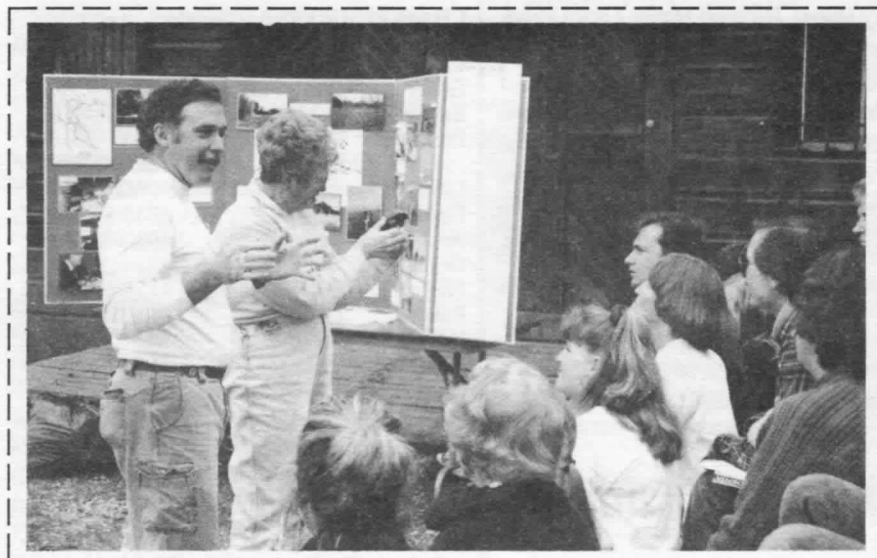


# *The Avocet*

The Newsletter of the Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society

February 1993

## Announcing Our Second Annual Audubon Education Day



*Volunteers, students, parents and teachers enjoyed a variety of shared experiences at SCVAS' First Education Day in 1992.*

The SCVAS Education Committee is sponsoring the Second Annual Audubon Education Day on Saturday, February 27, from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM. The committee is capitalizing on the tremendous success of last year's first Education Day by expanding and refining the planned events to attract a greater number of children, parents and teachers. This year's theme, California Wildlife and Local Habitats, will allow for attention to a greater diversity of habitats and wildlife.

A California Wildlife and Local Habitats Poster Contest will be held again this year for kindergarten through 6th grade students. Information about the contest has been sent to all Santa Clara County schools.

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Prizes will be awarded at each grade level for 1st, 2nd and 3rd places and honorable mention. All students who submit a poster will receive a participation certificate. Winning posters will be displayed at the Audubon office following Education Day.

All activities will be ongoing throughout the day, with a few exceptions, and will include: birdbanding, bird and nature walks, a scavenger hunt, slide shows, and wildlife games. There will be live animals on display and many hands-on educational exhibits to experience. Some of the groups participating are: Burrowing Owl Alliance, Coyote Creek Riparian Station, Cupertino Parks and Recreation Department, Cupertino Historical Museum,

Environmental Volunteers, Humane Society of Santa Clara Valley's Wildlife Department, Marine Science Institute, San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge, Santa Clara Valley Water District, and Wildlife Rescue.

A Donation Drawing will be held at 1:00 pm. Tickets will be on sale at Education Day. Prizes will include books, T-shirts and other items with a conservation theme.

Members of the Cupertino Historical Museum will sell homemade desserts and drinks, again, and will provide a blacksmith demonstration. The SCVAS Nature Shop and Library will also be open.

Volunteers are especially welcome this year. We have a wide variety of positions available. We need volunteers to staff the Nature Shop and Library, to assist with parking and membership tables and other Education Day activities. If you have an hour or two to spare, we can use your help.

Parking will be at Monta Vista High School 1/4 mile south of McClellan Ranch on McClellan Road. It will not be possible to park at McClellan Ranch on Education Day.

For further information or to volunteer for Education Day, or if you would like an Education Day or Poster Contest flyer sent to you, call Cecily Harris at 408/252-3747.

*-Elaine Gould, SCVAS  
Education Committee*

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# Chapter News

## Christmas Bird Count Report

The 1992 CBC was conducted by 108 counters in surprisingly, but deservedly, good weather. While the final results have not been compiled by press time, it appears that we tallied more than 70,000 birds of 163 species (if all the rarities stand up to scrutiny). For the first time in many years, we had a report from a feeder watcher. This is an aspect of the CBC that could receive additional emphasis in future counts and involve more of our membership.

Among the rarer birds spotted this year, the Alviso section gave us a Ruff, an Eastern Phoebe, 2 Wilson's Phalaropes, and 3 Sandhill Cranes. Alum Rock contributed 30+ Wild Turkeys, while a Northern Waterthrush, a White-throated Sparrow, and 2 Blue-winged Teal came from the Agnew section. Calaveras chipped in with both eagles and five species of wrens including the seasonally uncommon

House Wren. While these birds are a delight to the counters lucky enough to find them and a real bonus to our CBC results, they can be seen as a frosting on a very substantial cake of resident and wintering species that all of our counters worked very hard at locating.

My job was made considerably easier through the efforts of Jae Abel, Bill Bousman, Jean DuBois, Harriet Gerson, Cecily Harris, Richard Healy, Grant Hoyt, Jim and Sue Liskovec, John Mariani, Paul Noble, Alan Thomas, and Anne Wilson. I very much appreciate their contributions and ask our readers to keep in mind that the CBC only succeeds due to the involvement of these and other dedicated members who participated. We all owe them our thanks.

Reid Freeman  
CBC Compiler

## Volunteers Needed for SCVAS Office

**Office Volunteers:** Are you retired or do you have some day-time availability? If so, we could sure use your talents and expertise! We would like to have volunteers at our office Monday through Friday, 9 am to 5 pm. People are needed for morning or afternoon. Your responsibilities will include selling items in the Nature Shop, reshelving books in the library, preparing mailings, performing computer projects, etc.

**Volunteer Coordinator:** This individual will match volunteers with available jobs, help train volunteers and maintain contact with them to see that they are happy, incorporate suggestions for improvements and help plan volunteer recognition events.

This job will take about two hours weekly and can be done from your home or office.

**Nature Shop Committee:** Do you have a background in retail or are you interested in helping with planning and organizing our new Nature Shop? We need you for this Committee! Expect monthly planning meetings and possibly some additional time at the Nature Shop helping with display or sales. Experience in retail planning is eagerly needed.

For more information about these jobs, please call Cecily Harris at the SCVAS office at 408/252-3747.

### SCVAS OFFICERS

President	Rob Colwell	415/326-2400
Past Pres.	Grant Hoyt	415/969-7892
1st VP	Tony Eppstein	415/326-1376
2nd VP	Nick Yatsko	408/247-5499
Treasurer	John McLemore	408/261-9431
Rec. Secty.	vacant	

### STAFF

Managing Dir.	Cecily Harris	408/252-3747
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Bobbie Handen '90-'93	408/356-4263
Mike Rigney '91-'94	408/262-9204
Alan Thomas '90-'93	408/265-9286
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Clysta Seney '92-'95	408/261-9431
Jane Becker-Haven '92-'95	415/321-0776

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Nature Shop	Yana Arnold	408/371-4393
North County Field Trips		
	Alberta Jasberg	415/493-9546
South County Field Trips		
	Shirley Gordon	408/996-9863

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 the chapter of the National Audubon Society for Santa Clara County.

February 1993, Volume 40, Number 2

Rare Bird Alert: 510/ 524-5592

# February 1993 Calendar

On all field trips carpool and share expenses. Bring binoculars, field guides, warm clothing, lunch (optional on half-day trips) and liquids. Field Trip Coordinator for February: Grant Hoyt 415/969-7892.

\*\*Denotes Field Trip

**Wednesday, February 3, 7:30 - 9:30 PM. Bay Area Bird Photographers.** Program is by Dr. John Cooke the former Director of Oxford Scientific Films. Meeting is at Palo Alto's Lucy Evans Baylands Interpretive Center on East Embarcadero Rd.

**\*\*Saturday, February 6, 9:00 AM. Half Day. Beginners trip to Stanford Campus.** Leader: Judy Wagner 415/941-7586. Directions: Take Hwy 101 to University Ave. Exit W. University becomes Palm Dr. Meet at end of Palm Dr. Highlights: Acorn Woodpecker, Plain Titmouse, possible California Thrasher. Rain cancels.

**\*\*Sunday, February 7, 9:00 AM. Full day. Grizzly Island.** Leader: Chuck O'Connor 707/422-8316. Local contact: Grant Hoyt 415/969-7892. Directions: Take Hwy. 680 N. across Benicia Bridge to Cordelia, then N. on Hwy. 80. Take Hwy. 12 E. then immediately look for Chadbourne Rd. (near large brewery) and turn right (south). Meet at corner of Chadbourne and Cordelia Rds. (approx. 1 mi.). Highlights: large variety of raptors, including possible Merlin, Rough-legged Hawk and Short-eared Owl; wintering ducks, Bittern, Tule Elk and River Otter. Minimal walking. Bring lunch and full tank of gas; carpool, if possible. Heavy rain cancels.

**Monday, February 8, 7:30-9:00 PM. Environmental Action Committee** at Cupertino Environmental Center, 22221 McClellan R. Open to everyone who wants to work on preserving habitat for future birding. For more information, call Tony Epstein 415/326-1376.

**Tuesday, February 9, 9:30 AM. Eve Case Bird Discussion Group** at the home of Pat and Jean Dubois, 17150 Buena Vista Avenue, Los Gatos. 408/395-4264. Topic: Yellowthroat.

**\*\*Wednesday, February 10, 9:00 AM. Full day. Panoche Valley.** Leader: Ed

Gustafson 408/377-1123. Highlights: raptors, sparrows, and other Panoche specialties. Rain cancels. Trip limited to 14. Call leader to reserve space and to learn meeting place and time.

**Thursday, February 11, 7:30 PM refreshments 8:00 program "Audubon in Action".** At this Sequoia Audubon Society General Meeting, John McCaull, California state Audubon lobbyist, will speak about current environmental legislation in Sacramento. Directions to the San Mateo Garden Center, Alameda and Parkside: Take Hwy. 101 to Hillsdale exit. take Hillsdale to Alameda and head north to Parkside. Follow signs to Garden Center. For more information, call SAS at 415/345-3724.

**\*\*Saturday-Sunday, February 13-14. Morro Bay Weekend.** Meet at Morro Rock at 9:30 AM, Saturday, February 13. Leader: Jim Royer. Local contact: Grant Hoyt 415/969-7892. Highlights: Peregrine Falcon, Brant, heron rookery; wide variety of waterfowl and passerines. Sunday's trip will, weather permitting, visit the Carrizo Plain, with possible Ferruginous Hawk, Prairie Falcon, Sandhill Crane, Mountain Plover, Mountain Bluebird, Sage Sparrow and more.

**\*\*Sunday, February 14, 9:00 AM. Half day.** Beginners trip to Charleston Slough. Leader: Dick Stovel 415/856-6105. Di-

rections: Take Hwy. 101 to Mountain View, exit San Antonio Rd. E to its end at Terminal Way. Highlights: Basics of birding with emphasis on wintering ducks and shorebirds.

**Wednesday, February 17, 7:30 PM refreshments, 8:00 PM. February General Meeting.** Bob Barnes will present "The Natural History of the Kern River Watershed" at the Palo Alto Cultural Center, Newell and Embarcadero Rds. This will be very relevant for members of SCVAS who are becoming involved in an extensive creek census project for Santa Clara County creeks. (See box below for details).

**\*\*Saturday, February 20, 8:30 AM. Half day. Arastradero OSP, Palo Alto.** Leader: Jim Liskovec 415/969-5542. Directions: Take Page Mill Rd. W. from Hwy. 280 to Arastradero Rd., approx. 1/2 mile; turn right, go another 1/2 mile to Preserve parking lot on right. Highlights: raptors, woodpeckers, sparrows.

**\*\*Wednesday, February 24, 9:00 AM. San Pedro Valley County Park.** Leaders: Bess Nericcio 415/992-2848 and Adrianna Rosenbluth 415/952-2397. Directions: From Hwy. 1 south of Pacifica, take Linda Mar Blvd. inland about 2 miles. At dead end with Oddstad go right a bit to Park Headquarters. Lunch optional. Rain cancels.

See Plan Ahead Page 5

## General Membership Meeting, Wednesday, February 17, 7:30 PM Palo Alto Cultural Center Newell & Embarcadero Rds.

### *A Natural History of the Kern River Watershed*

Riparian areas are rich with breeding birds in the spring and summer, but did you know that there are nearly 200 breeding bird species found in the South Fork Kern River watershed? This unique area is the only place in the USA where five major ecoregions come together: Sierra Nevada, Mohave Desert, Great Basin, Central Valley, and Southern California.

Bob Barnes is a biologist who has devoted more than fifteen years to the maintenance of the natural values of the South Fork Kern River watershed and adjoining lands. He and Dr. Stephen Laymon co-founded the Kern River Research Center in 1990 to conduct research and publish findings in the conservation biology of the Kern River rare and endangered bird species and the habitats upon which they depend. Bob will give an overview of this amazing riparian habitat with slides of many of the breeding birds.

Meeting is co-sponsored by the Palo Alto Open Space and Sciences Division.

# Field Notes

By Bill Bousman

## Loons through Ducks

One to two **Red-throated Loons** were found at Shoreline Lake 1-18 Dec (DCu, m.ob.). Three birds were found on Chesbro Res. 23 Dec (MJM). A single **Common Loon** at Calero Res. 13 Dec (MMR) was the only one found this month. Single **Brown Pelicans** lingered at Shoreline Lake 29 Nov (JiC) and 3 Dec (WGB) following November's unusual concentration in that area. Two birds on Salt Pond A3W north of Moffett Field 29 Dec (JiC) are very late. The first **American Bittern** of the season was a single bird at Triangle Marsh 5 Dec (MMR, MJM). Two to three birds were found there and along Mallard Slough 19 and 20 Dec (MiF et al.). A **Cattle Egret** frequented Moffett Field 17-22 Dec (JMcC, m.ob.). Single **Snow Geese** have been found at Calaveras Res. 15-16 Dec (MMR, MJM) and the Sunnyvale Water Pollution Control Plant (WPCP) 26 Dec (MJM). An additional bird at Felt Lake has apparently been there since spring (GHt fide MMR) and its origin is unknown. A sizeable number of **Wood Duck** are wintering on Almaden Res. with 44-56 birds counted there 6-23 Dec (AV, MJM). At least two male and a female **Blue-winged Teal** have been in the Palo Alto Flood Control Basin (FCB) this month with observations from 29 Nov-21 Dec (m.ob.). A pair on Calabazas Creek at Tasman 20 Dec (AV et al.) is from an area where they are seldom reported. A male **Eurasian Wigeon** on the Los Alamitos perc. pond 27 Nov and 12 Dec (AV) has been there since mid-November. Males continue to be found in Charleston Slough and the Palo Alto FCB through 21 Dec (m.ob.) with a peak of four seen on 3 Dec (WGB, MMR). A male at the Sunnyvale WPCP 26 Dec (MJM) is the first report of the season for this location. The wintering flock of **Redhead** in the North Pond of the Palo Alto FCB has ranged in size from 23 to 108 with the latter count made on 7 Dec (MiF). A female **White-winged Scoter** found on Shoreline Lake 3 Dec (AME, MMR, MJM) has remained there

through at least 21 Dec (m.ob.). Shoreline's **Barrow's Goldeneyes** have been seen through 31 Dec as well (m.ob.) and typically include two pairs of birds although a third female was seen on 18 Dec (MMR). **Hooded Mergansers** have been relatively plentiful again this winter with six on Searsville Lake 29 Nov (BK fide JB-H), five there 21 Dec (L&ER et al.), 12 on Lake Ranch Res. 5 Dec (MiF, RF), four on Felt Lake 13 Dec (MMR) and seven there 21 Dec (AME et al.).

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## *An Eastern Phoebe found on the San Jose CBC is a first record for the county.*

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## Raptors

**Bald Eagles** have been found in typical spots with an adult at Calero Res., 16 Dec (MJM), another at Calaveras Res. 20 Dec (MD, J-MS), and an imm. in San Antonio Valley 25 Dec (MJM). **Ferruginous Hawks** were found in good numbers on the San Jose CBC 20 Dec with individuals on Felter Rd. (JR), the San Jose Airport (SM), along Coyote Ck. at Montague (ADeM, PJM), and on the north side of Alum Rock Park (DJ et al., DS et al.). An ad. was seen along the Mt. Hamilton Road 24 Dec (MJM). **Merlin** have been well reported this month as in recent winters. Female/imm. birds were seen at Arastradero Preserve 5 Dec (MiF), Shoreline Park 7 Dec (MMR), San Francisquito Creek above El Camino 13 Dec (WGB), and Shoreline Lake 18 Dec (MMR). A male was seen at the San Jose Country Club 20 Dec (DS et al.) and a single bird was seen at Chesbro Res. 23 Dec (MJM). **Peregrine Falcons** have also been well reported through the month and the San Jose and Palo Alto CBCs allow us to guess at the south bay

population since those counts require observers to provide precise locations and times of observations. On 20 Dec one or two birds were along Coyote Ck. near Hwy 237 (PJM, ADeM, RC et al.). The same day an adult was further out the creek in the salt ponds (NF et al.) where a pair had been seen on 5 Dec (MMR, MJM). Another adult was at the San Jose Airport on the 20th as well (SM). On the Palo Alto CBC on the 21st adults were seen at the Sunnyvale WPCP (AV et al.), off of Shoreline (MMR, JiC, WC), at the Baylands (MMR, JiC, RT), and south of Ravenswood Point (KL). This suggests that at least six or seven birds are wintering in the south bay. A **Prairie Falcon** along Coyote Ck. below Hwy 237 30 Nov (MiF) and 5 Dec (MMR) and one north of Alviso 20 Dec (MiF et al.) are away from where they nest in the Diablo Range.

## Cranes! to Gulls

Three parties on the San Jose CBC, 20 Dec (JH et al., PJM, ADeM, RC et al.) reported a flight of three **Sandhill Cranes** in the vicinity of Alviso. Perhaps when the valley was prairie these marvelous birds stayed for a while but each of our four recent records is of birds in flight. Six **Snowy Plovers** on the Knapp property 19 Dec (MMR) is a good find. A few **Lesser Yellowlegs** turn up each winter on the CBCs. Four birds were at the Arzino Ranch 20 Dec (MJM, RC et al.) and another bird was on Salt Pond A8 (MJM). On 21 Dec single birds were found on Salt Pond SF2 south of Hwy 84 (KL), another on Salt Pond 2 near the PG&E Substation (GHt, EGu), and a third on a salt pond south of Redwood Ck. (JAC). A **Ruddy Turnstone** was on the San Francisquito Ck. delta 21 Dec (MMR, JiC). Twenty **Red Knots** were found on the delta 9 Dec (MiF) and an amazing 92 were counted there on 21 Dec (MMR, JiC). Two more

Rarities: Please drop me a note:  
Bill Bousman, 321 Arlington  
Way, Menlo Park, CA 94025.

were found on Dumbarton Point the same day (JAC). One of the most surprising finds of the San Jose CBC was a juv. female **Ruff** on the Arzino Ranch 20 Dec (MJM, RC et al.). This is our first winter record of this species. Perhaps even more rare were the three **Wilson's Phalarope** found on Salt Pond A8 19 Dec (MMR) of which two were found the next day on the San Jose CBC (SF, MJM). Single first-winter **Glaucous Gulls** have been found at the Sunnyvale WPCP 12 Dec (MMR) and 26 Dec (MJM).

### Roadrunners to Finches

Two **Greater Roadrunners** east of Gilroy on Canada Road Christmas Day (MJM) were a good find. The **Lewis' Woodpecker** wintering at the Arastradero Preserve was reported 1 Dec (MiF) and 21 Dec (AME et al.). An **Eastern Phoebe** was found on the San Jose CBC on 20 Dec (JoM et al.) along Coyote Ck. below Hwy 237 for the first county record. It remained there at least through 24 Dec (m.ob.). A trivia question: how many first county records have come from CBCs? Wintering **Red-breasted Nuthatches** include one along San Francisquito Ck. below El Camino 29 Nov (TG), one further down the creek at Cowper 13 Dec (WGB), and one in Palo Alto on 21 Dec (PMB, SG). Two **House Wrens** were found on the San Jose CBC 20 Dec with one along Coyote Ck. above Hwy 237 (PJM, ADeM) and the second along Calaveras Ck. above the reservoir (JMa). A **Townsend's Solitaire** was found along Mines Rd. 28 Dec (RJR) and is the first record we've had this winter in the county. A **Phainopepla** was seen along Calaveras Rd. west of the reservoir 20 Dec (MMR). The **Chestnut-sided Warbler** banded at the Coyote Creek Riparian Station (CCRS) last month was last seen 5 Dec (MJM, MMR). A belated report of a **Black-and-White Warbler** in the Willow Glen area in early November (LM) is of interest as there are only about ten records of this eastern vagrant in the county. A tailless **Northern Waterthrush** was found along Guadalupe River below Trimble on 20 Dec (PJM, ADeM) and was

seen at least through 31 Dec (m.ob.). This is the second winter record we have for this rare warbler. The remaining riparian vegetation along our urban creeks is the closest thing we have to a vagrant trap in the county. A wintering **Wilson's Warbler** along San Francisquito Ck. at Chaucer 21 Dec (PMB, SG) was a good find - we find wintering birds in every third or fourth winter. A female **Western Tanager** along the creek at Middlefield 13 Dec (WGB) and 21 Dec (PMB, SG) was relying on a large, flowering eucalyptus as its food resource. The **Sharp-tailed Sparrow** at the Palo Alto Baylands was found again 20 Dec (AME). More surprising was another one found near the old railroad bridge on Dumbarton Point 21 Dec (JAC). The furtive **Swamp Sparrow** wintering at the Palo Alto Baylands was seen briefly on 21 Dec (TAC). A **White-throated Sparrow** was found on Coyote Ck. above Hwy 237 20 Dec (PJM, ADeM) and two birds were reported at a feeder in Ladera the next day (MW). This sparrow does not appear to be as numerous this winter as in the past few years. A male **Cassin's Finch** on Mines

Rd. in the county 28 Dec (RJR) is one of our few winter records although this species may be a regular winterer in the Diablo Range

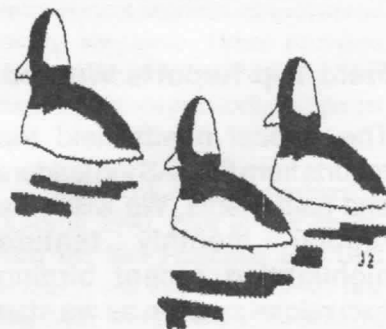
**Observers:** Jane Becker-Haven (JB-H), Bill Bousman (WGB), Phyllis Browning (PMB), William Cabot (WC), R. Carlson (RC), Jack Cole (JAC), Jim Corliss (JiC), Derek Currall (DCu), Maryann Danielson (MD), Al DeMartini (ADeM), Al Eisner (AME), Mike Feighner (MiF), Susie Formenti (SF), Reid Freeman (RF), Norma Funai (NF), Shirley Gordon (SG), Tom Gray (TG), Ed Gustafson (EG), Grant Hoyt (GHt), June Hymas (JH), Dave Johnston (DJ), Ken Lajoie (KL), Mike Mammoser (MJM), Joan Mancini (JoM), John Mariani (JMa), Jim McCroskey (JMCC), Peter Metropulos (PJM), Lynn Miller (LM), Steve Miller (SM), Bob Richmond (RJR), Mike Rogers (MMR), Jim Rosso (JR), Leonard & Elizabeth Rush (L&ER), Jean-Marie Spoelman (J-MS), Don Starks (DS), Ruth Troetschler (RT), Ann Verdi (AV), and Mercedes Williams (MW).

*Calendar Continued from Page 3*

### Plan Ahead

**Sunday, March 7. Owling at Almaden-Quicksilver Park.** Leader: John Mariani 408/997-1429. Limit 12 people. Call leader for time and meeting place. Highlights: W. Screech Owl, Great Horned Owl; possible N. Saw-whet Owl.

**Saturday-Sunday, March 20-21. Honey Lake/Eagle Lake weekend.** Leader: Bob Hirt 408/446-4478. Limit of 12 people (joint trip with Golden Gate Audubon). Highlights: Sage Grouse, Bald Eagle, Northern Shrike, Sage Sparrow, and other specialties of NE California. Motels available in Susanville. (Sage Grouse viewing early Saturday morning-participants should drive up on Friday.) Call leader to reserve space.



## Audubon's Ecology Camp at Muscongus Bay, Maine

Now that winter is definitely upon us, I thought I'd take this opportunity to recommend a great summer vacation. If you're interested in a beautiful setting, friendly people and learning about the environment, then the National Audubon Society's Ecology Camp in Maine is for you! Thanks to a grant from the Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society and a scholarship from National Audubon I had the pleasure of attending the week long Marine Biology Camp this past summer. The camp is held on Hog Island, an Audubon Society Sanctuary in Muscongus Bay.

Our days were divided into morning and afternoon sessions which gave us the chance to learn and explore the marine environment. Using the Audubon boats, Puffin II and Osprey II, we explored Muscongus Bay. As we sampled the ocean bottom in rocky and muddy areas, we saw and touched creatures that inhabit each area. We were able to bring some of the sea life back to the touch tank in the camp's lab for further study. Muscongus Bay is full of life from under the mud into the sky. We watched a Bald Eagle attending its 10-week-old nestling in a nearby tree. We saw lobstermen setting their traps and learned how the physical and biological properties of the Bay have made it such a productive area.

### Field Trip Reports Wanted.

The *Avocet* needs field trip reports from SCVAS trip leaders and participants. We will run a regular monthly feature highlighting recent birding excursions as soon as we start receiving your reports. The deadline is the 25th of the month.



*Camp participants study marine life in the lab's touch tank.*

We had the pleasure of hearing a researcher from the Puffin Project tell us of their success reintroducing puffins to the Maine Coast. We then took the boat out to East Egg Rock Island, the site of the Project. As we watched a pair of puffins splashing in the water, we were touched by the thought that these birds wouldn't be here if it weren't for the dedicated researchers from the Puffin project.

Since it was my first time in Maine, I enjoyed learning about the Maine culture through the several "Mainers" that we met. We sang sea shanties and met a man who has an aqua culture farm. We all especially enjoyed our boat driver, who loved to tell stories about his 40 years in lighthouses on the Gulf of Maine.

We were all made to feel welcome by the enthusiastic and very knowledgeable staff of instructors and assistants. Our rooms were "rustic" but clean and after a day at sea incredibly comfortable! All in all, the week was a delightful mix of

learning, humor and new friendships. The majority of the group were naturalists or teachers; others were nature lovers who wanted to learn. Unfortunately for the camp attendance was at about half capacity.

I am grateful to the Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society and the National Audubon Society who made it possible for me to attend. The camp rejuvenated my excitement for learning and teaching about the environment. I now have the opportunity to share what I have learned through the programs I teach as a volunteer at the San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge.

I would love to talk to you about the Camp and can be reached through Cecily Harris at the SCVAS office. Start making your plans now to attend the Camp in Maine or one of the other camps offered by Audubon. You'll be glad you did!

—Amy Izzo-Olander

## The Birds of North America

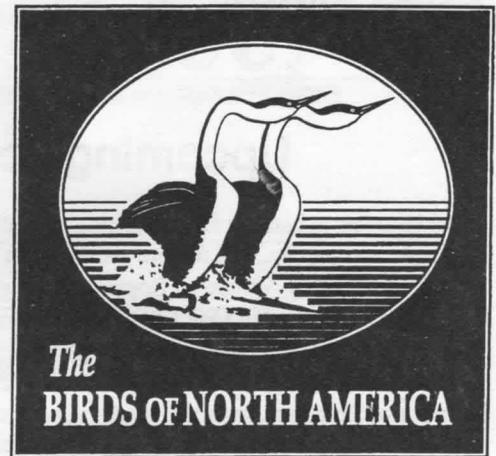
The American Ornithologists' Union and the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia have announced the release of the first eight species profiles of a landmark new serial publication, *The Birds of North America* (BNA). The need for a complete and worthy successor to A.C. Bent's *Life Histories* has grown each decade. BNA will provide a comprehensive, up-to-date reference of our nesting birds, and is designed to become the primary reference book on North American Birds.

Thirty to forty accounts will be published in 1993, with profiles of the remaining 700+ species released as completed over the next ten years. The first

eight are: Barn Owl, Piping Plover, Indigo Bunting, Spruce Grouse, Semipalmated Plover, Northern Mockingbird, and Mexican Chickadee.

Information to support conservation and management of rare and endangered bird populations will receive special emphasis in the first years of the project.

To subscribe to the series contact: *The Birds of North America*, P.O. Box 687, Holmes, PA 19043. Phone 800/345-8112; Fax 215/586-3232. Charter subscriptions for the entire 18 volume series are \$1,875 or \$700 in three annual installments; regular subscriptions



are billed at \$175 per volume of 40 accounts. A 25% discount is available for individuals who secure Charter subscriptions from their institutional libraries.

### *Riparian Corridors and Bird Migration*

## Green Highways Through Urban Deserts

Mike Rigney, Director of the Coyote Creek Riparian Station and SCVAS member, will summarize ten years worth of observations and bird banding along Coyote Creek at the Golden Gate Audubon Society's February meeting in Berkeley. The program will begin at 7:30 PM, Thursday, February 11, at the Northbrae Community Church, 941 the Alameda. The Station bands over 7,000 birds a year, and more than 140 different species have been banded over the past ten years. Mike's slide show will include photos of some of the rarities encountered during banding, and a discussion of the successful riparian restoration work and other projects that the Station is involved in will follow.

Coyote Creek Riparian Station was formed in 1982 to do long-term studies on riparian wildlife. Central to this study has been an intensive bird banding program

manned primarily by volunteers, many of them from SCVAS and other Bay Area Audubon chapters. Coyote Creek Riparian Station is currently assisting government agencies to determine success criteria for riparian management projects. They are an active participant in the Partners in Flight Program, which focuses monitoring and management attention on neotropical migratory songbirds. Other activities include working with the EPA to establish techniques for citizen monitoring of riparian habitats.

Mike took over the directorship of CCRS in 1990. Prior to this, he co-founded the San Francisco Bay Bird Observatory, and also served as its first director. Mike was also a wildlife biologist for the H.T. Harvey and Associates consulting firm, and has been involved in bird research for 15 years.

### SCVAS Office Wishlist:

The SCVAS needs the following items: extension cords, large screen for Macintosh computer, standing easels, and a fax machine. If you would like to donate one of these items or need more information, please call Cecily Harris at 408/252-3747.

Thank you to Stan Tish for donating library books and to Roy Cameron and Keith Clark for donating magazines to the SCVAS Library.

Santa Clara Valley  
Audubon Society  
22221 McClellan Road  
Cupertino, CA 95014

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

Non-Profit Organization  
U.S. Postage Paid  
San Jose, CA  
Permit No. 5869

## Upcoming Ecology Camps and Field Studies

Field Studies in Natural History, a program offered by San Jose State University, will feature six different field trips in 1993. The trips are: Winter in Southern Arizona, Spring at Death Valley, Almaden Quicksilver Mine, Grand Canyon, Sequoia National Park, and East of the Sierras. Each program gives an overview of the area in addition to specific instructional information on plants, animals, geology, and ecology. Send your name and address to Field Studies in Natural History, College of Science, San Jose State University, One Washington Square, San Jose, CA 95192-0099. Or call 408/924-2625 for more information.

The Audubon Institute of Desert Ecology, sponsored by Tucson Audubon, will take place April 15-18, 1993. Sixty to sixty-five participants and six expert instructors for field studies of the Sonoran Desert will stay in Catalina Park to study the Sonoran Desert ecosystems with emphasis on relationships between plant life, animals and the physical characteristics of the desert. The \$275 fee per person includes instruction, camp services, and all meals. For more information: write Tucson Audubon Society, Institute of Desert Ecology, 300 E. University Blvd., #120, Tucson, AZ 85705 or call 602/629-0757.

1993 Audubon Ecology Camps and Workshops: For more than 50 years, the National Audubon Society has offered its Ecology Camps and Workshops for adults and children. This year offerings include: Audubon Camps in Maine, Connecticut and Wyoming; Winter ecology or endangered species programs in Yellowstone; ecology workshops in Minnesota, southeast Arizona, Big Bend National Park, Olympic Peninsula, southwest canyonlands, international ecology workshops in Belize, Costa Rica, Panama, Trinidad & Tobago, or Kenya; nature photography workshops in Yellowstone or Venezuela. Field studies range from geology and marine life to birds, mammals, plants, insects, weather, astronomy, population and renewable energy. For recreation, you'll explore a wild island in Maine, go rafting in Wyoming, or roam the lovely, lush, deciduous woods of Connecticut. Camp sessions for adults, 18 and over, run from six to eighteen days. College credit is available. For more information: Write Audubon Ecology Camps & Workshops, National Audubon Society, 613 Riversville Road, Greenwich, CT 06831 or call 203/869-2017.

**Membership:** We invite your membership in the National Audubon Society/SCVAS. To join, please complete and mail this form with payment to SCVAS, 22221 McClellan Road, Cupertino, CA 95014.

**Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society Subscription:** Check One  
 Subscriber \$10  Supporter \$20  Donor \$35  Patron \$50 and more  
Members receive *The Avocet* newsletter. Make check payable to SCVAS.

Or

**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.

**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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