

The Avocet

The Newsletter of the Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society

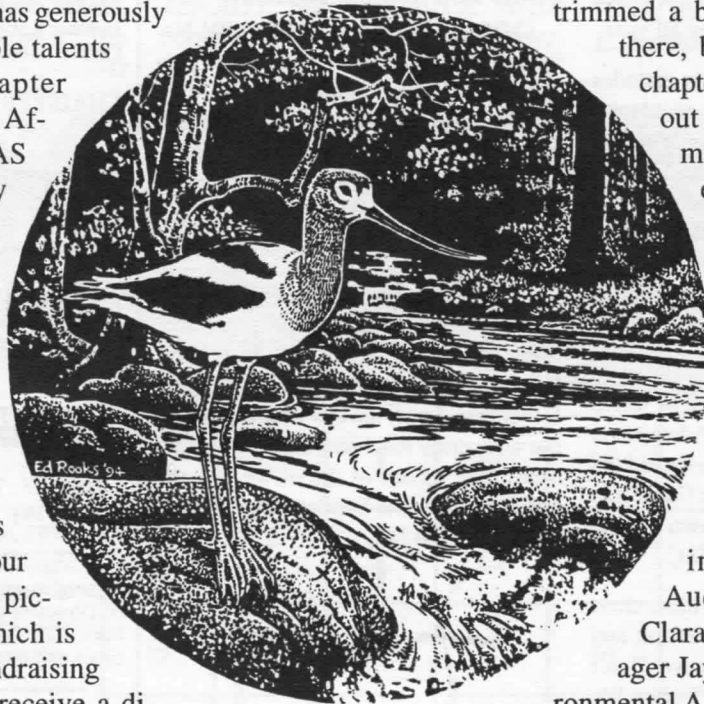
December 1994

What's Wrong With This Picture?

Certainly not the quality of artwork. Once again, Ed Rooks has generously donated his considerable talents to our latest chapter fundraising campaign. After absorbing the SCVAS Avocet so gracefully posed in Edward's drawing, did the shady riparian background strike you as incongruous? Do you suppose artist Rooks is testing our observational skills?

No, indeed—he's merely carrying out our request for an Avocet pictured "up a creek," which is our end-of-the-year fundraising theme. If you didn't receive a direct-mail solicitation within the last two weeks, here's the explanation:

Like many non-profit groups, we've been hit



with budget problems. Naturally we've trimmed a bit here, cut some more there, but we refuse to let the chapter drift "up a creek" without a struggle. We're committed to maintaining our educational and environmental programs, field trips, Nature Shop, newsletter and other member services.

We're very fortunate to have a dedicated, professional, friendly and accessible two-person staff working on behalf of the Audubon cause in Santa Clara Valley. Office Manager Jayne DiCandio and Environmental Advocate Craig Breon enable us to reach out into the local community in so many ways, we simply can't afford to lose them.

That's why we've made this year-end appeal for donations from our members. If you didn't receive our fundraising letter in the mail and would like to help keep our Avocet from going "up a creek," it's not too late to contribute. Call Jayne at the office at (408) 252-3747 or simply drop by (and do your Christmas shopping while you're there—see Pg. 2). Thanks—we're counting on your support!

Christmas Counts

Don't miss the two SCVAS-sponsored Christmas Bird Counts: San Jose on Sunday the 18th, and Palo Alto on Monday the 19th. For details on these and other local CBC's, see Pages 7 (PA) and 8 (SJ).

Chapter News

Thank you! Nature Shop Volunteers

We would like to recognize two of our terrific volunteers, Colleen Cunningham and Marie Gordon. Thanks to their commitment, our Nature Shop has been open every Saturday since March. They have not only made Saturday shopping a success but have brought greater visibility to Audubon, our library, and McClellan Ranch Park. We would also like to thank Chris Keswani, who kept the office/shop going while Jayne was on vacation, and has helped out at several fairs including the Avocet fair. Thanks Colleen, Marie and Chris!

New Gift Ideas For Christmas!

Audubon Calendars are available in the Nature Shop. We have three designs which include the Wild Bird Wall Calendar, the Wild Bird Desk Diary, and the Audubon Engagement Calendar. All have beautiful photographs to enjoy all year.

Wild Bryde Jewelry not only includes attractive bird earrings and necklaces, but Christmas Tree Ornaments. You can choose a Kinglet, Peregrine Falcon, Downy Woodpecker or several other designs. These stunning gold plated ornaments would make a great gift to a birder friend (can fit in an envelope, easy to mail!)

SCVAS limited edition T-shirts are here! Our unique logo designed by world famous artist Harry Curieux Adamson is featured on this shirt. Harry designed the first Native Species Stamp for California and has had his work shown at the Smithsonian in Washington D.C.

The shirts are stone wash blue, short sleeve, with the Avocet logo on front and "AVOCET" printed on the sleeve. Don't wait too long to get this special T-shirt. We made only 60 shirts and they will go fast!

The Audubon Nature Shop is the place for your holiday shopping. Besides many delightful gift items, we also have great stocking stuffers including stencil &

sticker books (for all ages), pocket field guides, and balsam pillows.

Special Event! Tiger Salamander Prints And Stamps Available

California Fish and Game's 1994 Native species stamp features the California Tiger Salamander painted by SCVAS member Edward Rooks. Limited edition prints, each with a block of four stamps are available for sale at the SCVAS shop. Sales will help the Department of Fish and Game's wildlife conservation efforts and SCVAS.

We are easy to get to from any direction! Our regular hours are M-F 9am-5pm, and Sat 10am-2pm. Each week in December, I will list our exact hours on our answering machine (meetings sometimes take us out of the office) for the week and possible Sunday hours. Please call 408-252-3747.



Wanted: Bird-Banding Site

For the past several years, I have been studying the spring migration of Rufous Hummingbirds. The study has been conducted at Coyote Creek Riparian Station. To complete my work, I need to find a site along or close to the ridgeline of the Diablo Range to do comparative banding. I would need to band these hummers from approximately late February until mid-May, four days a week. If you can make property available to me, I would greatly appreciate it. Please contact Rita Colwell either at CCRS (408) 262-9204 or at home (415) 949-1869.

SCVAS OFFICERS

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2nd VP	Mary Simpson	
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Rec. Secty.	vacant	

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Membership	Vacant	

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.

1994, Volume 41, Number 93

Rare Bird Alert: 510/ 524-5592

December 1994 Calendar

On all field trips carpool and share expenses. Bring binoculars, field guides, warm clothing, lunch (optional on half-day trips) and liquids.

**Denotes Field Trip

****Saturday Dec. 3, 8:00 AM.** Beginners trip to Charleston Slough. Leader: Bob Reiling 408/253-7527. Take Hwy. 101 to San Antonio Rd. in Mtn. View, exit N on San Antonio to Terminal Way parking area (1/4 mile). Basics of bird identification, including ducks, shorebirds, herons, egrets.

Wednesday Dec. 7, 7:30 PM. Bay Area Bird Photographers. Jim Nahmens of Redwood City presents

“Humpback Whales—Fascinating Behaviors” with video and slides from Alaska, Australia and Hawaii. Lucy Evans Baylands Interpretive Center, E. Embarcadero Rd., Palo Alto.

Tuesday Dec. 13, 9:30 AM. The Eve Case Bird Discussion Group will meet at the home of Pat and Jean Dubois, 17150 Buena Vista Ave., Los Gatos 408/395-4264. Topic: Steller’s Jay.

****Wednesday Dec. 14, 9:00 AM.** Coe Park. Leaders: Emelie Curtis 408/779-2637 and Jane Glass 779-3637. Meet at Carl’s Jr. on SE corner of E. Dunne Ave. exit of Hwy. 101 at 9:00 for carpooling. Moder-

ately strenuous hike of 6-7 miles on loop trail to Manzanita Point. Bring daypack lunch. Rain cancels.

Sunday Dec. 18, all day. San Jose Christmas Bird Count. See Page 8.

Monday Dec. 19, all day. Palo Alto Christmas Bird Count. See Page 7.

Wednesday Jan. 4, 7:30 PM. Tonight’s Bay Area Bird Photographers program will be presented by long-time member Mike Danzenbaker, who will show slides of “The Birds of Europe.” Lucy Evans Baylands Interpretive Center, E. Embarcadero Rd., Palo Alto.

Have you noticed a decrease in the number of field trips offered in the last few months? We have, too. Our hard-working Field Trip Committee needs new members, new ideas, new trip leaders. As a matter of fact, what would really help right now is a Committee chairperson. To maintain our standard of offering

more field trips per month than any other Northern California chapter, we need a little more support from our active birding members. If you’d like to get involved with the Field Trip Committee in any capacity, please call Jayne at the office (408) 252-3747.

Bird-Finding Puzzle

Long-time member Phil Hand made up this puzzle, which was originally published in the Jan. 1977 issue of *Birding*. Phil challenges you to find 46 bird names by starting in any square and moving in any direction—horizontally, vertically, or diagonally—one square at a time, to spell out a name. A square may be re-used, but double letters require adjacent squares with the same letter.

Four names may be found in two places; one in four places. All but seven names are found in the American Birding Association checklist. One is extinct, one is mythical, one is not found in bird guides but is well-known to solvers of another kind of puzzle. The others are found in bird guides for other parts of the world. Good birding! (Answers on Pg. 7).

S	I	T	E	K	I	T	R
B	T	L	C	P	E	S	E
S	E	R	I	A	G	L	O
V	Y	W	N	T	M	O	T
D	O	R	E	H	C	R	N
S	N	L	A	G	S	W	A
K	I	O	P	R	B	U	H
U	A	H	T	E	L	M	I

Field Notes

By Bill Bousman

Grebes through Egrets

Late breeding by grebes is not unexpected so the date of nesting by **Western Grebes** on Calaveras Res. 12 Oct (SCR) is less noteworthy than the fact that this is only the second year we have found this species breeding here. The first time was just last year. Of the 19 **Aechmophorus grebes** seen all that could be identified were of this species. **American Bitterns** have been found more widely this fall than in recent years. Single birds were seen at the Mountain View Forebay 4 Oct (AH et al.), on the Ogier Avenue ponds 6 Oct (SCR), Triangle Marsh 8 Oct (PJM), and along Alviso Slough 15-17 Oct (SCR,MMR). A single **Cattle Egret** was over Artesian Slough 6 Oct (MJM), and three were seen at the Arzino Ranch in Alviso 6-8 Oct (PJM).

Waterfowl

The first fall movement of geese noted was of four imm. **Greater White-fronted Geese** over New Chicago Marsh 12 Oct (SCR). A male **Blue-winged Teal** was in Charleston Slough 6 Oct (WGB). At least one male **Eurasian Wigeon** has been found regularly during the month in Charleston Slough and the Mountain View Forebay (m.ob.). A second male, in partial eclipse, was in the outer Palo Alto FCB 11 Oct (SCR). **Redheads** have once more returned to the north pond in the Palo Alto Flood Control Basin (FCB) with six counted 14 Oct (SCR) and numbers building through the end of the month. Two males were also found on the Alviso salt ponds 16 Oct (PJM). **Ring-necked Ducks** have returned to the Ogier Avenue ponds with 161 counted on 6 Oct (SCR). A male **Tufted Duck** was found again this fall on Salt Pond A10 in Alviso with the first observation on 15 Oct

(SCR) and further sightings after that. It seems likely that this is a returning bird. The first returning **Red-breasted Mergansers** were first noted on the Alviso salt ponds on 15 Oct as well (SCR).

Raptors through Cranes

There have been scattered sightings of the always scarce **Osprey** with one near Gilroy Hot Springs 22 Sep (ECu), along Coyote Creek south of the Ogier Avenue ponds 6 Oct (SCR), another the same day on Coyote Creek near Newby Island (PJM), and one at Vasona Res. 23 Oct (AME). Single **Ferruginous Hawks** were found on Felter Road 12 Oct (SCR) and on Sierra Road 23 Oct (AME). **Merlins** continue to be well-reported

include one along Coyote Creek below Hwy 237 22 Oct (SCR) and another on Sierra Road 23 Oct (AME). A careful census along Guadalupe River between Tasman and Trimble 25 Oct (SCR) provided a count of 26 **Sora**, a total that well exceeds our typical winter high tide counts. It is possible that many of these are migrating birds and that numbers will be lower by CBC time. The 5th county record of **Sandhill Crane** was of one flying over the Palo Alto Flood Control Basin 11 Oct (SCR). The 6th county record followed shortly with a flock of 18 seen over Alviso 16 Oct (PJM) - a marvelous sight and sound! Our first county record was of 17 birds seen over San Jose in 1967.

Shorebirds

Numbers of **Lesser Yellow-legs** taper off in October. Seven in the Waterbird Management Area (WMA) pond on lower Coyote Creek 4 Oct (SCR) was the largest concentration found and smaller numbers were still in many bayside spots through the third week of October with the latest record being two birds at the San Jose-Santa Clara Water Pollution Control Plant (WPCP) 22 Oct (SCR). A basic-plumaged **Red Knot** was seen again on Salt Pond A14 in Alviso 15 Oct (SCR). In the early to mid-1980s **Sanderlings**, for reasons unknown, were found regularly in the South Bay. Bi-weekly Charleston Slough censuses recorded them, frequently in double digits, while both the Palo Alto and San Jose CBCs had good numbers during these years. San Jose counted an all time high of 117 in 1983 while Palo Alto's peak was also of 117 in 1986. They are once again rare in our area so one on Salt Pond A3N 20 Oct (SCR) and two on the Alviso salt ponds 25 Oct (PJM) are of interest. **Pectoral Sandpipers** peaked in agricultural fields near Coyote Creek below Hwy 237 on 4 Oct with a total of 41. Nine more were on the WMA pond nearby and ten were in the San Jose-Santa Clara WPCP ponds

*A Black-throated Green
Warbler found in Los Gatos
is a first for the county.*

with six records this month from many locations (m.ob.). **Peregrine Falcons** continue to be well reported also. It appears that there are at least two adults in the Palo Alto area as well as two in the Alviso area this month (m.ob.). Imm. birds have been seen in both areas as well. One of the more cooperative adults has been using a transmission tower just south of the Palo Alto FCB (at Ewell Court and East Bayshore) on a regular basis and, each day, this endangered species ignores the tens of thousands of commuters that speed by just below his imperious beak. **Peregrines** away from the bay include one near the Stanford dish 27 Oct (TG) and an adult near Calaveras Res. 27 Oct (SCR) and 30 Oct (TG). These birds may be separate from the bayside birds. A **Prairie Falcon** has been found irregularly in Alviso near the New Chicago Marsh 12-25 Oct (SCR,MMR,PJM). Additional sightings

the same day (all SCR). Numbers declined fairly rapidly after this and the last bird seen was one over Coyote Creek below Hwy 237 on 23 Oct (MJM). An adult **Stilt Sandpiper** was found in the pond at Lafayette and Hwy 237 on 2 Oct (SCR,HLR). It is possible that this is the same bird found irregularly since early August. An adult, light morph **Parasitic Jaeger** was found over Salt Pond A13 in Alviso 15 Oct, harrasing the **Forster's Terns**. An imm. **Common Tern** was found there the same day as well (both SCR).

Roadrunners through Solitaires

Always hard to find, a **Greater Roadrunner** along Llagas Creek, north of Bloomfield Road 23 Oct was nice to see (MMR). A single **Short-eared Owl** was found at dawn and dusk in the Palo Alto FCB 19 Oct (MMR;SCR) and again on 29 Oct (RJe). This species is no longer regular in our local area. The **Vaux's Swift** migration lingered into October. Twenty-one moving south past Mt. Hamilton 8 Oct (MJM) was the high count, while two over Vasona Res. 15-16 Oct (JD) were late. **Sapsuckers** can cause considerable confusion as was evidenced by a probable **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** found at Ed Levin CP 27 Oct (SCR) and seen there at least through 30 Oct (m.ob.). This bird showed some characteristics of a **Red-naped Sapsucker** and its age and identity was still being debated as this column went to press. Interestingly, a very similar bird was found at Jos. Grant CP on 30 Oct (MMR,SCR,MJM). The last **Willow Flycatcher** of the season was a bird at the Alviso Environmental Education Center (EEC) 3 Oct (AME). An imm. **Least Flycatcher** was found nearby at the edge of Artesian Slough on 1 Oct (SCR) for the seventh county record. A single **Red-breasted Nuthatch** in Santa Clara 16 Oct (RJe) was the only bird found away from known breeding locations. We have had a nice invasion of **Golden-crowned Kinglets** this fall, one

of the best in years. The first lowland reports were of two along Matadero Creek 5 Oct (AME). A late **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** was a female seen 6 Oct (SCR) along Coyote Creek near the Ogier Avenue ponds. A **Townsend's Solitaire**, seen in flight near Mt. Hamilton 2 Oct (SCR) was a good find.

Vireos through Finches

It was a spectacular fall for vireos and warblers. A **Red-eyed Vireo** along Coyote Creek below Hwy 237 20 Sep (EGu) was only the third county record and the first sight record as opposed to birds captured in mist nets. Late **Nashville Warblers** include singles on Coyote Creek below Hwy 237 1 Oct (SCR), the fennel patch at the Palo Alto Baylands 5 Oct (JR fide LC), and Kelley Park on 9 Oct (SCR). An imm. **Hermit Warbler** was near Vasona Res. in Los Gatos 21-23 Oct (WGB,LC,AME) and another imm. was along Coyote Creek in San Jose 29 Oct (SCR). Our best warbler of the season was undoubtedly the vagrant **Black-throated Green Warbler** that Jean Dubois found in his yard in Los Gatos 20 Oct and was seen by many observers through at least 29 Oct. This bird, either an adult female or imm. male, was the first record of this species in the county. Good numbers of **Palm Warblers** have again been found this fall although not as plentiful as last fall and winter. One to two birds have been in the vicinity of the Alviso EEC 6-16 Oct (PJM,TG) with two there on 6 Oct (PJM). A single bird was in the Palo Alto Baylands fennel 7 Oct (WGB,AME,RLe). One was found along Guadalupe River below Trimble Road 25 Oct (SCR). An excellent find was an imm. **Blackpoll Warbler** in the fennel at the Palo Alto Baylands 5 Oct (JR) with convincing details provided with photographs for the 5th county record. An **American Redstart** banded at the Coyote Creek Riparian Station (CCRS) 20 Oct (fide CO) was the 10th record of this vagrant in the county. **Northern Waterthrushes** seemed al-

most common this month. One was at the edge of Artesian Slough near the Alviso EEC 2-5 Oct (DS fide AME,m.ob.), a second on Coyote Creek below Hwy 237 22 Oct (MJM), a third along Matadero Creek below Hwy 101 24 Oct (SCR), and a fourth on Guadalupe River above Montague 25 Oct (SCR). Late **MacGillivray's Warblers** included one along Coyote Creek below Hwy 237 1 Oct (SCR), one along Matadero Creek 2 Oct (MJM), and one on Coyote Creek near Brokaw Road 9 Oct (SCR).

An early **Swamp Sparrow** was at the Ogier Avenue ponds 6 Oct (SCR) and another was found there 16 Oct (WGB). A single bird was at the Palo Alto Baylands 23 Oct (PJM), but quite surprising were the nine counted along the Guadalupe River in a hike from Tasman to Trimble on 25 Oct (SCR). This secretive species may be a more common fall migrant than we realize. The first **White-throated Sparrow** of the season was one at the Alviso EEC 8 Oct (PJM). By month's end six more individuals had been found in typical locations (m.ob.). Along with the movement of kinglets there was an extensive influx of **Pine Siskins** to the flatlands with many observers finding small numbers on the valley floor and on the move in the Diablo Range. A single **Lawrence's Goldfinch** over Calaveras Res. 27 Oct (SCR) was the only sign of movement of this nomadic finch.

Observers: Bill Bousman (WGB), Les Chibana (LC), Emilie Curtis (ECu), Jean Dubois (JD), Al Eisner (AME), Ed Gustafson (EGu), Tom Grey (TG), Alice Hoch (AH), Richard Jeffers (RJe), Rosalie Lefkowitz (RLe), Mike Mammoser (MJM), Peter Metropulos (PJM), Chris Otahal (CO), Mike Rogers (MMR), Jim Rosso (JR), Heather Rottenborn (HLR), Steve Rottenborn (SCR), and Daan Sandee (DS).

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



Environmental Action News

Will Delta Water Quality Be Protected?

by Craig Breon

This December brings not only the holidays, cold weather, and prayers for rain, but a crucial step in the long term protection of the Delta. On the 15th, the U.S. EPA will set final water quality standards for the Delta estuary, moving us a step closer to restoring the Bay. While our chapter often focuses on local issues, we have played an important role in this statewide conflict.

The Historic Roots of the Problem

As water diversions from the Delta and other sources increased over the years, fish populations in the region plummeted. Without enough fresh water to flush out the system, saltwater from the Bay increasingly intruded into the Delta. This seriously degraded the delicate balance of salt and fresh water that many species—from tiny zoo and phytoplankton to larger fish, and all the creatures in their food chains—depended upon. In addition, large pumping facilities were killing vast numbers of fish by sucking them into the system. So much water was drawn at times that the lower San Joaquin River literally flowed backwards toward the pumps.

As early as 1978 the State government recognized the need to reconcile the thirst of water users with the health of the Delta. That year the state set standards with targets for salinity, required minimum flows, and limited pumping. Nonetheless, the problems grew worse. Some fish species were pushed to the brink of extinction, and water exports from the Delta grew to record levels.

By the late 80's, the problem again drew the attention of the State. New, tougher standards were proposed, but never put into place. The reason for their failure was evident—the water exporters screamed bloody murder, and

the Governor's office caved in. This pattern of influence leading to inaction has continued ever since. Much of the blame lies on Governor Wilson's desk; he has repeatedly bent to the will of agricultural and other interests.

The Federal Hammer

With the Governor's office blocking progress on the restoration of the Delta, environmentalists turned to the Federal government. The feds have several tools they can use. With the 1990 listing of winter run chinook salmon and the subsequent Delta smelt listing, endangered species law was used to protect flows through the Delta. This meant that stalling would no longer always work to the benefit of the water users.

Then last year, with the passage of the Central Valley Project Improvement Act (CVPIA), Congress entered the fray. The CVPIA dictated that 800,000 acre feet of water would be transferred to environmental uses around the State. While this Act has yet to be fully implemented, it represents another constraint on the State, forcing it to deal more directly with Delta issues.

Finally, SCVAS joined with other Bay Area Audubon chapters and environmental and fishing organizations in a lawsuit designed to force the U.S. EPA to set water quality standards. Essentially we argued that if the State refused to enforce the laws requiring Delta protection, then the Federal Government must take over. Earlier this year our case was settled. Under the settlement the EPA agreed to set final standards for the Delta by December 15th of this year.

Where We Are Now

Having won on the issue of setting standards, we now must ensure that

those standards are implemented. This, too, the State government has refused to do. Therefore, it is necessary that we and the other groups involved in our earlier lawsuit continue pursuing our options. Some of these may be legal options, forcing the State to do its job and enforce the standards. Other options include participating in the ongoing negotiations on the myriad issues that need resolving before a comprehensive framework for Delta protection is established.

Some Lessons

I believe it was Jefferson who said "the price of freedom is eternal vigilance." In this situation, only eternal vigilance by a broad array of environmentalists has kept this process moving forward, even if at a snail's pace. Even with good laws in place, protecting vital resources like the Delta requires constant attention. The powerful economic interests arrayed against change can stymie—or even capture—government agencies, leaving plenty of work for environmental advocates.

Second, the question of "to sue or not to sue." While many of us resent the extent to which the law and lawyers guide crucial decisions in our lives, the Delta provides an excellent example of when lawsuits become necessary. Faced with a recalcitrant administration and opponents with far more political clout, a strategic lawsuit can begin to level the playing field.

Finally, the Delta is worth the effort. This is the crossroads of California's water. The interaction of politics, economics, and nature will rarely come under such close scrutiny. You are already involved through your support of our chapter's activities. Thank you for that support, and enjoy the Holidays.

Marin Headlands Hawk Trip

Eighteen birders joined me on October 18th in great anticipation of the spectacle of migration in action. The day was warm, and a light wind from the east made for a slow day for the hawks. We saw about 80 hawks, turkey vulture (25+), osprey (1), northern harrier (5), sharp-shinned hawk (20+), Cooper's hawk (25+), Accipiter sp. (10+), red-shouldered hawk (6), red-tailed hawk (30+) and American kestrel (4). Someone saw a peregrine falcon, but we missed it. The most noteworthy observation was about 300-400 violet-green swallows that migrated over the headlands. Other migrants were a few band-tailed pigeons, Vaux's

swift, white-throated swifts, cedar waxwing (10), varied thrush (1), yellow-rumped warbler (5), and pine siskin (10). While we waited for the hawks to pass by, we were entertained by the Blue Angels and the parade of Navy ships, including the Jeremiah O'Brian. The highlight of the air show was a Boeing 737 performing maneuvers around the Golden Gate Bridge! (A little like a Greyhound bus competing against a Porsche)... I wonder if the FAA knew about this...! All had fun sorting out the subtle characters of the hawks, and look forward to next years migration!

—Don Schmoldt

Pescadero Marsh Field Trip

Fourteen birders joined me at Pescadero Marsh on October 22, 1994 for a fine morning of birding. Our total for the day was 65 species. A crisp morning quickly gave way to one of the nicest days we've had on the coast for some time. We spent the first hour observing large numbers of gulls and shorebirds of the rocky shoreline, including excellent comparisons of gull (5 species and one strange hybrid) and Black Turnstone/Surfbird.

We then walked along the levee into the marsh, and passed the rest of the morning watching waterfowl, herons, and other marshland birds. Highlights included Virginia Rail (at least two well seen in the open), an immature Tundra Swan, 12 species of duck, 4 calling rails, 3 eared grebes, 2 mourning doves, but try as we might, we couldn't find the partridge (let alone a pear tree).

—Francis Toldi

Clapper Rail Surveyors Needed!

The San Francisco Water Department is starting work in March 1995, on a six-year maintenance and repair program for two Bay Division Pipelines that carry Hetch Hetchy water across San Francisco Bay south of the Dumbarton Bridge. The U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) requires that call count surveys for California Clapper Rails be conducted so that work can be scheduled to avoid disturbance to nest sites during breeding season.

EIP Associates, an environmental consulting firm will conduct two training sessions January 12 & 13. Between 17 and 20 surveyors will be required. Early morning (6:15-8:15 am) and late afternoon (4:30-6:30pm) surveys will be conducted once a week for the following 7 weeks (through March 3). It is desirable but not necessary that survey-

ors be available for both morning and afternoon counts.

Applicants should have some familiarity with the California Clapper Rail, and experience in conducting wildlife surveys or bird counts. To apply for a position on the survey team, send a one page letter including your name, address, telephone number, and one paragraph describing your experience with wildlife surveys in general, California Clapper Rail surveys, and bird counts to Lee Ellis, EIP Associates, 601 Montgomery Street, Suite 500, San Francisco, CA 94111. Indicate whether you will be available for both morning and afternoon surveys, and list any days when you will not be available. Surveyors will be paid \$20 and will receive a \$5 travel allotment for each approximate 2-hour survey.

1994 Palo Alto Christmas Bird Count

The 35th Palo Alto CBC will be held on Monday, December 19, 1994. The Region Leaders for the count are listed below. Please contact them if you are able to help this year or if you are new to this CBC contact Bill Bousman (number below).

Region One:	Jack Cole	408-996-0434
Region Two:	Mike Rogers	415-962-8907
Region Three:	Bill Bousman	415-322-5282
Region Four:	Phyllis Browning	415-494-6360
Region Five:	Jane Becker-Haven	415-321-0776
Region Six:	Ruth Troetschler	415-948-4142
Region Seven:	Gloria Heller	415-851-2356
Region Eight:	Bill Bousman	415-322-5282

Answers to Bird Puzzle:

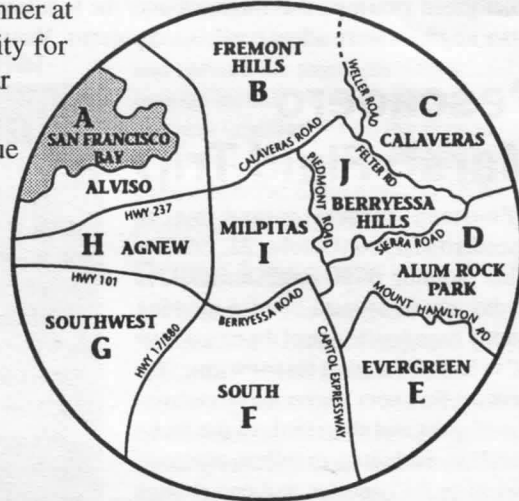
ani, auk(extinct), bittern, bulbul, bushtit, coot, cormorant, dodo(extinct), dove, dowitcher, eagle, egret, elaeenia(elsewhere), erne(2)(crossword puzzles), goose, grebe, hen(elsewhere), heron, ibis, kestrel, kite, knot, loon, magpie, oystercatcher, pelican, petrel(2), phainopepla, pintail, pipit(2), plover, roc(mythical), serin(elsewhere), shag(elsewhere), siskin, skua, sora, stilt, swan, teal, tern(2), tit(4), trogon, whimbrel, wren, wrentit.

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

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San Jose, CA
Permit No. 5869

1994 San Jose Christmas Bird Count

The 1994 San Jose Christmas Bird Count will take place on Sunday, December 18th. This annual all-day affair starts at dawn (earlier for owlers) and runs through dinner at the Leninger Center in Kelly Park. The CBC is an opportunity for you to be part of a major bird censusing effort with a 95 year history. San Jose ranks high nationally both in number of participants and total species seen. We would like to continue this tradition and hope you and your birding friends can work the CBC into a busy December schedule. Call one of the section leaders shown below or Reid Freeman at 408-255-4969 to volunteer for this fun and important activity.



Section	Leader	Phone
A Alviso	Dick Carlson	415-324-2701 (w) 415-494-3160 (h)
B Fremont Hills	Mary Simpson	408-286-2421
C Calaveras	Reid Freeman	408-255-4969
D Alum Rock	Jae Abel	408-356-4945
E Evergreen	Call the Office	408-252-3747
F South	Clysta Seney	408-261-9431
G Southwest	Mark Miller	415-967-3429
H Agnew	Grant Hoyt	415-969-7892
I Milpitas	Ann Verdi	408-266-2798
J Berryessa	Les Chibana	415-965-7377

Other CBC Counts:

Crystal Springs	Sat. 12/17	Mt. Hamilton	Wed. 12/21
Santa Cruz	Sat. 12/17	San Francisco	Wed. 12/28
Oakland	Sun. 12/18	Año Nuevo	Sat. 12/31
Palo Alto	Mon. 12/19	Moss Landing	Sun. 1/1

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

New members \$20 Membership renewal \$35

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 fund the Chapter's birding, education, conservation and research programs.

Name _____

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