



## The Avocet

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

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Volume 34, Number 7

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## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

On all field trips, CARPOOL and share expenses. Bring binoculars, field guides, warm clothing, lunch (optional on half-day trips) and liquids. If you can provide or need transportation, call Dolores Norton (415)941-1666 or Gail Cheeseman (408)741-5330.

### Field Trip Coordinator for September: Audrey Stoye (408)249-2108

- Sept. 2 **Bay Area Bird Photographers** hold their first meeting of the year at 7:30 pm at the Palo Alto Baylands Interpretive Center. Program will consist of slides made by members with emphasis on summer photos. Co-sponsored by the City of Palo Alto.
- Sept. 8 **Bird Discussion Group.** Tuesday 9:30 am, at the home of Eve Case, 20537 Verde Vista Lane, Saratoga. (408)867-4748. Topic: Summer Bird Experiences.
- Sept. 8 **Jay-Proof Bird Feeder Workshop.** Tuesday 3:30-4:30 pm. Peninsula Conservation Center, 2253 Park Blvd., Palo Alto. Betty Hone will lead a workshop on building a jay-proof feeder. See article inside. For more information call Lynn at SCVAS office, (415)329-1811.
- Sept. 9 **South County Field Trip:** U.C. Santa Cruz Predatory Bird Research Center. Wednesday 9:45 am, half day. Meet at the information booth just inside Bay Street entrance to the campus. Cost: \$3 per person. Call Linda Hagelin (408)867-3046 to sign up. Limit 10 people.
- Sept. 12 **Gazos Creek and Pescadero Marsh Area.** Saturday, 8:30 am, full day. Meet at the Gazos Creek Coastal Access Day Use Area. From San Jose: Hwy 17 to Santa Cruz (25 mis.), N on Hwy 1, 26 mis. to access parking area on coast side of highway. Or take Hwy 84 to Pescadero and then S on Hwy 1 to access. Call leaders for carpool info. Bring lunch, water and full tank of fuel. Highlights: Migrating shorebirds-resident and migrant landbirds/marsh birds at Pescadero. RAIN CANCELS. Leaders: Audrey Stoye (408)249-2108 and Betty Wyatt (408)255-6091.
- Sept. 13 **Birdwalk for Beginners.** Sunnyvale Sewage Ponds. Sunday 9 am, half day. Take US 101 to Matilda Ave. Go E on Matilda toward Lockheed. Matilda becomes Caribbean after about a mile. Continue on Caribbean to Borregas. Left on Borregas and follow public shore signs to parking area. We'll be looking at shorebirds and waterfowl. HEAVY RAIN CANCELS. Leader: Paul L. Noble (415)948-3876.
- Sept. 16 **General Meeting.** Wednesday, Refreshments at 7:30 pm, program at 8 pm. Palo Alto Cultural Center, Newell at Embarcadero. Richard Ives will present a program on the Birds of Malaysia and Thailand. He will discuss a number of unique species including the Painted Stork, Asian Openbill Stork, White-bellied Sea Eagle and many more. (More about our speaker inside.)
- Sept. 19 **Pt. Reyes.** Saturday 9 am, full day. Meet at the Bear Valley Visitors Center parking lot. Take US 101 N to Sir Francis Drake Blvd. Go W to Hwy 1 at Olema. One block N on Hwy 1, then left on Bear Valley Rd. for about 1 mi. to Visitors Center. Informal carpooling at 7 am at Page Mill I-280 Park 'N' Ride lot. Bring lunch and drinks. Gas available on coast, but expensive. Anticipated highlights: Migrant and vagrant landbirds and shorebirds. HEAVY RAIN CANCELS. Leader: BruceLaBar (408)476-7583.
- Sept. 20 **Monterey Hot Spots.** Sunday 9 am, full day. Take Hwy 1 to Carmel. Turn left at Rio Road and meet in SW corner of the Safeway parking lot. Bring lunch and clothing for a variety of weather. Possible vagrant landbirds and rare shorebirds plus a wide variety of the regular migrants. Leader: David Suddjian (408)479-9603.
- Sept. 23 **Field Trip North.** Charleston Slough. Wednesday 1 pm (please note time). Meet at the E end of San Antonio Rd. off Hwy 101. Leader: David Suddjian (408)479-9603.
- Sept. 26 **Birdwalk for Beginners.** Rancho San Antonio. Saturday 8 am, half day. Take I-280 to Foothill Expwy, S to Cristo Rey Drive. Meet in the last parking lot at end of Cristo Rey Drive. 1-2 mis. of easy walking. Bring liquids. RAIN CANCELS. Leaders: Jim and Sue Liskovec (415)969-5542.
- Sept. 27 **Marin Headlands-Rodeo Lagoon.** Sunday 8:30 am, full day. From US 101 take Alexander Ave.-Sausalito exit. Start downhill and swing left to tunnel entrance to Ft. Cronkhite. Continue to parking lot on S side of lagoon before right turn across bridge. Bring lunch and water. Highlights: Migrating raptors, possible vagrant landbirds. RAIN CANCELS. Leader: Clark Blake (415)747-0601/(415)329-4951.

(Continued on back page)

# SANTA CLARA COUNTY

## Bill Bousman

A breeding bird atlas has been started for Santa Clara County and has been organized under the auspices of the Coyote Creek Riparian Station. What is a breeding bird atlas, you say? Well, essentially the entire county is divided into blocks that are 5 kilometers on a side. This results in about 165 atlas blocks. Over the period 1988-1992 we will attempt to cover as many of these blocks as is possible. What each atlaser will do in each block is determine the breeding status of each species - does it breed in the block or does it not? The breeding evidence used must agree with a set of standardized breeding bird atlas codes. The highest level of evidence is confirmed (CO), examples are an active nest found, eggs, or nestlings and so forth. The next level is probable (PR), and this would be the case if a singing bird were seen on two subsequent weeks singing in the same territory. The third level is possible (PO), in this case the bird is present in appropriate breeding habitat, but there is no other evidence of breeding. At the end of the five year atlas period a species map will be prepared for each species and published as an atlas - one map per species. Each block will be coded for the nesting evidence; for example, a large circle could be used for CO, a medium-sized circle for PR, and a small circle for PO. Thus, an examination of the map will show where the species nests in the county.

The atlas when published will provide a tremendous increase in our knowledge of the breeding status of resident birds. It will give us a baseline of data that will be useful in the future for many different kinds of activity. It will tell something about species range boundaries, such as Greater Roadrunner and Say's Phoebe that nest in the Diablo Range or Pygmy Nuthatch and Winter Wren in the Santa Cruz Mountains. It will tell us something about the rarer species, where they nest, and then we can guess as to why they choose the habitats they do. It will tell us something of the altitude requirements for many of the species as well. The atlas work is very labor intensive and is one of those wonderful projects where the volunteer amateur birder can make a significant scientific contribution to our knowledge of our local birds. Any other approach would be prohibitively expensive. The atlas is a scientific project and Dr. L. Richard Mewaldt has agreed to chair the atlas's Scientific Advisory Panel to insure that our methods and procedures are correct and will provide trustworthy data.

The atlas project is engaged in a pilot-year effort in 1987 so that we can develop the experience we need to get the atlas going at full speed next spring. Those of us working on the pilot-year project have discovered that working with one atlas block is a wonderfully enjoyable experience. It has forced us to try to better understand why certain species nest where they do and also to look much more closely at everything around us. Each visit seems to result in a new discovery. And one of the nicest parts is the realization that next year the whole process can begin again with a new block.

The atlas can use all sorts of help. First and most important we need atlasers for each block. We anticipate that each block will require about 32 hours of atlas work (that's about 8 four-hour trips during the nesting season). We will also need help with some other chores, especially the long process of getting landowner permission for those blocks that are not on public land. We will also be taking incidental reports of confirmed nesting anywhere in the county. For each incidental report we need a

short note on the nesting evidence and the UTM coordinates of the nest. If you can't read the UTM grid on a topo map, then a detailed sketch map will do. Lastly we just need people's support. We are an affiliate of the Coyote Creek Riparian Station so that people who become part of the atlas must also join the Coyote Creek Riparian Station. The \$15 yearly fee covers both organizations. Our present plan is to publish four newsletters a year to keep everybody up on the atlas project. The Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society has graciously agreed to sponsor any full-time students who wish to participate in the atlasing. If you would like to participate in the ornithological event of the decade write to Bill Bousman, 321 Arlington Way, Menlo Park, CA 94025. Choice of blocks will be made on a first come basis.



### CREATE YOUR OWN JAY-PROOF BIRD FEEDER

On Tuesday, September 8, from 3:30-4:30 p.m., Betty Hone will show you step-by-step how to make a jay-proof bird feeder, and you will go home with your own. This event will be held at the Peninsula Conservation Center, 2253 Park Blvd., Palo Alto. All members, of all ages, are welcome to attend. A 50 cent donation for supplies will be gratefully accepted, but is not required. All materials will be provided, on a first come, first served basis, or you can bring your own supplies: 3 lb. coffee can AND THE PLASTIC LID, and pliers with curved tips. Electric can openers are also welcome! Please RSVP to the office if you know in advance that you will be attending, otherwise drop-ins are welcome. To RSVP, or for more information, please call Lynn at the SCVAS office (415)329-1811.

### FIELD TRIP REPORT

Twenty-five birders joined me for an exploration of Russian and Skyline Ridges Open Space Preserves on Saturday, May 23. Unfortunately, due to fog and 0/0 visibility at Russian Ridge, we were unable to try for the Grasshopper Sparrows there. We quickly retreated to Skyline Ridge which provided excellent birding. 43 species were seen or heard, including good views of Blackheaded Grosbeaks, Western Tanagers, Chipping and Lark Sparrows. The fog cleared to warm sunshine by the trip's conclusion, just before noon.

- Paul L. Noble

### CITIZENS' REPORT ON THE DIKED HISTORIC BAYLANDS OF SF BAY

The Bay Institute of San Francisco has published a 200-page book about the state of 80 square miles of unprotected diked wetlands in 12 proposed sites around the Bay. An invaluable resource for activists or interested individuals attempting to keep up to date on the issue of Bay wetlands, the developments detailed include Shorelands in Hayward and Bair Island in Redwood City. The report can be purchased from the Bay Institute for \$14.95, with special pricing for multiple copies. Contact The Bay Institute, Schoonmaker Bldg, #120, 10 Liberty Ship Way, Sausalito, CA 94965.

# TRACKS IN THE SKY

## AN AUDUBON SOCIETY BENEFIT

All eight Bay Area Audubon Chapters, with the Western Regional National Audubon Society Office, invite you to attend a wine and cheese reception, booksigning and special lecture/slide show, celebrating the recent release of a new book, and the opening of a related traveling exhibition, at the California Academy of Sciences, Golden Gate Park, San Francisco. The opening will be Tuesday, October 13, from 7-9 pm at the Academy.

Tracks in the Sky: Wildlife and Wetlands of the Pacific Flyway is by photographer Tupper Ansel Blake and author Peter Steinhart. Tupper's most recent book, Wild California, is a spectacular review of California's natural heritage, and Tracks chronicles the past and current status of a phenomenon of great importance to all birdwatchers - the Pacific Flyway. Tracks is published jointly by Chronicle Books, Smithsonian Institution, and the National Audubon Society, and is written by Audubon magazine's contributing editor, Peter Steinhart, with a forward by Audubon's Vice President for the Western Region, Glenn Olson. Copies of Tracks in the Sky are available **now** at the pre-publication price of \$32 (\$37.50 after publication) and may be either held for you at the opening, or sent to your home. See coupon below for ordering information.

The traveling exhibition is sponsored by Smithsonian, and features Tupper's spectacular photographs, along with sounds and artifacts of the Flyway from Alaska to Mexico. We will have exclusive use of the exhibition gallery, for uncrowded viewing, and both Tupper and Peter will be on hand to autograph books and talk about their experiences, while wine and hors d'oeuvres are served.

As a finale, and as a favor to the Audubon chapters, Tupper and Peter will take us to the auditorium to show slides taken in preparation of the book, and discuss the issues of wetlands and wildlife associated with the Flyway. We hope you

## GOOD LUCK, COURTENAY AND NEIL

The SCVAS Board of Directors wish Neil and Courtenay Jackson the best of luck as they leave the Bay Area for new jobs in Seattle, Washington. Neil joined the SCVAS Board in September 1986, shortly before his marriage to Courtenay (nee Dawson-Roberts). Courtenay was our most experienced Board member, having first been nominated as a Director in 1981. She has been Recording Secretary since 1984. Courtenay has also been Library Chairperson, and an active field trip leader. Both Neil and Courtenay have been Christmas Bird County Compilers and Counters, and both have been active in conservation issues. We thank them heartily and will miss them greatly in all of our activities, while Seattle Audubon Society stands to gain two valuable new members.

## RARE BIRD ALERT

The Northern California Rare Bird Alert has doubled! Now in addition to an ongoing alert that is changed weekly, (415)528-0288, there is a new tape of updated information changed daily (415)524-5592. These tapes are provided by the Golden Gate Audubon Society.

will join us for this unique event. **All proceeds beyond costs will go towards Mono Lake, an integral and threatened piece of the Flyway.** Tickets are \$25/person and may be purchased by calling Lynn at (415)329-1811, or sending in the coupon below.

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 Yes, I(we) will attend the Tracks in the Sky opening.

No. in party \_\_\_\_\_ \$25 ea. = \$ \_\_\_\_\_ enclosed

No, I (we) cannot attend.

Please accept my donation of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to the NAS-Mono Lake Fund.

I would like to order \_\_\_\_\_ copies of Tracks in the Sky @ pre-publication price of \$32 each = \$ \_\_\_\_\_ enclosed.

I will pick up my book(s) at the opening

Please send my book(s). (Add \$1.20/book for postage.)

TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for benefit and/or books.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (d) \_\_\_\_\_ (e) \_\_\_\_\_

Audubon Chapter Affiliation \_\_\_\_\_

PLEASE REPLY BY OCTOBER 5, 1987

Please make checks payable to SCVAS-Tracks. Send to SCVAS, 415 Cambridge Avenue, #21, Palo Alto, CA 94306.

## SEPTEMBER MEETING SPEAKER

Richard Ives has had a lifelong fascination with Asia. He first traveled to Asia in 1970, living and traveling on the continent. He has spent time in Japan, Korea, Taiwan, Hong Kong, the Phillipines, Indonesia, Thailand, Malaysia, Laos, India, Nepal, etc. Though Richard is interested in all aspects of life in Asia, his primary fascination is with Asia's birds and wildlife. He is presently engaged in an ongoing study of Asian birds, and is researching and writing a book, tentatively entitled, Asia, A Guide to the Natural Areas. An exciting opening program for September 16 at the Palo Alto Cultural Center, Embarcadero and Newell.

## NEW PUBLICATION

Kurt F. Campbell, a regional editor for American Birds, announces that his newsletter, The Reminder, has developed into something more ambitious called PICA. It began as a communication to observers reporting to him for American Birds. Annual subscription \$5. Inquiries should be sent to him. Box 268, Cotati, CA 94928.

## FIELD NOTES - Bill Bousman

This column tries to be timely, but this can be difficult when the material must be in the editor's hands a month before we get the *Avocet* in the mail box. A record may also be a month old by the time I write these words, hence a two-month delay before you are able to read this account. But September is always the least timely because of the summer vacation and we will have records from early May which will be four months old by the time you read them. The nice thing about all this is you get three months of records for the price of one, so enjoy.

Two **Eared Grebes** were seen in Crittenden Marsh 6 Jun (David L. Suddjian-DLSu). They are occasionally found in the summer and have nested in this marsh on two occasions. The water level appears to have been too low for them this summer. The status of **Western** and **Clark's Grebes** here in the summer is not clear, so a single **Clark's Grebe** in the salt pond N of Crittenden Marsh 6 Jun (DLSu) is of interest. **Brown Pelicans** first arrive in the South Bay in June and can normally be found regularly by July. This year a sub-adult was seen off the Palo Alto Baylands on 9 May (Phyllis M. Browning-PMB, Betty Groce-PG) which is the earliest record we have by about three weeks. Numbers built to three by 25 May (Charleston Slough, Bill Bousman -WGB), 14 by 7 Jun (Palo Alto FCB, PMB), and 38 by 21 Jun (Charleston Slough, PMB); all high numbers for the season. The early return was also observed along the coast. The oversummering flock of **Am. White Pelicans** was seen in June in groups of 6 to 25 (DLSu, PMB). The returning flocks of post-breeding birds were first seen 3 Jul with 260 in Charleston Slough and 45 in Salt Pond #1 (PMB) and flock sizes to 350 have been noted (Salt Pond #1, Shawneen Finnegan-SF). **Little Blue Herons** have returned to the area, but have been very difficult to find. A "calico" or 2nd summer bird was seen on Mountain View's Salt Pond #1 6 Jul (SF) and an imm. bird was seen in the Mountain View Forebay 10 Jul (Paul L. Noble-PLN). It is unclear whether the latter bird was a partial hybrid. Spring and summer records of **Green-backed Herons** have been mostly associated with riparian areas: San Antonio Valley (19 Apr and 2 May, Alan M. Eisner-AME), Uvas Creek (13 May, DLSu), 1-2 along Coyote Creek S of Metcalf Rd. (9-30 May, WGB), San Francisquito Creek below Newell (6 Jun, DLSu), and Vasona Res. (6 Jun, Ed Gustafson-EG). One to two birds at the Mountain View Forebay 9-12 Jul (PLN, WGB) were probably post-breeding dispersants. Similar behavior has been seen for **Wood Ducks**: a pair in San Antonio Valley 2 May, (AME), three on Coyote Creek along Gilroy Hot Springs Rd. (3 May,



WGB), five including three young on Arthur Creek (11 May, DLSu, 3-9 on Uvas Creek (13-30 May, DLSu, WGB), one along Bodfish Creek (13 May, DLSu), and single females along Coyote Creek near Coyote (30 May and 28 Jun, WGB). A male on Butano Creek on 20 June (Roland Franz-RF) was followed by a report of a female with seven young lower down at Pescadero Marsh 15 Jul (Matt O'Brien). One to two **Blue-winged Teal** were found locally from Crittenden Marsh to the Mountain View Forebay 6 Jun-1 Jul (Ron Thorn, PMB, DLSu, WGB), all going into eclipse plumage. Two **Greater Scaup** at Crittenden Marsh 6 Jun (DLSu) were unexpected. However, we have come to expect the 3-7 **Lesser Scaup** that were found from Crittenden Marsh to the Palo Alto FCB 6-21 Jun (PMB, DLSu). At least two immature and two female **Surf Scoters** have summered at Shoreline Lake (DLSu. PMB. WGB). A

female **Bufflehead** at Crittenden Marsh 6 Jun (DLSu) was the only one reported this summer. There were reports for **Common Merganser** from two south county riparian areas, five on Coyote Creek above Coyote Res. 3 May and one on Uvas Creek below Watsonville Rd. 24 May (both WGB). An imm. **Sharp-shinned Hawk** over Arthur Creek 11 May (DLSu) was probably a late migrant. The adult male near Loma Prieta on 22 Jun (DLSu, Bryan Mori-BM) is believed to be breeding in the Santa Cruz Mountains. A **Cooper's Hawk** nesting on the Stanford Campus (Holly Wilkins) is at an unexpectedly low elevation. **Cooper's Hawk** sightings in Menlo Park on 28 May (WGB) and 6 Jun (DLSu) may have been within this pair's territory. Calling **Wild Turkey** were heard along Gilroy Hot Springs Rd. 3 May (WGB) and Arthur Creek 11 May (DLSu). A **Mountain Quail** was heard in Stevens Creek Canyon 10 May (PLN). They have been found very irregularly in this area over the last dozen or so years. A **Sora** heard in the Matadero riparian 6 Jun (DLSu) is unusual for the summer. The first Lesser Yellowlegs of the season was reported at the Mountain View Forebay 6 Jul (SF). One to two birds have been seen there or in the Palo Alto FCB since then (PLN, WGB). A migrant **Spotted Sandpiper** was found along San Francisquito Creek until 9 May (PMB, BG). Another bird was along Coyote Creek near Coyote 9-16 May (WGB). A very late bird was seen at Vasona Res. 6 Jun (EG). Three to seven **Ruddy Turnstones** continued to be found at the mouth of San Francisquito Creek 11-13 May (PMB, BG, WGB). Unexpected was a **Red Knot** there 13 May (PMB, BG) for only our second spring record. An **Elegant Tern** at the Mountain View Forebay 18 Jul (Rich Jeffers, Mike Mammoser) was the earliest record we have ever had for this species. **Least Terns** staged at Charleston Slough with 21 there on 15 Jul, but only two there 29 Jul (WGB). A single bird was N of Crittenden Marsh 17 Jul (PLN). The maximum count of juveniles was three. A **Black**



**Tern** in basic plumage was seen at the Mountain View Forebay 17 and 18 Jun and again at Charleston Slough on 6 Jul (SF, Paul Lehman). This is the only record we have in the South Bay for June. A **White-winged Dove** was seen in the Palo Alto FCB 25 May (Ted Chandik-TC). This bird does not fit the pattern of coastal vagrants which are normally found in the fall. A **Greater Roadrunner** calling on Tulare Hill next to Coyote 30 May (WGB) was away from the Diablo Range, but represents a link with past records to the S near Chesbro Res. and in the Santa Teresa Hills. David Suddjian has been owling in his atlas block at Mt. Madonna CP and to the NW along the Santa Cruz border. New locations for **Northern Pygmy-Owl** include two at Mt. Madonna CP (11 May), one on Uvas Creek (13 and 30 May), one near Maymen's Flat (13 June), and two near Loma Prieta (22 Jun). He has counted at least five **Northern Saw-whet Owls** at Mt. Madonna CP 11-23 May. Other Saw-whets include one at Skyline Ridge OSP 6 Jun (WGB) and one on Butano Creek 20 Jun (RF). A **Common Nighthawk** was seen circling over Butano Creek on 20 Jun as well (RF). A **Common Poorwill** was at Mt. Madonna CP 11 May (DLSu). In the prime habitat near Loma Prieta 19 were heard calling on 5 Jul on the Santa Clara side and nine more on the Santa Cruz side (DLSu). Most unexpected were two large flock of **Black Swifts** over Arthur Creek 30 May (DLSu). One had 40 birds and the other had 33, both unprecedented numbers. Four **Vaux's Swifts** were also working in these flocks. More

typical of our spring migration were single **Black Swifts** over Sprig Lake 30 May and San Francisquito Creek 6 Jun (both DLSu). **Vaux's Swifts** were well reported in migration after a slow start: eight over Monte Bello OSP (3 May, DLSu), two over Skyline Ridge OSP (3 May, DLSu), one at Mt. Madonna CP (11 May, DLSu), one at Palo Alto Foothills Park (17 May, TC), and three in Mountain View (17-20 May, Mike Rogers-MR). Birds recorded later in the summer may represent breeding birds and include: three over Skyline Ridge OSP (6 Jun, PLN, WGB), one at Vasona Res. (6 Jun, EG), one at Fremont Older OSP (22 Jun, Claire Wolfe), and one in Saratoga (7 Jul, Jim and Sue Liskovec). An imm. **Black-chinned Hummingbird** has been seen in Los Altos 20 Jul (Louise Blakey). A few have been captured at the CCRS this summer, but I lack details. A **Pileated Woodpecker** was heard at Portola SP 12 Jun (Jobst Brandt). They breed in a few sites on the western slope of the Santa Cruz Mountains. A **Willow Flycatcher** in western San Jose 3 May (Jack Cole-JC) was the only sight observation this year. A pair of **Purple Martin** were seen over Mt. Madonna Rd. 13 Jun and a male was seen at Loma Prieta 9 Jul (both DLSu). We hope that there is still some occasional nesting of this rare swallow somewhere in the Santa Cruz Mountains. Four **Red-**



**breasted Nuthatches** near Castle Rock 7 May and one carrying food for young there 16 Jun (DLSu) represent a breeding population right at the edge of the county line. A family of four in the Table Mountain atlas block 30 May (PLN) confirms breeding there. Two birds seen 6 Jun in the Russian Ridge OSP were probably post-breeders (WGB), but the bird on San Francisquito Creek in Palo Alto 6 Jun (PMB) is difficult to place. **House Wrens** are very localized in the Santa Cruz Mountains and seem to occur in loose associations. Three-four singing birds have been found on Skyline Ridge OSP 26 Apr-6 Jun (PLN, DLSu, WGB). Additional locations are four singing along Arthur Creek 11 May and five singing along Uvas Creek 13 May (both DLSu). Five **Am. Dipper** including three juv. were found in Jos. Grant CP 17 May (James Yurchenco-JY, Amy Lauterbach-AL). A family with young were found along Pescadero Creek in Portola SP 28 Jun (JC). In surveying the Santa Clara/Santa Cruz County line David Suddjian has found 15+ pairs of **Yellow-rumped Warblers** from north of Mt. Madonna CP to Castle Rock SP. They have been using both knobcone pine and Douglas fir forests from 2500 to 3000 feet. Migrant **Hermit Warblers** were well-reported in migration with three in Mt. Madonna CP 2-11 May (DLSu), two on Skyline Ridge OSP 3 May (DLSu), four near Table Mountain 10 May (PLN), and one on Arthur Creek 11 May (DLSu). Two males singing on the Santa Clara side of Castle Rock SP 16 Jun probably represent a part of the known Santa Cruz Mountain breeding population (DLSu). A **Northern Waterthrush** banded at CCRS 7 May was most unusual (fide PLN, Mike Rigney). A male **MacGillivray's Warbler** flew into a Los Altos window 5 May for the only migrant report. Three were found on Langley Hill Rd. 6 Jun (WGB) where they nest. The most significant find from the Breeding Bird Atlas to date is the discovery of breeding **Yellow-breasted Chats** along Uvas Creek west of Gilroy (DLSu). Two pairs were found 13 May and nest building was observed. A more extensive search on 30 May revealed at least two more pairs and young were being fed. Until this discovery the status of this rare warbler was believed to be that of an irregular migrant with possible breeding in the San Antonio Valley in some years. I cannot even begin to guess

what other new things we will find out in the next five years of the atlas. A singing male **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** 6 Jun in Menlo Park (DLSu) was probably an eastern vagrant. One along Gazos Creek Rd. 20 Jun (RF) was along the coast in an area where they have been found in past summers. Another vagrant was a singing male **Indigo Bunting** on the Santa Cruz County line at the Loma Prieta gate 22-23 Jun (DLSu, BM, Clay Kempf-CK). **Black-chinned Sparrows** were found on Loma Prieta again this year with 2-5 birds found 16 May -22 Jun (MR, DLSu, Randy Morgan-RM, BM). A fledged young on 22 Jun provided breeding confirmation (DLSu). A singing **Black-chinned Sparrow** was also found on Mt. Hamilton on 17 May (Milton Seibert). A single **Sage Sparrow** was found on the county line near Loma Prieta 5 Jul (DLSu). They appear to nest in a few places in the Santa Cruz Mountains. Eight to ten **Grasshopper Sparrows** in grassland in Jos. Grant CP 17 May (JY, AL) at about 2500 feet is in an area where they have not been reported before. Four birds were found in Russian Ridge OSP on 6 Jun where they have been for the last few years (WGB). A bird on the top of Coal Mine Ridge further north 15-21 Jun is in an area where they have not been found in the past (Phil Hand). Eight **Lawrence's Goldfinches** were at Smith's Creek 2 May and four more on Mines Road the same day (AME). They have also been regular this summer in the vicinity of Loma Prieta with sightings of 4-14 birds from 16 May - 2 Jul (MR, DLSu, RM, BM, CK, Bob Merrill). Three were found to the southeast of there on Mt. Madonna Rd. on 13 Jun (DLSu, RM). Truly the last of last winter's **Evening Grosbeaks** were 27 birds in three flocks at Monte Bello OSP 3 May (DLSu et. al.).

If you seen an "uncommon to rare" please drop me a note or give me a call: Bill Bousman, 321 Arlington Way, Menlo Park, CA 94025, (415)322-5282.

#### AUDUBON ADVENTURES

SCVAS will sponsor at least 12 classes in the Audubon Adventures program. Each class we adopt will receive a class set of the newsletter "Audubon Adventures", stickers, membership cards and a teacher's guide. The program is appropriate for grades 3-5, and is a supplement to an elementary science program, or can form the basis for a bird club. Teachers may apply for a one year membership by completing the form below and sending it to the SCVAS office, 415 Cambridge Ave., #21, Palo Alto, CA 94306, or teachers and members may adopt a class by submitting the form and enclosing a \$25 check. Adopting a class frees the chapter's funds for other classrooms. If you would like to adopt a class, but do not have a specific one in mind, we can find a class for you.

Teacher's name \_\_\_\_\_

School \_\_\_\_\_

Grade \_\_\_\_\_ # of students \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

I am applying for my class ( ).

I wish to adopt a class. Enclosed is \$25 ( ).

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Donor's address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

## GAYLORD ANDROES MEMORIAL EDUCATION FUND

The Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society announces the establishment of a new Memorial Fund. Founded in memory of Gaylord Androes, a Palo Alto resident and long-time bird watcher, the Androes Memorial Fund is dedicated to SCVAS Education projects. SCVAS welcomes gifts in general or gifts in honor of or in memory of relatives and friends to this fund. All gifts are tax deductible, and will be acknowledged in the Avocet as well as personally on behalf of the Society.

To date, over \$850 has been received in the Androes Memorial Education Fund, and we gratefully acknowledge the following donors:

### FOR GAYLORD ANDROES MEMORIAL FUND In Memory of Gaylord Androes

Patricia Cochran, Elaine M. Maize, Rachel Tigner and Barrett Milliken, Barbara Mookin, Helen C. Archambault, Mr. & Mrs. Verll L. Kersey, Judge Gene & Dorothy Gualco, Louis & Linda Androes, Mary Ellen Burnley, members of the Sales Dept. of Stanford University Press, fellow employees of Northrup Services, Inc., Prompt-O-Print, June Heisner, Candice Lemmond, Millard Ray Estis, Dave Devgan, Merwin Fong, Jack and Therese Truong, Hazel Espe, Monica Dawson, Anne Suter, Donald S. MacKinnon, Doris Zlomke, James R. Boyle, April & James I. Shiro, James Crownover, Jr., Dennis and Ellen Smith

In Memory of Mr. Ray Carlson  
Gift of Mr. and Mrs. Bradley Booth

In Memory of Thomas Alan (Drumm) Mathers  
Gift of Jack and Sharon Hiatt



## THANK YOU!!

Many thanks to Emily Renzel for providing exhibits at the Baylands Bulletin Board. We need to periodically change the exhibit at the Palo Alto Duck Pond and if you have any ideas and would like to help out - please call. It is the perfect forum for a grade school display, information about the local birds, items or local history, or anything else you may have to share with fellow bird lovers!

Thanks are also extended to the Santa Clara Valley District Garden Club and Mrs. Polly Bergtraun for donations to SCVAS given in appreciation for lectures and slide shows on local birds presented by Mrs. Florence Hunter, on behalf of SCVAS. If you or your child's class would like to see this or other slide shows, please call the SCVAS office. Self-explanatory slide shows on Eagles and Backyard Wildlife are available.

## MONO LAKE FUND APPEAL A SUCCESS

Many generous members responded to Avocet articles in May and June requesting contributions to the National Audubon Society - Mono Lake Fund. As of August 1, 83 individuals and families contributed \$3,220 to the legal effort to save Mono Lake. Daniel Taylor of the Western Regional Office of National Audubon Society writes that NAS ... "deeply appreciate(s) SCVA's commitment to (Mono Lake) and the many other priorities of the Audubon cause. Your chapter remains an absolutely key member of the Audubon team. Thanks for being there!" Contributors include: Jean Alexander, John Baker, Joyce Bartlett, Lorraine Bazan, Jane & Chip Becker-Haven, Bonnie Bedford-White, Penelope Bowen, Paul Brenniger, Barbara Burri, Roy Cameron, Evelyn Canfield, G.A. Casaday, Debra Cauble, Jo Chamberlain, Doug & Gail Cheeseman, Rebecca DaCosta, Sharon Davis, Donna DeVries, Cliff Drowley, Shawna Edworthy, Martha Esserlieu, Gisela Evitt, Jane Fitzsimmons, Osmond Fox, Gerald Freeman, Elaine Gould, Kathryn Gray, Alex & Peter Green, Barbara Hamblton, Phil Hand, Glenn Herreman, Dorothea Hoefler, Robert Holderman, Neil & Courtenay Jackson, Dave & Monica Johnston, Peter Karp, Rina & Simon Katzen, Anthonie Kramer, Peter LaTourette, Glenn Leedy, Rosalie Lefkowitz, Martha Leighton/Smith, Jim & Sue Liscovec, Lee Ann Luten, Catherine Maxwell, Mark & Judy McEuen, Nancy Merritt, Kevin Monahan, Lydia Morse, Trish Mulvey, Patricia Ness, Paul Noble, Ruby Owens, Jack Parsons, Jack & Marjorie Power, Don Price, Emily Renzel, Jules Resnick, Elizabeth Rizzi, Betty Jane Rogaway, Mary Ruddell, Jean Shurtleff, Genevieve Simoneit, C. C. Smith, Mary Smith, Edward Snively, Levona Sterngold, Beverly Strong, Phyllis Swanson, Lynn Teneffoss, Richard & Violet Thaw, Helen Timmons, Jerry Vitenson, N. W. Ward, June Whitson, Maurice Wild, Erika Wilson, Shirley Wodtke, Isabelle Wright.

## CALIFORNIANS FOR PARKS AND WILDLIFE UPDATE

SCVAS members have been very successful in gathering signatures for the PAW Initiative, but we aren't done yet, and **WE STILL NEED YOUR HELP!** The following volunteers have gathered signatures at a table in front of Printer's Inc. bookstore on Castro St. in Mt. View, by the Safeway on First St. in Los Altos, or at Valley Fair Shopping Center, or have gotten signatures on their own. As of August 1 we have gathered 1800 of the 2500 pledged!! This is a great start, but we still need more. Members of the SCVAS CALPAW Committee may be calling you in September to ask for your help in gathering more signatures in a last push - it's easy and fun to do - please say yes and help SCVAS reach our goal!! If you can sit at a table for three hours or are willing to take a petition home to get signatures, please call Lynn at (415)329-1811.

### CALPAW VOLUNTEERS:

Wanda Alexander, Jane Becker-Haven, Signe Boyer, Jacquelyn Casselly, Bill and Jean Clark, Betty Binnegan, Shawneen Finnegan, Lindy Gardiner, Betty Groce, Genevieve Gullahorn, Barbara Hamblton, Chip Haven, Ed Laak, Lisa Mandell, Claire McEuen, Mark and Judy McEuen, Elaine Moise, Trish Mulvey, Paul Noble, Kathy Parker, Don Price, Jules Resnick, James Rondeau, Allen Royer, Kathy Smith, Lynn Teneffoss, Alan Thomas, Judith Yarborough.

# ANNUAL FALL WILD BIRD SEED SALE

## ORDERS DUE OCTOBER 5

It's time for our fall bird seed sale. Once again, SCVAS is offering QUALITY SEED at a REASONABLE PRICE.

The custom-blended PREMIUM MIX was formulated by the staff at Western Regional Audubon Society in Tiburon. This high protein mix contains red millet, white proso millet, and black oil sunflower seeds, with no inexpensive "fillers". Specially blended to attract songbirds, this seed is not available in supermarkets or feed stores - only through SCVAS.

The classic WESTERN WILD BIRD MIX, a blend of red millet, white proso millet, sudan grass screenings, and red milo is priced to compete with supermarket seed, but without waste "filler".

To mix with other seed, or offer alone:  
 BLACK OIL SUNFLOWER SEED, high in oil content and nutritive value, this seed appeals to many species.  
 STRIPED MEDIUM SUNFLOWER SEED, a slightly less nutritive, but larger, seed. Also attracts many species, and is good for added variety.  
 THISTLE SEED, a small seed, rich in oil, that appeals to smaller birds.

**THIS IS A PRE-PAID SALE.** Your order, including a check payable to SCVAS, must be received by MONDAY, OCTOBER 5. All orders must be picked up from the Peninsula Conservation Center, 2253 Park Blvd., Palo Alto, on either Friday, October 23 between 3 and 6 pm, or on Saturday, October 24 between 11 am and 1 pm. **UNCLAIMED SEED WILL BE RESOLD SATURDAY AFTER 1 PM UNLESS AN EXCEPTION HAS BEEN MADE IN ADVANCE. WE CAN NO LONGER HOLD SEED IF YOU FORGET TO PICK IT UP.**

Please tell your friends and neighbors about the sale. We will all benefit - you, the birds, and your Audubon chapter.

Please send the order form and your check to SCVAS, 415 Cambridge Ave., Suite 21, Palo Alto, CA 94306 **NO LATER THAN MONDAY, OCTOBER 5**. Have any questions? Please call SCVAS office at (415)329-1811.

### BREEDING BIRD ATLAS

THE CALIFORNIA BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE of the Western Field Ornithologists is seeking information on the status of non-native populations of the following species in California: Common Peafowl, White-tailed Ptarmigan, Ringed Turtle-Dove, Rose-ringed Parakeet, Black-hooded Parakeet, Canary-winged Parakeet, Red-crowned Parrot, Lilac-crowned Parrot, Yellow-headed Parrot, Red-whiskered Bulbul, Oriental White-eye, and Northern Cardinal. Anyone with information on the history of release or escape, population size, distribution, nesting success, attempts to manage or eradicate these populations, or other factors which bear on the question of their establishment, or of the establishment of other introduced species not on the California State Check-List is urged to report to Kimball L. Garrett, Section of Birds and Mammals, Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County, 900 Exposition Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90007.

### FROM LYNN . . .

The office has copies of the National Geographic Guide to Birds of North America, 2nd Edition, available for sale. Please send \$13 plus .69 postage per book to the office if you would like one sent to you, or stop by and pick one up. (Please call first if you are planning to come by the office, to make sure we will be in.)

### BIRD SEED SALE ORDER FORM

	# Bags	Cost
Premium Seed	20 lb @ \$ 7/bag	
" "	50 lb @ \$15/bag	
Western Wild	20 lb @ \$ 6/bag	
" "	50 lb @ \$13/bag	
Black Oil Sun.	20 lb @ \$12/bag	
" "	50 lb @ \$27/bag	
Striped Sun.	20 lb @ \$15/bag	
" "	50 lb @ \$34/bag	
Thistle	5 lb @ \$10/bag	
" "	20 lb @ \$35/bag	

Subtotal \_\_\_\_\_

Add 7% Tax \_\_\_\_\_

Total \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

PLEASE RETURN THIS ORDER TO THE SCVAS OFFICE BY MONDAY, OCTOBER 5.

SCVAS, 415 Cambridge Ave., Suite 21  
 Palo Alto, CA 94306  
 (415)329-1811

### SALE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Volunteers are needed to help unload bird seed, and to distribute it to buyers, on Friday, October 23, and Saturday, October 24. **YOU MUST BE ABLE TO LIFT A 50-POUND BAG OF BIRD SEED. ANYONE HELPING FOR 2 OR MORE HOURS WILL RECEIVE A 15% DISCOUNT ON THEIR PRE-ORDERED SEED.** Assistance is needed from 2-6 p.m. Friday, and 11-1 p.m. Saturday. Refreshments will be served, and it's a fun way to meet other members! Please call Lynn at (415)329-1811.



A note to our members: Occasionally we make our mailing list available on a one-time-only basis to another carefully screened conservation organization with goals similar to ours. If you prefer that your name not be included, please drop us a note, and we'll be happy to take care of it.

Staff	Lynn Tennefoss(days)	415/329-1811	DIRECTORS (1986-89)		Education	Deborah Manley	408/749-8126
President	Judy McEuen	408/251-3086	Jim Anderson	415/272-1159	Library	Helen Shamble	408/984-2363
1st Vice Pres	Dave Johnston	408/867-7278	Jerry Vitenson	408/259-4663	Field trips	Paul Noble	415/948-3876
2nd Vice Pres	Barbara Hamblton	408/446-3645	Martha Esserlieu	415/487-1282		Dolores Norton	415/941-1666
Treasurer	Jules Resnick	415/961-8619				Linda Hagelin	408/867-3046
Rec. Sec'y			DIRECTORS (1987-90)		Membership		
Past Pres	Kevin Monahan	408/425-7841	Grant Hoyt	415/969-7892	Aud. Advntrs.	Elaine Gould	408/448-0622
			Trish Mulvey	415/326-0252	Hospitality		
			Chris Wolfe	408/987-6033	Environmental		
					Action	Barbara Hamblton	408/446-3645
					Christmas		
DIRECTORS (1985-88)			CHAIRPERSONS		Bird Count	Jim & Sue Liskovec	415/969-5542
Theresa Spinler			Editor	Levona Sterngold	Grants	Donna Zetterquist	408/429-9716
Don Price		415/327-1254	Programs	Doug & Gail Cheeseman	Photo Club	Pete LaTourrette	415/961-2741

General meetings are open to the public. Board of Directors meetings are open to all members. Call the office for times and direction.

Avocet deadline is the first Monday of the month. Send contributions to the editor, Levona Sterngold, 720 M Blair Court, Sunnyvale 94087.

### NON-AUDUBON TRIPS AND EVENTS

These activities are not sponsored by Audubon but are listed for your information:

The Fremont Adult School sponsors a Birding Class designed for both beginning and experienced bird-watchers. The class will meet on six Tuesdays, commencing September 15. Alice Hoch, a birder for 26 years, a member of the Ohlone Audubon Society and a bird-watching teacher since 1975 will teach. For more information, call the Fremont Adult School, (415)791-5841.

Evening Bird Classes will be offered through the San Francisco Community College starting in September. Ornithology I, II and III will be taught by Joe Morlan, co-author of Birds of Northern California and compiler of the weekly recorded No. Calif. Rare Bird Alert. The classes are sponsored by the Golden Gate Audubon Society. For more information call (415)776-8247.

### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Field Trip Coordinator for October: Bill Clark (415)326-7565

- Oct. 3 **Coyote Hills Regional Park.** Saturday 8 am, half day. Take Hwy 84 to Thornton Ave. exit just E of the new toll plaza. Go N on Thornton (Paseo Padre on new maps) about 1 mi. to Commerce Dr. Turn left into the park and meet at the lot near the entrance. HEAVY RAIN CANCELS. Leader: Grant Hoyt (415)969-7892.
- Oct. 4 **Ravenswood National Wildlife Refuge.** Sunday 9 am, half day. Take Hwy 84 towards Fremont. Just before the initial approach, exit to right as indicated by Ravenswood National Refuge sign. Meet in the parking area by the fishing pier. RAIN CANCELS. Leader: Allen Royer (408)288-7768.
- Oct. 10 **Alum Rock Park.** Saturday 8:30 am, half day. Meet at parking lot in front of Youth Science Institute. From I-680 in San Jose take Alum Rock Ave. exit (1 mi. N of 280/101/680 interchange). Go E on Alum Rock Ave. into park. Follow signs to YSI. Lunch advisable. Easy walking 3-4 mis. HEAVY RAIN CANCELS. Highlights: early returning winter visitants. Leader: Dave Johnston (408)867-7278.
- Oct. 11 **Pt. Reyes.** Sunday 8:30 am, full day. Meet at the Drake's Beach parking lot. From Hwy 1 take Sir Francis Drake Blvd W 14 mis. to Drake's Beach turnoff. Go left about a mile to parking area. Car consolidation at Drake's Beach. Bring plenty of lunch, water and fuel. Highlights: Vagrant warblers and migrant shorebirds. Trip goes RAIN OR SHINE. Leaders: Lynne Aldrich and Peter Gottschling (415)325-9349.
- Oct. 14 **South County Field Trip: Los Gatos Creek Park Area.** Wednesday 9 am, half day. Take Winchester Blvd. S past Hacienda (park entrance) to Knowles Dr. Go E (left) 1 block toward Dell Ave. Park in street near JDR Microdevices. RAIN CANCELS. Leader Frank Vanslager (408)257-3647.

#### DONATIONS

Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society welcomes gifts in general, or gifts in honor or memory of relatives and friends. Such donations will be used as specified, or, if unspecified, will be used to support environmental education and projects. All gifts and donations are tax deductible.

#### MEMBERSHIP

To join the Audubon Society send a check, payable to NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY, to SCVAS office, 415 Cambridge Avenue, Suite 21, Palo Alto, CA 94306. Membership includes AUDUBON magazine, the national publication, and the AVOCET. AVOCET subscriptions alone are \$6/year. Make checks payable to SCVAS. They are published monthly except July and August. Send all address changes to the office promptly.

- CHECK CATEGORY
- ( ) Individual/\$30
  - ( ) Family/\$38
  - ( ) Senior Citizen/\$21
  - ( ) Senior Citizen Family/\$23
  - ( ) Student/\$18
  - ( ) AVOCET only/\$6
  - ( ) 1st Class AVOCET/only \$8.50
  - ( ) Introductory Membership/\$20

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