



The Avocet

September 1989

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Santa Clara Valley Audubon: Past Achievements and Future Goals

As you read this issue of *The Avocet*, consider that in just a few months we will enter the 1990's, already designated by some as the "Decade of Environmentalism". While this may seem a somewhat bold and ambitious characterization, it nevertheless appears inevitable that environmental issues will move to the forefront of both the local and national political scenes, as citizens become more vocal and more insistent in their demands for a safer, healthier environment. Santa Clara Valley Audubon has always maintained a strong position in the ongoing struggle to deter those who would contaminate our beloved Bay, poison our air, develop our precious wetlands and foothills, and contribute to the extirpation of our treasured native plants, animals, and birds.

As we approach the 90's, the SCVAS Board of Directors intends not only to continue these efforts, but indeed broaden our scope, increase our level of activity, and become an even more dynamic, effective environmental force in the Bay Area. Lofty goals, perhaps, but with increased fundraising, sound planning, and most importantly, an active and committed membership, these goals can be achieved.

SCVAS members who are

primarily interested in birding, not environmental issues, don't despair. The Audubon Society was originally formed for the purpose of studying, understanding, and preserving our native wild birds, and your local chapter is intent on renewing and improving its commitment to birding-related activities. Dedicated birding enthusiasts can look forward to an expanded field trip program, monthly editorial focus for *The Avocet*, and more in-depth discussion of observations and ideas from the Field Notes column. Keep in mind, however, that Bay Area birders, having access to some of the richest, most spectacular birding habitat in North America from Point Reyes to Elkhorn Slough, must take a strong stand now for habitat preservation, lest their favorite birding spots are reduced to parking lots. Since birding and environmental activism have become so tightly intertwined, our chapter is necessarily committed to devoting equal time and energy to each of the two pursuits.

Looking back over the past year, SCVAS members can be proud of their chapter's achievements. Fundraising efforts were quite successful: the bird seed sale raised over \$4000 and the Birdathon proceeds totalled \$7000.

These funds were allocated to operating costs, environmental causes such as Mono Lake, and the establishment of a Legal Fund which will be used in future court battles to save wetlands, etc. A significant amount of money was donated by the Brownlee Foundation to our Education Fund for the purpose of developing a seasonal wetlands curriculum aimed at 4th and 5th graders in the South Bay. SCVAS worked closely with other local environmental groups such as SAVE BOTH, (Burrowing Owls and Their Habitat), Clean South Bay, and Bay Friends, which helped prepare the Endangered Habitat Report on South Bay wetlands and water quality. A wide variety of field trips were offered, ranging from regularly scheduled trips to Charleston Slough for beginners, to weekend outings in the Central Valley and the Sierra Nevadas; these trips were well-attended by enthusiastic newcomers and knowledgeable veterans alike. Our regular monthly meetings featured a variety of outstanding speakers with fascinating topics, and the Christmas Bird Count and annual dinner in June brought old friends together, as attendance and

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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 Gail Cheeseman (408) 741-5330.

September Field Trip Coordinator: Jim Liskovec (415) 969-5542

**Sun, Sep 10, 9 am
Charleston Slough**

Leader: Rod Norden (408) 255-3033

Birdwalk for beginners. Basics of birding with emphasis on shorebirds and waterfowl. Meet at the end of San Antonio Rd. in Mt. View. Bring drinks. Half day.

**Tue, Sep 12, 9:30 am
Bird Discussion Group**

At the home of Eve Case, 20537 Verde Vista Ln, Saratoga. (408) 867-4748. Topic: Summer birding experiences. All members are invited to attend these monthly discussions about different species. Call for details and directions.

**Wed, Sep 13, 9 am
Rancho San Antonio**

Leader: Gail Cheeseman (408) 867-1371

Meet in third parking lot near the restrooms. Take Foothill Blvd west off I-280 to Cristo Rey on right.

**Sat, Sep 16, 9 am
Point Reyes**

Leader: Pete LaTourrette (415) 961-2741

Meet at the Drakes Beach Parking area. From Olema, take Hwy 1 to Sir Francis Drake Blvd.; west on Sir Francis Drake 14 miles to left turn to Drakes Beach. Carpool from there. Bring lunch, liquids, and full tank of fuel. Hvy rain cancels.

Highlights: Vagrant warblers and shorebirds.

**Wed, Sep 20, 10 am
Hawk Hill (Battery 129)**

Leader: Alberta Jasberg (415) 493-9546

Meet at I-280 and Page Mill Rd. in Palo Alto at 8:30 to carpool. Cross G.G. Bridge and take Alexander (Sausalito) exit and turn left almost immed. Go under Hwy. 101 and take Conzelman Rd. on rt. for 1.8 mi. Park along rd. Walk up to Hill 129. Carter Faust from the G.G. Raptor Observatory is scheduled to share his expertise in the morning. Opt. lunch at Rodeo Lagoon.

**Wed, Sep 20, 7:15 pm
General Membership Meeting**

Refreshments at 7:15; Birdtalk at 7:45; program at 8:00
Pete LaTourrette will discuss 1988 vagrant rarities. The main program will feature Edward Rooks, Trinidadian naturalist and wildlife artist, with slides of Trinidad and Tobago, an excellent introduction to the Tropical Rain Forests of South America. He will discuss the very essence of tropical rainforest ecology, not just the names of each species. Please join us for a very interesting evening.

**Sat, Sep 23, 8:30 am
Los Gatos Creek**

Leader: Mike Feighner (408) 354-0138

Beginners trip. Meet in parking area for Los Gatos Creek. Take Winchester to Hacienda; left on Hacienda to Dall; left on Dall and right at park entrance. Bring water. Hvy rain cancels. \$3 parking fee. Ducks, poss. Green-backed heron, Spotted Sandpiper.

**Sun, Sep. 24, 8:30 am
Moss Landing/Elkhorn Slough**
Leader: Clay Kempf (408)462-6534

Meet at Jetty Road just off Hwy 1 one mile north of Moss landing. Take Hwy 17 west to Santa Cruz, S. on Hwy 1. Bring lunch and liquids. Hvy rain cancels. Highlights: shorebirds, gulls, and raptors.

**Sun, Sep 24, 10:30 am
Richardson Bay Audubon Center and Sanctuary**

Champagne brunch and auction will be held in the meadow by the Lyford House overlooking the Bay. Proceeds support the Center and Audubon's education programs. Call (415) 399-2524 for details.

**Sat, Sep. 30, 8 am
Rancho San Antonio**

Leader: Jim & Sue Liskovec (415) 969-5542

Beginners trip. Meet in the last parking area at end of Cristo Rey Drive. Take Foothill Blvd west off I-280 to Cristo Rey on right. Bring liquids. Rain cancels. Easy walking 1-2 miles. Highlights: birds of oak woodlands and early wintering species.

**Sep 30-Oct 1, 8 am
Humbolt Bay/Arcata Marsh**

Leader: Audrey Stoye (408) 249-2108 and Betty Wyatt (408) 255-6091

Meet at the Arcata Marsh, S. end of I street in the town of Arcata. Limited to 12. Led by Dr. Stan Harris, Prof. of Ornithology at Humbolt State. Bring lunches and liquids for both days. For reservations and lodging info contact leaders.

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Calendar of Events

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October Field Trip Coordinator:
Claire Wolfe (408) 733-5654

Sun, Oct 8, 9 am

Año Nuevo

Leader: Peter Metropulos (415)
592-2417

Meet at prkng area of Año Nuevo S.R. Take Hwy 84 or Hwy 92 west to Hwy 1. South on Hwy 1 to Año Nuevo. Bring lunch and liquids. \$3.50 fee. Easy 4 mi hike. Rain cancels. Opt. PM birding. Highlights: Fall migrants, shorebirds, raptors.

Yuba Pass/Sierra Valley Field Trip Report

By Grant Hoyt

For the second consecutive year, SCVAS birders were treated to a most stimulating and enjoyable weekend of birding as 23 members and friends visited the Yuba Pass/Sierra Valley area north of Lake Tahoe on the weekend of June 24-25. Not only were 98 species of birds seen and heard in the highly diverse habitats, but breeding activity was in full swing, and the group was able to observe and study numerous individuals singing, courting, defending territory, building and brooding on nests, and feeding hungry nestlings.

Leaders Paul Noble and Grant Hoyt started the group off with a hike through mixed coniferous forest, meadow, and willow/alder thicket habitats. *Cassin's finch*, *Evening Grosbeak*, *Yellow-rumped* (Audubon's) *Warbler* and *Red-breasted Sapsucker* were viewed. A tip from another bird group led us to a *Calliope Hummingbird* on a nest. We observed a male of this species performing territorial displays later in the day. The magical song of the *Hermit Thrush* lifted our spirits, and Paul correctly identified a mystery songster in an alder thicket as a *Lazuli*

Bunting, which seemed out of place but apparently does occur regularly in small numbers at that elevation. A large raptor was seen soaring overhead, and to everyone's surprise it was a fully adult *Bald Eagle*, miles from the nearest body of water of any size.

By Saturday evening we had identified more species, including *Black-backed* and *White-headed Woodpecker* visiting nest-holes, *Dusky Flycatcher* on a nest not two feet off the ground, and the elusive *Hermit Warbler*. The resident *Dipper* pair at their nest and a *McGillivray's Warbler* were sighted near the campground. A *Common Nighthawk* cruised over the creek and was gone as night fell.

Heading over Yuba Pass, at the Calpine lumber mill, we found *Mountain Bluebird*, *Black Swift*, *Green-tailed Towhee* and *Fox Sparrow* with their confusing, similar songs, and a day going *Common Nighthawk* making its odd call note. While searching for *Gray Flycatcher* in a dry sage and pine habitat, we found a *Chipping Sparrow* nest and, strangely, a female *Mallard* incubating eleven eggs, with no water anywhere in sight.

The next stop was the Sierra Valley, which contains the headwaters of the Feather River. On our way into the marshy area we picked up several open-country, sage-loving species such as *Black-billed Magpie*, *Horned Lark*, *Vesper Sparrow*, and singing *Sage Thrashers* and *Brewer's Sparrows*. The marsh itself was teeming with bird life, including more *Black Terns* than any of us could remember having seen there, *White-faced Ibis* (at least 50), *Sandhill Crane* (3-4 pairs), *Wilson's Phalarope*, *Common Snipe*, *Canada Goose*, *American Bittern*, *Willet*, *Northern Harrier*, *Golden Eagle*, *Yellow-headed Blackbird*, and *Cliff Swallows* by the thousands.

Non-Audubon Events and Field Trips

- Wildlife Day, Alum Rock Park, Sun, Sept. 10. Live animals, films, displays, activities, call (408) 258-4322.
- Golden Gate Audubon Monterey Bay Pelagic Trips, Sun, Sept 24 and Sat, Oct 7, \$25, call GGAS at (415)832-2222.
- Water Festival, at PCC, Sat. Oct.14, will include water tastings, special events, for information, call (415) 494-9301.
- California Wilderness Conference, Visalia, Oct 19-22, call Bob Barnes (209) 784-4477.
- Bird Sierra Madre Mtns and San Blas, Dec 25-Jan 6, for info, write Dr. Jack Kirkley, Dept of Biology, Western Montana College, Dillon, MT, 59725.
- "Fly by Dawn" bird study trips led by Ted Chandik. This fall's trips to Pt. Reyes (10/7), Elkhorn Slough (11/4), & Scto Valley Refuge (12/9). Call Joyce Jeffery at (415) 326-1360 for info.
- Bird identification classes from Sequoia Adult School. Birding basics and Birds of No. Calif. Lectures and field trips. Begins 9/11. Call (415) 369-6809 for info.
- Birding field trip class from Fremont Adult School. Observe and learn about the field identification, life styles, and ecology of local birds. Begins 9/12. Call (415) 791-5841 for info.
- Cheesemans' Ecology Safari tours for 1990. Costa Rica 3/17-31 & 4/15-28. Trinidad & Tobago 6/25-7/8 for 14 people with Edward and Janice Rooks. Kenya Safari 6/25-7/16. Savanna Wildlife Safari to Tanzania and Kenya 7/14-8/3. Galapagos and Ecuador in March and Madagascar in August. Call (408) 741-5330 for details.
- Betchart Expeditions is offering natural history expeditions to Hawaii, Galapagos, Alaska, and Australia/New Guinea in 1990. Call (408) 252-4910 for brochures.

Field Notes

By Bill Bousman

We have had an exciting late spring and summer with many unusual records including a new species for the county list and two new breeding species as well. The Palo Alto Breeding Bird Count was held June 3rd and is responsible for many of these interesting records.

A basic-plumaged *Pacific Loon* on Calaveras Res. 6 Jun (MS) was late for a migrant and out of

place. A

Horned Grebe

on Charleston

Slough 3 Jun

was in a mixed

alternate/basic

plumage and

was our second

recent summer

record (MRo). Oversummering

Am. White Pelicans were noted through the spring and early

summer period (m. ob.). The first

major influx of post-breeding birds

was of 230 at Charleston Slough 1

Jul (PJM). An inland *Brown*

Pelican at Chesbro Res. 27 May-1

Jun (EC) was very early and in an

unusual location. More typical of

an early record was of two birds at

Dumbarton Point 3 Jun (MJM).

Visits to the Alviso heronry on 16

May uncovered two adult *Little*

Blue Herons and an imm. (MJM et

al.). Two adults were there on a

repeat visit on 16 Jul but there was

no evidence of nesting (MJM et

al.). Foraging adults were found

away from the colony at Charleston

Slough on 28 May (JH) and along

Stevens Creek on 3 Jun (WGB). A

hybrid Little blue X Snowy Egret

was again found at Charleston

Slough 1 Jul (PJM). Seventeen

Cattle Egrets at the Alviso heronry

16 May suggested breeding, but

none were found in July (MJM et

al.). One of the big surprises of the

late spring was an incursion of

White-faced Ibis. Sixteen were in

the vicinity of Charleston Slough

and the Palo Alto Flood control

Basin (FCB) on 12 May (PJM), 3

were at the San Jose-Santa Clara

Water Pollution Control Plant

(WPCP) the next day (BWo,

MJM), and 6 were over the Alviso

heronry 16 May (MJM et al.).

Perhaps related was a single bird

seen flying north over Morgan Hill

3 Jul (RH). This is the first invasion

since the fall of 1985.

Confirmed: Two New Breeding Species in Santa Clara County

Henry Coe SP (CB), and 5 young

birds on the Pajaro river below

Hwy 101 (DLSu). A pair of *Blue-*

winged Teal were seen at the

Mountain View Forebay 22 Jun

(MRo) and again 19 Jul (PJM). We

have had not had evidence of

breeding locally since 1984. The

biggest surprise of the breeding

season was the first nesting of

Canvasback in the county—they

are normally found no nearer than

the Great Basin. A male and female

were found on Guadalupe Slough

in mid-June (TE et al. fide MJM)

with two half-grown young. The

young birds, now adult size have

been seen again through July

(MJM, PLN). We occasionally

have one or two summering birds

here. A female *Redhead* with nine

large young were found at the

Sunnyvale WPCP 22 Jul (PJM).

This species nests locally only on

rare occasions. Continuing the line

of the strange duck summer was an

apparently healthy male *Ring-*

necked Duck on Kelly Cabin Lake

in Henry Coe SP 7 Jul (JY). Two

pairs of *Lesser Scaup* also nested at

the Sunnyvale WPCP and single

Breeding

records of *Wood*

Duck include 4

precocial young

found in the San

Antonio Valley

1 Jun (WGB),

10 young east of

Kelley Lake in

Henry Coe SP (CB), and 5 young

(PJM). This is another Great Basin breeding species and since 1981 has nested occasionally in the Palo Alto FCB. This is the first nesting away from the FCB site.

An *Osprey* seen foraging at Searsville Lake 2/3 Jun is assumed to be the same bird seen there again 17 July (JB-H et al.). The nearest known breeding location is in Marin county. A pair of *Sharp Shinned Hawks* with 3 young were found west of Loma Prieta 9 July (DLSu). They are a very rare breeding species in the Santa Cruz Mountains. An imm. along Coyote Creek in San Jose 14 July (BMo fide DLSu) is puzzling as out of season and range. An adult over Saratoga 18 July (DLSu) is also problematical. We are becoming accustomed to *Cooper's Hawk* breeding at the edge of the urban areas, but nothing prepared us for the pair that raised three young in the Willow Glen area of San Jose. One young had left the immediate site by 2 July (fide RC). Summer reports of *Prairie Falcon* in Hall's Valley 89 July (MJM) and off Metcalf Road 27 July (DLSu) probably represent breeding birds, but no nest sites are known.

Oversummering *Semipalmated Plovers* are exceeding rare locally so an individual seen 3 June in outer Charleston Slough and one in the Mountain View Forebay 9 July (MRo) are probably the same bird. Birds at the later site 19 July (PJM) and 23 July (MRo) represent the first of the fall influx. Two *Lesser Yellowlegs* at Charleston Slough 16 July (PJM) represent the vanguard of this rare shorebird that can be so common in a few local sites. We obtained our first breeding confirmation of *Spotted Sandpiper* in the county this summer from not 1, but 2 sites. On 10 June Emelie Curtis noted pair behavior at the south end of Anderson Reservoir. On 13 Jun a bird was setting on eggs and by the 28th there was a single downy young and, then, 2 the next day. On 24 July David Suddjian returned to the

Pajaro River where he had noted courtship behavior in the spring and found 2, partially grown young birds. It must be in the water. Four *Whimbrel* in outer Charleston Slough 3 Jun (MRo) were very unseasonal. A 1st-summer *Franklin's Gull* was seen to fly into the Mountain View Forebay 19 July (PJM, DK). This is only the seventh county record for this inland gull. All of our previous records have been in October or November. Staging *Least Terns* first were recorded at Crittenden Marsh 8 July (MJM) and Charleston Slough 9 July (MRo). We now realize that this endangered species uses a number of South Bay sites as a stopover on their way south. They typically stay here 6-8 weeks. The flock at Charleston Slough has totalled 38 this year with at least 10 juveniles (WGB, PJM, MRo, MJM). A *Black Tern* in alternate plumage 17 May at the Oka Groundwater Recharge Facility (DLSu) was a pleasant surprise. We have fewer than 10 records in the county and most are of post breeding birds.

A *Lewis Woodpecker* over Casa de Fruta 13 Jun (CB) is away from known breeding areas in the San Antonio and Isabelle Valleys. *Western Kingbirds* reach the northwestern edge of their breeding range in Santa Clara County. The lack of good data on good nest sites makes it difficult to quantify the ebb and flow of their population, but observers have commented this year the number of birds in appropriate habitat on the east side of Santa Cruz Mountains as far north as San Mateo County where there are no breeding records. Two *Purple Martins* over Loma Prieta 10 Jun (BWy) are always an exciting find; the adults with a nest nearby 9 July (DLSu) are truly outstanding. Extensive surveys this spring along the east side of the Santa Clara Valley north of Metcalf Rd. from 25-27 April counted 17 Rock Wrens including one carrying food to document breeding (DLSu).

These birds seem to be found near serpentine outcrops in this area. A *Yellow-rumped Warbler* at the Sunnyvale WPCP 4 Jun (PJM) was well away from their breeding areas in the Santa Cruz Mountains.

We know that in some years we can obtain an exceptional fallout of migrating warblers in the Diablo Range. We just don't know how to predict when or where or if it will happen. James Yurchenco and Amy Lauterbach on an atlas trip from San Felipe Ranch to Henry Coe SP on 7 May ran into such a concentration, but in numbers without precedent. In their day's walk they estimated that they saw approximately 15 flocks of 100+ birds each. Many were in the more expected *Orange-crowned* and *Wilson's Warblers* but included in their totals an estimated 500-1000 *Townsend's Warblers* and 75-150 *Hermit Warblers*. The

If you see an "uncommon to rare" or spot early arrivals and migrants please drop a note or call: Bill Bousman, Arlington Way, Menlo Park, CA 94025 (415) 322-5282.

migrants occurred in all available habitats. For the second year in a row a late *Townsend's Warbler* was found on the Palo Alto BBC on 3 Jun at Wunderlich Park (GH, JG). More surprising, it was still heard on 12 Jun (GH). More interesting was a pair of *Hermit Warblers* that was found in the same area. The male was found again on 13 Jun and 17 July (GH). This species breeds in small numbers in the vicinity of Castle Rock SP, but it has been found this far north in the summer.

A male *Rose-breasted Grosbeak* in Portola Valley 4 Jun (JM) just missed the Palo Alto BBC. But for famous grosbeaks we can do no better than to report the first county record of a *Blue Grosbeak* banded at the Coyote Creek Riparian Station (CCRS) 22 Jul (LRM). Almost as exciting is the 5th county

of record of an adult *Green-tailed Towhee* banded at CCRS on 24 May (fide LRM). The only reports this season of *Black-chinned Sparrow* were from Loma Prieta with birds seen from 29 May to 9 Jul and a peak of 12 found (JAC, BWy, RAM, DLSu). *Grasshopper Sparrows* have continued to be found in exceptional numbers this season, often in serpentine grasslands. Nests with eggs were found on the east side of the Santa Clara Valley north of Metcalf Canyon from 25-27 Apr, at Bailey and McKean roads 28 Apr, east of Morgan Hill 17 May, and southwest of Sargent 20 May (all DLSu). An adult *White-crowned Sparrow* was found at the Jasper Ridge Biological Reserve (BR) 3 Jun (B&CK). Usually when one of our wintering passerines stays for the summer there is an obvious injury, but this bird appeared perfectly healthy. Nine female *Yellow-headed Blackbirds* in a large blackbird flock southwest of Tick Creek at Hwy 101 20 May (DLSu) were an unusual site. This year is unquestionably an invasion year for the itinerant *Lawrence's Goldfinch*. In its Diablo Range home base it is easily ten times commoner this year, but more interesting for us urban folk is its incursion on the peninsula and the Santa Cruz Mountains. At some point in the spring or summer it has been recorded in nearly every peninsula birding locale (m. ob.). A pair was seen feeding young at a nest at Jasper Ridge BR 22 Jul (BK) and adults have been seen feeding fledglings along the Pajaro River near Hwy 1091 on 24 Jul (DLSu). Birds gathering nest material on Mines Road on 4 May (MS) and at a nest at San Antone Jct. 6 May (MFe) were in an area where some birds nest each year.

Due to space limitations this month, individual contributors could not be identified-but you know who you are anyway.-Ed.

Environmental Action News

Audubon Washington Training Workshop

by Lynn Tennefoss

Once a year, National Audubon Society sponsors the Audubon Washington Training Workshop. Twenty Audubon activists from around the country, chosen by their regional representatives, gather in Washington DC, for an intensive weeklong education in how Washington "works". Last June, I joined 19 dedicated Audubon members for this "Bootcamp", as the training session is affectionately known. Organized by Connie Mahon, Grassroots Coordinator, and supported by the entire Washington office, the week was packed with memorable experiences.

Typical of Audubon, hands-on involvement is a major component of the Bootcamp program. We were to learn how laws are passed by becoming part of the process. The first two days were spent learning details about issues that we were then encouraged to discuss with our own (and our state's) congressional delegates.

One of the two major issues discussed was Clean Air - a high priority issue for NAS - and bills related to achieving it. Three major areas of pollution - from coal-burning utilities, from autos and other urban sources, and from toxics released into the air - must be addressed. By fortunate coincidence, we arrived the morning President Bush announced his intentions for a Clean Air bill, and the topic was analysed and discussed in the papers daily.

The second topic of interest was the American Heritage Trust Act (ATHA). This Act is proposed to restructure the Land and Water Conservation Fund and the Historic Preservation Fund, the primary sources of funding for acquisition for parks, refuges, wildlife habitat and historic places.

While \$900 million from oil and gas leases has been authorized to be spent each year for habitat acquisition, in the last 8 years, less than \$300 on average has been spent. The AHTA would create a permanent trust fund, that would guarantee higher levels of spending for important wildlife areas.

I was able to visit staff in the offices of almost every federal legislator in the Bay Area. Most of the discussions were the result of walk-in visits, where I would just walk into the office and ask to speak to someone about the topics of concern. The accessibility that we as individual citizens have to our elected representatives is truly amazing. I felt that my opinion was heard, and that my visit did make a difference in the way they now view the issue before them.

The NAS Washington staff is informed, positive, dedicated and talented. They prepared us very well for our visits - each of us had at least one story where we were complimented on the extent of our knowledge on the issues. I came away impressed with the large agenda NAS staff has set before themselves, and proud to be a part of the organization.

Bootcamp takes place yearly; the next one will most probably occur in April of 1990. If you would like more information on participating in the program, contact either Connie Mahan, 801 Pennsylvania Ave, SE, #301, Washington, DC, 20003 or Dan Taylor, 555 Audubon Place, Sacramento, CA, 95825, or the SCVAS office.

Ten Minute Activist

You can make a difference

Seventy years ago, wolves were systematically exterminated throughout the American West as a result of poorly-conceived Federal predator control programs. Where they once roamed the Rockies, the grey wolf is now listed as an endangered species. Under the terms of the Endangered Species Act, the government is legally bound to bring about the recovery of the wolf population, and to this end, the National Park Service has called for the reintroduction of an experimental group of animals into Yellowstone. Up until now, isolated but vocal opposition from ranchers has prevented the Park Service from even drafting an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to assess the desirability of any reintroduction plan.

The good news is that Utah congressman Wayne Owens has introduced legislation (bill HR 2786) to have the National Park Service compose an EIS for the wolf recovery plan. This process will provide a forum for all sides to express their concerns and answer their questions. We at Audubon applaud HR 2786 as a way to end the political logjam and resolve remaining questions. It would be the first step towards the restoration of a balanced ecosystem in Yellowstone National Park.

Right now, Congressman Owens's bill has about fifty co-sponsors, and we are looking for more. You should write your Representative and ask him or her to co-sponsor HR 2786, The Yellowstone Wolf Environmental Impact Statement Bill. Write your congressman at the U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, DC 20515 and ask him or her to co-sponsor HR 2786.

Chapter News

Annual Dinner A Success

Despite the heat of the day, 72 members and guests enjoyed the 1989 Annual Membership Potluck Dinner/June General Meeting on June 21 at the Palo Alto Baylands Interpretive Center. Cool breezes and the late Solstice sunset made for a very enjoyable evening.

The City of Sunnyvale was presented with the SCVAS Environmental Action Award, the first such award in many years. The City was recognized for "their decision to protect wetlands through the choice of an environmentally sensitive plan for Sunnyvale Baylands Park". John Christian, Director of the Sunnyvale Department of Parks and Recreation, accepted the framed award from SCVAS President David Johnston. In his remarks upon accepting the award, Mr. Christian reiterated the City's continuing support for wetlands protection.

After a wonderful potluck supper, with plenty of food for all, special guest Harry Adamson, artist and creator of the first California DFG Non-Game Heritage Stamp, was recognized. Afterward, Grant Hoyt gave an excellent summary of the Santa Clara County Breeding Bird Atlas project to date.

Birdathon prizes were then awarded. We have raised over \$6870, and all the checks are not yet in! Special thanks are extended to the following individuals and businesses who generously donated prizes to the birdathon: California Academy of Sciences/Steven Bailey, Betty Hone, Hummingbird Gardens (La Honda), Peninsula Scientific (Palo Alto), Philias Fogg's (Stanford), REI (Cupertino), Smith and Hawken (Mill Valley), Yerba Buena Nursery (Woodside), and Yamagami's Nursery (Cupertino).

Garden Habitat Group Proceedings

The first meeting of the Garden Habitat Group was held on June 19th. It was a complete success, with everyone very enthusiastic! The general concept of the group and its goals were described as:

- 1) An informational exchange forum for people interested in attracting birds to their gardens;
- 2) An outreach group aiming to increase public awareness of environmental issues;
- 3) Participation in the group should be interesting, fulfilling and fun!

These aims are to be promoted through a variety of projects upon which the group will embark, such as working in conjunction with Bay Area gardeners to build display gardens, organizing tours through gardens established with an emphasis on attracting birds, informational booths at fairs to having a cat bell sales day, slide shows, lectures and workshops.

Karen Sullivan (La Honda) gave an informative talk on the successes she has had in her hummingbird garden/nursery and discussed the selection of plants she had brought.

Several future events are already in the works. These include: an "Adopt a Garden" program; an informational stand and bird feeder building workshop (for which we need 5 lb coffee containers) at the upcoming YSI Wildlife Day, September 11th; and assisting members who want to participate in the National Wildlife Federation program to certify your garden as a wildlife refuge.

If you have ideas for future projects, or would like to find out more about the Garden Habitat Group, please contact Rebecca Hamon, Chair at (415) 322-7891.

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	Doug & Gail Cheeseman	408/867-1371
Library	Rita Colwell	415/326-2400
Field Trips	Paul Noble	415/948-3876
	Alberta Jasberg	415/493-9546
Aud Adven Hospitality	Elaine Gould	408/448-0622
Env. Act.	Vacant	
CBC	Jim & Sue Liskovec	415/969-5542
Grants	D. Zetterquist	408/429-9716
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 directions. *The Avocet* deadline is the first Monday of each month. Send contributions to the editor, Jim Schwertman, 1168 Willow Glen Way, San Jose, CA 95125.

Future Goals

Continued from Page 1

camaraderie were excellent at all gatherings.

All in all, last year was quite successful for our chapter, thanks to a dedicated core of staff, Board members, and volunteers. But if we want to continue to provide a balanced program of birding and environmental activities for its members as we enter the next decade, we'll need more help from our membership. Whatever your particular skills or interests might be, from fundraising to field trips, please consider volunteering some of your valuable time and energy to our chapter activities. If you want a liveable, "birdable" South Bay in the year 2000, with hummers and herons, pines and pickleweed, raptors, rabbits and redwoods, the time to act is *now!!* - Grant Hoyt

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 supermarket 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; **THISTLE SEED**, a small seed, rich in oil, that appeals to smaller birds.

Please Note: Unclaimed seed must be resold at the close of each sale unless alternate arrangements have been made in advance. No exceptions can be made!! Confirmations of orders will be sent upon receipt of order and check.

Please tell your friends and neighbors about the sale. We will all benefit - you, the birds, and your Audubon chapter. Have any questions? Please call SCVAS office at (415) 329-1811.

Karen Sullivan from Hummingbird Gardens will again join us at the Palo Alto sale, offering fine hummingbird-attracting plants for sale, with a portion of proceeds going to SCVAS.

Bird Seed Sale Order Form Fall 1989

		# bags	Cost
Premium Seed	20 lb @ \$ 8/bag	_____	_____
	50 lb @ \$17/bag	_____	_____
Western Wild	20 lb @ \$ 7/bag	_____	_____
	50 lb @ \$15/bag	_____	_____
Black Oil Sun.	20 lb @ \$13/bag	_____	_____
	50 lb @ \$30 bag	_____	_____
Striped Sunfl.	20 lb @ \$15/bag	_____	_____
	50 lb @ \$34/bag	_____	_____
Thistle	20 lb @ \$10/bag	_____	_____
	50 lb @ \$35/bag	_____	_____
Subtotal			_____
+ 7%Tax			_____
Total			_____

Please select ONE pickup location:

- YSI, Vasona Park, Los Gatos, Thur, 10/19, 4-6 pm
- YSI, Alum Rock Park, San Jose, Thur, 10/19, 4-6 pm
- PCC, 2448 Watson Ct., Palo Alto, Sat, 10/28, 9-11 am
- REI, 20640 Homestead, Cupertino, Mon, 10/23, 5-7 pm

NAME _____
 ADDRESS _____
 CITY, ST, ZIP _____
 PHONE _____

This is a prepaid sale. Please send this order form and a check payable to SCVAS, by **Monday, October 9**, to 415 Cambridge Ave., Ste. #21, Palo Alto, CA 94306.

DONATIONS - SCVAS welcomes gifts in general, or gifts in honor or memory of relatives and friends. All gifts and donations are tax deductible.

MEMBERSHIP - To join the National Audubon Society/SCVAS, send a check payable to NAS, to the SCVAS office, 415 Cambridge Ave., Ste. 21, Palo Alto, CA 94306. Membership includes "AUDUBON" magazine, and "The Avocet" newsletter. "Audubon Activist" quarterly subscription is separate at \$9/yr., with checks made payable to NAS. "The Avocet" subscription alone is \$8/yr, with checks made payable to SCVAS.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS - Send all changes of address promptly to the SCVAS office.

Name: _____
 Address: _____
 City: _____ St: _____ Zip: _____
 Gift from: _____

_____ Introductory - \$20
 _____ Individual - \$30
 _____ Family - \$35
 _____ Audubon Activist - \$9
 _____ Avocet only - \$8