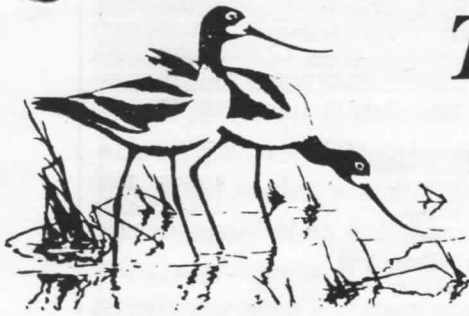


# The Avocet

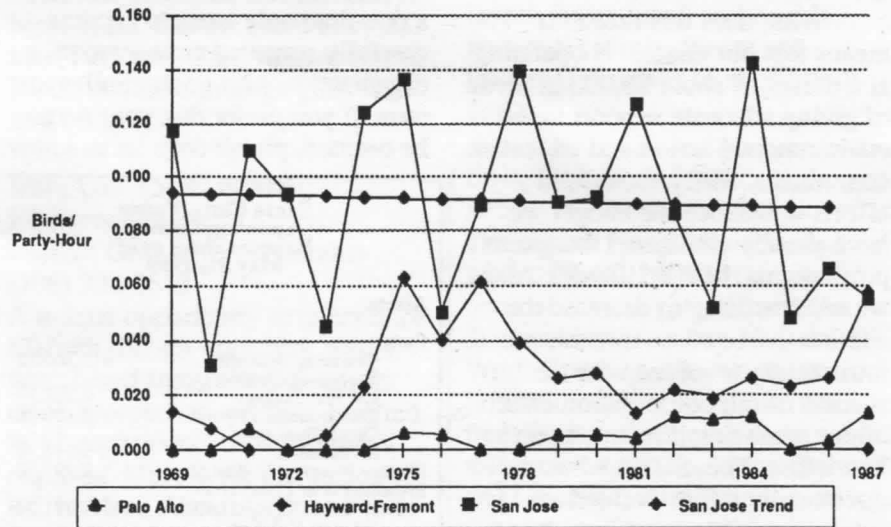


October 1989

Volume 36, Number 35

## Golden Eagle CBC Data Raises Questions

The Christmas Bird Count data can often provide a wealth of insight into the population behaviour of our local species, although often a careful examination of the data results in more questions than answers. An example is the Golden Eagle. The chart shows the birds/party-hours that have been recorded since 1969 on our three local south bay counts. Note first that the



Golden Eagle is relatively abundant on the San Jose count, significantly less so on the Hayward-Fremont count, and much less abundant on the Palo Alto count. Clearly, the local center of abundance is in the hills on the east side of the valley. It should also be clear why I rarely mention eagles found on the edge of the Diablo Range — they are regular and well-established. The population in the Santa Cruz Mountains, however, is probably

only 4-8 pairs which makes sightings there noteworthy. Is there any discernable long-term trend on these counts? Here the importance of normalizing the date becomes clear. Since 1969 the number of party-hours on the San Jose count has tripled. If we looked only at the total number of eagles seen we would conclude that they were showing a healthy increase — in fact it appears from these data that the long-term trend is rather steady. But what is most fascinating in the data from the San Jose count is the roughly three-year oscillation that

is seen in the Diablo Range Golden Eagle populations. Is this related to cycles in their major prey species? Do our winter counts include resident birds or is there substantial recruitment? These are fascinating questions. - *Bill Bousman*

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# Chapter News

## New Fundraising Effort for Environment & Education

The National Audubon Conference in Tucson was one of the most inspiring conferences I have been to in a long time. I was also awed at the enormous conservation tasks before us. In Santa Clara County, we have our own challenges. The SCVAS board has decided it is more important to preserve our natural habitats, than to cut back on conservation and education funds in order to balance the budget.

What does this mean? It means that our chapter is operating at a deficit of about \$5,000 in favor of giving adequate support to the environmental action and education committees. Sadly enough, in efforts to balance the budget we have already eliminated the grants program for the FY 1989-90. Also, we are unwilling to decrease the administrative costs, as these are intrinsically involved with the success of our conservation efforts of our managing director, Lynn Tennefoss. The SCVAS board of directors therefore decided to commit to fundraising in order to meet the critical needs of our chapter.

How are we going to do it? In addition to increasing our revenues through an even more successful Bird-a-thon in 1990, we also plan to make a plea for funds this fall through a pilot "telethon". You may get a phone call from us! Our newly reactivated Environmental Action Committee has an exciting agenda for the 1989-90 year that includes preserving our wetlands, riparians, and open space; providing a major conference on ancient rainforests; and developing a burrowing owl census. We will be asking for donations of \$100, \$75, \$50, or \$25, or any amount that you feel you can provide to help us help the environment.

## Bird Slides Needed

SCVAS needs 4 slides for local bird slide shows. If you have any of the following slides, and would care to donate a duplicate (SCVAS will pay the cost of duplication), please contact the office: Western Gull in schoolyard, male or covey of California Quail, Killdeer faking broken wing, Crow flying or perched.

## Mailing List

Occasionally, SCVAS makes the *Avocet* 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 be omitted, please drop let us know.

### Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society Balance Sheet as of May 31, 1989

<b>Assets</b>	
Cash	
Checking Account	\$11,766.22
Savings Account-	
Cal Fed Savings	4,403.77
Certificate of Deposit	5,130.00
Other Short-term	
Investments	9,213.20
Pledges Receivable-Birdathon	2,797.50
Investments at Cost(Market Value \$334,951.13)	309,791.70
(Market Value at 5/31/88 \$315,468.41)	
Inventory	0.00
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>343,102.39</b>
<b>Liabilities and Surplus</b>	
Accounts Payable-Printing	861.00
Accounts Payable-Science Fair	46.00
Commitment-	
Nat'l Fish & Wildlife Fdn.	5,000.00
Commitment-Birdathon Funds	
to National Audubon	2,750.00
Commitment-Legal Fund	
to Save SF Bay Assn.	2,000.00
Restricted Funds	
Save the Burrowing Owls and Their Habitat Trust	362.65
SCVAS Legal Fund	774.50
Andros Fund-Special Gift	2,243.00
Robert G. Brownlee	
Foundation Grant	7,313.00
Operating Surplus	321,752.24
<b>Total Liabilities and Surplus</b>	<b>\$343,102.39</b>
<b>Statement of Surplus/Invested Funds</b>	
Operating Surplus, End of 1988	\$317,379.49
Income for the Year	4,372.75
Funds Designated to Meet	
Long-Term Needs	(270,000.00)
<b>Unrestricted Invested Funds</b>	<b>\$51,752.24</b>

## SCVAS OFFICERS

Staff	Lynn Tennefoss	415/329-1811
President	Dave Johnston	408/867-7278
1st VP	Grant Hoyt	415/969-7892
2nd VP	Trish Mulvey	415/326-0252
Treasurer	Don Price	415/327-1254
Rec. Secty.	Theresa Spinler	408/559-1889
Past Pres	Judy McEuen	408/251-3086

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Geri Brown	408/749-4840
Brian Wilson	
Kim Dreyfus	
Christine Wolfe	408/245-9359
Jules Resnick	415/961-8619
Donna Zetterquist	408/429-9716

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Programs	Doug & Gail Cheeseman	408/867-1371
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Field Trips	Paul Noble	415/948-3876
	Alberta Jasberg	
Membership		Vacant
Aud Adven	Elaine Gould	408/448-0622
Hospitality	Vacant	
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.

## Publicist Wanted

Wanted: volunteer to help design a publicity plan for SCVAS events. Help is needed to let SCVAS and the chapter's activities be better known in the community. Please call the office at (415) 329-1811 if you are interested.

## Thanks to Office Volunteers

Thanks are extended Yana Arnold, Betty English, Larry Lazarus, Deborah Manley and Tibby Simon for their assistance in the SCVAS office over the summer. Additional volunteers are always welcome, please call (415) 329-1811.

# 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.*

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

**Sun, Oct 1, 9 am**  
**Marin Headlands**

Leader: Don Schmoltdt (415) 758-0820

Hawks: with possible Broadwing and Merlin. Meet at the vista point, 1st exit N or GG Bridge. Look for Black/Silver pickup w/ license "BAJA OWL". Bring lunch, water and layered clothing. Full day.

**Wed, Oct. 4, 7:30 pm**

**Bay Area Photographers meeting.**

Meet at Baylands.

**Sun, Oct 8, 9 am**  
**Charleston Slough**

Leader: TBA

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.

**Sun, Oct 8, 9 am**

**Año Nuevo**

Leader: Peter Metropulos (415) 592-2417

Meet at parking 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. Fall migrants, shorebirds, raptors.

**Tues, Oct 10, 9:30 AM**

**Bird Discussion Group**

Meet at home of Eve Case, 20537 Verde Vista Lane, Saratoga. (408) 867-4778. Topic: Night Herons.

**Wed, Oct 11, 9:30 am**

**Alviso Environ. Ed. Cntr.**

Leader: Lee Lovelady (408) 723-4864

Explore the trails behind the Center and along the sloughs with resident volunteer naturalist Lee Lovelady. Meet at Ed. Center. From Hwy 237, take Taylor St. Turn right at Grand Blvd., straight to refuge gate. Half day.

**Sun, Oct 15, 9:30 am**

**Elkhorn Slough**

Leader: Greg Myer, Naturalist (408) 336-3513

A unique opportunity to experience Elkhorn Slough via kayak. Quiet, waterbased transportation allows close approach to wildlife. Limited to 12 participants; *reservations required*. Meet at the end of Jetty Rd. in Moss Landing State Beach. Fee for kayak rental and instruction \$48. Bring water, lunch, hat, windbreaker. Full day.

**Wed, Oct 25, 9:30 am**

**Ravenswood SF Bay NWR**

Leader: Rose Linn (408) 736-8207  
Bay and marsh birds. Meet at the refuge. Take Willow Rd. E from Hwy 101. Exit to right at brown

NWR sign after University Ave. and before Dumbarton Br. Optional lunch and visit to another nearby area.

**Sat, Oct 28, 9 am**

**Hayward Regional Shoreline**

Leader: Mark and Steve Miller (415) 967-3429

Longspurs, hawks, ducks. Meet at the end of Winton Ave. Take Hwy 92 to I-880. N to Winton 3 miles. W on Winton to end. Dress in layers. Bring lunch and liquids. Hvy rain cancels. Please call leaders if planning to attend. Full day.

**Sun, Oct 28, 1-5 pm**

**Scope and Binocular Show**

The second binocular and scope workshop will be held the afternoon of Saturday, October 28, at the San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge Environmental Education Center in Alviso. This free display of major makers, such as Celestron, Nikon, Zeiss, Swift and Leica was a hit last year, and this year will have additional manufacturers representatives present. Co-sponsored by the San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge, Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, this event is not to be missed! For directions to the Environmental Center call (408) 262-5513.

**General Membership Meeting**

**Wed, Oct 18, 6:45 pm**

Palo Alto Cultural Center, Embarcadero & Newell

Refreshments at 6:45; Birdtalk at 7:45; program at 8:00

Janis Taylor will discuss the Burrowing Owl for the Birdtalk. The main program will feature Doug Cheeseman, biologist, discussing and showing photography of the national parks of Malaya, Borneo, Sumatra, Java, Bali and Komodo. Doug's lecture will focus on the wildlife and their habitats from tropical deciduous monsoon forests to lowland riverine forests and lush primary forests, where trees are bolstered by huge buttresses and festooned in lianas, orchids, ferns and other epiphytes. Please join us.



# Field Notes

By Bill Bousman

## Waterfowl

Five *Eared Grebe* in alt. plumage in the Alviso salt ponds 5 Aug (AV) are early for winter birds and may have summered locally.

*Brown Pelicans* have been seen in fairly typical numbers in July and August with a high of 32 on 28 Jul off Palo Alto (DCu). We occasionally see our local herons concentrated by a particular food resource—65

*Great Egrets* and 280

*Snowy Egrets* are a healthy count at Charleston Slough 25 Jul (AME). The

hybrid *Snowy Egret X Little Blue Heron* was seen again in Charleston Slough 30 Aug (WGB, PJ). This bird has been found here irregularly over the last three years. *Green-backed Herons* have been widely reported this month. Twelve birds found at the Oka Groundwater Recharge Facility (GRAF) and nearby in Los Gatos Creek on 15 Aug (DLSu) are a record count for a single area. Approximately half of these birds were immatures.

## Raptors

An imm. *Golden Eagle* of I-280 14 Aug (GH) is where we occasionally find this species. More surprising was an imm. over wooded Saratoga on 18 Aug (MJ fide DSLu) where they have not been seen before. An imm. *Peregrine Falcon* was seen over the Palo Alto FCB 28 Jul (DCu). We have records for every month of the year locally and it can be difficult to distinguish between resident (hacked?), migrant, and wintering birds.

## Marsh and Shore Birds

Six *Virginia Rail* from Llagas Creek in south county 23 Aug

(DLSu) are from an area where they have not been reported before. The fall migration for this species is already underway, but the possible breeding habitat nearby is suggestive. We know very little of the lives of our local rail species. A *Lesser Golden-Plover* of the *fulva* race was found in a flooded field at Bloomfield and Frazier Lake roads just north of the San Benito County

## Unprecedented Sighting: 10,000 Tricolored Blackbirds

line 23 Aug along with about 370 *Killdeer* (DLSu). Most of our shorebirds are found only along the bayside as are most of our

shorebirders. The *Lesser Golden-Plover* is possible anywhere in the county in wet, open areas. *Lesser Yellowlegs* become locally fairly common in August and September in their preferred haunts in the Palo Alto FCB and the Mountain View Forebay. One there 14 Aug (DCu) and five on 20 Aug (WGB, PJ) are lower numbers than we have had in recent years. A single bird at the Oka GRF 15 Aug (DLSu) was in an area they probably use each year as well. A single *Baird's Sandpiper* at the Mt. View Forebay 17 Aug (PJ) was the only report this season. A *Common Snipe* at Bloomfield and Frazier Lake Roads 23 Aug (DLSu) was an early return for this migrant and wintering species.

## Terns & Murres

*Least Terns* finished their staging at Charleston Slough early this year with four seen 6 Aug (AW) and a single juvenile 13 Aug (MF et al.). A *Common Murre* in basic plumage off the Palo Alto Baylands 25 Aug (RS) is only our fifth county record. Previous summer records in the south bay have usually been of starving birds

driven here by failure of their normal food resources.

## Hummingbirds

*Black-chinned Hummingbirds* have been banded in good numbers again this year at the Coyote Creed Riparian Station (CCRS). Seventeen were banded between 1 Jul and 19 Aug. Additional migrants are expected through early September. A male *Costa's Hummingbird* was in Los Altos 10 Jul (LB) for one of our few records. It did not remain to compete with the local Anna's. A single *Calliope Hummingbird* was banded at CCRS 10 Aug for one of our only fall records. Migrant *Rufous* and *Allen's Hummingbirds* have been banded in good numbers at CCRS this season as well. Most are females or immatures. However, a male *Rufous* found at a feeder in Saratoga 14 Aug (DSL) is unusual for the fall season.

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.

## Flycatchers to Warblers

Rare *Empidonax* banding records from CCRS include *Willow Flycatchers* captured on 6 Jul, 13 Aug, and 20 Aug; a *Hammond's Flycatcher* on 17 Aug; and a *Dusky* on 10 Aug. The latter is only our fourth county record. A *Canyon Wren* in Skeel's Meadow at Henry Coe SP 1 Jul (MF) is one of our few reports of this rare wren. A *Hermit Warbler* banded at CCRS 20 Aug is one of our few fall migrant records. I will guess that the female *MacGillivray's Warbler* along the pajaro River above Hwy 101 on 23 Aug (DLSu) is an early migrant although there is an old record of nesting from that area.

## Blue Grosbeak

An adult male *Blue Grosbeak* captured at CCRS on 22 Jul (fide LRM) is the first record for the

county. This species breeds in the lower Sonoran life zone in S. California and the Central Valley. It normally does not depart its breeding grounds until the latter part of August or early September. Vagrants then show up along the coast of Monterey County and the Farallons Islands. But this bird appears to be too early for a fall migrant so where did it come from?

## Sparrows & Tricolored Blackbirds

A Golden-crowned Sparrow along the pajaro River above Hwy 101 23 Aug (DLSu) is a month early-very unusual for this northern sparrow. A White-crowned Sparrow (pugetensis) captured at CCRS 13 Jun shows that we occasionally get overwintering birds. Approximately 10,000 Tricolored Blackbirds at Bloomfield and Frazier Lake roads 23 Aug (DLSu) is a good number for the Central Valley, but unprecedented in Santa Clara County.

Observers: Louise Blakey (LB), Bill Bousman (WGB), Derek Currall (DCu), Al Eisner (AME), Mike Feighner (MF), Grant Hoyt (GH), Monica Johnston (MJ), Paul Jones (PJ), Dick Mewaldt (LRM), David Suddjian (DLSu), Ann Verdi (AV), and Alan Walther (AW)

## Non-Audubon Events

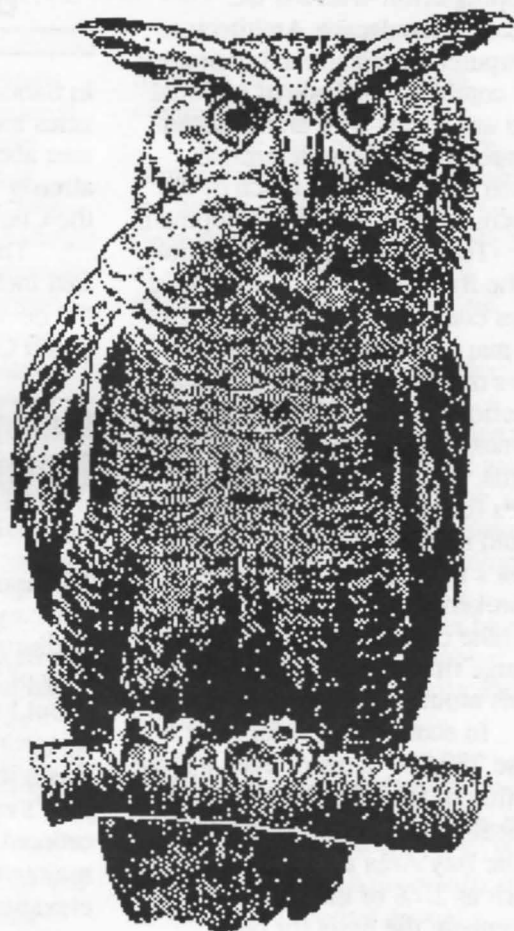
- Golden Gate Audubon Monterey Bay Pelagic Trips, Sat, Oct 7, \$25, call GGAS at (415)832-2222.
- Water Festival, at PCC, Sat. Oct. 14, will include water tastings, special events, for information, call (415) 494-9301.
- California Wilderness Conference, Visalia, Oct 19-22, call Bob Barnes (209) 784-4477.
- 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.
- The 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.
- Pescadero Marsh public walks, every Sat at 10:30 am and Sunday at 1 pm, meet docents on the north side of Pescadero Road at the intersection of Hwy 1.
- Mono Lake Benefit-Society Expeditions cruise to Greenland and Hudson Bay. For details contact Mildred Bennett, (415) 426-1260.
- Cordell Bank Pelagic boat trip from Bodega Bay. Oct. 21, 7-4. \$45. Contact Roger Marlowe at (707) 829-0705 for details.
- Natural history of Africa, Australia, Papua New Guinea, Galapagos, Antarctica, Amazon Basin short course at DeAnza College, Thursdays, Oct. 12-Nov. 16. Doug Cheeseman, lecturer. Call (408) 864-8673 to register.

## SFBBO Seeks Colonial Bird Nesting Information

SFBBO is seeking to expand its colonial nesting surveys currently on-going in the Central and South Bay. If you know of a Great Blue Heronry (even one pair) or nesting Forster's Terns, egrets, etc. please contact SFBBO at (408) 946-6548. Our knowledge of these colonial nesters can help assist government agencies in making wise management decisions.

## 1988 Palo Alto CBC

An eight page report by Bill Bousman on the Palo Alto CBC is available from the SCVAS office. To receive the report, please send a self-addressed, stamped 4x9" envelope to 415 Cambridge Ave #21, Palo Alto, CA, 94306. Rare birds, details on duck and raptor trends, irruptive species, and Nuttall's woodpecker range expansion are among the topics covered.



# Environmental Action News

## **Santa Clara Valley Open Space at Risk**

by Trish Mulvey

Santa Clara Valley and the rest of the Bay Area are set apart from other metropolitan regions by our beautiful and productive Greenbelt. Just minutes away, the Greenbelt circles our cities with farmland, parks, wetlands and open space.

But the region's Greenbelt is being paved over at an alarming rate. On average, every two years, 30,000 acres of productive farm and ranchland (an area the size of San Francisco) are being idled or covered with office parks and tract houses. And that trend shows no sign of abating.

A new report by Greenbelt Alliance paints a grim picture. The report is based on a collaborative mapping effort with the UC Berkeley Landscape Architecture Computer Applications Laboratory and combines analysis of regional land use trends with an advanced computer system to determine which parts and how much of the Greenbelt is at risk of development.

Today more than 3.7 million of the Bay Area's 4.5 million land acres comprise our Greenbelt. But the mapping reveals that 780,000 acres of that undeveloped land are at serious risk of development in the next 20 to 30 years. In other words, the Bay Area's urbanized lands (currently 735,000 acres) would more than double. The Bay Area's metropolis would extend in unbroken swaths to every part of the nine county region—a marked change from the traditional urban focus around San Francisco Bay.

In short, the development of these 780,000 acres—or even a large portion of these lands—would radically change the basic character of the Bay Area and destroy as much as 20% of the region's Greenbelt, the basis for our

uniquely attractive quality of life.

Santa Clara county faces huge growth pressures, especially south of San Jose, running through Coyote Valley into the area surrounding Morgan Hill and Gilroy, according to Vicki Moore, manager of the Greenbelt Alliance field office in San Jose and staff support for the Santa Clara County Greenbelt Coalition. That assessment is reflected in the mapping findings.

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**Every year,  
15,000 acres of  
farm and ranchland  
are lost to  
development.**

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In Santa Clara County, 136,000 acres are at risk of development—an area about 75% as big as the already urbanized 181,600 acres in the County.

Threats that have been identified include: (1) substantial residential development in Hayes Valley in South County, where a large

proposal is pending for luxury homes, a golf course and small sewer plant; (2) primarily residential development at the fringes of Morgan Hill and southwest of Gilroy; (3) rural residential development throughout Santa Clara County's foothills, near Lexington Reservoir, in the Santa Teresa foothills, and New Almaden.

As a member of the Santa Clara County Greenbelt Coalition, SCVAS is working on alternatives which will revive our metropolitan areas and reverse the decentralization and sprawl which are threatening the Greenbelt.

We need volunteers who are interested in working on committees dealing with County General Plan revisions, a proposed setback ordinance to protect streams and creeks and riparian corridors, hillside protection policies, and the upcoming campaign to establish an open space district for the balance of the County. Meetings are held monthly both in San Jose and South County. If you are interested in participating or would like more information about how you can help protect the Greenbelt, please contact Vicki Moore at the Greenbelt Alliance office (408) 983-0539 or Lynn Tennefoss at the SCVAS office (415) 329-1811.

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Current lake level to be maintained

## **Injunction Issued for Mono Lake**

by Trish Mulvey

In August, Superior Court Judge Terrance Finney issued a preliminary injunction ordering the City of Los Angeles to sacrifice about half the water it plans to draw this year from the Mono Lake Basin in order to maintain the lake's environment. The City was ordered to release enough water to maintain the lake's surface elevation at a minimum of 6,377

feet above sea level until March 30, 1990, which marks the end of the current run-off year. (Mono Lake's current level is about 6,376 feet.) The National Audubon Society hailed the decision as a major environmental victory in our longstanding lawsuit against Los Angeles involving protection of Mono Lake. "Mono Lake, with its

*Continued on next page*



## Mono Lake

teeming life and magnificent tufa formations is truly a national gem, a living geology and a biology textbook," said Glenn Olson, Audubon's Western Region Vice President. Special thanks were sent to the Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society this summer from National Audubon Society President Peter Berle and from Dan Taylor in the Western Regional Office. They acknowledged our contribution of \$2,750 from the spring 1989 Birdathon and additional donations of \$300 from chapter members to the NAS Mono Lake Legal Fund which supports protection of public trust values. In achieving the preliminary injunction, Audubon and the Mono Lake Committee successfully argued that Mono Lake faces "imminent and irreversible injury" if the lake level

is not stabilized now. Maintaining the level at 6,377 will protect nesting California gulls on Negit Island, as well as preserve the habitat of the alkali fly and the Mono Lake brine shrimp, now a candidate for federal endangered species listing. It will also prevent further exposure of the alkali lakebed, which produces toxic alkali dust storms. In his order, Judge Finney pointed out: "An ecosystem is more than the sum of its component parts, and the consequences discussed above [adverse impacts to the nesting grounds of the large California gull population, and higher than normal health risk associated with particulates carried in dust storms from the exposed playa] are not the sole adverse results from continuing to lower the lake level. These two results are, however, certain to occur and will

negatively impact the status quo while the merits of the public trust arguments are being decided." As The AVOCET goes to press, a package of bills is moving through the legislature to establish a process by which at least \$75 million would be made available to the City of Los Angeles to develop alternate water supplies. This new water would take the place of much of the flow the Department of Water and Power has been taking from streams that historically fed into Mono Lake. The greatest threat to the legislation is a possible veto by Governor Deukmejian on the recommendation of the Finance Department. SCVAS members who are interested in the current status on Mono Lake legislation and litigation or who want to support Chapter activities on behalf of the Lake and other public trust resources should call the office.

## **Edge Effects: Important Considerations for Conservation**

*by Tom Sisk*

For decades, conservationists have noted that the diversity of bird species tends to be highest at the borders between different habitat types. The term "edge effects" was coined in connection with the abrupt ecological changes found near habitat borders. But which species are lost from the community, and which are added? What is the effect of the edge on the remaining populations? How far do the effects of the habitat edge penetrate? My research focuses on bird's uses of border habitats at Stanford University's Jasper Ridge Biological Preserve. The study will help quantify the ecological effects of both naturally occurring and human-created edges, and investigate the ways in which bird community structure changes as one habitat type grades into another. Focusing on changes occurring in populations will provide the empirical basis for linking ideas from population

biology and community ecology, which have often been considered separately. The work will have direct implications on theories concerning the forces structuring ecological communities, and should prove to be of scientific interest as well as practical utility for conservation planning and management.

Designers of nature reserves have debated the comparative advantages to different species of creating or enhancing such habitats. While more species may be present in an edge habitat, those species are not necessarily broadly representative of the region. In particular, rare species dependent on large areas of intact habitat are often replaced near borders by cosmopolitan edge species, which thrive in places disturbed by humans. Management practices designed to increase edge habitats may also allow nest parasites (such as cowbirds), nest robbers (jays, crows, raccoons) and introduced species (such as star-

lings) to invade native avian communities.

In the face of the unprecedented habitat disturbance around the world, a better understanding of these questions is an essential part of designing agricultural and forestry practices that will best preserve biological diversity. Because edge effects vary greatly between regions and habitats, a method for assessing their impacts is critical. If we are to design and manage reserves to protect the greatest possible number of species, or encourage the type of development that is compatible with conservation goals, we must be able to predict the impacts of habitat edges on biological diversity and community organization.

*Tom Sisk is a doctoral candidate in Biology at Stanford University. His research was funded with a SCVAS grant in 1988. Look for results of his research in future Avocet issues.-ed.*

## Last Call for Bird Seed!

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 5 lb @ \$10/bag	_____	_____
20 lb @ \$35/bag	_____	_____
	Subtotal	_____
	+ 7%Tax	_____
	<b>Total</b>	_____

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