



The Avocet

The Newsletter of the Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society

September 1990

The Mono Lake Battle Goes On

By Martha Davis

Our legal victories have opened the diversion dams in the Mono Basin, and water is flowing down the once-dry stream beds to Mono Lake. Even so, the National Audubon Society and the Mono Lake Committee have been forced to return to the courtroom this summer to defend Mono Lake yet again.

Why? Because the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (DWP) can afford to drag on the legal battle in hopes of draining our financial resources before we win full, permanent protection for Mono Lake.

In this latest round, DWP is trying to strip Mono Lake of its only lake-sustaining protection: the August 1989 El Dorado Superior Court order requiring DWP to raise and maintain Mono Lake above the minimum elevation of 6,377 feet. Our hard-won court order from last year is all that stands between Mono Lake and the ecological devastation which occurs at lower lake levels. At DWP's insistence, the current court hearing is an expensive seven-week mini trial complete with depositions and extensive testimony of expert witnesses.

Ironically, this hearing comes hard on the heels of several stunning legal defeats for DWP. Earlier this year, a California appellate court affirmed its ruling that DWP's excessive water diversions were illegal. DWP never had the right to destroy Mono's blue-ribbon streams and fisheries. In an illusion-shattering decision against L.A., the court ordered DWP to restore the fisheries to their 1940 pre-diversion condition. Just last month DWP was ordered to release over 54,000 acre-feet annually down Mono's streams

to start this restoration process.

Despite these substantive victories, Mono Lake remains in serious jeopardy. The drought is causing the lake to decline, even though DWP is required by court order to release every drop of available water to Mono's streams. Today the lake stands at 6375.5 feet—far below the court identified minimum elevation of 6377 feet. With little water covering the landbridge, nesting gulls on Negit Island were protected from predation this year by only a thin strand of electrified wire erected by the U.S. Forest Service. However, the gulls on Pancake Islet were not as fortunate, and coyotes devastated over 600 nests in late June.

Continuation of the court's minimum lake level is vital if Mono Lake is to recover from the drought and remain protected. While streams flows of 54,000+ acre-feet brings us closer to our goal of preserving Mono Lake, they are not sufficient to raise the lake back up to the 6,377 elevation much less keep it at this level.

The battle currently joined in the courtroom before El Dorado's Judge Terrence Finney will define Mono Lake's future. In addition to providing the minimum level of protection for Mono Lake now, a court victory will draw the bottom

Continued on page 7

Audubon Field Trip to Mono Lake

Ever been 200 miles from home on a remote stretch of highway with a car full of passengers and camping equipment, getting ready to lead a two-day Audubon field trip, and the transmission in your car blows up stopping your car dead in the road?

I hate it when that happens.

Unfortunately, that's exactly what *did* happen to us on Friday June 22, just outside of Lee Vining near Mono Lake. But rather than let a vehicular mishap ruin the birding trip, we decided to make the best of the situation. With the most welcome assistance from fellow SCVAS birders, we were able to enjoy a great weekend of birding in the Mono Basin and Yosemite National Park.

Highlights were plentiful, from the singing Sage Thrashers at Mono Lake's edge and the Osprey nest on a tufa tower, to Pinon Jays in the nearby pumice terrain, and a Golden Eagle carrying food to a nest way

Continued on Page 6



Carl Dennis Buell

Chapter News

Audubon Adventures



This excellent youth education program is designed for grades 3-6. Students

receive the publication *Audubon Adventures* six times a year, membership cards, and club decals. Teachers receive a packet of 30 newsletters and an instructional leader's guide that has background information and ideas for field and classroom activities. 1989 topics included: conifers, spiders, endangered species, mammals, wetlands, and migration.

A year's subscription to this National Audubon environmental education program costs only \$30. (SCVAS has a limited number of scholarships available this year.) If you are a teacher and wish to subscribe for your class or wish to sponsor a class, contact Cecily at the SCVAS office (415) 329-1811.

Volunteers Wanted

Bird Seed Sale Volunteers: Our fall Bird Seed Sale is one of our biggest fundraisers. We need people to help out on the day of each sale, to assist in putting the seed bags in cars and in staffing a SCVAS sales/membership table. Dates are Oct. 16, 4:30-6:30 pm, Oct. 18, 4:00-6:00 pm, and Oct. 20, 9:00-11:00 am.

Public Relations: Help with ongoing press releases, PSA's and other publicity strategies.

Membership: Volunteers are needed to help with a variety of office duties. Machintosh knowledge helpful, but will train.

Audubon Exhibits: Help staff an Audubon Exhibit at YSI's Wildlife Days on September 9 or at Midpeninsula Open Space District Conference on Sept. 22.

Please call the SCVAS office at (415) 329-1811 for more information.

Thanks to our Terrific Donors!

Many thanks to the donors of refreshments for the Native Forests Conference Reception: Beringer Vineyards, Freemark Abbey and Mollie Stone's

And thanks to the donors of birdathon prizes presented at the June Annual Dinner: Calistoga, Guittard Chocolate, Lily Estrada, Gordon Biersch, Hobee's, Keppler's, Klutz, MacArthur Park, The North Face, The Pet Set, Phileas Fogg, REI, See's Candies, Smith & Hawken, Sunset Books & Magazines, and Lynn Tennefoss

We'd like to thank a list of patrons who each contributed over \$50 to our 1990 Birdathon: Sharon Barrington, Milton Blake, Gail & Doug Cheeseman, Paul Edstrom, Hazel Gibson, C & J Haven, Evelyn Johnston, Tor Nilsen, Louise Quenon, Mrs. Genny Smith, Catherine Sprinkles, Jane Starbird, Frank Williams, and Michael Yatsko

New Supporting Members of SCVAS: Robert Brown, Rigdon Currie, Carol Harris, Catherine Urban

We're pleased to announce that the Junior League of Palo Alto has made a generous contribution towards printing expenses for the upcoming second edition of *Birding at The Bottom of the Bay*. Watch for an *Avocet* announcement in the fall!

Gifts & Memorials

In memory of Corena Green:

Paula & Walter Acree, Mr. & Mrs. Dale C. Baker, Thelma W. Chirone, Mr. & Mrs. Arthur Coffman, Dick & Helen DeBerry, Brenda Flegel, Mr. & Mrs. Harold Hicks, Mrs. Joseph J. Hyde, John P. Laborde, Don & Lucy Leonard, Los Altos Golf & Country Club Seniors, Sandra Medendorp, Elma Robertson, Sheri & Phil Shermanski, Mrs. G. Vaughn, Allan & Catherine Wallace, Mr. & Mrs. Frank E. Wesel

In memory of Margaret Nelson:

Louise Coffman

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2nd VP	Janice Edgerly-Rooks	408/246-5152
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Geri Brown	408/749-4840
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Michael Johnston	408/867-2169
Bobbie Handen	408/356-4263
Judy Wagner	415/941-7586

CHAIRPERSONS

Editor	Marilyn Kjellen-Rogers	414/494-6192
Education	Judy McEuen	408/251-3086
Programs	Doug & Gail Cheeseman	408/867-1371
Library	Rita Colwell	415/326-2400
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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 at (415) 329-1811 for times and directions.

The Avocet is published monthly (except for July and August) by the Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society, 415 Cambridge Ave., Suite 21, Palo Alto, CA 94306. Deadline is the first Monday of each month. Send contributions to the editor, Marilyn Kjellen-Rogers, c/o SCVAS at the above address.

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We're For The Birds!

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September 1990 Calendar

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.

****Denotes Field Trip
Heavy rain cancels.**

Wed, Sept. 5, 7:30 PM

Bay Area Bird Photographers, at Lucy Evans Baylands Interpretive Center on East Embarcadero Rd, Palo Alto. Topic: Members' Slide Show.

****Sun, Sept. 9, 9:00 AM**

Beginners Trip to Charleston Slough, Leader: Rod Norden (408) 255-3033 Directions: Meet at the east end of San Antonio Rd. Half-day. Emphasis and waterfowl and shorebirds.

Tues, Sept. 11, 9:30 AM

Bird Discussion Group, at the home of Eve Case, 20537 Verde Vista Lane, Saratoga. (408) 867-4748. Topic: Summer Bird Experiences.

****Wed, Sept. 12, 8:30 AM**

South Co. Field Trip, Burnett Rd. Half day. Leader: Alan Thomas, 408-265-9286. Meet at east end of Burnett Ave. at the borders of Morgan Hill and San Jose. Take 101 south. Exit on Cochrane Rd. right. At Route #82 (Monterey Highway) turn right. Go north to Burnett and turn right (east). Follow to the end. Wood Duck possible. Good riparian habitat.

****Sat, Sept. 15, 8:30 AM**

Pajaro Dunes/Moss Landing
Leader: Clay Kempf (408) 459-7986
Meet at Palm Beach. From Santa Cruz take Hwy. 1 south to Watsonville, exit at Riverside Dr. (Hwy. 129) west, turn right around gas station, then left on Beach Rd. Follow Beach to end of road and meet in parking lot. Possible early passerine migrants along coast; shorebirds, gulls, waterfowl and raptors at Moss Landing/Elkhorn Slough/Moonglow Dairy. Full day, moderate walking. Bring food and drink.

Wed., Sept. 19, 7:30 PM

General Meeting, Golden Gate Raptor Observatory

Coordinator Allen Fish presents with slides "Mystery and Ecology of the Golden Gate Hawk Migration." At the Palo Alto Cultural Center, corner of Embarcadero and Newell. Co-sponsored with Palo Alto Open Spaces and Sciences Division. 7:30, refreshments, 8 pm for slide show.

Allen will talk about the 19 species of raptors that have been observed over "Hawk

Hill" in the Marin Headlands. In late Oct. 1988, 16 species were spotted in one day. One year, 2800 raptors crossed over the Observatory in late Sept. Talk is timed for the height of the hawk migration.

****Sat., Sept. 22, 8:30 AM**

Beginner's Trip to Montebello Open Space Preserve

Leaders: Jim & Sue Liskovec (415) 969-5542. Take Pg. Mill Rd. W. approx. 7 mi. to preserve; parking on left. Half day. 2 mi. easy walking. Highlights: arriving winter birds and oak woodland residents.

****Sun, Sept. 23, 8:30 AM**

Pescadero Marsh

Leader: Mike Mammoser (408) 248-2288
From Hwy. 84 go S on Hwy. 1 4.6 mi. Meet at parking lot on W side of Hwy 1, between bridge and Pescadero Rd. (overlooks Pescadero Crk.) Half day, lunch optional. Easy walking of about 1 mile. Bring scopes. Highlights: gulls, shorebirds, fall migrants.

****Wed, Sept. 26, 9:00 AM**

Mountain View Shoreline and Charleston Slough.

Leader: Rose Linn (408) 736-8207. Half day. Specialties to include shorebirds and waterfowl. Meet at the east end of San Antonio Rd. off of Hwy. 101.

****Sat, Sept 29, 9:00 AM**

Point Reyes

Leader: Peter LaTourrette (415) 961-2741
Meet at Drakes Beach parking area. From Olema, take Hwy 1 to Sir Francis Drake Blvd., W. on Sir Francis Drake 14 mi. to left turn to Drakes Beach. Carpool from there. Full day. Bring lunch, liquids, full tank of fuel. Highlights: vagrant warblers, shorebirds.

****Sat, Oct. 6, 8:00 AM**

Coyote Hills Regional Park

Leader: Phil Hand (415) 851-2623
Take Hwy. 84 (Dumbarton Bridge) east towards Newark, exit right on Thornton, then go left over freeway as Thornton becomes Paseo Padre. Turn left at Patterson Ranch/Commerce Rd. (approx. 1 mi.) into Park, meet in parking lot at entrance. Possible day use fee. Highlights: migrant songbirds, waterfowl, raptors, etc. Half day, lunch optional.

SCVAS offers more field trips than most Audubon chapters, thanks to an energetic Field Trip Committee and a talented pool of trip leaders. Unfortunately, the Field Trip Committee lost most of its members this year, and replacements are desperately needed if we are to continue sponsoring so many outings. The committee meets 3-4 times a year. Call Edward Rooks at (408) 246-5152 or Grant Hoyt at (415) 969-7892 if you are interested in joining.

Non-Audubon Events

- Doug and Gail Cheeseman with the expert help of Rod Norden and Allen Royer will lead a **Pelagic Trip in Monterey Bay**, Sat. Sept. 15, a great time for Blue Whales and migrant seabirds, as well as resident marine mammals and birds, 7:45 a.m. - 3 p.m., \$40. Please make reservations early. Call Doug and Gail at 408-741-5330.

- Fall classes for birders. Classes are being taught by Maryann Danielson; biologist, tour leader and bird photographer through the Sequoia Adult School. **Birding Basics** is for beginner and intermediate birders. Fall quarter concentrates on basic avian biology and identification and natural history of fall waterbirds. Ten lectures, starting Wed. Sept. 12. Fee \$25. **Following Birds Through the Fall Season** is for intermediate and more advanced birders. The identification and natural history of lingering summer birds and returning shorebirds, warblers, sparrows and waterfowl will be covered. 10 slide lectures starting Mon. Sept. 10. Call (415) 369-6809 for more information.

- **Cordell Bank Pelagic Trip**, Oct. 20 7a.m. All day trip. Cordell Banks is a marine sanctuary 28 miles southwest of Bodega Bay. Meet at Porto Bodega Marina, Bodega Bay Trip is being led by Terry Colburn and Roger Marlowe. Summer winds bring plankton blooms which attract great numbers of sea birds and marine mammals. Previous trips have produced good sightings of Albatross, Shearwaters, Storm Petrel, Alcids and Jaegers. Mammals, including Blue Whales, Humpbacks, White-sided Dolphins and Dall's Porpoise. Last year's trip was exceptional with Northern Right Whale Dolphins, Rizzo's Dolphin and Harbor Porpoise. Bring warm clothes, poncho, binos and lunch. Call (707) 829-9125 for more information.

- **A Kenya Safari** for 6 people with Terry Stevenson as leader, Nov. 17 - Dec. 10, \$3650, plus airfare. Call Gail and Doug Cheeseman, 408-741-5330.

Field Notes

By Bill Bousman

Waterfowl

A basic-plumaged *Common Loon* was seen at Shoreline Lake 4-9 Jun (LBP, DD, MRo) for the first summer record we have. We have occasionally found late migrating birds in May in alternate plumage. The first influx of post-breeding *Am. White Pelicans* was seen 6 Jun (MFe) with about 200 birds. A high of 584 was recorded on the Palo Alto Breeding Bird Count (BBC) 9 Jun (m.ob.). An adult *Brown Pelican* at Vasona Res. 24 May (JDuB) was the first of the season and, surprisingly, turned up at an inland location just like last year. An adult *Little Blue*

Heron was seen near the Alviso heronry 6 Jun (MFe) for our only record this summer. The hybrid *Snowy Egret X Little Blue* continues to draw attention in area of Charleston Slough (m.ob.). Eight *Cattle Egret* at the San Jose-Santa Clara Water Pollution Control Plant 30 May (GB, PW) were unusual. Despite breeding locally this species remains rare and elusive.

A pair of *Blue-winged Teal* along lower Coyote Creek 5 May (MJM), while single males were recorded at the Sunnyvale Water Pollution Control Plant (WPCP) 20 Jun (PJM) and at the Mountain View Forebay 24 Jun (MRo). *Lesser Scaup* again have nested in the south bay with a brood noted at Charleston Slough 9 Jul (PJM) and at least six broods at the Sunnyvale WPCP 14-29 Jul (MJM, PJM). *Common Merganser* are rare breeders in the county as well and are restricted to freshwater streams. Families including downy young were found this season on Coyote Creek at Cochrane 31 May (EC), Uvas Res. (2) on 11-12 Jun (DLSu), Uvas Creek below Watsonville Rd. 12 Jun (DLSu), and Coyote Creek in Henry Coe SP 1 Jul (JY, AL). These records are a result of the Breeding Bird Atlas.

Raptors

Another atlas record is our first con-

firmation of breeding of *Sharp-shinned Hawks* in the Diablo Range. A pair of these rare summering hawks were seen in Henry Coe SP 17 Jun (JY, AL). This bird is a very rare breeder in the Santa Cruz Mountains as well. Summer records for *Peregrine Falcon* are few so an adult in San Jose 5 Jul (C&SB) and an imm. on lower Coyote Creek 13 Jul (MJM) are a surprise. *Prairie Falcons* on Canada Road near Gilroy Hot Springs 29 May (EC) and

Three adult Long-tailed Jaegers flying over the Palo Alto Flood Control Basin was the find of the year.

southwest of Bell Station 17 Jul (DLSu) are probably resident.

Shorebirds and Gulls

A *Lesser Golden-Plover* in basic plumage at the Mountain View Forebay 4 Jul (MJM) is one of our earliest records. The first report of *Lesser Yellowlegs* was of an adult in alternate plumage at the Palo Alto Flood Control Basin (FCB) 3 Jul (PJM). They have built to fairly typical numbers since then. An adult *Long-billed Dowitcher* there the same day is one of the earliest we have on record. Normally the long-billeds arrive considerably later than the short-billeds, but this has not been the case in recent years.

Three adult *Long-tailed Jaegers* seen flying south over the Palo Alto FCB 30 May by Peter Metropulos must be considered the birds of the year. Perhaps they were related to the unusual late-season storm of 29 May. Regardless, they are the first record for the county. Do you suppose this breeder of the Arctic tundra knows something about global warming that we don't and is checking out new lands?

A pair of *California Gulls* raised a single chick near Charleston Slough 26 Jun-1 Jul (PJM) for a local range expan-

sion. Will this species eventually force Forster's Terns out of the south bay as a breeding species? *Elegant Terns* continue to increase in the south bay, both in frequency of sightings and the period of the year in which they are seen. A single bird was a Charleston Slough 4 May, three were at the Sunnyvale WPCP 8 Jul, and four again at Charleston Slough 15 Jul (all PJM). *Least Terns* have staged again at Charleston Slough with one to six birds seen 10-21 Jul (MRo, MFe, PJM). On 15 Jul the ad:imm ratio was 3:3 (PJM).

Roadrunners to Woodpeckers

A *Greater Roadrunner* along Canada Road 29 May (EC) was the only report of the season. Two *Long-eared Owls* heard on the Palo Alto BBC 9 Jun (MRo, JC) at Monte Bello OSP suggests that the birds heard in late winter have remained to breed. A *Costa's Hummingbird* was banded at the Coyote Creek Riparian Station (CCRS) 18 Jul (fide WGB) for our only record this year. Breeding Bird Atlas field work in San Antonio Valley found two nests with *Lewis' Woodpecker* young 8 Jun (WGB).

Flycatchers to Phainopepla

A *Willow Flycatcher* banded a CCRS 15 Jun (fide WGB) was our only spring migration record this year. A *Dusky Flycatcher* banded there 19 Jul (fide WGB) is only the fifth record for the county. Three *Purple Martin* on Loma Prieta 8 Jul (R&RC) are from one of the few spots locally where they are fairly regularly seen in the summer. The *Canyon Wrens* at Alum Rock Park continued to be seen through 1 Jul with an adult seen feeding young birds 4 Jun (MRo). Five *Am. Dipper* were seen along Smiths Creek 19 May (GHt, DSt) where they are known to breed. A single bird along Uvas Creek 12 Jun (DLSu) is in an area where their status is uncertain.

Cedar Waxwing rarely arrive before early September locally. Therefore, a bird banded at CCRS 3 Aug (fide BK) is doubly surprising because it was a young of the year. This species does not normally nest south of Del Norte and Humboldt Counties. Where did this bird come from?

A *Phainopepla* at Alum Rock Park 21 Jul (AME) was in a location where they bred last year.

Warblers

A singing *Tennessee Warbler* in eucalyptus at the Sunnyvale WPCP 20 Jun (PJM) is only the fourth county record for this eastern vagrant. A *Black-throated Gray Warbler* feeding a fledgling along the North Fork of Pacheco Creek 1 May (WGB) is away from the high elevation sites where we have found this species nesting in the Diablo Range. Breeding Bird Atlas field work has increased our knowledge of *Yellow-breasted Chat* breeding locally. Surveys along Uvas Creek have shown no chats where they bred in 1987 and 1988, but at least one pair seen on 11 Jun (DLSu) was nesting in a different area. Three pairs were confirmed breeding 22 Jun (WGB) in heavy riparian where Pacheco Creek enters San Felipe Lake (San Benito County). Two more pairs were confirmed 14-15 Jul (DLSu) higher in the Pacheco Creek drainage upstream from Hwy. 152. A singing male at Grant Lake 8-30 May (DE) may not have nested.

Grosbeaks to Goldfinches

Another eastern vagrant found locally was a male *Rose-breasted Grosbeak* found injured in Milpitas and taken to the Youth Science Institute 16 Jun (fide DJ). Always rare locally, a *Black-chinned Sparrow* was singing on the summit of Mt. Hamilton 26 May (DES, LB). Breeding was confirmed in a remote area of Henry Coe SP 17 Jun (JY, AL). *Grasshopper Sparrows* continue to be reported widely in the county in grasslands with many instances of breeding. In appropriate habitat they are fairly common this year. Breeding sites include: southeast of Calero Res., Hayes Valley, above Uvas Res., west of Pacheco Lake, and west of Pacheco Pass (all DLSu). Singing birds have been found as well in upper Joseph Grant CP (GHt, DSt), southwest of Bell Station (DLSu), Monte Bello OSP (MFe), and along Russian Ridge OSP (m.ob.). *Lawrence's Goldfinches* continue to be found in a number of Diablo Range sites. Two at Arastradero Preserve 12 May (GHt) and a male above Uvas Res. 3 Jul

(DLSu) were the only reports from the Santa Cruz Mountain foothills.

Observers: Lotus Baker (LB), Ginny Becchine (GB), Carol & Steve Birch (C&SB), Bill Bousman (WGB), Jim Corliss (JC), Rob & Rita Cowell (R&RC), Emelie Curtis (EC), David Drake (DD), Jean DuBois (JDuB), Al Eisner (AME), Dick Elliott (DE), Mike Feighner (MFe), Grant Hoyt (GHt), Dorothy Johnson (DJ), Bruce Katano (BK), Amy Lauterbach (AL), Mike Mammoser (MJM), Peter Metropulos (PJM), LedaBeth Pickthorn (LBP), Mike Rogers (MRo), Don Schmoltd (DES), Dick Stovel (DSt), David Suddjian (DLSu), Peg Woodin (PW), James Yurchenco (JY).

For rarities in the county, please drop me a note, or phone: Bill Bousman, 321 Arlington Way, Menlo Park, CA 94025 (415) 322-5282.

BirdWatch

Cornell's Lab of Ornithology has teamed up with Ithaca-based Finger Lake Productions to produce *BirdWatch*, a 90-second radio program featuring stories about birds set against songs, calls, and other avian noises provided by the Lab's Library of Natural Sounds. Some of the program's stars have included the Satin Bowerbird, who weaves an elaborate nest and decorates it exclusively with blue items; the Greater Honeyguide, an African bird that leads humans to beehives and has the unique ability to digest wax; the "extinct" Ivory-billed Woodpecker, recently found living in Cuba; and the Brown Sicklebill, a bird whose machine-gunlike sound held a platoon of Japanese soldiers hostage for several days during World War II.

State Farm Insurance is sponsoring the show. Locally, the program can be heard weekdays on KSUR FM 99.5 of Monterey at approximately 9 a.m. after their first musical interlude, and between 4:45 and 5 p.m.

Please call the SCVAS office for more information.

Birding Software

Aves, for PC's —Eco-System Software, 638 El Dorado Ave., Oakland, CA 94611 800-345-9111 ext. 48.

Birdbase and *WORLD Birdbase*, for PC's —Santa Barbara Software, Dept. D, 1400 Dover Road, S.B. CA 93103, (805) 963-4886.

Bird Brain, for Machintosh —Ideaform, Inc., P.O. Box 1540, Fairfield, IA 52556.

Birdlist, for PC's and Commodore 64 —Birdlist, 111 Main St., Box 68-C, Burbank, WA 99323, (509) 545-5477.

KeSTrel, for Atari ST —Whollifsystems, Box 162, Dept. WB, Rehoboth, NM 87322, (505) 863-4751.

Plover, for PC's —Sandpiper Software, 153 Michelle Court, Novato, CA 94947.

Sialis-Birdwatcher's Record-Keeper, for PC's —Alfred Milch, 461 Palmer Avenue, Teaneck, NJ 07666.

ABA Convention

This year's ABA Convention was held at Fort Collins, Col. at the Marriott Hotel. Field trips included visits to Rocky Mountain National Park, Pawnee Grasslands, Arapahoe National Forest, and the Fort Collins area. A change this year was that members of three years standing were able to vote in the election of directors and on several other issues. All members will vote in future.

About 150 species were seen by the group on the various trips, including such goodies as White-tailed Ptarmigan and Rosy Finch. The choicest of all was an accommodating Boreal Owl, seen by five busloads of people with no disturbance to the birds and minimal damage to the flora underfoot—a life-time event for almost everyone.

Only about 10 to 12 persons were in attendance from the SCVAS area, not a very good showing for the number of birders we have. The next convention will be held in Mobile, Ala. in the spring of '92. I urge all birders to try to attend. You won't regret it!

B.P. Hand

Environmental Action News

SCCO Open Space Authority on November Ballot

Thousands of acres of open space will be saved from development if voters in Santa Clara County approve a ballot measure this November. The proposition authorizes a new Open Space Authority to purchase land in those areas in Santa Clara County that are outside of the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District. The measure gives voters a critical opportunity to save the hills, ridges and wetlands that frame our communities, providing watershed, parkland, and unmatched views and vistas. The measure enjoys widespread support.

Among the individuals and organizations endorsing the proposition are Supervisors Dianne McKenna and Susanne Wilson, the Sierra Club, Loma Prieta Chapter, the Santa Clara County League of Women Voters, SCVAS and the Santa Clara County Manufacturers Group. Volunteers are needed to begin a series of informal gatherings at homes and community centers. These meetings will educate people about the Open Space Authority and recruit more volunteers. If you

would like to join in this important ballot campaign, contact Friends of Open Space at (408) 944-0828

Mono Lake Field Trip

Continued from Page 1

up on the Mono Craters. Early Sunday we had Rosy Finches hopping around at our feet near Ellery Lake, a Blue Grouse hen and five offspring at Olmsted Point, and the magnificent "gray ghost" of the mountains, a Great Gray Owl at Chevron Meadow in the evening twilight.

Beautiful weather, great birds and spirited company more than made up for the car disaster. The sight of water pouring down Rush Creek into Mono Lake and *not* the Los Angeles Aqueduct was inspirational; and the variety of flora and fauna observed in the different habitats visited was most enjoyable. A heartfelt "Thanks" from the leaders to the rest of the group for taking care of us and all our junk, driving us around and helping with assorted car-related hassles. SCVAS birders take care of their own!

— Grant Hoyt

Yes, I am pleased to enclose a contribution towards the legal battle to save Mono Lake for the amount of:

- | | | |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$500 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$25 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$15 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$100 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$50 | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |

Contributions of more than \$50 or more will receive a copy of the Mono Lake Guidebook.

Forget the Mono Lake Guidebook, give my whole contribution to the Mono Lake Fund.

Please make checks payable to N.A.S. Mono Lake Legal Fund

Contributions are tax deductible

Name _____
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Help Save California Wildlife!!

The California Department of Fish & Games' California Wildlands Program has issued a 1990 Native Species Stamp to raise money for non-game species. All proceeds will support interpretive programs and habitat restoration at ten sites in California. Our two nearest sites are Elkhorn Slough Reserve in Monterey County and Los Banos Wildlife Area in Merced County.

This year's stamp featuring the White Pelican was painted by Wayne Tiebaud, a Sacramento artist. The stamp can be affixed to a Sport Fishing License, Sport Hunting License or Wildlife Area Pass, or be kept as a collectible. To order, please send a check or money order payable to SCVAS for \$8.25 to SCVAS, 415 Cambridge Ave., Suite 21, Palo Alto, CA 94306 and enclose a SASE.

Public Hearing on San Francisco Bay

An historic campaign is underway to decide the future health of San Francisco Bay. As part of the CLEAN South Bay coalition, SCVAS is joining with more than 40 environmental and wildlife protection groups to: (1) stop hundreds of industries from poisoning the bay and the wildlife refuge by enforcing environmentally safe limits on toxic discharges; and (2) save shorebirds, fisheries, endangered species and make it safe to eat fish again by restoring the South Bay salt marshes ravaged by these discharges.

The State Water Resources Council Board will hold a public hearing on September 5 or 6 in Sacramento to receive your comments on this important issue. If you wish to comment in writing or desire more information, please contact Trish Mulvey (415) 326-0252 or the SCVAS office.

Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society's

ANNUAL FALL BIRD SEED SALE



THIS IS A PREPAID SALE ORDERS DUE OCTOBER 8!

Your order, including a check payable to SCVAS, must be received by **MONDAY, OCTOBER 8**. All orders must be picked up from one of the sites listed above. You must indicate which location you will use when you order seed. Confirmations of orders will be sent upon receipt of order and check.

Unclaimed seed must be resold at the close of each sale unless alternate arrangements have been made in advance. No exceptions.

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.

Note: Order form is on back page.

Seeds:

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

Pick-up locations*

- **Peninsula Conservation Center ***
2448 Watson Court
Palo Alto
- **Pets Friend Animal Clinic**
101 W. Hendy
Sunnyvale
- **REI**
20640 Homestead Road
Cupertino
- **Youth Science Institute**
Vasona Park
Los Gatos
- **Youth Science Institute**
Alum Rock Park
San Jose

* There will be three different types of bird feeders and bird site and field guides plus other things available at each site for sale the day of each pick up. There will also be an SCVAS information table.

Mono Lake Battle

Continued from Page 1

line for Mono's future preservation. For this reason, our attorneys from Morrison and Foester are putting everything into this court struggle. Nor are they alone. For the first time in the ten-year history of the Audubon litigation, our attorneys have been joined by the U.S. Forest Service, the California State Lands Commission and the Great Basin Air Pollution Control District in seeking protection for Mono Lake.

While most court watchers predict a victory for Mono Lake this fall, a favorable court decision is unlikely to signal the end to the struggle. The Mono Lake controversy will move next to the State Water Resources Control Board where a decision must be made by September 1994 on the public trust balance between Mono Lake and L.A. The good news is that El Dorado court will retain oversight of the

case and will review the Board's final decision.

In the interim, recent political changes in Los Angeles bring hope for the negotiation of a solution that meets the real needs of Mono Lake and the city. The appointment of three environmentalists to the 5-member DWP Commission this year offers potential for developing innovative projects, such as water marketing and reclamation, which can replace Mono water diversions. \$60 million in state funding is available for such projects through legislation (AB 444) approved unanimously last year.

The driving force behind any effort to reach a settlement for Mono Lake is the Audubon/Mono Lake Committee litigation. In this David and Goliath battle, the Audubon lawsuits are our only hope of securing permanent protection for Mono Lake.

Martha Davis is the Executive Director of the Mono Lake Committee.

Scope and Binocular Show

The San Francisco Bay Bird Observatory and the Golden Gate Raptor Observatory is hosting the **Second Annual Scope and Binocular Show** on Sunday, October 14, 1990 at Fort Mason in San Francisco. Open from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm., the show will feature all the major manufacturers and have ongoing lectures and workshops on gull, shorebird, and hawk identification and the care, feeding and selection of optical equipment.

Entrance fee \$3
Drawing with door prizes
For more details call SFBBO at
(408) 946-6548 or
GGRO at (415) 331-0730.

Santa Clara Valley
Audubon Society
415 Cambridge Ave., #21
Palo Alto, CA 94306

480J
Mr. & Mrs. R Jay Andree
12579 Radoyka Dr
Saratoga, CA 95070
ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

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

BIRD SEED SALE ORDER FORM - FALL 1990

PICK -UP LOCATIONS: PLEASE CHECK ONE

- YSI, Los Gatos _____ Thurs., Oct. 18, 4-6 pm
 YSI, Alum Rock Park _____ Thurs., Oct. 18, 4-6 pm
 REI, Cupertino _____ Tues., Oct. 16, 4:30-6:30 pm
 PCC, Palo Alto _____ Sat., Oct. 20, 9-11 a.m.
 Pets Friend, Snyvl. _____ Tues., Oct. 16, 5-7 p.m.

		# bags	Cost
PREMIUM SEED _____	20 lb @ \$ 9/bag	_____	_____
	50 lb @ \$17.50/bag	_____	_____
WESTERN WILD _____	20 lb @ \$ 7/bag	_____	_____
	50 lb @ \$16.50/bag	_____	_____
BLACK OIL SUNFLOWER _____	20 lb @ \$13/bag	_____	_____
	50 lb @ \$30/bag	_____	_____
THISTLE _____	5 lb @ \$11/bag	_____	_____
	20 lb @ \$35/bag	_____	_____
	Subtotal	_____	_____
	Add 7.25% Tax	_____	_____
	Total	_____	_____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

ZIP _____

Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society
415 Cambridge Avenue, Suite 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 NAS. To give extra support to our hardworking chapter, or if you would like an *Avocet* subscription alone, consider SCVAS Subscriber, Supporter, Donor or Patron categories. All receive *The Avocet*, with checks payable to SCVAS.

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

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ St: _____ Zip: _____

Gift from: _____

- _____ SCVAS Subscriber-\$8
- _____ SCVAS Supporter-\$20
- _____ SCVAS Donor-\$35
- _____ SCVAS Patron-\$50 or more
- _____ Introductory - \$20
- _____ Individual - \$35
- _____ Family - \$38
- _____ Audubon Activist - \$9