



The Avocet

The Newsletter of the Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society

February 1991

SCVAS Offers Tips to Help Save Anna's Hummingbird

Cold weather this winter has seriously affected the food supply of the Anna's Hummingbird, our only locally wintering hummingbird. The Anna's does not migrate but rather shifts to places with more food, and from higher to lower elevations, as necessary. This year many of these native plant food sources have frozen or died causing many hummingbirds to starve to death. Many insects have also perished because of lack of water and the cold weather. Thus, it has become critical for us to supplement their diets with feeders. We can help these hummingbirds by leaving up our feeders all year.

A hummingbird's instinct to migrate is *not* affected by whether feeders are out or not, contrary to popular belief. Other species of hummingbird will migrate, but the Anna's depends on local plants, insects and feeders year-round. The hummingbirds come to count on feeders in certain locations, so it is important to keep the feeders full, and keep a consistent source of food.

The Hummingbird's Diet

One of the earliest breeding birds in all of North America, the Anna's returns to its breeding grounds by early December. In some cases it even lay eggs before the first of the year. The Allen's and Rufous Hummingbirds begin their northward migration as early as mid-January. Therefore, a large

amount of energy is necessary for both migratory and nesting activities.

The hummingbird diet consists of sugars and proteins. The sugars come from local flowering plants, the proteins from insects. An average hummingbird will consume half its weight in sugar each day!

The correct nectar formula for feeders is 1 part sugar to 4 parts water. Boil the water and then add the sugar. Store any extra mix in the refrigerator. DO NOT add any food colorings; preservatives aren't good for hummers. Hummer feeders are built with plenty of orange and red coloring. DO NOT increase the percentage of sugar because liver damage and dehydration will result. DO NOT feed honey or any protein additives to hummingbirds.

When buying a feeder, make sure all parts can be opened for cleaning. Bacteria will grow on a dirty feeder. Bees and ants will also be attracted to a messy feeder. There is no need to go out and buy the biggest feeder in the store. Buy one that will hold one week of food. Have a back-up feeder for each feeder out in case one breaks or freezes. A good feeder to buy is one of the Perky Pet brand. SCVAS will offer a Perky Pet in the March '91 Birdseed Sale (see list of feeders on page 7).

Hang your feeder in the shade where the nectar supply will last for about one week. In summer, you'll need to change the mixture twice per



week. Feeders in the foothills areas of the Santa Clara Valley are more heavily visited, thus re-

quiring more frequent replenishment.

The Anna's has a special need for food in the late afternoon. You can often see it "hawking" for insects such as fruit flies, gnats, aphids and spiders. To conserve energy at night, hummingbirds go into a state of torpor with heartbeat slowing and breathing becoming irregular. Hummingbirds don't have to go into torpor every night but they must resort to this method of energy conservation when their energy reserves become low. Hummingbirds may die if they haven't stored enough food before going into torpor. They immediately begin feeding with the morning light.

If you can't find feeders in your local store, visit the Peninsula Conservation Store in Palo Alto where there is a nice selection of hummingbird and other bird feeders.

The SCVAS office has several good books with information about hummingbirds, (415) 329-1811.

—Cecily Harris

Chapter News

1990 San Jose CBC a Big Success

Brrrrr! It wasn't your imagination; it really was cold! According to the National Weather Service, 19F set an all-time low for San Jose. But despite the chill almost 100 counters took to the field to participate in this year's CBC. Still pending at press time, the species total should be around 167. Numbers of individuals seemed down due to the cold, but there were some good finds. Best for the count was undoubtedly a *Northern Waterthrush* seen in Section H along Guadalupe Creek, a first for the count. Also a first was a *Vesper Sparrow* seen in Section J. A *Palm Warbler* was seen in Section H.

Many thanks to my section leaders—the real stalwarts on the count:

David Suddjian, Section J; Dave Johnston, Section D; Rich Healy, Section E; Anne Wilson, Section G; Alan & Karen Thomas, Section F; Grant & Karen Hoyt, Section H; Jean Dubois, Section A; Edwin Laak, Section B; and Mike Mammoser, Section C.

Thanks also to Mark and Judy McEuen for the delicious dinner; to Cecily Harris, SCVAS's director for helping me through the pre-count drudgery, and to everyone who counted and helped make my first time as Count Compiler a great success. Thanks a bunch people! See you next year.

—Paul L. Noble

Thanks to December and January Volunteers

To Elaine Gould for coordinating Audubon Adventure classrooms;

to Ann Marie for producing another terrific Bird Seed flyer;

to Mark & Judy McEuen for organizing the CBC Dinner;

to Paul Noble for organizing the 1990 CBC;

to Jim Johnson for his help with our membership lists; and

to Benita Terry for all her help at General Meetings.

New SCVAS Office Equipment for 1991

We are pleased to report that Hewlett Packard's Bay Area Contributions Committee has donated a new Deskwriter Printer to the SCVAS office!

A VCR has been donated to the Education Committee for its outreach activities by Andrea Elliott.

To order *Birding at the Bottom of the Bay*, see Page 7.

1991 National Audubon Convention

"Audubon in the Americas" is the theme of the 1991 Audubon National Convention in Estes Park, Colorado, July 21-27, 1991. The focus will be on the relationship between people and wetlands, forests and wildlife in the Western Hemisphere. There will be diverse programs for chapters, councils and member interaction, cross-cultural opportunities for all Auduboners, complete youth programs for ages 7-14, two days for field trips, and skills and leadership training sessions and much more. Registration brochures are now available.

Announcing New Editor

Michele Girard will be the new editor of the *Avocet* with the March issue. An SCVAS member, Michele is the Publications Coordinator/Director for Fenwick & West in Palo Alto and also produces their in-house newsletter. She enjoys her work and is happy to extend her many skills to the chapter's work. Welcome Michele!

Thanks to Cecily, Grant and everyone with SCVAS who made my six months as editor so enjoyable!

—Marilyn Kjellen-Rogers

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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!

Whales & Tales

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Hummingbirds Raptors
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and Kid's Stuff

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February 1991 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. Trips highlighting chapters from our new site guide, "Birding at the Bottom of the Bay," are identified as BABOB trips. Field Trip Coordinator for February: Marc Fenner (415) 856-2627.

**Denotes Field Trip

**Saturday, February 2

Mt. Madonna Owling Trip. Leader: John Mariani (408) 997-6171. Trip limited to 10 people. Call leader for details and directions. Dress for cold. Rain cancels. BABOB Trip.

**Sat., Feb. 2, 9:00 AM. Full day.

Fall River Mills. (Note meeting location changed from January Avocet.) Leader: Bob and Carol Yutzy (916) 246-2515. For last minute information call Marc Fenner (415) 856-2627. Directions: Meet at Ruby's Cafe, between Fall River and MacArthur. Take the I-5 Hilltop exit north. Redding is 6 hrs. no. of Bay Area. Suggest participants stay in Redding of Fall River Mills/MacArthur Burney. Rain or snow cancels. Highlights: Bald and Golden Eagles, Longspurs, Northern Shrike, Harris' Sparrow, Bohemian Waxwing, Hooded Merganser and raptors.

Wednesday, Feb. 6, 7:30-9:30 PM.

Bay Area Bird Photographers at Palo Alto's Lucy Evans Baylands Interpretive Center on East Embarcadero Rd. Co-sponsored by the Recreation/Open Spaces and Sciences Division. Topic: Costa Rica slides by Tim Davis and Renee Lynn.

**Sat., Feb. 9, 9:00 AM. Half Day.

Gull Identification Trip at Palo Alto Duck Pond. Leader: Bill Bousman. (415) 322-5282. Directions: Take Embarcadero east off Hwy. 101, follow signs to Duck Pond. BABOB Trip.

****Sun., Feb. 10, 9:00 AM. Half Day.**
Beginners Trip to Charleston Slough. Leader: Nick Yatsko (408) 247-5499. Directions: Meet at the end of San Antonio Rd. in Mtn. View at Terminal Rd. Highlights: Shorebirds and waterfowl.

Tuesday, February 12, 9:30 AM.

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

**Wednesday, Feb. 13, 9:00 AM.

South County Trip to Alviso Environmental Education Center. Leader: Lee Lovelady (408) 723-4864. Walk with this Wildlife Refuge's volunteer naturalist on the trails along the sloughs. Directions: From Hwy. 237 in Mtn. View, take Taylor St. left. Turn right at Grand Blvd., straight to Ed. Ctr.

**Sat., Feb. 16, 9:00 AM. Half Day.

Princeton Harbor. Leader: Dan Keller (415) 365-2032. Directions: Meet at West Point and Stanford Avenues in Princeton. Highlights: Rock Sandpiper, winter sparrows, Oldsquaw, Harlequin Duck.

Wednesday, February 20, 7:30 PM.

February General Meeting, co-sponsored by the Palo Alto Open Spaces and Sciences Division, at the Palo Alto Cultural Center, Embarcadero at Newell Rds. Topic: "Ancient Forests." (See box below)

**Sat., Feb. 23, 9:00 AM. Half Day.

Elkhorn Slough Boat Trip. Leader: Gail Cheeseman. (408) 867-1371. Directions: Meet at Marine Lab in Moss Landing for 3-hour trip. Limited to 14 persons. Cost: \$15 to cover costs of boatpersons (Bernadette Ramer and grad students) and renting Boston Whalers from the Marine Lab.

**Sun., Feb. 24, 8:30 AM. Full Day.

Panoche Valley. Leader: Clay Kempf (408) 761-2875. Directions: Meet at the rest area on Hwy. 5, 8 mi. south of Los Baños. Please carpool for this trip. Call Marc Fenner to arrange at (415) 856-2627. Highlights: Raptors such as Ferruginous and Rough-legged Hawks,

Mountain Plover, falcons, sparrows and Chukars. Bring lunch and liquids. BABOB Trip.

**Wed., Feb. 27, 8:45 AM, Half Day.

North County Field Trip to Jasper Ridge Biological Preserve. Leaders: Jasper Ridge Docents. Directions: Meet at MAIN gate. Take Sand Hill Rd. exit west off I-280. Go 2 miles to gate on left. (just before Portola Rd. on right). \$5 entrance fee. Reservations only. The Gate will be open from 8:35-8:50 AM only. Call Alberta Jasberg (415) 493-9546. BABOB Trip.

Wednesday, March 6, 7:30-9:30 PM.

Bay Area Bird Photographers, co-sponsored by the Recreation/Open Spaces and Sciences Division, at Palo Alto's Lucy Evans Baylands Interpretive Center on East Embarcadero Rd. Topic: Madagascar slides of Doug Cheeseman and Luis Tam's travels last summer.

Non-Audubon Events

12th Annual Photography Contest at Coyote Point

Categories for adults and special categories for youth. Deadlines: mail-in entries February 1-15. Walk-in, February 22 & 23. For more information call (415) 342-7755.

Kids' Bird Feeder Workshop at the Palo Alto Junior Museum

Saturday, February 9, 12-2 PM, with Zoo Curator Rob Steele, \$10. For more information, call (415) 329-2111.

Birding The World Workshop Series

With Naturalist Ted Chandik at the Palo Alto Junior Museum. Four Tuesday evenings 7:30-9:30 PM for \$30. February 19 - Mexico and Central America, March 19 - East Africa, April 16 - Australia and New Zealand, and May 14 - India and Malaysia. For more information call (415) 329-2111.

Northern Scotland and Orkney Islands Tour

Led by SCVAS members, Tony & Mildred Look. Visits to the RSPB's (Royal Society for the Protection of Birds) sanctuaries at Handa Island, located off the Orkney chain to observe the thousands of seabirds on the ocean cliffs and the marsh and upland birds, accompanied by a Scottish naturalist. May 17-June 5, 1991. For a full description and costs, contact Look Tours, P.O. Box 1141, Los Altos, CA 94023 or call (415) 948-6790.

Wednesday, February 20, 7:30 PM General Membership Meeting

Ancient forests will be the topic of the February general meeting. Presenter Dan Taylor, Audubon's Western Regional Representative, will cover both the forests of the western United States and the crisis and controversy surrounding them. After the defeat of the "Forests Forever" initiative in November, the support from Audubon to save a small percentage of ancient forest remaining is more important than ever. The ancient forests are one of Audubon's Priority Campaigns for 1991. Dan will tell us what Audubon is doing to protect the forests and its animals. We will also learn about a new Audubon Ancient Forest Sanctuary in Oregon recently purchased by Audubon. The slide presentation is followed by an opportunity for discussion. Co-sponsored by the Palo Alto Open Spaces and Sciences Division, at the Palo Alto Cultural Center, Embarcadero at Newell Rds.

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Field Notes

By Bill Bousman

Loons to Herons

Red-throated Loons have remained at Shoreline Lake at least through 17 Dec when five were found on the Palo Alto CBC (DK, ADeM, m.ob.). A *Common Loon* continues to be found in central county percolation ponds with one in the largest Campbell pond 15 Dec and probably the same bird in one of the Almaden ponds 16 Dec (AV). A *Red-necked Grebe* was at the Overfelt Gardens in San Jose 18 Dec (DJ) for one of our few records. This rare grebe is seldom found in the south bay. Single adult *Brown Pelicans* were at the Palo Alto Baylands 2 Dec (MMR) and the Sunnyvale Baylands Park 24 Dec (PJM). The hybrid *Snowy Egret X Little Blue Heron* continues to be found at Charleston Slough with observations 1 and 26 Dec (EG, WGB).

Waterfowl

Five *Tundra Swan* over lower Coyote Creek 6 Dec (MRi) was a good find as was the single bird in Alviso on the San Jose CBC 23 Dec (MRi et al.). Two *Ross' Geese* at Hidden Lake off Milpitas Boulevard 16 Dec (EL) did not remain. Occasionally this species, as with the other geese, will associate with domestic geese and no longer follow their normal migration pattern. Usually the reasons are obscure, but the *Ross' Goose* at Vasona this year was a released cripple that chose to remain. A male *Green-winged Teal* of the Eurasian race was on Guadalupe Slough on 24 Dec (PJM). The male *Blue-winged Teal* in the Palo Alto Flood Control Basin (FCB) was seen again 6 and 17 Dec (JY, AL, MMR). On 23 Dec four birds were found on Calabazas Creek (DS, LS). A pair was found at the Palo Alto Baylands 31 Dec (DS).

One to two *Eurasian Wigeon* have

been seen at Charleston Slough 1-17 Dec (EG, PLN, LP, MMR), one in the Palo Alto Flood Control Basin (FCB) 8 and 31 Dec (PLN, WGB), one on Shoreline Lake 6 Dec (JY, AL), and one at the Sunnyvale Water Pollution Control Plant (WPCP) 24 Dec (PJM). Shoreline Lake has held from two to 12 *Redhead* 6 Dec-2 Jan (m.ob). A female was on the pond at the Arastradero Preserve 17 Dec (AME), which is less expected, two were on Charleston Slough 24 Dec (RSc), and

First winter record of a Northern Water-thrush highlighted the CBC season

seven were at the Sunnyvale WPCP the same date (PJM). Numbers appear normal for this winter after last winter's scarcity. *Barrow's Goldeneyes* have remained on Shoreline Lake throughout the month (m.ob). Up to two males and three females have been seen, but there is considerable variation from day-to-day, which suggests that birds are moving into and out of the lake. But where do they go?

Good numbers of *Hooded Merganser* are being found in the county for the third winter. Four were at Stevens Creek Res. 9 Dec with a single there 2 Jan (both MFe). A pair were on the Campbell percolation ponds 16 Dec (AV) and eight birds were on the Los Gatos Creek ponds 23-24 Dec (MG). Felt Lake hosted six on 17 Dec (AME) and eight on 27 Dec (GHt, DS). A pair were at Overfelt Gardens 18 Dec (DJ) and also Ed Levin CP 23 Dec (DLSu). Less expected was a female along the bay at Sunnyvale Baylands Park 24 Dec (PJM).

Raptors

An *Osprey* at Searsville Lake 18 Dec (BC fide JB-H) is unusual for the winter and was not found the day before on the Palo Alto CBC. A *Ferruginous Hawk* was seen at Felt Lake 17 Dec (AME) and another was at the San Jose Airport 23 Dec (SM). *Merlin* have continued their regional explosion. In the first half of the 1980s, one to seven records were typical for a winter. This year, in the third week of December alone, there were 17 records, all well-documented. This brings the winter total to 26 records which is typical for the last two winters as well. The vast majority of these records are from urban areas and this falcon appears to be feeding largely on passerines attracted to local food resources. This species is now more abundant than Sharp-shinned or Cooper's Hawks, which do not show any significant change on the local Christmas counts. We can only wonder at what the cause of this increase might be and whether it is typical over most of the species range.

A similar explosion has been seen for *Peregrine Falcon*, where we know there has been some assistance from captive breeding programs. This month birds were found from Bayfront Park, Ravenswood Point, the Palo Alto Baylands, around the bay to the Alameda Co. line with a total of at least seven records (m.ob.) But how do you count a bird that can cross the county in a few minutes? A *Prairie Falcon* along Stevens Creek north of Crittenden Lane 17 Dec (MMR) and 31 Dec (WGB) is less expected.

Rails to Owls

At least two *Black Rails* were at the Palo Alto Baylands on the high tides of 3-4 Dec (MMR, AW) and at least one on the high tides of 31 Dec-2 Jan (MJM, MFe). *Lesser Yellowlegs* were found locally in December with four in Ravenswood Point salt ponds

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

17 Dec (GHt, EG, et al.), one in the Mountain View Forebay 19 Dec (AME), and on 23 Dec on the San Jose CBC one was found on Arroyo Hondo (MJM, MFe), two were north of the Fremont airfield (RC, DC), and two were on Calabazas Creek near Hwy 101 (EG). A *Ruddy Turnstone* was on the San Francisquito Creek delta 17 Dec (MMR) and is unusual for the bay south of Dumbarton. A *Surfbird* on Dumbarton Point the same day (MJM) was well away from the coast and was one of the few that has been recorded on the Palo Alto CBC. An imm. *Glaucous Gull* was at the Sunnyvale WPCP 24 Dec (PJM), but was missed on the Christmas counts. A *Long-eared Owl* heard at Los Trancos OSP 17 Dec (PLN) is always a good find. Scattered reports of *Short-eared Owls* include one on Whisman Slough 16 Nov (RSc), another on Ravenswood Point 5 Dec (RSc), one in the Palo Alto FCB two days later (MMR), and one at the Palo Alto Baylands 30 Dec (MJM).

Swallows to Phainopepla

A *Tree Swallow* over the Isabel Res. 19 Dec (GHt, MJM) on the Mt. Hamilton CBC was exceptional, especially at that elevation in the Diablo Range. Five *Pygmy Nuthatches* at the Palo Alto Municipal Golf Course 17 Dec (PJM) are far from their breeding areas. A *Rock Wren* on lands near Felt Lake 17 Dec (AME) is unusual in this area. A *Canyon Wren* in Alum Rock Park 23 Dec (DJn et al.) was in an area where they nested this year. Also at Alum Rock that day was a *House Wren*, much less expected here in the winter (DJn et al.). Another bird was found in Ed Levin CP on the 23rd as well (DLSu). *Phainopepla* have again been found on the eastern slopes of the Santa Cruz Mountains with a female

in Palo Alto 6 Dec (BB) and one at Arastradero Preserve 30 Dec (KHt).

Warblers to Goldfinches

Two *Black-throated Gray Warblers* were found on the San Jose CBC 23 Dec; one in Santa Clara (MM) and one along Coyote Creek below Montague (G&KHt, EG). Always rare, two *Palm Warblers* turned up on our local Christmas counts with one at the Palo Alto Water Quality Control Plant 17 Dec (PJM) and a second one on Calabazas Creek west of Tasman on 23 Dec (EG). The most unusual Christmas count bird was a *Northern Waterthrush* seen at dusk on the Guadalupe River 23 Dec (DK) and refound the next morning (PLN). This is our first winter record for this vagrant species. Three *Western Tanagers* were found along San Francisquito Creek 14 Dec, but only one could be refound on 17 Dec (both PMB). A *Chipping Sparrow* at the Isabel Ranch 19 Dec (MJM, GHt) was a first for the Mt. Hamilton CBC.

A *Vesper Sparrow* on Sierra Road 23 Dec (DLSu) is very rare for the county, although regular in the winter further east. One to two *Sharp-tailed Sparrows* were at the Palo Alto Baylands on the high tides of 2-4 Dec and on 31 Dec as well (m.ob.). *Swamp Sparrows* are being found in good numbers again this winter. One or two birds have been found at the Palo Alto Baylands with observations 2 and 17 Dec (MMR) and 31 Dec (ALE). One was also found near Ravenswood Slough 17 Dec (GHt). On 24 Dec a bird was again found at the Sunnyvale WPCP (PJM). We have been finding more *White-throated Sparrows* in recent winters, just as with the *Swamp Sparrow*. Birds noted last month at feeders in San Jose (DE fide MFe) and Menlo Park (WGB) have remained through the end of the year and an imm. bird has joined the adult at the Menlo Park feeder. Away from feed-

ers, one was banded at Coyote Creek Riparian Station 12 Dec. An adult was found near Stevens Creek above Crittenden Lane in a light industrial area 17 Dec (DK, ADeM). One bird was found at Overfelt Gardens 21 Dec (MMR). On 23 Dec individuals were found along Coyote Creek at Agnews (G&KHt) and in Ed Levin CP (DLSu). Finally, one was found at Arastradero and Alpine on 30 Dec (KHt).

A female *Northern Oriole* was on Geng Road in Palo Alto 17 Dec (PJM); the second winter one has been found there. A pair of *Red Crossbills*, which flew into a patio door in Los Gatos and were killed 9 Dec, were only the third record this winter (BC). Five *Lawrence's Goldfinches* were found at Monte Bello OSP 17 Dec in the same spot as last year (CB, BL). A flock of 10 or so *Evening Grosbeaks* were found in Los Altos 16 Dec (LW, B&RC) and 12 were seen in flight the next day in this area (PLN).

Observers: Jane Becker-Haven (JB-H), Clark Blake (CB), Bill Bousman (WGB), Phyllis Browning (PMB), Bob Buell (BB), Bill Clark (BC), Betsy Cochran (BC), Derek Currall (DC), Rigdon Currie (RC), Al DeMartini (ADeM), Art Edwards (ALE), Al Eisner (AME), Dick Elliott (DE), Mike Feighner (MFe), Margo Graube (MG), Ed Gustafson (EG), Grant Hoyt (GHt), Karen Hoyt (KHt), David Johnston (DJn), Dorothy Johnson (DJ), Dan Keller (DK), Ed Laak (EL), Amy Lauterbach (AL), Briana Lindh (BL), Mike Mammoser (MJM), Peter Metropulos (PJM), Mark Miller (MM), Steve Miller (SM), Paul Noble (PLN), LedaBeth Pickthorn (LP), Mike Rigney (MRi), Mike Rogers (MMR), Rich Schermerhorn (RSc), Dick Stovel (DS), Lennie Stovel (LS), David Suddjian (DLSu), Ann Verdi (AV), Alan Walther (AW), Len Wittlinger (LW), Rob and Rita Colwell (R&RC), and James Yurchenco (JY).

Environmental Action News

Open Space Protection Workshops in March

The Santa Clara County Greenbelt Coalition is hosting a special educational workshop entitled "How to Protect Open Space in Santa Clara County: Critical Issues and Opportunities for 1991/92." Saturday, March 2, 9:30-3 PM at Empire Branch Library in north San Jose and on March 9 at the Santa Teresa Branch Library of south San Jose.

These free workshops have been designed for people who would like to learn about the most important issues affecting open space protection in Santa Clara County and how to be effective as individuals or as a group in influencing decisions that will protect open space.

The morning session will cover the critical land use issues facing Santa Clara County in the next few years. The workshop will cover open space protection through purchase and zoning, the future of the Santa Clara County Open Space Authority, the county and city of San Jose

General Plan Revisions, South Valley Floor Greenbelt proposals between Gilroy, Morgan Hill and San Jose, and other important issues and opportunities.

The afternoon session is geared toward learning the tools of the trade—how to become a truly effective citizen voice for open space. Areas cover: how to write effective letters, how to use lobbying techniques that work, how to get favorable publicity through mailings and the media, and how to organize a group. A special mock lobbying session with a legislative aide will be featured.

The Santa Clara County Greenbelt Coalition is a community-based, volunteer organization dedicated to the secure protection of Santa Clara County's Greenbelt. Composed of 20 local organizations (including SCVAS).

To register: Call Greenbelt Alliance at (408) 983-0539 by February 25.

Non-Audubon Events

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The 21st Annual Institute of Desert Ecology

Sponsored by Tucson Audubon on April 18-21, 1991 at Catalina State Park north of Tucson. The institute is an exciting four days of field studies in Sonoran Desert ecology, under the enthusiastic tutelage of 6 of Arizona's foremost natural history experts. Sessions focus on relationships between plants, wildlife, and the desert environment. Participants camp in the shaded mesquite bosque adjacent to undisturbed desert washes, canyons, hillsides and rich riparian areas. Cost: \$245. For more information call Nora Mays at (602) 682-8716 Tucson Audubon, 300 E. University Blvd., Ste. 120, Tucson, AZ 85705.

Costa Rican Wildlife Tour

For 10 people, March 30-April 14—needs people. Audubon members may go at \$1905 (a savings of \$110 off the land costs). Proceeds of \$200 per person have

been designated to return to Costa Rica to "Friends of Lomas Barbudal," which funds the national park, "Lomas Barbudal Biological Preserve." Costa Rica Expeditions is being paid \$1705 to handle all the arrangements with Rafael Campos leading and Grant Hoyt, President of SCVAS, and Karen Hoyt escorting. Here is a chance to contribute directly to tropical forest preservation while having the enjoyment of a natural history adventure. For itinerary call Cecily at the SCVAS office (415) 329-1811 or call Gail Cheeseman at (408) 741-5330.

SCVAS Gift Memberships

Gift memberships to the National Audubon Society from SCVAS were given to the following 18 Santa Clara County libraries for 1991: Almaden, Alum Rock, Alviso, Berryessa, Cambrian, Campbell, Cupertino, East Palo Alto, East San Jose Carnegie, Educational Park, Empire, Hillview, Los Altos, Milpitas Community, Rosegarden, Saratoga Community, Seventrees, and West Valley.

Ten Minute Activist YOU can make a difference

Stop Pesticide Kills

The National Wildlife Federation is calling on citizens to pressure the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to take emergency action to suspend a pesticide that kills birds by the thousands. The agency admits that carbofuran, used on about 10 million acres of cropland in both liquid and granular form, kills about 2 million birds a year. Other animals that eat poisoned birds also die or suffer crippling effects.

The pesticide kills birds by short-circuiting their nervous systems, inhibiting the cholinesterase enzyme that controls nerve impulses. They die of exhaustion. Some 130 affected species have been identified, including the endangered Bald Eagle and Peregrine Falcon.

Even though the EPA began a process to remove the granular form of carbofuran from the market in 1985, the chemical is still being "reviewed." No action has been started to ban liquid carbofuran. The EPA has the ability to immediately suspend carbofuran's registration because it poses an imminent hazard, but for the past five years has not chosen to take this step.

Letters to the EPA should include these three main points: Ask them to 1) complete proposed cancellation of granular carbofuran registration; 2) order immediate suspension of granular carbofuran because it poses an imminent hazard; and 3) initiate action to ban liquid carbofuran.

Comments may be sent to: William Reilly or Linda Fisher, Assistant Administrator for Pesticides and Toxics, EPA, 401 M St., SW, Washington, DC 20469.

ANNUAL SPRING BIRD SEED SALE



THIS IS A PREPAID SALE ORDERS DUE MARCH 11!

Your order, including a check payable to SCVAS, must be received by **MONDAY, MARCH 11**. 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.

BABOBs For Sale

Sales are moving well for SCVAS's new edition of *Birding at the Bottom of the Bay*. The book is available at all General Meetings, at the SCVAS office or can be ordered by mail with the BABOB coupon below.

If there is a local community event that you think we should be at, please give us a call at the SCVAS office (415) 329-

1811. Some local bookstores carrying BABOB include: A Clean Well-Lighted Place For Books, American Birding Association, Books Inc. (San Jose), Keplers, Peninsula Conservation Center, Printers Inc., Sierra Club Bookstore, Staceys, Stanford Bookstore, and Whales & Tales. If your favorite bookstore doesn't yet stock BABOB, ask them to order! We'd be glad to supply them with books.

BABOB Order Form

Please send me ___ copies of *Birding at the Bottom of the Bay*. (\$10.00 each or \$9.00 each for three to 10 copies. Add \$2.50 shipping/handling for the first book, \$1.25 for additional copies.) Send to:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City and Zip Code: _____

Seeds:

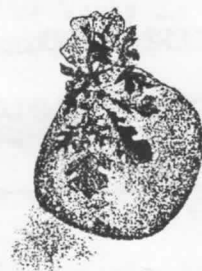
The custom-blended **AUDUBON SPECIAL MIX** was formulated by the staff at Western Regional Audubon Society in Tiburon. This high protein mix contains red millet, white proso millet, and black oil sunflower seeds, with no inexpensive "fillers." Specially blended to attract songbirds, this seed is not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

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

To mix with other seed, or offer alone: **BLACK OIL SUNFLOWER SEED**, high in oil content and nutritive value, this seed appeals to many species. **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
- 1223 Sherwood Avenue
Santa Clara



BIRD FEEDERS FOR SALE

PERKY PET FLOWER PROJECT \$11.95
The most popular hummingbird feeder ever made! This specially made 8 oz. glass bottle is easy to clean and long lasting. The bright red plastic parts make the feeder attractive to the birds.

TURN A PLASTIC SODA BOTTLE INTO A HANGING BIRD FEEDER \$9.95
Fill an old 2 liter soda bottle with seed, then screw it into the cast-zinc dispenser and press the hanging wire into the bottle. Bird seed flows out as small birds eat it. A good way to use up your empty bottles and a lot cheaper than buying fancy bird feeders.

CLASSIC THISTLE TUBE FEEDER \$19.95
Features long-life metal cap and base, sun-resistant plastic, quality hanging system, and pipe thread for post-mounting. Equipped with metal perches with insulated perch guards. 2-qt. capacity. Tube is 16" long.

CLASSIC WINDOWPANE FEEDER \$9.95
Lets you see birds up close! 7" wide clear acrylic feeder adheres to any window with sturdy suction cups. Unique keyhole design allows feeder to be lifted free of suction cups for easy refilling. 1 1/2 pint seed capacity.

Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society 415 Cambridge Ave., #21 Palo Alto, CA 94306		Non-Profit Organization U.S. Postage Paid San Jose, CA Permit No. 5869
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BIRD SEED SALE ORDER FORM - SPRING 1991

PICK -UP LOCATIONS: PLEASE CHECK ONE

- REI, Cupertino _____ Tues., Mar 19, 5-7 pm
- Pets Friend, Snyvl. _____ Tues., Mar 19, 5-7 pm
- PCC, Palo Alto _____ Sat., Mar 23, 9-11am
- YSI, Los Gatos _____ Tues., Mar 26,, 4-6 pm
- 1223 Sherwood Ave., _____ Thurs., Mar 21, 5-7 p.m.
Santa Clara

	# bags	Cost
AUDUBON SPECIAL _____ 20 lb @ \$ 8/bag		
50 lb @ \$17/bag		
WESTERN WILD _____ 20 lb @ \$ 8/bag		
50 lb @ \$15/bag		
BLACK OIL SUNFLOWER _____ 20 lb @ \$13/bag		
50 lb @ \$30/bag		
THISTLE _____ 5 lb @ \$10/bag		
20 lb @ \$43/bag		
Bird Feeder(s) (Please specify)		
Subtotal		
Contributions to SCVAS (tax deductible)		
Add 7% Tax		
Total		

Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____ ZIP _____
 Phone () _____

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: _____	_____ SCVAS Subscriber-\$8
Address: _____	_____ SCVAS Supporter-\$20
City: _____ St: _____ Zip: _____	_____ SCVAS Donor-\$35
Gift from: _____	_____ SCVAS Patron-\$50 or more
	_____ Introductory - \$20
	_____ Individual - \$35
	_____ Family - \$38
	_____ Audubon Activist - \$9