

# *The Avocet*

The Newsletter of the Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society

March 1991

## **Mono Lake Theme of Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society 1991 Birdathon**

Mono Lake, east of Yosemite National Park, is a national treasure, a place where birds into the millions feed abundantly during their breeding and migratory seasons, and a place where people experience the awe of wildness and the great power of natural forces that have shaped this unique landscape.

It is also an extraordinary example of the power of individuals — struck with the same respect for the majesty abiding here at Mono Lake — who are willing to team up and stick with a long battle. Even as we witness the continuing unchecked greed that threatens Mono Lake, it is clear that, yes, we are making a difference.

Through your commitments of time and money, the National Audubon Society, and our close ally The Mono Lake Committee, have fought the giant Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP), a utility with an annual budget which exceeds the national budgets of many countries around the world.

In the eleven years this campaign has been fought, we have been fortunate that unusually high snow run-off in the early part of the 1980's temporarily raised the lake level while this lawsuit made its way through the federal and state court systems. Both the procedural and climatic respites are over, however, and we are now faced with the imminent and irreversible injury to Mono Lake as it approaches, without exaggeration, the lowest levels reached in two millennia and the highest salinity concentrations in the history of mankind.

Our opponent, LADWP, does not know the meaning of words like "compromise" or "cooperation." Even though

they have been rebuffed by more than five major court decisions, they continue to wage war against Mono Lake. Their chief strategy has been procedural delay and prolonged legal action, hoping that we will eventually give up for lack of money or desire.

We have not given up! Instead, Audubon and The Mono Lake Committee have maintained a strong, concerted legal defense and an effective political and public relations strategy to protect Mono Lake. On the legal front, our lawyers secured a crucial preliminary injunction protecting the lake level through 1990. We are now pushing to have it extended for another two years while we continue to work for comprehensive solutions to the Mono Lake crisis. Arguments on that extension closed in late January, and we are awaiting a decision soon from the court; a decision which could well make the difference while the California State Water Board, under court order, balances the needs of Los Angeles with the needs of Mono Lake.

The battle to save Mono Lake has been expensive. Over the last three months we have received over \$100,000 in legal bills for the preliminary injunction hearing on Mono Lake alone. This kind of quality legal defense has been made possible solely through the generous help of Mono Lake supporters in California and throughout the nation.

As Audubon members we must also remember that it was our precedent-setting "Public Trust Doctrine" victory eight years ago in the California State Supreme Court that paved the way for much of the

progress that's been made on Mono Lake. Many attorneys consider this to be the most important environmental decision in the history of California law. It not only established a major legal precedent that is giving a second chance to the thousands of grebes, gulls and phalaropes that depend on Mono Lake, but it has become the most valuable tool for ensuring the wise use of California's water in the years to come. In fact, for the first time in California's history, the State Water Board is now setting desperately needed water quality safeguards for San Francisco Bay—all because of a legal doctrine pioneered at Mono Lake.

Please remember that Mono Lake is not out of danger! We are entering the fifth year of statewide drought. Without legally binding court orders or other ironclad agreements yet to be achieved, Mono Lake as we know it could cease to exist. After coming this far, it will take group effort and a tenacity from each one of us to keep up the pressure.

Please help Mono Lake now by generously supporting the SCVAS Mono Lake Birdathon. Lawsuits cost money, but they have given us our best weapon to keep the lake alive. Every dollar NAS collects from your chapter's Birdathon will go to maintaining Audubon's strong presence in the courtroom. It is our sincere hope that 1991 will be the time for finally resolving the crisis at Mono Lake. Either through a sweeping legal victory or through negotiated settlement, our goal is guaranteed peace and protection for this irreplaceable treasure.

—Dan Taylor, Western Regional Representative, National Audubon Society

# Chapter News

## The "Uncommon Loons" Want YOU!!!

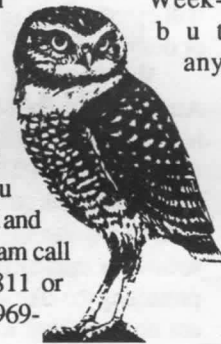
Actually, the Loons want your money for the 1991 SCVAS Birdathon, but they'll be competing with the Vagrants, Wrentits, Poorwills and other teams for your pledge. This year's Birdathon goal is to raise \$10,000 for Mono Lake (see front-page article) and the long-awaited Burrowing Owl census slated to begin this spring. This is the chapter's biggest fund-raising event, and we need the help of all members to make 1991 the most successful Birdathon yet.

How does the Birdathon work? Teams of birders go out into the field over a 24-hour period and try to see as many species as possible. Meanwhile their sponsors have pledged to contribute a certain amount of money per species seen, e.g. \$0.25 pledged X 125 species seen = \$31.25 donation. Proceeds will be divided among NAS's Mono Lake campaign, the Burrowing Owl census, and SCVAS operating expenses for ongoing education and environmental action programs.

The Uncommon Loons have been designated as the official SCVAS team, with Managing Director Cecily Harris devoting her considerable fund-raising skills

to help team members Nick Yatsko, Rod Norden and John Mariani raise the big bucks, but other chapter stalwarts like Trish Mulvey, Doug and Gail Cheeseman, Dave Johnston, Grant Hoyt, Alan Walther, Tony Eppstein *et al.* will be vying with the Loons for top honors. Prizes will be awarded for most money raised and most species seen, and those who donate \$50 or more will be recognized in the *Avocet*.

The Birdathon is more than just a fundraiser, it's a lot of fun for those who participate. It's a great way for birders to help raise money for projects like the Burrowing Owl census that demonstrate the need for species and habitat preservation. The Birdathon Week-end is April 20-21, teams may count time in late April-early May. See April *Avocet* for further details. If you want to get involved and form a Birdathon team call Cecily (415)329-1811 or Grant Hoyt at (415)969-7892.



### SCVAS OFFICERS

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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, Michele Girard, c/o SCVAS at the above address.

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## New Items for Sale at SCVAS:

"Backyard Bird List" is a magnetized memo board for your refrigerator or wall. You can keep track of the birds you're seeing at the feeder. Why not put it near the window! Plastic lamination allows you to write with a felt pen and wipe it clean with a damp cloth. Send \$4.95 plus \$2 for tax and shipping.

"Birders Guide to Northern California" by Lolo and Jim Westrich covers Monterey Bay to the Oregon border with maps and detailed directions to more than 250 locations. A checklist index cross-references 521 species. This 'must-have' for California ornithologists can be ordered for \$16.95 plus \$2.50 for tax and shipping.

"My Recipes are for the Birds" by Irene Cosgrove is a wonderful book of

recipes to prepare for our bird friends. The book's creative recipes which have names such as "Grosbeak Goolash", "Junco Jubilee" or "Chickadee Crunch" are also very nutritious. \$5.95 plus \$2 for tax and shipping.

"Regional Checklist Pacific States" is the ABA's list for California, Oregon and Washington. You'll have space for four separate field trips on this checklist all for \$1.

### Thanks All Around!

☞ Thanks to Whales & Tales for a full year of advertising in the *Avocet* and their generous year-end donation!

☞ Thanks to Mike Johnston for all his help as a member of the SCVAS Board of Directors. We'll miss him while he's in Switzerland.

*A Rare Experience!*



**Whales & Tales**  
Wildlife Store and Gallery

800-422-8253  
429 University



415-326-1130  
Palo Alto



## March 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 March John Mariani (408) 268-6101.*

**\*\*Denotes Field Trip**

### Saturday, March 2, 8:00 AM Half Day.

**\*\*Rancho San Antonio County Park.** Leader: Jim Liskovec (415) 969-5542. Directions: From I-280 take Foothill Expy. south to Cristo Drive, past Gates of Heaven Cemetery to the last parking area on the right (near the restrooms). Two miles of easy walking. Highlights: wintering sparrows, woodland birds. **BABOB Trip.**

### \*\*Sunday, March 3, 8:00 AM Half Day.

**Coyote Creek Riparian Station.** Leader: Elsie Richey (415) 357-2477. Bird banding demonstration with songbirds up close and personal. Limited to 25 participants. Call for reservations and directions.

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

**Bay Area Bird Photographers** slide presentation on Madagascar by Luis Tam and Doug Cheeseman at Lucy Evans Baylands Interpretive Center in Palo Alto.

### Saturday-Sunday March 9 & 10.

**\*\*Morro Bay/San Luis Obispo County Weekend.** Leader: Grant Hoyt (415) 969-7892. Directions: Meet 9:00-10:00 AM Sat. at Morro Rock, north end of Morro Bay. Highlights: Wintering rarities may include Oldsquaw, sapsuckers, Vermillion Flycatcher. Limit of 20 persons. Call for reservations and carpooling information.

### \*\*Sunday, March 10, 9:00 AM Half Day.

**Beginners Trip to Charleston Slough.** Leader: Dick Stovel (415) 856-6105. Directions: Take 101 to Mountain View, exit at San Antonio Rd., and go east to end at Terminal Way. Highlights: Birding basics, with emphasis on waterfowl and shorebirds. **BABOB Trip.**

### \*\*Wednesday, March 13, 9:00 AM.

**South County Trip to Sanborn Park.** Leader: Harriet Gerson (408) 252-6244 and Gail Cheeseman (408) 867-1371. Directions: From Saratoga, go 2 1/2 miles up Big Basin Way (Hwy. 9). Take a left on Sanborn Rd. at Saratoga Springs one mile to the park on right. Meet at Visitor Center. Highlights: Great riparian and redwoods habitat. **BABOB Trip.**

### \*\*Saturday, March 16, 8:30 AM.

**Alum Rock Park.** Leader: Dave Johnston (408) 867-7278. Directions: From I-680 take Alum Rock Ave. east; meet in front of YSI at the end of the road in front of the park. 3 miles moderate walking. Call for reservations. Highlights: Could see Golden Eagle, wrens, Dipper, and Rufous-crowned Sparrow. **BABOB Trip.**

### Wednesday, March 20, 7:30 PM.

**March General Meeting,** co-sponsored by the Palo Alto Open Spaces and Sciences Division, at the Palo Alto Cultural Center, Embarcadero at Newell Rds. Topic: "A Big Year in North America." (See box below)

### \*\*Saturday, March 23, 8:00 AM Half Day.

**Almaden Quicksilver County Park.** Leaders: Tom Roach (408) 268-6101, John Mariani (408) 268-6101. Directions: Meet at Park 'n' Ride lot, corner of Almaden Expy and Camden Ave. in San Jose. Highlights: Birds of oak woodland and chaparral, possibly Wild Turkey (the bird not the drink). Moderately strenuous hiking. Heavy rain cancels. **BABOB Trip.**

### \*\*Sunday, March 24, 8:30 AM.

**Coyote Hills Regional Park.** Leader: Phil Hand (415) 851-2623. Directions: Take Highway 84 (Dumbarton Bridge) east towards Newark, exit right at Thornton Ave., left over freeway as Thornton becomes Paseo Padre, left at Patterson Ranch/Commerce Rd., meet at parking lot at entrance. Highlights: Ducks, Black-shouldered Kite, owls, hummingbirds, and migrant songbirds are possibilities. Rain cancels.

### \*\*Wednesday, March 27, 9:00 AM Half Day.

**North County Trip to Skyline Ridge OSP.** Leader: Shirley Gordon (408) 996-9863. Directions: Park in large new lot at northwest corner of intersection of Page Mill, Skyline and Alpine Rd. Lunch optional. **BABOB Trip.**

### \*\*Saturday, March 30, 8:30 AM Half Day.

**Pescadero Marsh.** Leader: Mike Mammoser (408) 248-2288. Directions: From Hwy 84 go

south on Hwy. 1 about 5 miles to parking lot on west side of Hwy. 1 at Pescadero Rd. Easy walking for about 1 mile. Lunch optional. Bring scopes. Highlights: Waterbirds, spring migrants.

### \*\*Saturday, March 30, 9:00 AM Half Day.

**Beginners Trip to Stanford Campus.** Leader: Judy Wagner (415) 941-7586. Directions: From Hwy 101 take University Ave., exit west. University Ave. becomes Palm Dr.; meet at the quad at the end of Palm Dr. Highlights: Introduction to birds of suburbs and oak woodland—Acorn Woodpecker, Plain Titmouse, and California Thrasher are possible. Rain Cancels. **BABOB Trip.**

### \*\*Sunday, March 31, 8:00 AM Full Day.

**Bolinas Lagoon/Western Marin County** Leader: Bob Stewart. Directions: Meet at large pull-out at mile marker 13.32 on Hwy. 1, at Stinson Beach end of Bolinas Lagoon. Highlights: waterbirds, raptors, possibly Osprey. Call John Mariani (408) 997-6171 for details.

### \*\*Saturday, April 6, 8:30 AM Half Day.

**St Joseph's Hill OSP.** Leader: Mike Feighner (408) 354-0138. Directions: From E. Main St. in Los Gatos take College Ave. to Jones Rd., right on Jones Rd. to parking at the end. Highlights: Chaparral birds and panoramic views from a lofty height. Moderately strenuous hiking. **BABOB Trip.**

### \*\*Sunday, April 7, 8:30 AM.

**Ano Nuevo State Reserve/Pigeon Point.** Leader: Mark Miller (415) 967-3429. Directions: Hwy. 84 to Hwy. 1, south past Pigeon Pt. to Ano Nuevo State Reserve (entrance fee). Meet at Visitor Center. Walk of about 3 miles. Highlights: Elephant Seals, migrating loons and seabirds, shorebirds. Bring lunch, liquids, warm layered clothing, and scopes. Half day or longer. Limit of 20 persons; call for reservations.

### Wednesday, March 20, 7:30 PM. General Membership Meeting

"A Big Year in North America" will be the topic of the March general meeting. Steve Perry, author of the *Loonatic Journals*, will bring alive in person his 1987 adventures described in his book. How did he manage to see 711 birds, survive all the crazy misadventures without being deterred, only to come back to start working and saving again? This will be a fun informative program full of good humor and lots of great slides that Steve has collected from VIREO. He will bring copies of his book. Come experience the "loonacy" of a "Big Year" in North America. Co-sponsored by the Palo Alto Open Spaces and Sciences Division, at the Palo Alto Cultural Center, Embarcadero at Newell Rds.

# Field Notes

By Bill Bousman

## Loons through Ducks

Three to four **Red-throated Loons** at Shoreline Lake 30 Dec (RWR) were apparently the last of the season. The **Snowy Egret X Little Blue Heron** continues to hang around Charleston Slough with observations 18 Jan (WGB) and 28 Jan (PJM). A male of the Eurasian race of the **Green-winged Teal** was seen at the Palo Alto Flood Control Basin (FCB) 19 and 28 Jan (PJM). Another male showing characteristics of both races on the latter date was less expected (PJM). A male **Blue-winged Teal** at the Sunnyvale Water Pollution Control Plant (WPCP) 31 Jan (PJM) was the only one found this month. Two male **Eurasian Wigeon** were found at the WPCP 6 Jan as well (PJM). **Redhead** have been found in a number of locations this month. From one to seven birds have been at Shoreline Lake from 30 Dec to 20 Jan (RWR, MFe, RSc, JY, AL, PJM). Sixteen were at the Sunnyvale WPCP 6 Jan (PJM) and one was on Stevens Creek Res. 8 Jan (KP). The saga of **Barrow's Goldeneyes** at Shoreline Lake continues with birds seen there through 2 Feb (m.ob.). A peak of nine birds was counted on 20 Jan (PJM). **Hooded Merganser** remain on Stevens Creek Res. with at least one seen 8 Jan (KP). A pair were seen on San Felipe Ranch 26 Jan (JY, AL).

## Raptors

At least one **Bald Eagle** has remained with the shrinking waters of Calaveras Res. with an imm. seen 24 Jan (MMR). An ad. **Golden Eagle** at the Palo Alto FCB 28 Jan (PJM) was away from known territorial birds. **Merlin** continue to be found regularly. One was at the Sunnyvale WPCP 7 Jan (MFe) and the male *richardsoni* in Mountain View for the second winter was seen 12 and 17 Jan (MMR). Another male was at Stanford (25 Jan) and one was in Menlo Park 27 Jan (WGB). An imm. **Peregrine Falcon** has been fairly regular in the vicinity of the Palo Alto Baylands through 3 Feb (m.ob.). An imm. at the Mountain View Forebay 18 Jan is probably the same bird

(WGB). However, an adult in the Palo Alto Baylands 11 and 14 Jan (RSc) is clearly a different bird. A bird at Crittenden Marsh 20 Jan (PJM) is a few wingbeats farther afield.

## Shorebirds and Gulls

A **Lesser Yellowlegs** along Adobe Creek in the Palo Alto FCB 2 Jan (MFe) is a rare wintering bird. A **Ruddy Turnstone** on the San Francisquito Creek delta 29 Jan and a **Red Knot** there 16 Jan (Both MMR) are rare winter records. However, both are more regular further up the bay

## A cooperative first-winter Franklin's Gull delighted many at the Palo Alto Baylands.

and we may find them more common in this one spot. A first-winter **Franklin's Gull** was found at the Palo Alto Baylands 26 Jan and has remained at least through 3 Feb to the delight of many observers (m.ob.). This is our first winter record of this bird that normally is found along the west coast of South America at this time of year and our ninth record overall for the county. **Glaucous Gulls** have made an unprecedented winter showing, mostly at the Sunnyvale WPCP. First-winter birds have been found there through 31 Jan (m.ob.) with as many as five birds there 6 and 31 Jan (PJM). Additional first-winter birds were seen at Charleston Slough and the Palo Alto FCB 28 Jan (PJM).

## Owls and Hummingbirds

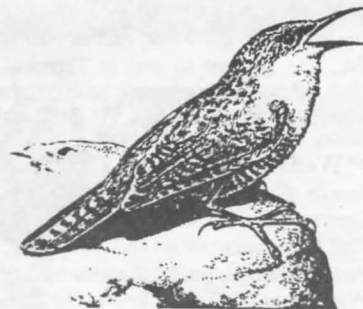
A **Northern Pygmy-Owl** at Monte Bello 4 Feb (MMR *et al.*) is always a good find. **Short-eared Owls** remain scarce with single birds seen at the Palo Alto FCB 6 Jan (MMR) and 16 Jan (CS). A male **Costa's Hummingbird** displaying in Los Altos 30 Jan (PLN) is only our eighth county record and also our only winter record. A male **Allen's Hummingbird** in Los Gatos 26 Jan (MFe) is an early arrival.

## Wrens through Grosbeaks

A singing **Canyon Wren** on San Felipe Ranch 27 Jan (AL, JY) is always a good find. A "flock" of three **Townsend's Solitaires** above Castle Rock 21 Jan (WGB) was an unusual multiple sighting away from their normal wintering range. A male **Phainopepla** was seen 27 Jan on San Felipe Ranch (JY, AL). A well-seen female **Black-headed Grosbeak** in Saratoga 29 Jan (HG) is our only wintering record for this species in the last decade. For the same period we have two winter records of **Rose-breasted Grosbeak**. At least one **Sharp-tailed Sparrow** was found at the Palo Alto Baylands on the high tides of 27-30 Jan (BW *et al.*, MMR, AME). Two **Swamp Sparrows** at the Sunnyvale WPCP 6 Jan (PJM) are almost as rare. **White-throated Sparrows** continue to be reported at feeders with one in Los Altos 6 Jan (RC), and an adult and imm. in Menlo Park through 5 Feb (WGB). Ten **Evening Grosbeaks** in San Jose 29 Jan (?) were a good find.

**Observers:** Bill Bousman (WGB), Rita Colwell (RC), Al Eisner (AME), Mike Feighner (MFe), Harriet Gerson (HG), Amy Lauterbach (AL), Mike Mammoser (MJM), Peter Metropulos (PJM), Paul Noble (PLN), Kathy Parker (KP), Bob Reiling (RWR), Mike Rogers (MMR), Chris Salander (CS), Rich Schermerhorn (RSc), Betty Wyatt (BW), and James Yurchenko (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.





# Environmental Action News

## Peninsula Leadership Opportunities

Leadership programs can help you strengthen the knowledge, skills and understanding necessary to better serve your community and enhance your personal and professional development. If you value community involvement and enjoy working with others interested in community issues, participation in one of the Peninsula leadership programs offers an interesting and diverse curriculum.

Although each program differs in detail, all offer a series of day-long seminars covering such topics as education, health and human services, economics, government, and the environment. They also include development of leadership skills such as managing group meetings, grant writing, and influencing decision makers.

SCVAS Environmental Action Committee member Trish Mulvey commented that "My participation in Leadership Palo Alto offered an historical perspective along with an introduction to

specific areas of community needs and decision processes, new insights and a broader outlook. Specifically, it helped me understand how conservation issues fit into many different aspects of other programs which are important to the community. The program also helped me discover new skills, new friends and new opportunities. I would be happy to talk to SCVAS members who are considering applying for one of the programs."

If you are interested in learning more about a leadership program in the community where you live or work, and you wish to receive an information brochure and application, please call the Program Director—Mountain View (415) 968-8378, Palo Alto (415) 324-3121, Redwood City (415) 364-1722, San Jose (408) 998-7000, San Mateo (415) 341-5679, Sunnyvale (408) 736-4971. Applications are generally available by March and due early in May for next fall's program.

## Ten Minute Activist YOU can make a difference

### The Wild Bird Trade

One half to 1 million birds are imported legally from the wild into the US annually. In 1989, 3 1/2 million birds were legally imported internationally. At least 1/4 million are smuggled illegally and undoubtedly many more arrive undetected. It is believed that 1 bird dies for each bird removed (standard rate on average over last 18 years of 19-20% dying just during a 30 day period in quarantine; much greater loss when first caught.) A minimum of 7 million birds are removed from the wild for the bird trade annually.

New York and New Jersey have excellent laws requiring all birds sold in the pet trade to be bred in captivity. A bill is hopefully forthcoming to require this federally. Let's write our legislators to speed it up. The bird traders are also working with conservationists to draft a bill so that it will be enforceable. Ask our people in Washington to support NO WILD CAUGHT BIRDS FOR SALE. It's about time!!!! Lufthansa will no longer carry wild caught live birds and 40% of all birds coming into the USA used to come on Lufthansa. What carrier is picking up the slack? KLM and SAS will no longer carry live birds out of Africa. Does someone want to call Pan Am and find out what they are doing?

— Gail Cheeseman

## Non-Audubon Events

### San Francisco Festival for the Forests.

Saturday, March 23, 12-6 PM. The festival will provide an opportunity to renew, or begin, your commitment to protecting the remaining 5% of California's old growth forests. Enjoy good music, good food, and hear environmental, political, and industry speakers address problems and legislation concerning this issue. Call Bay Area Action (415) 321-1991 for more information.

### Bird Banding Class

The Coyote Creek Riparian Station is again offering its popular class beginning on March 7, 1991. The combination lecture-field class will provide sufficient hands-on experience to qualify graduates for participation in the ongoing biomonitoring program at CCRS. Completion of this course is also the first step in qualifying for a Federal Bird Banding Subpermit. Classes will take place on

(3) Thursday evenings from 7:30 to 9:30 PM at several locations; weekend birdbanding will be at CCRS. Cost: \$25. Registration limited to 25. Call (408) 262-9204 for more information. A good understanding of local avifauna is a valuable prerequisite to this course.

### Amazon Basin Ecuador Trip

Doug and Gail Cheeseman are offering a 1 week Amazon Basin Ecuador experience in the 30,000 acres of pristine lowland rainforest surrounding La Selva Lodge on the Napo River in Ecuador. Half the time will be sorties from the lodge doing boating trips, etc. into this amazing forest and the other half will be a whole new concept of camping and light trekking to the previously inaccessible sites in the forest. June 18-June 25, \$800, plus \$707 airfare. Leaders: Luis Tam and Cynthia Bodenhurst, an excellent resident

naturalist. They also have a trip to Galapagos in early June and fall trips to Australia and India this year. Call (408) 741-5330 for more information.

## Audubon Adventures Classrooms '90 - '91

<u>Teacher</u>	<u>School</u>	
Mary Kay Agnew	John Muir	San Jose
Joi Anderson	Curtner	Milpitas
Bonnie Bartz	Noddin	San Jose
Jean Brown	O.S. Hubbard	San Jose
Cheri Burrall	Joseph Weller	Milpitas
Douglas Campbell	Mt. Hamilton	Mt. Hamilton
Joanna Clapham	Pomeroy	Milpitas
Shirley Dickerson	Mildred Goss	San Jose
Veronika Dykes	Mayfair	San Jose
Agnes Eytchinson	Joseph George	San Jose
Jan Franklin	De Vargas	San Jose
Evelyn Frantz	Montague	Santa Clara
Paula Graham	Alexander Rose	Milpitas
Polly Ghazeleh	Cassell	San Jose
Barbara Green	Erikson	San Jose
Jennie Hackett	Cassell	San Jose
Bobbie Handen	Country Lane	San Jose
Katherine Harvey	Brachner	Santa Clara
Jean Hempstead	Bowers	Santa Clara
Carol Hill	Pearl Zanker	Milpitas
Deborah Hullings	Joseph Weller	Milpitas
Kathleen Lenahan	William Rogers	San Jose
Joseph Maggi	Lyndale	San Jose
Julie McVicker	Erickson	San Jose
Annabelle Miller	Almond	Los Altos
Pam Oliverio	Simonds	San Jose
Michelle Ormas	William Burnett	Milpitas
Tom Paramo	Horace Cureton	San Jose
Ann Paterson	Pomeroy	Santa Clara
Nicole Phillips	Country Lane	San Jose
Kethy Pool	Ponderosa	Sunnyvale
Steve Polackwich	Ben Painter	San Jose
Steve Quigley	Simonds	San Jose
Mr. Ragan	Linda Vista	San Jose
Max Rejkowski	Anthony Dorsa	San Jose
Jaime Roa	Mayfair	San Jose
Anita Robertson	William Rogers	San Jose
Bob Robey	D.J. Meyer	San Jose
Nancy Rumble	Miller	San Jose
Barbara A. Sanchez	San Antonio	San Jose
Elaine Schwartz	Kathryn Hughes	Santa Clara
Mark Shaw	Linda Vista	San Jose
Doug Shreve	Harker Academy	San Jose
Gail Stevenson	Cassell	San Jose
Marilyn Thorem	Haman	Santa Clara
Karen Traeger	Graystone	San Jose
Jymme Lou Volta	Scott Lane	Santa Clara
Donna Wright	Milliken Basics	Santa Clara

### Field Trip Report

## Field Trip Report to Almaden Quicksilver Park

February 2, 1991

Following a day of rain showers and ominous gray clouds, the owling group that met at Almaden Quicksilver Park at 10 PM on the evening of February 2nd was treated to a surprisingly warm and clear night, brightened by a waning moon and a celestial show rarely seen under our normal hazy skies.

Before setting out we took the opportunity to study Jupiter and its moons, Orion's Belt, and a host of other constellations. Driving below Almaden Reservoir we tallied our first animal sighting when we crossed paths with an opossum.

Along Hicks Road we made several stops to play tapes of owl calls and listen to the night sounds. Twice we had flashlight-illuminated looks at **Western Screech-Owls**, glaring back at us from the oaks with fierce yellow eyes. We also heard (but did not see) **Great Horned** and **Saw-whet Owls**, the latter shrieking ghost-like through the trees.

All participants were amazingly quiet, which contributed immeasurably to our ability to hear, locate, and approach the birds — thanks again everybody! When we started back at 12:30 AM we were still warm and dry, and wondering where all the time had gone.

— John Mariani



## Audubon Adventures Classrooms '90 - '91

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Mary Kay Agnew	John Muir	San Jose
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Cheri Burrall	Joseph Weller	Milpitas
Douglas Campbell	Mt. Hamilton	Mt. Hamilton
Joanna Clapham	Pomeroy	Milpitas
Shirley Dickerson	Mildred Goss	San Jose
Veronika Dykes	Mayfair	San Jose
Agnes Eytchinson	Joseph George	San Jose
Jan Franklin	De Vargas	San Jose
Evelyn Frantz	Montague	Santa Clara
Paula Graham	Alexander Rose	Milpitas
Polly Ghazeleh	Cassell	San Jose
Barbara Green	Erikson	San Jose
Jennie Hackett	Cassell	San Jose
Bobbie Handen	Country Lane	San Jose
Katherine Harvey	Brachner	Santa Clara
Jean Hempstead	Bowers	Santa Clara
Carol Hill	Pearl Zanker	Milpitas
Deborah Hullings	Joseph Weller	Milpitas
Kathleen Lenahan	William Rogers	San Jose
Joseph Maggi	Lyndale	San Jose
Julie McVicker	Erickson	San Jose
Annabelle Miller	Almond	Los Altos
Pam Oliverio	Simonds	San Jose
Michelle Ormas	William Burnett	Milpitas
Tom Paramo	Horace Cureton	San Jose
Ann Paterson	Pomeroy	Santa Clara
Nicole Phillips	Country Lane	San Jose
Kethy Pool	Ponderosa	Sunnyvale
Steve Polackwich	Ben Painter	San Jose
Steve Quigley	Simonds	San Jose
Mr. Ragan	Linda Vista	San Jose
Max Rejkowski	Anthony Dorsa	San Jose
Jaime Roa	Mayfair	San Jose
Anita Robertson	William Rogers	San Jose
Bob Robey	D.J. Meyer	San Jose
Nancy Rumble	Miller	San Jose
Barbara A. Sanchez	San Antonio	San Jose
Elaine Schwartz	Kathryn Hughes	Santa Clara
Mark Shaw	Linda Vista	San Jose
Doug Shreve	Harker Academy	San Jose
Gail Stevenson	Cassell	San Jose
Marilyn Thorem	Haman	Santa Clara
Karen Traeger	Graystone	San Jose
Jymme Lou Volta	Scott Lane	Santa Clara
Donna Wright	Milliken Basics	Santa Clara

### Field Trip Report

## Field Trip Report to Almaden Quicksilver Park

February 2, 1991

Following a day of rain showers and ominous gray clouds, the owling group that met at Almaden Quicksilver Park at 10 PM on the evening of February 2nd was treated to a surprisingly warm and clear night, brightened by a waning moon and a celestial show rarely seen under our normal hazy skies.

Before setting out we took the opportunity to study Jupiter and its moons, Orion's Belt, and a host of other constellations. Driving below Almaden Reservoir we tallied our first animal sighting when we crossed paths with an opossum.

Along Hicks Road we made several stops to play tapes of owl calls and listen to the night sounds. Twice we had flashlight-illuminated looks at **Western Screech-Owls**, glaring back at us from the oaks with fierce yellow eyes. We also heard (but did not see) **Great Horned** and **Saw-whet Owls**, the latter shrieking ghost-like through the trees.

All participants were amazingly quiet, which contributed immeasurably to our ability to hear, locate, and approach the birds — thanks again everybody! When we started back at 12:30 AM we were still warm and dry, and wondering where all the time had gone.

— John Mariani





## 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.

### Bird Seed Sale Volunteers Receive a 15% Discount

Anyone who volunteers before, during or after the Spring 1991 Birdseed Sale can claim a 15% discount on their orders. There are many ways to help. We'll need you in the office with computer entry and other administrative tasks, or at one of the Seed Pick-up Sites with selling SCVAS merchandise or with loading the seed bags into cars. Call the SCVAS office for more details at (415) 329-1811.

### Yes, You can still order *Birding at the Bottom of the Bay*

#### 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:

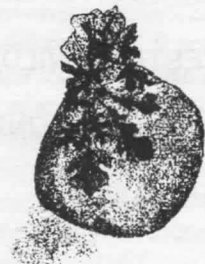
The custom-blended **AUDUBON SPECIAL MIX** was formulated by the staff at Western Regional Audubon Society in Tiburon. This high protein mix contains red millet, white proso millet, and black oil sunflower seeds, with no inexpensive "fillers." Specially blended to attract songbirds, this seed is not 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, 9-11 am
  - 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 @ \$ 9/bag		
50 lb @ \$17/bag		
WESTERN WILD _____ 20 lb @ \$8 /bag		
50 lb @ \$16.50/bag		
BLACK OIL SUNFLOWER _____ 25 lb @ \$13/bag		
50 lb @ \$25/bag		
THISTLE _____ 5 lb @ \$11/bag		
20 lb @ \$43/bag		
Bird Feeder(s) ( <i>Please specify</i> )		
Subtotal		
Contributions to SCVAS ( <i>tax deductible</i> )		
Add 7% Tax		
<b>Total</b>		

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: \_\_\_\_\_

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