



# The Avocet

The Newsletter of the Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society

September 1991

## President Reports on NAS Convention

by Grant Hoyt

Birders and environmentalists demonstrated their willingness and capability to work together towards common goals as they met in Colorado in late July at the 1991 National Audubon Society Convention. President Peter Berle and the NAS staff played host to speakers from throughout the Western Hemisphere, in keeping with this year's "Audubon in the Americas" convention theme, and over 900 registrants were treated to a wide and stimulating variety of workshops, panel discussions and lectures dealing with the difficult and challenging environmental issues facing the modern world.

SCVAS Managing Director Cecily Harris and I were two of those in attendance, and we came away not only with pages of notes, stacks of printed handouts and heads full of information and ideas, but also feelings of inspiration and even

optimism about Audubon's role in the environmental arena, both locally and globally. We spoke with dozens of Audubon members from throughout the country who share the same goals and vision we do regarding the environment and who face the same problems we face here at home. Furthermore, and of great interest to SCVAS members who have been following the recent controversy over National Audubon's logo revision and editorial changes, we found most convention participants still very involved in and supportive of birding as an Audubon focal point. (More on that later.)

Three individuals stood out among a stellar array of speakers: Brazil's Secretary for the Environment Jose Lutzenberger gave an eloquent, impassioned speech challenging the audience to act with foresight and sensitivity in order to save the fragile ecosystem of planet Earth; Costa

Rica's Alvaro Umana spoke with warmth and wisdom on global and neotropical concerns; and Ted Turner (yes, **that** Ted Turner) charmed the crowd with his brash, folksy brand of environmentalism and shoot-from-the-hip commentary on politics, religion and the state of the world.

While these three spoke to large crowds at plenary sessions, there were numerous smaller talks and workshops being given throughout the six days. NAS senior staffers including scientists, researchers and political activists reported on campaigns involving ancient forests, Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, wetlands, endangered species, biodiversity, waste management, education, population studies, ecotourism and much more. Representatives from Brazil to Belize, Canada to Costa Rica gave fascinating and often stirring presentations on their countries'

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## Act Now to Slay Monster Toll Road

Your letters to the Metropolitan Transportation Commission are urgently needed. Developers and Caltrans are putting the finishing touches on a plan to build a monster toll road through the Alameda, Contra Costa, and Solano Counties that will:

- destroy irreplaceable prime farmlands;
- drive two new bridges across the Delta, destroying wetlands and harming the health of the San Francisco Bay;
- run right next to, and possibly destroy, unique and fragile Native American archaeological sites;
- spread suburban sprawl all over open lands in the East Bay, that now provide habitat for endangered species;

- place thousands of more cars on the road, worsening our air quality.

Greenbelt Alliance, Save San Francisco Bay Association, the Bay Area Audubon Chapters, the Sierra Club and Solano County's Orderly Growth Committee are all beseeching their members to write letters to the MTC, opposing inclusion of the Mid State Toll Road in the Regional Transportation Plan.

By writing today, you can stop the project from gaining any official foothold and can help stop the road's developers from using federal monies to build this

*(continued on page 6)*

## Coming in October:

- Preliminary report on Burrowing Owl Census
- McClellan Ranch in Cupertino — new home for SCVAS?

# Chapter News

## Audubon Adventures

This excellent youth education program is designed for grades 3-6. Students receive the publication Audubon Adventures 6 times a year, membership cards and club decals. Teachers receive a packet of 32 newsletters and an instructional leader's guide that has background information and ideas for field and classroom activities. Topics highlighted in the 1991-92 school year include: Bats, Deciduous Trees, Sea Turtles, Owls, Amphibians, Butterflies and Moths. April is Audubon month and has special programs focusing on the Atlantic Ocean.

A subscription for one year for a classroom is only \$30. (SCVAS may have some scholarships again this year.) For enrollment information, contact Cecily at the SCVAS office at (415) 329-1811.

## Many Thanks to Additional Birdathon 1991 Patrons

Lorraine Bazan  
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## Birdathon Prizes were Contributed by:

Guittard Chocolate, Hobee's, Kepler's, Klutz press, National Audubon Society, Peninsula Conservation Center, Phileas Fogg's, Printer's Inc., REI, Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society, Security Pacific Bank, See's Candies, Smith & Hawken, Sunset Books, The Pet Set, and Whole Foods.

And Calistoga generously donated mineral water for everyone at our June Annual Dinner.



## Come Learn about Birding at Printers, Inc.

Join Betty Wyatt, editor of *Birding at the Bottom of the Bay*, at Printers Inc. on Wednesday, September 25th at 8:00 PM. Betty will share some insights about birding along with a slide show that highlights local birds and local birdwatching sites in Santa Clara County. Stop by and get your copy of the book autographed or get a new one!

## Gifts & Memorials

In memory of Anne B. Harfert:  
Bill & Margaret Harfert  
Donna Harfert

## Thanks Volunteers!

Thanks to volunteers without whom the office couldn't function:

- ◆ Jim Johnson, Tibby Simon and Joyce Todd and new volunteer Harriet Gerson.
- ◆ And thanks to Geri Brown, Kim Dreyfuss, Jules Resnick, and Donna Zetterquist for all their great work in their tenure on the SCVAS Board of Directors.

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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.

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SCVAS is a chapter of the National Audubon Society.

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*We're For The Birds!*

## Whales & Tales

*Wildlife Store and Gallery*

Hummingbirds Raptors  
Songbirds Shorebirds

*Art, Gifts, Books, Clothing  
and Kid's Stuff*

800-422-8253  
429 University
415-326-1130  
Palo Alto

# September 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 September-October is Grant Hoyt (415) 969-7892.*

**\*\*Denotes Field Trip**

**\*\*\*Special Field Trip Note:** For those interested in pelagic birding, SCVAS recommends a boat trip out of Monterey in September for excellent sea bird and marine mammal viewing. Contact Shearwater Journeys, P.O. Box 1445, Soquel CA 95073 (408) 688-1990. Sign up soon—trips fill up quickly.

**Wednesday, September 4, 7:30 - 9:30 PM.**

**Bay Area Bird Photographers Member's Slides Program.** Meeting takes place at Palo Alto's Lucy Evans Baylands Interpretive Center on East Embarcadero Rd.

**\*\*Sunday, Sept. 8, 8:30 AM. Half day.**

**Beginners trip to Charleston Slough.** Leader: Mike Mammoser (408) 248-2288. Directions: Take 101 to Mountain View, exit San Antonio Rd. east to its end at Terminal Way. Highlights: Shorebirds and waterfowl, including early returning migrants. BABOB Trip.

**Tuesday, September 10, 9:30 AM.**

**The Eve Case Bird Discussion Group** at the home of Edward and Janice Rooks, 20537 Verde Vista Lane, Saratoga (408) 867-4748. Topic: Summer Birding Experiences.

**\*\*Wednesday, September 11, 8:30 AM. Half day.**

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

**\*\*Sunday, Sept. 15, 8:30 AM. Full day.**

**Moss Landing/Elkhorn Slough.** Leader: Mike Feighner (408) 354-0138. Directions: From Santa Cruz go S. on Hwy. 1 through Watsonville; participants should meet in the parking area past Jetty Rd. This is the last parking area on the right before the bridge. We will meet in the parking area at Skipper's

Restaurant. Highlights: gulls, terns, coastal species, migrating shorebirds and songbirds. Itinerary flexible depending on rarities in vicinity at time of trip (vagrant hotspot Moonglow Dairy will definitely be included).

**Wednesday, September 18, 7:30 PM.**

**September General Meeting** co-sponsored by the Palo Alto Open Spaces and Sciences Division at the Palo Alto Cultural Center, 1313 Newell Rd. at Embarcadero. Topic: "Native Forest Birds of the Big Island of Hawaii". (See box below.)

**\*\*Saturday, Sept. 21, 9:00 AM. Full day.**

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

**\*\*Saturday, Sept. 28, 8:30 AM. Half day.**

**Alum Rock Park.** Leader: Dave Johnston (408) 867-7278. Directions: From Hwy. 680 or 101 take Alum Rock Ave. E. to Park. Meet at Youth Sciences Institute. Moderate walking, 3 miles. Highlights: Dipper, Golden Eagle, Rufous-crowned Sparrow, wrens, migrants, plus observations on natural history, flora and fauna of the park provided by YSI Director Dave Johnston. BABOB Trip.

**\*\*Sunday, Sept. 29, 9:00 AM. Full Day.**

**Marin Headlands/Hawk Hill.** Leader: Don Schmoltdt (415) 215-1910. Directions: Meet at Vista Point, 1st exit N. of Golden Gate Bridge, carpool from there. Bring lunch and liquids, warm clothing in case of fog—hope for fog to burn off early for spectacular viewing of migrating accipiters, buteos and falcons; possible Broad-winged Hawk and other uncommon raptors.

**\*\*Saturday, Oct. 5, 8:00 AM. Half day.**

**Coyote Hills Regional Park.** Leader: Phil Hand (415) 851-2623. Directions: Take Hwy. 84 (Dumbarton Bridge) E. towards Newark, exit right on Thornton, then left over freeway as Thornton becomes Paseo Padre. Turn left at Patterson Ranch/Commerce Rd. (approx. 1 mi.) into park. Meet in lot at park entrance. Possible day use fee. Highlights: Migrant songbirds, raptors, waterfowl, Great Horned Owl. Lunch optional; heavy rain cancels.

**\*\*Sunday, Oct. 6, 9:00 AM. Full day.**

**Western San Francisco.** Leader: Alan Hopkins (415) 664-0983. Meet at Lake Merced. Directions: Take I-280 N. into San Francisco towards 19th Ave.; as freeway becomes Junipero Serra Blvd. keep to right and take Brotherhood Way exit, which loops around and heads W. under freeway. At Lake Merced Blvd. ("T" intersection) turn left, then right at John Muir Dr.; meet at first parking lot on right by cement bridge. Highlights: migrating warblers, shorebirds and seabirds. Itinerary includes Golden Gate Park and Cliff House. Heavy rain cancels.

**\*\*Saturday, Oct. 12, 9:00 AM. Full day.**

**Marin Headlands/Hawk Hill.** Leader: Nick Yatsko (408) 247-5499. Carpool from Park'n'Ride at I-280 and Page Mill Rd. at 8:00 AM. If you missed the September trip or got fogged out, here's a second chance to observe migrating raptors as they prepare to swoop over the Golden Gate in impressive numbers. Bring lunch, liquids and warm clothing.

**\*\*Sunday, Oct. 13, 9:00 AM. Half day.**

**Beginners trip to Charleston Slough.** Leader: Allen Royer (408) 288-7768. Directions: Take 101 to Mountain View, exit San Antonio Rd. E. to its end at Terminal Way. Highlights: Basics of birding with emphasis on shorebirds, waterfowl and ducks.

## Wednesday, September 18, 7:30 PM. September General Meeting

Pete LaTourrette, a wonderful nature photographer who is very active in our chapter activities, especially in the Bay Area Bird Photographers group, will present "Native Forest Birds of the Big Island of Hawaii." Pete will tell us how to find these birds on the Big Island and something about their interesting feeding and breeding behavior. You will learn about nine species of native Hawaiian passerines: Apapane, Liwi, Amakihi, Elepaio, Omao, Hawaiian Creeper, Akapa, Akiapola'au, and Palila. Pete has photographed wild birds extensively both in California and on his many trips abroad. His most recent efforts have been concentrated on Hawaii's Big Island. He has organized and is leading a photo safari for May 12-21, 1992, with Hawaii resident and US Fish and Wildlife biologist Jack Jeffrey, and with Doug and Gail Cheeseman for nine members who are interested in observing these fascinating Hawaiian Honeycreepers. SCVAS General meetings are co-sponsored by the Palo Alto Open Spaces and Sciences Division at the Palo Alto Cultural Center, 1313 Newell Rd. at Embarcadero.



# Field Notes

By Bill Bousman

Many observers noted that spring seemed to arrive late and this was borne out by the lateness of many arrival dates, especially for the flycatchers, and also in the unusual lingering of winter species. Banding data from the Coyote Creek Riparian Station (CCRS) showed that the early migrants, such as Orange-crowned and Wilson's Warblers, did in fact arrive late but compensated for the late spring by coming through more quickly so that the median dates for the migration were similar to past years. Late migrants, such as Swainson's Thrush and Yellow Warbler, normally arrive in the second week of May and their passage this year was unchanged from previous years. The slowness of the spring probably had more to do with the lack of rain in January and February, which allowed the ground to cool down, rather than the heavy rains in March (at least that's what the winemakers suggest). Whether the late spring was responsible for the unusual fallout of Hammond's Flycatchers reported in the June *Avocet* is a mystery. Most other rarities were found in typical numbers.

## Grebes to Ibis

An alternated plumage **Eared Grebe** at Crittenden Marsh 1-3 Jun (MMR) was the only summer report. An adult **Brown Pelican** at Shoreline Lake 25 Apr (DCu) was the earliest we have recorded and was about a month early. An adult **Little Blue Heron** near the Alviso heronry 11 Jun (MiF) suggests continued nesting at the heronry, but this species still remains very rare locally. **Cattle Egret** continued to be found foraging in a horse pasture in Alviso from 2-30 May (PJM, MJM, MMR, WGB) and one was over Zanker Road, 3 Jul (WGB). Two alternate plumaged **White-faced Ibis** at the Alviso Marina 23-24 May (ST) were the first since 1989.

## Ducks

A male **Blue-winged Teal** was at the Alviso Environmental Education Center (EEC) 6 May (MiF) and a pair was on Crittenden Marsh 9 May (PJM). Another male was found in the vicinity of the

Mountain View Forebay 19 May-1 Jun (AME, PMB, MMR). A pair was in the vicinity of Soap Lake on the Santa Clara-San Benito County border 28 May and 11 Jun (WGB). Despite the numbers encountered no evidence of nesting has been found this year. A 1st-summer **Black Scoter** was on Shoreline Lake 15-17 May (AV, MMR, WGB) and was our second bird this year. A male **Common Merganser** on Bear Gulch Res. 1 Jun (Tovar *et al.*) was the first that has been found there in the summer on the Palo Alto Breeding Bird Count.

## ***A Mississippi Kite seen briefly at Shoreline Lake is the first for the county and one of the few records for Northern California.***

## Raptors

An **Osprey** on the San Felipe Ranch on the west side of the Diablo Range 28 Apr (JY, AL) was a late migrant, but birds at Searsville Lake 22 May (WGB) and 1 Jun (JB-H), over at lower Coyote Creek 26 May (PJM), and at the Skyline Ridge OSP 9 Jun (SY, BC) were most unusual for summer. The award for rare bird of the spring and summer period goes to the adult **Mississippi Kite** that was found at Shoreline Lake 12 May (PS). If accepted by the California Birds Records Committee (CBRC) this will be a first record for the county and one of the few records for northern California. Migrant Swainson's **Hawks** over the Matadero riparian 9 Apr (PJM) and Alviso 29 Apr (ST) are the first in the county since 1976. They are generally found in the Central Valley both as migrants and nesting birds. An adult **Peregrine Falcon** at Moffett Field 13 Jun (MMR) has been the only report of the summer.

## Shorebirds through Terns

A **Lesser Yellowlegs** at the San Jose-Santa Clara Water Pollution Control Plant (WPCP) 4 May (PJM) is a rarity in the spring. **Solitary Sandpipers** have been found in unusual numbers this spring with the second one along lower Coyote Creek 28 Apr-1 May (PJM, ST) and the third on Calabazas Creek at Mission College on 28 Apr (DDeS, NY). An adult **Semi-palmated Sandpiper** at the San Jose-Santa Clara WPCP 1 May (ST) is the first record we have for the spring. Two **Black Terns** in alternate plumage at the Alviso salt ponds 4 May (PJM, MJM) were most unusual.

## Owls through Woodpeckers

A **Northern Pygmy Owl** carrying food along Arroyo Hondo 1 Jul (MMR) is the first confirmation of breeding we have obtained during the atlas period, although there are a number of previous breeding records for this rare owl. **Black-chinned Hummingbirds** breed locally along lower Coyote Creek and perhaps in some of the riparian areas on the west slope of the Diablo Range. The evidence for breeding, however, has been largely circumstantial until the spring when an intensive search at CCRS turned up the first nest on 5 May and a second on 12 May (MJM). Always rare as a migrant, single **Calliope Hummingbirds** were found at Sandy Wool Lake 2 May (MMR) and CCRS the same day (fide WGB). **Lewis' Woodpeckers** have been widespread in San Antonio Valley this spring and breeding was noted on 23 May and 6 Jun (WGB).

## Flycatchers

Two **Willow Flycatchers** banded at CCRS 5 May (fide WGB) were the only ones reported this spring. The astounding influx of **Hammond's Flycatchers** this spring continued with 15 birds reported from lower Coyote Creek, the Diablo range, Alviso, and Moffett Field from 21 Apr to 19 May (m.ob.). In almost all cases these migrants were silent. The total number of Hammond's found this spring doubles or triples the numbers found in all

## NAS Convention (continued from page 1)

particular environmental problems, ornithological and biological wonders, and how they were working with Audubon to integrate their research and political programs with like-minded American environmentalists.

Some of the presentations focussed on wildlife, like Hawkwatch International's Steve Hoffmann's outstanding slide show and talk on hawk migration in western North America as an indicator of environmental change, and a panel discussion on wolf reintroduction in North America. Other sessions provided valuable pointers and techniques for improving specific aspects of the local chapter, including John Borneman's witty and entertaining leadership seminar and *Audubon Activist* editor Fred Baumgarten's informative newsletter workshop. The roundtable discussions among chapter leaders with similar interests (newsletter, fundraising, etc.) were particularly helpful as we shared experiences and ideas with Auduboners from around the country.

As a long-time birding enthusiast I was extremely gratified to see how people excitedly traded birding stories and compared field trip notes at the convention. Granted, it wasn't the American Birding Association, but the ongoing fascination with birds is what bonds Audubon members together as we enter the modern era of environmental awareness and it becomes nearly impossible to separate birding as a recreational pastime from the stark realities of habitat destruction and species endangerment. Prior to the convention, I counted myself among the disgruntled members who perceived the emergence of the new NAS "flag" emblem and simultaneous down-playing of the beloved Great Egret logo as an affront to long-standing, bird-loving members of Audubon. In an effort to placate the egret-lovers Peter Berle admitted that the logo change had been mishandled and that, rest assured, "The egret lives!" He did not, however, follow that statement with a promise

to get rid of the flag logo; it's clear that NAS plans to keep it.

Ultimately I decided that I could grudgingly live with the flag logo, while redoubling my commitment to the egret and what it has always represented to me as an Audubon member. I was so impressed with the competence, commitment and positive energy of the Audubon people I spoke with and listened to that I realized it would be a mistake to sever my affiliation with National Audubon, and I would urge SCVAS members to likewise maintain their support for NAS. If you're still upset about the direction they're going, write to Peter Berle—he will listen. And as your local chapter president, I would be more than happy to discuss Audubon-related issues with you at any time.

One final note on the convention: I finally saw a Northern Goshawk, a bird that had eluded me for over 20 years; thus, with my priorities in perfect order, I proclaim the '91 NAS Convention a resounding success!

## Field Notes (continued from page 4)

previous years! Most surprising was a single bird recaptured at CCRS on 12 Jun (fide WGB). This suggests that whatever caused these birds to move coastally has a profound effect and at least some of the birds did not breed but summered instead outside of their normal range. **Gray Flycatchers** are almost as rare on migration as Hammond's, so one calling at Ed Levin CP 2 May (MMR) and one banded at CCRS on 4 May (fide WGB) are of interest.

### Wrens through Sparrows

Always rare, nesting **Canyon Wrens** were found along Pacheco Creek in Henry Coe SP 13 Jun (WGB). An **American Dipper** was seen along Stevens Creek above the park 28 Apr (CHW, CLW) where they have nested in the past. Nesting birds were found along Arroyo Hondo 19 May and were seen also on 7 and 14 Jul (MMR). A male **Phainopepla** was in San Antonio Valley 23 May and a pair was there 6 Jun (WGB). Less expected was a male at the confluence of Alamitos and Calero Creeks 6 Jul (AV) at the edge of the Santa Cruz Mountains. The migration **September 1991**

of **Hermit Warblers** was widespread (m.ob.) this season. Three singing birds found 17 Jun in the upper portion of Wunderlich Park (GH) are from an area where breeding is suspected. A female **MacGillivray's Warbler** east of Arroyo Hondo on both 5 and 26 May (MMR) may have been a migrant, but this species is believed to be a very rare breeder in the county. However, all known nesting locations are just outside the county borders in the Santa Cruz Mountains. A **Yellow-breasted Chat** was found on lower Coyote Creek 4 May and a bird was along Coyote Creek below Anderson Dam on 7 May (DCu fide MiF) and 19 May (MiF, AV). At least two birds were on territory on 28 May and 28 Jun (WGB) on Pacheco Creek in San Benito County. A male **Indigo Bunting** was found in Regnart Canyon in Cupertino in early July (J-AG). A single **Black-chinned Sparrow** on Loma Prieta 11 Jun (MiF) was the only report this season. Single **Sage Sparrows** were found at the same location 8 and 11 Jun (JAC, MiF, KP). A male **Yellow-headed Blackbird** was found along Los Esteros

Road in Alviso on 17 Apr (PJM). A male was banded at CCRS on 30 Apr and was seen there again at least through 4 May (MiF, PJM). On 2 May another male was also seen at the Sunnyvale Baylands (EG). Finally, a female was seen at Crittenden Marsh on 9 May (PJM).

**Observers:** Jane Becker-Haven (JB-H), Bill Bousman (WGB), Phyllis Browning (PMB), Jack Cole (JAC), Barbara Costa (BC), Derek Currall (DCu), Dave DeSante (DDeS), Al Eisner (AME), Mike Feighner (MiF), JoAnn Gholson (J-AG), Elaine Gould (EG), Gloria Heller (GH), Amy Lauterbach (AL), Mike Mammoser (MJM), Peter Metropulos (PJM), Kathy Parker (KP), Mike Rogers (MMR), Paul Stevens (PS), Scott Terrill (ST), Ann Verdi (AV), Chris Wolfe (CHW), Claire Wolfe (CLW), Nick Yatsko (NY), Scott Young (SY), and James Yurchenko (JY).

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

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# Environmental Action News

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## Audubon Spotted Owl Reward Fund Announced

The National Audubon Society has announced it is establishing a spotted owl reward fund in response to the rash of owl killing in Washington. "Public outrage has been overwhelming," said Kris Fleming, Audubon office manager in Olympia. "Since the Fish and Wildlife Service cannot accept contributions directly, Audubon will provide startup funding and accept contributions to be made available to the Service."

Substantial rewards will be offered by the Service for information leading to the arrest and conviction of any person taking an owl in violation of the Endangered Species Act. The program will be administered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, which will determine the reward amount based on the values of the information, relative risk to the informant, and funds available.

Last month, the first dead spotted owl was found on the Olympic Peninsula, nailed to a national park sign. An attached note read. "If you think your parks and wilderness don't have enough of these suckers, plant this one. They talk of social unrest. The match has yet to be struck."

Since that time, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has informed Audubon that not only are spotted owls being found but also barred owls and one pygmy owl. In addition, Park Service buildings have suffered damage by arson, sparking fears of further fire damage this summer when conditions are dangerously dry.

"Habitat protection is the spotted owl's number one priority," said Jim Pissot, Audubon's Washington State Director, "but we cannot tolerate these brutal violations of the Endangered Species Act."

Owls have been killed in areas where logging has been restricted since the species was declared threatened last summer. Ironically, these senseless acts will only further restrict the timber industry by delaying the recovery of the owl species.

### Spotted Owl Reward Fund

contributions may be sent to the:  
National Audubon Society  
Washington State Office  
P.O. Box 462  
Olympia, WA 98506

— from the *Audubon Leader*, the newsletter from the Western Region Office of the National Audubon Society.

## Toll Road (continued from page 1)

road for private profit and prohibit the road's developers from trying to use a new federal law that will permit new roads to be built through wetlands.

Your letters should oppose inclusion of the Mid State Toll Road alignment in the Regional Transportation Plan, urge the MTC Commissioners to reject the Congestion Management Programs of Alameda and Contra Costa Counties if the alignment for the toll road appears in their plans and ask them to support a Regional Transportation Program that is transit oriented.

Write to these three Santa Clara County MTC Commissioners: Dianne McKenna, Jim Beall and Rod Diridon, Metropolitan Transportation Commission, 101 Eighth St., Oakland, CA 94607-4700. By acting today, you'll be joining in protecting sensitive wetlands around the Bay Area, keeping prime farmlands in production, halting the degradation of the Delta and the Bay, and stopping the suburban mauling of the Bay Area's Greenbelt of open lands.

For more information, call the Greenbelt Alliance at (415) 543-4291.

— Mark Evanoff and Jim Sayer

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## What to Do When You Find a Banded Bird

If you should find a banded bird, send the following to the Bird Banding Laboratory, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington, D.C. (no ZIP is needed):

1. The number on the band. Read it carefully. There may be nine digits on a band small enough to fit a wren's leg. Or flatten the band and tape it on your letter.
2. The date of recovery.
3. The location, with approximate mileage to the nearest town.
4. The condition of the bird. Alive? Dead? Injured? Released? If so, the date of the release.
5. The description of how the bird was found: at a picture window, brought in by a cat, dog, or child; found by the roadside, on a beach, hit by a car, etc.

If the bird is dead, and in fair condition, it should be carefully wrapped and immediately stored in a freezer until it can be given, with a copy of the above information, to an educational institution. Since the collection of wild birds is illegal, museums, nature centers, and universities are dependent upon specimens brought to them. Even a damaged wing, bony structure of leg or foot or a skull can be used for teaching.

— From *Madrone Leaves*, the newsletter of *Madrone Audubon Society*

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## Lunch Hour Birding

There is lots of great birdwatching at Shoreline Park in Mountain View. There are also more than 6000 computer industry workers close by who could benefit from a lunch-hour break from the hi-tech race. These prospective lunch-hour birders are tied together with electronic mail networks, so it would be easy to send information to them.

I'm looking for an experienced Shoreline birder with an interest in education, who could take interested people like me on lunch-hour bird walks. We could start by going twice a month, on a regular schedule.

Please call me if you might be interested. If more than one person calls, you could perhaps alternate. Or we might have more walks, depending on the interest. I am Peter Nurske, and my work number at Sun Microsystems is 415/336-3819.



# FALL BIRD SEED BONANZA



## BIRDSEED:

**Audubon Special Mix:** A custom-blend formulated by National Audubon Society staff specifically for Northern California birds. This high protein mix contains white proso millet and black-oil sunflower seeds with no inexpensive fillers. Specially blended to attract songbirds.

**Western Wild Mix:** This classic blend of red millet, white proso millet, and red milo is priced to compete with supermarket seed. Does not contain sunflower seeds.

**Black Oil Sunflower Seed:** All-time favorite for all seed-eating birds. Has broad appeal because of high fat and protein. Especially good for winter residents. Can be offered in a feeder alone or mixed with other seeds.

**Thistle:** A small black oil-rich seed imported from tropical Asia and India. (This exotic will not sprout in your yard!) Attracts many birds with small beaks such as finches. This excellent source of fat and protein is generally unappealing to squirrels and large birds.

**White Proso Millet:** According to the Dept. of the Interior, this is the most nutritious, low-cost seed. It won't spoil when wet. Millet is favored by both ground feeding and feeder birds. Offer some in a feeder and sprinkle some on the ground.

## BIRD FEEDERS:

### Perky Pet Four-Fountains Hummingbird Feeder \$11.95

The most popular hummingbird feeder ever made! Easily-cleaned glass bottle with 8 oz. capacity. Special features include four bee-guards that keep insects away from nectar supply, and four feeding stations.

### Sunflower Tube Feeder \$9.95

Duncraft's best-selling sunflower tube feeder features a long-lasting aluminum hanging system, eight feeding stations with wooden dowel perches, weatherproof plastic tubing. 16" long.

### Thistle Stocking \$2.95

This nylon stocking is specially designed to dispense thistle seed. People love to attract the more unusual songbirds, and thistle does it better than anything else! The Thistle stocking is 12" long and has a drawstring for easy hanging. Can hold 8 oz. of seed.

### Window Feeder for Small Songbirds \$9.95

Lets you see the 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 and 1/2 pint seed capacity.

### Soda Bottle Feeder \$9.95

A 2 liter soda bottle can be filled with a mixed seed variety or sunflower seed, then inverted into the cast-zinc dispenser. Has two metal perches. Seed flows out as the birds eat it. Holds up to 3 lbs. of seed and keeps it dry. A great way to re-use your old soda bottles!



## THIS IS A PREPAID SALE. ORDERS DUE OCTOBER 21!

Your order, including a check payable to SCVAS must be received by **MONDAY, OCTOBER 21**. All orders must be picked up from one of the sites listed below. 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 will be sold at the close of each sale unless alternative arrangements have been made in advance. **No exceptions.** (We'll consider it a donation.)

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 the SCVAS office at (415) 329-1811.

## 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
- Environmental Education Center  
Grand Avenue  
Alviso

## Can You Help?

Volunteers are needed for the Fall Bird Seed Bonanza. You'll get a **15%** discount on your seed order from helping out at the sales table or from loading seed into cars at one of the six pick-up sites or from helping with computerizing the many seed orders at the office. For more info: Call Cecily at the SCVAS office at (415) 329-1811.

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

## BIRD SEED SALE ORDER FORM – SPRING 1991

### PICK-UP LOCATIONS: PLEASE CHECK ONE

- REI, Cupertino \_\_\_\_\_ Tues., Oct. 29, 4-6 pm
- Pets Friend, Snyl. \_\_\_\_\_ Thurs., Nov. 7, 5-7 pm
- PCC, Palo Alto \_\_\_\_\_ Wed., Oct. 30, 5-7 pm
- YSI, Los Gatos \_\_\_\_\_ Thurs., Oct. 24, 4-6 pm
- Environmental Ed. Center \_\_\_\_\_ Sat., Nov. 2, 10-12 am  
Alviso

Presently we offer a fall and spring seed sale. Would you like us to offer a summer seed sale as well?

- Yes
- No

AUDUBON SPECIAL _____	20 lb @ \$ 9/bag	_____	_____
	50 lb @ \$17.50/bag	_____	_____
WESTERN WILD _____	20 lb @ \$8/bag	_____	_____
	50 lb @ \$16.50/bag	_____	_____
BLACK OIL SUNFLOWER _____	25 lb @ \$14/bag	_____	_____
	50 lb @ \$25/bag	_____	_____
THISTLE _____	5 lb @ \$11/bag	_____	_____
WHITE PROSO MILLET _____	25 lb @ \$7/bag	_____	_____
	50 lb @ \$13/bag	_____	_____
	Bird Feeder(s) ( <i>Please specify</i> )	_____	_____
	Subtotal	_____	_____
	Add 8.25% Tax	_____	_____
	Contributions to SCVAS ( <i>tax deductible</i> )	_____	_____
	<b>Total</b>	_____	_____

# bags

Cost

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

## SCVAS To Be At Fall Festival and Horticultural Fair October 5th

Come join the Associates of the Saratoga Horticultural Foundation at their Annual Fall Festival and Horticultural Fair on Saturday, October 5 from 8:30 am to 3:30 pm at 15185 Murphy Avenue in San Martin\*\*.

During the Fair, two renowned horticulturists are scheduled to speak: Albert Wilson of radio and newspaper fame and Warren Roberts, Superintendent of the University of California at Davis Campus Arboretum.

There will also be a plant and book sale, snacks, product demonstrations, representatives from other plant societies, a raffle, tours of the nursery and research site and, new this year, a marketplace setting where you can purchase finer garden products.

Santa Clara Valley Audubon will have a sales and informa-

tion table as well as BIRD SEED for sale. We will have an assortment of seeds available as well as birding books and birdfeeders.

You may also pre-order/pre-pay birdseed to be picked up at this site on Saturday, October 5th only. Use the order form in this newsletter and *be sure to write in Saratoga Horticultural Foundation* site. If you don't pre-order, seed selection will be limited.

Questions about the Fair? Please call Saratoga Horticultural Foundation at (408) 779-3303. Questions about birdseed? Call Cecily at (415) 329-1811.

\*\* Directions: Take Highway 101 north or south to San Martin. Exit on Tennant Rd. Turn right on Murphy Ave. The address is 15185 Murphy Rd.