

The Avocet

The Newsletter of the Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society

October 1991

SCVAS Move to Cupertino Environmental Center Likely

by Grant Hoyt

Negotiations are currently under way with the City of Cupertino that would enable Santa Clara Valley Audubon to move its office, merchandise and library into a newly-formed environmental center located in the city's McLellan Ranch Park, possibly as early as November 1.

Situated in rustic, riparian habitat along Stevens Creek only minutes from Highway 280, the Cupertino Environmental Center would provide SCVAS and several other local conservation and wildlife groups with headquarters in a bucolic, natural setting. The Sierra Club, California Native Plant Society, Environmental Volunteers and Trail Center have expressed interest in using the center in some capacity.

Cupertino residents and SCVAS members Nancy Hertert and Deborah Jamison have worked with the city's *ad hoc*

committee to help transform the McLellan Ranch facility into a nature preserve and environmental center. "I'm thrilled for us to have an environmental center in Cupertino. It's a glorious place," said Hertert of the McLellan site, which in past years has been a cattle ranch, farm, and recently home to the city's parks and recreation department.

Establishing the center would represent the realization of a longtime dream for Hertert, who began efforts to create a nature preserve at McLellan Ranch when she moved to Cupertino in 1946.

If consummated, the agreement between SCVAS and Cupertino would allow the chapter to rent office and storage space at McLellan House for below-market rates and have use of common areas including meeting room and kitchen. The city is eager to have Audubon and the other groups enhance the center through con-

servation-oriented projects, educational programs and informational workshops coordinated with the city naturalist. Our chapter would operate a small store, and members would be encouraged to drop in for visiting and volunteer work.

Although SCVAS board members and staff are generally enthusiastic about the impending move, certain inevitable stumbling blocks must be overcome before relocation becomes reality. Money is a major consideration, and the city of Cupertino has been helpful in working out a mutually acceptable lease agreement that won't stress the limited SCVAS budget.

Difficulties notwithstanding, there is substantial reason for optimism regarding this tremendous opportunity to establish a new home at McLellan Ranch Park in Cupertino where SCVAS can expand and develop into a more effective, higher pro-

(continued on page 6)

Update on the Burrowing Owl Census

by David F. DeSante

About 200 members of the 14 local Audubon Society chapters and Bird Clubs in the San Francisco Bay Area and central part of California's Central Valley took to the field from late May to early July to count Burrowing Owls. This census was designed and coordinated by the Institute for Bird Populations and was widely supported by all of the 14 chapters and clubs. The purpose of the census was to provide a rigorous, up-to-date assessment of the population of Burrowing Owls in the area, a species that has declined alarmingly over the past ten years, and to determine habitat relationships for the owls.

Volunteer observers were provided with letters of introduction, detailed instructions, data sheets, USGS topographic maps and locator maps of their assigned area, and attempted to cover the entire 10 square miles of their block. Each volunteer attempted to find and count all Burrowing Owls in the 10 square miles of their block. Enthusiasm ran high among the counters, some of whom spent upwards of 10 to 20 hours painstakingly searching for Burrowing Owls in all the far corners of their areas.

While many of the observers shared their enthusiasm for the project by writing

(continued on page 8)

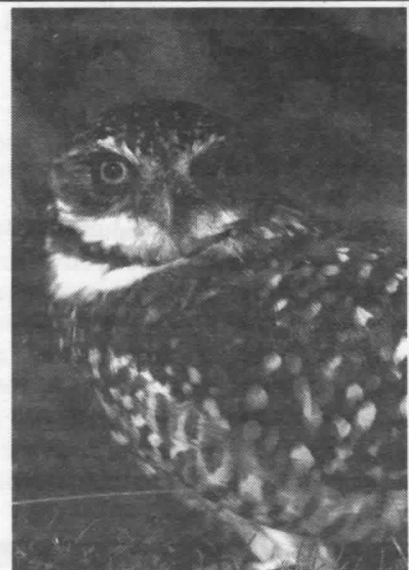


Photo Courtesy of Tim Davis / Tim Davis Photography

Chapter News

SCVAS Mission Statement

To maintain, preserve and protect native animal and plant habitats and to foster a greater public awareness of this environment, with emphasis on birds and their ecosystems particularly in Santa Clara County and the San Francisco Bay Area.

This mission is to be accomplished by:

- Promoting appropriate environmental action and conservation strategies for the wise use and protection of wildlife, plants, soil, water and air.
- Educating the region's residents on the need for and benefits of preserving the environment, focusing on school educational programs, public outreach and field trips.
- Supporting research into maintaining and extending wildlife and native plant populations, particularly those of birds.
- Supporting the goals of the National Audubon Society.

In Memorial:

- Ethel Beede
- Keiko Hayashi & Jeannie Richter,
Co-Directors LAPP

SCVAS Grants Program

The SCV Audubon Society makes grants annually to local projects and organizations that advance the knowledge, appreciation and protection of wildlife and its habitats. These awards are project-oriented and are only available once.

Grant applications for the 1991-92 grants cycle are now available and are due by Tuesday, March 31, 1992. The completed grant application, proposed budget and time-line must be submitted at this time.

Grants will be awarded in mid-June to those proposals approved fully or partially by the SCVAS Grants Committee and the Board of Directors. After completion of the funded activity, the recipient may be asked to make a presentation at an SCVAS general meeting or write an article for the *Avocet*.

For more information and grant application forms, call the SCVAS office at (415) 329-1811.

Wish List for Our New Home at McClellan Ranch:

- ◆ Round or rectangular table for volunteers to work on projects
- ◆ Copier
- ◆ Fax machine
- ◆ Several comfortable chairs for Library visitors
- ◆ Rack for free brochures/ magazines

Volunteers Needed!

Gift Shop: Beginning in November, we will be needing volunteers to help out with sales and other projects in our new gift shop.

Library: Come help organize our library collection into our new library space.

Moving Day: Anyone with a van or truck that could help us move boxes from our office in Palo Alto to McClellan Ranch Park in Cupertino the weekend of Oct. 26-27.



Everything for Feeding & Enjoying our Backyard Birds

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Wild Bird Center
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San Carlos
(415) 595-0300

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EFC	Don Price	415/327-1254
Merchandise	Yana Arnold	408/371-4393
So. County	Field Trips Shirley Gordon	408/996-9863
Volunteers	Vacant	

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 25th of the two months prior. Send contributions to *The Avocet*, c/o SCVAS at the above address.

SCVAS is a chapter of the National Audubon Society.

October 1991, Volume 38, Number 8

We're For The Birds!

Whales & Tales

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Hummingbirds Raptors
Songbirds Shorebirds

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and Kid's Stuff

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415-326-1130
Palo Alto

October 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 November is Rod Norden (408) 285-1687 (days).

****Denotes Field Trip**

Wednesday, October 2, 7:30 - 9:30 PM.

Bay Area Bird Photographers Mark Rauzon, research biologist on Laysan Island. Meeting is at Palo Alto's Lucy Evans Baylands Interpretive Center on east Embarcadero Rd.

****Saturday, October 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, October 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.

Tuesday, October 8, 9:30 AM.

Eve Case Bird Discussion Group at the home of Edward Rooks, 20537 Verde Vista Lane, Saratoga. (408) 867-4748. Topic: Townsend's Warbler.

****Wednesday, October 9, 9:00 AM.**

South County Field Trip to Villa Montalvo. Leader: Shirley Gordon (408) 996-9863. Directions: Meet in Parking lot #1 located about 1/2 mile southeast of Saratoga on Saratoga-Los Gatos Rd (Hwy. #9). Turn south on Montalvo Rd. and proceed to parking lot in park.

****Saturday, October 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, October 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, October 16, 7:30 PM.

October General Meeting, co-sponsored by the Palo Alto Open Spaces and Sciences Division, at the Palo Alto Cultural Center, Embarcadero at Newell Rds. Topic: Doug Cheeseman will present a program on the Wildlife of Alaska and the Northwest Passage.

****Saturday, October 19, 8:00 AM.**

Full Day.

Wilder Ranch, Santa Cruz Coast. Leader: Earl Lebow (408) 464-8814. Directions: Take Hwy. 17 South to Santa Cruz. 17 turns into Ocean St. Meet in parking lot of Santa Cruz City Govt. Center, 701 Ocean St. Highlights: Shorebirds, gulls, raptors, some passerines.

****Wednesday, October 23, 9:00. Half Day.**

San Pedro Valley Co. Park. Leaders: Bess Neruccio (415) 992-2848, Ariana Rosenbluth. Directions: Meet at park headquarters. From Hwy. 1 (between Pacifica and Montara) take Linda Mar Blvd. about 1 and 1/4 mile inland. Turn right on Oddstad and you're there. This is an interesting new area. Lunch optional.

Sunday, October 27.

SCVAS Moves to Cupertino! If we're lucky and everything falls into place, this will be the

day we move our operations to the beautiful McLellan Ranch Park. Able bodies (and pickup trucks) are needed — if you can help, call Cecily at the office at 321-1811.

Coming in November:

Death Valley Vagrant Chase with Rod Norden and Marc Fenner. This trip with two of our outstanding rare bird finders promises to be an adventure! Details, including date, will appear in November *Avocet*. (It will *not* be over the weekend of Nov. 2-3)

Non-Audubon Events

Scope and Binocular Show

San Francisco Bay Bird Observatory and Golden Gate Raptor Observatory's Third Annual Scope and Binocular Show will be held on Sunday, October 27th at Fort Mason in San Francisco. For more information call SFBBO at (408) 946-6548 or GGRO at (415) 331-0730.

PCC's Annual Business Environmental Awards

Peninsula Conservation Center's second annual Business Environmental Awards luncheon will be held on Friday, November 1, from 12-2 at the University Club in Palo Alto. Awards will be given for four categories: air, land, water and energy. Tickets \$25. For more information, call (415) 494-9301.

Other Happenings at the PCC:

Oct 9 12-1 pm, Dolphins; Oct. 12, 7:30 pm, The Path Between: An Evening of Music with Joan McMillan at Palo Alto Cultural Ctr. \$10; Oct. 23, 12-1 pm, Wildlife of Northern India; Oct. 26, 9:30-5, Native Plant Sale; Oct. 29, 7:15 pm, Palo Alto City Council Candidates Env. Forum.

**Wednesday, October 16, 7:30 PM.
October General Meeting**

Doug and Gail led three trips to Alaska this past summer and were lecturers on the Salen Lindblad ship "Frontier Spirit" from the Aleutian Islands through the Northwest Passage to Nantucket, MA. Doug photographed wildlife in the Pribilofs, in Denali, the Brooks Range, around Admiralty Island, in Glacier Bay and many areas in the Northwest Passage, including Hershel Island, Victoria Island, Resolute Bay, and Baffin Island. Many marine and land mammals and birds will be discussed as well as information about their fascinating natural history. 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 to Egrets

A basic-plumed **Common Loon** south of the Dumbarton RR bridge on 1 Jun (MJM) was overlooked in last month's report. We rarely have loons overwintering on the bay. The large flocks of wintering **American White Pelicans** arrive in the south bay in early July, but this year the first report was not until 8 Aug when 250 were seen at Charleston Slough (AME). A **Brown Pelican** off Mountain View 6 Aug (WGB) was the only report since the exceptionally early bird in April. Four **Cattle Egrets** were in the horse pasture off Los Esteros Rd. 21 Aug (WGB) where they have been seen regularly this year.

Ducks to Hawks

Lesser Scaup first nested in the south bay in 1981 and are now a regular breeder. In the last two years the largest concentration of breeding birds has been in the vicinity of the Sunnyvale Water Pollution Control Plant (WPCP). The first downy young was noted there 29 Jun (PJM) and by 21 Jul MJM counted 22 downy young in an estimated three or four broods. It seems likely that **Common Mergansers** have always bred in the county, but are hard to find. Six broods noted along 6-8 miles of Arroyo Hondo on 1 and 14 Jul (MMR) are on watershed lands where they are free from disturbance. The **Sharp-shinned Hawk** is one of our rarest breeding birds so that one or two birds seen near Kelly Cabin Lake 17 Jul-9 Aug (CB) all represent probable breeding pairs. An adult **Peregrine Falcon** was found along lower Coyote Creek 25 Aug (MJM, PJM, GHt). A pair of **Prairie Falcon** along Arroyo Hondo 27 Jul (MMR) almost certainly had young nearby.

Shorebirds and Terns

The first **Lesser Yellowlegs** of the season was at Palo Alto Flood Control Basin (FCB) 30 Jun (RSTh). This is the earliest record of this shorebird in the county. On 24 Aug 43 **Lesser Yellowlegs** were found in the Palo Alto FCB with

eight more in the Mountain View Forebay (MJM). The next day 19 birds were found along Coyote Creek (MJM, PJM, GHt). These are exceptional numbers for this rare migrant. An adult **Spotted Sandpiper** with two precocial young along Arroyo Hondo 27 Jul (MMR) were in the area where they had been suspected of breeding. This is only the third place in the county where this shorebird has been found to nest. Thirty **Baird's Sandpipers** at the San Jose-Santa Clara WPCP drying ponds 25 Aug (PJM) is the largest concentration we have ever had in the county. On the

Three Buff-breasted Sandpipers at the San Jose-Santa Clara Water Pollution Control Plant are the first found in the County.

same day Peter Metropulos found **Buff-breasted Sandpipers** there and three **Pectoral Sandpipers** as well. This is the first county record for Buff-breasted Sandpiper. Another Pectoral was at the Palo Alto FCB on 24 Aug (MJM). June records of phalaropes in the south bay are few so 40 **Wilson's Phalaropes** on 7 Jun (PJM) at the San Jose-Santa Clara WPCP was most unusual. **Red-necked Phalaropes** were also found with one on outer Charleston Slough 1 Jun (MMR), 20 at Alviso 11 Jun (MiF), a male there on 13 Jun (DS), and one at the Sunnyvale WPCP 21 Jun (MJM). **Least Terns** were first noted at Charleston Slough this season on 21 Jul when four were seen (MMR). Good numbers, up to 6 adults and 14 juveniles, were seen on 6 and 8 Aug (AME, WGB) but numbers declined after that with the last record on 20 Aug (WGB). The Terns used the algae mats at the slough for roosting in preference to the dikes and islands they have used in past years.

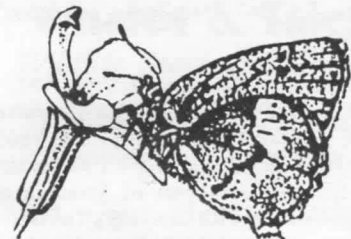
Hummingbirds through Sparrows

In some years there appears to be a substantial fall migration of **Black-chinned Hummingbirds** along lower Coyote Creek. Fourteen counted on 25 Aug (PJM, MJM, GHt) may represent more than just the local breeding population that is concentrated there. The fall passerine migration started as usual by the end of August.

A **Willow Flycatcher** was in the vanguard of that migration and was banded at the Coyote Creek Riparian Station on 16 Aug. A **Red-breasted Nuthatch** in a Los Altos yard 18 Aug (GHt) was the only record away from areas where they nest. **Canyon Wrens** were found nesting below Oak Ridge near Arroyo Hondo 27 Jul (MMR) and were using an abandoned Cliff Swallow nest on a cliff face. A male **Phainopepla** was seen again at the edge of the Almaden Valley on Henwood Rd on 4 Aug (AV). **Grasshopper Sparrow** adults were seen bringing food to young birds 27 Jul (MMR) along Felter Rd above Calaveras Reservoir.

Observers: Bill Bousman (WGB), Clark Blake (CB), Al Eisner (AME), Mike Feighner (MiF), Grant Hoyt (GHt), Mike Mammoser (MJM), Peter Metropulos (PJM), Mike Rogers (MMR), Don Schmoldt (DES), Don Starks (DS), Ron Thorn (RSTh), and Ann Verdi (AV).

Rarities: Please drop me a note: Bill Bousman, 321 Arlington Way, Menlo Park, CA 94025 (415) 322-5282.



Mission Blue Butterfly

The Burrowing Owl Alliance

by Janis Taylor Buchanan

For the past decade the Bay Area has been growing up and out. Development has filled in a majority of the open spaces that once existed. These changes have had a detrimental effect on the population of Burrowing Owls that live in the open spaces in the Bay Area.

In 1979 the California Department of Fish and Game designated the Burrowing Owl as a Species of Special Concern. This designation recognized that the population of owls throughout the state of California was changing, fewer birds were being seen, and that Burrowing Owls should be given special consideration. However, this status does not provide any specific protection for the owls or their habitat. Also, this status given to the Burrowing Owl over a decade ago has not been re-evaluated since.

But the loss of open fields throughout the Bay Area in the past ten years is evidence that safe Burrowing Owl habitat is needed in this area. This realization was the main motivation behind the formation of the Burrowing Owl Alliance.

The Burrowing Alliance is made up of the following organizations; Humane Society of Santa Clara Valley, SCVAS, Save B.O.T.H., Shoreline at Mountain View, and PG&E. The Humane Society and Save B.O.T.H. provide technical support to the Alliance, SCVAS is the mentor and fiduciary agent to Save B.O.T.H., SCVAS also provides volunteers for projects, Shoreline provides a model for Burrowing Owl habitat restoration, and PG&E has funded the project up to this point and has also provided some of their lands as habitat sites.

The goal of the Burrowing Owl Alliance is to provide habitat for the Burrowing Owl throughout the Bay Area that is going to be safe from development pres-

ures for a long time, if not forever. You may think that this is unrealistic since prime Burrowing Owl habitat is often synonymous with prime land for development. But there is a simple solution. The areas that we are selecting are lands that have limited development potential. These areas are PG&E right-of-ways, other utility right-of-ways and closed landfills. We won't have to compete with the develop-

ers for these lands and the owls will have safe refuge on the Valley floor.

Shoreline at Mountain View serves as a model for this project. Shoreline was built on a closed landfill. Their staff created Burrowing Owl habitat on 150 acres of the property. No sooner had the habitat been created when the owls moved in. Part of the habitat at Shoreline was colonized by local owls

and part of the habitat serves as a relocation site for owls displaced by development in other parts of the Bay Area.

Not only is creating habitat on these limited use lands easy, but it is also inexpensive. The benefits are in turn enormous, for the Burrowing Owl and other wildlife that inhabit the area.

So far the Alliance has created habitat on one PG&E right-of-way in Mountain View. A second PG&E right-of-way site in Sunnyvale will be created in the near future. We have also begun work on getting other landfills from around the Bay involved in this Burrowing Owl habitat restoration project.

If you would like more information on this project please write to:

Dr. Lynne Trulio
Burrowing Owl Alliance
Shoreline at Mountain View
P.O. Box 7540
Mountain View, CA 94039

Photo Courtesy of Tim Davis



Field Trip Report

Kern River Valley Field Trip

June 22-24, 1991

Bright and early on June 22 ten birders set out with leader Bob Barnes of Tulare County Audubon, who runs the San Joaquin/South Sierra Rare Bird Alert, on a 3-day birding expedition of varied habitats. Weather was fair with temperatures ranging from the 40's to the low 80's.

On June 22 we visited the Nature Conservancy's Kern River Preserve where we heard the call of the endangered **Yellow-Billed Cuckoo**; accounts give only three pair nesting on the preserve. **Lesser Nighthawk**, the endangered Kern River subspecies of **Willow Flycatcher**, **Yellow-Breasted Chat**, **Summer Tanager**, **Blue Grosbeak**, **Lazuli Bunting**, **Yellow-Headed Blackbird** and **Lawrence's Goldfinch** were all seen and heard.

On June 23 we covered the desert habitats in the Walker Pass area where we heard the call of a **Greater Roadrunner** and saw **Cactus Wren**, **Brewer's Sparrow**, **Black-Throated Sparrow** and **Scott's Oriole**. In the afternoon we continued birding through Troy and Kennedy Meadows in Sequoia National Forest where we encountered **Common Nighthawk**, **Clark's Nutcracker**, **Mountain Bluebird**, **Townsend's Solitaire**, **Vesper Sparrow** and **Cassin's Finch**.

On June 24 we continued northward from Kernville through the National Forest to Holey Meadow, Lloyd Meadows Road Junction, Trail of Hundred Giants, Bald Mountain and Quaking Aspen Meadow where we had a brief glimpse of a **Northern Goshawk** and saw **Calliope Hummingbird**, **White-Headed Woodpecker**, **Hammond's**, **Dusky** and **Ash-Throated Flycatchers**, **Clark's Nutcracker**, **Black-Throated Gray**, **Hermit** and **Macgillivray's Warblers**, **Pine Siskin**, and **Evening Grosbeak**.

Bob Barnes is an excellent trip leader who did a fantastic job leading this trip for SCVAS. We appreciate all his efforts. In all 140 species were seen or heard.

—Mike Feighner

Environmental Action News

New Bills Threaten Wetlands

by Dena Mosser

Over the last two hundred years, the lower 48 states have lost over 53% of their historic wetlands. This is a rate of 60 acres lost for every hour between 1780 and 1980. California has the misfortune of leading the nation in wetlands losses. Our state has lost 91% of its original wetlands, according to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

The Federal Government is currently reviewing Section 404 of the Clean Water Act and its policies regarding wetlands protection. Already three bills have been introduced in Congress, which would weaken protection for remaining wetlands. Representative Hayes (LA) has introduced HR 1330.

This bill would:

- ◆ Eliminate protection of seasonal wetlands and vernal pools.
- ◆ Rank wetlands into good, medium and poor. No county could have more than 20% "good" quality wetlands.
- ◆ "Good" wetlands could be developed if there was an "overriding public interest." Even tidal wetlands would be at risk.
- ◆ Repeat existing EPA permit review authority.

Senate bill S. 1463 (Breux from LA) is the Senate's version of HR 1330. Recently, President Bush issued his wetlands policy which is similar in nature to HR 1330 (Hayes). Bush's policy would remove millions of acres of wetlands from regulatory protecting by redefining them as "uplands." For example, our Bay's seasonal wetlands will no longer be considered wetlands because they may not be covered with water for 21 consecutive days, especially during a drought.

A consortium of oil and gas industries, agri-business, developers, realtors and others have funded a campaign to weaken Section 404 of the Clean Water Act. They call themselves the National Wetland Coalition and this year are spending over \$400,000 to lobby Congress. Their tactics have been effective, and already HR 1330 has 160 co-sponsors, and Senate bill S. 1463 has 24 co-sponsors, including California's Sen. John Seymour.

What Would These Programs Mean to California?

- ◆ Loss of endangered species: In California, 55% of our endangered species are wetlands dependent.
- ◆ Loss of migratory waterfowl: The millions of migratory waterfowl that follow the Pacific Flyway depend on California's wetlands. Already the Central Valley has lost 95% of its wetlands, and duck populations have declined by 50%.
- ◆ Loss of fisheries: 75% of our sport and commercial fisheries depend on wetlands for nursery and breeding grounds.
- ◆ Loss of recreation: Dam projects would increase in number with corresponding impacts on fishing, hunting, and white-water rafting.

What You Can Do:

You may voice your opinion about proposed changes to section 404 of the Clean Water Act to the George Bush:

The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20510
(202) 224-3841 or (415) 556-4307.

To comment on Hayes bill (HR 1330), write or call your Congressperson:

Hon. Tom Campbell
313 Cannon Office Bldg,
Washington DC, 20515
(202) 225-5411, or
599 N. Mathilda Ave.
#105, Sunnyvale, CA 94086
(408) 245-4835

Hon. Don Edwards
1526 Longworth House
Washington, DC 20515
(202) 225-3531, or
1042 W. Hedding St. #100,
San Jose, CA 95126
(408) 247-1711

Hon. Norm Mineta
2350 Rayburn House
Washington, DC 20515
(202) 225-2631, or
1245 S. Winchester Blvd. #310
San Jose, CA 95128
(408) 984-6045

Paul L. Wattis Audubon Sanctuary Dedication

In April, 1991 the National Audubon Society acquired 500 acres in Colusa County for the purpose of creating a waterfowl sanctuary. The site has been restored to 200 acres of permanent wetlands and 300 acres of seasonal wetlands. Twenty-two nesting islands have been established, and the area has wintered thousands of snow geese, ducks, and several hundred Sandhill Cranes.

All Society members are invited to attend the upcoming sanctuary dedication at the site on Saturday, October 19 at 10 AM. The dedication will highlight current sanctuary activities and future plans for sanctuary enhancement.

Interpretive tours and birding trips will be held throughout the day to help participants become better acquainted with the sanctuary. Exhibits and free refreshments will also be provided.

The event will coincide with the 1991 Colusa Waterfowl-Rice Festival being held at the Colusa County fairgrounds in the nearby town of Colusa. The festival is sponsored by the Colusa County chamber of Commerce to provide a showcase for wildlife artists and the County's rice industry. A shuttle service will be provided for those wishing to take part in the sanctuary dedication and travel over to the festival site.

The sanctuary is a component of the Central Valley Joint Venture of the North American Waterfowl and Wetlands Program. Riparian corridors, including native willows and cottonwoods, are being encouraged along the perimeter and in certain interior locations. An existing oak woodland is being preserved and expanded.

SCVAS Move (continued from page 1)

file organization. **Members interested in helping with the upcoming move are urgently needed!** If interested contact Grant Hoyt at (415) 969-7892 or Cecily Harris at the office (415) 329-1811.

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

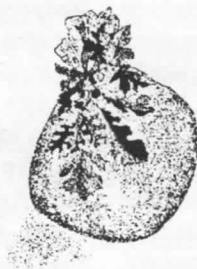
This nylon stocking is specially designed to dispense thistle seed. People love to attract the more unusual songbirds, and thistle does it better than anything else! The Thistle stocking is 12" long and has a drawstring for easy hanging. Can hold 8 oz. of seed.

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	ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED	Non-Profit Organization U.S. Postage Paid San Jose, CA Permit No. 5869
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BIRD SEED SALE ORDER FORM – FALL 1991

PICK-UP LOCATIONS: PLEASE CHECK ONE

- REI, Cupertino _____ Tues., Oct. 29, 4-6 pm
- Pets Friend, Snyvl. _____ 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

	# bags	Cost
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) (Please specify)	_____	_____
Subtotal	_____	_____
Add 8.25% Tax	_____	_____
Contributions to SCVAS (tax deductible)	_____	_____
Total	_____	_____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ ZIP _____

Phone () _____

Burrowing Owl (continued from page 1)

detailed comments about the census on their data sheets, a large number of observers also shared their disappointment that they were unable to find any Burrowing Owls in their blocks. Indeed, a significant number of observers failed to find any owls in blocks that were known to have contained breeding Burrowing Owls sometime during the past five years. In fact, among blocks that were censused by members of the Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society, owls were found in only 62% (8 out of 13) of the blocks that were known to have had breeding Burrowing Owls in the past five years. Moreover, very few new locations for breeding owls were found anywhere in the entire census area. These must be considered to be very preliminary results, however,

because all of the blocks have not yet been returned to us for tallying. Nevertheless, if all the early returns are indicative of the general trend, our cooperative census will serve to corroborate the feelings of many persons who are or recently have been studying Burrowing Owls — the species is in serious trouble in our area. The complete results of the census will be available by the end of the year, at which time we should be beginning to enter the data into a Geographic Information System (GIS) in preparation for next year's census.

We at The Institute for Bird Populations would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who helped with this year's census, and to offer an invitation to everyone to help with next year's work by censusing a block in 1992. Thanks again for your splendid cooperation.