

The Avocet

The Newsletter of the Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society

November 1991

New Coalition Promoting California Water Policy Reform *Share The Water — Save Fish And Wildlife*

Five years of drought are bringing California residents face-to-face with the realities of water scarcity, including higher water bills, mandatory rationing and brown lawns. However, for California fish and wildlife, the drought may be the final chapter after a long history of human water abuses and diversions in the west. Experts from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service agree that unless more water is allowed to stay in California's waterways, many fish species including the winter-run chinook salmon, striped bass, and Delta smelt will face extinction while waterfowl populations, whose numbers have already been reduced by 50%, will continue to decline.

For 89 years, the federal Bureau of Land Reclamation has diverted massive amounts of water from the entire Central Valley watershed through a system of dams

and canals called the Central Valley Project. Until now, the overwhelming majority of this water has been soaked up by agriculture at extremely low, subsidized prices. Current water laws reward farmers for wasting water rather than conserving it. As a result, fish, wildlife and residential water users bear the cost of producing water-thirsty and low-economic yield crops such as hay, alfalfa, cotton and rice.

Fortunately, U.S. Sen. Bill Bradley has recently introduced the Central Valley Project Improvement Act (S 484). Rep. George Miller introduced a companion Fish and Wildlife Protection Act (HR 1306) in the House. This historic legislation mandates critical reforms to save and restore fish and wildlife while providing fair compensation for agriculture. Sen. Bradley's bill provides specific programs

to:

- Protect, restore and enhance fish and wildlife populations and ecosystems;

- Distribute water more equitably to residential and industrial users;

- Mandate long term water conservation, and agricultural savings going to fish and wildlife; and

- Encourage water transfers for profit from agriculture to any buyer in the state to ensure that farmers are fairly compensated for water savings.

A statewide coalition of environmental and conservation groups (including SCVAS) has been formed to work for passage of this important federal water reform legislation. The group "Share the Water" is organized by the Bay Institute of San Francisco. David Behar, Executive Director of the Bay Institute says this is perhaps the first time the environmental

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Memorial Established for Longtime SCVAS Member Harriet Mundy

Members will be saddened to learn of the death of long-time SCVAS member Harriet Mundy. A Palo Alto resident for nearly 30 years beginning in 1949, Harriet was very active in support of efforts to preserve and conserve avian habitat around the world, particularly on the coast of North America and in the polar regions.

In the Palo Alto area, she was a committed advocate for the environment. Beginning in the late 1950's, she attended City Council and Planning Commission meetings regularly. For many years she represented SCVAS at BCDC meetings, to make and press the case for the impor-

ance of attention to the natural environment, in both local and regional development planning decisions.

She brought to the wetlands environmentalism of the highest order. In the words of long-time colleague Florence LaRiviere, there were three reasons why Harriet was so remarkably effective an advocate. "She was very bright and knowledgeable about wetlands; she kept herself very well informed; and she brought [to the wetlands] the passion that is absolutely necessary to be as effective as she was. It was evident that, when she got up to speak, she was totally devoted, and

extremely well informed in her knowledge of the wetlands."

Harriet's particular concern in our area was primarily with the tidal wetlands of San Francisco Bay. She and a few others pioneered the effort to bring public attention to the value of wetlands, which led to the preservation of very significant salt marsh acreage along the Palo Alto Bayfront, as well as for the bayfront generally. In recognition of the value of her efforts on behalf of the Palo Alto bayfront, the City named the wetland just south of the Interpretive Center The Harriet Mundy Marsh.

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Chapter News

Update on SCVAS Move

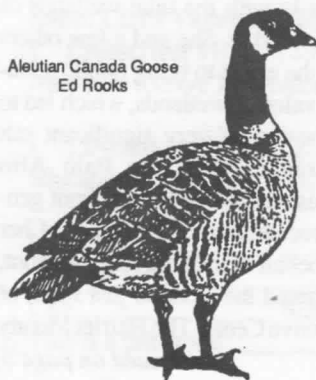
At press time, final negotiations were underway between the City of Cupertino and SCVAS regarding our move to McClellan Ranch Park. Barring any unlikely last-minute complications, Nov. 1 will mark our first day of occupancy at the new Cupertino Environmental Center at McClellan Ranch. The first few months will undoubtedly be hectic as we acclimate to our new surroundings, so members are encouraged to pitch in and help our staff, board and active members with a variety of volunteer projects. Call (415) 329-1811 to volunteer. Calls will be forwarded to the new (and as yet unknown) phone number. This is a great opportunity to get involved and be part of a "New Era" for your local Audubon chapter!

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.

Palo Alto Christmas Bird Count December 16

Mark your calendars now for the Palo Alto CBC to be held on Monday, December 16. Details will follow in the December issue of the *Avocet*. If you have any questions call Bill Bousman (415) 322-5282 or Clark Blake (415) 747-0601.



Aleutian Canada Goose
Ed Rooks

Volunteers Wanted !! No Experience Needed!

◆ Christmas Bird Count Dinner Coordinator: An individual to coordinate this potluck dinner that follows the San Jose CBC on Sunday, December 15. Call SCVAS office for more information.

◆ Education Committee Members: Individuals to work on various projects, open houses, and much more. Call Bobbie Handen at (408) 356-4263 or the SCVAS office for more information.

Many Thanks to Office Volunteers:

◆ Harriet Gerson, Rosalie Leftkowitz, Tibby Simon, Joyce Todd, and David Weber.

◆ A special thanks to Betty Wyatt for her talk about birding at Printers, Inc.

◆ And thanks to Joyce Todd and Frances Togami for their donations of books for our library collection.

SCVAS Receives Grant from BankAmerica Foundation

We're grateful to the BankAmerica Foundation for funds to purchase all 18 National Audubon Society videos and a television to play them on. Some examples of these videos are "Arctic Refuge; A Vanishing Wilderness," "Sea Turtles: Ancient Nomads," "Ducks; Losing Ground," and "California Condors." We'll have space in our new home at McClellan Ranch Park for you to watch these marvelous videos.



WHO...

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Wild Bird Center
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San Carlos
(415) 595-0300

SCVAS OFFICERS

Staff	Cecily Harris	415/329-1811
President	Grant Hoyt	415/969-7892
1st VP	Nick Yatsko	408/865-4831
2nd VP	Tony Eppstein	408/246-5152
Treasurer	Nancy Doty	415/325-1736
Rec. Secty.	Yana Arnold	408/371-4393

DIRECTORS

Rob Colwell	415/326-2400
Earl Cilley	415/854-6258
Bobbie Handen	408/356-4263
Fran McTamany	408/262-5513
Trish Mulvey	415/329-1811
Mike Rigney	408/262-9204
Alan Thomas	408/265-9286

CHAIRPERSONS

Editor	Michele Girard	415/858-7217
Education	Bobbie Handen	408/356-4263
Programs	Doug & Gail Cheeseman	408/867-1371
Library	Rita Colwell	415/949-1869
Field Trips	Edward Rooks	408/867-4748
Aud Adven	Elaine Gould	408/448-0622
Env. Act.	Gail Cheeseman	408/867-1371
CBC	Paul Noble	415/949-1743
Grants	D. Zetterquist	408/429-9716
Photo Club	Pete LaTourrette	415/961-2741
Planning	Tony Eppstein	415/326-1376
Finance	Nancy Doty	415/325-1736
EFC	Don Price	415/327-1254
Merchandise	Yana Arnold	408/371-4393
North County Field Trips	Alberta Jasberg	415/493-9546
South County Field Trips	Shirley Gordon	408/996-9863

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.

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

****Denotes Field Trip**

****Sunday, November 3, 9:00 AM.**

Full day.

Hayward Regional Shoreline. Leader: Mark Miller (415) 967-3429. Meet at end of Winton Ave. Directions: Take highway 92 to I-880 N, north 3 mi to Winton Ave. West on Winton to end. Dress in layers, prepare for cold. Bring lunch and liquids. Heavy rain cancels. Highlights: longspurs, hawks, ducks. Please call leader if you plan to attend.

Wednesday, November 6, 7:30 PM

Bay Area Bird Photographers Topic: To Enhance Your Slide Show With Dupes by Ken Eugene. Meeting takes place at Palo Alto's Lucy Evans Baylands Interpretive Center on East Embarcadero Rd.

****Sunday, November 10, 9:00 AM.**

Half day.

Beginner trip to Charleston Slough. Leader: Dick Stovel (415) 856-6105. Directions: Take 101 to Mountain View. Exit San Antonio Rd, east to road's end at Terminal Way. Birding basics, with emphasis on shorebirds and waterfowl.

Tuesday, November 12, 9:30 AM

Eve Case Bird Discussion Group at the home of Edward and Janice Rooks, 20537 Verde Vista, Saratoga. (408) 867-4748. Topic: Yellow Warbler.

Wednesday, November 13, 9:00 AM

Half day.

South County Field Trip to Hellyer Park Leader: Ed Gustafson (408) 377-1123. Directions: Meet at Cotton Wood Lake parking lot in Hellyer Park. Highlights: Coyote Creek flows through the Park. Wintering riparian birds. Easy walking, about 3 miles. Rain cancels.

****Saturday, November 16, 8:30 AM.**

Half day.

Stanford University, Jasper Ridge Biological Preserve. Leaders: Bill and Jean Clark, Winkie Lennihan, and Bob Buell. BY RESERVATION ONLY. Call Bill Clark (415) 326-7565, Limited to 40. Directions: Meet at Preserve Main Entrance (not Whiskey Hill Gate) \$4.00 gate fee. Gate open from 8:10 to 8:30 ONLY. BE PROMPT!! Take Sand Hill Rd. West off I-280

for about 2 miles to the Main Gate. Trip goes rain or shine. Moderately strenuous walking. 2-3 miles. Bag lunch (optional) and liquids.

Wednesday, November 20, 7:30 PM

November General Meeting at the Palo Alto Cultural Center, Embarcadero at Newell Rd in Palo Alto. Topic: "Mysteries of the Central Desert" (See box below.)

****Wednesday, November 20, 8:30**

AM Half day.

Coyote Hills Regional Park Leader: Phil Hand (415) 851-2623. Directions: Hwy 84 (Dumbarton Bridge) east toward Newark. Exit right on Thornton, then left over freeway as Thornton becomes Paseo Padre. Turn left at Patterson Ranch/Commerce Rd (approx. 1 mile to park. Meet in lot at entrance. Possible day-use fee. Lunch optional. Heavy rain cancels.

****Saturday, November 23, 9:00 AM.**

Half day.

Princeton By-the-Sea. Leaders: Jim and Sue Liskovec (415) 969-5542. Meet at the Harbor Master's office in Princeton. Directions: Take Highway 92 west to Highway 1. North on Hwy 1 to Princeton. Drive to the pier. Harbor Master's office is on the right beside big parking lot before the pier. Rain cancels. Highlights: rocky shorebirds (including possible Rock Sandpiper), loons, grebes, gulls, ducks. Lunch optional, bring liquids.

****Friday and Saturday, November**

29 & 30.

Sacramento Valley Wildlife Refuges. Leaders: Grant and Karen Hoyt (415) 969-7892. Meet at Sacto. Nat'l. Wildlife Refuge headquarters approx. 6 mi. N. of Delevan on Interstate 5 at 9:00 AM Friday. Highlights include visits to Colusa and Gray Lodge Wildlife areas for ducks, geese, raptors and other wintertime residents of some of California's most important wetland habitat. Motels available in Colusa, Williams and Willows. Please call leaders if planning to attend.

****Sunday, December 8, 9:00 AM.**

Beginner's trip to Charleston Slough. Leader: TBA in December *Avocet* or call Edward Rooks (408) 867-4748 for information. Bring liquids.

****Saturday, December 14, 8:30 AM.**

Half day.

Los Gatos Creek. Leader: Mike Feighner (408) 354-0138. Directions: Take highway 17 South from San Jose to Lark Ave Exit, go west on Lark to Oka. North to gate of percolation ponds. Beware: Oka bends sharply at intersection left and then right again. Park along road near gate. Beginners welcome. Easy walking. Highlights: green-backed heron, spotted sandpiper, kingfisher, ducks. Rain cancels.

San Jose Christmas Bird Count to be Sunday, December 15

Christmas Bird Counts have been organized by the National Audubon Society for 92 years. The resulting census data is published in *American Birds* magazine. The San Jose count is conducted within a 15 mile diameter circle broken into 10 sections, A-I.

After the Count we'll meet for a hearty dinner and get together at Kelley Park in San Jose. For more information, call CBC-Compiler Paul Noble at (415) 949-1743 or one of the Section Leaders below. Volunteers of all skills levels are welcome.

Section	Leader	Phone
A (Alviso)	Jean Dubois	(408) 395-4264
B (Fremont Hills)	open	
C (Calaveras)	Mike Feighner	(408) 354-0138
D (Alum Rock)	open	
E (Evergreen)	open	
F (South)	Alan Thomas	(408) 265-9286
G (Southwest)	Anne Wilson	(415) 941-0966
H (Agnew)	Grant Hoyt	(415) 969-7892
I (Milpitas)	Paul Noble	(415) 949-6033
J (Berryessa)	open	

Wednesday, November 20, 7:30 PM.

November General Meeting

"Mysteries of the Central Desert"

In the middle of the Baja California peninsula is an extraordinary community called the Central Desert. Though rainfall is sparse, this forest of cactus is home to a unique collection of plants and animals. Endemic birds such as the Xantus' Hummingbird and the Gray Thrasher live here as well. In pre-Columbian times it was also home to Native Americans who left their legacy in the form of spectacular rock art. This slide show will introduce people to the natural and cultural history of this region as they learn about the bizarre plants and endemic birds and other animals which inhabit it. Greg Meyer has been involved with environmental education for the past ten years, earning a degree in Environmental Studies from UC Santa Cruz. Presently, he works as a professional naturalist. He leads bird and whale watching excursions to Baja California, teaches marine biology on San Francisco Bay and guides ocean kayak trips along the California coast. Meeting held at the Palo Alto Cultural Center, on Embarcadero at Newell Rd.

Field Notes

By Bill Bousman

Pelicans through Raptors

An adult **Brown Pelican** at the Sunnyvale Water Pollution Control Plant (WPCP) 23 Aug (PJM), two adults over Charleston Slough 7 Sep (MMR), and another adult at the Sunnyvale WPCP 21 Sep (PJM) were the only reports this month. This species has been unusually scarce this fall. Three **White-faced Ibis** were in the vicinity of the Palo Alto Flood Control Basin (FCB) 25 Aug (IMacG) and a single bird was seen there 6 Sep (RL). A pair of these birds were seen in the Alviso heronry this summer engaged in courtship, but no nesting was observed. They normally breed no closer than Honey Lake in northeastern California and I am not aware of any breeding records from the San Francisco Bay region. A female **Blue-winged Teal** was at the Sunnyvale WPCP 21 Sep (PJM). An **Osprey** along lower Coyote Creek 9 Sep (*fide* MRi) was a typical date for this rare migrant. A subadult **Golden Eagle** in the Stanford foothills 3 Aug (WC) was from a westside location where we occasionally see one of the birds. An immature or female **Merlin** in the Stanford foothills 3 Aug (WC) is the earliest record I have for this species by 16 days. An adult **Peregrine Falcon** along lower Coyote Creek 7 Sep (PJM) and 15 Sep (MJM) may be a resident bird.

Shorebirds to Terns

One to five **Lesser Golden Plovers** were at the Waterbird Management Area (WMA) on lower Coyote Creek 11-18 Sep (SBT, PJM, ES, MMR). They were identified as the race *dominica*. A **Snowy Plover** in the Palo Alto FCB 8 Sep (MMR) was west of its usual range in the county. As we have come to expect, **Lesser Yellowlegs** are sometimes found in substantial numbers at the end of August and the beginning of September. Peak numbers noted this month were 27 at the San Jose-Santa Clara WPCP 25 Aug (PJM) and 38 in the Palo Alto FCB 8 Sep (MMR). Single **Solitary Sandpipers** at the Alviso Marina 12 Aug (SBT), the WMA on lower Coyote Creek 9 Sep (WGB), and the **Baird's Sandpipers** were still at the San Jose-

Santa Clara WPCP on 27 Aug (WGB). Four additional birds were at the WMA along lower Coyote Creek 9 Sep (RC *et al.*) and four more were at the San Jose-Santa Clara WPCP 11 Sep (SBT). The number of **Pectoral Sandpipers** this month is without precedent. Small numbers were found in typical locations such as the Palo Alto FCB and the Sunnyvale WPCP, but the metropolis for this species was at the WMA on lower Coyote Creek where 27 were counted on 16 Sep (RC *fide* SBT), 33 on 17 Sep (MMR), 60 on 21 Sep (PJM), and an incredible 96 were censused on 22 Sep (MJM)! One **Buff-breasted Sand-**

Four Ruff in a pond along lower Coyote Creek in mid- September would be exceptional anywhere on the Pacific Coast.

piper appears to have remained at the San Jose-Santa Clara WPCP with sightings on 7 and 14 Sep (PJM, ES). Two **Ruffs** were found at the San Jose-Santa Clara WPCP 7 Sep (PJM). By 14 Sep these birds had been joined by a third bird (SBT, PJM, ES). On 17 and 18 Sep four were seen together (MMR, WGB); an adult male, and adult female (Reeve), a juv. male, and a smaller juvenile which may have also been a female. This concentration of Ruffs is without precedent in California or anywhere south of Alaska. As our first observation of this Siberian stray did not occur until last fall it is possible to do some simple statistical manipulation, after the fashion of Mark Twain, and predict that this will be our most common shorebird by 2008! Four **Elegant Terns** were at Charleston Slough 6 Aug (PJM). This species has become regular here in recent years. A single **Black Tern** was found at the San Jose-Santa Clara WPCP on lower Coyote Creek 17 Sep (MiF, KP) and remained at least through 18 Sep (MMR, WGB).

Owls to Sparrows

A belated report of a family of **Long-eared Owls** in Uvas Canyon 4 Jun (PLN) is the second breeding record for the county. Good numbers of **Black-chinned Hummingbirds** have been migrating along lower Coyote Creek in September with 13 banded at the Coyote Creek Riparian Station (CCRS) through 20 Sep and one observed that date as well (PJM). **Willow Flycatchers** have been banded in normal numbers at CCRS 25 Aug-23 Sep. In this same period censusing along lower Coyote Creek has recorded 3-5 birds (PJM). An imm. **Least Flycatcher** banded at CCRS 18 Sep is one of our few records of this eastern vagrant. "Western" **Flycatchers** are normally an abundant migrant along lower Coyote Creek with 400-500 birds banded at CCRS each fall. Less than 200 have been banded this season which is alarming. Five **Cedar Waxwings** along lower Coyote Creek 18 Aug (PJM) are early. Is it possible that they are breeding somewhere in the Santa Clara Valley or the Diablo Range? A **MacGillivray's Warbler** on lower Coyote Creek 14 Sep (PJM) is one of the few detected this fall. The fall migration of **Chipping Sparrows** is poorly characterized so one banded at CCRS 24 Sep is of interest. A **Lincoln's Sparrow** banded at CCRS 28 Aug was unusually early. The normal first banding date of this secretive sparrow is 5 Sep. Extraordinarily early were two-three **White-crowned Sparrows** seen in Henry Coe SP 6 Sep (CB).

Observers: Bill Bousman (WGB), Clark Blake (CB), William Cabot (WC), Rita Colwell (RC), Mike Feighner (MiF), Rosalie Lefkowitz (RL), Ian MacGregor (IMacG), Mike Mammoser (MJM), Peter Metropulos (PJM), Paul Noble (PLN), Kathy Parker (KP), Mike Rigney (MRi), Mike Rogers (MMR), Emilie Strauss (ES), and Scott Terrill (SBT).

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

Water Coalition (continued from page 1)

community has united in such an organized fashion on water issues since the anti-Peripheral Canal fight in 1982.

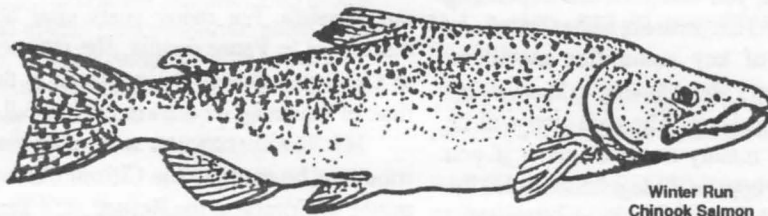
However, as these bills gain momentum in California and Washington, a cloud has appeared on the horizon. Sen. John Seymour (R-CA) is threatening to try to block them in the Senate.

The Miller/Bradley bills fundamentally alter federal water policy by writing

fornians are making these days to entrenched agricultural interests. Coordinated by David Behar and other steering committee members, Share the Water leaders have conferred with key House and Senate staff, garnered media attention and generated thousands of letters to elected officials in support of legislation.

"This legislation is so important to our goals that we can't afford not to work

together to get it passed," Behar said. "Miller and Bradley have



Winter Run
Chinook Salmon
Ed Rook

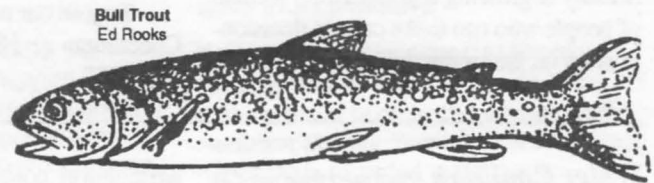
into law for the first time that protection of fish and wildlife is a "beneficial use" of water to be considered alongside other uses, such as irrigation, in determining water allocations. In addition, the bills require the restoration of wetlands, wildlife refuges, and salmon and steelhead populations. Further, the bills halt the signing of any new water contracts until development of legitimate water-quality guidelines by the state's Bay-Delta Hearing process.

If these bills are enacted, the Bay/Delta estuary will finally achieve increased freshwater flows that are so critical to its recovery. This is why Miller's Fish and Wildlife Protection Act (HR 1306) and Bradley's Central Valley Project Im-

prove come up with strong bills that balance all the interests in the state and reverse 50 years of environmental degradation in the estuary caused by the Central Valley Project."

"Our job is to come up with a strong plan to educate the people of California about these bills and see that our elected officials know how important saving the estuary is to us. That's what this coalition is all about."

One important facet of the coalition's work will be outreach to the non-environmental community. The Bradley bill, especially,



Bull Trout
Ed Rooks

meets needs for municipal and industrial ("M & I") users because it eliminates barriers to effective marketing of project water. It is expected that a significant

amount of CVP's 7-8 million acre-feet of water, 90 percent of which currently goes to agriculture, will be sold by farmers voluntarily to urban water agencies. Urban water shortages could be a

thing of the past for many years if this legislation is enacted. In turn the San Francisco estuary will benefit from water marketing because 25 percent of the water transferred will be withheld for environmental restoration. This will mean a lot of additional freshwater flows through the San Francisco Bay Delta.

The first real test for these bills in Congress will come in the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. The line-by-line consideration of the Bradley bill, called "mark-up", is expected to take place in the fall, and at press time for *The Avocet* was not complete. In this process, amendments to weaken, or strengthen, the bill may be offered.

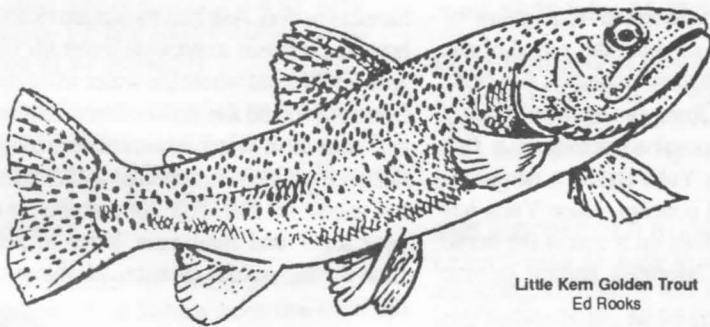
This committee, chaired by Bennett Johnston (D-LA), is filled with Senators from many western states, many with long backgrounds in the water wars. For these senators, the incredible subsidies for CVP water gave California farmers an unfair competitive advantage over farmers in their states. For Oregon's Mark Hatfield, the CVP directly affects his state's economy.

As California's commercial salmon fishery is increasingly wiped out by CVP water diversions, our fishermen have begun to encroach on Oregon's territory to make a living. Sen. Hatfield has given indications he supports Bradley's bill strongly.

But the senator of greatest concern to the environmental and conservation community hails from California itself: newly appointed John Seymour.

Although he had very little involvement in water issues as a state senator from Orange County, Seymour requested and received a seat on the Subcommittee on Water and Power, chaired by Sen. Bradley. This put him in a key position to help shepherd this landmark legislation through the senate - or kill it.

At every opportunity in Sacramento,
(continued on page 6)



Little Kern Golden Trout
Ed Rooks

provement Act (S 484) are the top priorities among progressive water activists: they get water for fish and wildlife.

The Share the Water coalition was named to sum up the demand most Cali-

Environmental Action News

The Environmental Action Committee seeks "Armchair Activists"

Join Our "Action by Writing" Team

"Action by Writing" is for SCVAS members who would like to be more active in conservation issues but don't have lots of spare time. We need your help in responding to Action Alerts on conservation issues. If we can count on at least 150 letters in response to each Action Alert in the *Avocet* and to others supplied by the Environmental Action Committee we will be much more effective in promoting responsible legislation and in discouraging threatening legislation. If there are certain issues that you would like to work on, such as Ancient Forests, Wetlands, or Endangered Species, please tell us. To join "Action by Writing", call Gail Cheeseman at (408) 741-5330 or (408) 867-1371.

Join Our Phone Tree

The Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society is growing a phone tree - a chain of people who can make calls to decision-makers on environmental issues. This al-

lows the environmental community to respond very quickly with public pressure on important issues.

The phone tree is quite simple. When we need some public support of, or opposition to, a particular piece of legislation, we start calling phone tree members. As a participant, you will get a call explaining the issue and the pertinent names and phone numbers of key committee members. (Don't worry about having to know every detail of an issue. The aide you will be talking to mainly needs to know if you support or oppose the legislation, what the bill or resolution number is, and your name and phone number.)

The beauty of this tree is that it requires no money. There is no mailing involved. Also, it can move very rapidly, applying pressure where it is needed in a matter of days. But the best thing is that it involves citizens by providing an opportunity to be heard.

To join our new phone tree, call Gail Cheeseman at (408) 867-1371 or (408) 741-5330.

Harriet Mundy (continued from page 1)

In SCVAS activities, Harriet participated actively in our field trips, lectured on birds and the importance of habitat, and worked on the annual bird counts. She was an enthusiastic and dedicated birder, particularly in the Baylands, and in recent years was especially concerned with efforts to mitigate threats to the survival of the Clapper Rail and the Burrowing Owl in our marshes. For many years after her retirement in Pennsylvania, she returned to California to visit the wetlands at the time of the perigean tides in the late fall.

Her family suggests memorial contributions be made to the Citizen's Committee to Complete the Refuge, 453 Tennessee Lane, Palo Alto, CA 94306, or to another charity of one's choosing.

—Earl Cilley



Townsend's Warbler

Water Coalition (continued from page 5)

San Francisco and Washington, DC, Sen. Seymour has spoken forcefully against the bill. In a letter to the SCVAS Environmental Action Committee, he noted: "My views on this legislation have been consistent and clear: I do not oppose the fish and wildlife goals of the bill, as well as the intent of bringing the Central Valley Project more in step with the State water law and policy. However, I do oppose the means by which the bill attempts to accomplish these important objectives. After thoughtful study I am thoroughly convinced that this bill as currently written simply will not work. It will not deliver the fish and wildlife benefits it promised, and will only result in devastating consequences unacceptable to California."

As an alternative, Sen. Seymour has adopted as his own an "alternate fish and wildlife" bill written by lobbyists for the

agricultural contractors with assistance from Dick Daniel, formerly the Water Projects Coordinator for the Department of Fish and Game. This draft reallocated no CVP water for fish and wildlife purposes, did not name protecting the environment a beneficial use of the project, and primarily authorized four years of further study to analyze the scope of the problem and discern whether solutions were possible. Observers were puzzled by the draft's proposal to construct a fish hatchery on the Yuba River, a never-before-considered concept, since Yuba has no federal facilities on it and is the home of California's strongest natural salmon run.

In a presentation to the last meeting of the Bay Area Audubon Council, David Behar pointed out that "of the top ten priorities for protection of fish and wildlife in the Central Valley the first five are water, water, water, water and money.

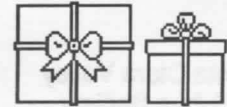
Fish ladders, temperature control devices and hatcheries are way down the list."

WHAT YOU CAN DO: Write a letter today to Sen. Seymour and urge him to reconsider his position and to support S. 484. Remind him that many fish and wildlife populations in the Central Valley face extinction. Ask him to explain exactly how he proposes to provide water for fish and wildlife and where the water will come from. Advocate the prevention of continued long term water commitments to agriculture until environmental and residential needs are met. Ask for a response to your letter and mail your letter to Sen. John Seymour, U.S. Senate, Washington, DC 20510.

Article excerpted from "Bay Trail" (Summer 1991), *California League of Conservation Voters Action Alert*, and interview with David Behar. Submitted by Cecily Harris and Trish Mulvey. For more information contact the SCVAS office.



SCVAS Holiday Gift Catalog



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(continued on page 8)

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