



# The Avocet

The Newsletter of the Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society

June-August 1992

*Were We Looking the Other Way?*

## Our Threatened Creeks

One morning you awaken to an unusually loud noise. You open your blinds to see a bulldozer careening through the creek behind your house, ripping out cottonwoods and blackberries that you have enjoyed over the last 40 years. How did this happen? What should you do? Whom do you call?

Extensive research via telephone confirms your worst suspicions - all of this is perfectly legal. The local government's general plan had glowing language that led you to believe that your creek was protected. However, there was no a law or ordinance that insured this protection. Therefore, local government must rely on other agencies' permitting processes for creek protection.

These agencies include the Army Corps of Engineers which controls all discharges into waters of the U.S. under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act of 1972. The Corps' powers include dredging, filling, alteration of banks or functions of the creek, mechanized removal of vegetation or the pumping of water from the creek.

You ask, how was this permit issued? The Army Corps of Engineers issues two types of permits. One, the nationwide permit, covers stream modifications of less than 10 acres and requires that certain conditions be met and that other agencies, such as the California Department of Fish and Game, be given five days to comment. While Fish and Game can require mitigation, they cannot stop a project.

As a protection measure, the nationwide permit has proven ineffective. It ignores cumulative impacts, provides insufficient opportunity for public input, fails to follow up and enforce recommended mitigation and does not allow sufficient time for other agencies to respond. Most applications can be significantly negotiated so that a permit will be issued.

Our creeks and streams are a precious natural resource. They carry the lifegiving element, water, to all living things - plant, animal, and human. Creekside vegetation naturally filters water and provides flood control by slowing waters and removing sediments and toxins before they reach the Bay. Our creeks, in their natural state, perform all these essential functions while giving us recreational and respite opportunities and providing necessary habitat for our wildlife.

*(Continued on Page 8)*

## Annual Membership Potluck Dinner at McClellan Ranch Park

Our Annual Membership Dinner is a special evening with time to socialize and a time to thank all of our volunteers and chapter members for supporting us in planning and coordinating all the many SCVAS activities during the year. Please join us on **Wednesday, June 10, at 6 PM** for a SCVAS Membership Dinner at McClellan Ranch Park, 22221 McClellan Road, Cupertino. You'll enjoy good food and conversation and have an opportunity to visit our new office, Nature Shop and Library. You can also do some birding down by Stevens Creek!

Please bring something to share:

A-G Hors D'oeuvres

M-Q Main Dish

H-L Dessert

R-Z Salad

We'll provide beverages, plates and silverware for everyone. Questions? Please call Cecily Harris at (408) 252-3747.

# Chapter News

**\*Attention Members: The SCVAS office will be closed during July.\*  
A Special Bird Book-Signing Thursday, June 25, 6-8 PM**

The Peninsula Conservation Center and the Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society invite you to a special book-signing for two new publications on endangered and threatened species. *Species in Danger in our Own Backyard*, produced by the Peninsula Conservation Center, discusses threatened and endangered species in five counties of the San Francisco Bay Area. *Birds in Jeopardy*, by Paul R. Ehrlich,

Stanford University Press, describes the imperiled and extinct birds of the United States and Canada

Join Ted Chandik for a birding walk along Stevens Creek at 6:00 pm and have your books signed, socialize and visit the SCVAS office. Refreshments will be provided.

## Thanks to:

San Jose Garden Club for their donation.

IBM for funds to purchase field inventory equipment for the Riparian Inventory Project.

Darryl Wheye for designing the gift catalogue that is inserted in this newsletter.

## BIRDATHON '92 Results

The Birdathon Committee would like to thank all of the teams for all of their hard work, birding and fundraising, that ultimately makes our Birdathon a success. We would also like to thank all of the individuals who have made contributions to the Birdathon teams. These donations allow us to continue to offer our many programs in the community. We will acknowledge the Birdathon patrons in the September 1992 issue of the *Avocet*.

### Backyard Birders

Band-its	29 species of birds banded at C.C.R.S.
Bird Brains	110 species
California Skimmers	147 species
Cardinal Virtues	66 species
If You've Seen One Bird...	20 species
Poorwills	141 species
Uncommon Loons	100 species
Vagrants	163 species
Wednesday Weirdos	97 species
Wrentits	100 species

### SCVAS OFFICERS

President	Rob Colwell ✓	415/326-2400
Past Pres.	Grant Hoyt	415/969-7892
1st VP	Tony Eppstein ✓	415/326-1376
2nd VP	Nick Yatsko ✓	408/865-4831
Treasurer	John McLemore	408/261-9431
Rec. Secty.	Yana Arnold	408/371-4393

### STAFF

Managing Dir. Cecily Harris 408/252-3747

### DIRECTORS

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Nature Shop	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 (408) 252-3747 for times and directions.

*The Avocet* is published monthly (except for July and August) by the Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society, 22221 McClellan Rd., Cupertino, CA 95014. Deadline is the 25th of two months prior. Send contributions to *The Avocet*, c/o SCVAS at the above address.

SCVAS is a chapter of the National Audubon Society.

June-August 1992, Volume 39, Number 6



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## Summer 1992 Calendar

*On all field trips carpool and share expenses. Bring binoculars, field guides, warm clothing, lunch (optional on half-day trips) and liquids. Field Trip Coordinator for June: Marc Fenner (408)942-8685. Coordinator for July and August: Nick Yatsko (408)285-0012.*

\*\*Denotes Field Trips

**\*\*Wednesday, June 3, 8:30 AM  
South County Trip to Coyote Creek Area Near Gilroy Hot Springs** Leader: Ed Gustafson (408) 377-1123. Directions: Meet corner of Gilroy Hot Springs & Canada Roads. Carpool from there - couple miles easy walking. Lunch optional. Highlights: Riparian breeding birds.

**Wednesday, June 3, 7:30 - 9:30 PM  
Bay Area Bird Photographers** Ian Tait, an early BABP member whom we did not see for several years while he was out of the Bay Area. Most of you have seen Ian's work — you certainly have if you are a member of Point Reyes Bird Observatory. His presentation will be called "A Bird Photographer's Year" and will feature shots from various parts of the world

**Monday, June 8, 7:30 PM  
Environmental Action Committee** Meetings are held at SCVAS, 22221 McClellan Rd in Cupertino. Directions: from I-280 take Foothill Expy. exit towards Cupertino. Turn left into McClellan Ranch Park. For more information, please call Cecily Harris at (408)252-3747...

**Tuesday, June 9, 9:30 AM Eve Case Bird Discussion Group** meets at the home of Steve and Elwyn Dorman, 15086 Becky Lane, Los Gatos. (408) 395-5309. Bring a bag lunch. Birding will be featured instead of a discussion.

**Wednesday, June 10, 6-9:00 PM  
SCVAS Annual Membership Dinner** at McClellan Ranch Park, 22221 McClellan Rd., Cupertino. (See front page for more information).

**\*\*Saturday, June 13, 8:30 AM  
McClellan Ranch Park** Leader: Shirley Gordon (408) 996-9863. Directions: From I-280 go south on DeAnza Blvd. Approximately 1/2 mile past Stevens Creek Blvd. go west on McClellan, past Monte Vista High School and down into the Canyon.

The Park is on the right just before McClellan crosses the Creek.

**\*\*Sunday, June 28, 5:00 AM Half Day  
Big Basin Redwoods State Park** Leader: David Suddjian (408) 479-9603. Special opportunity to see and hear the endangered Marbled Murrelet at this famous nesting site; early meeting time required to observe the dawn flight. We will look for other species also, including Pileated Woodpecker and Vaux's Swift. Space limited to 15 people. Call leader for reservations and directions.

**\*\*Sunday, July 12, 9:00 AM. Half Day.  
Beginners Trip to Charleston Slough.** Leader: Rod Norden (408)252-5666. Take Highway 101 to Mountain View, exit at San Antonio Rd north. Meet at its end at Terminal Way parking area. Highlights: baby avocets, stilts and terns.

**\*\*Saturday, August 8, 8:00 AM. Half Day. Beginners Trip to Charleston Slough.** Leader: Nick Yatsko (408)247-5499. Directions: Take Highway 101 to Mountain View, exit at San Antonio Rd north. Meet at its end at Terminal Way parking area. Highlights: baby avocets, stilts and terns plus fall shorebirds.

**\*\*Sunday, August 16. Full Day. Ano Nuevo.** Leader: Mark Miller (415)967-3429. Limited to 20 people, reservations required. Highlights: early migrants, possible black swift.

**\*\*Saturday, August 22, 7:00 AM Full Day Monterey Bay Pelagic Boat Trip** Leader: Debi Shearwater. Trip limited, first come, first served. Write to Shearwater Journeys, P.O. Box 1445, Soquel, CA 95073. Enclose a S.A.S.E. for trip details. Special Audubon member rate of \$39. Highlights: Surprises expected due to El Nino. Black-footed Albatross, Jaegers, Shearwaters, Alcids, marine mammals and more. Local contact: Edward Rooks 408/867-4748.

**\*\*Sunday, September 6, 9:00 AM Half Day Gullible Goes for Shorebirds.** Leader: Bill Bousman (415)322-5282). Meet at the Sunnvyale Water Pollution Control Plant Public Access Parking Lot near Borregas and Caribbean. A study of shorebird plumages for the gullible.

### Birding Hotline Numbers

Rare Bird Alert: (510)528-0288

Update: (510)524-5592

## Non-Audubon Events

### Cheesemans' Ecological Safaris

Gail & Doug Cheeseman are offering several wildlife tours in 1993: two to Costa Rica, March 22-April 8 and April 8-22; one to Galapagos, June 20-July 8, and one to Kenya with resident Terry Stevenson, July 27-August 16, each limited to 12 people. Gail and Doug will join Edward and Janice Rooks on a tour to Trinidad and Tobago, June 27 - July 10, which is also open to 12 people, and Mary Lou Goodwin of the Sociedad Conservacionista Audubon Venezuela, to Venezuela, July 10-25. The emphasis is on friendly and knowledgeable leadership with outstanding resident naturalists. The Cheeseman's phone is 408/741-5330 or 408/867-1371 in Saratoga.

### Parrot Man of the Caribbean

Paul Butler brings his full-tilt, bird-saving boogie lecture to the California Academy of Science on Thursday, June 4, 1992. Butler, who runs the Caribbean program for RARE Center for Tropical Conservation, has done everything from dressing his wife in multi-colored feathers to commissioning reggae songs with conservation themes to get his message across.

"Too many conservation programs are run by scientists," Butler says, adding that such an approach makes no more sense than auto manufacturers sending engineers out to sell cars. With boundless energy and irrepressible good humor, Butler has taken his conservation education program throughout the Caribbean using national pride to protect endangered species of Caribbean parrots.

"Conservation, Caribbean Style" will be at the Morrison Auditorium at the California Academy of Science at 7:30 PM on June 4. Tickets for Academy and RARE Center members are \$5, non-members \$7. Call California Academy of Science at 415/750-7128 for more information.

# Field Notes

By Bill Bousman

## Loons to Ducks

A **Common Loon** is unexpected anywhere in the county in spring, but one flying over Monte Bello Open Space Preserve (OSP) 25 Apr was most surprising (DS, MMR, GHt, MJM). A single **Cattle Egret** was at Charleston Slough 29 Mar (MMR). More expected were birds in the vicinity of the Arzino Ranch in Alviso where eight were noted 5 Apr (PJM) and between three and seven were there at least through 25 Apr (m.ob.). Three **White-faced Ibis** were found nearby in a flooded field 19 Apr (PJM) and also were seen through 25 Apr (m.ob.). This species has never bred in the county, but two birds were seen carrying sticks at the Alviso heronry last June and breeding is a tantalizing possibility. The **Ross' Goose** at the Sunnvyale Water Pollution Control Plant (WPCP) has remained through 25 Apr (m.ob.). If it relies on the domestic goose flock it associates with for the necessary cues to start its return migration to Hudson's Bay then it will spend the summer here instead. The first report of **Blue-winged Teal** since February was a pair in Adobe Creek and the Mountain View Forebay 25 Apr (MJM, GHt, CB, WGB). Eight pairs of **Hooded Mergansers** on the Los Gatos Creek ponds 29 Mar (SS) are late for the winter season.

## Raptors

An **Osprey** at Searsville Lake 16-31 Mar (BB, WL fide JB-H) is the only report of the spring. A sub-adult **Bald Eagle** bathing on Anderson Res. 26 Mar (EC) is fairly late. At least two nests of urban **Cooper's Hawks** have been found from Menlo Park to Sunnvyale and nesting of two more pairs suspected. How widespread is this phenomena? A late **Ferruginous Hawk** was seen over Ed Levin CP 31 Mar (JAC). Nesting of **Golden Eagles** is likely north of the Los Gatos Gap, but no nests have been found. At least one adult and a sub-adult have been found along I-280 13-26 Apr (GHt, CB) and one or more birds have been seen at Jasper Ridge Biological Reserve (BR) during the month (fide JB-H). Late **Merlins** found this month include a wintering bird in Menlo Park 30 Mar (CBa), an individual at Ed Levin CP 2 Apr (MMR),

and one along Coyote Creek below Hwy 237 19 Apr (PJM).

## Shorebirds to Gulls

One to two **Lesser Yellowlegs** in a flooded field in Alviso 23-25 Apr (MMR, m.ob.) are unusual for the spring. Two **Red Knot** were found on the San Francisquito Creek delta 25 Apr (CB, WGB) for a rare spring record. A female **Wilson's Phalarope** on the Waterbird Management Area (WMA) on Coyote Creek below Hwy. 237 5 Apr (PJM) is unusual for the spring. An adult **Franklin's Gull** was seen at the WMA on 19 Apr (PJM). A **Black Tern** was found nearby at the San Jose-Santa Clara WPCP the same day (PJM) and possibly the same

**Owls through Woodpeckers** was seen again 22 Apr (MiF) along Los Esteros Road.

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

A record seven owl species were found on a 25 Apr Big Day including **Northern Pygmy-Owl**, **Long-eared Owl**, and **Northern Saw-whet Owl** at the Monte Bello OSP (MMR, MJM, GHt, DS). This nocturnal crew also heard a **Common Poorwill** there as well. On 19 Apr five poorwill were heard on St. Joseph's Hill in Los Gatos (MiF). Two **Vaux's Swifts** in Los Gatos 25 Apr (MiF, KP) are the only report this month. A male **Black-chinned Hummingbird** was found along Coyote Creek below Hwy. 237 on 19 Apr (PJM) in a riparian area where they nest. Two to three **Lewis' Woodpeckers** seen from the road in San Antonio Valley 25-26 Apr (CB, WGB, MiF) are about normal.

## Flycatchers through Goldfinches

An **Olive-sided Flycatcher** in Los Gatos 4 Apr (MS) is at least a week earlier than normal. A **Bank Swallow** along Charleston Slough 18 Apr (PJM) is a rare and seldom reported migrant. A **Red-breasted Nuthatch** responded to a tape at Skyline Ridge OSP 25 Apr in an area where they breed (MMR, MJM, GHt). An **American Dipper** on Stevens Creek above the county park 25 Apr (MiF, KP) was in an area where they have bred in the past. **Golden-crowned Kinglets** have

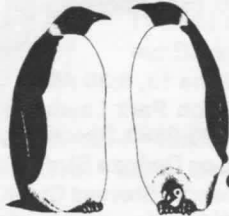
been scarce this winter so a small flock at Ed Levin CP 2 Apr (MMR) was of interest. A **Nashville Warbler** was seen on Marsh Rd., south of Calaveras Res. 25 Apr (KP fide MiF) and another was heard on Coyote Creek below Hwy 237 the same day (MiF). A single **Hermit Warbler**, north of Mt. Hamilton 18 Apr (MMR), was the only report. A **White-throated Sparrow** in Ladera remained at a feeder through 31 Mar (MW). A bird at a Los Altos feeder was still present as of 26 Apr (J&SL). A male **Yellow-headed Blackbird** was found along Coyote Creek below Hwy 237 19 Apr (PJM). One was seen in this area for about three weeks last year. Two to three **Lawrence's Goldfinches** were at San Antonio Jct. 25-26 Apr (CB, WGB, MiF).

First arrivals: **Western Wood-Pewee**, Wright's Station Road, 20 Apr (MiF, AV); **Ash-throated Flycatcher**, St. Joseph's Hill, 11 Apr (MiF); **House Wren**, Guadalupe Res., 29 Mar (MiF, AV); **Solitary Vireo**, Stevens Creek CP, 28 Mar (AME); **Warbling Vireo**, Stevens Creek CP, 28 Mar (AME); **Yellow Warbler**, Almaden Res., 18 Apr (MiF, AV); **Black-throated Gray Warbler**, Menlo Park, 10 Apr (WGB); and **Black-headed Grosbeak**, Los Gatos, 29 Mar (MiF).

Observers: Charlie Bacon (CBa), Jane Becker-Haven (JB-H), Clark Blake (CB), Bill Bousman (WGB), Bob Buell (BB), Jack Cole (JAC), Emelie Curtis (EC), Al Eisner (AME), Mike Feighner (MiF), Grant Hoyt (GHt), Winkie Lennihan (WL), Jim & Sue Liskovec (J&SL), Mike Mammoser (MJM), Peter Metropulos (PJM), Kathy Parker (KP), Mike Rogers (MMR), Maren Seidler (MS), Dick Stovel (DS), Shannon Susick (SS), Ann Verdi (AV), and Mercedes Williams (MW).

BREEDING BIRD ATLAS: If you find a nest in the county in this, our last season, call Roy Cameron, 408-867-6632.

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# Education News

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Dear SCVAS Member:

Attendance has been down at our monthly General Meetings and we're not sure why. We invite your feedback so that we can make whatever changes are necessary to continue this program. Our goal is to offer quality programs for your enjoyment and at the same time offer you an opportunity to learn more about conservation issues.

General Meetings are held the third Wednesday evening of the month September-November and January-May at the Palo Alto Cultural Center. The meetings are free and open to the public. Remember, these General Meetings are for you.

To help us plan your General Meetings for next year.....Please answer the questions on this short questionnaire and mail the form to the office. SCVAS General Meeting Questionnaire, 22221 McClellan Road, Cupertino, CA 95014.

*Thanks - The Program Committee*

## General Meeting Questionnaire

### Where:

Do you like our meeting location ? \_\_\_\_\_

Or do you know of an available and convenient site? \_\_\_\_\_

### When:

Do you like meeting on the third Wednesday of the month at 7:30 PM? \_\_\_\_\_

When might be better? \_\_\_\_\_

Explain \_\_\_\_\_

### What

What conservation issue(s) should be the theme for a future General Meeting?: \_\_\_\_\_

What birding subject(s) should be for a future General Meeting theme? \_\_\_\_\_

Do you have any suggestions for a speaker? \_\_\_\_\_

### Other

Should we continue to offer refreshments (Coffee, tea and cookies)? \_\_\_\_\_

Would you like Nature Shop merchandise to be available for sale? \_\_\_\_\_

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## Birdathon Field Trip Report: April 26, 1992

*The Wren Tit Sextet: Gail & Doug Cheeseman, Luis Tam, Linda Johnson, Will Taylor and Harriet Gerson*

Five-thirty on a Sunday morning came much too soon. The sun was still abed! Nevertheless, the Cheesemans and Harriet minus Luis who was no where in sight left from Saratoga for the appointed rendezvous with Linda and Will at Shoreline, the starting point for our Santa Clara County bird chase goal of 100 species. Looking out over the Forebay, who could tell if the sandpipers had black or yellow legs? But the morning light did arrive and so began our count. What a beautiful way to spend a day!

With spirits high we began to tick off the birds. This was going to be a snap! With our list already begun, who should we see trotting up the hill but Luis - with excuses ready. Our sextet complete, we renewed our search. The avocet with babies under wing was a special treat, as was the brief sighting of a Sora Rail. The pond was glassy smooth with only a distant Surf Scoter to add to the count. No Pied-billed Grebes? No Western or Clark's? Ah! A Horned Grebe in breeding plumage!

Leaving Shoreline with almost half our goal, we were feeling pretty cocky. On to Stevens Creek to catch the woodland species. We were not disappointed as the spring arrivals greeted us in song. Black-headed Grosbeaks, N. Orioles, Yellow Warblers, Warbling and Solitary Vireos, Western Tanagers, House Wren, Western Wood-Pewee, Olive-sided and Pacific Slope Flycatchers were all in good voice. The silhouette of a Great Horned owl was a good spot. The prize, two Dippers doing what they do best, proved it a good decision to drive up along the stream for a look.

By this time, Doug was desperately in need of a caffeine-fix, so we all took advantage of a brief coffee break. Revived and with half the day not over, on to Jasper Ridge where we felt we would catch those missed - minus Sunday picnickers. A pair of Ring-necked Ducks with heads barely visible among the water plants took a 'good-eye'. The Wilson's Warbler gave us a chase down a mosquito infested trail. Did we really need it? Yes!

Lunch on the bridge at the dam gave us a show as we watched a Sharp-shin harass a Red-tail overhead. Then, below, an Anna's Hummingbird enjoying a bath.

Fortified, we went on to get those last few species. Maybe the Baylands would be our last stop? Why are those last few so hard to find? The Duck Pond gave us a Lesser Scaup, Brewer's Blackbird and Glaucous-winged Gull. Byxby's new county park was very quiet but at last the No. Harrier and Snipe could be added. Alviso would surely have those last four we needed. Maybe the Barn Owl would be in the nest box? Most certainly a Meadowlark? No Barn Owl but the Meadowlark, a beautiful Bonaparte's Gull in breeding plumage and the Short-billed Dowitcher rewarding us with their distinctive *tu-tu-tu* call. And, finally, the last: the Long-billed Marsh Wren. Amen to a perfect birding day.

Our chase ended just short of 6 pm. Weary, we rewarded ourselves with a most magnificent Chinese dinner at a restaurant well-chosen by Luis. With toasts to a successful day and promises for 1993's Birdathon our chase was over until next year.

—Harriet Gerson

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## Book Review

### *BIRDS IN JEOPARDY*

By Bill Bousman

In the music of the stones we hear the measured pace of the birth and the extinction of living things. One species may come along that is more successful than its contemporaries, for at least a while, but it too joins the others on the shore of some ancient lake bed or sea and all we know is what is written in a piece of sandstone or slate.

Paul Ehrlich, David Dobkin, and Darryl Wheye, the authors of *A Birder's Handbook* have joined forces again to write a new book, *Birds in Jeopardy*. This is a book about the extinction of birds, not at the slow cadence of the fossil record,

but at the discordant pace of our modern society: loud, cacophonous, and nonsensical. The primary emphasis of the book is individual accounts of the birds in jeopardy presented in three groups: those species and subspecies that are officially designated as endangered or threatened by our government; those that have been "blue-listed" by the Audubon Society; and those that are already extinct. Also included, as an introduction, is an essay that places this sad song of extinction firmly in the context of our society. At the end of the book are a series of essays extracted from *A Birder's Handbook* that address a number of issues, including the effects of habitat loss on bird populations, and how we estimate and track bird populations. If you read this book, then read the essays in the back first — the contents of the species accounts will be more meaningful.

The species (and subspecies) accounts, each with a portrait by Darryl Wheye, are the main content of the book. A standard format is used for each species wherein such topics are discussed as nesting, food, breeding and wintering ranges, what perils face the species, why it is in jeopardy and, for the officially endangered and threatened species, the recovery plans that are being worked on. There is a cadence to these accounts, a rhythm, that soon becomes disturbing. We see in these accounts, one after another, the history of the interactions between these birds and our human population. The story written here is one of destruction of habitats critical for each species, relentless destruction, ever-continuing.

(Continued on page 8)

## Special June Birdseed And Feeder Sale at McClellan Ranch Park 22221 McClellan Road, Cupertino, CA 95014. (408)252-3747

Please choose one pick-up time: *(The SCVAS office will be closed during July).*

[ ] Tuesday, June 23, 5:00 PM-7:00 PM      or      [ ] Saturday, June 27, 10:00 AM -12:00 PM

BIRDSEED	Quantity	Amount
5lbs Audubon Special Mix .....		\$2.75
20lbs Audubon Special Mix .....		10.00
50lbs Audubon Special Mix .....		19.00
20lbs Western Wild Mix .....		9.00
50lbs Western Wild Mix .....		16.50
25lbs Black Oil Sunflower Seed .....		15.00
50lbs Black Oil Sunflower Seed .....		25.00
5lbs Thistle .....		11.00
25lbs Sunflower Chips .....		22.50
<b>BIRD FEEDERS &amp; BATHS</b>		
*New* Clear Hanging Bird Bath .....		\$24.95
Cling-A-Wing Feeder .....		9.95
4-Fountains Hummingbird Feeder .....		11.95
Sunflower Tube Feeder .....		9.95
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*NEW* Tilt-top Hanging Feeder .....		29.95
Window Shelf Feeder .....		9.95
<b><i>Please be sure to include</i></b>	<b>SUBTOTAL</b>	
<b><i>your check with a</i></b>	<b>ADD .0825% TAX</b>	
<b><i>stamped self-addressed</i></b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	
<b><i>envelope</i></b>	<b>Donation to SCVAS</b>	
	<b>TOTAL</b>	

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE (    ) \_\_\_\_\_

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Cupertino, CA 95014

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**Creeks** (Continued from Page 1)

Clearing of streamside vegetation, construction so close to the creek that erosion problems are compounded and surface runoff is increased often accompany development in the upper reaches of the watershed system. These practices create significant downstream cumulative impacts: increased siltation and pollution of the Bay, increased peak flows which require extensive flood control projects, and the construction of percolation ponds to regain the natural percolation lost.

What's worse, all of the corrective actions required by these cumulative impacts are paid for by you - the taxpayer - not the developer. From a homeowners viewpoint, development going in 100-200 yards upstream from you can cause serious erosion problems on your property which you will have to deal with alone, without developer assistance.

We believe it is time that we stop looking the other way. We must not depend on other agencies to protect our natural resources. We need a creek protection ordinance - before the last creek is lost forever.

If you are interested in getting involved in creek protection projects, please call Linda Schild-Jones, The Creeks Coalition at (415) 494-6886.

—Linda Schild-Jones.

**Book Review** (Continued from Page 6)

There are other themes in the species accounts of this book that weave in and out. Again and again we see that our ignorance of these species and what they need to lead normal lives is an obstacle to our protecting them and their habitats. The authors do an excellent job in summarizing our knowledge of the populations and the changes that have occurred over the last century, but again and again these numbers are uncertain. No death certificates are issued when a Black-capped Vireo fails in its migration north. There is no Center of Disease Control to monitor hazards to the populations of declining species.

I would like to have seen more discussion of how populations are monitored and the contributions that are made in this area by amateurs and professionals. The authors place a great deal of emphasis on the Audubon Society's Blue List, but there is little discussion of how the list was put together and whether it was too subjective to be trusted. This list was a significant initiative of the magazine *American Birds* in the 1970s and 1980s and despite its limitations it was a major contribution in attempting some sort of early warning system for bird populations. But the last update was in 1986 and it appears that the Blue List is now extinct. This part of the book also suffers from editing errors in that the discussion of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Breeding Bird Survey is stuck in the middle of a description of the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology's Breeding Bird Censuses and Winter Bird Populations Studies.

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