

The Avocet

The Newsletter of the Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society

September 1992

Birdathon '92 Reaches Goal!

Fundraising--the mere mention of the word can send ominous shivers up the spines of the most loyal members of any non-profit organization. These days even the staunchest of environmentalists has a tendency to cringe upon opening the day's mail, since it will likely include a deluge of desperate entreaties for cash contributions, each of which must be made now in order to save the bay/whales/rainforest/world (take your pick). Given the excess of requests and the dearth of spare cash, more and more of these solicitations end up with the rest of the junk mail in a recycle bin. You just can't support them all.

Thus it was with cautious optimism tempered with some trepidation that SCVAS Birdathon Chair Tony Epstein and a handful of chapter strategists began planning for the 1992 Birdathon early last fall. We agreed to donate the first \$2,500 raised to the very worthy National Audubon Wetlands campaign, and set our sights on an additional \$7,500 for our own chapter's needs, likewise focusing on wetlands issues. To the astonishment of many and great satisfaction of all, Managing Director Cecily Harris announced that as of August 1 we had met that goal of \$10,000.

The success of this key chapter fundraising event was made possible by everyone who participated--organizers, team leaders, birders, pledge-getters and

contributors. We are very grateful to those who saw fit to allocate a few precious dollars (donations varied from \$5 to \$200) to our biggest fundraising event. Birdathon dollars will help fund our educational projects, including the outstanding Wetlands Discovery program for elementary school children, as well as giving financial support to other environmental groups working to preserve local wetland habitat.

A list of Patrons--those who contributed \$50 or more to the Birdathon--appears on page 2. The Wrentits team (Doug and Gail

Cheeseman, Harriet Gerson and friends) raised the most money..The Vagrants (Grant Hoyt, Dick Stovel, Mike Mammoser and Mike Rogers) saw the most species, 163. (In the Silliest Name category, the Bird Brains and the Wednesday Weirdos made strong bids to unseat the Uncommon Loons and the Wrong Terns.)

THANKS!!! to all who participated, and especially to Tony, Trish Mulvey, and Cecily for planning, organizing, etc. Start saving your spare change now for next year's Birdathon!

—Grant Hoyt

General Membership Meeting Wednesday, September 16, 7:30 PM

Topic: Current Trends in Environmental Education from Project Wild to Teenage Mall Behavior and Inner City Blues

Almost 81% of Californians now live in urban areas where youth find MTV, video arcades and shopping malls readily available, but few opportunities to play and learn in a natural outdoor environment. Tonight's program explores environmental education today and the ways current societal trends affect the attitudes of our youth toward the environment. California Wildlife Program Supervisor Rick Palmer from the Department of Fish and Game will discuss the environmental education programs at Elkhorn Slough Ecological Reserve in Watsonville and Grizzly Island Wildlife Areas in the North Bay. The meeting is co-sponsored by the Palo Alto Open Spaces and Sciences Division and will be held at the Palo Alto Cultural Center, Embarcadero and Newell Roads.

Chapter News

Many Thanks to The Donors Who Contributed over \$50 to The 1992 SCVAS Birdathon

Yana Arnold • Joyce Bartlett • Lorraine Bazan • David Beatty • Chris Bekins • Phyllis Browning • Roy Cameron • Richard Cassel • Earl Cilley • Rob & Rita Colwell • Constance Crawford • John Delevoryas • Frank & Janice Delfino • Jean Dubois • Laurie Duckham-Shoor • Linda Elkind • Tony & Maureen Eppstein • Hans Ernst • Mike Feighner • Frederick Fisher • Jane Fitzsimmons • Florence Freyermuth • Daniel Gerson • David Gerson • Harriet Gerson • Bobbie & Carl Handen • Cindy Handen • Totton Heffelfinger • Grant & Karen Hoyt • Kenneth Hull • Dorothy Hunt • Julie Jerome • Donna Johnson • Linda Johnson • Linda Schild-Jones and Russ Jones • E. Karlin • Peter & Sue LaTourrette • Frederick Lee • Stephen & Nancy Levy • Sue & Jim Liskovec • Esther Litton • Greg Loitz • Mike Mammoser • John McLemore & Clysta Seney • Beverly Merrill • Frances Mewaldt • Jim & Trish Mulvey • B.T. O'Connor • Chris Otahal • Kathy Parker • Betty Parsons • Barbara Pickrell • John Plummer • Tito & Mary Poza • Louise Quenon • Armin Ramel • Jules Resnick • Mike Rigney • Theresa Serafini • Katherine Sholtz • Tibby Simon • Mary W. Smith • Fern Snow • William Taylor • Alan & Karen Thomas • Frances Thompkins • Ann Verdi • Alan Walther • Robert Ward • Milton West • Sylvia & Gordon Williams.

Our Thanks to SCVAS Volunteers

Karen Herrera for improving our birdfeeding area so dramatically

Reid Freeman, Al Spears, and Nick Yatsko for moving library bookcases

Office Volunteer Team: **Jayne DiCandio, Reid Freeman, Harriet Gerson, Rosalie Lefkowitz, Tibby Simon, Joyce Todd, and Lois Warburton.**

Community Outreach Volunteers: **Jayne DiCandio, John McLemore, Clysta Seney and Levona Sterngold.**

Donors of books to the SCVAS library: **Reid Freeman, Joyce Todd, Lois Warburton** and thanks to the family of **William Pursell** for the tremendous additions to our birding book collection.

And Thanks to those individuals and corporations that have donated the supplies and furniture that are making the SCVAS office so impressive:

PG&E for the nine new bookshelves for the library

Karen Herrera for our new birdfeeders and toolbox

Vic Collard for our new TV/VCR stand

John Mast for the cassette player for our library

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

Earl Cilley '91-'94	415/854-6258
Bobbie Handen '90-'93	408/356-4263
Fran McTamanev '91-'94	408/262-5513
Mike Rigney '91-'94	408/262-9204
Alan Thomas '90-'93	408/265-9286
Reid Freeman '92-'95	408/255-4969
Clysta Seney '92-'95	408/261-9431
Micki Schneider '92-'95	415/324-1155
Jane Becker-Haven '92-'95	415/321-0776

CHAIRPERSONS

Editor	Chrys Fitzpatrick	408/245-3860
Education	Bobbie Handen	408/356-4263
Programs	Doug & Gail	
	Cheeseman	408/867-1371
Library	Reid Freeman	408/255-4969
Field Trips	Edward Rooks	408/867-4748
Aud Adven	Elaine Gould	408/448-0622
Grants	Vacant	
Photo Club	Pete LaTourrette	415/961-2741
Planning	Tony Eppstein	415/326-1376
Finance	Don Price	415/327-1254
EFC	Vacant	
BAAC		
Delegate	Trish Mulvey	415/326-0252
Membership	Clysta Seney	408/261-9431
Nature Shop	Yana Arnold	408/371-4393
Gardener	Karen Herrera	408/245-6449
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.

September 1992, Volume 39, Number 7

September 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 September: Nick Yatsko (408) 865-4831.

**Denotes Field Trip

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

Tuesday, September 8, 9:30 AM. Eve Case Bird Discussion Group at the home of Edward and Janice Rooks, 20537 Verde Vista Lane, Saratoga. 408/ 867-4748. Topic: Summer Birding Experiences.

****Wednesday, September 9, 9:00 AM. Half day. Jetty Road and Elkhorn Slough.** Leader: Allan Thomas (408) 265-9286. Meet at Jetty Road and Hwy. 1 just north of Moss Landing. Highlights: New arriving winter shorebirds and waterfowl. Lunch optional but recommended.

Wednesday, September 9, 7:30 - 9:30 PM. Bay Area Bird Photographers. Hawaiian Native Forest Birds. All meetings take place from at the Palo Alto's Lucy Evans Baylands Interpretive Center on East Embarcadero Road.

****Saturday, September 12, 9:00 AM. Full day. Point Reyes.** Leader: Peter LaTourette (415)961-2741. Meet at Drake's Beach parking area. From Olema take Hwy 1 to Sir Francis Drake Blvd., W. on Sir Francis Drake 14 mi. to left turn to Drake's Beach. Carpool from there. Bring lunch, liquids, full tank of fuel. Highlights: vagrant warblers, shorebirds...surprises?

****Sunday, September 13, 9:00 AM. Half day. Beginners trip to Charleston Slough.** Leader: Alan Royer (408)288-7768. Directions: Take 101 to Mountain View, exit San Antonio Rd. E. to its end at Terminal Way. Highlights: Basics of birding with emphasis on shorebirds, waterfowl and ducks.

Wednesday, September 16. General Meeting 7:30 PM refreshments, 8:00 PM program. (See description on page 1). Meeting is held at the Palo Alto Cultural Center at Embarcadero and Newell Roads and is co-sponsored by the Palo Alto Open Space and Sciences Division.

Saturday, September 19, 7:00-8:30 PM. Natural History of Burrowing Owls. Dr. Lynne Trulio will be talking about the natural history of Burrowing Owls, various local Burrowing Owl research and habitat restoration projects. This talk will be given at REI, Cupertino. For more information call 408/446-1991.

****Wednesday, September 23, 8:30 AM. Half day. Beginners North County trip to Palo Alto Foothills Park.** Others welcome. Leader: Alberta Jasberg (415) 493-9546. Lunch optional. Must carpool from Page Mill-Arastradero. Entrance fee. Reservations only.

****Saturday, September 26, 9:00 AM. Full day. Marin Headlands/Hawk Hill.** Leader: Don Schmoltdt (415)215-1910. Directions: Meet at Vista Point, 1st exit N. of Golden Gate Bridge, carpool from there. Bring lunch, liquids, warm clothing in case of fog—hope for fog to burn off early for spectacular viewing of migrating accipiters, buteos and falcons; possible Broad-winged Hawk and other uncommon raptors.

****Sunday, September 27, 8:30 AM. Full day. Moss Landing.** Leader: Mike Mammoser (408)248-2288. Directions: From Santa Cruz go S. on Hwy 1 through Watsonville. Meet at Jetty Rd. off Hwy 1. Please carpool, if possible. Will visit Moon Glow Dairy and Moss Landing Wildlife Area. Shorebirds.

Non Audubon Events

The San Francisco Bay Bird Observatory will host the seventeenth annual meeting of the **Western Field Ornithologists** September 18-20 at the Sunnyvale Holiday Inn. The three-day meeting will include a variety of field trips and a full day of exciting presentations. Dr. Louis Baptista will talk about *Studies on Song Dialects in Birds* at the Saturday night banquet. For more information contact the San Francisco Bay Bird Observatory, P.O.Box 247, Alviso, CA 95002.

The **Aquatic Habitat Institute** and The **California Aquatic Science Education Consortium** present: *Teaching about Water in the San Francisco Bay and Delta* at the California Academy of Sciences.

The conference featuring symposia, workshops, a curriculum fair and field trips, will provide K-12 educators with tools to effectively teach about the Estuary. Academic credit available. Conference fees: \$25

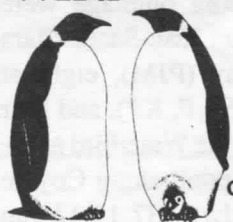
To obtain a registration form or more information, call or write: Aquatic Habitat Institute, 1301 S. 46th St, #180, Richmond, CA 94804. (510) 231-9539.

The **San Francisco Bay Bird Observatory** is doing a field study of shorebird roosting behavior funded by the San Francisco Bay Estuary Project. The purpose of the study, which will take place between October and May, is to document the importance of Bay shoreline habitats to wintering and migrating shorebirds. We would like to get in touch with volunteers interested in monitoring some of our study areas in the South Bay. Contact SFBBO at (408)946-6548 for further information.

Cheesemans' Ecology Safaris

Trinidad and Tobago, June 27- July 10 1993 Doug and Gail Cheeseman will co-lead with Edward and Janice Rooks on this two week tour, limited to 12 people. The Cheesemans' phone number is (408)741-5330 or (408)867-1371 in Saratoga.


Wildlife Gifts...



A Whale
of a Choice.

Whales & Tales
Wildlife Store and Gallery

800-422-8253
429 University



415-326-1130
Palo Alto

Field Notes

By Bill Bousman

Loons through Cormorants

We normally find loons only when they stray from the coast in their fall migration, but this year a **Common Loon** was seen on Guadalupe Res. 16 May (AV) and one seen on Almaden Res. the next day (AV, MLF) was possibly the same bird. **Eared Grebes** attempted to breed on the impoundment at Crittenden Marsh for the first time since 1986. Seven nests were observed on 6 Jun (MMR, JCo) and had increased to ten by 21 Jun (WC). These nests failed because of the lowering watering level, but at least seven new nests were noted by 17 Jul (MMR). All nests were abandoned by 25 Jul (MJM). Three pairs of Western Grebes and two pairs of **Clark's Grebes** were on Calaveras Res. 25 Jun and 30 Jul (MMR). The birds were paired, but there was no evidence of breeding. An adult **Brandt's Cormorant** in the channel behind Moffett Field 6-7 Jun (MMR, JCo) is rare away from the coast.

Hérons through Raptors

An adult **Little Blue Heron** was seen near the Alviso heronry 5 Jun (MLF, KP). A possible immature bird was at Charleston Slough 18 Jul and in Alviso 23 Jul (JAC). Individual **Cattle Egrets** were seen near Alviso 11 Jun (SBT) and 24 Jun (JAC) and they may have bred in the heronry. A single bird was found in Isabel Valley 30 Jun (JYfide MMR). **White-faced Ibis** were found regularly this summer (m.ob.) with the possibility of breeding in the Alviso colony. Flocks of up to 45 birds were seen in May (PJM, MMR), but reports in June and July ranged from 1 to 4 birds. Introduced **Canada Geese** have extended their breeding range to Sandy Wool Lake (3 Jun, MMR) and Soap Lake

next to Hwy 152 in San Benito County (25 Jun, WGB). A pair of **Blue-winged Teal** at the Sunnyvale Water Pollution Control Plant (WPCP) 3 May (PJM) and a male in the Mountain View Forebay 27 May (RL) raise the possibility of local nesting. Five **Ring-necked Ducks** were on Calaveras Res. 25 Jun (MMR, JCo). A female **Bufflehead** was found in the Stevens Creek Mitigation Area 6 Jun (MMR, JCo). An **Osprey** at the south end of Anderson Res. 29 May (EC) is late for a migrant. A bird seen near Parkway Lakes CP 8 Jul (WGB) is our first record for July and is probably a nonbreeding bird.

Shorebirds through Terns

A **Lesser Yellowlegs** was present off Nortech Parkway in Alviso 1 May (MJM) and another at the San Jose-Santa Clara WPCP 17 May (PJM). A sighting of a **Solitary Sandpiper** 6 May (AME) along Coyote Creek below Hwy 237 was our seventh spring record.. Most of our common migrant shorebirds leave a few birds to oversummer, but not **Western Sandpiper** which is our most abundant migrant. A single bird on the Palo Alto Summer Bird Count 6 Jun (MMR, JCo) is one of our few June records. The most surprising shorebird of the season was **Wilson's Phalarope** which oversummered in unprecedented numbers. Four adult birds in breeding plumage were noted at the San Jose-Santa Clara WPCP 23 May (PJM), eight at Alviso 5 Jun (MLF, KP), and four paired birds on the Waterbird Management Area pond along Coyote Creek below Hwy 237 11-13 Jun (SBT, MMR, WGB). An adult **Franklin's Gull** was near the Alviso Marina 1-4 Jul (SBT). Two adult and two juvenile **Least Terns** at Charleston Slough 27 Jul are the

first reports of the season. A breeding-plumage **Black Tern** at the San Jose-Santa Clara WPCP 23 May (PJM) is one of our few spring records.

Cuckoos through Hummingbirds

A **Greater Roadrunner** west of Mines Road in the county 9 Jul (MMR, GHt) is one of our few reports for the year. This may be the rarest resident species in the county. A **Northern Pygmy Owl** heard above Canada Road east of Gilroy 24 Jun (WGB) is from an area where there are few records for this rare owl. A **Lesser Nighthawk** over urban Sunnyvale 12 Jun (TAC) was in a most unusual area. This species is no longer resident in the county. Summer reports of **Vaux's Swift** were limited to the Saratoga-Los Gatos area with six seen 11 Jun (SBT) and individual birds seen 27 Jun (J & SL, MMR). **Black-chinned Hummingbirds** were found in good numbers along Coyote Creek below Hwy 237 and three birds found 17 May (PJM).

Flycatchers through Solitaires

Hammond's Flycatcher was found in good numbers with a very early bird banded at the Coyote Creek Riparian Station (CCRS) 11 Apr and a calling bird along Arroyo Valle in the Diablo Range 9 May (MMR, GHt). The rarer **Dusky Flycatcher** was well reported with an individual banded at CCRS 11 Apr and one seen there 3 May (PJM). Atlas work in the Diablo Range this year demonstrated that both **Rock** and **Canyon Wrens** are more common than expected. Both species are widely found in rocky areas and canyons throughout the range. Three **American Dipper** were found along Arroyo Hondo 19 July (MMR, AL, JY) where the water is clear and fast flowing. A **Townsend's Solitaire** east of Black Mountain in

SCVAS FALL BIRDSEED AND BIRD FEEDER SALE

All orders must be placed by Tuesday, October 13

(Please enclose a stamped self-addressed envelope to receive a map and confirmation)

Pickup sites: Please choose one.

Humane Society of S.C. Valley Tuesday, October 20, 4:00-6:00 PM
 YSI, Los Gatos Tuesday, October 20, 4:00-6:00 PM
 PCC, Palo Alto Saturday, October 24, 10:00AM-12:00 PM
 Pets Friend, Sunnyvale Tuesday, October 27, 4:00-6:00 PM
 REI, Cupertino Tuesday, October 27, 4:00-6:00 PM

BIRDSEED

Quantity Amount

5 lbs Audubon Special Mix	\$2.75	_____	_____
20 lbs Audubon Special Mix	10.00	_____	_____
50 lbs Audubon Special Mix	19.00	_____	_____
20 lbs Western Wild Mix	9.00	_____	_____
50 lbs Western Wild Mix	18.00	_____	_____
25 lbs Black Oil Sunflower Seed	15.00	_____	_____
50 lbs Black Oil Sunflower Seed	26.00	_____	_____
5 lbs Thistle	11.50	_____	_____
25 lbs Sunflower Chips	22.50	_____	_____

Bird Feeders (All Duncraft products are endorsed by the National Audubon Society)

Cling-A-Wing Feeder	\$11.95	_____	_____
4-Fountains Hummingbird Feeder	11.95	_____	_____
Audubon Sunflower Tube Feeder	22.95	_____	_____
Thistle Stocking	2.95	_____	_____
Tilt-top Hanging Feeder	34.95	_____	_____
Window Shelf Feeder	10.95	_____	_____

SUBTOTAL _____
 ADD.0825% TAX _____
 TOTAL _____
 Donation to SCVAS _____
 TOTAL _____

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ ZIP _____

TELEPHONE () _____

Environmental Action News

Santa Clara County Open Space Legislation Nears Final Stretch *Letters to Governor Needed*

Senate Bill 2027 (Mello) would create the Santa Clara County Open Space Authority which would acquire open space lands in Eastern and Southern Santa Clara County. Letters are needed to key legislators and the Governor to urge passage of the bill. If passed, the new Open Space Authority would seek approval by local voters for funding in 1994.

In November of 1990, funding for an earlier Open Space Authority in Santa Clara received 63% of the vote, just short of the two-thirds necessary to pass. SB2027 recreates the Authority and allows it to obtain funding as a separate step.

The jurisdiction of the Authority would include all of Santa Clara County not covered by the MidPeninsula Regional Open Space District. If funded, the Authority would purchase hillside lands along the Diablo Range running from Milpitas southward, conservation easements on fertile farmland in the South Valley, and hillside land in the southern Santa Cruz Mountain Range from San Jose to Gilroy.

Earth Share of California: An Easy Way to Help Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society

You can help us get valuable financial rewards: we belong to a federation of environmental groups, called Earth Share of California, that raises money through employee giving campaigns in workplaces.

If you have this choice in your employee giving campaign, it could translate into strong financial support for us.

Here's all you have to do: Call Earth Share of California staff members Nancy Snow 415/882-9330 or John Boesel 510/527-9392 or reach them through the tollfree #1-800/368-1819. They will show you how you can be of invaluable help to us.

You may already have Earth Share of California as a choice in your workplace — John or Nancy can tell you if this is the case. Earth Share of California used to be called the Environmental Federation of California. The change in name has just been announced, a move that was undertaken as a larger effort to

bring together groups from California and nationally.

Started just ten years ago by twelve environmental organizations, Earth Share now represents 76 groups in over 130 workplace campaigns throughout the State.

Campaign sites include well-known companies, such as Sun Microsystems, Kaiser Permanente Medical Centers, Charles Schwab, Stanford University, Safeway (Northern Region), and Kinko's. Earth Share is included in the campaigns of the state's major cities and counties and in many smaller companies and government sites as well.

Last year, employees throughout the state donated an unprecedented \$1.4 million to Earth Share during the 1991-92 workplace giving campaigns, a 50 percent increase over 1990-91 contributions! With your help, we can keep growing even faster in the next five years. Give Earth Share a call!

Beat the Back-Up

Every day, Californians lose 200,000 hours and our economy loses \$3 million to traffic congestion. It affects our health and our environment.

The fastest, cheapest, simplest solution is ridesharing. On Thursday, September 17th, frustrated drivers throughout the state will try ridesharing. They'll carpool, vanpool, take the bus or train, telecommute, bicycle or walk to work. Why not join them?

Here in the Bay Area, commuters are asked to "Beat the Back-Up" on Thursday, September 17th. You can obtain a pledge card and more information by calling 1-800-755-POOL.

Try ridesharing for just one day. You'll save money, reduce stress and most of all you'll help improve the environment for wildlife and people in the Bay Area.

Take a break from driving. Pledge to not drive alone on September 17th, and Beat the Back-Up!

Wood Warblers through Grosbeaks

A **Nashville Warbler** near Mines Road 19 Jul (GHt) was very early. A **Northern Parula** was found in Santa Clara in poor condition 11 May (fide PJM) and nursed back to health, the first county record for this eastern vagrant. A second bird was singing in Los Gatos 28 Jun (SBT). Fifteen **Hermit Warblers** east of Black Mountain in the Diablo Range 3 May (MMR, JCo) is a large number for this rare migrant. A first-summer male **American Redstart** above Canada Road east of Gilroy 24 Jun (WGB) is the seventh county record and the first in spring. A **Worm-eating Warbler** was captured at CCRS 17 Jun and recaptured 3 Jul (fide RC) for the first county record for this rare eastern vagrant. Singing **Yellow-breasted Chats** were found along Arroyo Valle 9 May (GHt), the Pajaro River below Hwy 101 14 May (ES), and Uvas KCreek above Gilroy 16 May (WGB). Proof of breeding was obtained later along Arroyo Valle 15 Jun (MMR) and 26 Jun (GHt, MMR). A male **Summer Tanager** in Los Gatos 31 May (PLN) was the fourth county record. A male **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** was found in Los Altos Hills 3 Jun (BC, SY) for one of our few county records. Two **Blue Grosbeaks** were banded at CCRS on 11 Jun and 17 Jun (fide SBT).

Sparrows through Goldfinches

Two **Black-chinned Sparrows** were found coastally with one on Loma Prieta 23 May (JAC) and another on Mt. Umunhum 5 Jun (MLF). Several birds were east of Mines Road in the interior ranges on 18 Jun (MMR). A flock of six **Yellow-headed Blackbirds** was at the San Jose-Santa Clara WPCP 26 Apr (PJM). **Lawrence's Goldfinches** were found breeding in the Diablo Range in many locations. They also

nested at the southern end of the Santa Cruz Mountains with recently fledged birds in Gilroy 15 May (WGB) and at Gavilan College 24 May (AME)

Observers: Bill Bousman (WGB), William Cabot (WC), Ted Chandik (TAC), Jack Cole JAC), Barbara Costa (BC), Jim Corliss (JCo), Rita Cowell (RC), Al Eisner (AME), Mike Feighner (MLF), Grant Hoyt (GHt), Amy Lauterbach (AL), Rosalie Lefkowitz (RL), Jim & Sue Liskovec (J & SL), Mike Mammoser (MJM), Peter Metropulos (PJM), Paul Noble (PLN), Kathy Parker (KPa), Mike Rogers (MMR), Emelie Strauss (ES), Scott Terrill (SBT), Ann Verdi (AV), Scott Young (SY) and James Yurchenco (JY).

Education Report

Announcing Audubon Adventures for 1992-93

This excellent youth education program is designed for grades 3-6. Students receive the publication *Audubon Adventures* 6 times per year, membership cards and club decals. Teachers receive a packet of 32 newsletters and an instructional leader's guide that has background information and ideas for field and classroom activities. Topics for the 1992-93 year are: Spiders, Endangered Species, Contemplating Conifers, Meet the Mammals, Bird Migration, and Soil Invertebrates. April is Audubon Month and includes a special poster and information about the Gulf of Mexico.

A subscription for one year for a classroom is only \$30. Registration are due by November 1 to the SCVAS office. For more information, call Cecily Harris at the SCVAS office at (408) 252-3747.

Nature Shop News

The SCVAS Nature Shop has begun to stock up on inventory for fall. Come see many new books, t-shirts, jewelry, and other birding-related merchandise. Birdseed and birdfeeders are also available.

Announcing a Special SCVAS Birthday Promotion.....

On your birthday come into the SCVAS Nature Shop and receive a 10% discount on everything in stock. To be eligible you must bring in something that shows us your birthdate. If your birthday falls on a Saturday or Sunday when we are not open special arrangements can be made. For more information, call Cecily Harris at 408/252-3747.

SCVAS Wish List

We are in need of the following items for our office:

- Birdbath
- Typewriter
- Microwave oven
- Vacuum Cleaner
- Portable Fan

Please call Cecily Harris at SCVAS at 408/252-3747 for more information.



Everything for
Feeding & Enjoying
our Backyard Birds

- Feeders • Seed • Houses • Books
- Tapes/CDs • Baths • Binoculars • Gifts



Wild Bird Center
926 El Camino Real
San Carlos
(415) 595-0300

Santa Clara Valley
Audubon Society
22221 McClellan Road
Cupertino, CA 95014

ADDRESS CORRECTION

REQUESTED

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage Paid
San Jose, CA
Permit No. 5869

Field Trip Report

Sutter Buttes and Paul L. Wattis Sanctuary

On May 2nd and 3rd, thirteen birders joined me to explore the mysteries of Sutter Buttes and visit (for the first time for me) the Paul L. Wattis Audubon Sanctuary. Both days were a bit toasty, ranging from the low 90's, but very productive! In the town of Sutter, where the group met, we started out the day with a Prairie Falcon flying over. In the buttes, we were very lucky to hit a migrant wave, with the real prize being two singing Yellow-breasted Chats, a bird I had not seen in three years of exploring the buttes. Other highlights included 15 Townsend's Warblers, 3 Hermit Warblers, one Empidonax flycatcher which has been tentatively identified as a Hammond's Flycatcher, one Chipping Sparrow (new to the buttes for me), 4 Phainopeplas, and at least 15 Lawrence's Goldfinches. Other migrants included Western Tanager, Wilson's Warbler, and "Audubon's" Warbler. After our day in the buttes, I drove along South Butte Road and saw a beautiful Swainson's Hawk. A total of 50 species were observed in the buttes. In the evening, I explored the Colusa National Wildlife Refuge and found

about 60 White-faced Ibis, several Whimbrel, one Lesser Yellowlegs and about 50 Cinnamon Teal. Grant and Karen Hoyt explored the Colusa area on their own and discovered several Semipalmated Plovers.

The next day with the expert help of Grant Hoyt, we birded the Wattis Audubon Sanctuary. The beavers have eaten through one of the wooden posts supporting the sign that introduces the refuge to visitors and have nearly finished off the other post! At the Wattis Sanctuary, in spite of the heat, we saw 4 Swainson's Hawks, 25 to 30 American Bittern, many Marsh Wrens (one building a nest), two Redheads, 60+ American White Pelicans, another Lesser Yellowlegs, several Whimbrel, a small flock of Long-billed Curlew, several Yellow-headed Blackbirds, and the prize, a single Black Tern.

On the way back to the Bay Area I saw three more Swainson's Hawks in the Knight's Landing area north of Woodland, bringing the total number of Swainson's Hawks for the trip to eight.

The combined trip total included 94 species of birds! A great birding experience and a real treat to visit the private lands of Sutter Buttes.

Don Schmoldt

Membership: We invite your membership in the National Audubon Society/SCVAS. To join, please complete and mail this form with payment to SCVAS, 22221 McClellan Road, Cupertino, CA 95014. C14

National Audubon Society Membership: Check One

Introductory \$20 Individual \$35 Family \$38

Members receive *Audubon* magazine and *The Avocet* newsletter. Make check payable to National Audubon Society.

Or

Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society Membership: Check One

Subscriber \$10 Supporter \$20 Donor \$35 Patron \$50 and more

Members receive *The Avocet* newsletter. Make check payable to SCVAS.

Donation: SCVAS greatly appreciates your tax-deductible donation. Your gift helps to fund the Chapter's birding, education, conservation and research programs.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone No. _____

7XCH