



Vote on November 3-- Your vote counts on environmental issues

The Avocet

The Newsletter of the Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society

November 1992

The Native Plant Garden at McClellan Ranch Park, A Natural Preserve

McClellan Ranch Park will soon contain a new bird-attracting demonstration garden planted with native species. McClellan Ranch Park, a natural preserve, a rural oasis, is the perfect site for this native plant garden. A visitor wandering the grounds can quickly forget, at least momentarily, the decade in which the park currently exists.

McClellan Ranch Park is bordered by Stevens Creek with its towering sycamore trees on two sides. Old Coast Live Oaks provide a buffer from the narrow, windy street. A hill on the fourth side blocks the view of the nearby city neighborhoods. What can be seen is an old barn, a ranch house that houses the offices of SCVAS, a city museum for children's naturalist programs, a 4-H barn, a community vegetable garden and a large meadow circumscribed by the creek. What a special location for a wild-life-attracting garden planted with California native plants!

This garden will be important in many ways. It will attract birds, butterflies and other wildlife for the Audubon office, which is immediately next to the garden. It will also demonstrate how to plant beautiful, drought-tolerant, low-maintenance

plants that are native to California. Visitors to the park will find a beautiful garden in which to sit and enjoy the quiet, rural setting.

Cupertino troops of Girl and Boy Scouts will help with the planting scheduled for Saturday, November 14. When they return later to the garden, they will be able to watch the birds and squirrels eat the wild berries provided by the Toyon or forage for the seeds from the native bunch grass. The children will see hummingbirds sipping nectar from the wild currant. This will be their garden to learn from and enjoy.

The success of the Native Plant Garden depends on the people of

Cupertino and nearby areas. Volunteers are needed to watch over and care for the garden. Why does the garden need watching? Weeds will appear and must be removed. A few plants will grow too quickly in the wrong direction, and must be pruned. Perhaps more importantly, with watchful eyes, there is less chance for vandalism. Someday soon we hope for a need for McClellan Ranch docents to explain the garden and creek habitats; their plants, birds and butterflies to visitors.

Gardeners or prospective gardeners interested in assisting with the Garden call Beth Gaydos at 408/725-1168.

—Beth Gaydos

(Please see Garden, Page 5.)

**General Membership Meeting at Palo Alto Cultural Center
Embarcadero and Newell Roads
Wednesday, November 18, 7:45 PM**

The Far Side of the Pacific

Rod Norden will speak about three areas of the Southwest Pacific: the Philippines, Papua New Guinea, and eastern Australia. Through his colorful slides, Rod will describe the diverse habitats, environment, some special birds, and the people of these regions. You will see both the incredible beauty and the horrible destruction in the Philippines. You will find out what is happening now in Papua New Guinea, and learn about the acclaimed hotspots which every Australian birding tour should include.

Chapter News

Volunteers: A Very Valuable Resource

What would SCVAS be without its many tremendous volunteers? Volunteers assist with the running of the SCVAS office, lead birding trips, set policy for the organization, staff SCVAS committees, conduct field work, write letters and make phone calls to elected officials, and many other vital functions.

There are many more needs for volunteers now that we've been at McClellan Ranch Park for one year. We have a Nature Shop and Library which need volunteers to sell items and check out books. We have Conservation, Education and Research Committees that need volunteers to plan and carry out activities for SCVAS members and the commu-

nity during the year. We have a need for outreach volunteers to staff booths at community fairs or make presentations at local organizations and schools. We need publicity volunteers who will help in preparing brochures and press releases. And of course we need fundraisers who raise money to make all these activities possible.

Can we interest you in helping the Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society? Do you have a couple extra hours per month to spare? If any of these programs appeal to you, please call. We also have many other quality opportunities available. For more information, call the SCVAS office at 408/252-3747

Deperately Seeking Slides!

The SCVAS Education Committee seeks slides for a new community outreach slide show. We need slides of SCVAS members participating in SCVAS activities such as the Burrowing Owl Census, Christmas Bird Count, Audubon Education Day, field trips, etc. We also would like slides of

activist members speaking to legislators or giving testimony at council meetings. Lastly, we would like slides of SCVAS members birding at sites profiled in *Birding at the Bottom of The Bay*. Please call the SCVAS office for more information at 408/252-3747.



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Wild Bird Center
926 El Camino Real
San Carlos
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Mathias Bergstrom has moved back to Sweden and would like to hear from SCVAS members. He would also like to show you birding spots in Sweden. Mathias Bergstrom, Mossgardsvagen 5, 57441 Vetlanda, Sweden. Telephone 0383/11669. Vetlanda is situated about 200 km southeast from Gothenburg. It's in Jonkopings Lan (County). It is a two hour drive to Olano and about three hours from Falsterbo, two of the best birding spots in Sweden.

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	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.

November 1992, Volume 39, Number 9

November 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 November: Kathy Parker 408/358-2832.

**Denotes Field Trip

The SCVAS office will be closed November 16-20.

Wednesday, November 4, Bay Area Bird Photographers Speaker Herb Clarke presents "A Florida Bird Fantasy" from a trip last spring, when he camped for a week at Fort Jefferson in the Dry Tortuga and set up his own water drip system to entice thirsty migrating land birds into camera range. Meeting takes place from 7:30 to 9:30 PM at Palo Alto's Lucy Evans Baylands Interpretive Center on East Embarcadero Rd.

****Saturday, November 7, 8:30 AM. Half day. Arastradero OSP, Palo Alto.** Leader: Jim Liskovec 415/969-5542. Directions: Take Page Mill Rd. west from I-280 to Arastradero Rd., about 1/2 mile on right. Another 1/2 mile to parking lot on right. Highlights: wintering birds, sparrows and hawks.

****Sunday, November 8, 9:00 AM. Half day. Beginners trip to Charleston Slough.** Leader: TBA. Directions: Take Hwy 101 to Mt. View, exit at San Antonio Rd. north. Meet at its end at Terminal Way parking area. Highlights: basics of birding with emphasis on shorebirds and waterfowl.

****Wednesday, November 11, 9:00 AM. Half day. Calero Reservoir** Leaders: Jane Glass 408/779-3637 and Emelie Curtis 408/779-2637. Directions: Meet at boat ramp parking lot north of Baily Rd. We will carpool a short distance to trailhead. Highlights: eagles and water birds. Lunch optional.

****Sunday, November 15, 8:30 AM. Half day. Stanford University, Jasper Ridge Biological Preserve.** Leaders: Bill and Jean Clark, Winkie Lenihan and Bob Buell. BY RESERVATION ONLY. Limited to 40. Call Bill Clark 415/424-4371. Meet at Preserve Main Entrance (not Whiskey Hill Gate.) \$4.00/person preserve 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 18, 9:00 AM. Half day. Ed Levin Regional Park.** Leader: Rose Linn 408/736-8207 Directions: Take Hwy. 237 east. After crossing Hwy. 17 and 680 in Milpitas it becomes Calaveras Rd. Meet at the parking lot on the right about 2 miles past 680. Lunch optional. Rain cancels.

Wednesday, November 18, 7:30 PM refreshments, 8:00 PM November General Meeting Topic: "The Far Side of the Pacific". (Please see box, Page 1, for more information.) Meeting is held at the Palo Alto Cultural Center, corner of Embarcadero and Newell Rds in Palo Alto. Meeting co-sponsored by the Palo Alto Open Space and Sciences Division.

****Saturday, November 21, 8:30 AM. Half day. Coyote Hills.** Leader: Phil Hand 415/851-2623. Directions: Take Hwy 84 (Dumbarton Bridge) east 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: waterfowl, shorebirds, songbirds.

****Sunday, November 22, 8:30 AM. Half day. Los Gatos Creek.** Leader: Kathy Parker 408/358-2832. Directions: Take Hwy 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. Easy walking. Highlights: wintering ducks, green-backed heron, kingfisher.

****Sunday, November 29, 9:00 AM. Half day. Princeton Harbor.** Leader: Dan Keller 415/365-2032. Directions: Meet at West Point and Stanford Ave. in Princeton, approx. 4 mi. north of Half Moon Bay on Hwy 1. Highlights: gulls, loons, grebes, sea ducks.

'92 Christmas Bird Counts

Christmas Bird Counts have been organized by the National Audubon Society for 93 years. The resulting data is published in *American Birds Magazine*. Details about the San Jose and Palo Alto Bird Counts will follow in next month's *Avocet*.

San Jose CBC

The San Jose CBC will be held Sunday, December 20. Call San Jose CBC Compiler Reid Freeman 408/255-4969 for more information.

Palo Alto CBC

The Palo Alto CBC will be held on Monday, December 21, so please mark your calendars. If you have any questions, call Bill Bousman 415/322-5282 or Clark Blake 415/747-0601.

Non Audubon Trips

Cheesemans Schedule Pelagic Field Trips

Monterey pelagic trips: January 9 and 16. These two trips are during the peak of Gray Whale migration and fill up fast, so call early. Please send \$45 to reserve a space to Cheesemans, 20800 Kittredge Rd., Saratoga, CA 95070 or call Gail Cheeseman at 408/741-5330 or 408/867-1371.

Cheeseman's Ecology Safaris invites SCVAS members to join a spring Costa Rica tour, March 21 - April 8 or April 8 - 22. The first tour is an in-depth birding experience. The second is designed as a beginner wildlife tour. Contact Gail Cheeseman, 408/741-5330 or 408/867-1371.

Field Notes

By Bill Bousman

Boobies! through Ibis

A **Brown Booby** was seen flying over Shoreline Lake 29 Aug (MJM). This tropical species is exceptional anywhere in California, but even more so away from the coast. Needless to say it is a first county record. **Double-crested Cormorants** have been breeding on the bridges on San Francisco Bay in recent years and substantial numbers are nesting on the San Mateo Bridge now. The first confirmation of breeding in the county was obtained 2 Aug (PJM) when young were observed with adults on two transmission towers near Long Point. A **Brandt's Cormorant** on the Moffett Channel 2-15 Aug (PJM) appeared sickly and may be the bird seen nearby in early June. This species is rare anywhere away from the immediate coast. Two adult **Little Blue Herons** were seen on the Alviso Slough Trail 9 Aug (PJM) and an imm. was well-described from the Palo Alto Flood Control Basin (FCB) 30 Aug (MJM, MiF). A **Cattle Egret** was in the vicinity of the Palo Alto FCB and the Mountain View Forebay 30 Aug (MJM, MiF) and 6 Sep (WGB *et al.*). Three birds were at the Arzino Ranch 16 Sep (CB, WGB). A **White-faced Ibis** in the Mountain View Forebay 23 Sep (JiC, MMR) was, perhaps, the last bird of this exceptional ibis year.

Ducks through Raptors

A **Wood Duck** at the Sunnyvale Water Pollution Control Plant (WPCP) 30 Aug (PJM) is away from known breeding locations. The female **Garganey**, first found 22 Aug, has remained at the Mountain View Forebay at least through 19 Sep and has been both seen and missed by

many observers. A number of eclipsed-plumage males, females, and juvenile **Blue-winged Teal** have been found over the same period with a peak of six on 24 Aug (PJM). The males are now coming out of their eclipse plumage and are more easily detected. A male **Eurasian Wigeon**, starting to come out of eclipse plumage, was noted at Charleston Slough 19 Sep (WGB *et al.*) and is early. An **Osprey** was seen at the Campbell perc. ponds 28 Aug (CW, BB) and nearby at the Los Gatos Ck. ponds 4 Sep (BB). One was seen at Vasona Res. on the latter date as well (JDuB). These dates are typical for fall migrants. An ad. **Merlin** was at Felt Lake 16 Sep (KH). A **Peregrine Falcon** was seen along Coyote Creek below Hwy 237 15 Sep (MiF, RF). An imm. was at Moffett Field 23 Sep (MMR).

A Brown Booby over Shoreline Lake defies comprehension.

Shorebirds through Terns

It has been an exceptional fall for shorebirds again this year. **Lesser Yellowlegs** have been found in typical numbers with birds seen at Charleston Slough on 4 and 18 Aug (AME) and peaking at 12 birds on the latter date. The Waterbird Management Area (WMA) at the Coyote Creek Riparian Station (CCRS) had birds 14 Aug- 16 Sep with a peak of 12 on 12 Sep (MJM). One to two birds were normally found at the Mountain View Forebay 15 Aug-5 Sep (m.ob). At least six birds were at the Palo Alto FCB on 15 Aug and 1 Sep (MMR). Two birds at the Campbell perc. ponds 29 Aug (AV) were away from the edge of the Bay. A **Wandering**

Tattler at the Sunnyvale WPCP 30 Aug (PJM) was well away from its coastal habitat for a seventh county record. **Red Knots** were using the Palo Alto estuary this year with four seen 16 Sep (CB, WGB) and a single bird 25 Sep (MMR). **Baird's Sandpiper** is always a good find at the south end of the Bay. Two were seen along the Alviso Slough Trail 9 Aug and 14 were counted on the San Jose-Santa Clara WPCP drying ponds 30 Aug (both PJM). **Pectoral Sandpiper** numbers appear to be back to normal after last year's exceptional totals. Three birds were found at the WMA at CCRS 6 Sep (PJM) with four there 11 Sep (MiF, AW). Smaller numbers have been seen since then (m.ob). The fourth county record of a **Stilt Sandpiper** was of a juv. at the WMA at CCRS on 11 Sep (MiF, AW). Even rarer was a single **Buff-breasted Sandpiper** that was found at the San Jose-Santa Clara WPCP 30 Aug (PJM) for our second county record. The adult male **Ruff** at the WMA at CCRS remained at least through 15 Sep (m.ob). A second bird, an adult female, was found 29 Aug (MJM) and also remained through 15 Sep. Finally, a third bird showed up, apparently a juv. female and was seen 11-15 Sep (MiF, AW, MMR). Really quite amazing for a species we first found in the county in 1990. An imm. **Franklin's Gull** has shown up at the WMA this month as well. It has been seen from at least 11 Sep (MiF, AW) to 22 Sep (MMR, WGB). Two **Elegant Terns** were seen at Charleston Slough 15 Aug and two were also at the Sunnyvale WPCP 22 Aug (PJM). Few **Least Terns** were found staging in the South Bay this summer. The last seen were two in the salt ponds north of Crittenden Marsh 15 Aug (PJM).

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Nancy Hertert's Garden

*To plant a garden is to believe in the future.
To share a garden is to insure the future.*

-Margaret J. Haramé

Nancy Hertert thought of Cupertino as her garden and she tended it as a good gardener would. She was a great believer in the future and shared her "gardens" with all creatures.

If it had not been for Nancy, McClellan Ranch Park would not be what it is today, and we would not be lucky enough to have the Audubon Society in a fitting location.....that is McClellan.

She tended her City of Cupertino just as she did her garden at home (where the deer helped the harvest along) and also the one at McClellan where she could harvest more to share with her fellow gardeners.

I already knew of Nancy's involvement with the City that had been going on since 1946, and because we shared a similar living situation in the hills, I introduced her to the Audubon Society. I proudly accept that responsibility.

News from the Phone Tree

Members of the SCVAS Telephone Tree who made calls on the fate of the Auburn Dam will be happy to learn that the dam was not approved. This dam would have been funded for flood control and would have destroyed the American River canyon. Thank you to everyone who phoned Norm Mineta and other key legislators. SCVAS members willing to phone legislators periodically when critical voting on an environmental issue is eminent, please call Gail Cheeseman, 408/867-1371.

Nancy was already quietly doing work with natural environment issues that continued until her death. She always tended her "gardens" with as little fanfare as possible for she did not like to be singled out, but her very



acts brought her the notice she tried to avoid. They could not be ignored. She was a many-faceted person.

My favorite contact with Nancy came about when I told her of my particular fondness for the Golden Crowned Sparrow and its ethereal call that I heard each year in September or October announcing the Fall.

Each year for almost seventeen years my friend Nancy would call and happily say, "Heard the Golden Crowned today. Have you heard it?"

Nancy died September 4th., before the sparrow returned this year, and yesterday when I talked to her daughter Nancy and re-

lated the story she said, "I heard it this morning."

I asked her, "Can you bring pictures of your Frank Lloyd Wright Birdbath to the Audubon Society, to maybe put in the Native Plant Garden? I'll meet you there." Daughter Nancy will do ceramic tiles for it and I will straw boss and provide the top. All of us can enjoy the visitors when they come to drink or bathe in the Native Plant Garden dedicated to her memory.

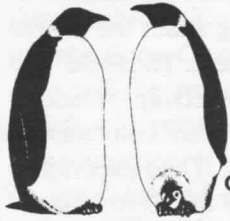
As I write this story at least fifteen species of birds have come to my birdbath. I must go now as I, too, have heard my first Golden Crowned Sparrow telling me, "I'm back."

Fall is here, Nancy. Thank you so much for believing in the future and sharing your gardens with us. We will try our best to continue your best works.

— Jo-Ann Buckner Gholson

Volunteers are Needed to staff the Nature Shop on Saturdays for November 14, 21, and 28. December 5, 12 and 19. Call 408/252-3747 for more information.

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Environmental Action News

End Destructive Grazing at Mt. Diablo Now!

Rancher Tom Brumleve is using political pressure to reverse a decision by the California State Park and Recreation Commission to reduce cattle grazing in the park. Brumleve is now appealing the Commission's decision to a virtually new Commission. Only two of the present eight Commissioners were on the Commission in November 1989 when the Mt. Diablo State Park General Plan was adopted. The other six seem aware only that nearly all of the letters they are currently receiving support continued "full" grazing on the mountain.

The existing Mt. Diablo State Park General Plan prohibits wide scale commercial grazing at the park. The Commission now feels a change in policy is justified based on a backroom deal that would allow grazing to continue on 7,500 acres of the park, thus

effectively eliminating that area from public use.

Why is grazing bad at Mt. Diablo?

- It is a violation of basic park policy. Parks are established exclusively for the visiting public to enjoy.
- Grazing interferes with recreational use in the park.
- Grazing causes destruction of the natural conditions of vegetation and the general environment of the park.

What you can do:

It is urgent that you write to:

State Parks and Recreation
Commission
Box 942896
Sacramento, CA 94296-
0001

Make the following points:

- The Mt. Diablo State Park General Plan prohibits commercial grazing.
- Parks are not places for grazing.
- By allowing grazing on Mt. Diablo the visitors are denied the opportunity to enjoy the park in its natural condition.
- The presence of cattle limits recreational uses in the park.

Keep it simple. The Commission is more interested on whose side you're on than in your reasons. Simply state your opposition to grazing in the state park and your interest in seeing the adopted general plan implemented immediately.

Request that each and every Commissioner receives a copy of your letter.

Faces Behind Field Trips

Whether or not you were one of the 750 participants on any of SCVAS' 53 weekend birding trips last year, you may be curious to know something about the people who organize them. The Field Trip Committee membership is made up of people who also volunteer as field trip leaders. Their experience is invaluable to the Committee. I will tell you a bit about two of our most recent volunteers, Kathy Parker and Mike Feighner. They are good examples of the generous people that make up our membership.

Kathy lives in Los Gatos with her husband and two boys. At 10 years of age she began identifying birds on trips with her dad, who hunted waterfowl. She loves birding because it gives her a reason to explore areas that she would not otherwise visit. In 1983 she began to keep lists of what she saw and now has a world list of 625 species. Last year she set a goal to see 400 species in California and she came close with 397. This year she became a SCVAS trip leader and Committee member.

In January 1989, after reading an ad in the Mercury News, Mike Feighner joined his first Audubon field trip. Even though the directions in the ad were flawed, he found the group and has not looked back since. He is a computer operator and works the swing-shift so that he can spend the day birding. He keeps a variety of lists of his bird sightings. Mike only recently started birding, but is unusually devoted and knowledgeable. He has led several SCVAS trips including some to the Merced Refuge, Henry Coe Park and Moss Landing.

(Continued on Page 8)

Swifts through Warblers

Resident **Vaux's Swifts** were seen in Los Gatos through 14 Sep with peak numbers of twenty birds on 31 Aug and 11 Sep (JDuB). Four birds at the Campbell perc. ponds 29 Aug (AV) and two in Jos. Grant CP 13 Sep (MMR) were away from the area in the Santa Cruz Mountains where they nest. Late male **Black-chinned Hummingbirds** were in Los Altos Hills 28-29 Aug (VW) and along Coyote Creek below Hwy 237 30 Aug (PJM). Five birds were banded at CCRS in September with the latest on 11 Sep (*fide* WGB). Two **Rufous Hummingbirds** were banded there as well with the last one on 16 Sep (*fide* WGB). Two **Lewis' Woodpeckers** in San Antonio Valley 15-16 Sep (CB, WGB) were in an area where they are resident. Ten **Willow Flycatchers** were seen along Coyote Creek below Hwy 237 30 Aug (PJM) while a single bird was along San Antonio Creek in San Antonio Valley 16 Sep (CB, WGB). Forty-five birds were banded at CCRS over the period 9 Aug-17 Sep (*fide* WGB). As with many migrants this species is especially attracted to riparian corridors during its fall migration. A single **Dusky Flycatcher** was banded at CCRS on 21 Sep (*fide* WGB). A **Western Kingbird** in the Palo Alto FCB 15 Aug (PJM) was a late migrant. A **Virginia's Warbler** was banded at CCRS 6 Sep (*fide* WGB) for the first county record. If disoriented, this southwestern species does not have that far to go, but on 17 Sep an imm. **Blackpoll Warbler**, a species of the Canadian boreal forest, was banded at CCRS for the third county record (*fide* CO) and is clearly well out of range. The **Worm-eating Warbler** that overwintered at CCRS was last netted on 27 Aug (*fide* WGB) and was seen along Coyote Creek as

well 25 Aug-6 Sep (PJM). CCRS does not have a monopoly on vagrant warblers as shown by an **Ovenbird** in a Santa Clara yard 25 Sep (NF, MiF *et al.*) for the fourth county record. **MacGillivray's Warbler**, a rare western migrant, was seen along Stevens Creek at L'Avenida on 1 and 3 Sep (MMR).

RARITIES: Please drop me a note: Bill Bousman, 321 Arlington Way, Menlo Park, CA 94025.

Sparrows to Goldfinches

A male **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** in La Honda 7 Sep (CB) was a good find. The fall migration of **Lazuli Bunting** is poorly characterized so records of a single bird along Stevens Creek at L'Avenida 8 Sep (MMR) and two there 11 Sep (MMR, WGB) are of interest. Warblers were not the only rarity at CCRS this season as a **Clay-colored Sparrow** and a **Brewer's Sparrow** were banded there 4 Sep (*fide* WGB) and were seen there as well on 6 Sep (PJM). Both of these sparrow sightings were second county records. A **Grasshopper Sparrow** at Jos. Grant CP 13 Sep (MMR) is a late departure for this species. An imm. **Hooded Oriole** 12 Aug (MMR) in Mountain View and an adult in Ladera 17 Aug (MW) were the last departures noted. Ten **Lawrence's Goldfinches** noted from Smiths Creek to San Antonio Valley 16 Sep (CB, WGB) are typical for the fall.

Observers: Bonnie Bedzin (BB), Clark Blake (CB), Bill Bousman (WGB), Jim Corliss (JiC), Jean DuBois (JDuB), Al Eisner (AME), Mike Feighner (MiF), Noreen Feuss (NF), Reid Freeman (RF), Karen Hoyt (KH), Mike Mammoser (MJM), Peter Metropulos (PJM), Chris Otahal

(CO), Mike Rogers (MMR), Ann Verdi (AV), Alan Walther (AW), Virginia Whipple (VW), Mercedes Williams (MW), and Claire Wilson (CW).

Bay Area Creeks: Cement Banks or Green Banks? A TV Documentary

On Monday, November 9 at 9:30 PM KTEH Channel 54 will broadcast a 30-minute documentary about the creeks of Santa Clara County and the Bay region. It traces the ways in which development and local land use practices affect creeks and points out the importance of creeks as dynamic and living habitats. Today two-thirds of the miles of creeks in Santa Clara County are flanked by moisture-loving natural vegetation. We must make choices if we hope to save these miles of green-banked creeks from becoming lifeless ultra-efficient cement-banked drainage ditches.

The documentary discusses the critical need to provide flood control, preserve wildlife habitat, establish greenways for city aesthetics and recreation, and maintain water quality.

It is up to us to ask our county and city officials to adopt policies and write ordinances which will protect our waterways as dynamic and living habitats. During the next six months, Santa Clara County and San Jose will be revising the policies which will provide either more or less protection. If you want to bank on green-banked creeks instead of cement-banked creeks, write to Committee for Green Foothills, 2448 Watson Court, Palo Alto, CA 94303 or call 415/494-7158.

- Linda Elkhind

Santa Clara Valley
Audubon Society
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Give a Gift of Audubon ... Get a Gift from Audubon

The holidays are now upon us. If you are still looking for that perfect gift for your friends or family, look no more! A gift of membership in the National Audubon Society will be enjoyed all year round. Your friends and family will read the award-winning *Audubon* magazine and learn about national and international conservation issues. They will meet and learn from local activists and birders through SCVAS and the *Avocet* newsletter.

Our gift to you is a *new* Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society mug. This 14 oz. reusable mug is made from recycled plastic and features our Chapter logo, the American Avocet.

All new gift memberships received between November 1 and December 31 will be eligible for this special mug offer. There is no limit to the number of gift memberships that you can order!! Just fill out and send in the membership form below. Mugs will be available in the SCVAS office after November 15.

After this gift membership campaign, mugs will be available for a special low price of \$6.95 in the Nature Shop. For more information, call 408/252-3747.

(Faces Continued from page 8)

He was a SCVAS representative in the fight to save St. Joseph's Hill Open Space Preserve and attributes his enthusiasm to some of SCVAS' great trip leaders like Betty Wyatt, Audrey Stoye and Don Schmoltdt. Mike is trying to gain support for the establishment of a Rare Bird Alert tollfree phone number for SCVAS members.

SCVAS is always looking for volunteers. New volunteers help us expand our programs, protect the environment, educate children, and provide services to our members. When I joined the Field Trip Committee in 1989, I was given the chairmanship. I had only been in California for one year and had never led any local field trips. The Committee was obviously desperate for help. They were down to 4 or 5 members out of the 12 to 15 members of the previous years. Members' activity levels change as their lives allow, so it's hard to give an exact count of who is active at any one time, but we have about 8 or 9 volunteers now. If field trips are a source of joy to you, we want your help. I am a good example that you don't have to be an expert to play a part.

- Edward Rooks

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

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.

Or

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

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