

The Avocet

The Newsletter of the Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society

December 1992

"Partners in Flight" Takes off in California



"If anyone's going to save the world, it'll be birdwatchers!"

This startling assertion drew chuckles from an erudite audience of ornithologists, birders, and supporters of the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology during a recent program held in San Francisco promoting an exciting new bird-monitoring project, but Director Rick Bonney was only half-kidding when he made the remark.

Bonney and other key members of the prestigious bird research group were in town to further publicize *Partners in Flight*, the ambitious long-term biomonitoring study that involves federal and state agencies, nongovernmental organizations, private businesses, and potentially millions of amateur birders. Attendees were also treated to a thought-provoking lecture by noted author, population biologist, birder and SCVAS mem-

ber Paul Ehrlich, who presented a chilling scenario of planet Earth as an overpopulated, environmentally mismanaged time-bomb in dire need of defusing by conservation-minded citizens.

The recently-fledged *Partners in Flight* program has been gaining momentum by leaps and bounds, with unprecedented backing from all quarters. Government agencies including U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Bureau of Land Management, Department of Defense, and U.S. Forest Service, among others, have made serious commitments to the ambitious project. Academic support has emerged from numerous universities, bird observatories, and even the Smithsonian Institute. Big-time conservation groups like Nature Conservancy and National Audubon Society are contributing substantially, and liaisons have been

formed with similar groups and agencies in Central and South America, where songbirds struggle to overwinter in the face of relentless habitat destruction. Somewhat surprisingly, representatives from major land-use industries such as cattle and timber have shown a strong inclination to add their support.

In short, everyone who uses or cares about bird habitat (read: all wildlife and human habitat) in North and South America can and should get involved in this far-reaching, well-conceived and widely supported biomonitoring project. That was the message delivered by the Cornell Lab staff, and it was enthusiastically received by SCVAS members in attendance. The opportunity for Audubon members with birding skills to join the *Partners in Flight* research team is a challenging one, and would enable birders to help the scientific community gather crucial data aimed at

(Continued on Page 8)

**General Membership Meeting at Cupertino Public Library
104 Torre Avenue, Cupertino
Thursday, December 3, 7:30 PM**

A History of the Birds of Santa Cruz County

Have you ever heard of Blue Linnet, Coast Jay, Elegant Hawk, Green Black Cap Warbler? David Suddjian will introduce you to these birds along with the contributions of Cooper, McGregor, Fiske, Miss Emily Smith from Saratoga, and modern day Randy Morgan. David will describe 125 years of ornithological history in a short 60 minutes. David is a wildlife biologist for the Habitat Restoration Group in Scotts Valley where he manages the company's Wildlife Unit. He is also a prominent contributor to local ornithology, both to SCVAS and the Santa Cruz Bird Club.

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Saturday, December 5, 9.00 AM. **Beginners Trip to Lake Merritt/Alameda**

Chapter News

Thanks to the Organizations that Hosted Our Fall Bird Seed Bonanza:

Humane Society of Santa Clara Valley's Wildlife Department, Peninsula Conservation Center, Pets Friend Animal Clinic, REI, and Youth Science Institute.

Thanks to All Who Made Donations in Response to Our October *Avocet* Wish List:

Wall clocks from Clysta Seney and Pauline Smith, microwave oven from Harriet Gerson, books from Barbara Newcomer, checklists from Jane Becker-Haven and Hazel Tilden.

Volunteers Wanted

Are you handy with tools and ready for a new carpentry project? We've got the project for you. We're looking for someone to create a wooden case and panel for a new educational display. For more information, please call Ralph Folsom at 408/734-3927.

Do you have a few free hours on a Saturday in December? The SCVAS Nature Shop will be open December 5, 12 & 19. We could use your help staffing the Nature Shop at McClellan Ranch Park. For more information, call Cecily Harris at 408/252-3747.

Memorial Gifts

In Memory of Dr. Mary Rothbard:

.....David P. Wilson, Ann Wurts.

In Memory of Mrs. Wells:

.....Doug & Lee Kuper

SCVAS Library Update

Thanks to SCVAS members, the SCVAS Birding Library has been receiving many donations of books and magazines. Unfortunately some gaps still exist in our *Audubon* magazine collection. If you have any of the following issues and can part with them, we would sure appreciate the donation! For more information about the library, call 408/252-3747.

Audubon (Bird Lore)

1899-1916 all issues; 1917 Jan/Feb, Mar/Apr, May/June, Jul/Aug, Nov/Dec; 1919 May/June - Nov/Dec; 1920-1922 all issues; 1923 Jan/Feb, Jul/Aug; 1924 Mar, Apr, Jul/Aug-Nov/Dec; 1927 May/June.

Audubon Field Notes

1940-1947 all issues; 1948 Jan, Mar, Nov; 1949 Jun, Aug, Oct, Dec; 1950 Apr, Aug; 1953 Aug; 1956 Dec; 1959 Apr; 1962-4 all issues; 1968 Feb, Aug, Oct; 1969 Oct.; 1970-1971 all issues.

Audubon

1935 Nov/Dec; 1944 Nov/Dec; 1945 Jan/Feb - May/June; 1950 May/June;

1955 Jan/Feb-Sept/Oct; 1956 Sept/Oct; 1957 May/June-Nov/Dec; 1958 Jan/Feb-Mar/Apr, 1971-1977 all issues.

American Birds

1977 Jan, Sept; 1978 Jan; 1981 Mar, May, Sept, Nov.; 1971-1976 all issues.

SCVAS (*The Avocet*)

1947-1950 all issues; 1953 May, Oct; 1954 May, Dec; 1955 all issues; 1956 Jan-Apr, Sept-Dec; 1957 Mar - Jun; 1959 Apr; 1960 Feb, Jun, Sept-Dec; 1961 Jan-May, Sept; 1962 Mar, Nov; 1965 Apr-May; 1967 May; 1968 Jun, Sept - Dec; 1969 Apr - Jun; 1970 Feb, Sept; 1971 Apr; 1972 Mar - Jun, Sept - Oct; 1973 May-June, Sept - Dec; 1974 Sept - Dec; 1975 Jan, Apr; 1976 all issues; 1977 Jan - May, Sept, Dec; 1978 all but May; 1981 May; 1983 all issues; 1984 Jan - May.

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	408/247-5499
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Rec. Secty.	Yana Arnold	408/371-4393

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Managing Dir. Cecily Harris 408/252-3747

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Clysta Seney '92-'95	408/261-9431
Jane Becker-Haven '92-'95	415/321-0776

CHAIRPERSONS

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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.

December 1992, Volume 39, Number 12

Rare Bird Alert: 510/ 542-5592

December 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 December: Edward Rooks 408/867-4748.

**Denotes Field Trip

Wednesday, December 2, 7:30 - 9:30 PM. Bay Area Bird Photographers. Doug Cheeseman and John Delevoryas will present a program on the natural history and wildlife of India at Palo Alto's Lucy Evans Baylands Interpretive Center on East Embarcadero Rd.

Thursday, December 3, 7:30 refreshments, 8:00 PM Meeting. Special December Membership Meeting. David Suddjian, wildlife biologist for the Habitat Restoration Group in Scotts Valley will present "A History of the Birds of Santa Cruz County". (Please see box, page 1.) Meeting is at CUPERTINO LIBRARY. From I-280, take De Anza Blvd exit towards Saratoga (south). Turn left on Stevens Creek Blvd. Right on Torre Ave. Library is on second block on left. Community room is downstairs.

****Saturday, December 5, 9.00 AM. Beginners Trip to Lake Merritt/Alameda Shoreline.** Leader: Allen Royer 408/288-7768. Directions: Meet at the Rotary Science Center, Lake Merritt, Oakland. Take I-880 north to Oak Street, east on Oak which becomes Lakeside and then Harrison. Right on Grand and then right on Bellevue to meeting place. Bring lunch. Rain cancels. Possible parking fee. Highlights: Waterfowl.

****Sunday, December 6, 8.00 AM. Half day. Palo Alto Baylands / Duck Pond.** Leader: Mike Mammoser 408/248-2288. Directions: Meet at the parking lot near the Lucy Evans Bayland Interpretive Center. Take Hwy.101 to Embarcadero Rd. exit. Drive east towards the Bay. Left at Harbor Rd. junction to Interpretive Center. Highlights: Gulls, Waterfowl, possible Clapper Rails at high tide. Rain cancels.

Tuesday, December 8, 9:30 AM. Eve Case Bird Discussion Group at the home of Jean & Pat Dubois, 17150 Buena Vista Dr, Los Gatos 408/395-4264. Topic: sitting and watching birds.

****Wednesday, December 9 AM, Full Day. Panoche Valley.** Leader: Ed Gustafson 408/377-1123. Highlights: raptors, sparrows, and other Panoche specialties. Rain cancels. Trip limited to 14. Call leader to reserve space, and to learn meeting place and time.

Thursday, December 10, 7:00 - 9:00 PM. Birder's Night at Keeble & Shuchat. Come hear announcements about the Palo Alto and San Jose CBC and join in the excitement of Birdathon '93. Come see, learn about and shop for cameras and other optics during this special evening at Keeble & Shuchat, 290 California Avenue in Palo Alto. There will be specials for SCVAS members and refreshments will be provided. For more information, call Cecily Harris at 408/252-3747.

Thursday, December 10, 7:00 PM-8:30 PM. Gene Anderson of Bay Area Bird Photographers and Rod Norden of SCVAS Present "Watching Wintering Waterfowl" with a dazzling slide show at REI, 20640 Homestead Rd, Cupertino. For more information call Steve Shunk 408/446-1991.

****Sunday, December 13, 9.00 AM. Half day. Beginner trip to Charleston Slough.** Leader: John Mariani. Directions: Take Hwy.101 to San Antonio Rd. exit. Drive east to Terminal Rd. parking area. Highlights: Shorebirds and Waterfowl. Rain cancels. For more information call Edward Rooks 408/867-4748.

Monday, December 14, 7:30 PM. Environmental Action Committee Meeting at Cupertino Environmental Center, 22221 McClellan Rd. Open to everyone who wants to work on preserving habitat for future birding. For more information, call Tony Eppstein 415/326-1376.

Sunday, December 20. Christmas Bird Count & Dinner. See page 5 for more information.

Sunday, January 3, Post-CBC Rarities Chase. Leader: Mark Miller 415/967-3429. Directions: Meeting place and itinerary to be determined after Christmas Bird Counts. Bring lunch and a full tank of gas. Heavy rain cancels. Call leader for information after Jan. 1.

Upcoming Dates for your Calendar:

January 20. Palo Alto General Meeting in Palo Alto with professional wildlife photographers Renee Lynn and Tim Davis: "Spectacle of Wintering Wildlife at Bosque del Apache and the Klamath National Wildlife Refuges".

January 29. Cupertino General Meeting. Forest Service biologist Joelle Buffa will describe the "Partners in Flight Project", that protects our birds that winter in the tropics (Neotropical Migrants). Mike Danzenbaker and Lee Hung, "Some Neotropical Migrants in Summer and Winter".

Non-Audubon Events

The San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge's **Environmental Education Center** in Alviso is now open on Saturdays and Sundays from 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM. Activities include guided walks and on-going programs. For more information, call 408/262-5513.

Peninsula Conservation Center's **Holiday Nut Sale** that benefits the Environmental Library runs through December 24, Monday through Saturday 9:00 am - 5:00 PM. Almonds, pecans and walnuts will be available in one pound bags. Peninsula Conservation Center, 2448 Watson Court, Palo Alto. 415/494-9301.

Two Monterey Bay Boat Trips — scheduled during the peak of the Grey Whale Migration, January 9 & 16, 8AM-3PM from Monterey Fisherman's Wharf. Send \$45 to reserve a space to Cheesemans', 20800 Kittredge Rd., Saratoga, CA 95070. 408/741-5330.

Field Notes

By Bill Bousman

Pelicans through Raptors

Brown Pelicans are much less common after September in the South Bay so a single bird in the vicinity of Charleston Slough 2-20 Oct (MMR, EGu, WGB) is of interest. A flock of 17 **Greater White-fronted Geese** flying over the San Jose-Santa Clara Water Pollution Control Plant (WPCP) drying ponds 27 Sep (PJM) was unusually early for a coastal location. A male and three to four female **Blue-winged Teal** were in the Mountain View Forebay 26 Sep (RWR) and the male has been found there on 1 and 25 Oct (PJM). Two birds were in Charleston Slough 19 Oct (EGu). **Eurasian Wigeon** have been seen in Charleston Slough from 29 Sep to 19 Oct (JDeB, MMR, EGu) with a peak of six birds on 6 Oct (WGB). As expected, more **Peregrine Falcon** sightings are turning up with single birds at the San Jose-Santa Clara WPCP 27 Sep (PJM), Charleston Slough 1 Oct (PJM), and the Palo Alto Flood Control Basin (FCB) 3 Oct (MJM), and a pair of birds south of Hook's Isle on 19 Oct (RSch).

Shorebirds through Terns

Three **Lesser Yellowlegs** at the San Jose-Santa Clara WPCP 27 Sep and two in the Palo Alto FCB 10 Oct (both PJM) are typical of the small numbers we occasionally find after the principle migration in August and early September. A **Ruddy Turnstone** was seen on the San Francisquito Creek delta on 14 Oct (MMR) and 25 Oct (MJM). This is probably the only spot in the county (if it is in the county) where this species can be found in any regularity. Four **Red Knots** were on the delta on 14 Oct also (MMR) and on 25 Oct a single Red Knot and a **Sanderling** were found as well (MJM). Four **Baird's Sandpipers** lingering at the San Jose-Santa Clara WPCP 27 Sep (PJM) are the latest migrants that we have found in recent years. I spoke too soon last month when I remarked that **Pectoral Sandpiper** numbers had returned to normal this year — the 87 counted at the San Jose-Santa Clara WPCP 27 Sep (PJM) are hardly normal and would be notable in any year. At the Waterbird Management Area (WMA) at Coyote Creek, Pectoral numbers peaked at seven on 10 Oct (MJM) and had declined to two by 14 Oct (MMR). A single bird at the Sunnyvale WPCP 10 Oct was the only sighting from another location. An imm. male **Ruff** at the San Jose-Santa Clara WPCP 27 Sep (PJM) is the fourth bird reported this fall. An adult **Ruff** was reported on 8 Oct (EGu) from the WMA on Coyote Creek and the adult male was seen there on 14 Oct (MMR). A **Red-necked Phalarope** in the Arastra Pond at the Arastradero Preserve 12 Oct (RSch) was well away from its normal habitats as well as being very late. A **Caspian Tern** at Lexington Res. 12 Oct (WGB) is a late departure from the South Bay.

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

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SANTA CLARA VALLEY AUDUBON SOCIETY

AUDUBON NATURE SHOP

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2221 McClellan Road
Cupertino, CA 95014
408-252-3747

HOURS: Monday - Friday, 9AM - 5PM

Flycatchers through Sparrows

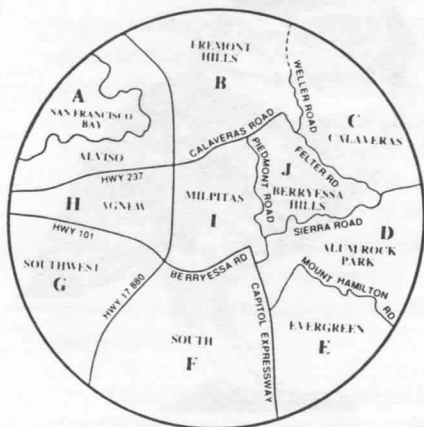
A late **Willow Flycatcher** (unbanded) was seen on Coyote Creek below Hwy 237 on 27 Sep (PJM). A worn **Western Kingbird** found along the same stretch of Coyote Creek on 8 Oct (EGu) was a very late migrant. A **Red-breasted Nuthatch** in Cupertino 16 Oct (J-AG) is the only indication of a fall movement for this species this year. Two **House Wrens** along Coyote Creek below Hwy 237 25 Oct (PJM) are very late for migrants and may represent wintering birds. An **Ovenbird** was found in a Santa Clara yard 25 Sep (NF) for the fourth county record. The bird was captured and transported to the Coyote Creek Riparian Station (CCRS) 28 Sep (*fide* MRi) to keep it from the local cats. Amazingly, a second bird, this time caught by a cat was found in Palo Alto 9 Oct (*fide* KHt) and was taken to Wildlife rescue. It was released, apparently unharmed, for the fifth county record. Two late migrant **MacGillivray's Warblers** were reported. One was in the Matadero riparian 7 Oct (MMR) and the other along Coyote Creek below Hwy 237 10 Oct (MJM). **Lincoln's Sparrow**, that furtive imp of wet places, can be abundant on migration as evidenced by 26 birds censused along Coyote Creek below Hwy 237 27 Sep (PJM). A **White-throated Sparrow** has returned to a Ladera feeder as of 22 Oct (MW).

Observers: Bill Bousman (WGB), June DeBuhr (JDeB), Noreen Feuss (NF), Jo-Ann Gholson (J-AG), Ed Gustafson (EGu), Karen Hoyt (KHt), Mike Mammoser (MJM), Peter Metropulos (PJM), Bob Reiling (RWR), Mike Rigney (MRi), Mike Rogers (MMR), Rick Schermerhorn (RSch), and Mercedes Williams (MW).

December 1992

1992 San Jose Christmas Bird Count Set For December 20

Annual San Jose CBC Welcomes Volunteers



Plan to join us for a full day count of the many species of birds to be found in our area in December. Last year, 116 participants identified 162 species in our 10 count sections. We will need your help once again to fully cover all the census areas. As usual the count will begin at dawn (earlier for the owlers), and continue most of the day. We will meet afterwards at Leininger Center in Kelly Park for dinner, socializing, and a tally which highlights uncommon and rare species.

Just pick a section (region in Palo Alto) based on convenience or interest and call the section leader. You may be asked to count in a section other than your first choice if its needs have been met. Just remember, all section's results are equally important to present a balanced and comprehensive census.

As a volunteer, you will spot, count, and tally birds. Previous CBC experience is not required and first timers are very welcome. Dress for the weather, bring your lunch and binoculars, RAIN DOES NOT CANCEL. A mandatory \$5 fee per participant which covers CBC compilation and publication costs will be collected by section leaders.

Feeder watchers are also needed. This information is just as valuable. To participate, you'll need to live within the count circle, be home on December 20, and be willing to count the number of visitors to your feeder. Call us before the count for more information at 408/252-3747.

Christmas Bird Counts have been organized by the National Audubon Society for 93 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-J. For more information, call CBC-Compiler Reid Freeman at 408/255-4969 or one of the Section Leaders below. Volunteers of all skills levels are welcome.

<u>Section</u>	<u>Leader</u>	<u>Phone</u>
A (Alviso)	Jean Dubois	408/395-4264
B (Fremont Hills)	open	
C (Calaveras)	John Mariani	408/997-1429
D (Alum Rock)	Jae Abel	408/356-4945
E (Evergreen)	Rich Healy	408/578-0618
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	415/949-1743
J (Berryessa)	Harriet Gerson	408/252-6244

Palo Alto CBC To Be Held Monday, December 21

If you have counted in the past and can count again, please call your Region Leader to sign up, otherwise call either Bill Bousman 415/322-5282 or Clark Blake 415/747-0601. This Count on occasion exceeds 170 species, so there is always excitement and a chance for the really unusual. This year the Count coincides with a winter high tide which will give us a chance for some of the rare marsh residents. A fee is charged for the Christmas Bird Count by the National Audubon Society.

<u>Region</u>	<u>Leader</u>	<u>Phone</u>
Region One	Jack Cole	408/996-0434
Region Two	Mike Rogers	415/962-8907
Region Three	Bill Bousman	415/322-5282
Region Four	Phyllis Browning	415/494-6360
Region Five	Jane Becker-Haven	415/321-0776
Region Six	Ruth Troetschler	415/948-4142
Region Seven	Gloria Heller	415/851-2356
Region Eight	Clark Blake	415/747-0601

Environmental Action News

Stop San Emidio Ranch Development

In October, a very disturbing action took place in Kern County. The Kern County Board of Supervisors approved a proposal to amend the Kern County General Plan to accept a Specific Plan for a "New Town" which is proposed at the base of the Traverse Mountain Range, where I-5 exits the mountains and enters into the flatlands of the San Joaquin Valley. This was despite numerous testimony before the Board by the Kern Audubon Chapter, the Sierra Club and others, on detrimental impacts to air quality, water, transportation, wildlife and endangered species.

The Specific Plan calls for changing the zoning from mineral, petroleum, and agriculture to 9,477 acres of residential, commercial, industrial, and recreational use. The projected population at build-out of this phase of the development will be 63,000, with a projected 20,219 units.

What do we as Californians have to lose from the project? First, it is the only major oak/savannah, grassland corridor between the east and west sides of the San Joaquin Valley. Second, it is the first major step over the Traverse Range of the L.A. Basin urban sprawl into the San Joaquin Valley, and will open up the foothills of the Sierra Nevada to rapid development. Already numerous land use changes are being proposed for private holdings between Castaic Junction and Bakersfield along I-5, including portions of the Tejon Ranch. These represent changes that will accomodate huge shopping malls, discount centers, and new residential communities. There will be a tremendous impact on air quality, water availability, wildlife habitat, and endangered species, just to name a few.

The array of species scattered across this country is impressive. Until 1987 California Condors fed, roosted and

soared over the grasslands and forests; Golden Eagles, Prairie Falcons and a host of other raptors nest on the cliffs; Bald Eagles and Peregrine Falcons winter here. Black bear, mountain lions and bobcats roam the hills, while Burrowing Owls, Barn Owls, San Joaquin kit fox and blunt-nosed leopard lizards roam the flatlands.

National Audubon's Sacramento office sent a 12-page letter to the Kern County Board of Supervisors outlining how the County was blatantly violating California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines with regard to air quality, water issues, wildlife issues and endangered species, and urged them not to approve the project. They passed the General Plan amendments 4-0.

We feel that this project, because of its major impacts on the quality of life in California, needs to be stopped at this point and either killed or sent back to the County for major revisions in the draft EIR. Kern County is known statewide for blatantly violating CEQA guidelines. It is the only county in California that has abolished its Plannig Commission because its Commission tended to hold up development projects.

What You Can Do:

Inform Resources Secretary Doug Wheeler that our efforts to deal with this major project are consistent with what he wants to accomplish with his Biodiversity Task Force, and ask him to urge Attorney General Dan Lungren to intervene in Kern County because of the numerous and blatant CEQA violations.

Letters should go to:

Secretary Douglas Wheeler
Resources Agency
1416 9th St, #1311
Sacramento, CA 95314



Creek Bird Census

Wildlife habitats along creeks and rivers within our county are under siege. To rescue these precious riparian resources, Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society and other environmental groups have formed the Creeks Coalition.

The Santa Clara County Creek Assessment, the major research project of the Creeks Coalition, focuses on the biological welfare of our creekside habitats within the county. Census checkpoints are being established every 500 meters along the streams, creeks and rivers of Santa Clara County. Biological data, including bird use, will be gathered at each of those points.

SCVAS brings to the Creeks Coalition a unique resource: skilled birders. We are collecting names of potential participants for the bird census segment of riparian inventory.

Actual time required will be small: ten minutes at any one census point at least once per season. that translates into a minimum of 40 minutes per year plus traveling time. Volunteers will be able to sign up for one or more specific locations. Thus, your commitment can be tailored to fit into your schedule.

Please join in this citizens' monitoring of creekside habitat health here at home. Sign up at general meetings over the next few months or phone Jane Becker-Haven at 415/321-0776.

Hiding Behind The Green Mask

With all the excellent environmental organizations desperate for money, it is inexcusable to fund despoilers who paint themselves green. A few basic precautions: Never give money or allegiance to a group you don't know about. Ask for a copy of the annual report, a list of supporters, a written statement of mission and the percent of receipts spent on overhead. An outfit that doesn't promptly provide this information may have something to hide.

Make sure any group you get behind is addressing at least one of the real issues that threaten our planet: overpopulation, deforestation, global warming, ozone depletion, habitat destruction, air and water pollution, loss of biodiversity. Maybe the focus is small and local-wolf restoration in Yellowstone, for instance. That's fine; often you can get the best return backing a small genuinely grassroots group rather than a national bureaucracy.

Here is a list of groups that should *not* be mistaken for environmental organizations:

Alliance for Environment and Resources, Sacramento, California. When we called this organization, we reached the offices of the California Forestry Association. Judging by the materials provided to us, the mission of the alliance is to persuade the public that environmentalists are crippling the efforts of the forest-products industry to take care of the public forests.

Desert Conservation Institute, Sacramento, California. Sponsor: the mining industry. Purpose: to defeat the California Desert Protection Act. This group maintains that "mining is a good neighbor to the desert and the environment."

Environmental Conservation Organization, Maywood, Illinois. Claiming dozens of sponsors, including the Land Improvement Contractors of America, the American Farm Bureau and

a host of state Farm Bureaus, this group argues that federal regulators should get out of the way and "allow the creativity of free enterprise to protect true wetlands."

Its logo is a duck flying over cattails, but its mission is to open more wetlands to development

Information Council for the Environment, Grand Forks, North Dakota. We found this group headquartered at the Minnkota Power Cooperative. Funded by coal and utilities, its mission is to persuade Congress and the public that global warming is a myth, so there's no need to curtail to production of greenhouse gases. In fact, we were assured when we called, "We're living in a CO2-starved environment right now."

National Wetlands Coalition, Washington, DC. This is the group behind current efforts to narrow the definition of wetlands protected by federal regulations. Its logo is a duck flying over cattails, but its mission is to open more wetlands to development. Sponsors: primarily land developers and oil and gas companies.

People for the West, Pueblo, Colorado. Created two years ago with the support of the Northwest Mining Association to block reform of the 1872 Mining Act, People for the West identifies its sponsors as "communities, natural resources and related industries, individuals and local governments advocating support for continued management of public lands for multiple use," but its board of directors is dominated by mining interests.

Wilderness Impact Research Foundation, Elko, Nevada. Spon-

sors: Industry associations (the Rocky Mountain Oil and Gas Association, National Forest Products Association, National Cattleman's Association and Northwest Mining Association, to name a few) and other groups (united Four-Wheel Drive Association, Motorcycle Industry Council, International Snowmobile Council) opposed to the National Wilderness Preservation System. Mission: "Educating the public about the damage wilderness causes society, the economy and even wildlife."

- —from *Harrowsmith Country Life* May/June 1992 and *The Gull*, Golden Gate Audubon Society September 1992.

Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society Balance Sheet May 31, 1992

Assets

Cash	\$33,129
Investments	325,014
Accounts Receivable	<u>4,239</u>
Total	\$362,383

Liabilities and Fund Balance

Accounts Payable	\$5867
Grants Payable	6353
Fund Balance	<u>350,163</u>
Total	\$363,383

Activity Statement For the Period June 1, 1991 - May 31, 1992

Revenues

Memberships	\$21,685
Interest & Dividends	26,782
Merchandise Sales	13,182
Special Events	6,381
Contributions	14,146
Earthshare	4485
Other	<u>3,156</u>
Total	\$89,815

Disbursements

Salaries, Taxes & Benefits	\$34,320
Program Services	16,806
Printing & Publications	20,891
Administration	11,310
Development	2,916
Field Trips	320
Education	7,635
Other	<u>14</u>
Total	\$94,213

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

Mr. R. Jay Andree
12579 Radoyka Dr
Saratoga, CA 95070

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Permit No. 5869

Partners (Continued from Page 1)

understanding songbird migration and, ultimately, preserving precious habitat throughout the Western Hemisphere.

SCVAS board member and local biomonitoring expert Mike Rigney will participate in the California Partners in Flight Steering Committee meeting on December 4, and will keep our chapter apprised of plans for implementing the program in the state and how our members may become involved. Doug and Gail Cheeseman have scheduled a special general meeting on January 29 in Cupertino where a guest speaker will present details of *Partnership in Flight* to our members (watch for details in the January *Avocet*).

For decades birdwatchers have been among the first to sound the alarm when a favorite species suddenly became imperiled; hence, Rick Bonney's audacious allegation that birders might save the planet. Paul Ehrlich, with one eye on avian populations and the other on our own species, has been warning us for years that five billion-plus humans can't continue living on interest, recklessly consuming today's dwindling resources with little regard for the future. Biodiversity, perhaps the key element in any healthy ecosystem, cannot be sustained in the face of relentless air, soil, and water degradation; more and more bird species will face extinction as their habitat disappears.

But birders like Bonney and Ehrlich refuse to let the planet go to the starlings, cowbirds and rock doves without a fight. That's why they're encouraging support of (and participation in) *Partners in Flight*, so we'll have Wilson's warblers, wood thrushes and Western tanager enlivening our yards, forests and bird lists for generations to come.

--Grant Hoyt

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All new memberships received by December 31 will be eligible for this special mug offer. There is no limit to the number of gift memberships you can order! Just fill out and send in the membership form below.

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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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