

The Avocet

The Newsletter of the Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society

June-August 1993

Support Open Space Funding Measure

The passage of Senate Bill 2027 created the Santa Clara County Open Space Authority whose jurisdiction includes all of Santa Clara County not covered by the Mid-Peninsula Open Space Trust. Its mission is to acquire open space lands in eastern and southern Santa Clara County. If funded, the Authority will 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.

The Santa Clara County Open Space Authority Interim Board (until June 1994 when a new board will be elected) faces many challenges in meeting its goal of qualifying a funding measure for the June 1994 ballot measure. The Board must operate under a very tight timeline in order to satisfy the requirements for a benefit assessment district funding mechanism that

calls for a land acquisition plan and engineer's report which relates parcel assessments with benefit received from open space acquisition. Funding needed upfront for staff, necessary reports and election costs also poses a challenge. The main advantage of the benefit assessment district approach is that it requires a simple majority vote as opposed to the two-thirds vote that any type of tax would require. Los Angeles County won a 64% approval vote for a benefit assessment district for parks and open space last November.

SCVAS members, hikers, birders and other open space enthusiasts understand the need for preserving open space in Santa Clara County. They're encouraged that the Open Space Authority exists and they understand the need for funding. The Interim Board needs to hear from *you* and from all types of community groups and individuals around the county expressing their support for the Authority's purpose to preserve open space

and its direction to place a funding measure on the June 1994 ballot. Specifically, you need to tell Board members that you and/or SCVAS:

- Have joined the Friends of Open Space coalition which will educate and gain support from the community and raise funds for the June 1994 ballot measure.
- Strongly support the Board's direction thus far to pursue a special assessment district with a simple majority vote and place it on the June 1994 ballot.
- Will provide support from members of SCVAS now and next year when the campaign begins.
- Are part of the overwhelming community support for permanent protection of our open space resources. Board members should feel confident that they are undertaking the will and desire of the

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Annual Membership Dinner at McClellan Ranch Park

The Annual Membership Dinner is a special evening when SCVAS members can get together to socialize and to talk about all of the year's successes. It's also an opportunity for us to acknowledge all of the terrific Audubon volunteers who have worked so hard this year! Please join us on **Wednesday, June 16 at 6:00 PM at McClellan Ranch Park, 22221 McClellan Road, Cupertino.** You'll partake in good food and conversation, have an opportunity to walk along the Stevens Creek trail, enjoy the Native Plant Garden, visit the Audubon Nature Shop and browse through the Birding Library.

Please bring something to share:

A - G Salad H - L Main Dish M - Q Hors D'Oeuvres R - Z Dessert

We'll provide beverages, plates and silverware for everyone. Please carpool if possible. Park at the Ranch or up the street on Golf Club Drive. Questions? Need a map? Call Cecily Harris at 408/252-3747.

Chapter News

Birdathon 1993 Results

Team name: No. of Species Counted

Band-its	29
Bird Brains	TBA
Cardinal Virtues	May 16
Down & Dirty Birders	115
Poorwills	TBA
Uncommon Loons	110
Vagrants	165
Wednesday Wierdos	101
Wrentits	107
Wrong Terns	76

The Birdathon Committee would like to thank all of the teams for their hard work, birding and fundraising that ultimately makes our Birdathon a big success. We would also like to thank all of the individuals and companies that made contributions to the Birdathon teams. These donations allow us to continue to offer the many free programs that we provide to our members and to the community. We will acknowledge the Birdathon patrons in the September 1993 issue of the *Avocet*. We will also keep you posted about how much money we've raised. It's not too late to send in a contribution for your favorite team!

Can You Give Some Time?

SCVAS needs volunteers to fill the following positions:

Program Committee: organizes the General Membership Meetings 8 times per year in Palo Alto and any additional meetings in Cupertino or Saratoga. We need five members, including the Chair, to select guest speakers, prepare newsletter write-ups, conduct meetings, greet new members at meetings and coordinate refreshments. Chair will spend about 4 hours per month. Call Gail Cheeseman 408/867-1371 or 408/741-5330.

Telephone Rapid Response Team and Coordinator: SCVAS has purchased a Phone Machine that transmits recorded messages to lists of phone numbers. The T.R.R.T. Coordinator will maintain the lists and write the Phone Machine scripts. You'll need about 2 hours per month depending on the number of issues that you decide need a rapid response. Some knowledge of environmental issues and

legislators is a plus for the Coordinator. Call Tony Eppstein 415/326-1376.

Armchair Activists: Each month you'll receive a clear, brief summary of an issue of concern to SCVAS with a sample letter. A suggested donation of \$6 will cover mailing costs. Call Cynthia McLaughlin 408/253-4588 (h), 408/345-8507 (w).

Testimony Writers and Presenters: Volunteers to tactfully and effectively present testimony to the county, city councils and other public agencies, usually during weekdays. A knowledge of issues and about 4 hours per month. Call Tony Eppstein 415/326-1376.

Volunteer Coordinator: This incredible individual will match volunteers with available opportunities, see that volunteers are trained, maintain contact with them, and help to plan the June Annual Membership Dinner. Call Cecily Harris 408/252-3747.

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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Managing Dir. Cecily Harris 408/252-3747

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Membership Vacant		
North County Field Trips	Alberta Jasberg	415/493-9546
South County Field Trips	Shirley Gordon	408/996-9863
Birdathon	Tony Eppstein	415/326-1376

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 the chapter of the National Audubon Society for Santa Clara County.

June-August 1993, Volume 40, Number 6

Rare Bird Alert: 510/ 524-5592

June-August 1993 Calendar

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

**Denotes Field Trip

ATTENTION: The SCVAS office will be closed during the month of July.

****Wednesday, June 2, 8:30 AM. Half Day. Russian Ridge.** Leader: Shirley Gordon 408/996-9863. Meet at Russian Ridge Open Space Preserve at the junction of Skyline Blvd. and Page Mill Rd. Park in the northwest corner of the intersection. We will carpool from there. Join the leader in looking for Grasshopper Sparrows, Horned Larks, MacGillivray's Warblers, Lazuli Buntings, and Black-throated Gray Warblers. Lunch optional.

Wednesday, June 2, 7:30-9:30 PM. Bay Area Bird Photographers Guest speaker Joe Galkowski is a wildlife photographer who has maintained a long term relationship with a pair of loons in northern Wisconsin. This meeting is at Palo Alto's Lucy Evans Baylands Interpretive Center on East Embarcadero Road.

Saturday, June 5. 13th Palo Alto Summer Bird Count. The Summer Bird Count protocol is the same as the Christmas Bird Count (except there is no fee). This effort directly supports the Partners in Flight program. If you can help call Bill Bousman at 415/322-5282.

Tuesday, June 8, 9:30 AM. Eve Case Bird Discussion Group at the home of Steve and Elwyn Dorman, 15086 Becky Lane, Los Gatos, 408/395-5309. Bring a bag lunch. This month will feature birding instead of a discussion.

****Saturday, June 12, 9 AM. Point Reyes. Full day.** Leader: Pete La Tourrette 415/961-2741. Meet at Drakes Beach parking area. From Olema take 101 to Sir Francis Drake Blvd., W. about 14 mi. to left turn to Drakes Beach. Bring lunch, liquids, full tank of fuel.

**** Sunday, June 13, 8 AM. Half day. Beginners trip to Charleston**

Slough. Take Hwy 101 to Mt. View, exit San Antonio Rd. north. Meet at its end at Terminal Way parking area. Call Marc Fenner 408/942-8685 for more info.

Wednesday, June 16, 6-9 PM. SCVAS Annual Membership Dinner at McClellan Ranch Park, 22221 McClellan Road, Cupertino. (see front page for more details.)

****Friday (optional), Saturday-Sunday, June 18-20. Kern River Valley.** Leader: Nick Yatsko 408/247-5499. Call for details and to sign up. Highlights: great basin, desert, lake and riparian habitats. 140+ species including breeding Calliope Hummingbirds, Pinyon Jays, Brown-crested and Willow Flycatchers, and Summer Tanagers.

****Sunday, July 11. Half day. Beginners Trip to Charleston Slough.** Leader: call Marc Fenner 408/942-8685 for info. Take Hwy. 101 to Mountain View, exit at San Antonio Rd. north. Meet at its end at Terminal Way parking area. Highlights: Baby avocets, stilts, and terns and possible fall migrants.

****Saturday-Sunday, July 17 & 18. Lassen National Park.** Leader: John Mariani 408/997-1429. Call leader if you plan to attend. Directions: Take I-5 to Redding, then Hwy. 44 to the park. Meet at 9 AM on Saturday at Manzanita Lake Visitors Center which is near Manzanita Lake park entrance. Camp Friday and Saturday at Manzanita Lake. Bird in this volcanic wonderland! Possibilities include Blue Grouse, Black-backed Woodpecker and other high altitude birdlife. Optional side trip to Burney falls for Bald Eagle, Black Swift and possibly the Pileated Woodpecker.

****Sunday, August 15. Half day. Beginners Trip to Charleston Slough.** Leader: call Marc Fenner 408/942-8685 for info. Take Hwy. 101 to Mountain View, exit at San Antonio Rd. north. Meet at its end at the Terminal Way parking area. Highlights: Baby avocets, stilts, and terns and possible fall migrants.

****Sunday, August 15. Full day. Ano Nuevo.** Leader: Mark Miller 415/ 967-3429. Limited to 20 people, reservations required. Highlights: Early migrants, possible Black Swift.

Non-Audubon Events

State of the Estuary Conference

Saturday, June 5, 9 AM-5 PM. After 5 years of planning, the San Francisco Estuary Project and California Academy of Sciences have completed a Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan for protecting the Bay and Delta. \$20 includes box lunch. Call 510/464-7990 for information.

Bay Area Environmental Coalition premieres its new show, *Promise Land* on TV, Channel 6 in Palo Alto on Thursday, June 10, 7:00 PM.. The second show will air on June 24. Watch your TV guide for other bay area cable stations.

Ninth Annual Sierra Field Recording Workshop. The Nature Sounds Society, an organization dedicated to the recording of natural sounds and the preservation of quiet places, presents this weekend event at the SFSU Field Station at Yuba Pass, June 18-20. For more information, call Catherine Girardeau, 415/821-4264 or Paul Matzner, 510/238-3884.

The Falklands, South Georgia, and Antarctica. Doug & Gail Cheeseman are offering 25 days aboard a ship with many landings, plus a day in Tierra del Fuego National Park, Nov. 21-Dec. 19, '94. \$7000, airfare, approx. \$1800 from SFO. Also in '94: India, Costa Rica, Venezuela, Tanzania/Kenya, and Botswana/Namibia with Cheeseman's Ecology Safaris, 408/741-5330.

Three Golden Trout Workshops will be held in the Sierra Aug 1-Aug 21, 1993, sponsored by the Eastern Sierra, Pasadena, San Bernardino Valley, San Fernando Valley and Santa Barbara chapters of the National Audubon Society. An informal field natural history program will be offered with resident and visiting naturalists. The camp is located in the Golden Trout Wilderness in the southern portion of the High Sierra on the eastern watershed, at an altitude of 10,000 ft. For details and to make reservations, write or call Cindi McKernan, 1230 Friar Lane, Redlands, CA 92373, 909/793-7897.

Field Notes

By Bill Bousman

This spring has had a rush of rare birds with a heavy concentration towards the end of April because of the many Birdathons. Noteworthy among these was a Santa Clara County Big Day that was held on 17 Apr by Mike Rogers and Steve Rottenborn and tallied 159 species, breaking the previous county record by 10!

Loons through Ibis

The Red-throated Loon at Shoreline Lake has remained at least through 26 Apr (m.ob.) which is the latest spring record we have. Breeding plumage Common Loons were found in a number of spots following the rain on 17 Apr with one at Stevens Creek Res. 17 Apr (MMR, SCR, GHt), another at Shoreline Lake the same day (MMR, SCR, MiF) that was seen again 21 Apr (AME), and a third bird at Searsville Lake on 17 and 18 Apr (WL). The latter bird was heard calling - an unimaginable treat! There is a regular, but very rare, spring movement of this species at our slightly inland location. Seven Am. White Pelicans were reported 30 Mar (SCR) in Charleston Slough for the first time since wintering birds left near Christmas time. Since then flocks of up to 50 birds (m.ob.) have been found in the South Bay, including some birds showing a horn on the upper bill. It is assumed that these are non breeding birds that are "over summering" here. A Brandt's Cormorant at the Sunnyvale Water Pollution Control Plant (WPCP) on 14 Apr (SCR) is unusual anywhere in the South Bay. A Little Blue Heron found 21 Apr (SCR) north of the Alviso Marina is the earliest record we have for this rare heron by two days. Cattle Egret have been found regularly this spring and in good numbers as well. A major concentration of birds has been in the vicinity of Nortech Parkway in Alviso and the Arzino Ranch with a maximum of eight reported 28 Mar (AME) and birds seen there through 26 Apr (m.ob.). The bird roosting in the Mountain View Forebay has been seen at least through 19 Apr. Two birds were also found on the Knapp property on 4 Apr (MJM), while the high count for the period was of a flock of 15+ east of Gilroy on Hwy 152 (J&SLi). A White-faced Ibis over Coyote Ck. just south of Coyote 25 Apr (SCR) raises the possibility of an influx of birds as we had last year.

Waterfowl

The Sunnyvale WPCP Ross' Goose has remained at least through 26 Apr (m.ob.). It's

migration pattern does not appear typical so the location of its summering grounds is a puzzle. Blue-winged Teal have continued in the Palo Alto Flood Control Basin (FCB) with a pair there 17 Apr (MMR, SCR), a single male 25 Apr (MJM *et al.*), and two males 26 Apr (MMR, WGB). A pair of Eurasian Wigeon were seen in the Palo Alto FCB 30 Mar (SCR) and, presumably, the male has remained and been seen at least through 26 Apr (SCR). A second male was seen in Crittenden Marsh 17 Apr (MMR, SCR). These are the latest records we have in the county for these species. Two Redhead in the Palo Alto FCB 30 Mar (SCR) were the last recorded for the winter. A pair of migrant Hooded Mergansers briefly touched down at Lake Lagunita at Stanford 6 Apr (SCR) before moving on.

First spring records include a Black Rail at the Baylands and a Lesser Golden-Plover in Alviso

Raptors

A few Osprey were found, migrating north at the end of the month. Two were seen together at Stevens Ck. Res. 28 Mar (CWo, RL *fide* J&SLi) with a single bird there 30 Mar (MJM). On 29 Mar a bird was seen following Stevens Ck. below Hwy 101 (WC, MMR). The last report was of a bird over Felt Lake 10 Apr (KHt). Reports of Merlins include a Mountain View bird 26 Mar (CWi), one at Stevens Ck. CP 30 Mar (MJM), one over Felt Lake 31 Mar (KHt), the male *richardsoni* in Mountain View again 13 Apr (MMR), a bird over Monte Bello OSP 17 Apr (MMR, SCR, GHt, DS), and possibly the same birds seen in the Palo Alto Baylands 21 Apr (MMR) and 23 Apr (WGB). One or two Peregrine Falcon have been at the Palo Alto Baylands this month with sightings 11 Apr (WC), 17 Apr (AME), and 26 Apr (MMR, WGB). An adult was seen on Coyote Ck. below Hwy 237 21 Apr (SCR). Atypical for this time of year are Prairie Falcon on the valley floor with one along Coyote Ck. near Hwy 237 17 Apr (MMR, SCR) and 21 Apr (SCR) and a different bird near Nortech Parkway on 21 Apr (SCR).

Rails through Gulls

A Black Rail heard calling at the Palo Alto Baylands 26 Apr (MMR, WGB) and re-found 27 Apr (SCR) is the first April record of this species for the South Bay. A Lesser Golden-Plover of the race *dominica* was found at the end of Disk Drive in Alviso 22 Apr (SCR) and

re-found at it moved over to the Los Esteros side of the Arzino Ranch (SCR, MMR). This, as with the Black Rail, is our first spring record for this species. Lesser Yellowlegs is rarer in the spring than in the fall. Single birds were at Crittenden Marsh 14-15 Apr (SCR, MMR), in the vicinity of Disk Dr. and Los Esteros Rd. in Alviso 22 Apr (MiF) and 24 Apr (MJM), and at the Mountain View Forebay 28 Apr (AME). The vernal pond at the end of Disk Drive is this spring's hot spot—a Solitary Sandpiper was found there on 24 Apr (SCR). This is the third spring in a row where we have found this migrant. One or two Ruddy Turnstones were off the Palo Alto Baylands on 21 Apr (MMR) amongst the thousands of Western Sandpipers and Dunlin. A Ruff was found at the end of Disk Drive 21 Apr (SCR) to complete the list of specialties there—was this the same bird found nearby on the San Jose CBC? An ad. Mew Gull at the Sunnyvale WPCP 26 Apr (MMR, WGB) was late.

Owls through Woodpeckers

A Nor. Pygmy-Owl seen at Monte Bello OSP 20 Apr (MiF) and another heard at Upper Stevens Ck. CP 24 Apr (MJM) were good finds. The Long-eared Owl at Monte Bello OSP was heard briefly 17 Apr (MMR *et al.*). Vaux's Swifts were first found on 22 Apr when 24 were counted at Ed Levin CP (SCR). Good numbers have been found in numerous locations subsequently (m.ob.). Black-chinned Hummingbirds arrived in early April with the first banded at the Coyote Creek Riparian Station (CCRS) 7 Apr (*fide* WGB). Males have been found regularly there, along the creek, through the end of the month (m.ob.). Good numbers of Lewis' Woodpeckers have been found in San Antonio Valley with 12-16 counted 25 Apr (MiF *et al.*).

Flycatchers through Evening Grosbeaks

We had another "invasion" of Hammond's Flycatchers this spring, for unknown reasons. A calling bird was found on Gilroy Hot Springs Rd. 3 Apr (MMR, MJM). On 11 Apr a silent bird was at Jos. Grant CP (MiF). Three birds were seen along Coyote Ck. below Hwy 237 17 Apr (MMR, SCR) of which one was calling. Individuals were banded at CCRS on 16 and 21 Apr (*fide* WGB). A female Purple Martin

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

flying past Ed Levin CP 22 Apr (SCR) was unusual for the county. A **Canyon Wren** was singing in Alum Rock Park 26 Apr (SCR) in an area where they have bred in the past. There was a good movement of **Nashville Warblers** again this year with the first bird in Jos. Grant CP 11 Apr (MiF) and three birds there 18 Apr (WGB). A single bird was found along Coyote Ck. 17 Apr (MMR, SCR), one was banded the next day (*fide* WGB), and two were found there on 21 Apr (SCR). Two were found at Stevens Ck. CP 24 Apr (MJM). Three **Hermit Warblers** in Stevens Ck. CP 18 Apr (AME) was a good find as was the single male at Ed Levin CP 22 Apr (SCR). Our regular but rare migrant warblers are rounded out with the two **MacGillivray's Warblers** found 10 Apr (RF, NY *fide* MiF) in Jos. Grant CP and a single female seen there 24 Apr (MiF). A male **Blue Grosbeak** was found along the Pajaro R. at Sargent 25 Apr (DLSu *et al.*) for our fifth county record. A **Swamp Sparrow** at the Palo Alto Baylands 31 Mar-4 Apr (WGB, SCR, MMR, MJM) is probably the same bird found there in November and December. Eight **Lawrence's Goldfinches** in the vicinity of San Antonio Jct. 25 Apr (MiF *et al.*) are the first reported this year. A female **Evening Grosbeak** at Jasper Ridge Biological Reserve 10 Apr was followed by a flock of 16 foraging there 13 Apr (SCR).

First arrivals: **Olive-sided Flycatcher**, Stevens Ck. CP, 7 Apr (WGB, MMR, MJM); **Western Wood-Pewee**, beyond Smiths Ck., 18 Apr (WGB); **Ash-throated Flycatcher**, Ed Levin CP, 8 Apr (SCR); **Swainson's Thrush**, Monte Bello OSP, 10 Apr (MMR, SCR); **Solitary Vireo**, Stevens Creek CP, 31 Mar (MJM); **Yellow Warbler**, Monte Bello OSP, 4 Apr (SCR); **Black-throated Gray Warbler**, Upper Stevens Ck. CP, 31 Mar (MJM); **Western Tanager**, Monte Bello OSP, 4 Apr (SCR); and **Black-headed Grosbeak**, Canada Rd., 3 Apr (MMR, MJM); **Lazuli Bunting**, Jos. Grant CP, 18 Apr (WGB); and **Chipping Sparrow**, above Smiths Ck., 18 Apr (WGB).

Observers: Bill Bousman (WGB), William Cabot (WC), Al Eisner (AME), Mike Feighner (MiF), Reid Freeman (RF), Grant Hoyt (GHt), Karen Hoyt (KHt), Ron Lecount (RL), Winkie Lennihan (WL), Jim & Sue Liskovec (J&SL), Mike Mammoser (MJM), Mike Rogers (MMR), Steve Rottenborn (SCR), Claire Wilson (CW*i*) Claire Wolfe (CWo), and Nick Yatsko (NY).

Field Trip Report

The Wrentit's Birdathon Tale

Our team had a scheduling problem so we decided to change our Birdathon itinerary and start our count with the Audubon Elkhorn Slough trip which Gail organized for April 10. Though we knew our actual birding hours would be fewer, we felt that we could still get our 100 birds and cover some less well-known territory. At the last minute, Luis Tam had to make a family trip to Sacramento and couldn't join us.

Gail, Doug and Harriet decided to begin the countdown with a brief stop in Stevens Creek Park at 6:45 AM to catch some woodland birds before teaming up with Linda and Will in Moss Landing for the boat trip. With the sun still not fully up we could hear the birds before seeing them. Our list began with the wonderful songs of Black-headed Grosbeak, Warbling Vireo, and Orange-crowned Warbler to name a few. Doug spotted a Kestrel half hidden on a snag high above and, as we watched, its mate flew in. we had no time to linger, so were off to Jetty Road in Moss Landing where we had a chance to add to our list as the Elkhorn Slough participants gathered. A treat of Brandt Geese! A lone Canada Goose honking to make sure we spotted its flyby, breeding-plumaged Avocet and Black-bellied Plover were noted—and among the female Red-breasted Mergansers, a handsome male.

Once afloat and moving up Elkhorn Slough, we saw an abundance of Common Loons—some in breeding plumage! We checked off three loon species and five grebe species—pretty impressive! Horned and Eared Grebe were beginning to show spring color, and Clark's and Western Grebe beginning courtship behavior was a sight. Numbers of Sea Otters up the slough munching on Bentnose Clams and Sea Stars were a surprise. Another prominent mammal was the Harbor Seal, hauling-out in a large group on a mud bank. But time was slipping

by, and as we left Moss Landing, it was already close to 1:30 PM. We began to doubt that we'd reach our goal as the best birding hours were past and we still needed 36 species.

Given suggestions for good spots, we took off for the Pajaro Dunes/Sunset Beach area with not much luck. But we did have a marvelous Quetzal view of an Allen's Hummer "flashing". Our next stop was Struve Slough on a flooded road that brought us up short but still gave us Ruddy and Ring-necked Ducks, Coot and Mallard. A Green-backed Heron high and dry atop a flooded fence post was a special sight.

On to the Pinto Lake area in Watsonville where we found lovely habitat and some good birds. We got a good look at a Cooper's Hawk as it flew by and obligingly perched in view, then went down to a boardwalk that offered up a prize of a Sora Rail we first heard and then sighted. This was followed by the loud call of a Virginia Rail. A nesting Marsh Wren was a delight as was the Common Yellowthroat with its distinctive black mask. Other spots were quiet, though, and our high hopes discouraged. Where were the birds?

We realized that we were still short by 10 species if our count was correct. Stevens Creek became a short and sweet birding windup on Easter morning. And yes, the birds were there for us rapidly helping us make our goal and justifying this short extension since our previous day on the boat included several non-birding hours.

We ended as we started, in Stevens Creek Park with good looks of a Townsend's Warbler—thanks to Linda's good eye—The Warbling Vireo, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Wilson's Warbler, N. Oriole, House Wren, four Woodpeckers and great sounds of Olive-sided Flycatcher and N. Pygmy Owl. Such a fun finale, and so ended another Birdathon Adventure for a good cause.

—Harriet Gerson 4/12/93

Education

Make Audubon a Part of Santa Clara County Schools

Help Establish an Audubon Adventures Scholarship Fund

Audubon Adventures is an excellent youth education program, produced by the National Audubon Society. It is designed for classrooms of grades 3-6. An Audubon Adventures teacher receives a packet of 32 *Audubon Adventures* newsletters and an instructional leader's guide that has background information and ideas for field and classroom activities. Students receive the newsletter *Audubon Adventures* 6 times per year, membership cards and a decal. Topics for the 1993-94 school year are: Late Bloomers (Wildflowers), Animal Communication, Marine Mammals, Snakes, Songbirds and Oceans. A subscription for one year for a classroom is only \$30.

In past years, SCVAS has been able to sponsor classrooms through the generosity of local corporations and individual contributions. We've tried to target school districts with the greatest need.

Santa Clara County has over 320 public school classrooms divided into 17 school districts. We hope to raise money to bring Audubon Adventures into *each* of these schools. To accomplish this goal, we'll need *your* help. We're setting up an **Audubon Adventures Scholarship Fund** and ask you to contribute to this fund in increments of \$30. You may specify a teacher, grade, school, school district or wherever the need is greatest. It doesn't

need to be a traditional classroom, You might want to sponsor a local Girl or Boy Scout troop. We'll notify the teacher at the beginning of the year who their benefactor is. We've found that teachers often share the newsletters with more than one classroom...so your \$30 donation will often reach more than 32 students.

Just fill out the coupon below and send us your check by September 1. We'll need to enroll classrooms by this deadline so that the classrooms receive every issue. If you would like us to send you a free copy of *Audubon Adventures* or need more information about our **Audubon Adventures Scholarship Fund**, call Cecily Harris at 408/252-3747.

Your name _____	Grade _____
Teacher _____	Grade _____
School address _____	
City _____	Zip _____
School Telephone _____	

Research

Wanted: Heron and Egret Sightings

For over 10 years the San Francisco Bay Bird Observatory has monitored the status of colonial breeding birds along the shores of the South Bay. This year they will be expanding their study to include inland areas of Alameda, Santa Clara, San Francisco and San Mateo Counties.

They hope to identify critical inland habitat, and document whether changes occur in the regional population as individual colonies decline or expand. In the event of an environmental

disturbance in fragile bayshore habitat now occupied by heron and egret breeding colonies, inland habitat would be indispensable.

Volunteer field observers are needed to report nesting activity by HERONS or EGRETS in the above areas. If you observe nesting colonies of herons and/or egrets they would greatly appreciate your help.

For more information, contact Valerie Layne, SFBBO, P.O. Box 247, Alviso, CA 95002. or call 408/946-6548.

Open Space *Continued from page 1*

community at large as they undergo their challenging but doable task of preparing the funding measure and acquisition plan for the ballot.

Send Your Letter to:
Chairperson Mike Honda and Members
of the Santa Clara County Open Space
Authority Interim Board
70 W. Hedding Street
San Jose, CA 95110

Call Jeanne Leavitt, SCVAS representative to Friends of Open Space, at 408/293-6885 for more information.

SPECIAL SUMMER BIRDSEED SALE AT MCCLELLAN RANCH PARK

Everything in the Audubon Nature Shop is 10% off during June including birdfeeders!!

Please choose one pick-up time:

- Tuesday, June 22, 4:00-6:00 PM
- Thursday June 24, 10:00 AM-12:00 PM
- Saturday, June 26, 10:00 AM-12:00 PM

All orders must be received by Friday, June 18

BIRDSEED	AMOUNT/PRICE	
AUDUBON WILD (Mix includes sunflower seeds)	5 lbs @ \$2.75	_____
	20 lbs @ \$9.00	_____
	50 lbs @ \$16.50	_____
WESTERN MIX (Mix does not include sunflower seeds)	20 lbs @ \$8.50	_____
	50 lbs @ \$16.00	_____
BLACK OIL SUNFLOWER	25 lbs @ \$14.00	_____
	50 lbs @ \$23.00	_____
THISTLE	5 lbs @ \$11.00	_____
SUNFLOWER CHIPS	25 lbs @ \$22.50	_____
WHITE MILLET	25 lbs @ \$8.00	_____
	50 lbs @ \$15.50	_____
SUBTOTAL		_____
ADD .085% SALES TAX		_____
CONTRIBUTIONS TO SCVAS (TAX DEDUCTIBLE)		_____
TOTAL		_____

Note: Birdseed is available yearround in the Audubon Nature shop at McClellan Ranch Park in Cupertino. Birdseed prices do vary during the year based on costs to us. We are trying to offer you the very best seed at the very best price possible.

Please include a stamped self-addressed envelope with your order so that we can send you your confirmation and a map to McClellan Ranch Park.

NAME _____
 ADDRESS _____
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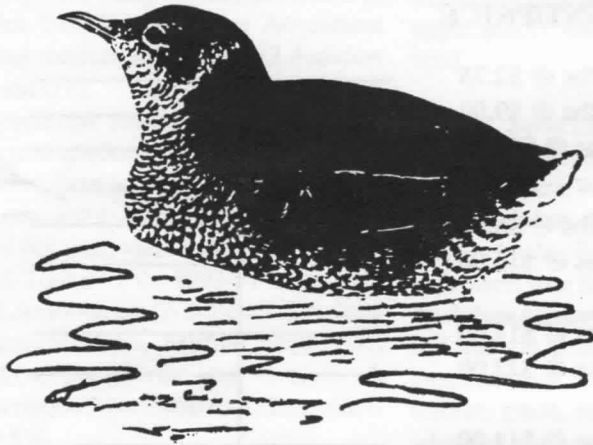
Please send orders to: Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society
 Cupertino, CA 95014
 22221 McClellan Road

Questions?
 Call 408/252-3747

Santa Clara Valley
Audubon Society
22221 McClellan Road
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Wanted: Observations on Marbled Murrelets



Investigators looking into the status of the Marbled Murrelet urgently need help from people who have made observations of the species in the past. Now underway is a cooperative effort, known as the **Marbled Murrelet Conservation Assessment**, to determine the present status of the murrelet, its past history and future prognosis. Participating in this effort are biologists and scientists from throughout the species' range, including all federal and state agencies, many nongovernmental organizations, and private interests. An

important part of the process of determining the bird's present status is the compilation of all known sightings of the species in its ocean habitat. Especially helpful would be quantitative surveys done from boats or from shore. An example would be numbers of murrelets recorded on a cruise in the inland passage of Alaska, on a pelagic trip off the northern California coast, or on a fishing trip along the British Columbia coast. They are interested in information at any time in the past, the older the better. Anyone knowing of even a single day's survey that recorded the numbers of murrelets, with some indication of the course taken, should contact: Dr. C. John Ralph, Marbled Murrelet Conservation Assessment, Redwood Sciences Laboratory, 1700 Bayview Drive, Arcata, CA 95521, or call 707/822-3691 or fax 707/826-0474.

Attention All SCVAS Members

The SCVAS Logo Contest deadline has been extended to September 15. You still have time to display your creativity and design the ideal logo for your Audubon Chapter. See March '93 *Avocet* for contest details.

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.

Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society Subscription: 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
 Introductory \$23 Individual \$35
Members receive *Audubon* magazine and *The Avocet* newsletter. Make check payable to National Audubon Society.

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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