



The Avocet

The Newsletter of the Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society

October 1994

SCVAS Educational Programs Thriving

Editor's note: Thanks to the efforts of Bobbie Handen and the dedicated members of our Education Committee, we're reaching out into the community more actively than ever to educate South Bay children (and adults!) about birds, wetlands, creeks, and the environment in general. The following article briefly summarizes two of our most successful ongoing programs and an exciting new one.

Wetlands Education Program

Five years ago the SCVAS Education Committee hired Carol Verbeck to write a program for upper elementary children which would introduce them to and educate them on the value of seasonal wetlands. As originally written, the program involved classroom instruction through the use of slides and hands-on activities followed by field trips to a seasonal wetland in the fall and spring. Due to the cost of

buses, the program has been modified to include classroom instruction and one field trip in the spring.

The original site used was the seasonal wetland surrounding the Twin Creeks softball complex in Sunnyvale, which has now become the new Sunnyvale Baylands Park. During construction, the field trip was moved to the S.F. Bay Wildlife Refuge Center in Alviso and the scope expanded to include wetlands in general. With the help of Fran McTamane and the Education Center staff we have been able to use the entire outdoor site without impacting other classes regularly scheduled into the building.

This past school year the program served approximately 475 students from seven schools in six school districts. This year the education committee plans to expand that number

Continues on page 7...

The Birds of Africa with Doug Cheeseman General Membership Meeting

Wednesday October 19

7:30 PM Refreshments • 8:00 Program

Palo Alto Cultural Center, Newell & Embarcadero

Santa Clara Valley Auduboners gather together for a stimulating evening with Doug Cheeseman and his marvelous slides. After Doug and Gail were honored with a Lifetime Achievement Award (in the guise of a dramatic Robert Bateman print) at our Annual Dinner last June, Doug agreed to treat us this year to a showing of select slides from over 14 trips to Africa. He will show wildlife scenes from seven countries: Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia, Namibia, Zimbabwe and Botswana. Prime shots of Pel's Fishing Owl and perhaps the rare Wild Dog will be included among the slides, interspersed with Doug's lively narration and informative anecdotes. A perfect evening to swap stories about your Fall migration bird sightings during the refreshment period. We look forward to seeing you there.

Birds of Trinidad and Tobago with Ed Rooks

General Membership Meeting

Friday October 28

7:30 PM Refreshments • 8:00 Program

Cupertino Library

Trinidad native Ed Rooks has returned to his homeland yearly for continued nature study, and he worked as a naturalist at the famed Asa Wright Center while a college student. Tonight he'll show not only his own slides but also selections from Doug Cheeseman's and John Delevoryas' photos, and some of his own exquisite paintings of Trinidadian birds. Don't miss this special Cupertino meeting! From I-280 take the Cupertino exit south on De Anza Blvd. Go 4 blocks, turn left on Rodriguez, then right on Torre (1 block) to library on left. Park on south side for entrance to community room.

Chapter News

Birding Fundraiser

Doug and Gail Cheeseman have generously offered proceeds from their Trinidad and Tobago tour towards the SCVAS Fall fundraising campaign. The trip will run from Jan 18 - 31 and is led by Ed Rooks (see program note on Pg. 1). Last year the chapter received \$2000 from the Venezuela tour organized by Cheesemans' Ecology Safaris. If enough people sign up for the Trinidad tour, SCVAS could again receive that amount, thanks to the Cheesemans' generosity. Cost of the tour is \$2350, plus a group fare on United of \$540 from SFO. Call the Cheesemans at 408/867-1371 for information on this exciting birding/natural history trip.

CHARGE IT!!

SCVAS is now accepting VISA/Mastercard. You can charge your birdseed order (see pg. 8), Nature Shop purchases, or membership. Look for the Nature Shop Gift Catalogue in November's *Avocet*—Holiday shopping made easy!

In Memoriam

In memory of:

Louise Van Patten

From:

Genevieve Gullahorn

Aratinga Alert

SCVAS member Paul Slattery has taken a keen interest in the wild conure, or *Aratinga* parakeet, population in the South Bay, particularly the small flocks he's observed in the Sunnyvale area. Anyone who has observed the feeding, roosting, or nesting habits of these birds locally is encouraged to call Paul at 408/732-8118 (evenings) to exchange information.

People, Water, Wildlife: National Audubon Convention 1994

Fort Meyers, Florida will be the place to be this November for National Audubon's 1994 Biennial Convention co-hosted with Florida Audubon. The theme is "People, Water and Wildlife" comprising the most important environmental issues challenging our nation. These inter-relationships can not be better demonstrated than in south Florida—a land of spectacular bird life, vast wetlands, and growing human population.

This year there are two special sessions following the convention. The first is a Mobile Learning Lab tour through the greater Everglades ecosystem. This tour is for people who want to learn first-hand about the ecosystem and its spectacular scenery and wildlife. The other is a Population Conference in Miami as a follow-up for action to the recent UN International Conference on Population and Development in Cairo.

Everyone is welcome to attend all or any of the sessions. Please contact the SCVAS office 408-252-3747 or National Audubon Society 303-499-3622 for a registration form. The dates and locations are as follows:

Fri.-Tues.	Nov. 11-15	National Audubon Convention	Fort Meyers
Tues.-Fri.	Nov. 15-18	Mobile Learning Lab	Fort Meyers
Fri-Sun	Nov. 18-20	Population Conference	Miami

The Avocet 2

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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.

1994, Volume 41, Number 7

Rare Bird Alert: 510/ 524-5592

September 1994 Calendar

On all field trips carpool and share expenses. Bring binoculars, field guides, warm clothing, lunch (optional on half-day trips) and liquids.

****Denotes Field Trip**

****Sunday Oct. 2, 9:00 AM.** Half day. Princeton Harbor and vicinity. Leader: Dan Keller 415/726-3306. Meet at corner of West Point and Stanford Aves. in Princeton, 4 mi. N of Half Moon Bay on Hwy 1. Highlights: waterbirds and coastal vagrants.

****Sunday Oct. 2, 9-11 AM.** Young Audubon Nature Walk in Alviso. Leader: Allen Royer. 4th-6th graders and their families are welcome on this wetlands excursion. Some field guides and binoculars will be available. Call the office at 408/252-3747 for directions.

Wednesday Oct. 5, 7:30 PM. Bay Area Bird Photographers. John Delavoryas will present a program featuring the birds of Kenya and Tanzania. Lucy Evans Baylands Interpretive Center, E. Embarcadero Rd., Palo Alto.

****Saturday Oct. 8, 9:00 AM.** Hawk Hill/Marin Headlands. Leader: Don Schmoldt 510/215-1910. Meet at Vista Pt. parking lot at N end of Golden Gate Bridge. Our second trip to this hawk-watching hotspot for those who missed the Sept. 24 trip (or were fogged out!).

Saturday Oct. 8 10-4. Avocet Festival, S.F. Bay Wildlife Refuge in Fremont. The festival features California Native Plant Sale, Environmental Fair, and the 14th annual Wildlife and Nature Arts and Crafts Show. For more information, call the Refuge at 510/792-4275.

Saturday Oct. 8, 4:00 PM. San Francisco Bay Bird Observatory 1994 Picnic and Annual Meeting featuring Sarah Warnock of the National Biological Survey at SFBBO headquarters, Alviso. Bring salad or dessert to share at picnic. For more information and

directions, call SFBBO at 408/946-6548

****Sunday Oct. 9, 8:30 AM.** Half day. Beginners trip to Charleston Slough. Leader: Kathy Parker 408/358-2832. Take Hwy. 101 to San Antonio Rd. in Mt. View, exit N on San Antonio to Terminal Way parking area. Emphasis on basics of bird identification, including shorebirds, herons, egrets, ducks.

Tuesday Oct. 11, 9:30 AM. The Eve Case Bird Discussion Group will meet at the home of Pat and Jean Dubois, 17150 Buena Vista Dr., Los Gatos 408/395-4264. The group will carpool to visit Eve's tree at Big Basin. Bring a bag lunch.

****Wednesday Oct. 12, 9:00 AM.** Half day. Pescadero Marsh. Leader: Ed Gustafson 408/377-1123. Meet in parking lot on ocean side of Hwy 1 at Pescadero Rd. Highlights: birds of coastal waters, rocky shore, and Pescadero Marsh.

****Saturday Oct. 15, 8:00 AM.** Full day. Monterey Peninsula. Leader: John Mariani 408/997-2066. Meet at Carmel River—take Hwy 1 south to Rio Rd. intersection at Carmel. Turn left, then immediately right into Crossroads Shopping Center. Meet at Crossroads Cinema, at back of mall by river. Shorebirds, seabirds, possible vagrant land birds.

Wednesday Oct. 19, 7:30 PM. Gen. Membership Meeting in Palo Alto with Doug Cheeseman's Birds of Africa slides. (See box on Pg. 1)

****Saturday Oct. 22, 8:30 AM.** Half day. Leader: Frances Toldi 415/344-1919. One of Sequoia Audubon's most enthusiastic birders will lead this exploration of the diverse marsh habitat along Pescadero Creek and the adjacent coastal beach, rocky shore and offshore waters. Loons, grebes, ducks, shorebirds, raptors, songbirds, and always the possibility of something unusual.

****Wednesday Oct. 26, 8:00 AM.** Half day. Palo Alto Foothills Park.

Leader: Alberta Jasberg 415/493-9546.
By reservation only; call to reserve space.

Friday Oct. 28, 7:30 PM. Special South County General Meeting in Cupertino featuring Ed Rooks' slides of Birds of Trinidad and Tobago. (See box on Pg. 1)

****Saturday Oct. 29, 8:30 AM.** Half day. Coyote Hills Regional Park. Leader Phil Hand 415/851-2623. Enjoy the diversity of waterfowl, raptors and passerines at this prime bayside habitat with a leader who knows the park and its avifauna like the back of his, er, . . . hand. Take Hwy 84 (Dumbarton Bridge) E towards Newark, exit right on Thornton, then go left over freeway as Thornton becomes Paseo Padre. Turn left at Patterson Ranch/Commerce Rd. into park, meet at far end of Quarry parking lot on left, 1/4 mi past park entrance.

Wednesday Nov. 2, 7:30 PM. Bay Area Bird Photographers. This evening's program features B. "Moose" Peterson of Wildlife Research Photographers. A specialist in photographing endangered species, Moose's work has appeared in birding magazines and wildlife books. Don't miss this outstanding slide presentation. Lucy Evans Baylands Interpretive Center, E. Embarcadero Rd., Palo Alto.

****Saturday Nov. 5, 8:30 AM.** Half day. Arastradero Preserve, Palo Alto. Leader: Jim Liskovec 415/969-5542. From I-280 take Page Mill Rd. west to Arastradero Rd., about 1/2 mi. on right, go another 1/2 mi. to parking lot on right. Highlights: variety of raptors and oak woodland species. 2 mi. moderate walking.

****Wednesday Nov. 9, 8:30 AM.** Half day. Grant Ranch County Park. Leader: Alan Thomas 408/265-9286. From I-680 take Alum Rock Av. east, turn right on Mt. Hamilton Rd., go 8 mi. to park. Meet at Hall's Valley Lake parking lot on left just past park entrance. Park entrance fee for those under 60. Highlights: fresh water ducks, Golden Eagle, oak woodland species. 2 miles easy walking, bring liquids.

Field Notes

By Bill Bousman

Pelicans through Ibis

Salt ponds and impoundments in the Mountain View area were extraordinarily attractive to many piscivores this month. Exceptional counts of **American White Pelican** either here or across Stevens Creek include 1760 on 6 Aug (PJM), 1100 on 14 Aug (AME), and 2200 on Salt Pond A2E on 21 Aug (SCR). An **American Bittern**, first found on 26 Jun (PJM) in Artesian Slough, may be the same bird seen subsequently in that slough on 10 Aug (PJM) and in Triangle Marsh 14 Aug (PJM) and 30 Aug (AME). We have few summer records for this species which probably has not bred in the South Bay in nearly a century. Exceptional concentrations of **Great Egrets** include 183 on the Mountain View salt ponds 6 Aug (PJM). Setting modern high count records for **Snowy Egrets** were 556 on the Mountain View salt ponds 6 Aug (PJM), 520 there on 14 Aug (AME), and 428 counted on the Sunnyvale Water Pollution Control Plant (WPCP) ponds 25 Aug (SCR,MMR). **Little Blue Herons** have been found regularly this month on Salt Pond A9 along the Alviso Slough Trail (m.ob.). Of great interest were observations of an adult seen on a nest with two eggs and a downy chick in the Alviso heronry 23 Jul (PJM), two adults on a different nest 25 Jul (VL *fide* PJM), and a carefully counted total of five adults in the Alviso salt ponds 24 Aug (PJM), certainly the most ever recorded at one time in Northern California. Six to seven **Cattle Egrets** seen at the Arzino Ranch in Alviso 21 Aug (MMR) and 24 Aug (PJM) were not surprising. They appear not to have nested in the Alviso heronry this summer (PJM). The **White-faced Ibis** in the Mountain View Forebay was seen at least through 14 Aug (m.ob.) and an individual, possibly the same bird, was seen briefly at the Calabazas ponds on 19 Aug (SCR).

Waterfowl through Raptors

A female **Blue-winged Teal** was seen in the Mountain View Forebay 6 Aug (PJM). Oversummering ducks include a female **Canvasback** in Guadalupe Slough 25-28 Aug (SCR,MMR), a male **Red-head** in Charleston Slough through 24 Aug (MJM,MMR), and a male **Greater Scaup** on Shoreline Lake through 24 Aug (MMR). **Lesser Scaup** are now regular breeding species in the South Bay with up to six broods noted at the Sunnyvale WPCP ponds 17-28 Aug (PJM,SCR). An indirect report of an **Oldsquaw** at the Alviso salt ponds 19 Aug (LF *fide* JM) is, if correct, the first record in 20 years. A female **Common Goldeneye** has

*August rarities included
Oldsquaw, Stilt Sandpiper,
Black Skimmer, Summer
Tanager, and Bobolink*

oversummered at the Alviso salt ponds at least through 30 Aug (m.ob.). An **Osprey** was seen on the Parkway Lakes near Metcalf Road 1 Aug (SCR) and sightings on the Alviso Salt Ponds 10-21 Aug (PJM,MiF,MMR) suggest one bird. Sightings of **Peregrine Falcons** have occurred in record numbers this month along the bay from Alviso to Palo Alto (m.ob.). An imm. seen along Coyote Creek below Hwy 237 20-27 Aug (SCR) and two adults seen together at Shoreline Park 24 Aug (MMR) provide a lower bound of at least three different birds.

Shorebirds through Skimmers

One to two **Snowy Plover** on the Sunnyvale salt ponds 6-7 Aug (MMR,RJe) were the only ones reported. Peak August counts of **Lesser Yellowlegs** include 31 in the Palo Alto Flood Control Basin (FCB) and Charleston Slough 2 Aug (MMR) and 29 there on 20 Aug (MJM). A **Ruddy Turnstone** was found in Salt Pond A9 13 Aug (MMR,MJM) and two birds were seen in the Mountain View salt ponds 24

Aug (PJM). Juvenile **Semipalmated Sandpipers** were found in the Calabazas ponds 3-4 Aug (MMR,MiF,MJM) and 27 Aug (MJM), and at least two juveniles moved in and out of the Coyote Creek Riparian Station (CCRS) waterbird pond 7-14 Aug (m.ob.). **Baird's Sandpipers** started moving through with a single bird at the Sunnyvale WPCP 6 Aug (PJM). Up to five juveniles moved back and forth from the San Jose-Santa Clara WPCP drying ponds to the CCRS waterbird pond and the local salt ponds 9-20 Aug (m.ob.) with the peak of five noted on 19 Aug (SCR). One to three birds were seen on the Alviso salt ponds 17-26 Aug (PJM,MMR). A basic-plumaged **Dunlin** on the Alviso salt ponds through 19 Aug (m.ob.) undoubtedly oversummered. An adult **Stilt Sandpiper** was found 9 Aug (WGB,SCR) on the CCRS waterbird pond for the sixth county record and, from detailed plumage descriptions was probably the same bird seen at the Mountain View Forebay 13 Aug (MMR). An adult female **Ruff** seen in the Calabazas ponds 25-27 Aug (SCR,MJM,AME) and in the tidal slough at Spreckles and Grand in Alviso 30 Aug (AME) could, from the plumage descriptions, be the same bird seen last month in Crittenden Marsh and the Mountain View Forebay. A **Common Snipe** found in the Mountain View Forebay 6 Aug (PJM) was two to three weeks early. Peak numbers of our normally occurring phalaropes include 300 **Wilson's Phalaropes** on Salt Pond A18 in Alviso 9 Aug (SCR) and 1670 **Red-necked Phalaropes** on the Sunnyvale WPCP ponds and across Guadalupe Slough on the Knapp Tract on 25 Aug (SCR,MMR). Four **Elegant Terns** on the Alviso salt ponds 13 Aug (MMR,MJM) were overshadowed by the 45 seen on Salt Pond A2W in Mountain View and across Stevens Creek in A2E on 21 Aug (SCR). Two remained on the Mountain View salt ponds 24 Aug and a single adult was at the Sunnyvale WPCP 25-28 Aug (SCR,MMR). A migrating adult **Common Tern** was along Salt Pond A9 in Alviso 17 Aug (PJM). The largest numbers of **Least Terns** this season have been on the Mountain View salt ponds 19 Jul-24 Aug (PJM,WGB) with 35 counted on 26 Jul (PJM) and 12 still present 24 Aug (PJM). The last **Black Skimmer** young

fledged from the Sunnyvale salt ponds 17 Aug and neither the two adults nor the young bird were there 24 Aug (PJM).

Swifts through Passerines

Vaux's Swifts are being seen in their late summer movements and migration. Peak numbers include five over the Coleman Avenue ponds 20 Aug (AV) and eight over Shoreline Park 24 Aug (MMR). A female **Black-chinned Hummingbird** feeding a recently-fledged bird 23 Aug on Coyote Creek at Mabury added to the known breeding locations of this rare species on our urban creeks (SCR). This species was found in known breeding locations throughout the month (m.ob.). The male **Costa's Hummingbird** at a feeder in San Jose has remained through at least

18 Aug (NF *fide* HT). The fall movement of **Willow Flycatchers** was underway from 21 Aug on. Birds were recorded along Coyote Creek below Hwy 237 21-28 Aug (MMR, MJM, WGB), near the Alviso Environmental Education Center (EEC) 21-26 Aug (MMR, SCR, AME), Stevens Creek at L'Avenida 25 Aug (MMR), and the borrow pits near Ogier Avenue (SCR). A female **Purple Martin** at the Alviso EEC 23 Aug (MMR) is a rare migrant. A **Townsend's Warbler** along Coyote Creek below Hwy 237 28 Aug (AME) was very early. A female or imm. **MacGillivray's Warbler** near the borrow pits near Ogier Avenue 27 Aug (SCR) was an early migrant. The first-summer male **Summer Tanager** along Coyote Creek near Sycamore continued to be found in early Aug (m.ob.) with the last

report on 14 Aug (MiF). A juvenile **Sage Sparrow** along the Mountain View salt ponds 6 Aug (PJM) was completely out of place. A **Fox Sparrow** at the Sunnyvale WPCP 28 Aug (SCR) was very early. A **Bobolink** at Shoreline Park 21 Aug (SCR) was our 8th county record. Like past records, this bird did not stay.

Observers: Bill Bousman (WGB), Al Eisner (AME), Leora Feeney (LF), Mike Feighner (MiF), Nancy Frizzel (NF), Richard Jeffers (RJe), Valerie Layne (VL), Joe Morlan (JM), Mike Mammoser (MJM), Peter Metropulos (PJM), Mike Rogers (MMR), Steve Rottenborn (SCR), Hazel Tilden (HT), and Ann Verdi (AV).

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

Avocet Festival 1994

The San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge proudly presents Avocet Festival '94 on Saturday, October 8, 1994, from 10 AM to 4 PM at the Refuge complex in Fremont. Admission is free. The festival features the semi-annual California Native Plant Sale, an Environmental Fair, and the 14th Annual Wildlife and Nature Arts and Crafts Show. Avocet Festival '94 is co-sponsored by San Francisco Bay Wildlife Society, Ohlone Audubon Society, Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society, Sequoia Audubon Society, Tri-City Ecology Center, and The Citizens Committee to Complete the Refuge.

The Native Plant Sale offers low-cost, drought-tolerant plants to complement any home landscape. The plants are grown by California Conservation Corps nurseries, local commercial nurseries, and the Refuge's own nursery, which supplies native plants for habitat restoration projects. The California Native Plant Society and other organizations provide information on the benefits of planting native species, the impacts of non-native species on the local ecology, and public awareness of the need for water conservation in the dry, Northern California climate.

The Environmental Fair celebrates the Bay Area's irreplaceable wildlife resources. The Audubon Society, the Nature Conservancy, the San Francisco Bay Bird Observatory, and a host of other environmental organizations present programs, including wildlife demonstra-

tions and nature videos, and discuss wildlife issues that concern California residents. Information on topics ranging from coast cleanup projects to the ecology of the San Francisco Bay is available.

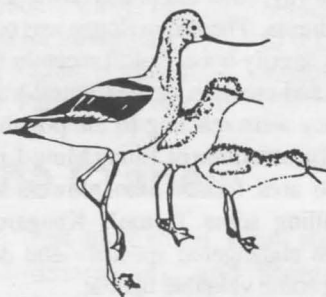
The Wildlife and Nature Arts and Crafts Sale features some of the finest wildlife and nature artists from Northern California and the West, offering paintings, sculpture, wood carvings, photography, pottery, stained glass, jewelry, and more. A raffle offers items such as bay cruises, tickets to major events, and other quality merchandise and services donated by more than 20 Bay Area businesses.

Refreshments will be available all day. Hamburgers, hot dogs, home-made tamales, and an assortment of vegetarian entrees will fill out the menu, along with hot and cold beverages.

The Refuge is located in the East Bay at the east end of the Dumbarton Bridge. Exit Highway 84 at Thornton Ave. and travel south for 0.8 miles to the Refuge entrance at Marshlands Road. Turn right into the Refuge and follow the signs to the festival area next to Avocet Marsh.

The festival is a major fund raiser for the San Francisco Bay Wildlife Society, a non-profit organization dedicated to enhancing education and interpretive programs at San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge.

For further information, call the Refuge at (510) 792-4275, between 8 AM and 5 PM.





Environmental Action

Cairo, Fresno, and San Juan Capistrano: an Editorial

by Craig Breon

As I write this, hundreds of people from all parts of the globe sit, stand, shout, and muse over issues of population in Cairo. Meanwhile, pigeons roost quietly in Mission San Juan Capistrano, and in Fresno citizens are rallying behind a rat killer. I believe these things are loosely related.

Where the Pigeons Come Home to Roost

Last Easter I found myself in Southern California and accompanied a friend to Mass. To add some history to our morning, we journeyed to Mission San Juan Capistrano. That day has troubled me since.

Parking was difficult, despite the large parking lot flanking the old and new sections of the Mission. The new church was spacious, dwarfing the original Mission which sat just behind. Despite its size, the church was overflowing that day, with hundreds standing behind the pews and outside the front entrance. In many ways it was a beautiful, vibrant scene: large families dressed in their devotional best, children providing constant amusing distractions from the sermon, loud singing and prayer.

The troubling part came as I learned what evidently many people knew long ago. The swallows no longer return in great numbers to Mission San Juan Capistrano. In fact, I saw only two or three, and the Visitors' Information Center says the numbers diminish yearly. Their ghosts, however, are ubiquitous. Signs everywhere proclaimed the site "the Home of the Swallows". Two sides of the Mission were crowded with rows of trinket shops and restaurants, many of which had the word "swallow" in their names (or the Spanish "golondrina"). Inside the old Mission compound they still sell bird seed, which children excitedly feed to the pigeons, which run rampant.

"Depressing" would be an understatement. Simply not being able to see the

swallows is bad enough—a supposedly wondrous site missed. On top of that, the notion of killing the goose that lays the golden egg came to mind. Worse yet, I felt as if a piece of California's history—of my history—was gone. How many millions of children had learned in elementary school of the glorious yearly return of the swallows. I wouldn't be surprised if elementary texts still include this event, without an update on the situation.

Surely no one planned this; no evil hand was at work. A town grew up around a mission. As more people came, the old church proved too small, a new one was built, parking lots next to that, tennis courts and a recreation facility across the street. People wanted to see the wonder, so roads were built right to the spot, then the roads were lined with shops and restaurants. It all seems almost inevitable in retrospect.

"Kill a Rat, Go to Prison"

While some of our natural history slips silently away, other dilemmas create surprising drama. The above slogan was one of many angrily hoisted aloft recently by farmers and ranchers in the Central Valley. They were reacting to the possible criminal prosecution of Taung Ming-Lin, a Fresno area farmer who plowed his land, killing some Tipton's Kangaroo Rats—an endangered species—and destroying some valuable habitat.

For the record, there have been only 4 prosecutions for destroying endangered species habitat since the Endangered Species Act (ESA) took effect in 1975. Also, Mr. Ming-Lin was warned in advance not to plow his land until he had created a habitat protection plan. All this is superfluous to the main issue, which is the increasing enmity towards the ESA by property and business interests as well as many individuals and community groups.

When taken in isolation, these angry voices strike a chord of common sense. They say "How can you care more for a

rat than the viability of our farms?" Good question, and repeated in many different forms. Should we protect the Delta Smelt—a small and not particularly attractive fish—if it means water rationing in Southern California? Should we restrict development in parts of coastal Southern California to save a gnatcatcher? Is the Spotted Owl's survival more important than the livelihoods of whole towns in the Pacific Northwest?

In these questions lie the roots of tragedy. It will often seem reasonable to side with people and sacrifice a bit of nature here and there. The end result, however, is a more uniform, less inspiring landscape. We will slowly lose beauty, lose the mystery of complex interrelations, lose the wisdom of having the power to act and the restraint not to.

Back to Cairo

Which brings me back to Cairo and the population conference. I do not mean to explain the above events simply as examples of population pressures. They are more complex. I do believe that each has an element of population in it.

I am heartened by the points of agreement found in Cairo, and even by the virulence of the debate, for there are some heady issues to confront. Some examples:

1. Is it racist to focus on population growth in developing countries rather than at home?
2. Is it necessary, or even possible, to convince large numbers of people to lower their standards of living?
3. When does life begin?
4. How do we reconcile the differing cultural and religious perspectives on the place of women in society with goals of family planning?

I encourage you to mull these over, and to look for those places in your lives where population pressures may play a part.

Wetlands ...continued from page 1

by adding some classes in late fall and through tighter scheduling in the spring. We plan to continue using the Alviso site as well as the new seasonal wetland in the Sunnyvale Baylands Park.

The field trips have been wonderfully exciting experiences for the students, few of whom knew anything about wetlands or had even been to the Bay. Follow-up activities in the classroom have included letters written to various government agencies, congressmen and the President, as well as a variety of other language and art activities including murals, research about birds, a master list of birds seen, etc.

Teachers using the program have had excellent feedback from parents who accompany students as well as other parents. Our hope is that this new awareness and concern generated in students will remain with them, be communicated to others in the family, and carry over into their adult years.

—Elaine Gould

South Bay Companies Supporting Environmental Education

Thanks to five local companies, SCVAS will be able to offer Audubon Adventures to 73 classrooms this year, reaching approximately 2,500 students in Santa Clara County. This is the most classrooms SCVAS has ever sponsored in a school year.

Audubon Adventures is an environmental education program produced by the National Audubon Society. The program is nine years old and is designed for elementary school classes, grades 3 through 6. The program is used in nearly 18,000 classrooms across the U.S. Participants receive

a four-page newspaper six times a year. Topics for the 1994-95 school year are: Bats, Deciduous Trees, Sea Turtles, Owls, Amphibians, and Butterflies and Moths. Teachers receive a Leader's Guide which offers background information on the newspaper topic, additional resources, materials and activities to use with the students. The students receive the newspaper, a decal and membership card. The package is available from SCVAS for \$35 per year per classroom.

The following companies are sponsoring their neighborhood schools for the 94-95 school year: Applied Materials in Santa Clara, Aspect Telecommunications in San Jose, United Technologies Chemical Systems in San Jose and Morgan Hill, Varian Associates in Palo Alto, and Western Digital in Mountain View. We thank these companies for supporting local environmental education!

New In '94—Young Audubon

SCVAS and the Education Committee have been looking for ways to get young people and families more involved with our chapter. This fall we are starting a Young Audubon Program. Young Audubon is for school children in grades 4 through 6 and their families. It will offer hands-on experience with nature through outdoor activities. Our first Young Audubon field trip will be at the Environmental Education Center at San Francisco Bay Wildlife Refuge in Alviso on October 2nd at 9AM. This first trip will be a bird walk along the wetlands. Future gatherings will vary in location, topic, and activity. Spread the word among your young naturalist friends!

Do you or someone you know have a special skill you could share with children? Is geology, trees, or building bird houses a hobby of yours? We are looking for people willing to share their knowledge, and lead or assist with a Young Audubon program. Please contact Jayne at the office, (408) 252-3747 if you can help.

1994 Festival Of The Cranes

Join the celebration on November 17 through 20 of the annual return of thousands of sandhill cranes, snow geese, ducks, and rare whooping cranes to their wintering grounds at the 57,000-acre Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge near Socorro, New Mexico. More than 100 activities are scheduled for the 1994 Festival of the Cranes including keynote speakers Peter Dunne, Jim Bones, Steve West, and Chandler Robbins. Events include a nature photography workshop, fine arts show and sale, photography con-

test and exhibit, silent auction, demonstrations, and scenic tours of Bosque del Apache, ghost town of Kelly, prehistoric ruins, Quebradas Back Country Byway and El Camino Real/Piro ruins.

The Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge is dedicated to the preservation of riparian habitat. Managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Refuge provides a winter home for many thousands of sandhill cranes, geese, and ducks, as well as a few rare whooping cranes. Bald and golden eagles, great blue herons, wild turkeys—a total of 325

species of birds, many seen year-round—live and flourish in these ideal wetlands.

Bring your cameras, binoculars, and spotting scopes for self- and staff-guided tours of Bosque del Apache. Once you've seen and heard the spectacle of a morning fly-out at Bosque del Apache, you'll be hooked forever!

For more information on the 1994 Festival of the Cranes, contact the Socorro County Chamber of Commerce at P.O. Box 743-B, Socorro, NM, 87801 or phone them at (505) 835-0424.

Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society 22221 McClellan Road Cupertino, CA 95014		Non-Profit Organization U.S. Postage Paid San Jose, CA Permit No. 5869
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SCVAS Fall Birdseed Sale

All Orders Must Be Placed By Saturday, October 15

Pick-Up Locations: Please check one

- PCC, Palo Alto Sat. 10/22, 10 AM-12PM
- Wildlife Ctr of Silicon Valley, SJ Sat. 10/22, 10 AM-12PM
- REI, Cupertino Tues. 10/25, 4:30PM-6:30PM
- YSI, Los Gatos Tues. 10/25, 4:30PM-6:30PM
- Pet Friends, Sunnyvale Wed. 10/26, 4:30PM-6:30PM

Bird Feeders

	Quantity	Amount
Droll Yankee Tube Feeder	\$22	
Droll Yankee Mini Thistle Feeder	\$15	
HummZinger Hummingbird Feeder	\$14	
Four-Fountain Hummingbird Feeder	\$11	
Duncraft Large Window Feeder	\$16	
Duncraft Window Feeder	\$10	

Bird Seed

	Quantity	Amount
Audubon Special	20lb \$ 9.00	
(mix includes sunflower seed)	50lb \$19.00	
Western Wild	20lb \$ 8.50	
(no sunflower seed)	50lb \$18.50	
Black Oil Sunflower Seed	25lb \$16.00	
	50lb \$28.00	
Sunflower Chips	25lb \$26.00	
Thistle	5lb \$11.00	

Subtotal	_____
Add 8.25% sales tax	_____
Total	_____
Donation to SCVAS	_____
GRAND TOTAL	_____

To pay by credit card call (408) 252-3747 or send checks to:
 SCVAS, 22221 McClellan Rd., Cupertino, CA 95014. Please enclose
 self-addressed envelope to receive confirmation and directions.

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, ZIP _____

Phone _____

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
 New members \$20 Membership renewal \$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 fund the Chapter's birding, education, conservation and research programs.

Name _____ Gift From: _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

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