



# *The Avocet*

The Newsletter of the Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society

November 1994

## Creating Habitat: SCVAS Bird Sanctuary Program

Does your yard provide food, water, and shelter for birds? Was it landscaped with birds' needs in mind? Have you created a habitat for birds in your yard? If the answers to these questions are YES, then Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society is anxious to recognize your work!

SCVAS is starting a Bird Sanctuary program. It is a combination fundraiser, educational outreach, and Birds in the Balance program. SCVAS will certify your yard or garden as a bird sanctuary if you meet our criteria. The yard must provide food, water, and shelter; some of your plants need to be California native plants; and you must use safe environmental practices in maintaining your yard.

All you need to do is fill out an application and send it to the SCVAS office with \$20. We will review your application, and if it meets our criteria, we'll send you a framed SCVAS Bird Sanctuary Certificate. You will also periodically receive updates and ideas on bird landscaping. If your yard does not qualify, we will send you some ideas on what changes you need

to make. We are also offering a Deluxe Bird Sanctuary package which includes the bird sanctuary certificate and a beautiful birdwatcher's plaque for your garden. The cost of the Deluxe package is \$50.00. The money raised from the Bird Sanctuary program will go towards supporting SCVAS's educational and conservation programs.

SCVAS wants to encourage and reward people for creating habitat in their back yard. We are all aware of the decline of migratory songbirds in recent years. The loss of habitat on breeding grounds, wintering areas, and along migratory routes is the most obvious cause of the decline. Private landowners have a definite hand in the fate of migratory songbirds. Since there are fewer large undisturbed tracts of woodlands, the smaller woodlots in individual yards become increasingly more important to songbirds. Protection and preservation of large woodland tracts and riparian areas is crucial to migratory songbirds. But we can do more, by starting in our own back yards!

*Continues on page 2...*

### **Wings in the Night with Patricia Winter**

**General Membership Meeting  
Wednesday, November 16, 1994  
7:30PM Refreshments, 8:00PM Program  
Palo Alto Cultural Center, Newell & Embarcadero**

In honor of Halloween and all the things that go "bump in the night," especially flying things, we are delighted to host a Celebration of Bats for our November meeting. Patricia Winters and Christine Scott have given talks on bats for several years. Their audiences have ranged from students, to educators, to museums and now to us Auduboners. The program features a slide show designed to replace the myths, superstitions and misunderstandings about bats with factual information on how these mammals benefit and play their role in the biodiversity of our environment. To cap the evening off, Patricia intends to bring a medley of bats indigenous to our area. With names like: Trinket, Tad, Tiffany, Smidgen, Ashley, Greyson and Whisper—this is a program you can not afford to miss! It's also our last program for the 1994 year, and Jayne will bring lots of goodies from our Nature Shop to help you prepare for the upcoming holidays. We'll see you there!

# Chapter News

## Newsletter Woes

Seems like we write one of these notes of apology every year, but that's what happens when the *Avocet* production schedule is disrupted—the readers complain! This year we've switched to a new printer/mailer (at a savings of approximately \$300 per issue) and naturally we've experienced some glitches, resulting in annoying delivery delays.

We're taking the usual steps to correct the problem. We hope to extend Calendar listings further into the succeeding month so you won't miss field trips, meetings, events, etc. We're moving up the submission deadlines and cracking the whip over our beloved, but occasionally tardy, volunteers. And please, if you do call the office regarding *Avocet* delivery, don't vent your frustrations on Jayne DiCandio, our Office Manager. She is reliably prompt and efficient with her newsletter contributions.

The buck stops here at the Editor's desk when it comes to tardiness. Exception: we can't control inconsistent delivery by various post offices. If you're not receiving the *Avocet* and other third-class mail promptly, a call to your local Postmaster might help. In the meantime, we're doing our best to publish and send your next issues on time. Sorry for the delays!

## Christmas Bird Counts

The San Jose CBC will be held Sunday, December 18. It will follow the usual format: 10 count sections, start early, work hard (while having fun), meet at Leninger Center to shuffle papers, eat, drink and swap birding stories. Section leaders/phone numbers will appear in the December *Avocet*. New volunteers are needed since some of our regulars will be touring Antarctica with the Cheesemans. Meanwhile, if you have questions about the CBC, call Reid Freeman at 408/255-4969.

Other CBC dates:

- Crystal Springs ..... Sat. Dec. 17
- Mt. Hamilton ..... Wed. Dec. 21
- Año Nuevo ..... Sat. Dec. 31

## Creating Habitat...continued from page 1

Any size yard or balcony can make an impact on wildlife. All birds need food, water, and shelter. The best way to provide all three is with variety. You can attract the most birds with different types of plants, feeders, and watering stations. We encourage the use of native plants because they require less maintenance and will attract more of our native birds. SCVAS has put together two brochures, "Creating Habitat" and "Landscaping for Birds," which can help you in planning your bird landscaping.

If you are interested in having your yard certified or receiving these brochures, contact the Audubon Office at 22221 McClellan Rd, Cupertino, CA 95014, (408)252-3747. We will have applications & brochures at the November general meeting. This is also a great gift for a friend who is providing a sanctuary for birds!

### SCVAS OFFICERS

President	Nick Yatsko	408/247-5499
Past Pres.	Rob Colwell	415/326-2400
1st VP	Clysta Seney	408/261-9431
2nd VP	Mary Simpson	
Treasurer	John McLemore	408/261-9431
Rec. Secty.	vacant	

### STAFF

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Grant Hoyt '93-'96	415/969/7892
Sandy Cortright '94-'97	408/738-1251
Heather Rottenborn 94-97	415/497-9368
Chris Fischer '94-97	415/364-8723

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CBC	Reid Freeman	408/255-4969
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Field Trips		
Weekend	vacant	
Weekday	Alberta Jasberg	415/493-9546
	Shirley Gordon	408/996-9863
Aud Adven	Elaine Gould	408/448-0622
Photo Club	Pete LaTourrette	415/961-2741
Finance	Don Price	415/327-1254
BAAC		
Delegate	Vacant	
Membership	Vacant	

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.

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**Rare Bird Alert: 510/ 524-5592**

# November 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

## 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.

## \*\*Sunday Nov. 13, 8:00 AM.

Half day. Jasper Ridge. Leader: Nick Yatsko 408/247-5499. By reservation only—call leader to sign up. Meet at main gate on Sand Hill Rd., approx. 2 mi. W of I-280 on left. \$5.00 gate fee. Gate opens at 7:40. Excellent variety of woodland, riparian, lake habitat. Leisurely walking 1-2 miles.

## Tuesday Nov. 15, 9:30 AM.

Eve Case Bird Discussion Group at the home of Jean and Pat Dubois, 17150 Buena Vista Dr., Los Gatos. 408/395-4264. Topic: The Resplendent Quetzal.

## Wednesday Nov. 16, 7:30 PM.

General Membership Meeting in Palo Alto "Wings in the Night" with Patricia Winter. (See box on Pg. 1)

## \*\*Saturday Nov. 19. Half day.

Ogier Ponds. Leader: Steve Rottenborn, 415/497-9368. From Hwy 101 in Morgan Hill, take Cochrane Rd. west to Monterey Hwy, turn right. Go north for 2.6 miles. Turn right at road marked by signs for Dole Fruit Plant and Model Airplane Skypark. Go east for 1/2 mile, park in gravel lot on left. Moderate walking; ducks, raptors, and possible unusual passerines.

## \*\*Sunday Nov. 20, 8:30 AM.

Beginners trip to Charleston Slough. Leader: Reid Freeman 408/255-4969. Take Hwy. 101 to San Antonio Rd. in Mt. View, exit N on San Antonio to Terminal Way parking area (1/4 mile). Basics of bird identification, including ducks, shorebirds, herons, egrets.

## \*\*Wednesday Nov. 23, 8:30 AM.

Half day. Coyote Hills Regional Park. Leader: Phil Hand 415/851-2623. Directions: Take Dumbarton Bridge E toward Newark. Exit right on Thornton, then 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, 1/4 mile from park entrance, on left. Lunch optional.

## \*\*Saturday Dec. 3, 8:00 AM.

Beginners trip to Charleston Slough. Leader: Bob Reiling 408/253-7527. Take Hwy. 101 to San Antonio Rd. in Mt. View, exit N on San Antonio to Terminal Way parking area (1/4 mile). Basics of bird identification, including ducks, shorebirds, herons, egrets.

## Wednesday Dec. 7, 7:30 PM.

Bay Area Bird Photographers. Jim Nahmens presents a video/slide show on humpback whales. Lucy Evans Baylands Interpretive Center, E. Embarcadero Rd., Palo Alto.

**Gift Catalog Order Form:** To charge by phone call, (408) 252-3747. Or send check to SCVAS, 22221 McClellan Rd., Cupertino, CA 95014

Quantity	Description	Price

Merchandise Total \_\_\_\_\_  
 Shipping Cost \_\_\_\_\_  
 Total \_\_\_\_\_

### Ship order to:

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City/State/ZIP \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

### Shipping Charges:

\$1 - \$10.... \$1.50 Each additional \$10 add \$1  
 \$11-\$20.... \$2.00 For Gift Wrapping, add \$1  
 \$21-\$30.... \$2.50 (Audubon Paper)  
 \$31-\$40.... \$3.00

# Field Notes

By Bill Bousman

## Shearwaters through Egrets

Pelagic birding in Santa Clara County? Perhaps the key is continuous fog from the entrance of San Francisco Bay to Alviso. Once the fog lifts a misguided pelagic species may recognize its error and attempt to return to the sea. Certainly those were the conditions on 7 Sep when Steve Rottenborn found a single **Sooty Shearwater** flying south past the Palo Alto estuary mouth for the first county record of this abundant ocean species. **Brown Pelican** numbers normally taper off in September but 21 at the Alviso salt ponds 21 Sep (PJM) were a high for the month and showed the species was still staying around. Single immatures on Vasona Res. 24-28 Sep (JD) and Lake Cunningham 28 Sep (SCR) were less expected. An adult **Brandt's Cormorant** on the Mountain View salt ponds 3 and 14 Sep (PJM) was only the seventh county record, assuming this is not the bird seen in Palo Alto in June. An **American Bittern** in the Arastradero Preserve 11 Sep (RH) was probably a migrant as this is not a known wintering area. Two imm. **Little Blue Herons** found in the Alviso salt ponds 16 Sep (SCR) may have been young from nesting in the Alviso heronry this year. Three **Cattle Egrets** found at the Arzino Ranch 16 Sep (MMR) were the only report this month.

## Waterfowl through Raptors

Two female or imm. **Blue-winged Teal** were seen in the Mountain View Forebay 1 Sep and a single bird was on Artesian Slough 21 Sep (both PJM). Two male **Eurasian Wigeon**, one in breeding plumage and the other in eclipse were on Charleston Slough 22

Sep (WGB). The male **Redhead** overwintering on Charleston Slough was seen again 22 Sep (WGB). A **Broad-winged Hawk**, radio-tagged on the Marin Headlands on 28 Sep, left a roost there on the morning of 28 Sep, crossed the bay over to Alameda County and flew south along the Diablo Range, passing near Mt. Hamilton, and eventually roosted in the Pacheco Creek drainage. The next morning it left the county as it continued its southward migration (GGRO *vide* Kht). This is not only our fourth county record, but the first time we have obtained a record based solely on radiotelemetry. Early **Merlins** include one on Coyote Creek below Hwy 237 14 Sep (SCR), a female along Matadero Creek at Hwy 101 23 Sep

*First county records of Sooty Shearwater and Bar-tailed Godwit overshadowed many outstanding finds for September*

(AME), a migrant over Monte Bello 25 Sep (MMR, MJM), and a male at Stanford 26 Sep (SCR). Five plus records of **Peregrine Falcons** this month included an adult and two imm. on Salt Pond A3N in Sunnyvale 18 Sep (MJM) that behaved as a family group. This species is apparently breeding in three of our neighboring counties, but the source of these birds is unknown. **Prairie Falcons** were reported this month away from known nesting areas with a single bird at the Alviso EEC 10 Sep (SCR et al.), one along Coyote Creek near Ogier Avenue 12 Sep (SCR), two along Coyote Creek below Hwy 237 19 Sep (MMR, SCR), and one along the Pajaro River below Hwy 101 25 Sep (MMR, MJM).

## Shorebirds through Jaegers

A Pacific Golden-Plover was seen over Coyote Creek below Hwy 237 14

Sep (SCR). Single Snowy Plover were reported on the Alviso and Sunnyvale salt ponds 16 Sep (SCR), 18 Sep (MJM), and 21 Sep (PJM). **Lesser Yellowlegs** continue to be found in good numbers in September with the largest concentration in the Palo Alto FCB. Forty-five were counted there 4 Sep (PJM), 31 on 15 Sep (MMR), and 12 on 17 Sep (MMR). A **Wandering Tattler** found on the San Jose-Santa Clara Water Pollution Control Plant (WPCP) drying ponds 5 Sep (NL) is our ninth county record. The shorebird of the season is certainly the **Bar-tailed Godwit** found 9 Sep (MR *vide* JM) in the Palo Alto estuary and seen since by many observers. It has remained there at least through 24 Sep (LC). This is the first county record and one of the few records for Northern California. A basic-plumaged **Red Knot** was found on Salt Pond A14 in Alviso 16 Sep (SCR). The first **Pectoral Sandpipers** of the season were found at the Coyote Creek Riparian Station (CCRS) waterbird pond 9 Sep (MMR, SCR) when four were seen. Numbers remained variable there with a peak of nine seen on 28 Sep and 22 more in agricultural fields nearby on the same date (both SCR). Seven birds were found on the Calabazas ponds north of Hwy 237 on 18 Sep (MJM). Smaller numbers of birds have been found in scattered locations along the bay (m.ob.). A **Stilt Sandpiper** was found on the pond at the edge of Spreckles in Alviso 4-5 Sep (MJM, LC) and may be the same bird found in August. The adult female **Ruff** has been found fairly regularly through at least 19 Sep (m.ob.). It has been found most often at the pond at Spreckles and Grand in Alviso, but also in the CCRS waterbird pond, and the impoundment at the corner of Lafayette and Hwy 237. An imm. female **Ruff** was seen in the New Chicago Marsh on 27 Aug (PJM). **Red-necked Phalarope** numbers built up in September at the Sunnyvale WPCP and a high count of 2500 was recorded 18 Sep (MJM). An adult, dark morph **Pomarine Jaeger** seen off the Palo

Alto estuary on 7 Sep (SCR), not long after the Sooty Shearwater was observed, is only our second county record.

## Swifts through Flycatchers

There appears to have been a mixture of staging **Vaux's Swifts** in local areas plus migratory movements during September (m.ob.). The most impressive movement was of 112 birds counted flying past Monte Bello OSP 25 Sep (MMR, MJM) in eight groups. A few lingering **Black-chinned Hummingbirds** have been reported with an imm. male along Thompson Creek near Lake Cunningham 28 Sep the latest (SCR). A **Lewis' Woodpecker** flying over Monte Bello Ridge 28 Sep (MWN) was a rare fall migrant for the Santa Cruz Mountains.

Our second most common *Empidonax* flycatcher in the county is **Willow Flycatcher**. Although this was a fairly common breeding species along our creeks a century ago it has been extirpated locally and we have really no good evidence whether it was wiped out 80 years ago or 20 years ago. Now we see it solely as a migrant - very rare in the spring, but in more substantial numbers in the fall. CCRS normally bands about 31 birds each fall (and only 3 in the spring). Already this fall 55 birds have been banded (*fide* LC), which is a record year (CCRS banded 52 in 1992). Good numbers have been widely detected in the county this month - excluding banding reports observers have reported 30+ birds including a high of eight along Coyote Creek south of Ogier Avenue in Morgan Hill 12 Sep (SCR). To add frosting to our *Empidonax* autumn a vocal **Least Flycatcher** was found along Stevens Creek below Hwy 101 7 Sep (PJM) for our sixth county record and our first non-banding record. It was a remarkable fall for other flycatchers as well with a **Cassin's Kingbird** found along Coyote Creek below Hwy 237 14 Sep (SCR) for our third county record and an **Eastern Kingbird** at the edge of Moffett

Field 4 Sep (PJM) for a second county record.

## Thrashers through Goldfinches

An unsuccessful hawk watch at Monte Bello OSP 30 Sep netted a **Sage Thrasher** (MMR) - a nice consolation prize and only the sixth county record. A **Tennessee Warbler** seen along Matadero Creek below Hwy 101 23 Sep (SCR) was a good find and only the seventh county record. We had a good showing of **Nashville Warblers** this September with one at Kelley Park 8 Sep (SCR), a female along the edge of the Palo Alto FCB 21 Sep (SCR, MMR), two more the same day along Matadero Creek (SCR), and two more in the fennel at Caribbean and Borregas on 24 Sep (SCR). **Hermit Warbler** is always



a scarce migrant in the fall so two female or immature birds at Henry Coe SP 4 Sep (JY, AL) were a good find (and the first fall record for the park) as were single birds in Kelley Park 8 Sep (SCR) and Skylonda 11 Sep (GGH). A **Palm Warbler** along Coyote Creek south of Ogier Avenue 12 Sep (SCR) is our earliest fall record - will this vagrant once again be plentiful this fall and winter? An **Ovenbird** banded at CCRS 18 Sep (*fide* MMR) is only the sixth county record and rounds out our trio of Eastern warblers for this month. **MacGillivray's Warblers** showed up in the best fall numbers we've had with individuals banded at CCRS 5 and 16 Sep (*fide* MMR), two females/imm. along Guadalupe River below Trimble 11 Sep (MMR), another female/imm. along Matadero Creek below Hwy 101 16 Sep (SCR), two along Guadalupe River above Montague 18 Sep (MMR), one heard on Guadalupe Creek above Camden 20 Sep (SCR *et al.*), and a male

at the Ogier Avenue ponds 28 Sep (SCR). A **Yellow-breasted Chat** banded at CCRS 31 Aug (*fide* MJM) is a seldom-seen fall migrant.

The summer and fall tanager season continued with a female **Summer Tanager** found along Guadalupe River above Montague 18 Sep (MMR) for our seventh county record. An imm. **Blue Grosbeak** along Calabazas Creek below Hwy 237 21 Sep (SBT *fide* MMR) is our eighth county record. A **Clay-colored Sparrow** was found along Coyote Creek 9 Sep (SCR) and many people got the opportunity to see this rare sparrow through 10 Sep. On 21 Sep SCR found another Clay-colored Sparrow along Creek below Hwy 101 and this bird was clearly an immature. These constitute the sixth and seventh county records. Adding to our *Spizella* excitement was an imm. **Brewer's Sparrow** found along Coyote Creek south of Ogier Avenue 12 Sep (SCR, MMR) for our fifth county record. Migrant (and late?) **Grasshopper Sparrows** include one on the ITT lands in Palo Alto 23 Sep (SCR) and four on Jasper Ridge Biological Reserve 30 Sep (SCR *et al.*). A female **Yellow-headed Blackbird** was seen at the Sunnyvale WPCP 14 Sep (PJM). A pair of **Lawrence's Goldfinches** at Jasper Ridge 30 Sep (SCR *et al.*) were unusual in the Santa Cruz Mountains.

*Observers: Bill Bousman (WGB), Les Chibana (LC), Jean Dubois (JD), Al Eisner (AME), Golden Gate Raptor Observatory (GGRO), Gloria Heller (GGH), Robert Hof (RH), Karen Hoyt (KHt), Amy Lauterbach (AL), Nick Lethaby (NL), Mike Mammoser (MJM), Peter Metropulos (PJM), Joe Morlan (JM), Mike Newcomer (MWN), Mark Rauzon (MR), Mike Rogers (MMR), Steve Rottenborn (SCR), Scott Terrill (SBT), and James Yurchenco (JY)*

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



# Environmental Action News

## Audubon: Coming to a City Near You

by Craig Breon

It's tough to find an area of the County without some hot environmental issue. SCVAS, through our Environmental Advocate, Environmental Action Committee, and volunteers, is representing our members throughout the Valley. Here are just a few examples, moving from North to South.

### Palo Alto

Following on the heels of our success in passing a riparian corridor policy in San Jose, we are now working with Palo Alto to draft its policy. As part of the city's general plan review, a 100 foot setback for all new development has been proposed. In addition, a comprehensive look at the city's creeks is planned, with an eye towards restoration.

Our Environmental Advocate also sits on the steering committee of the group planning the San Francisquito Creek watershed. That group has recently prioritized the problems of the creek (from illegal dumping to fish poaching to homeless encampments) and now is addressing the most critical issues.

### Cupertino

Development plans for lands owned by the San Jose Diocese between Highway 280 and Rancho San Antonio County Park have sparked an intense debate. SCVAS is working with a local community organization, Cupertino Oaks, and other environmental groups to make sure that vital open spaces are preserved. Our Advocate and several Audubon members have recently spoken before the city's Planning Commission, and we will be spreading the word throughout the community with a letter to local Audubon members and a door-to-door information campaign.

We also acted as coordinator for the clean-up of Regnart Creek as part of the statewide Coastal Clean-up Day. More than 65 people participated.

### Santa Clara

As highlighted in last month's *Avocet*, SCVAS played a key role in preserving burrowing owl habitat at Mission College. In addition, we have urged the city to advocate owl protection countywide by commenting on the County's general plan.

### Alviso

One of Audubon's goals is to reach out to communities where our presence has previously not been felt. Recently we have participated in meetings on the Alviso Master Plan, and our Advocate has been appointed to a task force to develop plans for the Alviso Marina County Park, which could heavily impact sensitive wetland habitat and the Bay. In addition, several members participated in the clean-up of wetland areas around the town.

### San Jose

The Boulder Ridge Golf Course, in the South Almaden area of the city, was recently approved by the County Board of Supervisors (you can't win them all). Audubon and other groups had argued that the site—located on a prominent hillside and one of the top priorities for open space acquisition in the County—would be too heavily impacted by the course.

In the Southwest area of the city, we have been commenting on a 600 home development called the Levin Property. The project is located directly adjacent to some of the Valley's best remaining riparian habitat along Coyote Creek, and we are asking for increased creek protection.

### Gilroy

Garlic Country U.S.A.? This massive theme park project, which would lead to upwards of a million more people traveling the already crowded Highway 101 corridor yearly (with all the associated traffic and air quality impacts) has just

been proposed. We'll be working on this one.

## Regional Issues

In the spring Audubon joined in a lawsuit against Unocal Oil company for dumping selenium into the Bay (selenium was largely responsible for extensive bird kills at the Kesterson Wildlife Refuge in the 80's). Recently a federal judge rendered a preliminary opinion in our favor. If this suit proves successful, Unocal may have to pay substantial sums for preservation and restoration of wetlands in the Bay.

We are also actively engaged with ongoing efforts to implement the goals of the Estuary Project. This is a long term effort to address the Bay-Delta as an ecosystem. Our participation involves working with the Water District, Caltrans, the County and cities to help relate their actions to the health of the Bay, its wildlife, and our own lives. A tall order, but an exciting opportunity.

## Get Involved!

If any of the above projects piques your curiosity, give our Advocate a call at 408-252-3748. Also, we always welcome more members to our Environmental Action Committee. This Committee meets once a month in Cupertino to coordinate our conservation efforts and discuss the issues. It's a great chance to learn about the area and contribute your ideas.

## Open Space Authority Asking Citizen Input

The recently formed Open Space Authority is forming a Citizen's Advisory Committee. The Committee would make recommendations on which lands to acquire and how to manage those lands. It is vital to have people appointed who have some knowledge of the area and are committed to protecting open space. If you would like to receive an application (or know someone who might) please call the chapter office.

# SCVAS HOLIDAY GIFT CATALOG

Prices include California Sales Tax

## GIFT MEMBERSHIP

**National Membership:** Give a gift of Audubon! A NAS membership includes the award winning Audubon Magazine (6 issues) and SCVAS newsletter (10 issues). \$20.00  
**SCVAS Newsletter Subscription:** Keep your family or friends up to date on local birding activities. \$10.00

## T-SHIRTS

(Sizes are Med., Large, Extra Large)

**Bird-A-Bet-A** for Albatross to Z for Zebra Finch. The birds make all 26 letters on this colorful white T-shirt \$15.00

**Birds of N. Amer. & Birds of the Garden-**Two T-shirt designs with a variety of birds of the East & West \$15.00

**Forest Stream:** Salmon leaping, a Kingfisher perched, and a Spotted Owl watching from above. T-sh/sweatshirt \$15/25

**Hummingbirds-** 8 Hummingbirds including our Anna's are represented on our best selling shirt.(pictured) \$15.00



## BIRD SANCTUARY

Have your friend's yard certified as a Bird Sanctuary by SCVAS!

**Bird Sanctuary Deluxe Package:** Receive bird landscaping information and an application for receiving a framed certificate, and an outdoor plaque for the garden. \$50.00

**Bird Sanctuary:** Receive Bird landscaping information & an application for a framed certificate. \$20.00

**Hummingbirds, Three:** This new design features a Rufous, Black-chinned, & Ruby-throated. White or natural \$15.00

**Loons:** This stunning black T-shirt has a loon & baby sketched in white with blue water surrounding \$15.00

**Owl Montage-**Great Horned Owl, Spotted Owl & Barn Owl are some of the owls on this tan stone washed shirt. \$17.00

**SCVAS Sweatshirt:** Our Avocet flying with our name below comes in ash gray \$25.00

**LIMITED EDITION SCVAS T-SHIRT:** Slate blue with our Avocet logo designed by artist Harry

Curieux Adamson on front with "Avocet" printed on the sleeve. short or long sleeve avail \$21.65/\$27.00

## BIRD FEEDERS

**Cling-A-Wing Feeder:** A round feeder designed for small songbirds which hang from the perches. \$13.00

**Droll Yankee Tube Feeder:** This classic style feeder has six feeding posts, stands 16" high, and extremely durable. \$24.00

**Droll Yankee Mini Thistle Feeder:** This tube style thistle feeder holds 1 1/2 cups of seed. \$16.00

**Duncraft Maxi Feeder:** This classic tube style feeder stands 24" and has 6 perches. \$27.00

**Four Fountain Hummingbird Feeder:** The most popular Hummingbird feeders. It holds 8 oz. of sugar water. \$12.00

**HummZinger Hummingbird Feeder:** A flat style feeder which is very easy to clean. \$16.00

**Soda Bottle Feeder:** A durable zinc adaptor with two perches is designed to attach to a 2 Liter plastic soda bottle. \$12.00

**Window Feeders:** Lets you see song birds up close. Comes in size Large (12" across) or med. (7" across). \$11/\$17.00

## GIFT ITEMS

**Balsam Pillows:** An everlasting pine scent. Two sizes several different bird prints 4"x4"/9"x9" \$6.00/\$10.00

**Balsam Trivets:** Balsam filled trivets, place a hot kettle on it & the pine scent will fill the room \$7.00

**Marin Co. Breeding Bird Atlas Notecards:**16 different bird drawings by Keith Hansen (with envelopes) \$15.00

**Wildlife Stationary:** Hansens's drawings 4 Heron, 4 Quail, 4 Seal, 12 blank sheets, and 12 Spotted Owl Envelopes. \$15.00

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## Long Live Mono Lake

by Grant Hoyt

We saved Mono Lake!

Shout it from the top of a tufa tower and tell all the brine shrimp: one of California's lengthiest environmental struggles has been resolved—and the good guys won.

I'm waxing ebullient over the recent court decision mandating permanent protection for this unique jewel of an ecosystem because I, like many faithful and determined SCVAS members, helped win the fight.

My involvement began in the spring of 1979 when I attended a weekend bird biology workshop at Mono Lake taught by Dave Winkler. While I reveled in the natural wonders and eco-oddities of the Mono Basin, the dire portents of the decades-old, lake-draining process by Los Angeles' Department of Water and Power really stirred me. Not only was the California Gull colony imperiled by receding water levels, but the entire fragile Mono Lake ecosystem—consisting mainly of brine flies, brine shrimp, and birds—was threatened by the great water-guzzling

megalopolis to the south. Winkler got our little group fired up and we joined the Mono Lake Committee on the spot. This was a battle worth fighting.

Little did we know it would turn into a fifteen-year Cold War. It took the mouse roaring loudly for several years before the mighty DWP lion realized we weren't going away. But our dedicated pursuit of a simple goal, that of preserving a marvelous natural treasure for birds and people alike, has yielded this gratifying and hard-earned triumph.

It was in the fall of '79 that I decided to get more actively involved. I joined the first Mono Lake Walkathon, carrying a cup of pure, crystal-clear water from one of the lake's feeder creeks past the point of diversion into the L.A. Aqueduct, and symbolically poured it into the thirsty lake. I soon learned about Birdathons (they were a novelty back then), and through Pt. Reyes Bird Observatory I helped raise nearly \$10,000 over the next five years for the Mono Lake cause. I gave willingly to SCVAS-sponsored fundraisers throughout the '80's and

anxiously followed the twists and travails of the case as it was scrutinized in the courts and debated in public forum. Key decisions were made, not all favorable. Victory was hardly a certainty, but the passion to fight on never waned.

As I became more involved in local issues, my own connection with Mono Lake weakened over the past several years. You simply can't do it all, and must pick and choose how to spend time and energy. And though I sensed that those who did commit themselves so tirelessly were winning this landmark struggle, it nevertheless came as a bombshell when I saw the S.F. Chronicle's Page 1 headline proclaiming Mono Lake saved.

My role in this victory was minor, but I'll savor it sweetly. All of us who sent a dime to the Mono Lake Committee over the last fifteen years can be proud of our contributions, and when we visit the lake in the future we'll feel especially good. It will probably take many years for the lake's water level to fully recover, but we did make a difference.

"Saved Mono Lake"—has a nice ring, doesn't it?

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