



The Avocet

The Newsletter of the Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society

February 1995

San Jose CBC Sets Record—173 Species!

The omens were not particularly good - iffy weather, possible loss of access to some key private property, and good local birders flying the coop/ But not to worry; the sun came out, the gates opened, and 50 new, warm bodies showed up on count morning to replace the 41 missing from last year's CBC. Just imagine! This turned out to be our most successful CBC in recent years on a number of levels!!! 111 participants, a record 173 species, 98,448 total birds, 4 newly initiated section leaders and a well prepared, well attended post-count dinner.

Among our special finds were 3 species so good they were labeled "outrageous" by Bill Bousman (Fulvous Whistling Duck, and both Lapland and Chestnut-collared Longspurs), plus 2 others which were also seen for the first time on our CBC (Tufted Duck and Yellow-bellied Sapsucker). Other

good finds were: Warbling Vireo (2nd winter record), 4 Swamp Sparrows, 3 White-throated Sparrows, 3 Ferruginous Hawks, 2 Phainopeplas, a Tree Swallow, and an early Greater White-fronted Goose. Incredibly, 2 of these species were found in the Milpitas section, a section which has long labored under the nickname of "Dullsville." Perhaps next year it will attract more than 2 counters.

These CBCs don't just happen. They require the time and efforts of many of our members. We once again want to thank the office staff, section leaders, dinner organizers, and rare bird committee for making this such a memorable count. And a special thanks to David Cook and Bert McKee, two of the bay area's fine young birders, for joining our count. We hope they and the rest of you will be there for our next outing on December 17, 1995. See counts on Page 7.

DRUK YUL— THE KINGDOM OF BHUTAN with Jim and Sue Liskovec

General Membership Meeting
Wednesday, February 15, 1995
7:30 PM Refreshments, 8:00PM Program
Palo Alto Cultural Center, Newell & Embarcadero

The tiny Himalayan Kingdom of Bhutan, nestled between India and Tibet, will be featured at our February meeting. In March 1994, Jim and Sue Liskovec participated in the first organized birding tour of Bhutan.

From warm moist lowlands to high mountain passes, this fascinating country is a birder's and photographer's dream. Springtime hillsides are covered with blooming rhododendrons and magnolias. Iridescent sunbirds flash everywhere. A few wintering Black-necked Cranes linger in a high mountain valley.

A wise and benevolent monarchy has protected the country's culture and environment, while working thoughtfully towards modernization. Tourist numbers are limited. Wearing of the national dress is required for all Bhutanese. Untouched forests extend as far as the eye can see. The birding is excellent. Join us for an evening in the land of the dragon.

February 1995 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 Feb. 1, 7:30 PM.

Bay Area Bird Photographers. Highlights from the recent Cheesemans' expedition to the Falklands, Antarctica and South Georgia. Tentatively scheduled for this presentation are slides from mainland Argentina, the Falklands, and the Southern Ocean. (The April meeting will cover Antarctica and South Georgia.) Lucy Evans Baylands Interpretive Center, E. Embarcadero Rd., Palo Alto.

**Saturday Feb. 4, 9:00 PM.

South County Owling Trip. Leader: John Mariani 408/997-2066. Late evening outing to look and listen for those elusive nightbirds, especially Great Horned, Western Screech, and Northern Saw-whet Owls. Trip limited to 12 participants; call leader for reservation and directions. Rain cancels.

**Saturday-Sunday Feb. 4-5.

Morro Bay Weekend Rarities Chase. Leader: Jim Royer. Meet at end of road on south side of Morro Rock, 8:00 AM Sat. Highlights include Peregrine Falcon, Brant, heron rookery; wide variety of waterfowl and passerines; possible wintering rarities. Sunday's trip will (weather and birds permitting) visit Carrizo Plains, where possibilities include Ferruginous Hawk, Prairie Falcon, Sandhill Crane, Mtn. Plover, Mtn. Bluebird, Sage Sparrow, and more. A serious bird-chasing trip, not recommended for beginners. Rain cancels.

**Wednesday Feb. 8, 9:00 AM.

Half day. Sunnyvale Sewage Treatment Ponds. Leader: Shirley Gordon 408/996-9863. Take Hwy. 101 to Hwy. 237 east. Exit north on Caribbean Dr. to Borregas Ave., right on Borregas to sewage treatment plant,

then left to public parking lot. Lunch optional. Rain cancels.

**Saturday Feb. 11, 8:30 AM.

(Note date change from Jan. Avocet.) Half day. Hayward Regional Shoreline. Leader: Bob Richmond 510/475-5412. Directions: Take Hwy. 880 to Hayward, west on Hwy. 92; exit right at sign for Clawiter/Eden Landing Rd. (3rd and last exit before San Mateo Bridge). Continue straight ahead on frontage rd. (Breakwater Dr.) to interpretive center at end. Possibilities include Eurasian Wigeon, Peregrine Falcon, Clapper Rail, variety of shorebirds. Lunch optional. Trip goes rain or shine.

**Saturday Feb. 11, 9:00-11:00

AM. Young Audubon Field Trip to Charleston Slough. Leader: Steve Rottenborn. Take Hwy. 101 to San Antonio Rd. in Mtn View, exit north on San Antonio to Terminal Way parking area (1/4 mile). Bring your children to learn about ducks, shorebirds, and other wetland birds. Binoculars and field guides will be available for use. Bring the family for a fun and easy morning of birding!

**Sunday Feb. 12, 9:00 AM.

Beginner's Trip to Charleston Slough. Leader: Allen Royer 408/288-7768. Take Hwy. 101 to San Antonio Rd. in Mtn. View, exit N on San Antonio to Terminal Way parking area (1/4 mile). Basics of bird identification, including ducks, shorebirds, herons, egrets.

Tuesday Feb. 14, 9:30 AM.

Eve Case Bird Discussion Group meets at the home of Pat and Jean Dubois, 17150 Buena Vista Ave., Los Gatos 408/395-4264. Topic: Hermit Thrush.

**Saturday Feb. 18, 8:00 AM.

Half Day. Sunnyvale Sewage Ponds. Leader: Steve Rottenborn 415/497-9368. From Hwy. 101 take Mathilda Ave. East. Bear right as Mathilda becomes Carribean Dr. Turn left into Sewage Treatment Works at Borregas Ave. Turn left and park near entrance to dump. Highlights include possible Tufted Duck, Eurasian Wigeon, Glaucous Gull. Bring scopes. Rain cancels.

**Wednesday Feb. 22, 9:00 AM.

Half day. Foster City. Leader: Rose Green 415/493-8378. Take Hwy. 101 north to Hillsdale Blvd. east. Follow Hillsdale about 1 mile to Shell Blvd., turn right and park at Community Center. Highlights: shorebirds, ducks, surprises. Lunch optional. Rain cancels.

**Saturday Feb. 25, 8:00 AM.

Half day. Oka Ponds. Leader: Kathy Parker 408/358-2832. From Hwy. 17 take Lark Ave. exit, then right on Oka Rd. Stay on Oka until it "ends" at a T; turn left at the T then immediately right on Oka Lane. Meet at the gate into the ponds. Come and we'll see what the new Hwy. 85 has done to this area. Rain cancels.

**Saturday Mar. 4, 9:00 PM.

South County Owling Trip. Leader: John Mariani 408/997-2066. Reservation only. (Repeat of Feb. trip—see above.)

Saturday March 11. Education Day at McClellan Ranch.

Tuesday March 14, 9:30 AM.

Eve Case Bird Discussion Group at the home of Pat and Jean Dubois, 17150 Buena Vista Ave., Los Gatos 408/395-4264. Topic: Red-shouldered Hawk.

Special Notice

Due to space limitations in this month's *Avocet*, the Palo Alto Christmas Bird Count lists and results were omitted. The full count results will be published in the March *Avocet*. We apologize for any inconvenience.

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Field Notes

By Bill Bousman

Pelicans through Waterfowl

A late adult **Brown Pelican** was seen over the Palo Alto Baylands 30 Dec (MJM).

Scarce and secretive, **American Bitterns** include a bird on Thompson Creek at Lake Cunningham 11 Dec (RF), one to two birds along Alviso Slough 18-31 Dec (MMR,WGB), and two in Triangle Marsh 31 Dec (WGB). A **Cattle Egret** continued near the intersection of Bloomfield and Frazier Lake Roads in the south county with one found on 4 Dec (MMR,SCR,MJM) and two there 25 Dec (AME). Two birds were also seen along Los Esteros Road in Alviso 18 Dec (MMR). Like visitors from another planet, two **Fulvous Whistling-Ducks** were found in the Alameda County portion of the San Jose CBC circle on 18 Dec (DC,RC). They have not been found subsequently and their origin remains a mystery. The "gooz nooz" is, as always, very strange. An imm. **Greater White-fronted Goose** was seen in the Berryessa Community Center pond 18-27 Dec (AV, RA,WGB). Its lone compatriot, if you don't count the 200 **Mallards** there, was a "Cackling" Goose, the small race of the **Canada Goose**. Our only **Snow Goose** record this winter was of a flock of 27 birds seen flying northeast into the county from Santa Cruz County on 30 Nov (DLSu). A **Ross' Goose**, a fixture of the domestic goose flock at the Sunnyvale Water Pollution Control Plant (WPCP), returned to its place on 17 Dec (MJM), for its fourth winter. It was happily recorded on the Palo Alto CBC two days later (DJK,ADeM,BMcK). A **Eurasian Green-winged Teal**, the old world race of our common wintering Green-winged Teal, was found in the

Stevens Creek Mitigation Area 19-20 Dec (WCa,MMR). One to two **Blue-winged Teal** have been regular in the North Pond in the Palo Alto FCB through December (m.ob.) with a peak of three males counted on 26 Dec (MJM). **Eurasian Wigeon** have been more widespread with a male found regularly in the Mountain View Forebay/Palo Alto FCB throughout the month (m.ob.), one to three males in the Sunnyvale WPCP ponds 3-19 Dec (MJM,PJM,ADeM,DJK,BMcK), a male in the Gilroy sewage ponds 4 Dec (SCR), one male on Calaveras Res. 14 Dec (SCR), two males in the outer Palo Alto FCB 19 Dec (MMR), and a male on Salt Pond A9 in Alviso 31 Dec (WGB). The **Redhead** flock has re-

male on Salt Pond A10 18 Dec (MMR), and a pair on Felt Lake 19 Dec (AME). A count of 420 **Common Mergansers** on Uvas Res. 4 Dec (MMR,SCR) is an exceptional concentration and represents the highest numbers we've found at one spot in the county.

Raptors through Rails

An **Osprey** was found at Coyote Res. 14 and 27 Dec (ECu) and on the former date was being harrassed by a **Peregrine Falcon**. It's been a better **Bald Eagle** winter than in many years. The imm. at Calero Res. was seen there at least through 4 Dec (MMR,SCR). Calaveras Res. has had a first-year bird 11-14 Dec (MJM,SCR) and an adult or near-adult 11-29 Dec (MJM,WGB).

Two adults and a first-year bird were found in Isabel Valley 21 Dec (MJM,GHt) and an adult was at Coyote Res. 27 Dec (ECu) to bring the total for the month to seven birds. A **Ferruginous Hawk** on Ferguson Road in the south county 4 Dec (MMR,SCR) was where one had been found in November. An imm. was seen over Lake Cunningham 8 Dec

(SCR). An adult on Sierra Road 11 Dec (MJM) and an imm. there 13 Dec (AME) were in an area where birds were found in November also. A single bird was at the San Jose Airport 18 Dec (MiF et al.) and an adult was in the Isabel Valley 21 Dec (MJM,GHt). Much less common, an imm. light-morph **Rough-legged Hawk** was found on the San Jose Airport 3 Dec (SCR) but did not remain. Four **Wild Turkeys** in Monte Bello OSP 8-19 Dec (MMR,WGB) were the first recorded on the Palo Alto CBC. A number of birds have been released along the crest of the Santa Cruz Mountains in recent years. The winter high tides have brought birders to the Palo Alto Baylands as well as **Black Rails** with one to five birds seen 2-4 Dec (m.ob.) and one on 30 Dec (AWi). Considerable predation of Sora was noted by a number of observers - these tides are devastating on these species that rely on their hiding abilities for survival.

Lapland and Chestnut-collared Longspurs led the list of rarities

mained stable through the month (m.ob.) with a peak count of 85 on 26 Dec (MJM). Our plethora of **Tufted Ducks** provided first records for both the San Jose and Palo Alto CBCs. A male was found 18 Dec in Salt Pond A10 in Alviso where a number of birds were found in the fall (MMR) and a second male has been in A12, next to the Alviso Marina 18-31 Dec (PB,BC,WGB). A male and a female were found in the large pond at the Sunnyvale WPCP 19 Dec (BMcK,ADeM,DJK). Numbers of **Barrow's Goldeneyes** on Shoreline Lake have dropped slightly with one to three birds found there at any one time and only one male found during the month (m.ob.). Twenty-four **Hooded Mergansers** were found in Los Trancos Woods 19 Dec (DSn,HH), but fewer have been reported in Santa Clara County this winter with a female on Calero Res. 4 Dec (SCR), another fe-

Shorebirds through Owls

Two **Lesser Yellowlegs** at the Arzino Ranch 18 Dec (RCa,SM) are rare for the winter. A single **Red Knot** found in the Palo Alto estuary 4 Dec (AME) is our only December record in the county. They winter regularly further up the bay. A **Sanderling** off the Palo Alto Baylands 26 Dec (MJM) was the only one found this month. At least one imm. **Glaucous Gull** has returned to the South Bay with sightings at the Sunnyvale WPCP 5 Dec (PJM) and 17 Dec (MJM), and also over the Alviso salt ponds 30 Dec (MJM). A **Greater Roadrunner** was found in Henry Coe SP 18 Dec (JY,AL) and another was seen in San Antonio Valley 21 Dec (ER,WGB). One to two **Short-eared Owls** were found in the vicinity of the Mountain View salt ponds 15-19 Dec (MMR,WGB) with two seen between ponds A1 and A2W 19 Dec (WCa). A **Common Poorwill** in Henry Coe SP at dusk 18 Dec (JY,AL) is unseasonal and only the third December record we have. The true winter status of this species is unknown. The first-winter male **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** at Ed Levin CP was seen on 4 and 18 Dec (MMR,LC et al.). A **Pileated Woodpecker** found in upper Wunderlich Park 19 Dec (GGH,AnW) was a first for the Palo Alto CBC as well as the first on the eastern side of the Santa Cruz Mountains in San Mateo County.

Flycatchers through Goldfinches

An **Eastern Phoebe** has returned to Shady Oaks Park in San Jose on 8 Dec (SCR) for its second winter. A **Tree Swallow**, a rare winter visitor, was found over the San Jose-Santa Clara WPCP 18 Dec (MJM). A **Violet-green Swallow** at Ed Levin CP 4 Dec (MMR) and three there 18 Dec (ER,KL) added to our wintering swallows. Less expected were two to three **Northern Rough-winged Swallows** over Ed Levin 4-19 Dec (MMR,LC,RF). A **Rock Wren**, well away from known breeding areas, was

found in the Russian Ridge OSP 19 Dec (GGH,AnW). Two **American Dip-pers** were found in Alum Rock Park on the San Jose CBC 18 Dec and one was seen there as well on 22 Dec (AV). A **Townsend's Solitaire** was found on Mines Road 11 Dec (SCR,MMR) and one near the summit of Mt. Hamilton was seen by two parties on the Mt. Hamilton CBC 21 Dec (DES et al., LHB et al.). A female **Phainopepla** along Calaveras Road at the power line crossing 4-18 Dec (MMR,JMa) is one of the few found this winter. A second female was near the damn at Calaveras Res. 18 Dec as well (RF,BB). A **Warbling Vireo** found along the Guadalupe River below Trimble 18 Dec (DJK,ADeM,BMcK) is very unusual for this time of year and only our second winter record. An **Orange-crowned Warbler** was found along Coyote Creek below Hwy 237 2 Dec (SCR), two were at the Palo Alto Water Quality Control Plant 19 Dec (PJM), one was along Permanente Creek in Rancho San Antonio OSP 19 Dec (LGB), and one along Stevens Creek near Fremont 28 Dec (MJM,SLi). This is rare but regular here in the winter. The CBCs stirred a number of **Palm Warblers** out with one along Saratoga Creek below Cabrillo 18 Dec (MM et al.), one on Stevens Creek at Crittenden Lane 19 Dec (PJM), and a third next to the Mountain View GC near Garcia and Salado 19 Dec (PJM). A wintering **Northern Waterthrush** along Matadero Creek below Hwy 101 has continued to elude many observers but was seen on 19 Dec for the first record on a Palo Alto CBC (PJM) and also on 26 Dec (LC). Nearly as rare was a **Wilson's Warbler** found on Agnews 18 Dec (GHt,KHt). The biggest surprise of the Mt. Hamilton CBC was a **Grasshopper Sparrow** found 21 Dec below the summit of Mt. Hamilton (DES et al.). We have only one previous winter record for this rare sparrow and this was also in the Diablo Range, but lower, at 2000 feet. One to two **Sharp-tailed Sparrows** were found in the Palo Alto Baylands 2-3 Dec

(MMR,MJM,RF,WGB) on the high tide. Four **Swamp Sparrows** found along Guadalupe River below Trimble 18 Dec (BMcK,DJK,ADeM) were in an area where nine were found in October. Single **White-throated Sparrows** include an adult found regularly along Matadero Creek below Hwy 101 2-19 Dec (m.ob.), one in the Oak Hill Cemetery 18 Dec (RJe), one along Coyote Creek near the Flea Market 18 Dec (AV,RA), an imm. in Alviso 18 Dec (C&JC), and a bird along Los Trancos Road 19 Dec (AME,HL). An imm. **Lapland Longspur** was found along Sierra Road with other longspurs 11 Dec (MJM) and seen through 18 Dec (AME,SCR,MMR). In the same area were at least four **Chestnut-collared Longspurs**, also seen 11-18 Dec (MJM,AME,SCR,MMR). This is the area where the first county Chestnut-collared Longspurs were found just last February. Always scarce in winter, three **Lawrence's Goldfinches** were found in the Isabel Valley 21 Dec (MJM,GHt) and additional birds were in San Antonio Valley the same day (BMcK,ADeM,WGB).

Observers: Rick Ayala (RA), Lotus Baker (LHB), Bill Bousman (WGB), Bob Berghold (BB), Paul Burnett (PB), William Cabot (WCa), Richard Carlson (RCa), Bill Carver (BC), Les Chibana (LC), Chuck & Jean Coston (C&JC), Derek Currall (DC), Rigdon Currie (RC), Emelie Curtis (ECu), Al DeMartini (ADeM), Al Eisner (AME), Reid Freeman (RF), Leda Beth Gray (LGB), Howard Higley (HH), Gloria Heller (GGH), Grant Hoyt (GHt), Karen Hoyt (KHt), Dan Keller (DJK), Amy Lauterbach (AL), Hewlett Lee (HL), K. Lee (KL), Sue Liskovec (SLi), Steve Madsen (SM), Mike Mammoser (MJM), John Mariani (JMa), Bert McKee (BMcK), Peter Metropulos (PJM), Mark Miller (MM), Elsie Richey (ER), Mike Rogers (MMR), Ed Rooks (ER), Steve Rottenborn (SCR), Don Schmoldt (DES), Daniel Sneider (DSn), David Suddjian (DLSu), Ann Verdi (AV), Anne Wilson (AnW), Adam Winer (AWi), James Yurchenco (JY)



Environmental Action News

Armchair Activists Get Results

by Craig Breon

January's *Avocet* reported on likely changes in Congress and national politics, and urged all of us concerned about the environment to redouble efforts to voice those concerns. At the risk of seeming political two months running, this is something of a follow-up.

January's article ended with an exhortation to join the Armchair Activist program. People who sign up receive (at no expense) a monthly bulletin focusing on one or two issues of local, Statewide or National origin. The letters take about one half hour to write, based on background provided in the bulletin.

Two pieces of good news. First, we had numerous people sign up during January. Thanks a heap to those of you who saw the need and jumped right in. Second, and the true point of this month's EAC news, is that your letters and other forms of communication are effective.

Feinstein Responds

Case in Point. Last October, Armchair Activists were asked to write to Senator Dianne Feinstein regarding the Bolsa Chica wetlands in Southern California. The Bolsa Chica is the largest coastal wetland in SoCal, and one of Orange County's most valuable open spaces. Needless to say, evil developers would like to build nearly 6000 homes in the wetlands and adjacent mesa. [Editorial sidebar: I don't understand why I keep hearing that Southern California's economy is still deep in recession, and has been for years now, yet construction there seems to continue at voracious rates. Are all those former defense workers now journeyman carpenters?]

I wrote a letter urging preservation of the Bolsa Chica on behalf of the chapter. While it seems that individuals who wrote did not necessarily receive a response, Senator Feinstein did write back to the chapter. Her heartening response showed both an awareness of the issue and a commitment to look into it. Replying to suggestions of a land swap of the wetlands for surplus Federal land, she wrote, "I want you to know that I have made an inquiry with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and they have informed me that they are looking into the feasibility of such a proposal."

After her excellent work on the Desert Protection Act it appears that the Senator is again showing her commitment to the preservation of special places, and a responsiveness to her electorate. We owe her a word of thanks. Just as important are thanks to the many Armchair Activists around the state who brought the issue to her attention.

It Works Locally as Well

Letters, phone calls, and personal appearances before local representatives can be just as effective. Our chapter has been working with the City of Palo Alto for a few months to help them pass creek protection guidelines as part of their General Plan revisions. All was going well; the citizen's committee involved recommended a 100 foot setback from creeks in open space areas and other protective measures. However, the City's Planning Commission deleted these measures from the recommendations they sent on to the City Council.

That provoked a response, from us and others. We appeared before the City Council, urging them to reinstate language on creek protection. A flyer was handed out at an Audubon general meeting, asking Palo Alto residents to contact the Council and express their concerns.

It appears we were heard. The Planning Commission agreed in mid January to rehear the issue. Our hope is that they will reverse their former decision and recommend inclusion of the guidelines for creek protection in the General Plan.

On the Other Hand

In striking contrast to Feinstein and Palo Alto is the nonresponse by Governor Pete Wilson to letters from activists in November. Those letters focused on his veto of Assembly Bill 2463, which was sponsored by Audubon. AB 2463 was designed to increase citizen oversight at the Bay Conservation and Development Commission (BCDC). Lately BCDC has been more interested in its development agenda than its conservation mandate. They often fail to enforce mitigation on environmentally damaging projects. In 1992 they failed to collect 95% of the fines levied on wrongdoers. The bill would have allowed citizen enforcement where BCDC failed to act.

Despite AB 2463's passing both the State Assembly and Senate with little opposition, Wilson vetoed the measure. He offered little or no explanation. In a letter asking him to explain his actions I noted that his response, or lack thereof, would be covered in our chapter's newsletter, which is distributed to 4000 people and organizations. I shall send him a copy of this article.

The Politics of Caring

While many other factors come to play in the complicated world of politics, it is still nice to know that simply writing and saying "Hey, we care about this!" can work. If you want to join the Armchair Activist program, simply call me at 408-252-3748 and leave your name and address on the machine.

San Jose CBC Results

Total Species: 173 seen on Count Day + N. Rough-winged Swallow seen on Count Week (CW) = 174

Total Individuals: 98,448

Pied-billed Grebe (185); Horned Grebe (3); Eared Grebe (1678); W. Grebe (202); Clark's Grebe (11); Aechmophorus, sp (8); Am. White Pelican (93); Double-crested Cormorant (249); Am. Bittern (3); Great Blue Heron (49); Great Egret (86); Snowy Egret (81); Cattle Egret (2); Green Heron (18); Black-crowned Night-Heron (153); **Fulvous Whistling-Duck (2)**; **Greater White-fronted Goose (1)**; Canada Goose (651); Canada Goose (small form) (1); Wood Duck (22); Green-winged Teal (Am.) (330); Mallard (1469); N. Pintail (297); Cinnamon Teal (37); N. Shoveler (2931); Gadwall (179); Am. Wigeon (309); Canvasback (1457); Redhead (4); Ring-necked Duck (166); **Tufted Duck (2)**; Greater Scaup (57); Lesser Scaup (20); scaup, sp (73); Surf Scoter (3); Com. Goldeneye (57); Bufflehead (22); Hooded Merganser (6); Common Merganser (6); Red-breasted Merganser (44); Ruddy Duck (2436); duck, sp (5168); Turkey Vulture (309); White-tailed Kite (42); Bald Eagle (2); N. Harrier (73); Sharp-shinned Hawk (14); Cooper's Hawk (23); Accipiter, sp (11); Red-shouldered Hawk (16); Red-tailed Hawk (265); Ferruginous Hawk (3); Golden Eagle (10); Am. Kestrel (175); Merlin (7); Peregrine Falcon (3); Prairie Falcon (5); falcon, sp (2); Ring-necked Pheasant (15); Wild Turkey (10); California Quail (436); Clapper Rail (1); Virginia Rail (17); Sora (17); Com. Moorhen (2); Am. Coot (4664); Black-bellied Plover (**1361**); Killdeer (364); Black-necked Stilt (1208); Am. Avocet (1124); Greater Yellowlegs (38); Lesser Yellowlegs (2); yellowlegs, sp (3); Willet (199); Spotted Sandpiper (3); Whimbrel (1); Long-billed Curlew (210); Marbled Godwit (764); W. Sandpiper (409); Least Sandpiper (124); Dunlin (819); peep, sp (3432); sandpiper, sp (2563); Short-billed Dowitcher (89); Long-billed Dowitcher (249); dowitcher, sp (2467); Com. Snipe (30); Bonaparte's Gull (1744); Mew Gull (527); Ring-

billed Gull (585); California Gull (1355); Herring Gull (1262); Thayer's Gull (8); W. Gull (65); Glaucous-winged Gull (15); gull, sp (16,134); Forster's Tern (31); Rock Dove (2575); Band-tailed Pigeon (238); Mourning Dove (1076); W. Screech-Owl (8); Great Horned Owl (11); Burrowing Owl (16); White-throated Swift (32); Anna's Hummingbird (638); Belted Kingfisher (26); Acorn Woodpecker (142); **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker (1)**; Red-breasted Sapsucker (15); Nuttall's Woodpecker (87); Downy Woodpecker (19); Hairy Woodpecker (8); N. (Red-sh) Flicker (267); woodpecker, sp (6); Black Phoebe (179); Say's Phoebe (32); Horned Lark (225); **Tree Swallow (1)**; **N. Rough-winged Swallow (CW)**; swallow, sp (3); Steller's Jay (259); Scrub Jay (557); Yellow-billed Magpie (228); Am. Crow (293); Com. Raven (23); Chestnut-backed Chickadee (274); Plain Titmouse (132); Bushtit (1094); Red-breasted Nuthatch (1); White-breasted Nuthatch (80); Brown Creeper (6); Rock Wren (10); Bewick's Wren (67); Marsh Wren (79); Am. Dipper (2); Golden-crowned Kinglet (5); Ruby-crowned Kinglet (358); W. Bluebird (140); Hermit Thrush (85); Am. Robin (1408); Varied Thrush (88); Wrentit (26); N. Mockingbird (234); California Thrasher (12); Am. Pipit (259); Cedar Waxwing (826); Phainopepla (2); Loggerhead Shrike (93); Eur. Starling (4211); Hutton's Vireo (7); **Warbling Vireo (1)**; Orange-crowned Warbler (7); Yellow-rumped (Myrtle) Warbler (27); Yellow-rumped (Audubon's) Warbler (322); Yellow-rumped Warbler (form?) (878); Townsend's Warbler (15); **Palm Warbler (1)**; Com. Yellowthroat (34); **Wilson's Warbler (1)**; Rufous-sided Towhee (81); California Towhee (311); Rufous-crowned Sparrow (38); Lark Sparrow (97); Savannah Sparrow (243); Fox Sparrow (38); Song Sparrow (477); Lincoln's Sparrow (91); **Swamp Sparrow (4)**; White-throated Sparrow (3); Golden-crowned Sparrow (1363); White-crowned Sparrow (2447); sparrow, sp (568); Dark-eyed (Oregon) Junco (929); **Lapland Longspur (1)**; **Chestnut-collared Longspur (4)**; Red-winged Blackbird (3634); Tricolored Blackbird (81); W. Meadowlark (775); Brewer's Blackbird (2857); Brown-headed Cowbird (93); blackbird, sp (322); Purple Finch (34); House Finch (2994); Pine Siskin (113); Lesser Goldfinch (311); Am. Goldfinch (350); House Sparrow (361)

"Up A Creek" Brings in \$\$\$

Our first "serious" attempt at a fall fundraiser has turned out to be a smashing success, thanks to you, our loyal supporters. As of early January we had raised \$11,000 with the Avocet-Up-a-Creek campaign, exceeding even the most optimistic expectations.

Doug and Gail Cheeseman once again led the way with a \$2,000 donation, demonstrating their unwavering commitment to SCVAS' birding, education, and environmental action programs. Many other donors made contributions at the \$50, 100, 200 and even \$1000 level—such generosity is remarkable in these economically tenuous times.

Just as equally appreciated, however, are the scores of \$10 to \$25 donors who, like the big givers, gave what they could. And likewise gratifying was the significant number of contributions from new members who saw fit to support the local Audubon cause for the first time.

From the Board, officers and staff of SCVAS, our sincere thanks goes out to everyone on the following list who answered the Avocet's fundraising call. No longer in danger of drifting "up a creek" (of red ink!), we look forward to an exciting and productive year.

See list of donors, next page.

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