



The Avocet

The Newsletter of the Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society

May 1995

Sharing A Passion For Birds *International Migratory Bird Day*

International Migratory Bird Day is the hallmark event for Partners in Flight, the international coalition made up of 15 federal agencies, 50 state agencies, and 35 nongovernmental organizations including the Audubon Society, academia and industry. The mission of Partners in Flight is to maintain populations of migratory birds. The theme of this year's celebration is "Sharing a Passion for Birds." We want to encourage you—one who already knows the wonder of birds—to share the passion with policy makers, the news media, business leaders, teachers and students, and friends and family.

Birders are a fast growing and potentially powerful constituency in the U.S. We outnumber golfers by more than 2:1. We spent over \$18.1 billion on memberships, optics and photography equipment, birding trips, and trip-related costs in 1991 alone. Birders represent substantial political and economic clout. Let's make 1995 The Year of the Birder and make our voices heard by the American public.

Migratory Bird Day Event

Santa Clara Valley Audubon has joined forces with Coyote Creek Riparian Station (CCRS) in a local celebration of Migratory Bird Day. Come join us on Saturday, May 13th at CCRS in Alviso for bird-banding demonstrations, revegetation walks, bird walks, and much more. There will be native plants for sale, a special SCVAS/CCRS migratory bird T-shirt for sale, refreshments available and activities for kids. The event is free and will take place from 9:00AM-2:00PM.

Membership

Keeping with the theme of Migratory Bird Day, sharing your passion for birds, we are asking our members to help recruit new members. All new National Audubon/SCVAS members will receive a free gift for the month of May. Any member who

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YIMBY

YES IN MY BACKYARD

with Bob Barnes & Sandy Cortright

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Wednesday, May 17th

7:30 PM Refreshments, 8:00PM Program

Palo Alto Cultural Center, Newell & Embarcadero

This year SCVAS initiated our backyard bird sanctuary program. To celebrate its success and to motivate more Auduboners to create sanctuaries, our May program offers two perspectives on developing habitat. Bob Barnes, from Audubon Western Regional Offices, will highlight NAS' "Birds in the Balance" program by providing examples of how other Audubon Chapters are modifying backyard habitat to support bird populations and by informing us about today's challenges in preserving and restoring habitats along migration paths.

Then, Sandy Cortright, the SCVAS Board member who has championed our Chapter's sanctuary program will present slide highlights of members' backyards that have been certified this year. Join us this evening to learn how much we've done and how much more we can do! This will be our last program until September. **(Reminder: Keep June 14th (the 2nd Wed.) on your calendar for our annual dinner to wrap up another successful year.)**

Chapter News

Birdathon Teams Update

As of press time our Birdathon Teams were sending out sponsor sheets and preparing for their birding day. It's not too late to sponsor your favorite team. We will have some Birdathon results in the June Issue of the *Avocet*. The teams:

Uncommon Loons	Nick Yatsko, Rod Norden (Official Chapter Team)
Wry Wrentits	Gail & Doug Cheeseman, Harriet Gerson, Les Chibana
Hummingers	Jayne DiCandio, Sandy Cortright, Heather Rottenborn
Screaming Kingfishers	Chris Fischer, Charles Preuss, Jenn Barg
Wrong Terns	Bobbie Handen, Elaine Gould, Allan & Aileen Royer, Pat Mann
Vagrants	Grant Hoyt & Friends
Down & Dirty Birders	Brad Lowman, Pete LaTourrette
Violent Greens	Steve Shunk & Friends
Santa Clara Swifts	Clysta Seney, Ann Verdi

Welcome New Volunteers!

Two new Office Volunteers have recently joined us. Joyce Chang from Los Altos is working one day a week in the office doing a variety of jobs. Joyce Prongos from San Jose also joins us as a Publicity Coordinator one day a week. Thank you, Joyce and Joyce!

Donations were made by:

Marjorie Barnard

Florence A. Bogner

Louis & Janet Fisher

Mabel D. Lang

Jean Alexander

In Memory of Shirley Gehman

Nature Shop News

The Nature Shop is celebrating Migratory Bird Day for the month of May. Anything in the shop (with the exception of birdseed) which has a connection with Migratory Birds is 10% off! That would include all bird feeders, most books, and T-shirts!

The Nature Shop carries lots of great books for those making trips this spring including:

Northwest:

A Birder's Guide to the Klamath Basin by Steven D. Summers

Birds of the Pacific Northwest Mountains by Jan L. Wassink

Northeast:

Bird Finding in New England by Richard K. Walton

The Birds of Cape May by David Sibley

The Nature Shop can special order books. Give us a call when planning your trip!

CVAS OFFICERS

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BAAC		
	Delegate	Vacant
	Membership	Vacant
	Hospitality	Gail Cheeseman

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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May 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 May 3, 7:30 PM.

Bay Area Bird Photographers. Wildlife photographer Jeffrey Rich will present a two-projector slide program "Wildlife—Especially Bird Photography," featuring bird and wildlife shots from Northern California and Oregon. Lucy Evans Baylands Interpretive Center, E. Embarcadero Rd., Palo Alto.

Saturday May 6, 10 AM-4 PM.

International Migratory Bird Day at S.F. Bay National Wildlife Refuge, Environmental Education Center in Alviso. A day of fun for the whole family—guided walks, games, crafts, presentations and more! Call 408/262-5513 for information and directions.

**Saturday May 6, 8:15 AM.

Ed Levin Co. Park. Leader: Steve Rottenborn 415/497-9368. From I-680 in Milpitas Take Calaveras Rd. east to Downing Rd. entrance, left into park. Meet at parking lot below Sandy Wool Lake. \$3 park fee per vehicle. Emphasis on hummingbirds (5 species seen here on 7 May 94) and uncommon migrants.

**Sunday May 7, 9:00 AM.

Langley Hill Rd./Yerba Buena Nursery. Leader: Dan Keller 415/726-3306. Langley Hill Rd. is located on Skyline Blvd. approx. midway between Page Mill Rd. and Hwy. 84. Turn west down this road and follow signs to Yerba Buena Nursery. Highlights include McGillivray's, Black-throated Gray, and Wilson's Warblers, Lazuli Bunting, possible Grasshopper Sparrow. A good opportunity to visit an outstanding native plant nursery and superb birding venue.

Tuesday May 9, 9:30 AM.

The Eve Case Bird Discussion Group will meet at the home of Pat and Jean Dubois, 17150 Buena Vista Ave. Los Gatos 408/395-4264. Topic: White Pelican.

**Wednesday May 10, 9:00 AM.

Half day. Alum Rock Park. Leaders: Harriet Gerson 408/252-6244 and Gail Cheeseman 408/867-1371. Directions: Take I-680 to Alum Rock Ave. east into park. Meet at second parking lot at back near YSI museum. Group will walk the Upper Creek trail for as variety of breeding birds and migrants. Lunch optional.

Saturday May 13, 9 AM-2 PM.

International Migratory Bird Day at Coyote Creek Riparian Station (see pg. 1). Join SCVAS and CCRS in celebrating songbirds. Bird walks, bird banding, revegetation tours and lots more. Call CCRS 408/262-9204 for directions.

**Saturday May 13, 8:30 AM.

Half day. Stevens Creek Co. Park. Leader: Mike Mammoser 408/248-2288. From I-280 in Cupertino take Foothill Blvd. west approx. 2 miles, turn left into first park entrance (before reservoir). Meet in parking lot. Highlights include an excellent variety of riparian breeding birds. Moderate walking of about one mile.

**Sunday May 14, 8:00 AM.

Half day. Beginner's trip to Charleston Slough. Leader: Bob Reiling 408/253-7527. From Hwy. 101 in Mtn. View take San Antonio Rd. north to Terminal Way (1/4 mile). Turn right and meet at end of Terminal Way near Shoreline Lake. Basics of bird identification, including ducks, shorebirds, herons, egrets.

Wednesday May 17, 7:30 PM.

Gen. Membership Meeting with Bob Barnes and Sandy Cortright. See Pg. 1.

**Saturday May 20, 7:00 AM.

Half day. Songbirds of Smith Creek. Leader: Grant Hoyt 415/969-7892. From I-680 take Alum Rock Ave. east, turn right on Mt. Hamilton Rd. and proceed past Grant Ranch Co. Park. Meet at Smith Creek Fire Station before bridge. Bring sturdy, water-resistant shoes for creekside walking. Emphasis on birding by ear—birds like to sing early in the morning! Variety of riparian and oak-associated breeding species; possible Chipping Sparrow and Lawrence's Goldfinch.

**Wednesday May 24, 8:30 AM.

Half day. Montebello and Skyline Ridge OSP's. Leader: Rosalie Lefkowitz 415/494-6358. Meet at the large Montebello OSP parking area on left side of Page Mill Rd. approx. 7 miles southwest of I-280. Highlights: Lazuli Bunting, Chipping Sparrow, warblers, vireos. Moderate walking.

May 27-29. Memorial Day weekend. No organized trips scheduled. Local riparian and oak woodland habitats will be teeming with breeding birds, so call your birding pals, consult BABOB, and take advantage of the holiday to go birding on your own!

Saturday June 3, all day. Palo Alto Summer Bird Count. See Pg. 5.

Tuesday June 13, 9:30 AM.

Eve Case Bird Discussion Group at the Dorman's residence, 15086 Becky Lane, Los Gatos 408/395-5309. Bring a bag lunch. Topic: Birding at the Dorman's.

Wednesday June 14, 6:00 PM.

Annual Dinner at McClellan Ranch Park. See June *Avocet* or call the office for details.

Field Notes

By Bill Bousman

Loons through Waterfowl

After a winter drought of loons spring brought all three species! Single **Red-throated Loons** were found on the San Jose-Santa Clara Water Pollution Control Plant (WPCP) drying ponds 25 Mar (RL,RC) and on Shoreline Lake the same day (EG *fide* LCh,NP *fide* SCR) and the latter bird was seen through the end of the month (m.ob.). Two **Pacific Loons** were seen over Alviso 22 Mar (SBT) and an alternate-plumaged **Common Loon** was found on the Sunnyvale WPCP ponds 25 Mar (AME). The latter bird fits a pattern of spring migrants that stray into the South Bay. An **American Bittern**, first reported 11 Mar (KCW) from the Mountain View Forebay, has delighted many observers through the end of the month. **Cattle Egret** are appearing more regularly in the vicinity of the Arzino Ranch in March, but not in the numbers found last year. The peak count was of eight birds on 9 Mar (SCR). Our **Ross' Goose** remains at the Sunnyvale WPCP through at least 25 Mar (AME). The male **Eurasian Green-winged Teal** was seen again in Crittenden Marsh on 5 Mar (LCh *et al.*). A few **Blue-winged Teal** have been found locally with five birds in the Palo Alto Flood Control Basin (FCB) on 5 Mar (LCh *et al.*), a male there on 11 and 25 Mar (MJM), and one to four birds in the Mountain View Forebay 26-28 May (m.ob.). Four males and three females were also found at Bayfront Park in Menlo Park on 12 Mar (JY,AL). A few **Redhead** remain with two seen in the Palo Alto FCB on 5 Mar (LCh) and four seen there 12 Mar (MMR). A female **Barrow's Goldeneye** at Shoreline Lake on 5 and

9 Mar (MJM,LCh) is probably the last of our wintering birds. A pair of **Hooded Mergansers** were at the Arastradero Preserve 5 Mar (JY,AL) and a female was seen at Shoreline Lake on 6 Mar (KCW). A pair found in the channel next to the Sunnyvale WPCP on 12 Mar (CKS) was found there irregularly through 25 Mar (SCR,SBT,AME).

Raptors through Woodpeckers

An **Osprey** over Moffett Field on 18 Mar (SCR *et al.*) and one on 27 Mar over Sierra and Felter Roads (RC) are probably spring migrants. Late **Ferruginous Hawks** include a bird over

*A Common Tern,
possibly a storm-borne
stray, is unusual for
Northern California*

the Sierra Road summit on 4 Mar (AME) and an imm. seen at Sierra and Felter Roads 30 Mar (RC,MAD). **Merlin** were again found in good numbers this month including a male of the dark race *suckleyi* on 3 Mar (SCR) and the Mountain View *richardsoni* on 8 Mar (MMR). Always rare in the spring migration were three **Lesser Yellowlegs** in Crittenden Marsh on 27 Mar (SCR) and a single bird next to the Sunnyvale WPCP on 28 Mar (MMR). The March storms brought numbers of phalaropes inland all along the California coast and the South Bay was included. Both **Red-necked** and **Red Phalaropes** were found on Crittenden Marsh on 25 Mar (AME) and a few birds remained through the end of the month. A total of seven Red-neckeds were recorded at Crittenden on both 25 Mar (MMR,MJM) and 25 Mar

(MMR) while the peak count of Reds were of 13 on Crittenden on 26 Mar (MMR). Another Red Phalarope was found at the Sunnyvale WPCP on 25 Mar (AME). We rarely find Red-necked Phalarope here in spring migration and then only at the end of April. We have no late winter and early spring records for the rarer Red Phalarope. The prize bird of the March storms, if indeed that is what brought it to us, was a first-winter **Common Tern** found on Shoreline Lake 10 Mar and re-found on 14 Mar and photographed (LCh). This bird was seen through 16 Mar (v.ob.), but not since then and apparently is only the third winter record for Northern California. A

Long-eared Owl seen at dusk along Coyote Creek below Hwy 237 on 16 Mar (SCR) was probably a wintering bird or spring migrant. A **Short-eared Owl** was seen near the Alviso Environmental Education Center (EEC) on 28 Mar (SBT *fide* MMR). One of our rarest hummingbirds, a male **Calliope Hummingbird** was seen 27 Mar (RC) for our earliest record.

Rita Colwell, who is operating temporary banding station near Felter and Sierra Roads, is charting the prodigious movement of **Rufous Hummingbirds** along the front of the Diablo Range. A peak of 15 captured on 28 Mar is only a glimpse into this large movement of tiny birds. The imm. male **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** wintering at Ed Levin CP was seen again on 16 Mar (MMR). A male **Pileated Woodpecker**, found on 18 Mar on Table Mountain (MMR) is only our seventh county record.

Flycatchers through Orioles

The **Eastern Phoebe** continues to winter in Shady Oaks Park in San Jose with observations on 1 Mar (SCR) and 26 Mar (CKS). A **Western Kingbird** along Coyote Creek above Hwy 237 on 18 Mar (SCR *et al.*) is quite early. A

male **Phainopepla** was seen near Felter and Sierra Roads on 7 Mar (RC) and another male was near San Antone Junction 12 Mar (MMR). The **Nashville Warbler** wintering at Stanford was seen on 1 Mar (MMR) and 3 Mar (SCR). The **Yellow Warbler** wintering along the channel above the Mountain View Forebay was seen again on 26 Mar (MJM), while an early migrant was found singing the next day along Stevens Creek near Crittenden Marsh (SCR) - so do the seasons overlap. A singing male **Black-throated Gray Warbler** in Los Gatos on 4 Mar (SBT *fide* MMR) is three to four weeks before our normal arriving birds and may have wintered locally. The **Northern Waterthrush** wintering along Matadero Creek below Hwy 101 survived the winter flooding and was re-found 5 Mar (MJM) and seen (or heard) through 17 Mar (v.ob.). The San Francisquito Creek **Summer Tanager** was seen through 19 Mar (DSt,SCR,v.ob.). The **Green-tailed Towhee** wintering along Coyote Creek above Hwy 237 was seen again on 11 Mar (SCR) and 26 Mar (MJM). **White-throated Sparrows** continue their good showing this winter with a bird found fairly regularly along Matadero Creek below Hwy 101 5-30 Mar (m.ob.), an adult on Coyote Creek above Hwy 237 (SCR), and one in Menlo Park (KO). A male **Hooded Oriole** near Felter and Sierra Roads on 13 Mar (RC) was about two weeks early as was the male **Northern Oriole** seen along Coyote Creek below Hwy 237 on 4 Mar (LCh).

Observers: *Les Chibana (LCh), Rita Colwell (RC), Maryann Danielson (MAD), Al Eisner (AME), Eileen Gronachon (EG), Amy Lauterbach (AL), Rosalie Lefkowitz (RL), Mike Mammoser (MJM), Kris Olson (KO), Nigel Pepper (NP), Mike Rogers (MMR), Steve Rottenborn (SCR), Chris Salander (CKS), Dick Stovel (DSt), Scott Terrill (SBT), Clark White (KCW), and James Yurchenco (JY).*

Palo Alto Summer Bird Count

The 15th Palo Alto Summer Bird Count will be held on Saturday, June 4, 1995. This count uses the same procedures as the Palo Alto Christmas Bird Count and attempts a survey of the birds resident, breeding, or just passing through the 15-mile diameter count circle. If you've counted before please contact one of the Region Leaders below. If you are new to the count and would like to help out please contact Bill Bousman.

Region One (Bayside - San Mateo)	Bill Bousman	415-322-5282
Region Two (Bayside - Santa Clara)	Mike Rogers	415-962-8907
Region Three (Urban - San Mateo)	Ann Verdi	408-266-2798
Region Four (Urban - Santa Clara)	Phyllis Browning	415-494-6360
Region Five (Foothill - San Mateo)	Jane Becker-Haven	415-321-0776
Region Six (Foothill - Santa Clara)	Ruth Troetschler	415-948-4142
Region Seven (Mountain - San Mateo)	Gloria Heller	415-851-2356
Region Eight (Mountain - Santa Clara)	Bill Bousman	415-322-5282

Birdhouse Auction

The Mary Porter Sesnon Art Gallery of UC Santa Cruz presents *Birds in Paradise*, an auction of birdhouses designed and built by artists and architects. The auction and gala reception will be held June 4 from 2 to 5 PM at University house, UC Santa Cruz. Proceeds will benefit the Gallery's educational outreach program. Tickets are \$15. Call 408/459-2314 for further information. The birdhouses will also be on display in the Gallery prior to the auction from May 9 to June 2.

Field Trip Report: Grant Ranch

An enthusiastic, well-behaved mob of 47 birders from Santa Clara Valley and Sequoia Audubon enjoyed a sunny morning of birding at Grant Ranch County Park on March 26, led by Alan Thomas. After March's seemingly interminable rainy weather, local birders were obviously eager to experience some early spring birding. The lake was as full as anyone had ever seen it, and with careful scanning the group was able to identify all five of the expected swallow species: Cliff, Barn, Violet-green, Northern Rough-wing, and Tree (the latter inspecting nest sites in nearby tree cavities). A couple of Eared Grebes mingled with the more common duck and grebe species, and a pair of honking Canada Geese were easily seen.

Spring migrants were sparse at this relatively early date, but we did manage a male Northern Oriole, a Wilson's Warbler, three *Empidonax* (probably Pacific-slope) flycatchers, a Rufous Hummingbird and several Orange-crowned Warblers. Varied Thrushes were seen singly in three locations, and Great Blue Herons were observed on nests in the traditional eucalyptus rookery near the park entrance.

Some of us experienced mild embarrassment at not being able to find a Golden Eagle for a Texas visitor wanting this species for his life list. After all, Grant Ranch is a known breeding location for Golden Eagle and quite reliable for sightings. A Red-tail harassing an eagle about 1/2 mile away was the best we could do, but this fell short of fulfilling anyone's idea of a "life" look at a bird. Predictably, a visit to this same location one week later produced several long, close looks at Golden Eagles.

Thanks to Alan for his skillful leadership of such a large group, and to our friends from Sequoia for joining us on a beautiful spring morning.

— Grant Hoyt

Environmental Action News

Mercy Mercy Me (The Ecology)

(title borrowed from a great Marvin Gaye tune)

by Craig Breon

The following is a synopsis of some recent federal environmental legislative action, produced by the National Audubon Society.

Takings

On March 3 the House passed (277-148) takings legislation, HR 925, to require taxpayers to pay for even the most minor impacts on property values that result from enforcement of certain federal regulations. The bill was narrowed to apply only to impacts caused by the Endangered Species Act (ESA) and the wetlands protection provisions of the Clean Water Act and Swampbuster in the Farm bill. A further provision guarantees that an owner of water rights under most federal water-related statutes is guaranteed compensation if their water right is diminished by government action (even if that water is subsidized by the government). The original proposal to compensate landowners if 50% of their property value was lost was considered too mild, and the final bill would provide compensation to any landowner who loses 20% of the value of the portion of the property affected by the ESA or wetlands law. If more than 50% of the landowner's property is affected, the government would be required to buy the entire property at the landowner's request. Funding for these payments are to come from the budgets of the federal programs involved.

The requirement that taxpayers compensate landowners automatically for virtually any impact on private property caused by these laws would cost taxpayers incalculable millions of dollars, perhaps billions. The bill is an extremely effective backdoor effort to gut both the Endangered Species Act and federal wetlands protections.

Here's how it would work. If your upstream neighbor seeks to fill a wetland that could cause flooding on your property, the federal government would have to pay him under HR 925 not to flood your property. If a timber company is prevented from cutting a tree that contains a bald eagle nest, the federal government would have to pay the company for the value of the tree. In other words, the application of the ESA or wetlands protection provisions would be pretty well obliterated. The Senate becomes critical to our efforts to stop takings legislation, and we can expect floor action anytime—in two weeks or two months.

Spending Rescission Bill Passes House

On March 15, the House rescinded \$17.1 billion in unspent federal funds to help pay for its planned tax cut. The rescission included \$2.1 billion in cuts for sewage treatment

construction grants and wiped out the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's research on Florida Bay and the Everglades. In a surprise move, the House attached a so-called "forest health" amendment in committee, allowing timber companies to shortcut most federal forest management regulations to salvage dead and dying trees. The amendment forces the US Forest Service and the BLM to prepare for sale 6.2 billion board feet over the next two years, which would double the existing cut. To produce this kind of a cut level would require the government to sell off timber in existing roadless areas, and to declare the sales in compliance with environmental laws, regardless of their impacts. The Senate is likely to consider similar language. A separate "forest health" bill is moving in the Senate (S 391).

Senate Amendment Suspends Regulations on Public Lands

S 219, the regulatory freeze bill in the Senate, was amended in the Government Affairs Committee by Ted Stevens (R-AK) to add to the moratorium any federal action that "withdraws or restricts recreational, subsistence or commercial use of any land under the control of a federal agency." The amendment would mean that ORV enthusiasts could take their vehicles into nesting habitat on national wildlife refuges, motorboats could plow through manatee habitat in Florida, logging companies with contracts could ignore regulations that require buffer zones along stream banks, leading to the further decline of fisheries in the West.

House Passes Bills to Cripple Environmental Enforcement

February 24: House passed legislation that would put a moratorium on any new regulations for the entire year of 1995 or until comprehensive regulatory reform legislation is passed. During the floor debate, Rep. Gary Condit (R-CA) offered an amendment that passed by voice vote to prevent the government from listing threatened or endangered species for two years, or until the Endangered Species Act is reauthorized (HR 250-146). A similar bill passed the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee (S 503).

February 28: House approved a "risk assessment" bill that changes the basis of how the government determines health risks from one based on health impacts to one based on weighing the costs versus the benefits of a regulatory action. If the costs outweigh the known benefits, no matter how difficult it is to determine the actual health impacts, the government cannot go forward with protective measures. The EPA has said that if this bill had been enacted 20 years

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ago, it could not have banned DDT, lead in gasoline, or the use of benzene (HR 9).

March 1: House approved a regulatory reform measure that requires the government to go through lengthy cost-benefit assessments before issuing regulations, and gives affected parties carte blanche to sue against proposed rules. The effect will be to paralyze future rule making and double or triple the cost to taxpayers of writing new regulations (also in HR 9).

P.S. We cannot count on President Clinton to veto all these measures. He has already proposed new administrative rules that would relax regulations on both wetlands and endangered species.

“Only You Can Prevent...”

We've said it before, and no doubt will say it again: we

must let our passions and concerns be heard. One way to do this is to join Audubon's Armchair Activist program. After doing so you will receive a monthly mailing asking you to write to key decision makers on environmental topics. The letters take about 30 minutes to write, and the information needed to write an effective letter is included. If you call our office at the number below, leaving your name and address, we will sign you up.

Dianne Feinstein is a fence-sitter on some of these issues, and thus especially important for us to contact. Her number is 415-249-4777 and fax is 202-228-3954. Give her a buzz.

If you would like more information on these and other issues, or if you would like to find out more about what you can do, contact our chapter's advocate at 408-252-3748.

Passion for Birds...continued from pg. 1.

recruits 3 new members receives a free Migratory Bird Day T-shirt! We also have a special joint membership offer for SCVAS/CCRS. You can join both organizations for only \$35.00. Share your passion and help us do more for migratory songbirds!

Connecting with our Southern Partners

SCVAS and CCRS are also sponsoring a binocular drive during the month of May. We will send the donations to a research station in the Sierra de Manantlan Biosphere Reserve just south of Guadalajara. The research station, Instituto "Manantlan" de Ecología y Conservación de la Biodiversidad is in

the process of developing a long-term bird-banding study on the site. They are working under crude conditions with very little money. Despite these conditions, they have already made significant contributions to the knowledge of bird migration. For example, two Orange-crowned Warblers banded on this site during their winter stay have later shown up in their breeding grounds in Arizona. Prior to this work it was not known where the birds breeding in Arizona spent their winter. You can learn more about Manantlan and the work they do at Migratory Bird Day. We are asking our members to donate their old binoculars and field guides to this research station. By increasing the ability of these scientists to work, we add the knowledge and

understanding of our shared resources. You can bring your old binoculars and field guides to the Migratory Bird Day or call SCVAS for a drop-off location (408) 252-3747.

Bird Sanctuary

In conjunction with Migratory Bird Day, SCVAS would like to remind its members about our Bird Sanctuary Project. If your yard provides food, water, and shelter for the birds; has some California native plants; and you use safe environmental practices, then we want to recognize your work! SCVAS will certify your yard as a Bird Sanctuary. Look for the Bird Sanctuary Display at our May General Meeting and Migratory Bird Day or call the office for your packet.

Sharing a Passion for Birds

By securing a pledge of membership from a friend or family member, you can share your passion for birds while providing critical support for research and advocacy of birds and their habitat. Sign up three new members or more and receive a free T-shirt celebrating the partnership between Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society and Coyote Creek Riparian Station!

National Audubon Society/SCVAS Membership (\$20 new member)

Supports education and conservation and includes Audubon magazine and the Avocet newsletter!

Coyote Creek Riparian Station (\$25)

Supports research and restoration and includes RiparianNews newsletter!

BOTH! (\$35) Join both organizations and support a powerful partnership for research, education, and advocacy!

Membership pledges secured by: _____ Name, Address Phone listed below:
1. _____ SCVAS CCRS BOTH!
2. _____ SCVAS CCRS BOTH!
3. _____ SCVAS CCRS BOTH!

Bring this coupon (along with the new members themselves!) to International Migratory Bird Day at CCRS May 13th or mail (with the checks) to SCVAS, 22221 McClellan Road, Cupertino, CA 95014, Thank You!

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

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage Paid
San Jose, CA
Permit No. 5869

Education Day Survives the Rain

Last year the threat of rain loomed over Education Day, but we managed to keep this outdoor event outdoors. This year we not only had a threat of rain but a threat of floods! Stevens Creek flooded it's banks at McClellan Ranch Park, closing the park. SCVAS' Education Committee was prepared and with the help of our many wonderful volunteers moved our annual event to the Monta Vista High School Cafeteria.

Despite the last minute change in venue, everyone seemed to have a good time. Lee Lovelady led a wonderful owl pellet demonstration, the kids made bird feeders, paper ducks, and played beak games. Our live animal guests included Socrates, a Great Horned Owl from Wildlife Rescue, Jack Hammer, an Acorn Woodpecker from Wildlife Education and Rehabilitation Center, a Gopher Snake and Box Turtles from the Cupertino Junior Museum, and a variety of sea animals from the Marine Science Institute. The biggest attraction of the day was our own walking and talking Avocet! Maybe he will visit us again at Migratory Bird Day?

SCVAS' Education Committee would like to thank all the volunteers who helped with Education Day. We couldn't have done it without you! We would also like to

thank the groups mentioned above and the following groups for participating: City of Sunnyvale Nonpoint, Coyote Creek Riparian Station, Cupertino Historical Society, Hidden Villa, Peninsula Conservation Center, San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge, Santa Clara Native Plant Society, Wildlife Center of Silicon Valley. We hope to see everyone next year on a beautiful sunny, dry Saturday at McClellan Ranch Park!

SCVAS Would Like to Thank...

Cirrus Logic Sponsorship
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Jolene M. Schmitz Avocet Costume

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
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Donation: SCVAS greatly appreciates your tax-deductible donation. Your gift helps fund the Chapter's birding, education, conservation and research programs.

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