



The Avocet

The Newsletter of the Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society

November 1995

Save Our Schools (Of Salmon, That Is)

by Craig Breon

I was roused from bed this morning by a phone call from Roger Castillo, citizen steward of the Guadalupe River. He called, excited, to tell me he was spending his morning watching an osprey hunt along the Guadalupe near Trimble Road in San Jose. Evidently, this same osprey has been in the area for some time, fishing alongside the highway and industrial areas that comprise most of that section of the city.

Just downstream of these hunting grounds, a few Chinook salmon are holding in deep pools, waiting for the rainy season to allow them to shoot upstream for a chance to spawn (or be an osprey's Thanksgiving feast). Unfortunately, as they work their way upstream, there are several major hurdles to get over. Ever since the flurry of attention last year to the existence of a salmon run on the Guadalupe, the environmental community has been pushing for measures to enhance the fishery on the river. In early October, we got a signal from the Santa Clara Valley Water District that they may be willing to help.

A bit of history. For decades, the Water District pursued with vigor its twin missions: to protect the Valley from floods and to ensure the region's water supply. In the process of doing so, they ran roughshod over fish and fowl, devastating creeks and riparian habitat. Then came the 70's: Earth Day, the Clean Water Act, Save the Whales, hug a tree, the whole nine yards. In 1974, the Water District began to look at its history and say, "whoops." They passed a policy declaring that they would, where appropriate, spend money to enhance the landscaping and natural resources surrounding their projects.

In 1979, however, Prop 13 passed, which meant less money for public agencies like the District, and signaled a backlash against government spending. The District responded with a new policy stating that money would only be spent to mitigate the impacts of Water District projects. In other words, if they cut down a hundred trees to put in a flood control facility, they would plant a hundred trees elsewhere, but they wouldn't try to enhance the areas which their work and the work of others had impacted for years.

While still in effect, this policy showed signs of vulnerability when faced with the salmon. After a heated discussion at their October 3 meeting, The District's Board voted 5-2 to allocate \$38,000 to eliminate one of the barriers to fish migration upstream along the Guadalupe. By the time you read this, the project should already be done. The Board also agreed to consider eliminating two other impediments to migration next summer. Finally, they seemed to indicate a willingness to review their policy in this area.

Hoorah for us!, and the District!!, and the salmon!!! This seemingly small victory took a combination of all three. First, the environmental community has drawn considerable attention to the issue, with dedicated volunteers like Roger Castillo documenting the life on the River. Second, the District has for some time discussed re-orienting themselves from just doing flood control and water supply projects to becoming a more rounded water resource agency. This was a strong step in that admirable direction. Third, you have to give the salmon credit for resiliency. Despite flood control projects, overdevelopment, pollution, trash and a host of other ills, they are still trying to make this valley their home. Be it ever so humble . . .

A Bird by Any Other Name...

Several times in the last year Audubon's name has been invoked as supporting golf courses and working with golf course developers to pave the way for approval of their projects. Last year, when I spoke on behalf of the chapter op-

Schools continues on pg.8...

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Chapter News

On-Line with Audubon

SCVAS is getting ready to go on-line within the next month. We will pass along our e-mail address when we are all set up; in the meantime you can visit National Audubon's home page on the Internet's World Wide Web at <http://www.audubon.org/audubon/>

You can also be a part of National Audubon's Activist Network and play a more integrated role in NAS's advocacy work on behalf of birds, other wildlife and their habitats. To join the activist network send your name, address and e-mail address to activist@audubon.org.

In Memory of **Jane Becker-Haven** donations to SCVAS were made by Kindel & David Blau, Karen & Grant Hoyt, Jules Resnick & Mary Ann Leer. The following gave an Audubon Adventures subscription in memory of Jane: Jayne DiCandio & Jon Archer, Elaine Gould, and Bobbie & Carl Handen .

In Memory of **Anne Wilson** donations were made by Steve Granholm, Karen & Grant Hoyt, Madeline & Clint Kellner, L.S.A. Associates, Fran Mewaldt, Rudolf & Bernice Moos, Don Schmoltd, Richard Spight, and Doug Wilson.

In memory of **Joan Polizo** a donation was made by Metricom Inc.

San Jose Christmas Bird Count

A reminder to mark your calendar—Sunday, December 17—for the annual San Jose Christmas Bird Count, plus the countdown potluck dinner at Leninger Center in Kelley Park following the count. Again we will be counting in 10 different sectors as listed below:

- Section A: Alviso
- Section B: Fremont Hills
- Section C: Calaveras
- Section D: Evergreen
- Section E: South (Urban San Jose)
- Section F: South Central (Santa Clara)
- Section G: Agnew
- Section H: Milpitas
- Section I: Berryessa Hills

We hope to have a good turnout of birders for this year's count, and we especially welcome newcomers. December's *Avocet* will provide details, including sector leaders. In the meantime, if you wish to participate or have any questions, please feel free to contact the CBC compilers:

Audubon Adventures Grows

Last year was SCVAS's best year for Audubon Adventures with the sponsorship of 80 classrooms in Santa Clara County. This year our success has continued and we are very proud to be sponsoring 98 classrooms—our best ever! We would like to thank our corporate sponsors this year: Adobe Systems, Aspect Telecommunications, Lockheed-Martin Missiles & Space, Trimble Navigation Ltd, and Western Digital. Thanks to these companies and individual sponsors, over 2,500 students will be receiving Environmental Education in the classroom!

Ann Verdi – 408/377-8018 (H) or;
408/749-2199 (W)

Kathy Parker – 408/358-2832 (H)

Thanks!

Bird Class Offered

The city of Santa Clara is offering a beginning birding class this winter, taught by Kent Johnson of Felton. Kent is a veteran local birder and instructor with over 20 years experience. Classes will run for six Saturdays starting Nov. 11, and will include classroom slide and lecture sessions followed by field study. For information call Santa Clara Adult Education Center at (408)984-6220 or Kent Johnson at (408)335-0882.

SCVAS OFFICERS

President	Nick Yatsko	408/247-5499
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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.

1995, Volume 42, Number 102

Rare Bird Alert: 510/ 524-5592

November 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 Nov. 1, 7:30 - 9:30

PM. Bay Area Bird Photographers. Bruce Farnsworth will present "The Coastal Sage: California's Most Endangered Ecosystem." Bruce is a naturalist and nature photojournalist with feature credits in such leading outdoor magazines as Wilderness, Smithsonian, Sierra, Living Bird, Nature Conservancy and Defenders.

****Saturday Nov. 4, 8:30 AM.**

Half day. Grant Ranch Park. Leader: Alan Thomas 408/265-9286. From I-680 take Alum Rock Ave. east, turn right on Mt. Hamilton Rd. go approx. 9 mi. to park. Meet at Grant Lake parking lot on left just past park entrance. Fresh water ducks, oak woodland birds, possible Golden Eagle. Park entrance fee. 2 miles moderate hiking. Rain cancels.

****Sunday Nov. 5, full day.** Sea kayaking the Salinas River Refuge. Special trip for SCVAS members. Learn basics of sea kayaking and explore the secluded marshlands from a bird's viewpoint. Limit 8 participants; pre-registration required. No experience necessary; all equipment included. \$40 for SCVAS members. For more info or to register call Eskape Sea Kayaking at 408/427-2297.

****Wednesday Nov. 8, 8:00 AM.**

Half day. Ed Levin Regional Park. Leaders: Harriet Gerson 408/252-6244, and Gail Cheeseman 408/741-5330. Take Hwy 237 east, crossing 880 and 680. 237 becomes Calaveras Rd.; follow approx. 2 mi. from 680 to park entrance on right. Meet in parking lot. Lunch optional.

****Saturday Nov. 11, 9:30 AM.**

Young Audubon Creek Revegetation at McClellan Ranch Park, Cupertino. SCVAS' biggest fall project is a hands-on field trip for those who want to get in the dirt! We will be testing soils,

planting native plants and studying some creatures along the creek. Wear old clothes and bring some gloves if you have them. Call the SCVAS office for directions 408/252-3747.

Saturday Nov. 11, 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM. All Species Day Festival, Sunnyvale Baylands Park. The festival is an opportunity bring the South Bay community together to celebrate and learn about our rare habitats and plant and animal species, and to find out ways we can all take action to ensure these resources for the future. Games, nature hikes, information tables from local environmental service projects. Directions: Take Hwy 101 to Lawrence Expressway in Sunnyvale. Go east (toward Bay) and look for Baylands Park within .5 mile on right.

****Saturday, Nov 11, 8:00 AM.**

Jasper Ridge Biological Preserve, Stanford University. Leaders: Bill and Jean Clark, Winkie Lenihan, Bob Buell. Limit 40 participants by reservation only. Call Clarks 415/424/4371. \$5 per person fee. Meet at Preserve Main Gate (not Whiskey Hill Rd gate). Gate open 7:40 to 8:10 AM only. From I-280 take Sand Hill Road west, 2 miles to main gate on left. Good variety of waterfowl and woodland birds. Moderately strenuous walking, 2-3 miles. Lunch optional. Trip rain or shine.

****Sunday Nov. 12, 8:00 AM.**

Beginners trip to Charleston Slough. Leader: Steve Shunk 408/297-3654. Take Hwy 101 to San Antonio Rd. in Mt. View, exit north on San Antonio to Terminal Way parking area. Ducks, shorebirds, herons, etc. Emphasis on basics of birding.

Tuesday Nov. 14, 9:30 AM. The Eve Case Bird Discussion Group will meet at the home of Pat and Jean Dubois, 17150 Buena Vista Av., Los Gatos 408/395-4264. Topic: Bird Vocalization.

Wednesday Nov. 15, 7:30 PM.

General meeting in Palo Alto: Dave Johnston on Bats and Elephants of Zimbabwe (see Pg. 8).

Friday Nov. 17, 7:30 PM.

Special general meeting in Cupertino: Birds of Elkhorn Slough with Mark Silberstein (see Pg. 8).

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

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 2.6 mi. Turn right at road marked by signs for Dole Fruit Plant and Model Airplane Skypark. Follow rd. for 1/2 mi., park in gravel lot on left. Variety of fresh-water marsh, riparian species; raptors.

****Wednesday Nov. 22, 8:30 AM.**

Half day. Coyote Hills Regional Park. Leader: Phil Hand 415/965-8752. Take Hwy 84 (Dumbarton) E to Newark. Exit right at Thornton, then go left over freeway as Thornton becomes Paseo Padre. Turn left at Patterson Ranch/Commerce Rd into park. Meet at far end of Quarry parking lot on left, 1/4 mile past entrance. Lunch optional.

****Friday-Saturday Nov. 24-25.**

Sacramento Valley Wildlife Refuges. Leaders: Don Schmoldt 510/215-1910 and Doug and Gail Cheeseman 408/741-5330. Our annual trip to Sacramento, Colusa and Gray Lodge refuges to view ducks and geese by the thousands. Meet at 9:00 AM Sat. at Sacto. NWR—take I-5 N past Williams, exit E on Norman Rd., then N on frontage rd. to Refuge entrance on right. After touring Sacto. Refuge in AM, group will visit Gray Lodge in PM for spectacular evening fly-out of ducks. Sun. itinerary flexible.

****Sunday Dec. 3, 8:30 AM.**

Half day. Sunnyvale Baylands Park. Leaders: Mary Simpson 408/370-2177 and Ann Verdi. From Lawrence Expwy go N across Hwy 237, turn right at first stoplight into park. Continue right on perimeter road to end of parking area. Check out the ducks, gulls, egrets, and assorted waterfowl at this new birding venue.

Tuesday, Dec 12, 1995, 9:30 AM. The Eve Case Bird Discussion Group will meet at the home of Pat and Jean Dubois, 17150 Buena Vista Av, Los Gatos. 408/395-4264. Topic: Mockingbird.

Field Notes

by Bill Bousman

Bitterns through Raptors

An **American Bittern** along lower Coyote Creek on 8 Sep (SCR) was quite early for the south bay. Single adult **Little Blue Herons** were seen in the Alviso salt ponds 3 Sep (PJM) and in the vicinity of the Sunnyvale Water Pollution Control Plant (WPCP) on 21 Sep (PJM) and on 22 Sep (SCR). **Cattle Egret** numbers have built up again in September at the Arzino Ranch with a peak of 15 on 8 Sep (SCR). Away from that area individuals were seen at the Stevens Creek Mitigation Area on 10 Sep (MJM), at the Palo Alto Duck Pond on 21 Sep (SCR), and in the ITT marsh on 24 Sep (PJM). A male **Blue-winged Teal** in Crittenden Marsh 26 Sep (SCR) was the only one found this month. An adult and an imm. male **Eurasian Wigeon** found on Crittenden Marsh on 10 Sep (MJM) were unusually early for the South Bay. A smattering of late August and early September reports of **Osprey** is typical: one was over Rancho San Antonio Open Space Preserve (OSP) on 25 Aug (MN), one was at the Campbell percolation ponds the same day (PD *fide* JAC), one was feeding on the island on Vasona Res on 28 Sep (JD), and one was at the Gilroy sewer ponds on 2 Sep (SCR,MMR). A **Merlin** of the prairie race, *richardsoni*, was seen at the Sunnyvale WPCP on 27 Aug (PJM).

Shorebirds through Skimmers

A **Pacific Golden-Plover** was seen over the Arzino Ranch on 12 Sep (SCR). A single **Sanderling** was seen on the Alviso salt ponds on 3 Sep (PJM). A juv. **Semipalmated Sandpiper** remained at the waterbird pond

on lower Coyote Creek, near the Coyote Creek Riparian Station (CCRS) through 2 Sep (MJM). Another juvenile, found on Salt Pond A2E on 6 Sep (SCR) is the latest record we have for the county. A juv. **Baird's Sandpiper** at the CCRS waterbird pond on 27 Sep (SCR) is quite late. The first **Pectoral Sandpiper** of the season was at the CCRS waterbird pond on 7 Sep (AME). Five birds at Crittenden Marsh on 26 Sep were overmatched by the 25 found on the CCRS waterbird pond the next day (both SCR). An adult **Stilt Sandpiper** was found along Adobe Creek in the Palo Alto Flood Control Basin (FCB) on 4 Sep (CW). A juv. was seen in the ponds near

September brought first county records of Chimney Swift and Lark Bunting and the first county breeding record of Blue Grosbeak

Lafayette and Hwy 237 on 16 Sep and another adult was along Salt Pond A3W in Sunnyvale on 22 Sep (both SCR). An imm. **Franklin's Gull** was discovered at the Sunnyvale WPCP on 16 Sep (VL *fide* SCR) and was seen at least through 29 Sep (v.ob.). An **Elegant Tern** found on 6 Sep on Salt Pond A2E (SCR) was the only one found so far this fall. An imm. **Common Tern** in the vicinity of the Sunnyvale WPCP 16 Sep (SCR,TGr) through 23 Sep (MiF) is typical of the fall period. We don't normally think of September as a prime nesting month, but the saga of our local **Black Skimmers** played out this month with its attendant drama. Fledging, with all its risks, started on 4 Sep when one of the two young birds on the island in Salt Pond A1 joined its parents and flew around the island (PMB). The birds were still there on 5 Sep, but by 8 Sep

the young had fledged and moved with their parents to the better foraging of Charleston Slough. Both young were seen in the morning (PMB), but not later in the day (LCh). After that the adults and the remaining fledgling were seen for the rest of the month in Charleston Slough (v.ob.), a wonderful addition to our local avifauna.

Psittids through Flycatchers

There have been rumors of nesting by various escaped parrot flocks for years but no proof of breeding for any of these species until this fall. On 18 Aug, at least two young **Mitred Parakeets (Conures)** were heard in a nest cavity in St. Mark's Episcopal Church in Palo Alto (SCR). By 27 Sep, two of the young, almost fledged, could be seen at the entrance to the cavity (SCR). It is worth noting that in the wild there are natural barriers between populations of closely related species. However, where escaped populations become established there are numerous possibilities for hybridization. Whether these birds will become established here will take decades to determine. A **Chimney Swift** was identified over Alviso on 11 Sep (SBT) in a flock with Vaux's Swifts but could not be refound in subsequent days. This is the first record of this eastern species in the county. There is sometimes a fall movement of **Lewis' Woodpeckers** in the Diablo Range which is probably of birds dispersing from their breeding areas in the San Antonio and Isabel valleys. One was seen on Willow Ridge in Henry Coe SP on 3 Sep (JY,AL) and another was at the south end of Anderson Res. on 6 Sep (EGC).

Excellent views of **Dusky Flycatchers** were obtained along Coyote Creek below Hwy 237 this fall. The first was studied on 28 Aug (MJM) and the second was seen five days later at the same location (SCR). A **Gray**

BIRDFEEDERS

Dunncraft Cling-a-wing feeder for small songbirds (\$12.95), Window feeders for watching birds up-close 9\$10.95,\$16.95).

Droll Yankee classic tube feeder (\$23.95), the super tube feeder with two tray perches (\$29), the dome feeder with adjustable top to keep large birds and/or squirrels out (\$17.95).
Hummingbird Feeders: The 4-fountain feeder is our best seller (\$10.95), Hummzinger is the easiest to clean (\$15), and the canopy feeder is our smallest feeder which comes with a protective cover (\$7.95).

Natural Wood Feeders & Houses: Made from wood scraps, they fit nicely into your landscapes (\$14.95).

Suet: A way to attract new birds to your yard. We sell suet cakes and suet cages.

VIDEOS/CD'S /CASSETTES

Peterson's Birding by Ear: CD \$34.95/CA \$34.95. A guide to bird song identification for Western Birds.

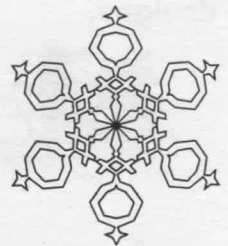
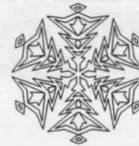
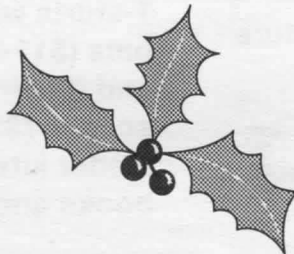
NGS Guide to Bird Songs: CD \$19.95/ CA \$19.95. Companion to the NGS field guide.

Eyewitness Videos: Martin Sheen narrates a fun and interesting look at **Birds**, or **Reptiles**. From the Eyewitness book series (\$12.95).

BOOKS/ FIELD GUIDES

We have many bird field guides including Audubon, National Geographic and Peterson. We also have guides to far away places (Costa Rica, Mexico) and local including **An Introduction to Northern California Birds** (\$14.95) by Herbert Clarke. We have laminated guides (**Local Birds & Mac's Field Guides** \$3.95-\$8.95), pocket guides and checklists.

Are you turning your yard into a bird sanctuary? Perhaps **A Complete Guide to Bird Feeding** (\$16) by John Dennis will help. **If we don't have it, we can special order most birding/nature books and it only takes a few days. Give us a call with the titles you need!**



GIFT MEMBERSHIPS

National Membership: Give a gift of Audubon! Receive a **free Pocket Guide to Birds of N.A.** if you purchase a gift membership in November-December. Membership includes Audubon Magazine (6 issues) and SCVAS newsletter (10 issues). \$20.00

SCVAS Newsletter Subscription: Keep your family or friends up to date on local bird activities. \$10.00

BIRD SANCTUARY

Have a friend's yard certified as a bird sanctuary by SCVAS!

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

Bird Sanctuary: Receive Bird landscaping information & an application for a framed certificate.

Holiday Shopping at the Audubon Nature Shop

We have a wide selection of gifts for all the nature lovers and birders in your family. Make shopping easy for yourself this holiday season and come see us at McClellan Ranch Park. Here are just a few gifts we have for you..

T-SHIRTS

Warblers: 8 brightly colored warblers are flying and singing on this 2-sided design. (\$16)

Three Raptors: Head profiles of an Osprey, Golden & Bald Eagle grace this stone-colored shirt. (\$14)

Hummingbirds: This scoop-necked natural T has our most beautiful hummers covering both sides. (\$16)

Nat Audubon Wetlands: A NAS design featuring wetland birds including our own Avocet featured prominently. (\$14)

Birds of Western NA: Finally, a T-shirt which features only our western backyard birds. (\$14) On sweatshirt too! (\$25)

Long sleeve T's, Sweatshirts, Footwarmers, baseball caps, and nightshirts all with birds and nature designs.



JEWELRY/ GIFTS

New this year **Rainey Day Studios** brings us lovely bird earrings and pendants. Avocets, Chickadees, Hummingbirds are all represented beautifully in these color designs. (\$15- \$25)

Spear Pins of Alaska have several wonderful Songbirds & Birds of Prey designs including a Peregrine Falcon and an American Kestrel. (\$8-\$15)

Metal Bird Sculptures for your garden, **Decorative Feather plates, Woodpecker Doorknockers, Stamp sets, Balsam Trivets & Pillows, Stationery and Audubon Calendars.**

KIDS STUFF

T-shirts with birds of prey, butterflies, and bats (\$11-\$13). Folkmanis plush Puppets and finger puppets (\$3), bird kaleidoscopes (\$7), binoculars (\$10), stamp kits, feeder kits, mobiles, sticker & stencil books and much more..

AUDUBON HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE

at The Nature Shop

McClellan Ranch Park,

22221 McClellan Road, Cupertino

Saturday, December 2, 1995

10am-2pm

- * Crafts for the whole family -Make pine-cone feeders, and Christmas ornaments
- * Refreshments-cider and homemade cookies
- * Birdwatching on the trail, Visit our revegetation site
- * and Holiday shopping at the Nature Shop

Flycatcher was banded in the same area on 24 Aug (CO *fide* SCR). Less expected was the juvenile **Eastern Kingbird** banded in the same area along Coyote Creek on 6 Sep (RC) for the third county record. This bird was subsequently seen on a SCVAS field trip on 9 Sep (SCR *et al.*, MMR) and the next day as well (MMR, LCh).

Warblers through Bishops

Separate **Palm Warblers** were found on 28 Sep in the vicinity of the Palo Alto Water Quality Control Plant (WQCP) and nearby on the ITT lands next to Faber Place (both SCR). Far more rare were two **Blackpoll Warblers** found in the same area. The first was found on 28 Sep near the WQCP (SCR) for the sixth county record and on 30 Sep one was found near the old harbor master's office in the Palo Alto Baylands (*fide* BirdBox). Adding to our fall vagrants was an imm male **American Redstart** along Guadalupe River between Montague and Trimble on 13 Sep (SCR). A **Northern Waterthrush** found along the the Guadalupe River in the same area in August was seen again on 7 and 13 Sep (SCR) and was heard on 16 Sep (SCR, AME, TGr). The **MacGillivray's Warbler** migration was more typical this year with two birds along the Guadalupe River between Montague and Trimble on 30 Aug (SCR) and one seen in the same area 6-7 Sep (LCh). Two were banded at CCRS on 6 Sep with additional individuals banded on 10 and 20 Sep. **Yellow-breasted Chats** are scarce fall migrants so one banded at CCRS on 11 Sep is of interest.

Adding to our September breeding surprises was a first breeding record for **Blue Grosbeak** in the county. On 2 Sep an adult female was found with three juveniles along Llagas Creek above Bloomfield Road and the female was seen to feed one of the juveniles to confirm breeding (MMR, SCR). This bird was not even added to the

county list until the summer of 1989. An adult male **Indigo Bunting** found along the Guadalupe River between Montague and Trimble in August was observed there through 13 Sep (SCR, MJM, MMR, LCh). The Guadalupe River between Montague and Trimble was confirmed as the center of the local bird universe when on 13 Sep a female or immature **Lark Bunting** was found there for the first record for the county. A **Grasshopper Sparrow** below Sargent on 2 Sep (SCR, MMR) is one of our few fall records. A **Bobolink** along Guadalupe River above Montague on 7 Sep (SCR) was the ninth county record and was seen through 13 Sep (v.ob.). A second bird, seen on 13 Sep (SCR) was the tenth record for the county. A female **Yellow-headed Blackbird** at the Palo Alto Baylands on 20 Sep (SCR) was one of just a scattering of fall records.

The September breeding bonanza was completed with our first record of breeding by the exotic African finch, the **Northern Red Bishop**. There have been scattered reports of this escaped

finch around the edge of the bay in recent years but on 5 Sep a female accompanied by two juveniles was found along Matadero Creek below Hwy 101 (SCR). The juveniles were fed by the female, but not by a male who remained nearby. The success or failure of these introduced birds remains a topic of considerable interest locally. The problems of hybridization discussed above apply to these finches as well as to the various local parrots.

Observers: *Phyllis Browning (PMB), Les Chibana (LCh), Jack Cole (JAC), Emilie Curtis (EGC), Phil Dean (PD), Jean Dubois (JD), Al Eisner (AME), Mike Feighner (MiF), Tom Grey (TGr), Amy Lauterbach (AL), Valarie Layne (VL), Mike Mammoser (MJM), Peter Metropulos (PJM), Mike Newcomer (MN), Chris Otahal (CO), Mike Rogers (MMR), Steve Rottenborn (SCR), Scott Terrill (SBT), Claire Wolfe (CW), and James Yurchenco (JY).*

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

Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society Balance Sheet For Fiscal Year 1994-95

Assets	\$\$	Activity Statement for the Period June 1, 1994 - May 31, 1995
Cash & Cash Equivalent	32,979	
Equipment/Furnishings	4,918	
Inventory	8,170	
Investments - at cost		Revenues
(Market Value - 398,583)	366,817	Membership
TOTAL	412,884	Investment Income
		Sales (net of cost)
		Contributions
Liabilities and Fund Balance		Earth Share of California
Accounts Payable	1,623	Grants & Other Income
Deferred Income	2,139	Total
Fund Balance	409,122	
TOTAL	412,884	Expenses
		Environmental Action
		Avocet Newsletter
		Meetings & Christmas Bird Count
		Education, Field Trips, Research
		Library
		Fundraising Expenses
		Personnel & Taxes
		Rent & General Expenses
		TOTAL
		Revenue in excess of expenses for Year
		Ended May 31, 1995

Bats and Mudflats—Two Meetings This Month

Bats of Zimbabwe and the Elephant Dilemma with Dave Johnston

Wednesday, November 15th

7:30 Refreshments, 8:00 Program

Palo Alto Cultural Center, Newell & Embarcadero

Zimbabwe is rich in wildlife with 291 species of mammals, over 600 species of birds and over 40 species of bats found in this biologically diverse country. Unlike most other African nations, Zimbabwe has a relatively large budget for managing its wildlife. Poaching has been reduced and large herds of elephants exist in National Parks and other wild lands. Now a new problem has developed with high density of elephants that often exceeds the carrying capacity of the public lands they live in.

As a bat biologist, Dave Johnston joined a group of 16 for a month-long expedition in the Miombo forests of northern Zimbabwe. Dave will present slides of African bats, touch on highlights of the expedition, discuss the dilemma of elephant populations and bring representative bats from his own lab.

From the Treetops to the Mudflats: Birds Galore in Elkhorn Slough with Mark Silberstein

Friday, November 17th

Cupertino Library Community Room, 10400 Torre Ave.

7:30 PM conversation, 8:00 PM program.

In response to our *Avocet* article on "Moss Landing's Best Kept Secrets" SCVAS is delighted to host Mark Silberstein, Director of the Elkhorn Slough Foundation. The slough is home to colonies of Caspian Terns, Great Egrets and Great Blue Herons. In 1994 the Moss Landing Christmas Bird Count identified 214 bird species—earning the rank of first in the nation for bird diversity! Mark will discuss the restoration, acquisition and research programs and share with us slides of this preserved and protected habitat and the wildlife found so close to our County.

Save Our Schools...from page 1

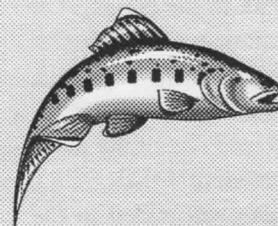
posing a proposed golf course on Boulder Ridge in San Jose, the developer attempted to undercut my criticisms by saying "We're working with the Audubon Society," and thereby implying that their course would have the "Greenest" of greens.

What's in a name? Plenty! The Audubon Society referred to above is the Audubon Society of New York State, Inc., a group wholly unaffiliated with National Audubon. Better yet, an organization founded and financed by golf course developers and proponents. They work throughout the country, declaring golf courses "wildlife sanctuaries" and advocating golf as an environmentally beneficial sport (which it occasionally is but often is not). In fact, our chapter does work with golf course developers and managers who truly want to enhance their course's relationship to nature, but we are careful about our affiliations.

While we're on the subject of misnomers, there's a herd of new lobbying organizations in Washington D.C. with confusingly green names. Some examples are: the Wilderness Impact Research Foundation, which is funded by the National

Cattlemen's Association and other groups with mining, ranching, and oil and gas investments; the Sea Lion Defense Fund, which lobbies for increased legal fish catch and is funded by the Alaska Fishing Industry; the Institute for Justice, which lobbies for anti-environmental regulation and is funded in part by Phillip Morris; the National Wetlands Coalition, which lobbies in favor of wetlands development and is funded by Chevron, Shell Oil and others; and the American Council on Science and Health, which is funded by chemical manufacturers and considers environmentalists to be "unscientific."

You may receive information or perhaps even membership appeals from such groups. The lesson is—buyer beware!



Taylor Unveils New N.A.S. Plans

National Audubon's Dan Taylor paid a special visit to the SCVAS October Board meeting to present the new strategic and philosophic changes now being implemented by NAS and their impact on local chapters. Stressing a renewed focus on birds, wildlife and habitat and a commitment to networking with grassroots membership, Taylor heralded the changes as a "new day for the Audubon Society."

In a major restructuring of its national offices, NAS is eliminating regional centers in favor of state-by-state offices. California will still be represented at the former Western Region office in Sacramento with many of the same staff, including Dan Taylor. Long-time Western Region Vice-president Glenn Olson will be taking on a new Field Director position at the national level.

Taylor acknowledged member dissatisfaction over the direction NAS had been taking over the last five years and expressed optimism that the new leadership would be more responsive and more closely linked with its members. Some of the key points in the new strategic plan are:

1) Focus efforts and resources on a limited set of priorities directly relating birds, other wildlife, and their habitats to the continuance and prosperity of humankind, thereby fostering a culture of conservation and an environmental ethic.

2) Strengthen the distinctive grassroots network and reinforce the partnership among members, chapters, staff, and the Board to promote effective conservation at local, state, regional, and national levels.

3) Establish a network of "Audubon Centers" that become focal points in the community for promoting the culture of conservation and an environmental ethic by developing an appreciation, awareness, and understanding of birds, wildlife, and their habitats, and their inherent relationship to people.

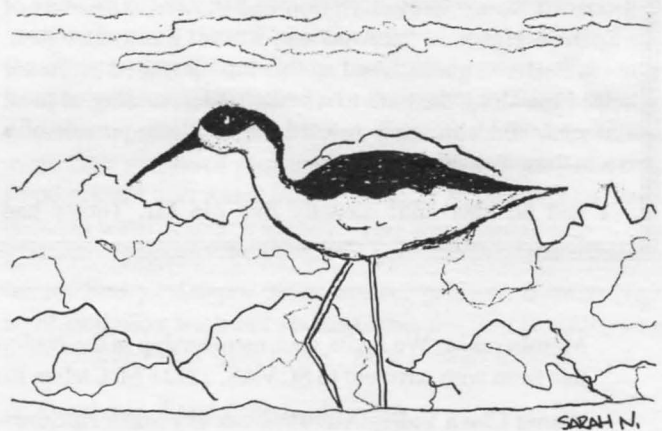
4) Use education as a primary tool to develop appreciation, awareness, and understanding of birds, wildlife, and their habitats and their association with people, and thereby

promote the culture of conservation and an environmental ethic.

5) Work to influence public policies and private practices as a primary tool to conserve birds, wildlife, and their habitats.

6) Integrate all major activities, including sanctuaries, science, communications and membership development, to support these recommendations and help advance the culture of conservation and an environmental ethic.

Taylor praised SCVAS for its active work in several of these categories, calling the chapter "one of the outstanding Audubon chapters in the West." He encouraged a strong, continuing linkage between SCVAS and NAS in this time of change and progress. The following statement from the Strategic Plan effectively summarizes Taylor's remarks and embodies the "New Day" concept: "Audubon should sharpen its focus on birds, other wildlife, and their habitats. Audubon should invest in its distinctive grassroots structure, and use as primary tools education and advocacy, with support from sanctuaries, science, and communications, to achieve its vision."



Sarah Nadler, from September Young Audubon field trip to Alviso

Crane Festival

Among the most awe-inspiring sights in nature is the annual fall migration of tens of thousands of Sandhill Cranes and Snow Geese to their wintering grounds on the Bosque del Apache Nat'l. Wildlife Refuge near Socorro, New Mexico. Wildlife enthusiasts of all ages will enjoy the spectacle of these migrating flocks.

The eighth annual Festival of the Cranes is scheduled to begin Thursday, Nov. 16. By the last day, Nov. 19, an estimated 12,000 people from around the world will have traveled to Socorro, swelling the population to twice its usual size.

More than 100 activities are scheduled for the Festival, including demonstrations, workshops, guided tours, exhibits, and an artisans fair. Keynote speakers are Victor Emanuel, Karen Hollingsworth, and Arthur Morris.

In addition to the bird and wildlife tours popular with birders and nature photographers, the Festival will spotlight the Socorro area's rich environmental density, geology, and history, with guided tours to ghost towns, old mines, historical fort and battle sites, and Native American petroglyph sites.

Advance registration is recommended. For information write: Festival of the Cranes, P.O. Box 743-NR, Socorro, NM 87801; phone (505)835-0424.

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

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SCVAS Then And Now

While researching a bit of SCVAS history the other day, I came across the name of Warren Turner, who compiled a booklet entitled "A History of the Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society" (1925-1962). Not only did this work provide enjoyable reading, it jogged a personal memory.

In 1964, I was 15 and residing in Palo Alto near Stanford campus. An Eagle scout friend had pried me away from my Beatles records and introduced me to birdwatching. One spring morning we were hiking in the foothills above Stanford when we spied a small, hovering raptor. Trouble was, we had no idea what we were looking at. Somebody suggested we visit Mr. Turner, the local "bird expert". So we walked over to his home on Alvarado Row in the old, residential part of campus, and introduced ourselves.

What's this funny-looking orange and brown bird that hovers?, we wanted to know. He invited us in and patiently listened to our excited description, and showed us a picture of a Sparrow Hawk, as the American Kestrel was known then, in his Peterson guide. And so this kindly retired professor helped me along the path to a better understanding of local avifauna, and ultimately toward the life-long pursuit of a fascinating avocation.

I had no idea until recently that old Mr. Turner had

researched SCVAS' first 37 years, but one theme emerges from his chronicle—those Audubon members loved birds and cared deeply about protecting local bird habitat. Just like today's Audubon members. And lest you think this is simply a heartwarming anecdote about my early birding experiences, there's a hitch—it's also about money.

Like most non-profits, we've felt the economic pinch of the last few years, and we've had to get more aggressive with our fundraising. As a leading local environmental organization and as the local bird club, we think we're worth it. Our educational and environmental advocacy efforts are flourishing, our staff is first-rate, and we do our best to cover the always exciting local birding scene. That's because we—members, staff, officers, volunteers—care about birds as much as the early SCVAS members did.

We'll be sending out our annual fall fundraising letter this month. Believe me, it's neither easy nor particularly enjoyable to keep asking members for money, but it's gotta be done. If you believe in protecting and preserving local birds and bird habitat, help us celebrate the first 70 years of SCVAS by investing in the next 70 years with a donation of any amount. Thanks.

—Grant Hoyt

Membership: We invite your membership in the National Audubon Society/SCVAS. To join, please complete and mail this form with payment to SCVAS, 22221 McClellan Road, Cupertino, CA 95014.

Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society Subscription: Check One
 Subscriber \$10 Supporter \$20 Donor \$35 Patron \$50 and more
Members receive *The Avocet* newsletter. Make check payable to SCVAS.

Or

National Audubon Society Membership: Check One
 New members \$20 Membership renewal \$35
Members receive *Audubon* magazine and *The Avocet* newsletter. Make check payable to National Audubon Society.

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

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