



The Avocet

The Newsletter of the Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society

March 1996

Advocate Hails Green Efforts

by Craig Breon, SCVAS Environmental Advocate

Color me giddy!

In the last week I've opened the newspaper and repeatedly found "All the News That's Fit to Print" actually to my liking. For instance—

"Some environmentalists are starting to say, with a hint of wonder in their voices, that they are close to success in making environmental programs what one lobbyist called a 'third rail,' political slang for issues like Social Security that are best not touched because they carry such voltage with the voters." —*New York Times*, January 26.

"Industry leaders . . . add with dismay that the debate over regulation had left them painted as polluters intent on undoing environmental protections . . . Some have been recently anguishing over how to recast their environmental messages." —*NYT*, February 3. [Regarding Ron Wyden's recent victory in Oregon's Senate election] "Environmental groups, which poured more than \$200,000 into an independent expenditure campaign to defeat Smith, said Wyden's lead was a reflection of the importance voters place on clean water and clean air. 'This election should put candidates on

notice that you cannot vote against the environment with impunity'." —*Los Angeles Times*, January 31.

And did you notice that President Clinton even highlighted environmental protection in his State of the Union speech? It would appear that a sense of reason has been injected into environmental politics. Just six months ago the list of proposed environmental reforms was daunting indeed: drastic cuts in the EPA's budget and its ability to enforce existing environmental laws; opening the Alaska National Wildlife Refuge to oil exploration; mandating increased timber harvesting nationwide; proposed giveaways of public land and mineral rights to private interests; a continued moratorium on the listing of new endangered species.

This is not to say that all these proposals have been defeated. However, it may be fair to state that for now, the radical edge has been taken off such initiatives. An increasingly bipartisan coalition has formed to restore balance to the debate. If the question is "Why the change?," the answer is "We the People." A deft combination of calls and letters, opinion polls, personal visits to and lobbying of representatives, and environmental organizations getting the word out

Advocate continues on page 2...

**In Search of the Birds of Paradise with Dr. Olaf Malver
General Membership Meeting
Wednesday, March 20th
7:30 Refreshments, 8:00 PM Program
Palo Alto Cultural Center, Newell & Embarcadero**

In 1994 Olaf Malver and 8 other kayakers set out to find the Birds Of Paradise in the lush coastal jungles on Irian Jaya's (formerly known as West New Guinea) Bird's Head Peninsula. This program features Cenderawasih Bay, a pristine National Marine Wildlife Preserve offering clear, tepid waters swarming with brightly colored fish, quiet lagoons, and white coral sand beaches where brilliant red parrots squawk overhead. Join us for an evening of vibrant exploration of these waters. See the great turtles laying their eggs on the beaches in the full moon and view the Auri Islands, a coral reef archipelago famous for marine flora, fish and endemic birds. Dr. Malver, a native of Denmark, has led expeditions to northern Greenland and the Southwestern Pacific. Founder of "The Wings for the Earth," Dr. Malver has championed conservation of tropical habitats by sustainable butterfly farming. What better way to spend the first day of Spring!

Chapter News

5th Annual Education Day at McClellan Ranch Park

Saturday, March 23, 1996 10 AM - 2 PM

Bird and Nature Walks • Door Prizes • Bat & Owl Programs • Live Animals

Nature Shop • Poster Contest • Refreshments • Games & Activities

A day for families to learn about their local environment and have loads of fun. You'll get a chance to meet several local education animals including a Great Horned Owl & an Acorn Woodpecker.

Local groups joining us will be: Bay Area Reptile Association, City of Sunnyvale-Nonpoint Division, Coyote Creek Riparian Station, Cupertino Historical Museum, Cupertino Parks & Recreation Department, Friends of Stevens Creek Trail, Hidden Villa, Marine Science Institute, San Francisco Bay Wildlife Refuge, Wildlife Education & Rehabilitation Center, and Wildlife Rescue.

For more information or directions, please call SCVAS office at (408) 252-3747. (In case of rain, the show will go on at the Monta Vista High School gym up the street.)

Resources in Environmental Education Fair (REEF)

Saturday March 9th 8:30-2pm
UCSC Externsion's classroom facility
1180 Bordeaux Drive, Sunnyvale

The REE Fair is for K-12 teachers seeking a way to integrate environmental education into their classrooms. There will be hands-on workshops, exhibits, and demonstrations focusing on local resources and support material that can be taken directly back to the classroom. Call SCVAS office for more information 408-252-3747.

SFBBO Classes

The San Francisco Bay Bird Observatory is pleased to announce its 1996 Schedule of Classes. Courses and field trips in advanced birding techniques, and their instructors include: Gull ID, Don Starks; Shorebirds, Howard Cogswell; Owls, Paul Noble; Pelagics, Debbie Shearwater; Raptors, Allen Fish; and a shaded pencil art class by Chuck Stasek. For more information, contact SFBBO at (408) 946-6548.



Townsend's Warbler
by John Mariani

SCVAS OFFICERS

President	Nick Yatsko	408/247-5499
Past Pres.	Rob Colwell	415/326-2400
1st VP	Clysta Seney	408/261-9431
2nd VP	Mary Simpson	408/370-2177
Treasurer	John McLemore	408/261-9431
Rec. Secty.	Elaine Gould	408/448-0622

STAFF

Chapter Mgr	Jayne DiCandio	408/252-3747
Environmental Advocate	Craig Breon	408/252-3748
Office Fax		408/252-2850

DIRECTORS

Bobbie Handen '93-'96	408/356-4263
Howard Johnson '93-'96	408/255-2422
Grant Hoyt '93-'96	415/969-7892
Sandy Cortright '94-'97	408/738-1251
Heather Rottenborn 94-'97	415/497-9368
Chris Fischer '94-'97	415/364-8723
David McIntyre '95-'98	415/856-6671
Steve Shunk '95-'98	408/297-3654

CHAIRPERSONS

CBC	Kathy Parker	408/358-2832
	Ann Verdi	408/266-2798
The Avocet	Grant Hoyt	415/969-7892
	Laura Lebherz	408/264-0533
Education	Bobbie Handen	408/356-4263
Envir. Action	David McIntyre	415/856-6671
Programs	Clysta Seney	408/261-9431
Library	Marianna Tubman	408/255-2422
Field Trips		
Weekend	Grant Hoyt	415/969-7892
Weekday	Alberta Jasberg	415/493-9546
	Shirley Gordon	408/996-9863
Aud Adven	Elaine Gould	408/448-0622
Photo Club	Pete LaTourrette	415/961-2741
Finance	Don Price	415/327-1254
BAAC		
Delegate	Vacant	
Membership	Vacant	
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 43, Number 3

Rare Bird Alert: 510/ 524-5592

March 1996 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

****Saturday Mar. 2, 8:30 AM.**

Half day. Redwood Shores. Leader: Nick Coiro (415)349-1834. From Hwy 101 in San Carlos exit E at Holly St., which becomes Redwood Shores Pkwy. Continue 2 mi. to meeting place at end of road. Possibilities include Hooded Merganser, Barrow's Goldeneye, Peregrine Falcon, Horned Lark. Bring scopes (and mud boots if recent rain).

Wednesday Mar. 6, 7:30 PM.

Bay Area Bird Photographers. Rich Hansen will present a slide show on the birds and mammals of estuarine habitat. Lucy Evans Interpretive Center, E. Embarcadero Rd., Palo Alto.

****Saturday Mar. 9, late evening.**

Owling walk with John Mariani (408)997-2066. A nocturnal outing to look and listen for those elusive nightbirds at Montebello OSP. Possible Great Horned, Western Screech, Northern Saw-whet Owls. Moderate walking of 2 miles; rain cancels. Limit 12 participants. Call leader to reserve space (trip fills quickly).

Tuesday Mar. 12, 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: Feeding behavior (including feeders).

****Wednesday Mar. 13, 9:00 AM.**

Half day. Coyote Lake Reservoir. Leaders: Emelie Curtis and Jane Glass (408)779-3637. Take E. Leavesley exit off Hwy 101, go 1.5 miles, turn left on New Ave., then right on Roop Rd. Meet at Lakeview Picnic Area. Highlights: waterbirds, raptors, turkey, and early migrants.

****Saturday Mar. 16, 9:00 AM.**

Young Audubon trip to Waddell Creek.

Leader: Dave Cook (408)729-7310. Meet at parking lot just north of Waddell Crk. on Hwy 1 (2 miles S of Ano Nuevo or 25 mi. N of Santa Cruz). Good variety of inland and coastal birds. Bring lunch for picnic after hike.

****Sunday Mar. 17, 8:00 AM.**

Half day. Almaden Quicksilver Co. Park. Leader: Ann Verdi (408)377-8018. In San Jose take Almaden Expwy S to Almaden Rd. through town of New Almaden, turn right at park entrance. Moderately strenuous hiking through woodland, chaparral. Possible Golden Eagle, Wild Turkey. Rain cancels.

****Saturday Mar. 23, 8:30 AM.**

Half day. Beginner's trip to Stanford Campus. Leader: Judy Wagner (415)941-7586. From El Camino Real in Palo Alto take Palm Drive W into campus. Park at end of Palm Dr. next to grass "oval" and meet leader there. Local breeders such as Bewick's Wren, Plain Titmouse, Calif. Thrasher, etc. should be active. Possible Red-shouldered Hawk. Rain cancels.

Saturday Mar. 23, 10 AM - 2 PM. Education Day at McClellan Ranch. See pg. 2.

****Saturday Mar. 30, late evening.** Owling walk with John Mariani. See details under Mar. 9 listing.

****Wednesday March 27, 8:30 AM. Half day.** Rancho San Antonio OSP. Leader: Phil Hand (415)965-8752. Directions: From I-280 in Cupertino take Foothill Blvd S to Cristo del Rey; turn right and follow to park entrance on left. Park in lowest lot and meet near footbridge. Short, level walk for late wintering birds. Heavy rain cancels.

Tuesday April 9, 9:30 AM. The Eve Case Bird Discussion Group will meet at the home of Pat & Jean Dubois, 17150 Buena Vista Ave., Los Gatos (408) 395-4264. Topic: Black Skimmer.

Advocate continued from page 1...

have clearly had an effect. We all deserve a hearty pat on the back for that.

No Laurel-Resting, Please

The key now will be to take our momentum and capitalize on it. In other words, keep those cards and letters coming! We will still see cleverly disguised attacks on environmental protections, cloaked in the words of budget balancing and getting the government off our backs. In the end, we must look beyond simply fighting off the bad bills and start advancing progressive measures to deal with the still considerable problems out there: the loss of biodiversity worldwide, potential changes to the global climate, the march of urban sprawl, population issues—the list is lengthy.

SCVAS will continue to dedicate itself to the cause, and to urge you to do the same. Try one or more of the following: Vote in the March 3 elections and consider getting involved in a political campaign this fall.

Join a new environmental organization. Increasing numbers adds both legitimacy and dollars to their worthy efforts.

Seek out the information you need to respond effectively to the ongoing discussions. At the risk of repetition, this is a good place to plug our Armchair Activist program, which provides (for free) a monthly newsletter giving you all the information necessary to write one effective letter on a conservation issue each month. Join by simply leaving your address on my phone line (408-252-3748).

Take a hike! There's nothing like getting into the great outdoors to remember what these fights are all about.

Field Notes

by Bill Bousman

Loons through Waterfowl

A **Red-throated Loon** on Salt Pond A9 in Alviso on 15 Jan (MMR) was the only one found this month. **Common Loons** have been, well, more common. One to two birds were on Salt Pond A3W or nearby on 5-10 Jan (MMR, CKS, KCW) and an imm. was found again at Calero Res. on 28 Jan (MJM). **Brown Pelicans** rarely remain into January so one seen on Shoreline Lake through 10 Jan (MJM, MMR, LCh) is of interest as well as a different bird on Salt Pond A3W in Sunnyvale on 6 Jan (MMR). **Double-crested Cormorants** are a common wintering bird in the South Bay, but the count of 835 found on Shoreline Lake on 5 Jan (MMR) is exceptional. As in recent months, **Cattle Egrets** have been found on some occasions near the Arzino Ranch in Alviso (SCR, MJM, VRL) with the peak count of four on 4 Jan (SCR).

On San Felipe Lake, south of Hwy 152, just over the line in San Benito County there were 34 **Tundra Swans** on 28 Jan (SCR, HLR). In addition to the **Greater White-fronted Goose** reported last month on the San Jose CBC, a second bird was on a pond on the McCarthy Ranch on 17 Dec (RCa) as well. Starting the new year, five were seen over Artesian Slough in Alviso on 7 Jan (PJM) and a single adult touched down on the Santa Jose-Santa Clara Water Pollution Control Plant (WPCP) sludge ponds on 25 Jan (MMR). Our local **Ross' Goose** was seen at the Sunnyvale WPCP ponds 1-5 Jan (MJM, MMR,

TAC). A count of 34 **Wood Ducks** on the Almaden Res. on 28 Jan (S&BS) was a high for the month. Up to seven **Blue-winged Teal** have been found in the Palo Alto Flood Control Basin (FCB) from 1-7 Jan (v.ob.) with the peak count on the first of the month (MMR, MJM). Male **Eurasian Wigeon** continued to be found in their December locations with one to two birds in the Sunnyvale WPCP ponds 1-5 (MJM, MMR, TAC) and singles on Salt Pond A1 in Mountain View and in the Palo Alto FCB on 5 Jan (both MMR). The Palo Alto FCB Red-

*Lesser Black-backed Gull,
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker,
Eastern Phoebe, and
Chestnut-collared Longspur
added spice to January*

head flock was tallied at 119 on 1 Jan (MMR, MJM). Almost becoming ho-hum, two male **Tufted Ducks** were found on the Sunnyvale WPCP ponds on 1 Jan (MJM), and a single male was seen there on 5 Jan (MMR, TAC). **Barrow's Goldeneyes** have been regular at Shoreline Lake during the month (m.ob.) with a peak count of two males and two females on 9 Jan (MMR). A single male **Hooded Merganser** on Shoreline Lake on 5 Jan (MMR) was in a location where they are seldom found. **Common Mergansers** forage on some of our urban streams as indicated by the four found in the Guadalupe River above Montague on 13 Jan (MJM, CF). They wouldn't be there if it wasn't for the fishing. A count of 48 on Calero Res. on 28 Jan (MJM) was the high for the month. A

count of 247 **Red-breasted Mergansers** on the Alviso salt ponds on 21 Jan (PJM) is a record high for the county.

Raptors through Sapsuckers

An Osprey along Mission Ridge on 17 Dec (DES, DJ) was a rare winter sight for the San Jose CBC. At least one **Bald Eagle** has been found on Calaveras Res. with observations on 6 Jan (MMR) and 27 Jan (MJM). A 2nd-winter bird was seen at Calero Res. on 28 Jan (MJM). **Ferruginous Hawks** have been found in fairly typical numbers in January with an adult in Sunnyvale on 16 Jan (MM), one along the Sierra Road summit on 21 Jan (MJM), another at Calaveras Res. on 27 Jan (MJM), and an imm. at Hwy 101 and Cochrane in Morgan Hill on 28 Jan (SCR, HLR). A **Prairie Falcon** near the Alviso Environmental Education Center (EEC) during the month (m.ob.) and a bird along Frazier Lake Road south of Gilroy on 28 Jan (SCR, HLR) are wintering birds away from their Diablo Range breeding grounds.

Three **Lesser Yellowlegs** were seen in the Alviso salt ponds on 17 Dec (C&JC) where they are rarely found during the winter months. Eight **Sanderling** on the Alviso salt ponds 7 Jan and seven there on 21 Jan (both PJM) are good finds for the South Bay. A **Ruff** on the San Jose CBC on 17 Dec on the sludge ponds at the San Jose-Santa Clara WPCP (RCa, CC) is only our second December record of this old world shorebird. The **Lesser Black-backed Gull** was found once again on 14 Jan on Salt Pond A12 in Alviso (RR fide MMR). An imm. **Glaucous Gull** was on the Alviso salt ponds on 22 Jan (PJM). Two **Northern Pygmy-Owls** duetting in

Monte Bello OSP on 12 Jan (MMR) and a single bird seen mid-morning on Willow Ridge in Henry Coe SP on 14 Jan (JY, AL) are both from areas where they breed. Less expected were the two **Long-eared Owls** in Monte Bello OSP on 12 Jan (MMR), returning after an apparent one-year absence. An adult male **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** at the Carmelite Monastery in Santa Clara on 17 Dec (MM) is only the fifth for the county. The Ed Levin male continues to be found with observations on 12 Jan (KCW), 26 Jan (MMR), and 27 Jan (MJM).

Flycatchers through Goldfinches

An **Eastern Phoebe** has returned to Shady Oaks Park in San Jose for its third winter. It was first found on 17 Jan (MMR) and seen again on 21 Jan (AME, MJM). A flock of 15 **Tree Swallows** was found on 17 Dec at the Alviso Marina (RoC, TO), always a good find for the Christmas count. Two were seen near Gilroy on 28 Jan (SCR, HLR) and may be the beginning of the spring influx. A **Barn Swallow** over Sandy Wool Lake on 22 Jan (MMR) is a month early at the least and may best be categorized as a winter record. A male **Phainopepla** found along the west side of Calaveras Res. in December was seen again on 6 Jan (MMR). Another **Nashville Warbler** was found on the San Jose CBC beyond the one reported last month. The second bird was in the Santa Clara Mission City Cemetery on 17 Dec (MM). Wintering **Yellow Warblers** are seldom found in the county. One along the entrance to the Mountain View Forebay on 1 Jan (MMR) is in a location where a bird has been seen in the previous two winters. A second bird along Artesian Slough in Alviso on 7 Jan (PJM) is in an area where a bird was

found in early December. A **Palm Warbler** in Fair Oaks Park in Sunnyvale on 17 Dec (MM) was re-found on 8 Jan (MMR) and 9 Jan (MJM). Most of our Palm Warblers are late fall birds and few linger on into January. A **Black-and-White Warbler** was re-captured at the Coyote Creek Riparian Station (CCRS) on 3 Jan (fide WGB). This bird was first banded in October and is apparently wintering along Coyote Creek. We have no previous January records for this species. It has been a tanager winter, at least if you are patient. Although the female **Summer Tanager** found along San Francisquito Creek in December has not been seen in the new year, a 1st-winter male was found at the Stanford Cactus Garden on 8 Jan (DSt) and has been seen by a number of observers through 28 Jan (DSt, MMR, LL, MJM). One to two female **Western Tanagers** have been found nearby as well with observations from 8 Jan to 27 Jan (DSt, SCR, MJM). The high tide of 19 Jan brought views of two **Sharp-tailed Sparrows** at the Palo Alto Baylands, one at the corner (MMR et al.) and one along the wastewater outfall (PS fide SS fide MMR). **White-throated Sparrows** were found in typical numbers this month. The first for 1996 was found New Year's Day at the Palo Alto FCB (MMR, MJM). Single birds were found at Stanford 5-9 Jan (MMR)

and the Carmelite Monastery in Santa Clara on 8 Jan (MMR). A bird at a feeder in Los Altos was there at least through 10 Jan (RiC). The wintering **Chestnut-collared Longspur** along Sierra Road near its summit was seen again on 1 Jan (MMR) and 21 Jan (AME, MJM). **Lawrence's Goldfinches** were found widely in Henry Coe SP on 14 Jan with an unusually high winter count of 50 at Hoover Lake (JY, AL).

Observers: Bill Bousman (WGB), Christopher Carlson (CC), Richard Carlson (RCa), Ted Chandik (TAC), Les Chibana (LCh), Rita Colwell (RiC), Rob Colwell (RoC), Chuck & Joan Coston (C&JC), Al Eisner (AME), Chris Fischer (CF), Dave Johnston (DJ), Va Landschoot (VRL), Amy Lauterbach (AL), Linda Lloyd (LL), Mike Mammoser (MJM), Peter Metropulos (PJM), Mark Miller (MM), Tom Olson (TO), Bob Roadcap (RR), Mike Rogers (MMR), Heather Rottenborn (HLR), Steve Rottenborn (SCR), Chris Salander (CKS), Don Schmoldt (DES), Steve & Bonney Shunk (S&BS), Paul Stevens (PS), Dick Stovel (DSt), Susan Stout (SS), Clark White (KCW), and Jim Yurchenco (JY).

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



Original drawing by Emilie Curtis

Once Upon A Creek—San Tomas Aquino

by *Clysta Seney*

(Second in a four-part series)

Standing in the Fire Station down at the San Jose Historical Museum in Kelley Park, I noticed an early 1800's map of the area. My eyes were drawn to a broad creek tumbling through the city of Santa Clara—San Tomas Aquino. As I went through the Museum I continued to look at the maps, trying to see what this creek once looked like. Several aerial photos showed a meandering creek with Saratoga Creek joining the San Tomas a few miles west of Santa Clara University.

Today, of course, San Tomas is subsumed underneath the San Tomas Expressway. It comes back to fresh air at its confluence with Saratoga Creek near Monroe Ave. The San Tomas was the creek in which a lost whale stranded itself a couple of years ago. It borders Great America before it finally spills into the bottom of the Bay. There are a few detention ponds for overflows during high water years that offer interesting birding now and then. Although neither are accessible, with binoculars you can see through the cyclone fences. One is along Hwy. 237 and the other is across from the S.C. Golf & Tennis Club along Great America Pkwy. You'll often see a White-tailed Kite at the latter.

The San Tomas runs through the industrial sector of Santa Clara and many employees like to walk the levees. One Great Egret made it all the way up the creek to the CalTrain tracks when flows were high. While watching this bird seeking food and walking atop the levee, I had a friend with me. She

commented that she didn't understand all the "fol-de-rol" about losing habitat. The egret was "doing just fine." And, by the way, she noted, she was very upset about visiting the Alviso Refuge and not being allowed on the levees there. She was especially indignant "since we taxpayers pay for the Refuge." So she and I had a little talk.

I explained to her that the levees were closed at certain times because some birds nest on or along them and they need their privacy—kind of like when you had your five kids and didn't want a lot of company around. Then we talked about the Great Egret. It certainly had come a long way up the creek, but it would not stay. With all the concrete upstream and lack of flora, the bird was probably exploring. But, "getting along fine"—who knows? I realized then how important it was to have conversations like this. As we talked some more, it occurred to me to ask a question: How do you identify a homeless egret? Our human homeless are stereotyped as "bag ladies" or "street people." With "Need Work" signs, shopping carts and signs of poor hygiene we identify our human homeless. Taking care of them is an increasingly hard task.

But I'm left with those nagging questions: How do you recognize a homeless bird? How many birds lost habitat when the creek was covered with an expressway? Where do they go? Who speaks for the birds that use the creek?

And, like our human homeless, what can we do about this? For 1996, let's think about these questions and see if we can come up with some sustainable answers.

Visiting Coe Park Back Country

For one spectacular weekend this spring, Henry W. Coe State Park will open the gate at Bell Station on Highway 152 east of Gilroy. The annual Coe Backcountry Weekend held in the little-traveled east side section of the park is scheduled for April 27 - 28. This event, sponsored by the Pine Ridge Association, allows visitors vehicle access to a remote and beautiful area of the 80,000 acre park. Hikers, birders, mountain bikers, and equestrians have a unique opportunity to see and enjoy an area isolated by long distances and rugged terrain from the park's Morgan Hill entrance.

This area of the park puts on a spring extravaganza of colorful wildflowers in the oak woodland. Birding opportunities should be fantastic, with recently arrived spring migrants and local

breeders busily setting up territories. The trails provide panoramic views of the Diablo Range. Visitors may come into the park for the day, camp overnight at Orestimba Corral or Pacheco Creek Crossing, or backpack to one of the seldom-visited areas of the park. They may explore on their own or join a guided ride or hike, or participate in naturalist activities. Brochures, maps, information, activities, and volunteer assistance will be available.

Participants will travel 8.5 miles on an unpaved road from Bell Station to Pacheco Creek Crossing or an additional 3.8 miles to the Orestimba Corral. The road is in good condition and passable by two-wheel drive vehicles, although there are some narrow and steep sections requiring high clearance. The road is not suitable

for camp trailers or motor homes. Entry for the weekend is by reservation only. Flyers announcing the event and providing an application form are available at hike, bike, and equestrian businesses such as REI and bicycle shops, as well as the Trails Center and at Park Headquarters. Call Henry Coe State Park in Gilroy at (408) 848-4006 and leave your name, address and phone #, and an application will be mailed to you.

Application and entry fees, \$5.00 per vehicle for day use, \$10.00 per vehicle for overnight use, must be returned by April 5. A random drawing will select the 330 vehicles per day space limitation. No dogs or open fires are permitted.

Sign up now for an unforgettable spring weekend in the wild backcountry of Coe Park!

Birdathon '96

It's coming! Birdathon '96—our SCVAS annual fundraiser April 13 - May 4. This year's theme is "Creating and Enhancing Habitat."

We'll be continuing last year's highly successful revegetation project along Stevens Creek at McClellan Ranch Park, as well as taking an active role in the California Bluebird Recovery program. Our Western and Mountain Bluebird populations have been in a steady decline. With this program, we hope to reverse this trend.

A Bird-a-thon works this way—you pledge a certain amount per species (anything from \$0.05 to \$1.00 or more), or a total pledge amount. We have the teams listed, or if you want to start your own team, call the office. After count day you will receive an account of the day and list of birds seen of the team you support. You can send your pledge payable to SCVAS directly to Santa Clara Valley Audubon.

We hope you join us. Your conservation dollar will be tax-deductible and well spent. The teams need your support to reach their goal.

1996 Birdathon Teams

UNCOMMON LOONS	Nick Yatsko, Rod Norden
HUMMDINGERS	Jayne DiCandio, Sandy Cortright, Heather Rottenborn
SCREAMING KINGFISHERS	Chris Fischer, Charles Preuss, Al Jaramillo
WRONG TERNS	Bobbie Handen, Cindy Handen & Friends
VAGRANTS	Grant Hoyt, Dick Stovel, Mike Mammoser
DOWN & DIRTY BIRDERS	Brad Lowman, Pete LaTourrette
VIOLENT GREENS	Steve Shunk & Friends
SANTA CLARA SWIFTS	Clysta Seney, Ann Verdi
CREEK FREAKS	Mike Rogers, Steve Rottenborn

70th Anniversary Givers List

Many, many thanks to the following SCVAS supporters who contributed a total of \$14,064 to the 1995 fall fundraiser:

Marg & Charles Anderson, Paul Armer, John & Colleen Arnold, Charman Ashby, Keith Askoff, LaVerne Barling, Joyce Bartlett, Lorraine R. Bazan, Louis Beudet, Ann Bender, Janet Bertaina, David & Kindel Blau, Susan Borelli, Marlene Boyce, Ethel Brady, William & David Brasier, Ben & Helen Brenchley, Keith Breon, Donald Brockhorst, Richard Brody, Barbara Burri, Joyce Byers, Norma Cabot, Janet Camagna, Roy Cameron, Bernice Camuso, Natalie Chambliss, Charles Chapman, Mark Chee, Doug & Gail Cheeseman, Patricia A. Close, Joanna L. Cohen, Rob & Rita Colwell, Anna M. Cook, David Cook, Sandy Cortright, Charles Coston, Constance Crawford, William R. Danielson, Tom Dargan, Carolyn Davidson, Richard Davis, Dennis DeMille, M.M. Dieckmann, Jo Ann Donohue, Beverly Drollman, Jean Dubois, C.A. Dykema, Linda Elkind, Dennis Ely, Chris Fisher, Louis Fisher, M. Fisher & Kathy Parks, Jane Fitzsimmons, Russel Fowler, Harriet Gerson, Marie Gordon, Nicole Gordon, Shirley Gordon, Elaine & Stanley Gould, Thomas Grey, Lauren Hall, Bobbie & Carl Handen, Roxanne Handler, Dorothea S. Hart, Al & Faith Hastings, Frances Hast, George Heigho, Leonard & Anna Helton, Charles Hirschbek, Jan

Hintermeister, Barbara Holden, Kirsten R. Holmquist, Ruth K. Honig, Grant & Karen Hoyt, Carsten Hughes, Lee Hung, Michael Irvin, Nancy R. Johns, Barbara Johnson, Rick Johnson, Lynne Johnson, Rina & Simon Katzen, Chris Keswani, Jack Kopp, Patricia Kozlovsky, Jennifer Kranz, Sherron Kritzer, Edwin Laak, William Laden, Pearl Lawson, Jeanne Leabitte, Rosalie Lefkowitz, Arlene Lightford, Jim & Sue Liskovec, Joyce Loughmiller, Charles Ludlum, Bill Lundgren, Susan Luttner, Sonia & Hugh MacPherson, Betty Magowan, Mike Mammoser, Cecil Mansfield, David McIntyre, Cynthia McLaughlin, Georgann Meadows, Marie & John Meyer, S.B. Meyer, Deborah Miller, Melissa E. Miller, Robert Moncrieff, Dena Mossar, Lincoln Moses, Jo Ellen Nichols, Robert Noyes, John O'Hare, Donald Osterbrock, Chris Otahal, Nancy E. Owens, Patricia Perry, Elaine Peterman, Joyce Penn Moser, Dale & Kent Peterson, William Pier, Jennifer Presley & Steve Smith, Charles Price, Don & Dee Price, Warren Rider, Michael & Theresa Rigney, Michael Riley, Robert Roadcap, Betty Roberts, Stephen Robie, Ronald Ronconi, Steve & Heather Rottenborn, James Runyeon Jr., James Russell, Marguerite Ryan, Betty Saito, Elizabeth Salzer, April Sapsford, Margie Schmole, Clysta Seney, Theresa Serafini, Laverne Shaffer, Jean F. Shurtleff, Tibby Simon, Genny Smith, Kendrick Smith, Mary Smith, Olney & Ruth Smith, Philip Smith, William Smythe, L. Haynes Spear, Stephen Stearns, John & Dorothy Stefanski, Madeline Stovel, Milton Sturgis, J.R. & Shannon Susick, Lisa Tarazon, Holly Taylor, Frank Thiemann, Alan & Karen Thomas, Dr. Lloyd Thompson, Mr. & Mrs. Larry Tilbury, Carol Toppel, Joanne Towner, Ruth Troetschler, Gunner & Elena Vatvedt, Ann Verdi, Robert Vigeant, Katherine A. Voss, Charles & Camille Wade, Wayne Walker, Jay Walton, Ted Wassam, Tom Wentzell, Julie Wheeler, Sylvia Ann White, Richard Williams, Donald Willis, Barbara Wilson, Des & Cathy Wytmans, M. Yatsko, Nick & KC Yatsko.

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

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

Merced NWR/Santa Fe Grade Field Trip

Our annual Merced Nat'l. Wildlife Refuge/Santa Fe Grade Road trip was great as always! The weather cooperated (that is it didn't rain, it wasn't windy, and the fog was thin enough to provide a visibility of 1 to 5 miles) and the birds cooperated. As in the past we started at the junction of Hwy. 59 and Sandy Mush Road and worked our way to Merced NWR. This year we explored two new roads, Combs and Lone Tree Rds, east of Merced NWR. We lucked out with Bald Eagle, Ferruginous Hawk, and Rough-legged Hawks on these side roads, as well as good looks at Sandhill Crane and Tricolored Blackbird. The calls of the cranes in the fog were wonderfully haunting! At Merced NWR about 8 to 10,000 Snow/Ross' Geese sat in a field only a few hundred feet from us and let us view them at our leisure. Right in front of the flock was an adult blue-morph Ross' Goose, with a possible second blue Ross' Goose further into the flock. There were also two blue snow geese there!

This is the best look that I have ever had of a blue Ross' (and about the 6th I have ever seen. . . they really are very rare)!

The hunters were numerous along Santa Fe Grade Road, so there were not as many ducks visible, except in a few protected areas. Along SFG Road, we saw 60 Marbled Godwits (rare in the Central Valley); a few of us got a brief glimpse of a Merlin; 600 white-faced ibis; over 150 Tree Swallows; a huge flock of Snow/Ross' Geese that exploded into the air over calm water, resulting in a wonderful reflection!; and last but not least, after we had all gone our separate ways late in the evening, I saw a male Mountain Bluebird on a fence on SFG Road near Hwy. 140! I wonder what other people saw as they began their journey home!? A great trip all around—looking forward to next years' trip!

—Don Schmoldt

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

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

Or

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

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

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Phone _____

Gift From: _____

7XCH

C14