



The Avocet

The Newsletter of the Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society

November 1997

Setting the Table for Your Winter Birds

By Garth Harwood

SCVAS Chapter Manager

A recent bulletin from the Cornell Lab of Ornithology (CLO) reports that a whopping 43% of U. S. households now feed wild birds. And I know from my perch in the SCVAS office that it's much the same story here in Santa Clara County.

Questions regarding bird-feeding make up a large part of the inquiries I receive from the public. The questions range from the obvious (What sort of seed mix should I buy for my finches?) to the not-so-obvious (Will I attract cowbirds if I leave seed feeders up all summer?). It's also true that winter is the time when our bird-feeding practices have the most potential to help---or harm---wild birds (see related story, Page 5). So, as this El Niño

winter gets underway, it seems like a good time to review the basics of local bird-feeding as well as some ideas for expanding the number and variety of birds at your feeders.

Research into the subject has revealed that the bulk of most wild birds' diet is ordinarily gathered from natural sources, even when feeders are continuously available. Moreover, in our immediate area, the relatively mild climate is easier on birds, so that the provision of extra feed is seldom a matter of life and death. Still, the presence of many feeders offering a range of food types may help maintain a more diverse and abundant bird community, especially in our most urbanized areas, and our feeders can

provide an important safety net as well. In our individual homes and gardens, the ultimate importance of bird-feeding may well be greater for ourselves, as we get to know the birds on a much closer and more "personal" level.

Types of Feeders

There are several general categories of bird feeding devices to choose from, and, generally speaking, a satisfying diversity of birds can best be attracted by maintaining one or more feeders from each category. These are:

Seed Feeders. In three basic shapes, these are the most popular feeders, and at least at our office, they keep a crowd of eager birds (mostly House Finches) close by from dawn to dusk. "Tube" feeders are columnar in shape and typically have four or more perches for small to medium-sized songbirds. They are very popular with chickadees, titmice, and especially finches. Jays, blackbirds, and other big birds find them awkward and tend to avoid them. "Hopper" feeders permit larger birds ready access, and are placed on trees or posts to attract larger, tree-loving species such as jays. And "tray" feeders are often placed near the ground to bring in the ground-

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General Membership Meeting
Wednesday November 19
"One Good Tern Deserves Another:
Ecology and Conservation of Terns"
with Dr. Adrian Del Nevo, Ph.D
Palo Alto Cultural Center
Newell and Embarcadero Rds.
7:30 Hospitality 8:00 Program

Ever wondered who to "tern" to for information on those plunging seabirds you've been admiring? Join us for a special evening as Dr. Del Nevo introduces us to tern ecology and conservation. With over 20 years of experience in program management and conservation biology projects, he has served as supervisor and scientific advisor of ecological and ornithological science projects throughout Europe and Africa. Among his many studies, Adrian has spent six years studying Least and Roseate Terns and four years studying Snowy Plovers in the Azores. There are over 40 species of these graceful birds hovering and diving over our planet---don't miss this exciting and engaging speaker as he acquaints us with the terns of the world.

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Craig Breon's Perspective

VIEW FROM THE OFFICE

by Garth Harwood, SCVAS Chapter Manager

FOR AN APPLE FARMER, "Fall" is more like a description of this season than its name. As I write this column at the beginning of October, I am spending an hour or two picking apples at my Pescadero orchard most mornings before coming in to the Audubon office. But the windy days of this past week have been beating me to the punch as often as not. My entire orchard has come to resemble one of those oversized playpens you see at fast-food restaurants—you know, the ones filled with the brightly colored little balls? I've been trying to get used to the sensation of walking on these carbon-based ball bearings, but it's just not working . . .

But, of course, it's all worth it, though it's tough when I lose big, hollow branches to the winds, especially the ones the chickadees have been nesting in so happily for the past several years (there are still at least four such nest limbs in the orchard). After losing so many limbs, I'll just have to put up some more nestboxes this winter—after all, these little creatures are working hard for me, consuming many times their own weight in insects, especially the Codling Moth, better known as the worm of wormy apple fame. We lose at least 50% of our crop to this pest alone, but thanks to the birds, we still get the other half without adding any poison to the environment.

* * * * *

THE FALL MIGRANTS have been moving through for a month or more now, with many exotic species observed just a few miles down the road at Phipps Ranch: Chestnut-sided Warbler, Black-and-White Warbler, Blackpoll Warbler, and the first-ever San Mateo County record of Yellow-green Vireo, for example. They never seem to stray upstream to my place, or maybe I'm just too relaxed at home to spot them. But thankfully, I am just as enraptured by the winter residents such as Fox Sparrow, Varied Thrush, Hutton's Vireo and Red-breasted Sapsucker (who I think I've been hearing this week, but haven't spotted yet). After all, the exotics are so far out of range that they may well be on their way to certain doom, a likelihood underscored by **Kenn Kaufman** during his recent talk on behalf of SCVAS. While it's a marvel to see the vagrant species here, it's always a mixed experience when their adventures seem likely to have unhappy endings.

* * * * *

VOLUNTEERS HAVE BEEN ACTIVE at the office of late. Key contributors in recent weeks have been **Doug and Ardith Greenquist**, who started out combing through the Bird Count data records for information on local population trends of cavity-nesting species for the Bluebird Program, and then expanded their volunteer efforts. Turns out Doug is one of those rare souls who can calmly open up a stone-dead Macintosh computer and coax it back to life with a few small adjustments—he has restored three defunct systems for us so far! Meanwhile **Marie Gordon** and **Joyce Chang** have enabled us to stay open on Saturdays this Fall (Marie also helped out at the Kaufman presentation on October 3). And we have still another new office volunteer, **Han-Yu Loo**, a biological illustrator in training whose work will most likely appear in these pages before long. Thanks to you all!

* * * * *

NEW TITLES AT THE SCVAS LIBRARY: The following NEW titles are available to any SCVAS member for a 3-week checkout. Please come in and help break them in!

Kingbird Highway (*Kaufman, 1997*) Two thumbs up!

Costa Rica, a Natural Destination (*Sheck, 1993*)

First Aid for Birds (*Hawcroft, 1994*)

Blackbirds of the Americas (*Orians, 198_*)

Bird Migration, an Illustrated Account (*Burton, 1992*)

A Guide to Bird Education Resources (*Partners in Flight, 1997*)

Stokes Field Guide to Birds, Eastern Region (*Stokes, 1996*)

The Birds of the Republic of Panama, Parts 3 & 4 (*Wetmore et al., 1972 & 1984*)

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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.

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SCVAS is the chapter of the National Audubon Society for Santa Clara County.

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Rare Bird Alert: 415-681-7422

November 1997 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 Nov. 1, 8:30 AM.** Half day. Ed Levin park South. Leader: Frank Vanslager (408)257-3647. Take Hwy 237 east, crossing I-880 and I-680 as 237 becomes Calaveras Rd. in Milpitas. Continue approx. 2 miles past 680 to just past golf course entrance; turn right into park entrance. Possible entrance fee; rain cancels.

****Sunday Nov. 2, 8:30 AM.** Half day. Grant Ranch Co. Park. Leader: Alan Thomas (408)265-9286. From I-680 take Alum Rock Ave. northeast, turn right on Mt. Hamilton Rd. then go approx. 9 miles to park. Meet at Halls Valley Lake parking lot on left, just past park entrance. Fresh water ducks, oak woodland birds, possible Golden Eagle. Moderate 2-mile walk. Lunch optional; rain cancels.

****Saturday Nov. 8, 9:00 AM.** Half day. Baylands Park and Duck Pond, Palo Alto. Leader: John Mariani (408)997-2066. From Hwy 101 take Embarcadero Rd. east to end, turn left and drive past duck pond; meet at Baylands parking lot. Ducks, herons, rails, gulls. Heavy rain cancels.

****Sunday Nov. 9, 9:00 AM.** Half day. Charleston Slough. Leader: Dick Stovel. (650)856-6105. From Hwy 101 in Mt. View take San Antonio Rd. north 1/4 mile; meet at Terminal Way parking area. Ducks, herons, egrets, gulls, shorebirds. Beginners welcome.

Tuesday Nov. 11, 9:30 AM. This is the 30-year anniversary of the Eve Case Bird Discussion Group, and will meet at the home of Pat and Jean Dubois, 17150 Buena Vista Ave., Saratoga (408)395-4264. Topic: Vasona Lake Herons: Green Heron, Black-crowned Night Heron and Great Blue Heron.

****Wednesday Nov. 12, 9:00 AM.** Half day. Leaders: Emelie Curtis (408)779-2637 & Jane Glass. Take E. Leavesley Rd. exit off Hwy 101, go east 1.5 miles, turn left on New Ave. then right on Roop Rd. Meet at Lakeview Picnic Area. Highlights: waterbirds, raptors.

****Saturday Nov. 15, 1:00 PM.** Half day. Alviso Marina. Leader: Nick Lethaby (408)941-0223. Note afternoon start time. Take Gold St. exit north from Hwy 237, turn left on Elizabeth St. then right on Hope St. to Marina Parking area. Emphasis on gull identification---9 species, including Thayer's and rare Glaucous, are possible; 7 species likely.

****Wednesday Nov. 19, 9:00 AM.** Half day. Pescadero Marsh. Leader: Sue James (650)348-0315. Meet at **first** parking lot south of bridge over Pescadero Creek on Hwy 1. Highlights include shorebirds, gulls, grebes, terns, ducks. Lunch optional. Heavy rain cancels.

****Saturday Nov. 22, 8:30 AM.** Half day. Oka ponds. Leader: Kathy Parker (408)358-2832. Take Hwy 17 south to Los Gatos, exit at Lark Ave.; turn right on Lark then right onto Oka. Take Oka to end, turn left onto Mozart, then immediately right onto Oka Ct. Park at end of Oka Ct. and meet at gate. Ducks, Green Heron, gulls; possible Hooded Merganser, heavy rain cancels.

****Friday - Saturday Nov. 28 - 29, 9:00 AM.** Two days. Sacramento Nat'l. Wildlife Refuge. Leader: Don Schmoltdt (510)215-1910. Meet Sat. morning at Sacramento NWR visitor's center, approx. 20 miles north of Williams on I-5. Take Norman Rd. exit east from I-5, then immed. north on frontage rd. to Refuge. Bring scopes; carpool if possible. 3-hour drive from So. Bay. Spectacular views of ducks and geese by the thousands; swans, cranes & ibis possible; impressive variety of raptors.

****Wednesday Dec. 3, 8:30 AM.** Half day. Grant Ranch Co. Park. Leader: Alan Thomas (408)265-9236. See directions under Nov. 2 listing.

PLAN AHEAD for Christmas Bird Counts:

This is a reminder to mark your calendars for the annual **San Jose Christmas Bird Count (CBC)**, to be held on Sunday, December 21, with the count-down dinner to follow at the Leninger Center in Kelley Park. Please plan to join us as we canvas the hills and valleys, bayfront and wetlands, riparian corridors and urban parks for our wintering birds and perhaps an occasional rarity. The sectors to be covered are listed below, and the sector leaders will be announced in the December *Avocet*. In the meantime, if you're interested in signing up for the count please contact Ann Verdi by phone: (h) 408-266-5108 or (w) 408-749-2199 or via e-mail: ann.verdi@amd.com.

Sec A---Alviso
Sec B---Fremont Hills
Sec C---Calaveras
Sec D---Alum Rock
Sec E---Evergreen (Lake Cunningham)
Sec F---South (central San Jose)
Sec G---Southwest (Santa Clara)
Sec H---Agnew (Coyote Crk., Guad. R.)
Sec I---Milpitas (north San Jose)
Sec J---Berryessa Hills



The **Palo Alto CBC** is scheduled for Monday, Dec. 22. This CBC features a tremendous variety of habitat in northern Santa Clara and southern San Mateo counties. A compiler is desperately needed to keep the momentum going--our staff simply can't handle organizing two CBC's on consecutive days so close to the holidays. Please call Garth at the office if you're interested.



The **Mt. Hamilton CBC** will be held on Tuesday, Dec. 30. Contact Don Schmoltdt (h) 510-215-1910 or (w) 510-236-6810.

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feeders such as doves, towhees, and sparrows (although these species are often content to simply scavenge the overspill from other feeder types up above). For a breakdown of the main seed types available and the birds attracted by each, see the table below. All are available year-round at the SCVAS Nature Shop.

Suet Feeders. Wire baskets or nylon bags are used to hold cakes of rendered animal fat. Commercially produced cakes are usually loaded up with seeds, bits of fruit, or other favorite bird foods. They are surprisingly tidy, odorless, and attract a greater diversity of birds than any other feeder type at our office. On any given day, ours is visited by Chestnut-backed Chickadees, White-breasted Nuthatches, Nuttall's Woodpeckers, Oak Titmice, and a jay or two. On rarer occasions, we have observed Black-headed Grosbeaks, Red-breasted Nuthatches, Acorn Woodpeckers, Song Sparrows, and White-crowned Sparrows at it as well.

I often speak to people who tell me that they've given up on suet because "I put out a cake months ago and nothing ever came." That's a shame, because the constant parade of birds at ours is one of the great rewards of working here at Audubon. Those disappointing experiences are most likely the result of a "turned" suet cake that repels, rather than attracts the birds.

Suet easily turns rancid in hot weather, so it is often considered a winter food. I keep it up year-round at our office, however, because the birds love it. By using suet "dough", formulated especially for summer use, we avoid the problem of turned cakes. (If your experiment with suet met the same fate mentioned above, try removing the offending cake, washing the basket thoroughly, and placing a fresh cake in it in a new location. Give the birds 3 or 4 weeks to catch on to the new resource.)

Nectar Feeders. There are numerous styles available, by far too many to review them all here. Suffice it to say that the primary considerations are capacity and ease of cleaning. We recommend feeders of relatively small capacity for hummingbirds, because it encourages regular cleaning. Nectar (standard recipe: 1 part sugar for every 4 parts water), ferments quickly, especially in full sun, with negative health

effects on the birds. No color is needed in the nectar, as the bright parts of the feeder will do all the attracting that needs to be done, without any risk of chemical contamination. It's best to clean your nectar feeders at least once a week in warm weather with a bottle brush (seed feeders can be done much less frequently unless you see diseased birds using them).

Orioles are common summer residents in our area and will become regular visitors at a nectar feeder if they can get at the stuff. As heavier birds, they prefer to eat while perched, so oriole feeders with perches are a great addition to your array of feeders from the second half of March through August.

Food Plants. While technically not a type of feeder, plants which provide food to birds are of special importance to any successful arrangement of conventional feeders. In addition to their food value, they provide protective cover, resting places, nesting sites, and crucial "observation posts" for territorial species such as hummingbirds. They also harbor insects, which will provide still another supplemental food source. Like people, birds appreciate variety in their diets, so your yard will be more popular with the birds if it has an appealing variety of goodies such as berries (winter-ripening varieties are best), trumpet-shaped flowers for the hummers, and a fruit tree or two. It's amazing how many Cedar Waxwings a tree full of persimmons can hold!

Water. This essential should never be overlooked, and although it may be over-

abundant this winter, it's a good idea to have a source ready for any dry spells during the year. Even if a natural source exists nearby, your clean "birdbath" may spare your local birds having to drink from sources of dubious healthfulness such as roadside puddles. Speaking of water, you'd be surprised how often I hear from people whose water sources have turned into feeders in their own right. Herons and egrets are especially adaptable when it comes to fishing for somebody's prized koi goldfish in a backyard pond. If you have that exotic problem, the experts recommend stringing fishing line in parallel strands a couple of feet over the pond every 18-24 inches in a grid pattern.

What to feed, and when

In our area, almost every type of feed is suitable for year-round use, with several special considerations and exceptions. Many experts think it's a good idea to cease feeding millet and similar grains during the height of the breeding season, because it is suspected in promoting local concentrations of the parasitic Brown-headed Cowbird and the aggressive, non-native House (AKA "English") Sparrow. That's certainly possible, judging by the birds I've seen at the Audubon feeders. The solution is to switch to any combination of sunflower seed, thistle, suet dough, etc., since these species largely avoid them, while other feeder visitors such as finches like one or more of the alternatives just as well. Alternatively, it does no harm to cease your

	Chickadees Nuthatches Titmice	Finches, Gold- finches	Sparrows Blackbirds	Jays	Wood- peckers	Orioles, Humming- birds	Pigeons Doves
Sunflower	Preferred	Preferred	Preferred	Accepted	Accepted		
Safflower	Accepted	Accepted					
Corn			Accepted	Preferred			Preferred
Millet		Accepted	Accepted				Accepted
Milo				Accepted			Accepted
Thistle		Preferred					
Suet	Preferred			Accepted	Preferred		
Nectar						Preferred	

Seed preferences of common feeder birds (Adapted from Cornell Lab of Ornithology Seed Preference Test, a nationwide citizen-science project, and CLO's "Bird Notes".)

feeding supplements in the summer, as other food resources are abundant then. (So yes, you can enjoy a guilt-free vacation).

In winter, it's a good idea to adjust your offerings toward a higher fat and oil content (see related article). Keep hummingbird feeders up, but take down your oriole feeder. Thistle feeders will be more popular in winter, when Pine Siskins and American Goldfinches disperse from their breeding grounds to join the Lesser Goldfinches that are the most common summer thistle-feeder.

Feeder placement, predation problems, and disease prevention

Sometimes birds simply refuse to approach a feeder, no matter what's offered, leaving its owner perplexed. What could they have done differently?

The answer frequently has to do with cover. Birds need to feel safe in order to approach a feeder. While it may not always be apparent to us, certain placements may represent a high-risk venture for birds. For example, there may be a particular spot where a feral cat spends hour upon hour awaiting a hungry bird. Or the danger may come from above: more and more reports are coming in of Coopers' and Sharp-shinned Hawks staking out local feeders as prime hunting locations. (When this comes over the phone to me, there is sometimes a bit of grief counseling to be done, but I must admit to a certain amount of inner glee: the ecosystem is working! The top predators are back!)

Experts recommend a placement of feeders at about 10 feet from the closest cover. This provides birds a nearby haven when startled and a "way-station" to use when approaching the feeder, from which they can scan for trouble. But it's also far enough away that cats and other ground predators lose the advantage of the sudden lunge. (For a full discussion of the cat problem, see Leda Beth Gray's article in the June 1997 *Avocet*, or contact the office for a reprint.)

Other considerations when placing a feeder are visibility (you do want to see the birds, don't you?), and convenience for refilling. If you make the location too hard to reach, it will be hard to stick with the routine over the long haul.

Several serious avian diseases can be spread through birds' use of feeders. Some, like *salmonella*, can be transmitted to humans, so special care should be taken to keep yourself healthy as you clean the feeders. Instructions for cleaning are provided in the accompanying article on winter feeding.

Winter Bird-feeding Counts Most

Winter is the season when supplemental feeding may contribute the most to songbird health and survival. During this season, the abundance of berries, fruits, and especially insects, (which represent the bulk of most songbirds' diets during the warmer months), has dwindled to the point where resident species must shift their diets to seeds and fruits to survive.

In the Bay Area it's unlikely that wild birds will undergo the large-scale population crashes that often follow, say, a three-day ice storm in the Midwest. But the survival of individual birds may indeed depend on our alertness to their changing needs during foul weather episodes. In general, the smaller the bird, the greater the challenge it faces coping with winter's long nights, cold temperatures, and diminished food supply. But any bird will benefit from a dependable source of daily nutrition and from some built-up fat reserves that provide it with an internal emergency energy source---and perhaps some direct insulation as well.

Some winter do's and don'ts:

Bird feeders would do well to adopt the first principle of Emergency First Aid: "Do no harm." Improperly maintained or erratically filled feeders can do more harm than good. Here are a few pointers for conscientious wintertime feeding:

√ **DO** clean your feeders thoroughly at the beginning of the rainy season, and as often as you can throughout the year (once a month would be fine; twice a year would be a lot better than nothing.) Use soap or detergent, then dip for several minutes in a solution of 1 part chlorine bleach to 10 parts water. Rinse and dry thoroughly before refilling. Cleaning is especially important during wet weather, because some of the most serious of the diseases that may be spread at feeders are mold-borne, and molds thrive on moisture. If your feeder collects a residue of uneaten seed at the bottom, as do many "tube" feeders, remove it periodically. Not only might it harbor pathogenic microbes, but it's probably pretty yucky.

√ **DO** check your feeders during or immediately after a heavy rain to make sure the seed is staying dry. If not, move it. This is

another way to prevent mold growth and disease transmission.

√ **DON'T** take down your hummingbird feeders. This is one of the most important bird-feeding differences between our area and the rest of the country. Many national birding publications advise taking these down over the winter, but locally that's the last thing you'd want to do! Our climate is mild enough to permit the Anna's Hummingbird to overwinter, but harsh weather still takes it's toll, and many don't make it. Removal of a steady food source may doom birds that have set up a territory around it.

√ **DON'T** worry about confusing migratory birds and causing them to linger beyond their safe traveling period by maintaining feeders during fall and winter. The scientific evidence is now very clear that day length, or photoperiod, is the controlling factor for the timing of migration, not food availability.

√ **DO** put up a suet feeder. Suet, a rendered form of animal fat, has the highest energy content of any bird food and is very popular during cold weather. It will often bring in a variety of species, such as woodpeckers, that would rarely, if ever, be seen at other feeder types.

√ **DO** consider putting out black oil sunflower seed, even if you avoid it at other times. Although it's not likely to be a matter of survival in our area, the higher oil content provides birds with more energy than other seed types.

√ **DO** consider joining the Cornell Lab of Ornithology's FeederWatch program. You can add valuable information to an emerging scientific portrait of the wintering birds of North America. All you have to do is catalog each species visiting your feeders one day a week for a 10-week period through the winter, even if you can only watch it briefly on a survey day. There is a small subscription fee, and you must use their special data-collection forms. The program starts in mid-November, so if you're interested, act quickly! Call CLO's FeederWatch program office at (800) 843-BIRD. I will be happy to serve as your local contact and troubleshooter for the program from the SCVAS office.

—Garth Harwood

Field Notes

by Bill Bousman

Egrets through Falcons

A **Cattle Egret** at the Arzino Ranch on 13 Sep (MJM, JH) was the only one found this month. An adult **White-faced Ibis** was found in the vicinity of the Coyote Creek Riparian Station (CCRS) waterbird pond 4-5 Sep (AJ, MiF, J&MMe) for our first report this year. An eclipse male **Hooded Merganser** has been found irregularly along Los Gatos Creek near the percolation ponds with reports on 7 Sep (RWR, FV) and 24 Sep (MMR). This bird is exceptionally early if it did not oversummer. Single **Osprey** were again seen along the Guadalupe River near the San Jose Airport: 1 Sep (MJM) and 18 Sep (NY). Another bird was seen on the Uvas Preserve near Gilroy on 5 Sep (SK). The first **Merlin** of the fall was a bird in Palo Alto on 14 Sep (KS), returning to its winter territory for the sixth year.

Shorebirds through Skimmers

A juvenile **American Golden-Plover** was found in the Ravenswood OSP on 23 Sep (SCR). A count of 50 **Lesser Yellowlegs** was tallied from the CCRS waterbird pond to the vicinity of Adobe Creek on 30 Aug (MMR). A high count of 42 birds in the CCRS waterbird pond on 12 Sep (NL) was also impressive. Two **Black Turnstones** over the CCRS waterbird pond on 1 Sep (AJ) were well away from the coast. Another misoriented coastal shorebird was a **Surfbird** at a high-tide roost in the Ravenswood OSP on 25 Sep (SCR). This location is at the southern edge of San Mateo County---the species has never been recorded in Santa Clara County. **Red Knots** are found regularly on the San Francisquito Creek delta in San Mateo County as evidenced by the 235 tallied there on 25 Sep (SCR). Further north, in the Ravenswood OSP even more birds were seen the same day when 472 were recorded (SCR). Yet only a single bird from these flocks strayed south of the county line, and then only briefly, as it was observed at the Palo Alto

Baylands on 24 Sep (MMR). Late **Semi-palmated Sandpipers** included a juvenile at the CCRS waterbird pond on 10 Sep (NL) and another juvenile near the Alviso Environmental Education Center (EEC) on 19 Sep (SCR, SBT).

The rarest shorebirds are found through persistence and an eye for what is different. Nick Lethaby discovered an adult **White-rumped Sandpiper** near the CCRS waterbird pond on 3 Sep and this bird was seen by many through 5 Sep. This is not only the first county record, but one of the few records for California. A single **Baird's Sandpiper** at the CCRS

Rare anywhere in California, a White-rumped Sandpiper is the first for the county

waterbird pond on 7 Sep (NL) was the last of the season. Numbers of **Pectoral Sandpipers** are down from last year's excellent showing. Moderate counts were obtained on the CCRS waterbird pond through the month (v.ob.) with a high tally of 28 there on 28 Sep (MJM). Away from that location three birds were seen on the pond at Spreckles and Grand in Alviso on 13 Sep (MJM, JH). The remarkable fall migration of **Stilt Sandpipers** has continued. An adult at the CCRS waterbird pond 30 Aug-11 Sep (v.ob.) is likely the bird first found there in August. It was last seen on 11 Sep (MMR, RWR). Similarly, a juvenile observed at the pond near Spreckles and State in Alviso was also seen through 13 Sep (MJM, JH). The first **Ruff** of the fall season was a juvenile male at the CCRS waterbird pond on 4 Sep (RWR, AJ, SCR, m.ob.) that remained at least until 5 Sep. A juvenile female was seen there as well on 4 Sep (RWR, SCR). A juvenile female seen at the pond at Spreckles and State on 17 Sep (NL) and the waterbird pond on 28 Sep (NL, AJ) is

likely the same bird found earlier. **Black Skimmers** remained at Charleston Slough through the month (v.ob.). A peak count of 13 there on 10 Sep (RC) is evidence of the expanding size of this population.

Roadrunners through Blackbirds

A **Greater Roadrunner** east of Hellyer and Hwy 101 on 5 Sep (SCR) is at the edge of its range. A **Chimney Swift** among Vaux's Swifts and Violet-green Swallows at the Alviso EEC on 19 Sep (SBT, SCR) is a second county record. Among the small numbers of **Vaux's Swifts** found in various locations during the month 100-150 over the Coleman Avenue ponds on 10-13 Sep (AV) was a surprise. The wheres and whys of these occasional large flocks of swifts is still unknown by us, the unswift. The male **Costa's Hummingbird** vacationing at a feeder in east San Jose for the second summer and fall was last seen on 10 Sep (D&JC). A male **Allen's Hummingbird**, well seen along Guadalupe River between Trimble and Montague on 13 Sep (AV), was a late fall migrant. **Willow Flycatchers** were found in a number of areas on the valley floor through late September (v.ob.) with a peak count of six along Coyote Creek below Hwy 237 on 5 Sep (NL). Three on the Guadalupe River below Trimble on 1 Sep (MJM) and three at the Alviso EEC on 19 Sep (SCR) were also good counts. An **Empidonax** flycatcher banded at CCRS on 10 Sep (fide AJ) was reported as a Least Flycatcher, but neither photos nor written descriptions were obtained. Three **Bank Swallows** were found along Coyote Creek below Hwy 237 on 29 Sep (MMR)---this species is a very rare fall migrant.

Particularly scarce in the fall, a **Nashville Warbler** was banded at CCRS on 24 Sep (fide MMR). More expected, but still rare fall migrants, were two immature female **Black-throated Gray Warblers** in Santa Clara on 19 Sep (SCR) and an immature male along Coyote Creek below Hwy 237 on 28 Sep (MJM). Top honors in the vagrant category go to an

Field Notes *cont'd*

adult male **Black-throated Green Warbler** found along Coyote Creek below Hwy 237 on 28 Sep (AJ) for our second record for this eastern warbler. Also vagrants, an immature male **American Redstart** was banded at CCRS on 4 Sep (fide MMR) and an adult male was found along Guadalupe River above Montague on 28 Sep (MMR) and seen again the next day (SCR). An **Ovenbird** banded at CCRS on 23 Sep (fide SCR) is the ninth county record for this vagrant. A **MacGillivray's Warbler** was found along Coyote Creek on 28 Sep (MJM) for the second sighting of the season. **Brewer's Sparrows** were seen for the sixth fall in a row when one to two birds were observed along Guadalupe River above Montague on 28 Sep (MMR). Fall **Grasshopper Sparrows** are rarely found so the observation of seven along Cerro Plata near Hellyer Avenue in San Jose on 5 Sep (SCR) is of interest. Wrapping up a very fine month for vagrant passerines was a **Bobolink** found along Guadalupe River below Trimble on 1 Sep (MJM).

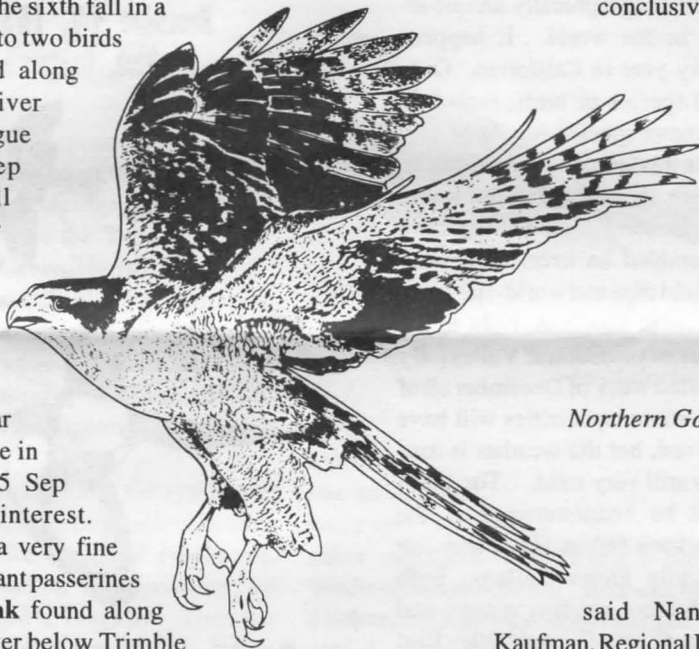
Observers: Richard Carlson (RC), Don & Jill Crawford (D&JC), Mike Feighner (MiF), Janet Hanson (JH), Alvaro Jaramillo (AJ), Sue Kruse (SK), Nick Lethaby (NL), Mike Mammoser (MJM), John & Maria Meyer (J&MMe), Bob Reiling (RWR), Mike Rogers (MMR), Steve Rottenborn (SCR), Kendric Smith (KS), Scott Terrill (SBT), Frank Vanslager (FV), Ann Verdi (AV), and Nick Yatsko (NY).

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

Feds Reinstate Petition to Evaluate Western Goshawk for Endangered Status

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service announced in October that the status of the Northern Goshawk in the western United States warrants further review to determine if it should be listed as threatened or endangered under the Federal Endangered Species Act. The Service was ordered by the U.S. District Court of Arizona to reconsider its previous finding that a petition to list the goshawk did not contain substantial information.

"Recent studies show that goshawk populations may be declining in some areas of the West due to loss and modification of their forest habitats, but the data are not conclusive,"



Northern Goshawk

said Nancy Kaufman, Regional Director of the Service's Southwest Region. "We will work closely with researchers, organizations, and other land-managing agencies to determine the bird's status."

The goshawk is a large, raven-sized hawk with a long tail and short wings. It has a black head with a broad white stripe over the dark red eye, a pale gray breast, and a darker gray back. It flies with several quick beats and a glide. It occurs in forested regions across the northern hemisphere, including Europe and Asia. Three subspecies occur in North America. The northern race inhabits the northeastern United States across the boreal forests of Canada and Alaska southward through the forests of the western U.S. The Apache subspecies occurs in southern Arizona and New Mexico, extending south-

ward into Mexico, and overlaps its range with the more widespread northern subspecies. The Queen Charlotte subspecies is found in coastal British Columbia and southeastern Alaska.

In the West, the goshawk typically nests in mature forests with large, tall trees and dense canopies. Its short wings and long tail allow it to maneuver through thick forests after birds and to catch small mammals on the ground, a foraging strategy it shares with the two members of its genus (*Accipiter*) found locally, the Cooper's and Sharp-shinned Hawks.

Data from some studies report declining goshawk numbers and loss or modification of habitat, while other studies offer conflicting data. Scientists do not know if reported decreases are local phenomena or reflective of range-wide conditions.

As part of this status review, the Service is seeking data on goshawk population trends and information on loss, modification, and recovery of their forested habitats. The Service is also seeking information to clarify taxonomic distinctions between the northern and Apache races.

In 1991 the Maricopa Audubon Society, Arizona Audubon Council, HawkWatch and other environmental groups petitioned the Service to list the Northern Goshawk as endangered in the forested United States west of the 100th meridian. A petition is a formal request, supported with biological data, that a species be listed under the Endangered Species Act. The Service declared that the petition presented substantial information on goshawk populations and initiated a status review, a preliminary step in the process of determining whether a species warrants listing.

In 1992, however, the Service published a finding that the petition had not presented enough information to warrant listing. Since then, the petition has been revived in U.S. District Court in Phoenix.

The public is invited to submit data, information, and comments on the status of the Northern Goshawk to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, P.O. Box 1306, Albuquerque, NM 87103. Comments and materials received will be available for inspection at the above address.

New Volunteers Needed for SCVAS Kids' Wetlands Trips

The '97 - '98 school year marks eight years since the inception of the highly successful Wetlands Field Trips for upper-grade elementary school students. This past year approximately 800 students from ten schools throughout the Valley participated. Each year the program is evaluated, with input from teachers, in an effort to improve the quality and make it a lasting learning experience for students. It's very rewarding to realize that we now have thousands of elementary students who have shared in this experience. We know from their notes and teacher evaluations that the students have come away with new knowledge and an appreciation of the value of wetlands and an excitement about the birds to which they have been introduced. Putting binoculars in the hands of every student turns a good many of them into beginning birders and provides an experience the large majority never forget.

That experience was greatly enhanced this year through the efforts of a wonderful corps of Audubon members who volunteered to accompany the students on the field trips to the Environmental Education Center at Alviso. Each of them brought along a spotting scope and set it up so students could have a close-up look at the birds. By freely sharing their knowledge and helping with bird identification, these volunteers provided invaluable assistance for teachers not skilled in this area. SCVAS members who volunteered were: **Rose Gordon, Ted Wassum, Shirley Gordon, Jim Liskovec, Peg Bernucci, Mary Moore, Jerry Towner and Eileen Bowden.** Teachers and students were very appreciative of their help and students were particularly excited at the opportunity to look through a telescope, a new experience for most. A big THANK YOU to all the above. We hope to call on them again this year. If other members are interested in participating this school year, please call me at (408)448-0622.

---Elaine Gould

Fledgling Club Hosts Major Birding Symposium

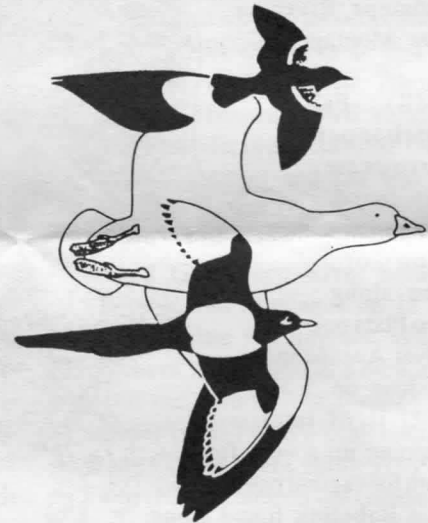
What are Kenn Kaufman, Kimball Garrett, Jan Pierson, Nancy Newfield, Ted Beedy and many other world-class birders going to be doing December 4th through 7th? They'll be helping launch the new Central Valley Bird Club by presenting programs at the Central Valley Birding Symposium in Stockton, California!

Come and join us for fascinating programs covering a wide range of birds as well as photography, field sketching, and even butterflies! Keith Hansen will be among the many talented artists selling their bird and nature artworks. Other vendors will be selling books, optics, birding gear and more. Explore the area hot spots with field trips ranging from Yolo County to the Merced National Wildlife Refuge.

Imagine thousands of swans, geese, ducks, cranes, and shorebirds crowding into one of the most geographically unique areas in the world. It happens every year in California. Over 200 species of birds, including 22 raptor species, regularly winter in this temperate wonderland, where the temperatures rarely dip below freezing. We have assembled an irresistible array of field trips and world-class programs in Stockton, right in the heart of the Central Valley. By the first week of December all of our winter specialties will have arrived, but the weather is usually still very mild. The event will be headquartered at the Stockton Hilton Hotel and San Joaquin Delta College, both high-class, modern venues, and hosted by the Central Valley Bird Club and the San Joaquin Audubon Society. For information call Cindy at (800) 350-1987 or send e-mail to kfoley@inreach.com.

Central Valley Birding Symposium

December 4-7, 1997
Stockton, California



Hosted by the Central Valley Bird Club
and the San Joaquin Audubon Society

Injured Bird? Rescue & Rehab Groups, Not Audubon Society, Offer Assistance

The SCVAS office receives numerous phone calls about sick, injured, or orphaned birds. While our staff and volunteers are very concerned about the welfare of local avian creatures, we are not equipped to handle emergency care or rehabilitation of injured birds. Wildlife rescue and rehab groups in Santa Clara County are staffed with knowledgeable volunteers who are properly trained for these situations. In the north county, call Wildlife Rescue, Inc. of Palo Alto at (650) 494-SAVE. For south county assistance, call Wildlife Center of Silicon Valley at (408) 283-0744.

Trip Reports from Fall Outings

OKA PONDS/LA RINCONADA PARK September 21

A couple of months ago I began a daily 3.7 mile jog which took me through La Rinconada Park. Some mornings I jogged beneath a beautiful symphony of bird songs. As an intermediate birder, there are few birds I can identify high in the trees as I jog below. When I suggested to Audubon that an urban walk in Los Gatos could be interesting, I was told "Great—you do it!" So I organized the birdwalk, adding Oka Ponds to the itinerary. Bob Reiling and Frank Vanslager helped me scout out the route and were in attendance on the day of the walk to act as resident experts. Thank you, Bob and Frank. You were wonderful!

On Sept. 21 we spent two hours at Oka Ponds. The most numerous uncommon birds we saw were the **Yellow Warbler** and **Green Heron**. We also spotted the season's first **White** and **Golden-crowned Sparrows**, as well as an **Orange-crowned Warbler**. In the aquatic category we observed **Gadwall**, **American Wigeon** and **Hooded Merganser**.

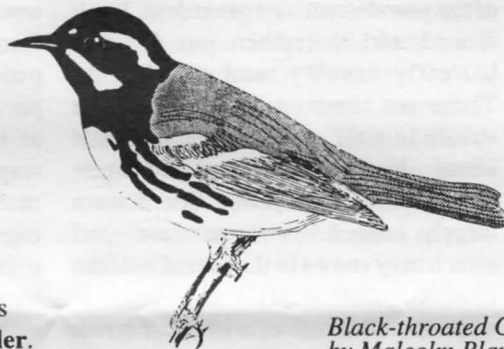
At La Rinconada Park, the symphony was playing. Besides the resident **Brown Creeper**, **White-breasted Nuthatch**, **Nuttall's** and **Acorn Woodpeckers**, we saw a **Townsend's Warbler**. Then the group was invited to have lunch among my bird feeders at my home nearby. Our total for the day was 52 species.

---Gloria LeBlanc

MARIN HEADLANDS, HAWK HILL September 27

With the weather service predicting a hot off-shore breeze, I was concerned that this weather pattern would slow the movement of hawks, as has happened on past trips to the headlands. Indeed, it was very calm on the morning of Sept. 27 and we saw few hawks. However, towards noon a northwest breeze picked up, and so did the movement of hawks. Although the morning was quiet, our first raptor was an immature **Broad-winged Hawk** that gave us a great show! Later we had the rare

pleasure of watching an adult **Golden Eagle** soaring gracefully at eye-level with the Golden Gate Bridge and the city of San Francisco in the background. There were many "Oh wow!"s over that sight! Raptors observed were **Turkey Vulture** (40+), **White-tailed Kite** (2), **No. Harrier** (6), **Sharp-shinned Hawk** (80+), **Cooper's Hawk** (20+), **Red-shouldered Hawk** (2), **Broad-winged Hawk** (2), **Red-tailed Hawk** (25+), **Golden Eagle** (1), **American Kestrel** (1), and last but not least **Merlin** (1). The Merlin flew past the headlands at 2 PM, after nearly



Black-throated Gray Warbler
by Malcolm Blanchard

every-one had left. It was a very slow day for other migrants, with **Vaux's Swift**, **White-throated Swift**, "**Red-shafted**" **Flicker**, and **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** observed. Non-avian critters that entertained us consisted of one meadow vole (*Microtus californicus*) that boldly foraged for food under the coyote bush shrubs next to all the hawk watchers.

---Don Schmoldt

WILDER RANCH, SANTA CRUZ COAST October 8

Thanks to Gail Cheeseman, we were given permission to enter the closed restoration area where the Snowy Plovers nest below the cliffs along the beach at Wilder Ranch State Park. The weather cooperated—warm and mostly sunny, a beautiful beach day. We did our usual parking lot birding as our group of nineteen gathered, sorting out the blackbirds from starlings, **Brewer's** from **Red-**

wings, with a few elusive **Tricoloreds** noted. More interesting were a **Say's Phoebe** and **Loggerhead Shrike** on the wire with **Red-tailed Hawk**, **Northern Harrier**, **American Kestrel** and a hovering **White-tailed Kite**. A good start!

Making our way through scrub bushes and willows to the marsh, thistle and pickleweed, we were struck by the lack of activity, but the beach held promise. Even the crowned sparrows were a bit coy (the **Black Phoebes** were not). We did have **Common Ravens** overhead, a **Bewick's Wren**, a **Great Blue Heron** fly-by, **Western Scrub Jays** and an unidentified warbler.

As we arrived on the beach our binoculars began to heat up! **Snowy Plovers**

were scattered about and groups of

Sanderlings

darted frantically in and out at the

water's edge. A lone **Whimbrel** and **Black**

Turnstone added to the mix of **Willetts**,

Heerman's and **Western Gulls**, **Black-bellied Plovers**

and **Killdeer**. But the best bird of the morning was spotted by

Mich—a **Peregrine Falcon** perched on the cliff face, nearly impossible to detect without a scope. As we lined up behind Gail's Questar for great looks, a second Peregrine suddenly appeared, startling the shorebirds into action until the two predators vanished over the cliff. Quite a show! Our attention was drawn to the backwaters behind us where we spotted three **Red-necked Phalaropes**, a **Horned** and **Eared Grebe** and a strange looking **Northern Shoveler** in eclipse plumage.

With time running out we made our way back up the trail, catching a few more species to make the total 47. Some "life" birds were tallied by a few participants, making for a good morning at a great place to bird. Our thanks to George Gray, the District Ecologist who made our birdwalk possible.

---Harriet Gerson

Water, Water, Everywhere (and not a brain to think)

by Craig Breon

El Niño Ate My Homework

The media and some of the politicians have gone bizarre over El Niño '97. The topic has so plagued the airwaves that it has become legit water cooler fodder. I would say that 2-4 times a day it comes up in conversations around me. A hurricane in western Mexico—what's the El Niño connection? Smoke-filled skies over Indonesia—El Niño influenced drought. My cucumber harvest not quite what it was last year—that pesky El Niño.

One of the best examples I've seen of El Niño-induced hyperbole involved a recent ABC news piece on Matadero Creek in Palo Alto. It seems that the Santa Clara Valley Water District miscalculated in building a bridge over one section of the creek. The result is that there's less flood protection for some homes than was predicted (50 year flood capacity rather than 100), though that will be solved in a year or two.

This story is nearly devoid of newsworthiness. The Water District makes similar misjudgements often enough. For example, sediment build-up in the lower Guadalupe River or San Thomas Aquino Creek has left those flood control projects well below their design capacity, putting some of the more important companies in the region at risk of flood. Far more newsworthy, but hardly noted when discovered a couple years ago.

That, however, was before the El Niño angle. ABC took this Matadero bridge story to the evening news, with hype about a defenseless neighborhood facing biblical floods on the horizon. Thus it is that even the smallest of tales can be swept up in El Niño media maelstrom.

The truly unfortunate aspect of this could be the overreaction of politicians, dam builders, and their supporters. Already there are rumblings in Sacramento that environmental standards must be compromised in the short-term to prepare for El Niño's

wrath. If the predictions come at all true, we can expect dam boosters, levee raisers, and concrete channelers to make yet another push for control of nature. Hype and distortion lead to poor decisionmaking.

With that in mind, a little clearing of the air is due. My best information says that El Niño causes above average rain seasons about 75% of the time. To get massive floods, mudslides, and destruction, you have to calculate in a number of important variables—I'll mention just two. First, the jet stream. It's force and location at various times of the year determine a great deal. Look around mid-November, late December/early January, and mid-March. These are common times for the jet stream to give an indication of what's ahead. Next, the intervals and intensity of rain. Last year's floods were largely caused by warmer rains just after heavy snows in the Sierra's. If the rains came a couple weeks later or were spread out over a longer period, the results may have been very different.

Now, no doubt a powerful El Niño effect—as this year's seems to be shaping up to be—can be a significant influence on some weather patterns and other occurrences in nature. But this is by no means a sure thing. And we need not search for an El Niño angle to all weather oddities. At this point, the most accurate thing I can say about the El Niño effect is that it's a much more predictable force in society than in Nature.

Water District—Mission Impractical

Dealing with the Santa Clara Valley Water District on an ongoing basis can lead to whiplash.

One day, I hear the District praised by a public works official in the East Bay as the most progressive local flood control agency. The next day, I hear the District damned by a Department of Fish and Game official as an agency which skirts the law. One day, a District Board member talks to me of

changing the District's mission to include environmental stewardship. The next day, that same Board member complains in a Board meeting that putting 3 cubic feet per second of water (a small amount) down Stevens Creek to benefit fish and wildlife is wrong because the water is "wasting to the Bay." Ouch, my neck, my neck!

This large agency (around 650 employees) does have a difficult task. Constrained by the land use choices going on at a hectic pace around them, the District still must see that those people don't flood too often and that they are supplied with plenty of fresh water. Board Member Rosemary Kamei recently noted to me that the pace of development in the region simply doesn't allow them to plan as well as they should for a variety of their responsibilities. She's right.

Still, even working within increasing constraints, there's a lot the District could do for the region's environment and still fulfill their other missions, although differently to be sure.

The most interesting proposal recently is to change the District's mission statement. Currently, their mission involves flood control and water supply. When projects or ideas are proposed that would go beyond mitigating the impacts of their projects and simply do good things for the natural world, they tend to fall back on the notion that such things fall outside their purview. So, change the purview, folks. Our chapter has argued for years that they should adapt to the more progressive environmental values now embodied in their constituents by adding a strong ecological component to their organization.

It makes sense. The district essentially controls the creek system, as well as reservoirs, percolation ponds, and extensive watershed lands—all of which have important habitat values or potential values. The District has the engineers, biologists, and other specialists that simply don't exist on the local level elsewhere. They have the

continued next page

Water, Water . . . cont'd

institutional memory of water history in the area, and they have the databases of information. They are, in short, uniquely situated to deal with the myriad ways people interact with water on the County level. A change in mission is the first step to a more holistic approach to water.

However, it must be remembered that a mission statement is only words on paper; we want fish in creeks, birds in trees, salamanders in . . . slime or something. In other words, once the bold step of changing the mission is accomplished, the District needs to sit down with the environmental community and other decisionmakers in the region and discuss how this will change their projects, their budget, and their philosophy.

My suggestions for the next year or two:

1) The District must begin addressing land use issues. We all suffer from bad development decisions. They make flood control projects more expensive while increasing the likelihood that riparian habitat will be destroyed. The District should not control land use, but it could be a powerful educator and influence.

2) The District should reflect the mission change in their budget, gradually at first and increasing over time. 1% of next year's budget dedicated towards environmental restoration would be a great start. Eventually, 10% of their budget for such projects would not be out of line.

3) The District should realign itself in discussions on the Delta. Its constituency is far closer to Northern California environmental values than its current policies.

Oddly, I am optimistic about the District's future. I think they will come to understand that if they do not make more changes, the people of the County will likely not vote to support the District with their tax dollars as they have in the past. Changes to the District Board in the future should also help.

In the meantime, they have sent a letter to the County Board of Supervisors asking for the two Boards to meet

National Audubon Promotes Awareness of Key "Green" Events

Many of us in the Audubon family will share the simultaneous celebration of several significant events this October: the 25th anniversary of the Clean Water Act, National Wildlife Refuge Week, Global Population Awareness Week, and the release of the Partners in Flight (PIF)/National Audubon Society (NAS) WatchList. Each of these observances presents opportunities to link birds and wildlife in the public mind with important approaches to habitat conservation.

Clean Water Act: Section 404 of the Act created a new and remarkable level of protection for the nation's wetlands, especially those threatened with development. Wetlands, in all their forms, are the most important habitat for birds. The 25th Anniversary of the nation's greatest environmental finds us still working, particularly in our own communities, to protect wetlands.

National Wildlife Refuge Week recognizes the system of sanctuaries begun by Audubon leaders a century ago to protect bird life. Audubon's Refuge Campaign, along with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, is calling on Americans to become aware of and re-dedicate the Refuge System to its

original purpose: to maintain habitats for the full complement of birds and wildlife.

Global Population Awareness Week: Human population growth is the single greatest cause of habitat loss; habitat loss is the main cause of decline of most bird species. Awareness Week allows us to reaffirm our call for programs and policies that slow the rate of human population growth in order to halt habitat loss and the concomitant declines in bird species.

WatchList: Released last year by Partners in Flight and National Audubon, it lists birds in decline. The situation for many birds on the national list is even more grim on a regional basis. This year Audubon offices and chapters will again call attention to the plight of WatchList species in their areas. In some cases, regional lists will supplement the national list.

Activities will be listed on the NAS Web site, www.audubon.org/local/cn, covered in *Audubon* Magazine, and pitched to the national media. You can help celebrate bird conservation by joining in SCVAS programs and activities to link with Audubon efforts nationwide.

--from NAS *Chapter Networker*



along with representatives of the environment and other interests in the County to discuss the District's mission. Well done, for now.

SCVAS is making plans for our 5th annual Fall Fundraiser to support our programs, activities and staff. Sometime next month you'll receive our only direct request for money to keep Audubon thriving as a leading South Bay environmental group and great local bird club. Please consider a generous gift. Thanks in advance!

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Fall is an excellent time to...

Visit the Audubon Nature Shop!

Our shop exists to serve you, our members, by providing the best-quality supplies for the enjoyment of birds and birding. We pay special attention to providing a first-rate selection of the best books available on bird identification, top birding destinations, and the feeding and housing of birds. But we also appreciate the sheer beauty of birds and other wildlife with our carefully selected T-shirts, toys, jewelry, and other gifts. And all of your purchases support our efforts to conserve local wildlife and habitats!

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- Toys and Gifts
- and Books, Books, Books!

November special! All seed feeders & birdseed 10% off regular prices - stock up for Christmas!

PESTICIDE-FREE APPLES FROM GARTH'S ORCHARD ARE STILL AVAILABLE! Pippins, the holiday baking apple of choice, are in their prime in November. Call our office to reserve a box today!

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 \$12 Supporter \$25 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, and conservation programs.

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