



# THE AVOCET

The Newsletter of the Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society

June-July-August 2000

## Strong SCVAS Turnout at NAS Convention

*Craig Breon, Leda Beth Gray  
Receive Activist Awards;  
Webpage Wins Recognition*

The exhilarating crash of waves, the spirited clashing of opinions; field excursions on land and sea; discussions of warblers and websites, owls and our oceans, orioles and Audubon centers. All this and unprecedented recognition for our own chapter made the National Audubon Society's Convention 2000 a hugely rewarding experience.

Every two years Auduboners gather for the Western Regional Conference at the Asilomar Conference Center in Monterey. Asilomar itself is worth the price of admission—a State Park encompassing wonderful beaches and surf, with old buildings (many designed by renowned architect Julia Morgan) nestled among Monterey pines and windswept dune habitat.

This year's conference in mid-April was combined with the Audubon National Conference, which is held every year at various locations around the U.S. This made it convenient for Santa Clara Valley Audubon members to attend, and we took good advantage. Nearly all the SCVAS Board attended, as well as all three staff members—Susan, Ulrike and Craig—and Finance Committee members Jules Resnick and Gloria LeBlanc, along with a number of SCVAS members. Overall, conference attendance was 710, nearly 30 of whom were from SCVAS.

The conference started with a pleasant surprise for Board Member Leda Beth Gray and our Advocate Craig Breon. Both were awarded Audubon Activist Awards by National Audubon President John Flicker. Dan Taylor, Audubon California's director, noted Leda Beth's hard work for our chapter—where she

now chairs the conservation committee—as well as her dedication to Audubon's Population and Habitat campaign, her lobbying efforts in Sacramento, and her recent work on Castle Rock State Park and other regional parks in Santa Clara and Santa Cruz Counties.

Taylor then praised Craig's many years of service to both SCVAS and the larger Audubon organization, remarking on the impressive victories he has brought to the chapter and predicting more to come.

Leda Beth was clearly not expecting the award when she arrived at Asilomar. "I was both shocked and honored. Craig gave me good advice for receiving my award from John Flicker at the podium of the evening awards meeting. He said, 'don't trip'." Craig, as it turns out, had a sneaking suspicion about his award, based on a hint from SCVAS President David McIntyre. Still, he was more than pleased. "People walked up to me throughout the conference with congratulations. Given how difficult this job can be, it's moments like that which really make it worthwhile."

*continued on page 8*

### Annual Potluck Dinner Wednesday June 14, 6:00 PM McClellan Ranch Park, Cupertino

It's time once again for our members to celebrate another year of birding, environmental education, activism and habitat protection at SCVAS' annual Potluck Dinner. Join our Board, staff, volunteers, and members new and old as we share food and drink, summarize the year's accomplishments, vote on the new slate of Officers, and acknowledge some key Chapter leaders and volunteers. There will be a special auction of a spectacular glass sculpture donated by Volunteer Mary Fasching, a silent auction of our collection of donated books and the winner of the Spring Basket, featured at our May meeting, will be announced.

Members are asked to bring a main dish, casserole or salad. We'll provide beverages and dessert. Bringing your own utensils, plates and cups helps reduce use of wasteful plastic and paperware.

This is a friendly, low-key affair in a lovely setting—if you've never attended, why not come and meet some new friends at Audubon?

---

- Hummer rescued-----Page 4*
- Board Actions-----Page 5*
- Field Notes-----Page 6*
- Birdathon Reports---Page 7,10*
- Candid shot-----Page 9*
- Financial report-----Page 11*

---

## Volunteer Ventures

by Ulrike Keyssner



I was lucky to attend the National Audubon Society Conference held at Asilomar last month. This was a great opportunity for me to connect with the larger organization, and to find out what other chapters do and how they do it. The setting was magnificent, the energy of the attendees infectious. You would have to be comatose not to feel the tremendous excitement gener-

ated by the members and volunteers of Audubon. There are so many fantastic programs going on around the country to be proud of. Our chapter creates and participates in an impressive share of what makes Audubon an exciting, influential, rewarding, and just plain fun organization!

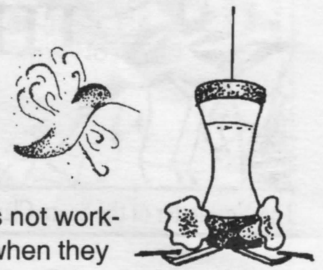
Interestingly, I discovered how rare it is for a chapter to have several paid staff. Most of the chapter representatives I met were extremely envious of our chapter's ability to employ staff. However, it is clear that, without active and well-informed volunteers, Audubon would not be the respected organization it is today. Despite having staff, our chapter could never offer the programs nor the environmental advocacy that volunteers enable us to extend to our community. I want to encourage all our members, and especially our volunteers, to be proud of being a part of Santa Clara Valley Audubon. With this in mind, I want to **invite all our volunteers to attend our Annual Potluck dinner on Wednesday 14 June at the Ranch.** The Board would love to thank you for your dedication and support.

I want to welcome a visitor from the **Pintlar Audubon in Montana, Susie Birse**, who is volunteering with us during her two-month stay. She is helping us with our collection of slides. This is a mammoth undertaking and has several volunteers working on it, though more help would be advantageous (hint-hint!).

Our **Saturday morning crew of Nature Shop volunteers needs an infusion of staff.** Despite doing their best to keep our door open, we have had several Saturdays where we have not been open. Saturday is a day when visitors to the Park are wandering the trail and are curious about what Audubon does, and SCVAS members, who can only get to the Nature Shop on the weekend, come to buy their most important grocery item, bird seed. Our goal is for each volunteer to **work 4 hours, one Saturday, every 6 weeks.** However, if you wanted to work more often you could. This is an important position at Audubon and it's fun; please call if this job interests you.

Recently, it has become clear that we would greatly

benefit from the expertise of a **handy-person, someone who can fix things** (broken things! If you have carpentry, electrical, or computer repair skills please call me. This job would be on an "Oh shoot—it's not working! Call so-and-so and see when they can come in" basis.



We are always looking for volunteers who can **lead field trips for kids** or help **put together presentation materials for our Education Programs.** Our pool of education volunteers is growing but we need more so that we do not overwork each individual. Please call to discuss either job. A word to potential field trip leaders: don't be afraid to get up in front of a group of young kids. They really appreciate you sharing your passion and knowledge.

## View From The Office

by Susan Bell  
Office Manager

As I talk to our members who frequent the Nature Shop, I hear of the great vacations they are planning. With this in mind, we have now stocked the Shop shelves with books and field guides on a wide range of national and international locations. For example, in stock are the Falcon Guides of Northern California, Montana, Minnesota, Utah and Texas, plus Birds of the Blue Ridge Mountains and Bird Finding Guides to Alaska. For the international traveler, we've got field guides to the Birds of Australia, Britain and Europe, Costa Rica, Colombia, Kenya, India, Trinidad and Tobago, and many more, so before you embark on your vacation, or if you are here on vacation and need something to take back home, come see the selection at the Nature Shop.

We have been very fortunate to have on display the paintings of two local artists, Agnes Caulfield and Floy Zittin. Agnes Caulfield has loaned us three oil paintings of the California landscape; these are on display in the Nature Shop. Floy Zittin's detailed water color paintings capture the beauty of wetland wildlife, and adorn the conference room.

I have an update to last month's article regarding the Western Screech Owl. I mentioned in my article that the injured owl was left on the doorstep of the SCVAS Nature Shop, with a note attached to its box saying it had been hit by a car on Highway 9. The owl was taken to Wildlife Rescue and cared for until it was stronger and showing progressive recovery. The next step was to place it in an aviary at the home of a Wildlife Rescue volunteer (remember, we at Audubon **do not** receive sick or injured

*continued on Page 4*

# June-August 2000 Calendar

**\*\*Denotes fld trip. On all trips carpool if possible; bring binoculars, field guides, layered clothing. LO = Lunch optional; HRC = Heavy rain cancels.**

## **\*\*Saturday June 3, 8:00 AM**

**Skyline Ridge OSP.** Half day. Leader: Bob Reiling (408)253-7527. Meet at intersection of Skyline Blvd. (Hwy. 35) and Page Mill Rd/Alpine Rd. Do not park in Russian Ridge parking lot. Moderately strenuous walking with some elevation change. Highlights: possible Chipping Sparrow, Black-throated Gray Warbler, Western Tanager.

## **Saturday June 3, all day**

**Palo Alto Summer Bird Count.** Once again, organized at the last minute. Call your contact person from last year or the SCVAS office for info.

## **\*\*Sunday June 4, 8:30 AM**

**Stevens Creek County Park.** Half day. Leader: Kathy Parker (408)358-2832. From I-280 in Cupertino take Foothill Expwy exit south 2.1 mi. (becomes Stevens Canyon Rd.) Turn left into first (Chestnut) park entrance, meet in first parking lot. One of South Bay's best riparian birding spots for breeding birds. Possible \$4 entrance fee. **LO**

## **Wednesday June 7, 7:30 PM**

**Bay Area Bird Photographers** will feature the slide program "Southwest Florida Bird Photography Tour" by Bob McCleary. Baylands Interpretive Center, E. Embarcadero Rd. Palo Alto.

## **\*\*Saturday, June 10, 8:00 AM**

**Oak Meadow/Vasona Lake Parks.** Half day. Leader: Gloria LeBlanc (408) 866-0101. Meet near southwest corner of Oak Meadow Park in Los Gatos. Exit Hwy. 17 at Lark Ave. and head toward Winchester Blvd., turn left on University Ave. Park along University Ave. just before stoplight at Blossom Hill Rd.

## **\*\*Sunday, June 11, 9:00 AM**

**Charleston Slough.** Half day. Leader: Allen Royer (408)288-7768. Meet at

Terminal Way at end of San Antonio Rd. north off Hwy. 101 in Mountain View. All are welcome but birding will be geared toward the beginning birder.

## **Tuesday June 13, 9:30 AM**

**Eve Case Bird Discussion Group** will meet at the home of Pat and Jean Dubois, 17150 Buena Vista Ave., Los Gatos (408) 395-4264. Bring a bag lunch and enjoy the birds flying outside our windows and on Vasona.

## **\*\*Wednesday June 14, 8:30 AM**

**Russian Ridge Open Space Preserve.** Half day. Leader: Shirley Gordon (408)996-9863. Meet at Preserve parking lot. At junction of Page Mill (becomes Alpine when it crosses Skyline) and Skyline Blvd. (Hwy 35), go southwest on Alpine Rd for approx. 1 block to parking lot. Highlights: Grasshopper Sparrow, Lazuli Bunting. **LO**

## **\*\*Saturday, June 17, 8:30 AM**

**Russian Ridge OSP.** Leader: Shirley Gordon (408)996-9863. For directions see June 14 write-up above.

## **\*\*Sunday, June 18, 8:00 AM**

**Anderson Lake County Park.** Half day. Leader: Bob Reiling (408)253-7527. From Hwy. 101 in southern San Jose (Morgan Hill) take Cochrane Rd. east; meet at parking lot at base of dam. **LO**

## **\*\*Saturday, June 24, 7:30 AM**

**Arastradero OSP.** Half day. Leader: Rita Colwell (650)949-1869 From I-280 take Page Mill Road west, turn right on Arastradero Road and meet in the parking lot about 1/2 mile on the right. Moderate walking. Highlights, breeding birds of the lower foothills.

## **\*\*Sunday, June 25, 8:00 AM**

**Rancho del Oso (coastal Big Basin State Park).** Half day. Leader: John Mariani (408)997-2066. Take Highway 17 to Santa Cruz, then go north on Hwy 1. Meet at beach parking area alongside Highway 1 just north of Waddell Creek Bridge (which is at MP 36.30, 2 miles

south of Ano Nuevo State Reserve and seven miles north of Davenport). We will hike the Skyline-to-the-Sea Trail looking for Swainson's Thrush, Winter Wren, Wilson's Warbler, and Pileated Woodpecker (rare). Easy hiking of 4 to 5 miles. Bring lunch and liquids (in backpack if possible).

## **\*\*Saturday, July 8, 8:30 AM**

**Charleston Slough.** Half day. Leader: Ann Verdi (408)266-5108. Meet at Terminal Way at end of San Antonio Rd. north off Hwy. 101 in Mt. View. All are welcome but, as usual, birding will be geared toward the beginning birder.

## **\*\*Saturday, Aug 12, 8:30 AM**

**Año Nuevo State Reserve.** Full day. Leader: Mark Miller (650)967-3429. Expect 3 mile walk (half of it in sand), fog, bright sun and wind. Bring a scope, lunch, liquids, and dress in layers. Black Swift, Bank Swallow, Marbled Murrelet and early returning shorebirds possible. This trip is limited to 20 participants so call early to reserve a space. \$5 park fee.

## **\*\*Sunday, Aug 20, 8:00 AM**

**Charleston Slough.** Half day. Leader: Phyllis Browning (650)494-6360. Meet at Terminal Way at end of San Antonio Rd. north off Hwy. 101 in Mt. View and get an early start to your fall birding. This is considered to be a beginning birder field trip but all are skill levels are welcomed and encouraged to attend.

## **Cheesemans' Pelagic Trip From Monterey**

Doug and Gail Cheeseman are offering a Monterey Bay pelagic trip on Aug. 26th from 8:00 AM - 3:00 PM; the cost is the same it has been the last twenty years: \$50. There will be at least four leaders aboard. It's a great time for migrating seabirds as well as residents, plus 5 species of dolphins and whales (most likely are Humpbacks and Blues with a possibility of Fin Whale). Phone (408)741-5330 or visit the Cheesemans' website at <[www.cheesemans.com](http://www.cheesemans.com)> for more information.

## Office View *continued*

birds) until it was certain the bird was well enough to be released into its native habitat. When the owl was ready, Wildlife Rescue volunteer Valarie Baldwin informed me that the owl should be released promptly, and asked me to attend. Arrangements were made and the owl was released in early May at Cupertino's Stevens Creek Park in oak habitat. It flew away without hesitation, happy to be back in the wild.

What a great sight to see the results of the special care given to these animals, and to see the bird return to its native habitat. *(The owl is pictured at right just before its release.)*



## Attn: New Members... Open House June 17

The Membership Committee is hosting an Open House for new members on Saturday, June 17 at 9:30 AM at our Chapter headquarters in McClellan Ranch Park. Our goal is to help new Audubon members find out about what the Chapter is doing and to meet other new members.

We'll start with a short bird walk, looking for some of the common birds that frequent the park. McClellan Ranch Park is bordered by a stream and also contains an old orchard and open grassy areas, providing habitat for a variety of different species. Board member Ann Verdi will lead the informal walk. Afterwards, we'll serve coffee, tea and bagels in our conference room. Other Board and committee members will be on hand to discuss various SCVAS programs with you, offer volunteer opportunities, and exchange ideas. The library and Nature Shop, both of which are adding new items regularly, will also be open for your perusal.

So grab your binoculars (or borrow one of our loaner pairs) and spend a few hours getting acquainted with your local Audubon chapter. We're very excited about meeting our new members in person, so please join us!

—Debbie Thompson

## Young Birder Saves Hummer

by Kenneth Mendes  
*Patricia Hartinger's 6th grade class  
Resurrection School, Sunnyvale*

ZOOM! Wow, did you see that? It was an Anna's Hummingbird. These marvelous creatures are abundant in California. They can be found almost anywhere singing their unique song. These birds love nectar and feed often from flowers as well as man-made feeders. They are very territorial defending their turf and their food source. One day I had a close encounter with one of these birds.

I was outside on a Saturday morning and I saw dark clouds approaching. I could tell that a thunderstorm was on its way. A gust of wind blew and I went inside my house. That night, lightning struck and thunder boomed in the sky.

The next day was sunny and I decided to clean up the mess that the storm had caused in my back yard. Suddenly I saw something black moving on the ground. I ran up to it and saw a wet and cold Anna's Hummingbird lying upside down on the ground. I knew that this was a result of the storm, and if the poor creature didn't get help fast, it would die. I ran inside and found an old shoebox and a soft cloth. I put the cloth in the box and took it to the bird.

I picked up the bird. It was amazing! It felt as light as a feather. I had to be very careful or I would crush it. I gently put it in the box and took it up to my tree house, where it would be warm and dry. I ran back to my house and found my hummingbird feeder. I prepared some nectar and took it to the bird. I put it by its beak and it drank. It seemed to drink a lot.

After about a half-hour, the bird was dry and becoming active. I picked it up to see if its wings were able to move at its normal pace. The bird tried to fly away and I knew then that it was okay. I opened the door and put the box there to see if the bird would fly. It looked around and took off! I saw it go to a small tree, and then it flew to a larger tree. I knew it would be fine.

To this day, every morning when I leave for school, I hear this hummingbird "chirp." Every time I look at it, I know that this wonderful creature wouldn't have made it without my help. Sometimes, I wonder if it remembers me.

*(Thanks, Kenneth, for saving the hummer and sharing your story with us. Remember, when saving injured wildlife, it is best to consult local wildlife rescue groups who have the proper training and expertise to handle wild creatures.—Ed)*

# Notes from the Board

*Have you ever wondered what the Board of Directors of SCVAS is up to? Check this new monthly column, compiled by Vice-president Freddy Howell and Secretary Ann Verdi, to find out. Feedback is always welcome.*

## April 4, 2000

Member Norman Watenpaugh, on behalf of the Uvas Creek Park Preserve Environmental Center in Gilroy, requested assistance from SCVAS with environmental displays and educational material for the center. The Board viewed this request favorably because it would give SCVAS a presence in south county, and asked the Education Committee to work with Mr. Watenpaugh.

The Environmental Action Committee (EAC) brought five proposals to the Board:

1) \$1000 was requested, and granted, to fund the polling effort regarding the Cisco Systems/Coyote Valley issue. This will be paid back by California Native Plant Society.

2) The Ulistac Preserve in Santa Clara grant request was successful and the grant writer was acknowledged with an additional \$500.

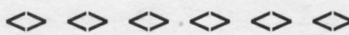
3) Castle Rock State Park General Plan is being challenged by the Ventana Sierra Club Chapter due to the proposed camping permit in the Black Oak Forest area. \$750 was designated as a grant to the legal fund of the Ventana Sierra Club Chapter.

4) Even though the Doublewood Golf Course in Fremont Hills is out of our area, the EAC requested and received \$750 to be donated to the Citizens to Complete the Refuge. It is felt that construction of this proposed golf course will erode and impact the Coyote Creek watershed through landfill and rerouting streams and could also set a precedent for similar actions in the creeks and hills in the Santa Clara County Diablo Range.

5) Cisco's recent expansion into Alviso and proposed expansion into the Coyote Valley has highlighted the major environmental concern of urban sprawl.

A new fundraiser was proposed by Craig Breon, who has arranged for well-known endangered species photographer David Littschwager to do a portrait of a Burrowing Owl. A committee will be formed to manage this opportunity for special signed prints to be sold as a fundraiser.

Education Day is scheduled for October 14. Many new programs have been designed and the implementation is dependent on recruiting volunteer docents/leaders.



## May 2, 2000

The National Audubon Convention at Asilomar, attended by approximately 28 people from SCVAS, was discussed and our award recipients Craig Breon, Leda Beth Gray and the website (Peter LaTourette) were again congratulated.

Susan Bell is organizing a purchase of SCVAS logo clothing (t-shirts and totes with silk screen logo, polo shirts and denim shirts with embroidered logo) which should be ready for the potluck on June 14. There will also be a sale table from the store.

The education committee met with Norman Watenpaugh regarding the Gilroy Education Center. Arrangements are being made for the committee to visit the site and offer suggestions. This is an exciting opportunity to assist in the formation of an important environmental education venue.

SCVAS and the City of Cupertino are planning on partnering in a year-long "natural survey" of McClellan Ranch to be performed by students at the Christa McCauliffe Middle School. Tasks performed by the students will include data collection, water quality, creek revegetation, vegetation mapping and nestbox monitoring. Volunteers with special interests and talents will be asked to conduct sessions for the students. A Young Audubon Adventure camp is being planned for one or more days this summer. Activities would be similar to an expanded education days.

Barbara Dalderis, Treasurer, and the Finance Committee are reviewing our portfolio and doing a performance review. The 2000-2001 budget was approved.

There are still two vacant seats on the Board of Directors and the Nominating Committee is diligently looking for members who would like to be part of the leadership of the chapter.

Leda Beth Gray, chair of the Environmental Action Committee, discussed the Santa Clara Valley Water District Tax Initiative to be on the November ballot. The SCVWD would like SCVAS support. The basic presentation put on by the District, attended by board members and EAC representatives, was well-received, however there were clarification questions and possible environmental assurances that the Board asked Craig Breon to follow up with the District. The Board will discuss our position again in June.

The Bay Project is gearing up and has hired a campaign manager, Debbie Drake, formerly of the Nature Conservancy and Irvine Foundation. The polling effort has been done for Coyote Valley and we are waiting for the results. A grass-roots organizer is still needed.

**Voting for the following  
slate of officers will be  
held at our Annual  
Meeting on Wednesday,  
June 14th:**

President: David McIntyre

Vice President: Freddy Howell

Treasurer: Barbara Dalderis

Secretary: Ann Verdi

Board of Directors  
Term of 2000-2003:  
Debbie Thompson  
David Drake

# Field Notes

by Bill Bousman

## Loons through Skimmers

A **Red-throated Loon** found on Calero Reservoir on 8 Apr (AV) was the last of the season. Three alternate-plumaged **Common Loons** seen on Lexington Reservoir on 15 Apr (DLSu) were slightly off-course migrants headed north. Sixteen **American White Pelicans** on San Felipe Lake on 2 Apr (MJM), just south of the county line, were the only April report. A **Cattle Egret** at the Arzino Ranch in Alviso on 22 Apr (AME) was the first one found since early last winter. Previously, this was a favored spot. A lingering American Wigeon flock in Salt Pond A1 in Mountain View had three male **Eurasian Wigeons** on 3 Apr (WGB) and at least one male was seen through 11 Apr (RWR). A pair of **Blue-winged Teal** east of the Emily Renzel Wetlands in Palo Alto on 9 Apr (RLe, PMB) was the only report. A male **Red-head** on Charleston Slough on 9 Apr (MDo) and one in Salt Pond A1 on 21 Apr (WGB) represented lingering birds. A male **Hooded Merganser** at Los Gatos Creek CP on 21 Apr (DG) was a very late.

An adult dark morph **Broad-winged Hawk** was seen flying along the Diablo front at Ed Levin CP on 20 Apr (MMR). This is the fifth county record and the first to occur in spring. Nearly as rare, an adult **Swainson's Hawk** was seen over Alum Rock Park on 22 Apr (MJM). A late **Merlin** was found at Stevens Creek CP on 25 Apr (MMR). A **Lesser Yellowlegs** at the Alviso salt ponds on 23 Apr (PJM) represents a rare spring record. A **Solitary Sandpiper** was a good find along San Antonio Valley Road on 25 Apr (KPa). Although this rare sandpiper is seldom seen in the county, it is most likely on spring migration, in the last week in April and first week of May, and,

unlike most of our shorebirds, is more likely to be found inland. A **Stilt Sandpiper** at the Palo Alto Flood Control Basin (FCB) on 16 Apr (PJM) is only the fifth spring record for this rare shorebird. A 2nd-winter **Glaucous Gull** was seen on the Alviso salt ponds on 23 Apr (PJM). We occasionally see late season birds of this species through the end of April. The **Black Skimmer** flock shifted from Charleston Slough to the island in the

*Single Broad-winged and Swainson's Hawks highlighted the spring migration, complemented by Blue Grosbeaks returning to Ed Levin Co. Park*

southeast corner of Salt Pond A1 during April (m.ob.). This is a spot where they nested in 1995.

## Roadrunners through Swallows

A **Greater Roadrunner** along Quimby Road on 1 Apr (PC) and another in Henry Coe SP around 29 Apr (DA) were good finds. A roosting **Long-eared Owl** was found along Matadero Creek below Hwy 101 on 26 Apr (MDo) and was found again there on 29 Apr (v.ob.). Resident birds are believed to be breeding at this time so this would appear to be a migrant. The first **Vaux's Swifts** of the season were six over Lexington Reservoir on 15 Apr (DLSu). The high count for April was of 10 over the Sunnyvale Water Pollution Control Plant (WPCP) ponds on 23 Apr (PJM). **Calliope Hummingbirds** were found in good numbers with a male banded near Felter and Sierra roads on 6 Apr and a female banded there

on 13 Apr (RCo). Another female was seen at San Antone Junction on 25 Apr (KPa). Fairly typical numbers of **Rufous Hummingbirds** were seen in April and seven were banded near Felter and Sierra roads on 6 Apr (RCo). Three to four **Lewis's Woodpeckers** were found in San Antonio Valley during April (v.ob.), which is a fairly typical count. A **Pileated Woodpecker** on Table Mountain on 14 Apr (DL) was in an area favored by this rare woodpecker. Rare, but regular, four **Hammond's Flycatchers** were at Smith Creek on 9 Apr (MMR) and three were near there on 22 Apr (MMR, AK). Two more birds were found along Gilroy Hot Springs Road on 23 Apr (MJM). The same day, a **Cassin's Kingbird** was seen carrying nesting material into a eucalyptus on San Felipe Road, south of Hwy 152 (MJM). A **Bank Swallow** on the Alviso salt ponds on 23 Apr (PJM) is always a good find for spring.

## Wrens through Goldfinches

The **Canyon Wren** seen in Alum Rock Park in March continued to be found singing near Sycamore Grove (v.ob.). An **American Dipper** was found above Twin Creeks on both 15 and 29 Apr (JMa et al.). Two birds were seen nest building along Stevens Creek above Mt. Eden Road on 16 Apr (LCh et al.). Another bird was in Alum Rock Park on 24 Apr (KR). A spring **Townsend's Solitaire** was a surprise at Monte Bello OSP on 20 Apr (DE, CV). Male **Phainopepla** were seen in San Antonio Valley on 9 Apr (MMR) and 25 Apr (KPa). Three **Nashville Warblers** were at Smith Creek on 9 Apr (MMR), four to five were there on 22 Apr (MMR, AK), and another was seen on 30 Apr (JMa et al.). Two male **Hermit Warblers** were at Smith Creek on 22 Apr (AME, MMR, AK), another male was along Gilroy Hot Springs Road the next

## Field Notes *continued*

day (MJM), and a male was also seen in the Coulter pine forest east of Mt. Hamilton on 30 Apr (JMa et al.). A **MacGillivray's Warbler** was found on the upper end of Chesbro Reservoir on 23 Apr (AV). A **Yellow-breasted Chat** was also found in the same location on 29 Apr (AV, JMa et al.). A **Grasshopper Sparrow** was singing in the Santa Teresa Hills on 15 Apr (JMa et al.), but Ed Levin CP was grasshopper central with one to four birds found regularly above Sandy Wool Lake through the end of the month (v.ob.). A **Swamp Sparrow**, now in its breeding plumage, was seen at the south end of the Stevens Creek Tidal Marsh on 6 Apr (WGB); a spot where one or two birds wintered. This bird was found again on 21 Apr (WGB) and it was now singing. Another singing Swamp Sparrow was found at the Sunnyvale WPCP ponds on 23 Apr (PJM), near Guadalupe Slough. **White-throated Sparrows** put on a good show at local feeders in April. A bird wintering in Los Gatos was seen until 25 Apr (JD). Single feeder visits included one at a San Jose feeder on 9 Apr (KJF) and one at a Los Altos feeder on 12 Apr (LB). Missing since January, a White-throat showed up at a second Los Gatos feeder 25-30 Apr (GLeB). Away from feeders, a late bird was seen near Coyote Creek between Montague and River Oaks on 28 Apr (CKS). A pair of **Blue Grosbeaks** were found at Ed Levin CP on 30 Apr (DG), a location that has been very good for this formerly extremely rare bird. **Lawrence's Goldfinches** have been relatively plentiful this month in favored spots in the Diablo Range from Smith Creek to San Antonio Valley and in Henry Coe SP (v.ob.). Thirty-two birds were a high count in Henry Coe SP on 15 Apr (GHa).

**RARITIES:** Please drop me a note: Bill Bousman, 321 Arlington Way, Menlo Park, CA 94025, or: bousman@merlin.arc.nasa.gov

## The Rock Wrens' Birdathon and Geology Expedition

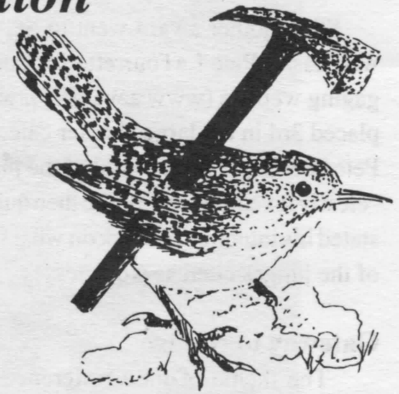
by Leda Beth Gray

We did our Birdathon on April 30th, finding 120 birds, many faults and a few rocks. True to our name we tried to find some different types of rocks and geologic features to report to our supporters as well as find all the birds that we could. Husband Dave Drake and I started counting on Highway 17 at the Santa Clara line at about 5:45 AM. We stopped at Lexington Reservoir in the San Andreas Fault zone and brought our list up to 18, including Great Horned Owl, Caspian Tern and Red-breasted Merganser, as well as noting an outcrop of Serpentine. We had 22 species by the time we arrived to meet the rest of the team at McClellan Ranch at 6:30, noting Quaternary Alluvium. By the time we left McClellan Ranch Park we had 53 birds on our list, including Western Wood Peewee, Pacific-slope Flycatcher, Black-headed Grosbeak, and Yellow Warbler.

We then went back up toward the San Andreas Fault zone to Stevens Creek County Park, where we quickly added another 12 species, including American Dipper, Western Tanager, Ash-throated Flycatcher, Olive-sided Flycatcher, and Blue-gray Gnatcatcher. Nearby Pichetti Ranch added only 4 additional species, plus a very entertaining peacock who

---

*Observers: David Armstrong (DA), Lou Beaudet (LB), Bill Bousman (WGB), Phyllis Browning (PMB), Les Chibana (LCh), Rita Colwell (RCo), Pat Curtis (PC), Matthew Dodder (MD), Jean Dubois (JD), Al Eisner (AME), David Ekdahl (DE), Karl J. Fowler (KJF), Don Ganton (DG), Garth Harwood (GHa), Alma Kali (AK), Gloria LeBlanc (GLeB), Rosalie Lefkowitz (RLe), David Lewis (DL), Mike Mammoser (MJM), John Mariani (JMa), Peter Metropulos (PJM), Kathy Parker (KPa), Bob Reiling (RWR), Kathy Robinson (KR), Mike Rogers (MMR), Chris Salander (CKS), David Suddjian (DLSu), Ann Verdi (AV), and Connie Vigno (CV).*



*Rock Wrens wouldn't really carry a geologist's pick under their wing, but this unique birdathon report beautifully combines the two disciplines: birding and geology --BB-W*

loved performing for visitors who walked by his pen at the trail head, and some red chert.

Racing down to the Bay, we stopped at various locations between Shoreline Park and Palo Alto Baylands, bringing the list up to 107. The highlights were the Black Skimmers and American White Pelicans at Shoreline Park. Bay mud and man-made levees were the only geology in sight.

Crossing the Hayward Fault zone we stopped in at Ed Levin Park, finding a Blue Grosbeak, Yellow Billed Magpie, and others. Following the road through the park to Sierra Road brought us the Calaveras Fault plus interesting species such as Horned Lark, Loggerhead Shrike and Lark Sparrow, bringing our total to 117. Small landslides were noted along the road in several places. The final three birds were "caught" on the Mt. Hamilton Road where we found things very quiet. Only Chipping Sparrow, Downy Woodpecker and House Wren were added to our list. We frantically searched, even giving up observing rocks, but we were not able to catch our last year's total of 125. We raised over \$1200 for SCVAS projects! Thank you all!

*The Rock Wrens are: David Drake, Leda Beth Gray, Sue Hunt, David McIntyre, Ulrike Keyssner; four geologists and one apprentice.*

**More Birdathon reports on Pg. 10**

# NAS Convention Highlights *continued from page 1*

Still another award went to SCVAS webmaster Pete LaTourrette for our engaging website ([www.scvas.org](http://www.scvas.org)), which placed 3rd in the large chapter category. Pete later noted that several of the judges "clearly loved the site," but he then quickly stated his intention to work on what some of the judges cited as weaknesses.

## Gateway to Nature

The theme of the Conference was "Gateway to Nature." Besides a wide variety of topics offered in excellent workshops, there were exciting plenary sessions given by nationally known environmental leaders, more than 12 field trips, exhibits by artists and Audubon chapters, and an Audubon Nature Store.

A particularly noteworthy evening discussion was presented by Carl Safina, NAS Vice-President of Marine Conservation, on the "State of the Oceans." Safina's talk exemplified the Audubon tradition of hard science infused with a passion for conservation. Noting important progress in several regions and in new legislation, Safina still offered up a bleak picture of decline for many of the world's fisheries. His slides were beautiful and sometimes stunning, and clearly Safina's leadership is making a difference in bringing Audubon's perspectives on oceans to the forefront.

Steven Kress, NAS Vice President for Bird Conservation, reported on his successful efforts as a researcher to reintroduce puffins and other colony-nesting seabirds to former breeding areas. Leda Beth later noted, "I was excited to have an opportunity to talk briefly with Steven Kress while he was waiting for a field trip. I've been a big admirer of his since I read about his revolutionary method of placing nesting seabird dolls on an island and broadcasting bird calls to attract birds to what looked to them like a viable colony. In his presentation, he even had a slide of a tern offering a fish to an imitation tern. His technique is currently

being used to reintroduce Common Murres to Devils Slide Rock off San Mateo County coast."

Julie Packard, Executive Director of the Monterey Bay Aquarium, spoke eloquently one evening on her experiences in advancing conservation and education at the Aquarium. In addition, she and her husband Robert Stevens—the current President of Audubon California's Advisory Board—were more than gracious in opening up the Aquarium to the convention participants for an evening. Free from the large daytime crowds, we roamed the fascinating exhibits the aquarium offers, enjoyed a great dessert spread, and were treated to a special conversation with Ms. Packard and some of the aquarium's divers. Leda Beth's favorites were the "jellies" (not a dessert, but an exhibit of various jellyfish). Exceedingly graceful and mesmerizing, the jellies moved, pulsating, past one another, intertwining their tentacles yet not getting tangled. The lighting used by the aquarium gives them a special, often pulsating glow. Leda Beth later commented, "I've rarely felt so privileged as to be allowed the run of this incredible place, being able to linger at each exhibit accompanied by fellow Audubonians with whom I felt I had so much in common."

## Field Trips

SCVAS Board members Debbie Thompson and Dave Cook went on the pelagic field trip. They reported that the hard rainstorm from the night before subsided and was replaced by sunshine out on the water. They toured for four hours around Monterey Bay and saw some great species, including White-sided Dolphin, Bottlenose Dolphin, Rizzo's Dolphin, Humpback Whale, California Sea Lion, California Sea Otter (with pup), Common Murre, Black-footed Albatross (a lifer for Dave), Sooty and Flesh-footed Shearwaters, Common Loon, Rhinoceros Auklets and some Brandt's Cormorants

sitting on nests. On another trip, Debbie spent the morning birding Garland Park, which is part of California's Central Coast Birding Trail. The park contains oak woodlands, chaparral and riparian habitats. Among the species observed were a colony of vocal Acorn Woodpeckers, an Oak Titmouse bringing food to its nest, Bushtits, Red Shouldered Hawk, Spotted Towhee, and Chestnut-backed Chickadee.

## High Tech

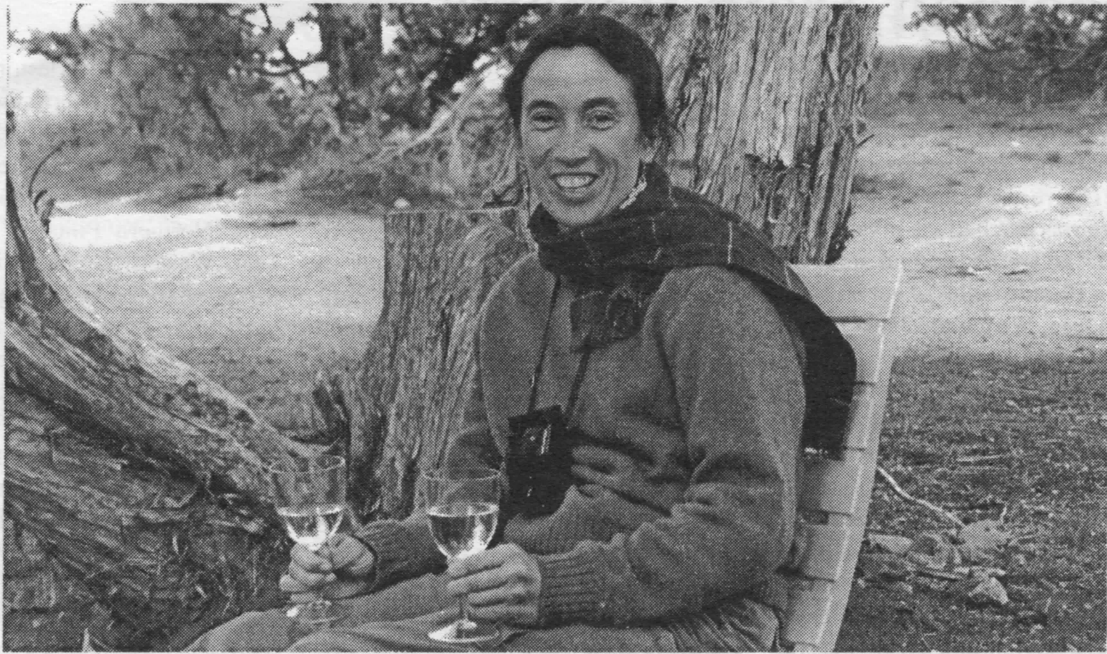
During the Convention, radio personality and Audubon champion Jerry Kay did a live broadcast from Asilomar directly to the MSNBC web site, highlighting programs presented at the conference. You've probably heard Jerry's "Science in Action" radio program on National Public Radio and other local stations. Jerry also did a couple of informative workshops on ways chapters can deal effectively with the media. Among guests, Jerry interviewed Craig, who focused on our conservation efforts in Alviso and our educational programs throughout San Jose, noting our continued efforts to reach out to many neighborhoods that haven't traditionally engaged in environmental activities.

## More Workshops

Craig was a presenter for two of the convention's workshops. The first, on land use planning and restoration of urban creeks, was well-attended, with a lively discussion among a variety of creek activists, including one from Mexico.

His second workshop was a joint presentation with Dr. Lynn Trulio of San Jose State on Burrowing Owls and efforts to protect them. The room was filled to bursting for this one, with people sharing stories of the owls in their areas, or, sadly, often sharing stories of the owls that used to be in their areas. Both workshops got good reviews from attendees. That should be no surprise, as Craig is a powerful





*Congratulations to our own nationally-recognized activist Leda Beth Gray, seen here relaxing after a hard day of birding, perhaps fortifying herself for an upcoming round of environmental activism. Or is that merely hummingbird nectar in those drinking vessels?*

speaker who combines spontaneity, a keen knowledge of his subject, and an easy going manner that makes for a stimulating and informative presentation.

A favorite workshop attended by Leda Beth and our volunteer Coordinator Ulrike Keyssner was on Youth Activism, partly given by "Audubon YES!" student activists from the Palos Verdes Audubon Chapter in Southern California. These high school students showed great enthusiasm and commitment to environmental causes. They worked on a variety of projects, including habitat restoration for the Palos Verdes Blue Butterfly and taking young school kids on field trips to teach them about nature. The contagious enthusiasm of youth should not be underestimated in its ability to advance our efforts.

A very educational and useful workshop was given by Audubon friend and environmental lawyer Bill Yeates on the California Environmental Quality Act, something we deal with quite often here at SCVAS in commenting on Environmental Impact Reports for various developments in Santa Clara County. Bill called his workshop, "Activism with Impact: Don't be a Crash Test Dummy." He

actually managed to make it interesting and even entertaining at times, starting off the day with a rousing, participatory version of "This Land is Our Land."

### **The Membership Issue**

National Audubon Society ran workshops during the convention that explored membership issues, allowing members and chapter leaders to respond to a new proposal set forth by a national membership task force. The goal of the proposal is to boost NAS membership, which has been flat—not going up or down for several years—and suffers from a fair amount of turnover.

The proposal includes a number of points, but most controversial is the idea of decreasing or taking away each chapter's portion of a new National Audubon member's dues. Currently, \$5.50 from each National Audubon member comes to the local chapter to spend on newsletter distribution and other services. Membership recruitment would fall more heavily on local chapters, but the chapter could keep all of the dues generated by the National Audubon memberships they recruit. Other ideas are being considered,

such as allowing members to not receive the Audubon Magazine if they so choose.

Our chapter was vocal in urging National Audubon to get a state-of-the-art, on-line membership database that chapters could access before taking any sort of remedial action. This would allow them to do a better job of tracking memberships, to help avoid sending multiple mailings to the same person, and better analyze membership trends and issues. The membership workshops were lively and sometimes heated, and it was good to see a range of ideas coming forward.

### **Don't Miss It**

We hope this brief report piques your curiosity. After some strained relations in past years between National Audubon and local chapters, this year's conference really showed that SCVAS is engaging with National on a number of common issues and concerns, and that such ties are essential to advancing Audubon's perspective in the larger community.

Think about joining us for the next Western Region Conference scheduled at Asilomar two years from now.

---

# Birdathon Team Reports

## Busy Backyard Birders

This was the first Birdathon for our newcomer team. Inspired by our team name, we (Steve and Debbie Thompson) knew there was much to see in our "own back yard," so we focused on areas included in a 10-mile radius of our house in South San Jose. We found 52 species and had a ton of fun.

We started, literally, in our back yard where we inventoried our feeders and established a base for our list. Nothing out of the ordinary this morning—just lots of old pals including the trusty House Finch and Anna's Hummingbird.

Our first destination was the Santa Clara Valley Water District. Here we enjoyed the cool morning observing waterfowl on the ponds. Perched on a tree over the water were Double-crested Cormorants; in the nearby trees were Acorn Woodpeckers and busy Bushtits.

Right up the road was Almaden Lake, where we found Cliff Swallows collecting mud for their nests. Just inside the park we came upon a eucalyptus tree hosting a flock of Cedar Waxwings. Also in the area were Bullock's Oriole, Plain Titmouse and a Common Yellowthroat. Back at the lake, we spied Forster's and Caspian Terns as well as a pair of Black-crowned Night Herons. Crossing the bridge over Alamos Creek, we watched a Green Heron stealthily stalk its stream-side prey. From there we hiked up a nearby hill and saw a Western Tanager, California Quail, and Belted Kingfisher.

Next we headed to Coyote Creek where we switched from "hike" to "bike" mode. Along the creek path south toward Coyote Ranch we found the usual suspects, including Chestnut-backed Chickadee, Song Sparrow and House Wren. One highlight of our bike ride came when Debbie spotted a pair of California Thrashers in the brush along the shore of the Water Ski Lake. Another came on the return trip when we watched a pair of Yellow Warblers darting in and out of a sycamore tree on the creek. (We probably shouldn't have, but we added the resident peacocks at Coyote Ranch to our list!)

After an invigorating bike ride, we were off on the final leg of our trip—a scenic drive down Monterey Highway, over to Calero Reservoir and back home via Old Almaden Road. As it turned out, we saved the best for last. Near Calero, we eyed a Golden Eagle "kettling" to gain altitude overhead. We watched until it became just a dot in the sky and seemed to vanish. What a treat!

Our first Birdathon was a success on all levels. We had a lot of fun exploring local habitat (some familiar, some new to us), got some exercise, and helped raise funds for worthy Audubon causes. We are looking forward to doing it again next year!

—Steve and Debbie

## Humdingers

This year the fearless Humdinger team pledged to start the new millennium by breaking last year's total and do our personal best. We had a tough time ahead since this year we were handicapped by losing "the Rottenborn factor" (core team members Heather, Steve and Rebecca had moved back east). To fill the void, Jim Danzenbaker, *a.k.a.* "Falcon eye" took the challenge and joined Frank Vanslager and Sandy Cortright for the big day. Lynn Jesinger joined us for her first Birdathon.

Starting at 6:45, we met at McClellan Ranch, where we identified 34 species in less than an hour. Lynn spotted a deer for our "other sightings" list. A Great Blue Heron and Belted Kingfisher made fly-over appearances, and there were many Hooded Orioles in the palm trees.

Our next stop was Stevens Creek Park. Frank wowed us with Questar scope sightings of Olive-sided Flycatcher, Orange-crowned Warbler, Hairy Woodpecker, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, and Warbling Vireo. Jim found a Western Tanager, Caspian Tern and Black-headed Grosbeak. Lynn saw a cottontail bunny while Sandy spotted a Northern Flicker foraging on the ground. We also observed a Red-shouldered Hawk on a nest.

Our next stop was Rancho San Antonio, where Jim located a Wild Turkey and White-tailed Kite. Barn Swallows were abundant around the parking lot restrooms.

Next was Charleston Slough and Shoreline Park. By now the weather was changing—chilly wind, dark storm clouds and the threatening rain kept us moving. American Kestrel, Common Raven, Killdeer, Northern Pintail, Green-winged Teal, Western Grebe, Willet and Surf Scoter were found. Just as Frank had a great view of Black Skimmers in his scope, the heavens opened up and we were caught in a rain shower. On the way Lynn suddenly stopped in her tracks as a skunk darted out in front of her, then turned and hid under some bushes.

Onward to the Palo Alto Duck Pond, where we had several gull species, Forster's Tern, Common Goldeneye and Greater Scaup. Across the road we observed Semipalmated Plovers, Dunlin, some huge "peep" flocks and a jackrabbit. Sandy spotted the first of many Long-billed Curlews feeding in the mud.

Back on the road again, Frank took us to a Burrowing Owl stakeout at Sunnyvale Sewage Facility, but the worsening weather kept other sightings down. By this time we'd chalked up 115 species—not bad for a rainy day of birding. Thanks to all our contributors for supporting the Audubon cause.

—Sandy Cortright

## Wrong Terns

Another Great day for the Wrong Terns, who managed to get 60 species without making a single wrong tern. Elaine Gould, Bobbie Handen and Allen Royer started at Bel Gatos Park, where 4 1/2 year-old Joanna Royer helped the effort by singing along the trail. We were buzzed by a Sharp-shinned Hawk and enjoyed a Pacific-slope Flycatcher, among others.

At Ogier Ponds, we were thrilled to see a Great Horned Owl on a nest, an Osprey feeding on a fish, and a high-soaring Golden Eagle. Our last stop was the Water District ponds on Almaden Blvd., where Forster's and Caspian made the Terns day complete. It turned out to be a beautiful day.

Thanks to all who helped us support Audubon education programs, and also the exciting new Bay Restoration Project

—Bobbie Handen

# Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society

## Statement of Income & Balance Sheets –Years ended May 31, 1998 and 1999

Statement of Income	5/31/1998	5/31/1999
TOTAL REVENUE Includes net Nature Shop sales, Investment Income, Memberships and Program Revenues)	\$ 203,023	\$ 100,872
SUPPORT (includes Gifts and Memorials, Birdathon, For the Birds Letter, Sanctuary, contributions to Restricted Funds, Earthshare of California distributions, and miscellaneous program support	\$ <u>56,377</u>	\$ <u>106,286</u>
<b>TOTAL REVENUE AND SUPPORT</b>	<b>\$ 259,400</b>	<b>\$ 207,158</b>
EXPENSES:		
Total Program Expenses	\$ 118,261	\$ 95,527
Total Fundraising Expense	\$ 3,063	\$ 2,907
Total General & Administrative Expenses	\$ <u>29,849</u>	\$ <u>55,406</u>
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$ 151,173</b>	<b>\$ 152,840</b>
<b>NET INCOME FOR YEAR</b>	<b>\$ 108,227</b>	<b>\$ 54,318</b>
<hr/>		
<b>Asset, Liabilities, and Surplus</b>		
TOTAL ASSETS (includes Cash, Deposits, Prepaid Expenses, Accounts Receivable, Fixed Assets, Inventory, and Investments, at market value):	\$ 803,095	\$ 848,068
LIABILITIES (includes Accounts Payable, Salaries and payroll Taxes Payable, Sales Taxes Payable, and Deferred Income)	\$ 12,942	\$ 3,596
SURPLUS (includes Funds Designated to meet Long-term Needs, Restricted Funds, and Undesignated Surplus)	\$ <u>790,153</u>	\$ <u>844,471</u>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND SURPLUS:</b>	<b>\$ 803,095</b>	<b>\$ 848,068</b>
STATEMENT OF SURPLUS:		
Surplus, Beginning of Year	\$ 681,926	\$ 790,153
Excess of Income over Expenses, Current Year	\$ 108,227	\$ 54,318
Surplus, End of Year	\$ 790,153	\$ 844,471

As a service to our membership, the SCVAS Board of Directors would like to present a summary of our organization's financial position as of the conclusion of the fiscal year. (See above.)

The year to year difference between the revenue figures were related to 1998's litigation income. Operating expenses for 1999 were as planned and the net result was a surplus of \$54,318.

Our balance sheet continues to reflect a strong financial

position. This year's growth in both assets and surplus also demonstrates the positive effect of the stock market. Our surplus acts as a form of endowment in that most of it is designated by the Board of Directors to meet long term needs, and the earnings generated from the investment of the surplus are used to pay for current operating expenses.

If you have any questions or wish a copy of the financial report please contact the office.

—Barbara Dalderis, Treasurer

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

Phone: 408-252-3747  
Fax: 408-252-2850  
E-mail: scvas@scvas.org

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



**OFFICERS**

**President**  
David McIntyre 650/561-9356  
**Past President**  
Nick Yatsko 408/247-5499  
**Vice President**  
Freddy Howell 408/358-9453  
**Treasurer**  
Barbara Dalderis 408-399-6965  
**Secretary**  
Ann Verdi 408/266-5108

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Dave Cook '98-'01 408/871-9552  
Charles Preuss '98-'01 650/326-6451  
Bobbie Handen '99-'02 408/356-4263  
Grant Hoyt '99-'02 650/969-7892  
Leda Beth Gray '99-'02 831/336-1127  
Debbie Thompson '97-'00 408/227-4604  
David Drake '97-'00 831/336-1127

**STAFF**

**Office Manager**  
Susan Bell 408/252-3747  
**Environmental Advocate**  
Craig Breon 408/252-3748  
**Volunteer Coordinator**  
Ulrike Keyssner 408/252-3747

**Office Fax** 408/252-2850  
**E-mail** scvas@scvas.org  
**Website** www.scvas.org

**CHAIRPERSONS**

**Avocet**  
Editor: Grant Hoyt 650/969-7892  
Graphics, Layout:  
Bonnie Bedford-White 408/261-8210  
**Education**  
Bobbie Handen 408/356-4263  
**Environmental Action**  
Leda Beth Gray 831/336-1127  
**Field Trips: Weekend**  
Bob Reiling 408/253-7527  
**Field Trips: Weekday**  
Shirley Gordon 408/996-9863  
Rosalie Lefkowitz 650/494-6358  
**Finance**  
Don Price 650/327-1254  
**Membership**  
Debbie Thompson 408/227-4604  
**Library**  
Marti Oetzel 408/252-3747  
**Photo Club**  
Pete LaTourrette 650/961-2741  
**Programs**  
Doug & Gail Cheeseman 408/741-5330  
**Web page**  
Pete LaTourrette 650/961-2741  
**Christmas Bird Count**  
Ann Verdi 408/266-5108  
Kathy Parker 408/358-2832  
**Bay Area Audubon Council**  
**Delegate**  
Leda Beth Gray 831/336-1127

**GENERAL MEETINGS** are held on the third Wednesday of each month except July, August and December and 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.

**RARE BIRD ALERT: (415) 681-7422**

**KEEPING CONNECTED:** E-mail us at <e-network@scvas.org> so we can send informative brief notes of special concern.

SCVAS welcomes gifts, including those made in honor of or in memory of friends or relatives. Such gifts will be used at SCVAS' discretion for its programs and activities unless specified otherwise by the donor. Tax-deductible donations may be made in the form of a check made out to SCVAS and sent to our Cupertino address. In addition, we gratefully accept bequests, which should specifically identify Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society as recipient. Gifts and bequests will be recognized by the Chapter in *The Avocet* unless the donor prefers otherwise.

*The Avocet* is published monthly (except for July and August) by the Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society, address is above. Deadline is the 25th of two months prior. Send submissions to *The Avocet*, c/o SCVAS at the above address.

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

**2000 Volume 47, Number 6**

**Join us!**

We invite you to join the National Audubon Society and its Santa Clara County Chapter (SCVAS). To join, complete and mail this form with payment to: SCVAS, 22221 McClellan Road, Cupertino, CA 95014

**SCVAS Membership:** (Check one)  Subscriber \$12  Supporter \$25  Donor \$35  Patron \$50 or 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.  Do not share my name and address

**Donation:**  SCVAS greatly appreciates your tax-deductible donation. Your gift helps fund Audubon's birding, education and conservation programs.  
NAME \_\_\_\_\_ GIFT FROM \_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_  
PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ 9MCH CC14