



# THE AVOCET

The Newsletter of the Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society

September 2000

## Taking a Gamble on Gambell

### Another Alaskan Adventure

by Jack Cole

How many disgruntled birders does it take to fill the tiny terminal of Bering Air in Nome, Alaska? Little did we know when we so carefully made our plans last year that we would be part of the answer.

Ed Frost and I left for Nome, and eventually Gambell, at 6:50 AM on Saturday, May 27, on what would be the first of ten flights on the last warm day we would see in a week. Fourteen hours later we were having dinner at Fat Freddie's in Nome, watching the Glaucous Gulls and Arctic Terns sail by our table-by-the-sea, just as we watched them last year. After dinner we walked the outskirts of Nome, where the same teams of huskies studied our every move, the same redpolls twittered and chased each other around the same rusty gold-mining equipment. We finally called it a night, if you can ever call it a night in the summer in Alaska, and retired to the Aurora Inn with dreams of auklets and Asian strays we would see the next day.

Sunday morning dawned, if there ever is a dawn in the summer in Alaska, cold and foggy. That should have been a clue, yet we taxied to the airport with every expectation of departing for Gambell at the scheduled hour of 10 AM. Four birders in the lounge in their second day of waiting should have been our next clue. When we met a young man on his FOURTH day of waiting to return to his home in Gambell, reality set in. We had a problem! Every hour that day our hopes were raised, and every other hour they were dashed. Fog and visibility on Gambell was just too bad to attempt a landing at the uninstrumented airstrip. At 5 we were sent away, with our dreams of a Green Sandpiper slipping away. Ed and I rented a truck, and we spent a few hours at Safety Sound. We saw some very nice birds, but that was not why we came back to Alaska.

On Monday the fog still hung over Nome, and the Bering Air terminal was not a happy place. Mike Rogers and Ann Verdi arrived to find us slumped on a

couch, in the midst of about 30 other birders, waiting for yet another hourly announcement of the weather in Gambell. Between announcements we dashed out to nearby birding spots, with Mike in the pickup bed, as another day appeared to be wasting away. After lunch we even called Alaska Airlines to investigate alternate flights home. Finally, at 2:30, the word came down: "We're going to try it!" Bering Air brought their six planes into position, and the convoy of birders and their gear began.

St. Lawrence Island is a 45-minute flight in the fastest plane, unless they stop at the other island village, Savoonga, on the way, which we did. The island is about 75 miles long and 25 miles wide, with Gambell on the western end 40 miles from Siberia. The village currently has 725 inhabitants, most of them Eskimos. They live in a smattering of simple homes scattered between the sea and the mountain, beside Troutman Lake. There is one lodge, but it is booked far in advance by tour groups, so Ed and I were placed in a private home with a woman and her three charming daughters, ages 6, 7 and 9. We each had our own room,

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**General Membership Meeting  
Thursday,\* September 21  
"From the Amazon Basin to the Bolivian Andes"  
with Doug Cheeseman  
Palo Alto Art Center  
Newell & Embarcadero Rds.  
7:30 Hospitality 8:00 Program**

Doug Cheeseman may have further compressed his vertebrae carrying heavy artillery, (tripod, cameras, lenses) around Bolivia, but still he managed to take some amazing photographs. Tonight he'll share with you slides of the wonderful birds, mammals and reptiles of this Neotropical land, an Andean accordion bordered by savannas and Amazonian lowland forests. Bolivia has abundant wildlife in many remote areas where the human population is still relatively low,

**\*different night of week, this month only**

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## Volunteer Ventures

by Ulrike Keyssner



As I write this I am having afternoon tea on the stately verandah of the Asa Wright Nature Center in Trinidad. Several SCVAS members recommended visiting, and with good reason. The view along the Arima Valley is breathtaking, whether in full sunlight or, as it is now, shrouded in late afternoon clouds and glistening from a short shower. Below the verandah of the colonial style main house are several hummingbird feeders and fruit stations that are constantly frequented by a procession of birds, mammals, and reptiles. My favorite bird is the common White-necked Jacobin. It's aggressive territorial behavior makes for quite a show as it flashes its brilliant white tail to intimidate other hummers. The feeders offer a glimpse of what is out there in the forest: trogons, motmots, bellbirds, manakins, and the famous nocturnal, fruit-eating oilbirds.

Asa Wright draws birders from around the world. Being somewhat new to birding I am still delighted by their enthusiasm and genuineness as they engage in lengthy discussions over which birds they can honestly add to life lists. There is no doubt birders are a special breed who have their 'fish story' equivalents!

The SCVAS annual potluck was a lot of fun despite the soaring temperatures (remember that was the day San Jose broke a record at 109 F!). A volunteer gratefully sat fully clothed in the creek to cool off because the Ranch house could have roasted a turkey! Luckily our members are a hardy bunch and we managed to sit everyone in the shade and had lots of cool drinks. The food was plentiful, and the quality and variety was a tribute to the culinary palates of our members. If you missed this year's potluck mark your 2001 calendars for the third Wednesday in June.

An important aspect of the dinner is to thank all of our volunteers for their dedication, activism, and generosity. Unfortunately (or fortunately for us), we have many volunteers to thank. We would love to thank each and every volunteer but that is no longer practical at the dinner. Each volunteer will receive a personal thank you from the Board and staff.

This year we felt the need to make 'Special Mentions' of six volunteers who have invaluable contributed to SCVAS during the past year. It is not that they put in lots of hours, nor that they necessarily had special skills or knowledge to do their jobs. It is their extraordinary commitment and responsibility to the jobs they took on that we are very grateful for. The six volunteers chosen to award 'Special Mentions' are (in alphabetical order): Gus Constant, Marie Gordon, Jerry Kaminski, Frank Klug, Anne Mortimer, and Marti Oetzel. A seventh 'volunteer' was also named from our terrific Board of

Directors, Debbie Thompson. To all our volunteers and Board volunteers, Craig, Susan, and I appreciate your help and support. We could not do our jobs without you. I will close now as I have to pack for the next leg of my trip, Guyana.



## View From The Office

by Susan Bell  
Office Manager

The Annual Potluck Dinner held in June was a huge success. Thanks to everyone who came out on the hottest day of the year! It was nice to meet so many of you who came to celebrate our accomplishments and get a chance to hear about our endeavors for the upcoming year.

I don't know if it's the location here at McClellan Ranch Park in Cupertino, the abundance of birds, or that the birds are extremely hungry, but we are *constantly* filling the feeders at SCVAS. It's wonderful to watch so many birds at the feeders. I have to admit that watching the squirrels is entertaining when they unsuccessfully try to make it around the squirrel baffles. They do, however, consume seed that is dropped by the chickadees and finches, but they never seem to stop trying new ways to get around those baffles.

Squirrel baffles make a big difference and we have several different types in stock at the Nature Shop. A particularly interesting one, called the "Squirrel Beater," is a squirrel-proof bird feeder that closes the feeder holes when a squirrel perches on it, shutting off food supply to the intruder. The feeder is not sensitive to the weight of birds, and they can eat at will. Take some time to watch the birds, squirrels, and various feeders when you drop by our headquarters for a visit.

We are very excited to be offering new merchandise in the Nature Shop featuring our Avocet logo, both embroidered and silk-screened. We've got a canvas tote bag with a nice long strap to fit over your shoulder. It's cream-colored canvas with the Avocet silk-screened on the front in a royal blue. We also have T-shirts with the logo silk-screened on the upper left pocket area, long-sleeved denim shirts with the logo embroidered above the pocket, and polo shirts in white, light blue and gray. The colors of the Avocet and the marshland surrounding the shorebird have been reproduced perfectly. These shirts are comfortable and attractive, and a great way to show your support of your local chapter and look good at

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# September 2000 Calendar

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

## Wednesday Sept. 6, 7:30 PM

**Bay Area Bird Photographers** will feature the annual Members' Slides program. Lucy Evans Baylands Interpretive Center, E. Embarcadero Rd., Palo Alto.

## \*\*Saturday Sept. 9, 8:30 AM

**Moss Landing and vicinity.** Half day plus. Leader: TBA (408) 253-7527. Meet at Jetty Rd. off of Hwy 1 just north of Moss Landing. Shorebirds, waterfowl, early migrants.

## \*\*Sunday Sept. 10, 9:00 AM

**Charleston Slough.** Half day. Leader: Allen Royer (408) 288-7768. From Hwy 101 in Mt. View take San Antonio Rd. north to Terminal Way parking area. Meet at entrance nearest San Antonio Rd. Trip recommended for, but not limited to, beginning birders.

## Tuesday Sept. 12, 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. Topic: Summer birding experiences.

## \*\*Wednesday Sept. 13, 9:00 AM

**Moss Landing/Elkhorn Slough.** Half day. Leader: Gail Cheeseman (408) 741-5330. Meet at Jetty Rd. and Hwy 1, just north of Moss Landing. Highlights: gulls, terns, ducks, shorebirds, raptors. *LO*

## \*\*Saturday Sept. 16, 9:00 AM

**Point Reyes.** Full day. Leader: Peter LaTourette (650) 961-2741. Our annual trip to the west coast's most active vagrant trap, where birds and weather are always exciting and unpredictable! From Hwy 1 in Marin Co. take Sir Francis Drake Blvd west approx. 14 miles and turn left to Drakes Beach. Meet in parking area; carpool from there. Bring lunch, liquids, full tank of gas; be prepared for fog, wind, sun and challenging birds.

## \*\*Sunday Sept. 17, 8:00 AM

**Alum Rock Park.** Leader: Dave Cook (408) 871-9552. From Hwy 101 or I-680 take Alum Rock Ave. northeast toward hills and into park. Turn left at entrance kiosk (at bottom of hill, before bridge); meet in first parking lot, near "Rustic Lands" area. Moderately strenuous 3 to 4 mile walk. Possible fee; *LO, RC*

## \*\*Saturday Sept. 23, 3:00 - 4:30 PM

**Charleston Slough Young Audubon field trip.** Leader: Jim Liskovec. This outing is geared toward children from grades three and up. Adult must accompany child. To reserve space and obtain directions call SCVAS at (408) 252-3747.

## \*\*Saturday Sept. 23, 9:00 AM

**Hawk Hill/Marin Headlands.** Full day. Leader: Nick Yatsko (408) 247-5499. To carpool, meet at Page Mill Rd/I-280 Park'n'Ride at 8:00 AM. All others meet at tunnel entrance near parking area on Hawk Hill at 9:00 AM. Directions to Hawk Hill: after crossing Golden Gate Bridge, exit just past Vista Pt., cross under Hwy 101 and turn right just before entrance back onto Hwy 101 south. Drive up hill to the highest point and park. Highlights: migrating raptors, (possible Broad-winged Hawk). Weather variable; dress in layers, bring lunch and liquids. Heavy fog may change itinerary. **PLEASE NOTE:** This will be our only Hawk Hill/Marin Headlands trip this fall.

## \*\*Sunday Sept. 24, 8:30 AM

**Coyote Hills Regional Park.** Half day. Leader: Frank Vanslager (408) 257-3647. Take Hwy 84 (Dumbarton Bridge) east to Newark. Exit right at Thornton, go left over freeway as Thornton becomes Paseo Padre, turn left at Patterson Ranch/Commerce Rd. into park. Meet at far end of Quarry parking lot on left, 1/4 mile past entrance. Entrance fee. *LO, RC*

## \*\*Wednesday Sept. 27, 8:30 AM

**Palo Alto Baylands** for shorebirds and fall warblers. Bring scopes if you have them. Leader: Rosalie Lefkowitz (650) 494-6358. From Hwy 101 take

Embarcadero Rd. east, take left turn where road forks just past airport. Meet in parking lot across from Lucy Evans Baylands Interpretive Center. *LO*

## \*\*Saturday Sept. 30, 8:30 AM

**Ogier Ponds.** Half day. Leader: Bob Reiling (408) 253-7527. From Hwy 101 in Morgan Hill take Cochrane Rd. west to Monterey Hwy, turn right, go north 2.6 miles, turn right towards the Model Airplane Park. Follow road for 1/2 mile and park in gravel lot at first bend in road.

## \*\*Sunday Oct. 1, 8:30 AM

**Arastradero Preserve.** Half day. Leader: Jim Liskovec (650) 969-5542. From I-280 take Page Mill Rd. west approx. 1/2 mile to Arastradero Rd. Turn right and meet at parking lot 1/2-mile on right. Variety of woodland and grassland species; especially raptors possible. Two miles of moderate walking. *RC*

## \*\*Saturday Oct. 7, 9:00 AM

**Charleston Slough.** Half day. Leader: TBA (408) 253-7527. From Hwy 101 in Mt. View take San Antonio Rd. north to Terminal Way parking area. Meet at the entrance nearest San Antonio Rd. Trip recommended for beginning birders but, as always, birders of all skill levels are encouraged to participate.

## \*\*Sunday Oct. 8, 8:00 AM

**Pillar Point Harbor,** San Mateo Co. Half day. Leader: Al Eisner (650) 364-3686; daytime; voicemail: (650) 926-2018). Meet along Capistrano Rd. just north of Prospect Way, Princeton By The Sea, behind Mezza Luna restaurant. (Park on street, not in their lot.) Take Hwy 1 about 4 miles north of Half Moon Bay, turn left at traffic light. Highlights: waterbirds, coastal migrants (landbirds and shorebirds), possible vagrants. Bring your scope. *RC*

## \*\*Wednesday Oct. 11, 8:30 AM

**Ogier Ponds.** Half day. Leader to be announced. Call Shirley Gordon (408) 996-9863 for info. See directions under Sept. 30 listing.

# Scope on Membership

## Meet Your Environmental Advocate

by Debbie Thompson

I always thought Craig Breon was a very unique guy, and now I am convinced. I had an opportunity to talk to Craig one-on-one over lunch recently and thought I would help our membership get to know him better.

As many of you know, Craig has been the Environmental Advocate at SCVAS for over six years now. Hiring an Advocate was a highly debated topic for our Board of Directors back then. It meant that our chapter was going to be proactive in enforcing environmental laws and, as a

result, more controversial. The Board made the right decision though, since it turned out to be a milestone in the growth of our chapter into a prominent local environmental group.

"I like the fact that I work in the area where I grew up," says Craig, a Mid-Peninsula native. Then he adds with dismay, "I used to go to an amusement park called Frontier Village in South San Jose; now it is a subdivision." Craig went on to Williams College in the Berkshire Mountains of Massachusetts where he first became interested in protecting the environment. After graduation he traveled to Shanghai, China for a year to teach English. "Shanghai is the most polluted place I've seen," he explained. "No fish could live in the river that runs through the city".

Craig's experience abroad influenced his decision to work in the environmental arena. After returning to the U.S. he became involved with other non-profit groups such as the Nature Conservancy and Hidden Villa Ranch. He then attended Law School at U.C. Davis, intending to work in a non-profit after graduating and passing the Bar in 1992. While in law school, he was active in the Environ-

mental Law Society, a group of about 25 students.

The first major issue that Craig worked on for SCVAS was the San Jose Riparian Corridor Policy, which passed in 1994. That policy won an award for urban planning and is considered very progressive due in part to its requirement for 100-foot building setback from creeks. Craig notes that he is still working on implementing the policy.

Another major victory Craig helped us achieve was the lawsuit against the residential development plan for McCarthy Ranch near Coyote Creek and Highway 237. The settlement changed the high-density residential development into industrial, lessening impact on the creek since there are fewer children, pets and adults disturbing the sensitive creek ecosystem. The lawsuit was a morale booster for Craig and SCVAS as we realized we could have a positive impact on sensible development in our area.

Craig is currently involved with a variety of issues such as the development of the Coyote Valley in South San Jose, the Agnews site development in Santa Clara, the San Francisco Bay Project that is co-sponsored by California Audubon, and the Alviso development plan. He has also had a major influence on the Santa Clara Valley Water District, helping them to adopt a more environmentally friendly philosophy over the years.

Craig is a key member of our Environmental Action Committee chaired by Leda Beth Gray. Leda Beth offers her impression of Craig: "He is amazing! Craig is a part-time employee, but it seems like he does the work of several people. He is outstanding at forming partnerships with other groups, and working constructively with public agencies, especially the Santa Clara Valley Water District. Although fighting for native species habitat in Silicon Valley is extremely tough, he main-



## Office View *cont'd*

the same time. More information regarding these items is located on our web site [www.scvas.org](http://www.scvas.org)

### SCVAS Nature Shop hours:

M-F 10 AM - 5 PM

Sat. 10 AM - 2 PM

Please call ahead to guarantee these times: (408) 252-3747

### Birdathon 2000

The final results of this year's Birdathon are in—the total raised is \$4,569! Proceeds from this year's event will again be divided between SCVAS education programs and California Audubon's Bay Project. The goal of the Bay Project is to identify ways to restore wetlands around San Francisco Bay and ensure the long-term health of Bay ecosystems.

The highest number of species seen by a Birdathon team was 120, recorded by the Rock Wrens (David Drake, Leda Beth Gray, Sue Hunt, David McIntyre and Ulrike Keyssner). SCVAS sincerely thanks all the teams and their individual sponsors for their enthusiasm and continued support of our projects.



## Doug Cheeseman's Bolivia Slide Show *cont'd*

but conditions may soon change due to a high birthrate, infringement on national park borders by agriculturalists, and resettlement programs of the Bolivian government. International conservation groups such as World Wildlife Fund are working on innovative projects to preserve some of the most pristine areas (e.g., to forgive part of the national debt, an air quality mitigation program is in place in Noel Kempf Mercado National Park, a beautiful protected area on the Brazil border). Doug will show slides of the wildlife of this national park, as well as the diversity found in other natural areas of Bolivia.



## Craig Breon *cont'd*

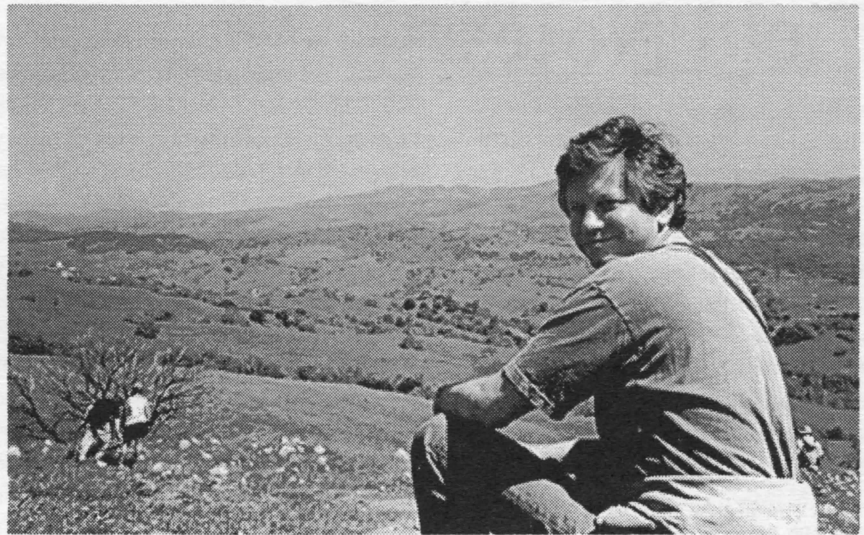
tains a positive attitude, and is skilled at advising the EAC and the Board about which issues to pursue.

"Sometimes we end up going after an issue that we may not have a lot of chance on, simply because it is extremely important, such as fighting against developments on Burrowing Owl habitat. Craig figures out strategies for making an impact on these important issues, even if we suffer losses along the way. A good example is the way he started the ball rolling on regional planning for Burrowing Owls by cities in Santa Clara County. I have tremendous respect for Craig, and his dedicated service to SCVAS. On top of everything else, he has a great sense of humor and is fun to work with."

Craig's personal life also revolves around his passion for the environment. He teaches undergraduate classes in environmental law and environmental activism at Santa Clara University and also hosts a local radio show centered around environmental news and African music. Although Craig didn't start out as a birder, the influence of our chapter has changed him into a member of the binocular-toting clan. He now buys bird feeders as presents and travels just to see birds.

SCVAS has realized many accomplishments thanks to Craig, but we are fighting a continuous battle in the Bay Area. Losses to wealthy developers are all too frequent. "It beats you down tremendously," says Craig. On the other hand, he feels rewarded when strangers express their appreciation for the battle he is fighting. "People feel so helpless and like to know someone is fighting," he explains.

Like so many others who are feeling the pressures of Silicon Valley, Craig may leave the area some day, but in the meantime he remains dedicated to protecting bird and wildlife habitat in the South Bay. The battles are long, hard and sometimes lost, but we all feel satisfaction and pride that we're fighting the good fight with Craig leading the charge. I know you all will join me in giving Craig Breon a big "hip-hip-hooray"!



*Craig Breon, fearless protector of bird habitat*

## **Board Hears NAS Growth Plan**

*By Freddy Howell*

SCVAS Board members were joined at Jasper Ridge Biological Preserve at Stanford by Lynn Teneffoss from the National Audubon Society for the annual Board retreat on August 6. Lynn, who represents NAS in membership matters and formerly worked at SCVAS, facilitated discussion on recruiting and retention of members and explained the latest NAS membership goals and strategies.

Why is National Audubon launching a membership drive and encouraging local chapters to do the same? "Audubon is not fulfilling its mission," Lynn told the Board. "To create a culture of conservation, including habitat restoration, preservation and education, more members with more skills are needed."

The catalyst for this drive was the failure of the current dues-sharing structure to support membership recruitment effort. (According to Lynn, advertising in the national magazine has been subsidizing a major portion of the membership department.) The dues-split between

National and local chapters will, therefore, be adjusted to revitalize national recruitment efforts. Local chapters, meanwhile, must compensate for the reduction in dues-split money by actively promoting themselves and attracting new local members. NAS is also shifting the focus of its magazine from global conservation to NAS and chapter accomplishments in hopes of making it a more relevant and attractive publication.

Increasing membership not only brings in more money and more members, it also increases the skills available to chapter leadership. Lynn mentioned several ways to boost recruitment of new members, including always having brochures at hand to share with non-members. Our new member packets, welcome breakfast/bird walks and nature shop coupons have gone a long way in connecting with and welcoming new members, but National Audubon is making it clear that more effort is needed for Audubon to become more effective nationally and locally. Above all, Lynn challenged our Board to increase our programs and involve more members.

Several incentive months are upcoming as part of NAS's overall recruitment effort. Meanwhile, every member can help bring new enthusiasm and activism into the chapter. For more information or if you have ideas or program requests, call any Board member.



*[If you are interested in working on any of the issues mentioned with Craig and our Environmental Action Committee, please contact the SCVAS Office at (408) 252-3748 for information on how to get involved.]*

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# Field Notes

by Bill Bousman

## Loons through Ibis

A basic-plumaged **Pacific Loon** was found for the second spring in a row, this time at Stevens Creek Reservoir on 7 May (SEM). **American White Pelicans** arrived early this year with 26 on Salt Pond A1 on 11 May (WGB) with numbers building rapidly in May. A peak count for the summer was of 519 in the Palo Alto Flood Control Basin (FCB) on 3 Jul (MJM). The first **Brown Pelicans** were seven at Charleston Slough on 3 Jul (WGB). Forty-five found the next day on the Alviso salt ponds (PJM) were the high count for the summer. **Great Egrets**, **Snowy Egrets**, **Green Herons**, and **Black-crowned Night Herons** all nested within the great reeds growing on the island in Almaden Lake (v.ob.), although no good estimate of numbers was obtained. Two adult **Little Blue Herons** were found at the edge of Salt Pond A9 in Alviso on 4 Jul (PJM) and one to two birds were seen in the area through at least 12 Jul (v.ob.). A **Cattle Egret** was at the Arzino Ranch on 1 May (RWR, FV), but has not been seen subsequently this summer. An adult **White-faced Ibis** was in the San Jose-Santa Clara Water Pollution Control Plant (WPCP) drying ponds on 26 May (AJa, MMR) for a one-day show.

## Ducks through Skimmers

We found more **Blue-winged Teal** this summer but there was no sign of nesting. A male and female were in the San Jose-Santa Clara WPCP drying ponds on 1 Jun (AME), 10 were there on 30 Jun (NL), and five males and at least one female were in the ponds on 1 Jul (NL). A male was in the Palo Alto FCB on 4 Jul (PJM), an eclipse male was there on 17 Jul (WGB), and three females were found on 18 Jul (PJM). A male was also seen in Crittenden Marsh on 16 Jul (PJM). A male **Hooded Merganser** was found in Los Gatos Creek CP on 19 May (DG) and

appears to have lingered quite late. A female was seen near the Stevens Creek Tidal Marsh on 8 Jun (WGB) and then regularly in the Mountain View Forebay and the Palo Alto FCB through 20 Jun (WGB, MJM). Probably the same female was seen once again in the FCB on 30 Jul (JMa et al.) and represents a very rare overwintering bird. **Ospreys** have nested in the Santa Cruz Mountains, inland from Davenport, in at least three of the last four years (*vide* DLSu). Of five local records in June and July, two included birds carrying fish towards the

*A Hudsonian Godwit  
provided the excitement for  
the end of spring migration,  
while nesting Great-tailed  
Grackles dominated the  
breeding season*

interior: one over Lexington Reservoir on 17 Jul (BW *vide* DLSu), and one over Shoreline Boulevard on 18 Jul (PJM). **Peregrine Falcons** have been seen more commonly this July than any summer in memory. They've now nested on a building at Oracle in San Mateo County—will we see urban nesting birds in San Jose in the future? A **Mountain Quail** calling south of Loma Prieta on 18 May (MMR, RWR, FV) was the only bird found this summer.

The first returning **Lesser Yellowlegs** was a single bird at the San Jose-Santa Clara WPCP drying ponds on 30 Jun (NL). Birds were found more widely and in greater numbers by the end of the month. Some high counts were 11 at the Calabazas ponds on 22 Jul (AME), 36 at the Calabazas ponds the next day (MJM), and 7 at Crittenden Marsh on 30 Jul (NL). The rarest of our shorebirds this spring was the first-year **Hudsonian Godwit** found on 26 May in the San Jose-Santa Clara WPCP drying ponds. This bird was seen regularly over the next few days

(v.ob.) with the last observation on 31 May (MCM). The first of our **Semipalmated Sandpipers** was an adult at the Stevens Creek Tidal Marsh on 29 Jul (MJM). A mostly alternate **Stilt Sandpiper** was found on the San Jose-Santa Clara WPCP drying ponds on 6 May (NL) and was seen there through at least 9 May (v.ob.). Single **Common Terns** found on Salt Pond A4 in Sunnyvale on 19 Jul (TRy) and at Charleston Slough on 23 Jul (LCh) were early for this rare fall migrant. Staging **Least Terns** were first observed on Salt Pond A2E on 15 Jul (FV). Peak numbers were 101 on 30 Jul (NL). Of 11 counted on 24 Jul, about a third were juveniles (WGB). A pair of **Black Skimmers** was observed incubating a single egg on the island in the southeast corner of Salt Pond A1 on 26 May, but the nesting effort was clearly abandoned by early June (WGB). Another pair was observed on an island in Salt Pond A16 in Alviso on 2 Jun (AG) and, on 9 Jul, it could be seen that they were incubating on eggs (MJM). Two downy young were observed on 15 Jul and a third was seen on 23 Jul (both MJM). However, by 29 Jul, only 2 young were apparent (MJM). These are at least the third and fourth nesting records for the county.

## Roadrunners through Swallows

A **Greater Roadrunner** north of San Antonio Junction on 3 May (JAC, EFr) is the only observation since April. A flock of 12 **Black Swifts** along Summit Road near Loma Prieta on 10 May (DLSu) and a single bird along Coyote Creek north of Coyote on 7 Jun (TRy) were rare spring migrants. One to two **Black-chinned Hummingbirds** were found along Coyote Creek below Hwy 237 on 19 May (RWR, FV), 16 May (MMR), and 3 Jun (LCh). None was reported from further upstream or from other creeks. Male **Rufous Hummingbirds** normally return to their wintering grounds along the Rocky Mountains and the Sierra Nevada, so one seen in Gilroy on 29 Jun (BB-W) is of interest. **Lewis's Woodpeckers** were found in small numbers in the San Anto-



## Field Notes *continued*

nio Valley in May and June. Two birds were seen carrying food to a nest hole south of the junction on 6 and 13 May (LCh et al.). The peak count of birds was of four seen on 13 May (LCh et al.). A pair of **Cassin's Kingbirds** were on a nest in a eucalyptus on San Felipe Road, just north of the San Benito County line on 7 Jun (WGB) and an adult was bringing food to a newly-fledged young on 24 Jun (MH et al.). These kingbirds have nested here for at least three of the last four years. A male and a female **Purple Martin** were along Croy Ridge in the Santa Cruz Mountains on 10 May (DLSu). One to two males and a female were seen near Loma Prieta on 5, 21, and 30 Jun (RWR, FV). This rare swallow is probably still breeding in small numbers in the Santa Cruz Mountains. A **Bank Swallow**, our other rare member of that family, was seen at the Coyote Creek Field Station (CCFS) waterbird pond on 5 Jul (AJa). We have had June or July records for each of the last four years.

### Dippers through Goldfinches

A **Canyon Wren** at Alum Rock Park on 9 May (RWR, FV) and one in Henry Coe SP on 3 Jul (DA) are in the known breeding range of this rare dryland wren. A juvenile **American Dipper** seen along Penitencia Creek in Alum Rock Park on 10 Jun (JMa et al.) suggests local breeding and, hence, the health of this creek system. Most surprising was another bird along Ross Creek at Blossom Hill Road in San Jose on 16 Jun (BeH), as breeding birds are not known from this area. The tail end of the **Nashville Warbler** migration is represented by two females banded near Sierra and Felter roads on 4 May (RCo) and one seen along Coyote Creek below Hwy 237 on 13 May (MJM). **Yellow Warblers** nested this summer in a light industrial area near Great Oak and San Ignacio, in south San Jose, nearly a mile from the nearest riparian area (JMa). A hundred years ago this warbler commonly bred in orchards, gardens, and city parks on the valley floor, but now appears to be in a general decline both locally and throughout the Bay area. Unfortunately, the outcome of this nest

attempt was the fledging of a Brown-headed Cowbird on 13 Jun (JMa). The combination of degraded riparian areas and the Brown-headed Cowbird is too much for this most common of North American warblers at the arid edge of its range. A good May movement of **Hermit Warblers** included 12 along Summit Road north of Mt. Madonna on 10 May (DLSu), a female on Coyote Creek below Hwy 237 on 13 May (MJM), and another female near Loma Prieta on 18 May (MMR, RWR, FV). An **Ovenbird** was found singing in Milpitas on 12 Jun (JiD *fide* JMa). This eastern vagrant shows the classic pattern of misoriented spring vagrants in June, which often are found because of their singing, as well as misoriented fall vagrants in September and early October. Spring **MacGillivray's Warblers** included two different birds in San Jose near Hwy 880 and North 1st Street 12-14 May (EFe), and a male along Coyote Creek below Hwy 237 13-17 May (MJM, v.ob.). Two singing **Yellow-breasted Chats** along Coyote Creek on 13 May (MJM) were also good finds for the spring.

**Black-chinned Sparrows** were found in three locations this season; all areas where they've nested in the past. The first was found singing near Loma Prieta on 6 May (NL). Additionally, single birds were heard singing at Monte Bello OSP on 27 May and 17 Jun (LCh et al.). Finally, a bird was singing at M.P. 10.0 on Mines Road in the Diablo Range (MDo). **Grasshopper Sparrows** were found widely this season. Good numbers were found at Monte Bello OSP throughout the summer with a high count of at least six birds on 17 Jun (LCh). Four to six birds were in Joseph Grant CP on 8 Jul (MDo, JC). At least five birds were at the summit of Sierra Road on 25 Jun (DG). A female **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** at a Mountain View feeder on 13 May (MCM) was an unusual eastern vagrant. The male **Blue Grosbeak** found at Ed Levin

CP in the spring was seen 3-17 May (v.ob.). A 1st-summer male or possibly a female was also seen over this same period. No birds were reported in the summer. A singing male **Indigo Bunting** was found in Los Trancos and Monte Bello OSPs on 24 May (RLe et al.). This bird sang persistently in both counties and was seen by many observers to at least 24 Jun (JMa et al.). Another male was found singing at Long Ridge OSP in San Mateo County on 27 May (PO), apparently where a male was found regularly last year. No indication of breeding was observed for either male. A pair of **Great-tailed Grackles** was seen near Almaden Expressway and Coleman Avenue on 22 Jun (TRY) and, not long after, the same pair apparently was observed on Almaden Lake (JMa). Based on the female's behavior, nesting was suspected in the small tule island in the lake. The male was seen carrying food to this location on repeated trips on 16 Jul (MJM) for the first nesting record in Santa Clara County. Another female Great-tailed Grackle was seen at the Ogier Avenue ponds on 20 Jul (BiH, SG *fide* TRY). **Lawrence's Goldfinches** were found widely in the Diablo Range over the period. A female carrying nest material along San Felipe Road on 24 Jun (MH et al.) was the only breeding noted. A high count of 45 to 50 birds was obtained on a trip through the San Antonio Valley on 21 Jun (MDo, JC).

*Observers: David Armstrong (DA), Bonnie Bedford-White (BB-W), Bill Bousman (WGB), Les Chibana (LCh), Jack Cole (JAC), Rita Colwell (RCo), Jesse Conklin (JC), Jim Danzenbaker (JiD), Matthew Dodder (MDo), Al Eisner (AME), Eric Feuss (EFe), Ed Frost (EFr), Don Ganton (DG), Susan Gearheart (SG), Andy Gibb (AG), Merry Haveman (MH), Bill Henry (BiH), Beverly Hesse (BeH), Alvaro Jaramillo (AJa), Rosalie Lefkowitz (RLe), Nick Lethaby (NL), Mike Mammoser (MJM), John Mariani (JMa), Peter Metropulos (PJM), Mark Miller (MCM), Steve Miller (SEM), Paul Ostler (PO), Bob Reiling (RWR), Mike Rogers (MMR), Tom Ryan (TRY), David Suddjian (DLSu), Frank Vanslager (FV), and Brian Walton (BW).*

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

# Gambell Adventure

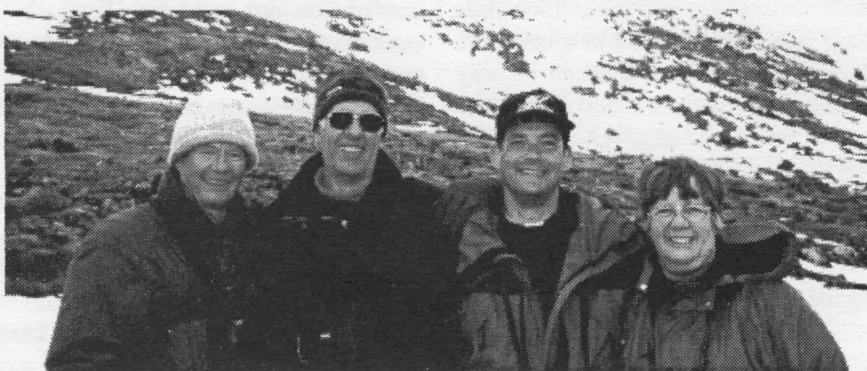
continued from page 1

spartan but comfortable. Mike and Ann weren't quite so fortunate. Their first lodging, a converted meat locker, lacked indoor plumbing, and the home to which they later moved ran out of fuel oil one night. But they survived just as we did, happy to be there.

The residents of Gambell are very poor. The cost of living is high, and their wages, if any, are meager. They live off the land whenever possible: seal, walrus, fish, birds, and whale when they can get one (they didn't this season). Our diet consisted of freeze-dried food and instant oatmeal, and considering the alternative, we ate very well. Ed is to be commended for trying Crested Auklet ("stinky but very good") and walrus liver and meat ("stinky and very bad"). He passed on the walrus, and fortunately was not asked to sample the rancid King Eider soup that sat in a pot on the counter for two days.

The ground around Gambell that wasn't covered with snow or long, dried grass consists of marble-sized gravel. This made walking very difficult and exhausting, so we rented a 4-wheel ATV, and \$75 per day proved to be an invaluable investment. The machines allowed us to respond instantly to radio alerts of rare bird sightings from any place in the vicinity. Driving the Honda was a continuous learning experience: I think in another week I would have discovered fourth gear! We bounced, jerked and skidded through the gravel; we stalled; we ran out of gas; we abandoned our ATV once and cursed it several times. However, like the food, it was by far the best alternative.

Our first two days were cold but dry with light westerly winds, and the birding was excellent. The first evening we had already logged Common Greenshank, Gray-tailed Tattler, and the three prized auklets: Crested, Parakeet and Least. We missed the Spectacled Eiders seen from the Point, but we still had time. The next day Ann found a Common Ringed Plover and soon after a Common Sandpiper at the far end of the lake, and the pilgrimage began. Birders walked, hitched rides for \$5 from the natives and



SCVAS Alaska birders Ed Frost, Jack Cole, Mike Rogers and Ann Verdi

descended en masse to view these two delights. One evening Mike relocated one of the few Dovekies on the island, and put out the word on his radio. Before you could say "Please don't stall on us again!" Ed and I were there, enjoying marvelous views when this tiny wonder settled down on its regular rock part way up the mountain.

Around the village there are several boneyards, where the natives discard the remains of their catches from the sea. These boneyards are the favorite habitat of some wonderful birds; we found Snow Buntings, Lapland Longspurs, two Bramblings, Rock Sandpipers and at least one Bluethroat.

The focal point of Gambell birding is the Point, the western-most end of the island, where auklets, loons, fulmars, alcids, puffins and gulls stream by at all times of the day and night by the thousands. We were there as the ice pack was breaking up, and many of the above birds simply floated by, providing long and discerning looks to distinguish, for instance, the Slaty-backed Gulls from the *vegae* race of the Herring Gull.

By Wednesday the fog had lowered and precipitation was in the air. This made driving the Honda while wearing glasses an adventure in itself. The winds picked up, but unfortunately they came from the East, bringing not Asian birds but birds like Hermit Thrush, Solitary Sandpiper and Fox Sparrow. Time was running out. On Thursday night, after a day of no new lifers, we stood at the Point in the wind and mist, and debated which was better: to be stranded in hopes of

seeing new birds, or waking to a day of good flying weather and heading for home. Just then a shout rang out: "IVORY GULL!" and there it was, dancing on the water like a storm petrel, dainty and pretty as a snowflake.

Our debate was settled in the morning. The fog was at the top of the mountain, the wind and moisture were gone, and the planes were on their way. Ann and Mike stayed one more day, and wished it had been two, as an Eye-browed Thrush made a conspicuous appearance the day after they left. That was reminiscent of the Great Knots that were by the lake on the day we were stranded in Nome. They remained in Nome for a few days, and Mike contributed a Mongolian Plover to the Visitor Center Rare Bird List.

Would we return to Gambell again? Probably not. But the call of the wild is strong. That Siberian Rubythroat is oh so close, and another day at each end of our stay would have netted possibly four more life birds. Would we recommend Gambell to you? Most assuredly! But we offer these words of advice: Leave some time in your schedule for weather contingencies; bring all the warm clothes you can wear at one time (six layers wasn't always enough); rent an ATV; save lots of money, and make your travel plans far in advance. Don't be afraid to travel on your own. You may not eat as well as the tour groups, but you will have more freedom and probably see more birds. So dream, plan and journey to this wild, wet and wonderful island of St. Lawrence. It truly is an unforgettable adventure!



# Could It Be . . . ?

"Please bring your seats to an upright position and store your tray tables." This was our clue to retrieve our binoculars from our carry-ons under the seat. Birding trips begin at every airport, and we need to be prepared. The instant our Boeing 737 touches down in Kotzebue, we peer through the cloudy, scratchy windows at the shorebirds, terns and waterfowl on each side of the runway. We ignore the stares and quizzical looks of other passengers, particularly those across the aisle as we look past them out their windows. Forget about color: everything is a silhouette, and we strain to pick up familiar ones. wigeon, merganser, Glaucous Gull. As the plane rolls to a stop, we are informed that we have twenty minutes if we wish to deplane. We hesitate only long enough to decide our best route beyond the terminal, and select the waterfront behind the Nana Museum.

Time is precious, and we hurry to the muddy shoreline, and there, right in front of us, are three shorebirds. Two are instantly recognized as Ruddy Turnstones, but the third, significantly smaller, brings us up short. Here is a shorebird, a 'peep' with black legs and a short, black bill. The bird appears to be about two-thirds the size of the turnstones. Across the breast, under a white chin, is a wash of red, with emphasis on the orange, which is the bird's most striking feature. There seems to be spotting at the sides of the wash, but none below it. This coloring did not appear anywhere else on the bird. My micro-cassette recorder is safely packed in my luggage, and we have no pad and pen, so we verbalize as many features of the bird as we can, with the thought that we may have something rare only 50 feet away.

Except for the white under-parts and the breast and chin, the rest of the bird seems to be covered with the rich chestnut shades of many alternate-plumaged sandpipers. The head and nape are streaked; all the feathers on the back and sides seem to be chestnut with white tips. There are no pronounced areas that

do not have this coloring. We notice a white "V" on the back. We are running out of time, and so we flush the bird. It does not call, but as it departs we do not notice any prominent wing bar.

When we return to the plane, we examine our National Geographic field guide, and zero in on the sketch of the head of the Red-necked Stint. We decide that this was our bird, and do not consider any alternatives. We announce our "find" to others in Gambell. Upon returning home, however, we discuss our observations, and begin to consider other possibilities.

After reviewing *Shorebirds* by Hayman et al., I come to the conclusion that the bird probably was not a Red-necked Stint, as there are no plumages shown that resembled our bird.

Several features just weren't right. The same was true for Sanderling. However, there is one bird in the book that looks exactly like our bird: Little Stint! But, instead of celebrations and high fives, we now have a serious identification problem. The Little Stint is very rare anywhere in Alaska, and identification can be a real challenge. Furthermore, the Sanderling and the Red-necked Stint can vary so much in plumages that

are unfamiliar to us that perhaps we missed some feature that could be diagnostic. We spoke with Mike Rogers, who gave us pause. Did we see the black sub-terminal bars on the scapulars, tertials and coverts? No. Did we note the absence of a hind toe? Are you kidding?

Identification after the fact is always problematical. We remember what we saw: our mental notes are still fresh and accurate. But as of this time, we are still searching for other photos and resources that would show various plumages of other possibilities. Until we are convinced otherwise, we believe our how-lucky-can-you-get bird was a Little Stint. We may never be 100% certain, but one thing we are sure of: when you visit a new and unfamiliar territory, be prepared for anything. You never know what will turn up in the strangest of places, and you need to be prepared to turn that "Could it be?" into a "Yes it was!"

---Jack Cole



It has black legs and a short black bill...

The head and nape are streaked...

There is a white "V" on the back, no prominent wing bar...

It is two-thirds the size of the turnstones...

Under the chin, across the breast is a wash of red with an emphasis on orange.

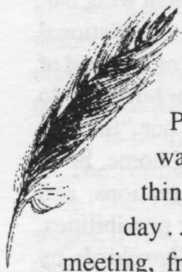
There is spotting at the sides of the wash; none below...

Did we see black terminal bars on the scapulars, tertials and coverts? Did we notice the absence of a hind toe? Are you kidding?

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# When "Work" Works

by Craig Breon  
*Environmental Advocate*



On Tuesday, August 1 I drove to work past Arastradero Preserve in Palo Alto as I often do. I wasn't in the best of moods, thinking to myself, "Another day . . . freeway, office, freeway, meeting, freeway . . ." Then, just before the on-ramp to Highway 280, I noticed a bright orange truck along the side of the road and two people, one woman and one man, in equally bright orange clothing, staring skyward. They were road workers for Caltrans, people I wrongly assume are interested primarily in their work and families, not getting run over in the course of a day, and perhaps a good meal.

To my surprise and delight, they both carried binoculars, which I saw fleetingly as I whizzed by. They were alternately watching something and excitedly talking to each other. I quickly thrust my head to the front of the car, searching through the very top of my windshield to the skies above (I can't help but wonder how often the police reports across America read, "ran off road while birding"). I caught the briefest glance of a raptor—most likely a Red-tail—soaring as nature dictates, then looked back at the road crew. They had started to make my day.

More was to come. Upon entering the office, Earl Menefee was there, a recent volunteer who has spent his time placing taxidermied birds in plexiglass boxes prepared by Norman Watenpugh, another dedicated SCVAS volunteer. We use these birds for environmental education, and volunteers carry them to classrooms to show school kids.

I stopped to talk to Earl in the front office at McClellan. Earl had worked at NASA for more than 40 years, through the heyday of space flight and into the modern era of technology. He stated his

reason for volunteering in a simple, beautiful phrase, "I do it for the birds." Again, my day brightened.

That same evening, I went to a City of Santa Clara Planning Commission hearing. In Santa Clara we are working to see that a massive proposed project called Rivermark (2000 homes and a shopping center on former Burrowing Owl habitat) includes some open space for people and wildlife.

Outside city hall, a man dressed in dirty jeans, untied work boots, and a formerly-white baseball cap turned backwards, sat on a bench looking decidedly to his right towards some trees. As I approached he said, "I'm watching my doves." He meant mourning doves, two of which perched in a branch about twenty feet away. "My doves"—the phrase rang in my mind. Attachment based on a few minutes observation, no doubt. He had no idea why I was there that night or who I represented, but he completed the triangle of encounters which made that day special.

On occasion, there's magic in this job. It's tough, defeating, bedraggling, frustrating, but on occasion—it's magic. My hopes reflected in the joy of others, my work validated. The hawk, the birds, the doves, the volunteers and others who care deeply . . . and me.

## Birding Volunteers Needed

In the fall of 1999, a piece of mail passed by my desk at the office. An organization called the Nature Restoration Trust was offering funding for restoration projects with a connection to high school education. SCVAS applies for few grants, but we currently lack the experience or the resources to do this, though we would like to. This one, however, seemed perfect for the Ulistac Natural Area, the site in the city of Santa Clara that Audubon members had campaigned successfully to make the first and only open space preserve in the city. With

help from volunteers, we won that grant (though the money actually goes to a parks organization in the city). In fact, to boast, ours was the only grant given in the Bay Area and the only one in the state to receive the maximum amount of funding possible.

The following is a call for birding volunteers in what should be an excellent opportunity to get out there and know you're doing something for education, for Audubon, and for yourself.

by Jeanne Salander

In recent *Avocet* issues, you have read about the \$45,000 matching funds grant received by Friends of Santa Clara Parks and Recreation for the restoration of a six-acre oak savannah and butterfly garden at Ulistac Natural Area in Santa Clara. The existence of this valuable 40 acres adjacent to the Guadalupe River can largely be credited to several dedicated Audubon members who worked to save this precious valley floor bird habitat from the bulldozers.

Now, I and my husband Chris Salander—respectively the Administrator and Site Manager for the grant and restoration project, and active members of Audubon's Environmental Action Committee—need help from those of you who are skilled birders and would like to participate in the educational aspect of this project.

As part of the grant agreement, several science students and their environmentally dedicated teachers at Wilcox High School in Santa Clara are creating a baseline survey of the six acres they will be helping to restore. They are mapping the area and surveying all the plants and animals; all their data will go up on a web site they have created, so their experience can be shared with other students nationwide.

One of the skills they are learning is: bird identification! In order to do their survey they need some practiced birders



## “Birding at the Bottom of the Bay” (BABOB) Third Edition in the Works

The third edition of BABOB, SCVAS’ comprehensive site guide for Santa Clara Valley birding, is making excellent progress, thanks to all of the wonderful rewrites, updates and new site descriptions that have already been received. We still have several updates and new sites still to be covered. If you have a favorite spot in the list below, please contact Freddy Howell at (408) 358-9453 or Bobbie Handen (408) 356-4263.

Updates (we have original and can e-mail for updating): Vasona Lake County Park/Oak Meadow Park; Los Gatos Creek Trail; Ed Levin Park/Calaveras Rd.; Limekiln Canyon; St. Joseph’s Hill; Loma Prieta; Santa Teresa County Park, Rus-



### Birders needed *cont’d*

to go out with them and help them learn their birds. Over sixty percent of all the bird species ever seen in the City of Santa Clara have been seen at Ulistac Natural Area. It is a rich and diverse site. If you could volunteer at least a few hours of time to bird with these eager science students, please contact Jeanne and Chris at (408) 293-6885 fax (408) 292-1633 or e-mail [salander@batnet.com](mailto:salander@batnet.com). The success of our project will depend entirely on the volunteers who help carry out our goals!

### Creekside News Released

*Creekside News*, our annual publication on the activities of creek groups around the County, is finished and ready for distribution. Articles include topics such as fisheries restoration projects, the Santa Clara Valley Water District, and using creeks for environmental education. If you would like a copy for yourself or multiple copies to distribute, please call the office at (408) 252-3747. Thanks to intern Jennifer Peritz for her work in putting together *Creekside News* this year.

sian Ridge; Skyline Open Space Preserve; Castle Rock.

New sites: (we have standardized format and can e-mail): Picchetti Ranch/Fremont Older Open Space; Long Ridge Open Space Preserve.

We also need assistance in checking and proofreading, and we’re sure that there are some sites that we haven’t covered but need to. Great excuse to go out birding!



### Birding Classes

#### San Jose with John Mariani

Metropolitan Adult Education in San Jose is offering another beginning birding class taught by John Mariani this fall. Class will meet on Thursday evenings from Sept. 14 through October 19, and will also feature several weekend field trips and a nighttime owling excursion. Subjects will include optical equipment, local habitats, bird identification, difficult species groups, and developing good field skills. The cost is \$59 plus \$3 for materials. For information and registration call MetroED at (408) 723-6553.

#### Menlo Park with Maryann Danielson

Five birding workshops for intermediate and more advanced birders will be offered by Sunbeam Ecology Explorations at Little House, 800 Middle Ave. in Menlo Park starting this September. Each workshop will have an evening study meeting followed by a field trip. Workshop topics include:

- Shorebirds in migration
- Migrating warblers and passerines
- Condors
- Nearshore ocean birds
- Inland waders, ducks, and geese

Fees are \$20 per workshop. Workshops begin on Sept. 6. For the complete schedule and further information, call Maryann Danielson at (650) 325-9349.

## Save the Date

Saturday,  
October 14  
to celebrate  
Our 9th Annual  
Audubon Wildlife  
Education Day  
at McClellan  
Ranch Park.



10am - 2pm

*Lots of fun Activities  
for kids*

**Build a Birdhouse**

**Make a Bird Feeder**

**See Bird Banding**



**Learn to Create a  
Backyard Butterfly  
Habitat**



**See live Bats, Birds  
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**More details in the  
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**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 7**

**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

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