



THE AVOCET

The Newsletter of the Santa Clara Audubon Society

June - August 2001

Rock Wrens Strike Birdathon Gold

Birdin' Geologist Team Totals 131 Species in County

by Leda Beth Gray

Our geologist Birdathon team, suitably named the Rock Wrens, really struck gold this year, finding a total of 131 species across Santa Clara Valley on April 29. This is a record for the Rock Wrens, and even one better than our goal for the day. Thanks to our generous donors, we raised over \$1000 for SCVAS education programs. We extend a heartfelt thanks for the wonderful support of these folks.

Husband and SCVAS Board Member David Drake and I arrived at Lexington Reservoir shortly before 5:00 AM, armed with tapes of owl calls. We played the tapes at several locations along the lake, and at our third stop we got a response—from a Mourning Dove. After hearing from a number of other birds, we finally heard a Western Screech Owl response.

Another Western Screech spoke up, and the two talked between themselves for a while. By the time we left the reservoir at 6:10 we had 24 species, including a California Thrasher for which we were very glad. Thrashers, for some reason, haven't been reliably present at our scheduled stops the last couple of years. Rock Doves, lined up in their usual place on the phone wire at the on ramp on to Hwy. 85 from 17, made 25 species.

We arrived at SCVAS headquarters at McClellan Ranch Park to find fellow Rock Wrens, SCVAS Board President David McIntyre and SCVAS member Sue Hunt with binoculars to eyes in the parking lot. We logged several more species before taking the trail along Stevens Creek, including Western Bluebirds using the SCVAS nest boxes. By the time we took off for Stevens Creek County Park, we had 56 species!

We saw and heard a lot of great birds, including Black-headed Grosbeak, Olive-sided Flycatcher (sitting in the same snag where we found it last year) and Osprey. Earlier we had found a Western Tanager along the creek at McClellan Ranch; we had several more at Stevens Creek Park and other locations throughout the day. We also spotted a pretty good number of birders on a SCVAS field trip. No dippers were to be found above the dam at Stevens Creek Reservoir, although the Vagrants Birdathon team [see their Birdathon report on Page 9] managed to find one later the same day. Oh well!

With 70 species on our list, we tore across the valley and up the Mount Hamilton Road, where we found Western Kingbird, Yellow-billed Magpie, Nashville Warbler and Chipping Sparrow, among others. We ate lunch at Smith Creek, near the fire station, while watching a pair of House Wrens working on a nest. After seeing quite a few ducks and more Western Bluebirds, as well as

continued on page 9

Annual Potluck Dinner Wednesday June 13, 6:00 PM McClellan Ranch Park, Cupertino

All SCVAS members are cordially invited to the annual potluck dinner at our beautiful McClellan Ranch Park headquarters in Cupertino (see map on Page 12). If you've never attended, why not come and socialize with your fellow Audubon members, some of the most dedicated and friendly birders, educators, and conservationists you'll ever hope to meet. Besides the sumptuous dining, we'll present volunteer awards, a new slate of officers for the coming year, and a brief summary of the year's many accomplishments by our amazing staff, Board, and volunteers.

Attendees are asked to **bring a main dish, casserole or salad to share.** SCVAS will provide beverages and dessert. Bring your own utensils, plates and cups to help reduce use of wasteful plastic and paperware.

If you have any questions about this event, or would like to help out, please call the office at (408) 252-3747.

Meet Jennifer-----Page 3
Earth Day report-----Page 4
Field Notes-----Page 6
Vagrants' Big Day-----Page 8
ED has answers-----Page 9
Financial report-----Page 11

Volunteer Ventures

by Ulrike Keyssner



I have two great topics to write about for my last *Avocet* article. Both typify the best of what SCVAS is all about. As you read, I invite you to consider how you could get involved in SCVAS. (My second article is on page 5.)

Volunteers—Thank you! I can genuinely say I never meet one I didn't like! No matter what their job at SCVAS or how much time they donate, they are invaluable to us. Some volunteers help once or twice a year, others every week; it's all a tremendous help in getting out SCVAS' message of education and habitat protection and preservation.

The SCVAS Board, staff, and I want to say a sincere **thank you to every single one of our fabulous volunteers.** We would love to do so in person at our annual Potluck Dinner on Wednesday 13 June (see notice on front page). Our entire membership is invited, so if any volunteers feel like putting on their recruiting hats, see if you can't find us some new volunteers as you mingle with our members. It never hurts to ask—that's what I've learned doing this job. However, the primary goal of the dinner is for you to have a good time.

With this in mind, I am pleased to announce that the Board and staff have chosen a handful of volunteers to receive a "Special Mention" for their services to SCVAS. You can imagine what a difficult task it is to single out just a few volunteers but we feel these people have been vital to our success over the last year. **Anne Creevy, Chuck Wade, Colleen Cunningham, Mary Fasching, and Ruth Troetschler**—your outstanding contributions to SCVAS have enabled us to better serve our members in Santa Clara Valley. Thank you.

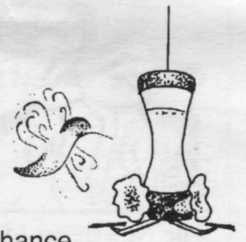
And to our volunteers and members who have expressed sadness at my leaving—despite this being a sad event for me, it is very gratifying to know that so many of you appreciated my efforts at SCVAS, and it makes leaving easier. Thank you! It is also nice that you have welcomed my successor, Jennifer Perritz, whom I know will do a great job. With that, I'll say "good-bye" and leave you to Jennifer . . .

Changing Hats

by Jennifer Perritz,
Program Coordinator

The transition has begun! For those who are not aware, I am delighted to announce that I am switching hats at SCVAS from Conservation Assistant to Program Coordinator. While the role I filled in conservation has been an enjoyable and invaluable experience for me, I am eager to begin developing and expanding our volunteer and education programs.

One of the best things about working at SCVAS is getting to know our volunteers. I look forward to the opportunity to continue working with our current volunteers, as well as the chance to welcome new ones. Remember, as our chapter and our programs continue to grow, so does the need and the opportunity to get involved with our numerous programs—education, field trips, membership and fundraising, Burrowing Owl census, bluebird program, and armchair activists to name a few!



While some programs may be gearing down for the summer, preparation for our Wetlands and Woodlands Discovery Program (WWDP) will be in full swing. This April, I received my first taste of our education programs, as I, along with several other volunteers, began training for this exciting program. It is clear that volunteers, both in the classroom and out in the field, are essential to the success of the WWDP. We have an ambitious outreach goal for the program this fall, which means we are seeking new volunteers. Even if you've never worked with children or are not a strong birder, this program can work for you! We have developed a fun training program that will prepare both birders and non-birders to lead field trips and educate children about the value of wetlands (see page 5). As always, your level of involvement is up to you—once a month, once a season, or once a year. I encourage anyone who might be interested to contact me to discuss this very rewarding program.

In addition to the WWDP, I have been sitting in on Education Committee meetings to better acquaint myself with the various educational opportunities that we offer at SCVAS. I've also started attending our general meetings with the hope of getting to know more of our members. Be sure to look for my 'new' face and I'll certainly look for yours!

I also plan to keep very busy this summer learning our programs and preparing for the fall. If you aren't too busy travelling, birding, gardening, or basking in the summer sun, give me a call and we can find a volunteer opportunity that fits your needs. I look forward to the challenge of learning my new job and sharing the exciting possibilities it presents with you.

While I am thrilled to take on this new position, I wish I didn't have to say good-bye to a valuable co-worker and friend, Ulrike. Clearly, I have a large pair of shoes to fill. Ulrike's hard work and dedication to SCVAS has etched her an important role not only in the office, but also in our lives. I have had the joy of learning from her examples since I first arrived at SCVAS last July, and will continue to benefit from her knowledge and experience in the future. Thank you to Ulrike and to all of the volunteers, board members, and fellow staff who have helped to make my transition such a positive one.

June - August 2001 Calendar

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

**** Saturday June 2, 8:15 AM Skyline Ridge OSP**

Half day. Leader: Bob Reiling (408) 253-7527. Meet at northwest corner of Skyline Blvd. (Hwy. 35) and Page Mill Rd. (Note: Do not park in the Russian Ridge parking lot!) Moderately strenuous walking with some elevation change. Highlights: possible Chipping Sparrow, Black-throated Gray Warbler, Western Tanager. Bring extra layers of clothing as temperatures can vary wildly even at this time of year. **LO**

Note: The Palo Alto Summer Bird Count will also take place on June 2. We regret not being able to post details in the May *Avocet*; for information please contact Compiler Matthew Dodder at <mdodder@earthlink.net>.

****Sunday June 3, 7:30 AM "Meet the Breeding Birds" Session 2.**

Leader: Steve Rutledge (650) 328-5097. Call Steve to reserve a space. Group size is limited to provide maximum benefit to those attending.

Wednesday June 6, 7:30 PM

Bay Area Bird Photographers will feature BABP member Glenn Herreman with a presentation called "This Program is for the Birds" featuring birds in their natural habitat including nesting birds and chicks. Lucy Evans Baylands Interpretive Center, E. Embarcadero Rd., Palo Alto.

****Saturday June 9, 8:00 AM Anderson Lake County Park**

Half day. Leader: Emelie Curtis (408) 779-2637. From Hwy. 101 in southern San Jose (Morgan Hill) take Cochrane Rd. east; meet at parking lot at the base of the dam. **LO**

****Sunday June 10, 8:00 AM Almaden Quicksilver Co. Park, McAbee Rd. entrance**

Half day. Leader: Ann Verdi (408) 266-5108. A short loop of 1.5 miles taking Mine Hill, Guadalupe and Senator Mines Trails. We will be on the trails while the birds are most active and before the hikers and joggers get going. Target birds: W. Wood-Pewee, Ash-throated Flycatcher, W. Tanager, and newly-fledged birds (titmice, chickadees, juncos, woodpeckers, etc.). Take Almaden Expwy. south past Blossom Hill Rd. and Coleman Rd; turn right at next exit (McAbee Rd.) and follow it until it dead-ends at entrance to park. Pierce Dairy farm will be on right; park along street. Meet at trailhead entrance.

Tuesday June 12, 9:30 AM

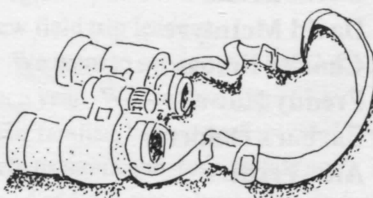
Eve Case Bird Discussion Group will meet at the home of Pat and Jean Dubois, 17150 Buena Vista Ave, Los Gatos (408) 395-4264. A picnic—bring a sandwich and enjoy the birds.

****Saturday June 16, 8:00 AM Charleston Slough**

Half day. Leader: TBD (Questions: call Bob Reiling (408) 253-7527). Meet at Terminal Way at end of San Antonio Rd. north off Hwy. 101 in Mt. View. As usual, all are invited but birding will be geared toward the beginning birder.

****Sunday June 17, 8:30 AM Russian Ridge OSP**

Half day. Leader: Shirley Gordon (408) 996-9863. For directions and highlights see June 20th write-up.



****Wednesday June 20, 8:30 AM Russian Ridge OSP**

Half day. Leader: Shirley Gordon (408) 996-9863. Note—this is the 3rd Wednesday. 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. approx. 1 block to parking lot. Grasshopper Sparrow, Lazuli Bunting. **LO**

****Saturday June 23, 8:00 AM Stevens Creek County Park**

Half day. Leader: Bob Reiling (408) 253-7527. From I-280 in Cupertino take Foot-hill Expwy exit south 2.1 miles (becomes Stevens Canyon Rd.); turn left into first (Chestnut) park entrance and meet in first parking lot. One of the best riparian birding spots in the South Bay. Possible \$4 entrance fee. **LO**

****Sunday June 24, 7:30 AM Arastradero OSP**

Half day. Leader: Rita Colwell (650) 949-1869. Expect some real eye-opening birds at one of the most popular birding spots in the South Bay. From I-280 in Palo Alto take Page Mill Rd. west, turn right on Arastradero Rd. and meet in the parking lot about 1/2 mile on right.

****Saturday July 7, 8:30 AM Rancho del Oso (coastal Big Basin State Park)**

Half day. Leader: John Mariani (408) 997-2066. Take Hwy 17 to Santa Cruz, then go north on Hwy 1. Meet at beach parking area alongside Hwy 1 just north of Waddell Creek Bridge at milepost 36.30, 2 miles south of Año Nuevo State Reserve and 7 miles north of Davenport). We will hike the Skyline-to-the-Sea Trail looking for Swainson's Thrush, Winter Wren, Wilson's Warbler, and woodpeckers. Level hiking of 4 to 5 miles. Be prepared to carry lunch and liquids (in backpack if possible) and dress in layers. *continued on page 5*

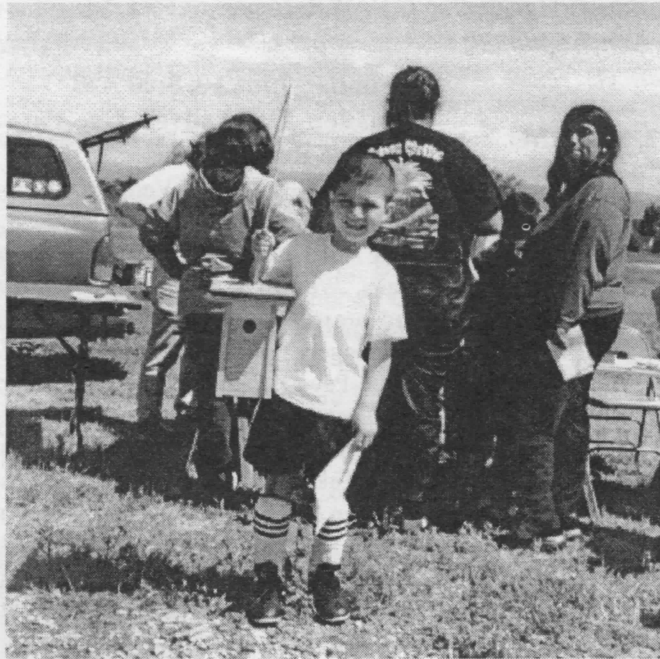
SCVAS Celebrates Earth Day

By Debbie Thompson

SCVAS was among several other organizations present to help celebrate Earth Day at the Christmas Hill Park in Gilroy on April 21. Our volunteers, led by Norman Watenpaugh, coordinated and staffed several tables at the celebration, giving our chapter a strong presence.

The Earth Day event was kicked off with an early morning bird walk led by our experienced birders. Many first-time birders were amazed to see the diversity of birds on the short walk along Uvas Creek bordering the park. Later, the spotting scope was set up on a pair of nesting White-tailed Kites in the top of some distant pine trees where attendees could watch the attentive parents feed their nestlings.

Another table was set up with an educational display of our collection of about 15 different bird nests. We explained the "ABC's" of bird nests to interested children and adults. SCVAS also provided two children's activities: one, the building of cavity nest boxes, is always a big hit with the kids. Volunteers cut the lumber pieces for the boxes ahead of time, then kids have fun screwing and hammering the boxes together at the event (children were still building boxes long after the event ended!). While the boxes are constructed, we slip in a bit of education about the plight of cavity-nesters. We also instruct kids and their parents on box maintenance and the best box locations. These boxes provide nesting places for cavity-nesters such as bluebirds, swallows, chickadees and titmice.



A completed birdhouse: just one of the activities at Earth Day, 2001 in Gilroy.

Another activity for children was making collages out of the different things birds use. Volunteers collected different grasses, sticks, pebbles and seeds before the event. Old Audubon magazines provided pictures for kids to cut out. Many children enjoyed assembling the collages while we discussed how birds might use the different materials. We also filled two tables with numerous items for sale from our Nature Shop, and our chapter sponsored a raffle of a bird feeder and seed.

Earth Day celebrations give us an opportunity to stop and appreciate the gifts of nature around us. I would like to thank all those SCVAS volunteers who helped our community appreciate the earth a little bit more during this Earth Day celebration in Gilroy.

Gilroy Hot Springs Field Trip, May 9

Some unusual birds were seen during and after the SCVAS field trip to Gilroy Hot Springs Rd./Canada Rd. The first was a **Grasshopper Sparrow** which was well seen by all on a bush west of Canada Rd. just north of the M&M ranch. Across from the ranch an unseen **Lazuli Bunting** sang persistently until we finally had to leave. As we continued down Canada Rd. toward Hwy. 152 two **Horned Larks** were seen along the side of the road.

When we finally reached the bottom of the hill (and the end of the trip) some of us decided to go to San Felipe Rd. to check out the **Cassin's Kingbirds** as we ate our lunch (they still seem to be using the middle eucalyptus tree); others decided to eat their lunches in an evergreen shaded area on Susie Lane, a dead end street near the bottom of the hill off Canada Rd. Later Emily Curtis called to say that as they ate they were entertained by **Lawrence's Goldfinches** carrying nesting material to one of the evergreens.

Big misses today included Common Merganser and Lark Sparrow.

—Bob Reiling

Nominees for SCVAS Officers 2001 - 2002:

President

Past President

1st Vice-president

2nd Vice-president

Treasurer

Recording Secretary

David Drake

David McIntyre

Charles Preuss

Freddy Howell

Barbara Dalderis

Ann Verdi

Slate to be voted on at General Meeting Potluck Dinner June 13

Kids Say the Darndest Things

by Ulrike Keyssner

"I never dreamed of seeing that Great Egret. I learned that water boatmen eat brine shrimp."

Dion, Hacienda School 3/5/01

"I learned a lot on the field trip. One thing I learned was the food chain. My favorite part was when we saw the Bay. It was so amazing!"

Kylie, Hacienda School 3/1/01

"I liked the binoculars because we could see everything better with them . . . The best part was when we saw birds and squirrels, a jackrabbit, and a muskrat."

Cruz, Los Arboles School, 4/20/01

"The best animal I liked was the jack rabbit and the red winged black bird and the most beautiful bird was the snowy egret and then when the field trip was about ended I wanted to see a burrowing owl. Then me and my friend saw the burrowing owl standing on a stick doing nothing at all. It was just staring at me. It was lots of fun and I want to go there again with my family."

Erick, Los Arboles School 4/20/01

These comments are taken from letters by 3rd and 4th grade students thanking SCVAS for the field trips to Alviso and Charleston Slough that their classes went on. The Wetlands and Woodlands Discovery Program has been offering field trips for over 11 years and, where possible, the SCVAS Education Committee pays for the bus transportation. Our volunteer trip leaders guide small groups of kids pointing out interesting birds, animals, and plants and discussing the importance of wetlands.

Each child is loaned a pair of binoculars for the field trip, which they love getting the chance to use. Many of the kids talk with a sense of wonder about being able to see the animals close up even though they were far away. They

also vow to go again with their families, a very heartening comment because these kids become our advocates.

Several days before the field trip we set up in-class activities that prepare students for the trip. The activities are designed to get them thinking about how wetlands are used by animals and humans. One letter from Fatima of Los Arboles began with how she enjoyed seeing Black Skimmers and Ruddy Ducks and using the binoculars. Surprisingly, she took the time to mention the in-class activities and said, "The Mystery Plant bags station at my school on Tuesday was wonderful. Many thanks to SCVAS for a great experience." The "Mystery Plant" bag activity Fatima is referring to gets kids using their senses of touch and smell. The plants are in brown paper bags so the students cannot see them. They are asked to describe the plants using their hands to determine the shape of the stems and leaves, are they smooth or jagged, rounded or flat, etc. We always include fennel, a particularly pungent plant found at the edges of trails. We tend to think the field trip is all the students will remember but, like Fatima, other students mentioned the in-class activities, which is wonderful.

I can't talk about this program without mentioning our fantastic cadre of volunteers—Anne Creevy, Anne Mortimer, Elaine Gould, Eleanor Sherman, Georgiana Flaherty, Greg Meissner, Janet Bertaina, Jerry Towner, Jim Liskovec, Linda Johnson, Margie Miller, Mayuri Naito, and Peg Bernucci. If this list sounds long, don't you believe it! We desperately need more volunteers. Right now they are working too hard but they are too generous to say "no." If the program is to continue we need to add new field trip leaders.

We want to service at least 12 schools each year. We are reaching 768 kids and their families, but we need more of you to help us attain and surpass this goal. The good news is several volunteers who began as trainees now feel confident to act

as leaders. We always need more leaders who can point out birds and plants but we also need more trainees who can learn and support the leaders. We pair leaders with trainees, and this system works well as they support each other. For the first time we're running the program in the fall, and we need more volunteer leaders. We can train anyone with an interest in learning. It is fun, sometimes challenging, but always rewarding. Please call Jennifer to find out more.

Editor's note—From all of us at SCVAS, a heartfelt "Thank you" and a sad "Goodbye" to Ulrike, our hard-working, charismatic Volunteer and Education Coordinator who is returning to Australia. You've really made a difference and we're so grateful for your time with us—good luck and good birding!

Calendar *cont'd*

****Saturday Aug. 11, 8:30 AM**

Año Nuevo State Reserve

Half day. Leader: Al Eisner (650)364-3686; days and voice mail (650)926-2018. Plan for a 3-4 mile walk (half of it in sand), fog, bright sun and wind. Bring a scope, lunch, liquids, and dress in layers. Bank Swallow, Marbled Murrelet, early returning shorebirds possible, plus Black Swift if we are very lucky. Entrance is along Highway 1 about 30 miles south of Half Moon Bay, 20 miles north of Santa Cruz. Trip limited to 20 participants; call early to reserve space. \$5 per car parking fee; meet at far (south) end of parking lot.

****Saturday Aug. 25, 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 of Hwy 101 in Mt. View and catch some early returning fall migrants. Trip geared for beginners but all skill levels are welcomed and encouraged to attend.

Field Notes

by Bill Bousman

Loons through Shorebirds

An immature **Common Loon** in basic plumage was found on Shoreline Lake on 15 Apr (VT) and remained there through 29 Apr (v.ob.). Small numbers of **American White Pelicans** showed up in April, as they do in some years. The peak count was of 85 seen over the outer Palo Alto Flood Control Basin (FCB) on 14 Apr (MDo). A **Cattle Egret** was seen at the Arzino Ranch, Alviso, 1-2 Apr (MJM, DG), the first since last fall. Two adult and three immature **Greater White-fronted Geese** were also found at the Arzino Ranch 1-3 Apr (AME, DG, MJM). Single **Snow Geese** have lingered at both the Sunnyvale Water Pollution Control Plant (WPCP) and Lake Cunningham. The WPCP bird was seen regularly in April and remained at least through 29 Apr (v.ob.). The Lake Cunningham goose was seen on 16 Apr (RWR, FV). The **Ross's Goose** wintering at Lake Cunningham was also seen on 16 Apr (RWR, FV). **Wood Ducks** have been found widely in areas where they normally nest, and a female with seven ducklings was in Llagas Creek above Chesbro Reservoir on 28 Apr (JMa et al.). Two male **Blue-winged Teal** were in the Palo Alto FCB on 2 Apr (WGB) and a single male was seen there again on 29-30 Apr (LBG et al., WGB). A male **'Eurasian' Green-winged Teal** was seen along Stevens Creek near Crittenden Marsh on 1 Apr (MDo). **Hooded Mergansers** appeared to linger longer this spring with a pair at the Oka percolation ponds through 12 Apr (LS), a female at Arastradero Preserve, Palo Alto, 21 Apr (JH), and a female near Mountain Forebay to at least 29 Apr (WGB).

A **Merlin** along Foothill Expressway southeast of Arastradero Preserve on 13 Apr and one at Stanford on 16 Apr (both MMR) were the last of our wintering birds. **Lesser Yellowlegs** are rare in the

spring, so one seen along Zanker Road near the Arzino Ranch on 11 Apr (MJM) was a good find. Less expected, but also regular, a **Solitary Sandpiper** was seen at the upper end of Chesbro Reservoir on 28 Apr (JMa et al.). A female **Ruff** in basic plumage was found at State and Spreckles in Alviso on 10 Apr (MMR) and was seen now and again through 14 Apr (v.ob.). Although this species is now found locally each fall, this is only the fourth spring record.

Winter's Black-backed Wagtail remained into Spring

Roadrunners through Flycatchers

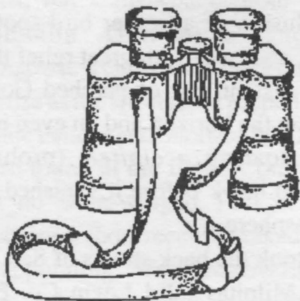
A **Greater Roadrunner** was heard calling north of San Antonio Junction on 29 Apr (MMR, MJM, GHt, DSt). **Vaux's Swifts** were early, with the first bird seen on 4 Apr (TRY). The highest count during April was 12 over La Rinconada Park, Los Gatos, on 29 Apr (GLeB). Two male **Black-chinned Hummingbirds** along Coyote Creek on 29 Apr (MMR, MJM, GHt, DSt) were the first returning residents noted this season. A migrant male **Calliope Hummingbird** at Ed Levin CP on 19 Apr (RWR, FV) was the only one seen so far this spring. April is the peak of the **Rufous Hummingbird** migration. Nine birds were banded near Felter and Sierra roads on 2 Apr and an additional 8-12 males were seen the same day (RCo). One of the banded males had a 75% green back, an example of how difficult it can be to separate the occasional green-backed Rufous from Allen's. Single **Lewis's Woodpeckers** were seen in the San Antonio Valley about 16 Apr (DB) and on 29 Apr (MMR, MJM, GHt,

DSt). Surprisingly, three birds were found near Eagle Lake in Joseph Grant CP on 29 Apr (JY, AL). There are no records of this woodpecker breeding west of San Antonio Valley in the last 70 years—it will be interesting to know if these birds remain to nest. Migrant **Hammond's Flycatchers** were found along the front of the Diablo Range in April. Three were near Smith Creek on 14 Apr (MMR, MJM) and two more were along Aguague Creek in Hall's Valley the same day (MMR). One was found along Gilroy Hot Springs Road on 18 Apr (JAC, PD) and two were in Henry Coe SP on 22 Apr (MJM). Two **Cassin's Kingbirds** were found again in the eucalyptus along San Felipe Road on 28 Apr (MJM). This kingbird has nested here occasionally in recent years.

Nuthatches through Goldfinches

Two **Red-breasted Nuthatches** were calling just over the county line at Castle Rock SP on 29 Apr (WGB). They breed in the Douglas fir and knobcone pine forests in the Santa Cruz Mountains. An **American Dipper** was found along Stevens Creek above Mt. Eden Road on 29 Apr (MMR, MJM, GHt, DSt) in an area where they have nested in the past. The **Black-backed Wagtail** wintering on private property in the Alviso salt ponds was seen again on 1 Apr (MMR, SBT) and 7 Apr (MiF). **Nashville Warblers** were fairly well reported this month. Diablo Range birds included one at Smith Creek on 14 Apr (MJM, MMR), two at Henry Coe SP on 22 Apr (MJM), one in Joseph Grant Park on 29 Apr (JY, AL), and a bird at Colorado Creek on Mines Road on 29 Apr (MMR, MJM, GHt, DSt). The only westside bird was one heard near Guadalupe Reservoir on 28 Apr (JMa et al.). A singing **Hermit Warbler** found along Creek Drive in Menlo Park on 9 Apr (PLN) marked the start of the spring migration. A single bird was found along Gilroy Hot Springs Road on 15 Apr (MJM) and 5-7 birds

were found in Joseph Grant CP on 29 Apr (v.ob.). Dawn in the San Antonio Valley provides access to singing **Sage Sparrows**. Six were found north of San Antonio Junction and three were at the top of China Grade in the southwestern corner of the valley on 29 Apr (MMR, MJM, GHt, DSt). Single **Grasshopper Sparrows** were found in Joseph Grant CP 14 and 22 Apr (MMR, CIW, ChW) and one to three birds were at Ed Levin CP in April (v.ob.). A **White-throated Sparrow** at a Los Gatos feeder was last seen on 24 Apr (JD). Another bird was seen at Arastradero Preserve 21 Apr (JH). A male **Blue Grosbeak** showed up at Ed Levin CP, on the slopes above Sandy Wool Lake, on 21 Apr (MJM, PLaT). Birds have been regular here in the past few springs. Flocks of **Pine Siskins** have lingered into spring with high counts of 20 at Arastradero Preserve on 9 Apr (GHa), 20 at Joseph Grant CP on 10 Apr (RWR, FV) and 20 at Smith Creek on 21 Apr (LCh et al.). **Lawrence's Goldfinches** have been found in many places in the Diablo Range in April (m.ob.) with a three-day total in Henry Coe SP, mid-month, tallying many hundreds of birds (JY, AL). On the Santa Cruz Mountain side of the valley a male and female were found at Arastradero Preserve on 9 Apr (GHa) and at east one bird was found through the end of the month (m.ob.). These birds were found mostly in fiddlenecks, a favored plant.



Jasper Ridge April 22

On April 22 I led the SCVAS field trip to Jasper Ridge, where a good time was had by all. Many thanks to SCVAS member and fellow Jasper Ridge docent Bill Clark, who helped me work out the route, drawing on his expertise from doing years of SCVAS tours. Many of the key species were just where he said they would be. "We should check the bridge below the dam for Pacific Slope Flycatcher." Well, there were two there. "Check Whiskey Crossing for Olive-sided Flycatcher." There it was. And so on. The Ash-throated Flycatcher was near the docent center where Bill said it would probably be, and we had excellent telescope views before we left on the tour.

Bill also came along on the tour, as well as my husband and SCVAS Board member Dave Drake, Board President David McIntyre, and member Nancy

Observers: Bill Bousman (WGB), Daniel Bump (DB), Les Chibana (LCh), Jack Cole (JAC), Rita Colwell (RCo), Phil Dean (PD), Matthew Dodder (MDo), Jean Dubois (JD), Al Eisner (AME), Mike Feighner (MiF), Don Ganton (DG), Leda Beth Gray (LBG), Garth Harwood (GHa), Jan Hintermeister (JH), Grant Hoyt (GHt), Peter LaTourrette (PLaT), Amy Lauterbach (AL), Gloria LeBlanc (GLEB), Mike Mammoser (MJM), John Mariani (JMa), Paul Noble (PLN), Bob Reiling (RWR), Mike Rogers (MMR), Tom Ryan (TRy), Dick Stovel (DSt), Linda Sullivan (LS), Scott Terrill (SBT), Vivek Tiwari (VT), Frank Vanslager (FV), Chris Wolfe (ChW), Claire Wolfe (CIW), and James Yurchenco (JY).

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

Teater, so we had plenty of good birders dispersed within the group to help spot, point out and discuss birds with beginners. Our list totaled 61—not bad, but some were auditory only, like the Common Yellowthroat.

A highlight were Vaux's Swifts, first identified by David McIntyre. We saw them around the docent center and again near the dam. A single Ring-necked Duck was on the lake with a number of Ruddy Ducks, Gadwalls, Pied-billed Grebes, Mallards, and two Double-crested Cormorants. We also had good looks at Wilson's Warblers, and beautifully singing Black-headed Grosbeaks. A Western Wood Pewee was singing down near Whiskey Crossing along with the Olive-sided, who entertained us with his "quick three beers" song. We watched a Robin sitting on a nest in a branch hanging over the trail, and Blue-gray Gnatcatchers gave us good looks. Thrashers were singing, mostly out of sight but for one scabbling around on the trail, diving off into the bushes when we got close.

Several Brown Creepers were singing and "creeping" up tree trunks in the small redwood grove, a couple of them giving really good views. We ran into SCVAS Web Master Peter LaTourrette and checked for the 5 species of swallows he had just seen, but only saw three of them by the time we got to his locale.

We saw quite a few blooming wildflowers, including a pure white Owl's Clover interspersed with some normal ones. A few dragonflies flitted by near the lake, but I didn't take the time to check them as we were getting behind time. One person described a Sara Orangetip butterfly to me, having seen it while we were on the far side of the lake near the swamp. We finished up our tour at about 12:30. It was a great day, with really enthusiastic participants, which makes it extra fun.

—Leda Beth Gray

[additional report on page 4]

Vagrants' Big Day—Bird Till You Drop

While sane residents of Santa Clara County slept, the Vagrants Birdathon team of Dick Stovel, Mike Mammoser, Mike Rogers and yours truly departed the Denny's parking lot in Milpitas at 3:45 AM on April 29 for the eastern edge of the county on Mines Road out of Livermore. Our goal was to beat the previous team record of 158 bird species seen and heard in the county; we ended up settling for a tie.

For a serious Big Day of birding, team members must forgo sleep, rest stops, food breaks, and any semblance of relaxed ambulation. If you wish to play by American Birding Association official Big Day rules, each team member must see or hear 95% of the day's species, i.e., one energetic member cannot simply rack up totals while the others nap in the car. Suffice it to say that Mike (the Maniac) Rogers provided the requisite motivation and energy to keep us awake, quasi-alert, mobile, and rule-compliant for the entirety of this grueling but enjoyable 17-hour outing.

We reached the county line just about 5:00 AM and hopped out of Dick's spiffy birding van, and soon had the four expected nocturnal species: Great Horned Owl, Common Poorwill, Western Screech Owl and Northern Pygmy-owl. As the darkness slowly, agonizingly ebbed (standing around listening for birds before dawn can cause hypothermia!) we heard the early diurnal foragers like Ash-throated Flycatcher, Western Bluebird and Violet-green Swallow, then various songs and call notes of oak and chaparral denizens including both towhees, Bewick's Wren, Wrentit, California Thrasher, Scrub Jay, even a Hutton's Vireo. Lesser Goldfinches were everywhere, though we were tuning in to imagined Lawrence's Goldfinches' twinkling songs—turns out they would be plentiful as the morning progressed. The Mikes picked out an unusual song and speculated it was a Nashville Warbler; I was able to spot the diminutive migrant's

bright yellow breast against a dark tree branch, and we visually confirmed one of the day's best finds.

We pulled up to the rustic commercial mecca known as Ruthie's Shopping Mall as the sun started to warm us up and gathered significant numbers of key species between there and the fire station near the Del Puerto Canyon junction: Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Purple Finch, a



*Greater Roadrunner sketch
by Bonnie Bedford-White*

Yellow-rumped (Myrtle) Warbler, Western Tanager, Bullock's Oriole, Orange-crowned Warbler, Chipping Sparrow, Golden-crowned Sparrow, Lawrence's Goldfinch, and a heard-only sapsucker, which was intriguing, since it was late for Red-breasted to be in this habitat. Tracking down the peculiar, cat-like call proved fruitless and time-consuming; however we were encouraged by several Sage Sparrow sightings and a well-heard Greater Roadrunner.

We were off to a good start, but Mike R. grimly reminded us that we were behind schedule, so we made quick hits at known hot spots and picked up other Diablo Range specialties like Lewis' Woodpecker, but missed Phainopepla and Say's Phoebe. We tallied Wood Duck, Vaux's Swift (our only one of the day), Pine Siskin and Tricolored Blackbird, all

missable on spring Big Days, as we left San Antonio Valley and headed west over Mt. Hamilton. By the time we reached Smith Creek we'd added Band-tailed Pigeon, Western Kingbird, Warbling Vireo, Black-throated Gray Warbler, Lazuli Bunting, Lark Sparrow and a smattering of others, but it was already after 10 AM—would the songbirds still be singing?

Luckily, they were. Brown Creeper, Cassin's Vireo, Wilson's Warbler and others were quite vocal; Mike Rogers suggested (OK, he frog-marched us) we plod up a heavily pig-damaged hillside to a known migrant warbler hangout. We stopped complaining when we hit a bonanza flock—5 Hermit Warblers, 3 Townsend's Warblers, a Black-throated Gray and an Orange-crowned, 3 Warbling Vireos and 4 Western Tanagers! I humbly acknowledged in front of the entire team that I would never question Mike Rogers' Big Day strategies again.

Encouraged by this burst of activity, we stopped briefly to chat with the just-arriving Rock Wrens team (no exchanging of stake-out birds, per ABA rules!), but 60 seconds was about all we could spare, as we were still running an hour behind schedule. Grant Ranch and Hall's Valley Lake turned up the day's only Bufflehead, Ring-necked Duck, and Rufous Hummingbird. I had been assigned by Tactical Specialist Rogers to assume Raptor Watch duties to the exclusion of all other bird-spotting activity, so it was with great relief that I spied a distant pair of perched Golden Eagles on the horizon and an even more distant soaring *accipiter*. (probably Cooper's) hawk before it vanished into the ionosphere.

We took the back streets of San Jose toward Milpitas' Ed Levin Co. Park, checking every fan palm for Hooded Oriole without success. A roadside Ameri-

continued next page

Vagrants *continued*

can Kestrel was one of only two on the day. The midday sun beat down upon us at Ed Levin, but the stop was productive, as the indefatigable Mike R. led the sagging troops on a purposeful blitz, netting White-tailed Kite, Caspian Tern, White-throated Swift, Cedar Waxwing, Rufous-crowned and Grasshopper Sparrows but missing the hoped-for Blue Grosbeak and Allen's Hummingbird.

Next stop was Coyote Creek Field Station and Alviso. We glimpsed a couple Black-chinned Hummingbirds and American Goldfinches at CCFs, but missed the expected Downy Woodpecker here and ultimately for the day. Ducks and shorebirds augmented our list as we spotted our only Northern Harrier over the sludge ponds and some nice breeding-plumaged Dunlin in the waterbird pond, where Cinnamon and Green-winged Teal floated among the wading stilts and avocets. Alviso yielded Eared Grebe, Black Skimmer, Barn and Burrowing Owl and Long-billed Curlew, but the most unusual find was Mike M.'s Peregrine Falcon perched on a salt pond dike.

Sunnyvale Sewage Treatment Center was a bust; the Snow Goose was there but no Green Heron or Common Moorhen. Hovering around 120 species, we were losing faith in breaking our previous species total record, much less attaining a "respectable" total of 140. Fortunately, we hit pay dirt at Palo Alto Baylands, as we not only chalked up Whimbrel, Marbled Godwit, Black-bellied and Semipalmated Plover and associated shorebirds, but Canvasback, both scaup, a Common Goldeneye and some Bonaparte's Gulls at the duck pond. Spirits rose as the species list topped 140 after White Pelican and Short-billed Dowitcher were found at the Flood Control Basin, but no Blue-winged Teal or Hooded Merganser (both recently staked-out) was disappointing. We were now running on third and fourth winds, willing to endure crippling exhaustion and potential brain damage from excessive birding, so we absolutely had to break 150.

Shoreline Lake and Charleston Slough came through for us big. Common Loon, Western Grebe, Green Heron, Common Moorhen, Surf Scoter and Greater Yellowlegs bumped us from "respectable" to "good"—but how to spend the precious remaining evening hour getting to 158?

A bold strategic move was in order—burn 20 crucial minutes driving from Charleston Slough to Stevens Creek Park in Cupertino, which provided us with our best shot at capturing 7 or 8 more birds. Too bad the birds didn't cooperate. We did manage to find an American Dipper up Stevens Canyon, but missed Spotted Sandpiper, Olive-sided Flycatcher, Yellow Warbler, Swainson's Thrush . . . and it was getting dark.

We bolted to nearby McClellan Ranch Park, running into the Rock Wrens for the third time in the parking lot (they were "birded out"). Just then two Hooded Orioles flew into their favorite palm tree—our final bird? As it turned out, yes, though we spent another 20 minutes back at Alviso playing rail tapes in vain. We gave up around 9:00 PM thinking we had 155, so thoughts of heading back to Palo Alto for Clapper Rail or Monte Bello for Saw-whet Owl were grudgingly abandoned. Only later did the Mikes discover that through a mis-count, we had actually tied our record of 158 species seen in Santa Clara County in 24 hours.

If we'd gone a week earlier, if we'd started on the west side, if we hadn't spent so much time driving, if we hadn't missed Clark's Grebe, Clapper Rail, Virginia Rail, Sora, Spotted Sandpiper, Sharp-shinned Hawk, American Wigeon, Blue-winged Teal, Allen's Hummingbird, Downy Woodpecker, Olive-sided Flycatcher, Swainson's Thrush, Yellow Warbler, Blue Grosbeak . . . if, if, if—we probably would have missed something else that we had on this day. That's how it goes on a Big Day. We were whipped by day's end, but also exhilarated, having spent 17 hours doing what we love with fellow bird-brains. Strategy for next spring's Big Day is already under way.

—Grant Hoyt

Rock Wrens Strike Gold *continued*

Violet-green Swallows using SCVAS nest boxes, we headed for Sierra Road and Ed Levin Park. We checked off Horned Lark, American Pipit, Loggerhead Shrike and others before we were on our way to the Bay with 96 species.

A side trip to Alviso brought us Burrowing Owl, Northern Harrier and a start on our shorebirds and gulls for the day, but it was at Shoreline Park where we really started racking up species again like mad. The Black Skimmers were in Charleston Slough, and the Common Loon was in Shoreline Lake along with a Surf Scoter. A variety of shorebirds and ducks brought us up to 120 species.

Snowy Egret had eluded us (!) until we got to the Palo Alto Flood Control Basin where we also found a beautiful pair of Blue-winged Teal and a Northern Pintail. We raced to Palo Alto Baylands where shorebirds were congregated above the almost-high tide. There we found Dunlin, Whimbrel, Long Billed Curlew, Bonaparte's Gull and Canvasback, with a Lesser Scaup in the duck pond.

With 130 species, (although, because of omissions I made, we thought we had only 127), we ducked into Bixbee Park in hopes of finding a White-tailed Kite. There was none in sight, so we turned to head home. Although dusk was upon us, I tried to think of where we could go to quickly find a kite. Then, as we pulled out of the parking lot, Sue spotted one hovering in mid-air over the Palo Alto dump. Although I saw it past the top of a trash dumpster, it was one of the most beautiful views I could hope to see. This was the second time the Rock Wrens have found a White-tailed Kite at the very last possible moment of the Birdathon!!

It was a fun day and a real team effort, each of us spotting critical species for our list. We broke our previous Rock Wren record by six species! Look out Vagrants—just wait 'till next year!

[Your challenge has been duly noted—
Editor and Vagrant team member GH]

Frequently Asked Questions

by Craig Breon
Executive Director

I get a lot of the same questions regarding local environmental issues, so I thought I would relate a few common answers.

Q—Does the economic downturn mean that Cisco won't be moving into Coyote Valley? And what's happening with that anyway?

Cisco and the City of San Jose are insistent that their plans for Coyote Valley are moving forward. Yes, this is odd, given that Cisco has put nearly all its construction in the region on hold. Sites proposed for Dublin and Fremont are definitely stopped for now, and they've ceased construction on the Alviso site with just parts of two buildings erected. I even heard rumor Cisco might be leasing some of its existing spaces. Still, they insist Coyote Valley will go forward.

I have two suppositions as to why. First, we have always thought that Coyote Valley could largely be a real estate deal for Cisco. In other words, Cisco knew it might not need the whole site. Once it gets all the needed approvals, however, the entitlements to build would be worth a fair penny. Cisco could sell a portion or all of those entitlements to another company. Especially considering the tens of millions of dollars that the public will spend to subsidize sprawl in Coyote Valley, profits from a real estate deal may be well worth Cisco's continuing the fight.

Second, there may be an underlying contractual agreement between Cisco and the landowners of the Coyote Valley site that prevents Cisco from simply folding up the tent. This is all mere speculation. For all I know, it may be that Cisco CEO John Chambers simply loves the Bay Checkerspot butterfly and wants to locate near them. Yeah, right.

Now—what are we doing about all this? Actually, quite a bit, though not much of our current work is receiving the

splashy press we did last year. On our own, in league with the Sierra Club, and in the larger coalition that makes up PLAN (People for Livable and Affordable Neighborhoods), we are quietly working on several issues.

First, SCVAS and the Loma Prieta Sierra Club chapter filed a lawsuit challenging the environmental documentation the San Jose Council used to approve the project. Briefing for this suit begins in June, and we are currently scheduled to go to trial in October. At the same time, we are in settlement discussions regarding this suit; I'll be able to comment on these discussions later this summer.

Second, PLAN has filed suit to ensure that the referendum they sponsored will get to the ballot box. As you may remember, the San Jose attorney's office claimed in January that the referendum was legally flawed, and the City Council refused to let the people vote on the issue, despite the more than 50,000 signatures gathered by PLAN. PLAN expects to win this lawsuit, which should go to trial in June. SCVAS is footing much of the bill for PLAN's legal efforts, and I am part of a team working with the attorneys. We continue to raise funds for our Coyote Valley work. This is not an easy task, given that we can't be sure the referendum will go forward. Still, several donors have stepped forward strongly to support our efforts. Clearly, the issue of spreading Silicon Valley to the south strikes many people as unwise, to say the least.

Finally, we continue to educate the public on the issues. Recently, I have done a public access TV show out of Palo Alto and a radio show out of Santa Cruz, and I have speeches to some community organizations lined up. In these appearances, we articulate a different vision for the continued growth of the region. We emphasize the potential gains of concentrating development in downtown San Jose and along current and future public

transit lines (remember, BART is coming). We contrast this revitalized urban vision with all that is to be lost if we allow intensive development to move south through Hollister, Salinas, and Watsonville. There is so much at stake; it is hard to understate the gravity of these decisions.

Q—So, what about President Bush?

SCVAS tries to stick mainly to local issues and local habitats. Still, I am constantly asked about the larger world, so here's my brief stab at presidential analysis.

What else could we have expected? The nation elected two men that come from the oil industry—men who clearly were going to surround themselves with many advisors from similar backgrounds. Compassionate rhetoric aside, the people now in control of America's natural resources believe in the extraction and use of those resources. No surprise there.

As a caveat, EPA Director Christine Whitman does come from the notable line of Republicans with strong environmental values. In our area, that strain likely makes up a solid majority of Republicans. For her efforts, Whitman has more than once been overridden by higher-ups in the administration. Let's hope she keeps a voice of sanity in the conservation debates.

How bad might things get? My guess is . . . not as bad as we might fear. The people, regardless of party, tend to believe that more environmental protection is needed, even at the expense of some economic growth. Backlashes against moves made early in the Bush administration have already forced the President to moderate both his tone and his initiatives.

My main worry lies in the subtle ways to undermine sound environmental policy. For example, Bush has proposed cutting



Questions *cont'd*

the budgets of several programs that gather information about ecological issues. Less information, less reason to act. Behind the scenes, we could see a lot of damage done.

If you want to help curb the more extremist elements of this administration, join our Armchair Activists. We'll send you a free, two-page mailer once a month, asking you to take about half an hour to write on an important state or national conservation issue. To sign up, just leave your name and address on my machine at work.

Q—What's it like being the Executive Director? Is it just more work?

It's different work, although more than half my time is still devoted to conservation priorities. I'm more involved in nurturing our education programs, and in providing suggestions to my co-workers (who really don't need much oversight). I've taken a few more initiatives on my own. I get to spend more time at the office, which may not seem a bonus unless you know how beautiful McClellan Ranch is and that the alternative is driving to meetings all around the County. So far, so good.

At our most recent Board retreats, the directions our Board wants to take the chapter have been laid out—maintain our roots in birding, increase our conservation and education efforts, and enhance our presence in the southern parts of the County (after all, that's where development pressures are heading). I believe we are doing just that. The next retreat will be in August. If you have ideas, criticisms, accolades, or opinions on our work and our direction, please let me or one of our Board members know. I would like us to truly represent the values of our members.

Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society

Statement of Income & Balance Sheets, year ending May 31, 2001

<u>Statement of Income</u>	5/31/1999	5/31/2000
TOTAL REVENUE (includes net Nature Shop sales, Investment Income, Memberships and Program Revenues):	\$ 100,872	\$ 41,687
SUPPORT (includes Gifts and Memorials, Birdathon, contributions to Restricted Funds, Earthshare of California distributions, misc. Program Support):	\$ 106,286	\$ 56,446
TOTAL REVENUE AND SUPPORT	\$ 207,158	\$ 98,133
EXPENSES:		
Total Program Expenses	\$ 94,527	\$ 130,001
Total Fundraising Expenses	\$ 2,907	\$ 2,781
Total General & Administrative Expenses	\$ 55,406	\$ 49,863
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 152,840	\$ 182,645
NET INCOME FOR YEAR	\$ 54,318	\$ (84,512)

Asset, Liabilities, and Surplus

TOTAL ASSETS (includes Cash, Deposits, Prepaid Expenses, Accounts Receivable, Fixed Assets, Inventory, and Investments, at market value):	\$ 848,068	\$ 762,315
LIABILITIES (includes Accounts Payable, Salaries and Payroll Taxes Payable, Sales Taxes Payable, and Deferred Income):	\$ 3,597	\$ 2,355
SURPLUS (includes Funds Designated to meet Long-term Needs, Restricted Funds, and Undesignated Surplus):	\$ 844,471	\$ 759,960
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND SURPLUS:	\$ 848,068	\$ 762,315
STATEMENT OF SURPLUS:		
Surplus, Beginning of Year	\$ 790,153	\$ 844,471
Excess of Income over Expenses, Current Year	\$ 54,318	\$ (84,512)
Surplus, End of Year	\$ 844,471	\$ 759,959

Financial Report

As a service to our membership, the SCVAS Board of Directors presents this summary of our organization's financial position as of the conclusion of the fiscal year.

Operating expenses for the year ending May 31, 2000 was as planned. Results for the year were negative because of a \$102,000 reduction in the market value of investments during the period.

Our balance sheet continues to reflect a strong financial position. 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.

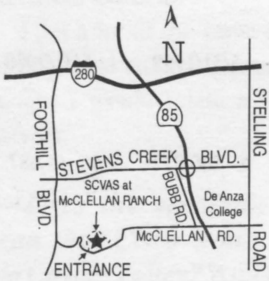
If you have any questions or wish a copy of the financial report, please contact the office.

—Barbara Dalderis, Treasurer

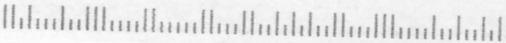
Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society
22221 McClellan Road
Cupertino, CA 95014

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



AUTO***3-DGS 940
MR ALAN M EISNER
3538 FARM HILL BLVD APT 4
REDWOOD CITY CA 94061-1247



OFFICERS

- President**
David McIntyre 650/561-9356
- Past President**
Nick Yatsko 408/247-5499
- 1st VP**
Freddy Howell 408/358-9453
- Treasurer**
Barbara Dalderis 408/399-6965
- Secretary**
Ann Verdi 408/266-5108

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- Mary Murphy '98-'01 650/621-7534
Dave Cook '98-'01 408/871-9552
Charles Preuss '98-'01 650/320-9930
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

- Executive Director** 408/252-3748
Craig Breon craig@scvas.org
Office Manager 408/252-3747
Susan Bell scvas@scvas.org
Volunteer Coordinator 408/252-3747
Ulrike Keyssner ulrike@scvas.org
Conservation Assistant 408/252-3748
Jennifer Peritz j_peritz@hotmail.com

- 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.

2001 Volume 48, Number 3

Join us!

We invite you to join the National Audubon Society (NAS) 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 Subscription: (Check one) Subscriber \$15 Supporter \$30 Patron \$50 or more
Subscribers receive *The Avocet* newsletter. Make check payable to SCVAS.

or

NAS and SCVAS Joint Membership: (Check one) New Members \$20 Membership renewal \$35
Members receive Audubon magazine and *The Avocet* newsletter. Make check payable to National Audubon Society.

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

NAME _____ GIFT FROM _____
ADDRESS _____
CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____
PHONE _____ 9MCH CC14