



THE AVOCET

The Newsletter of the Santa Clara Audubon Society

June-August 2002

BABOB is here — at last!

3rd edition of popular birding site guide now available from SCVAS

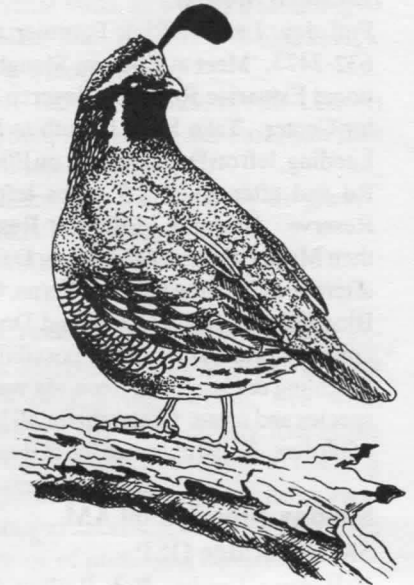
by Nancy Teater

You've been asking for it, and it's here at last! *Birding at the Bottom of the Bay (BABOB)*, 3rd Edition, is available for sale from SCVAS for \$14.50 (see order form, Page 5).

Intended for birders from beginning to advanced, and essential for birders new to the area, this information-packed, 158-page field guide describes how to bird 54 publicly accessible sites in Santa Clara County and notable nearby spots such as Big Basin and the Panoche Valley.

The revised third edition includes 13 new birding sites not described in the 2nd (1990) edition as well as a checklist of County birds, new maps, and original artwork, some of which was added for this edition. Fifty SCVAS volunteers contributed to the new book.

The guide covers five areas—from San Francisco Bay frontage lands to the east and west foothills, the Valley floor, and south and east as far as Mt. Madonna County Park and Henry Coe State Park.



Rita Colwell's gorgeous California Quail is one of several new illustrations featured in BABOB

Other new features are spiral binding and website addresses for the preserves and parks described. (No, the World Wide Web, as we now know it, did not exist in 1990!)

Many people have no idea how rich and varied our county's habitat is. Despite extensive building development, 383 bird species have been recorded. For example, birders can see many of the wintering birds the Central Valley is famous for right here in the County, including Greater White-fronted Goose, Bald Eagle, Peregrine Falcon, and numerous species of ducks and other waterbirds.

Betty Wyatt, who directed the compilation of the first two editions in the 1980s and edited this edition as well, says that although habitat in Santa Clara Valley has been shrinking, there are
continued on Page 5

SCVAS Annual Potluck Dinner Wednesday June 19, 6:00 PM

All SCVAS members and friends are cordially invited to the annual potluck dinner at our beautiful McClellan Ranch Park headquarters (see map on Page 12). Come and visit with other SCVAS members and volunteers, the Board, and our staff. There will be a brief program of volunteer awards, officer elections, and SCVAS news, but mainly this is a chance to enjoy the company of fellow birders, conservationists, and educators. The potluck always provides a varied and delicious table to sample from, and if you haven't seen McClellan Ranch, well, it's a beautiful preserve in the middle of suburbia, with Stevens Creek flowing by and good birding year-round.

Attendees are asked to bring a main dish, casserole or salad to share. SCVAS will provide beverages and dessert. Please bring your own utensils, plates, and cups to help us reduce the use of plastic and paperware. If you have any questions about this event, or would like to help out in preparing for the day, please call the office at (408) 252-3747.

◆ *Pick up your copy of BABOB at the Nature Shop or use the handy order form on Page 5*

◆ *BABOB text, map, art excerpts on Page 9*

June-August Field Trips

Please carpool if possible; bring binoculars, field guides, layered clothing.

LO = Lunch optional

RC = Heavy rain cancels

Saturday June 1, 8:30 AM

Elkhorn Slough

Full day. Leader: Rick Fournier (831) 632-2473. Meet at Elkhorn Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve Visitor Center. Take Hwy 1 south to Moss Landing, left on Dolan Rd, left on Elkhorn Rd and after about 2.2 miles left into Reserve. Morning birding at Reserve, then Moss Landing, Moonglow Dairy in afternoon. Nesting Caspian Terns, Great Blue Herons, Great Egrets and Double-crested Cormorants. Other possibilities: Warbling & Cassin's Vireos, six warbler species and more. Great trip for all levels of birders. \$2.50 entrance fee at Reserve.

Sunday June 2, 8:00 AM

Skyline Ridge OSP

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

Saturday June 8, 8:00 AM

Monte Bello OSP

Half day. Leader: Rita Colwell (650) 949-1869. From I-280 in Palo Alto take Page Mill Rd west toward Skyline Blvd (Hwy 35), for approx. 7 miles; meet at large Monte Bello OSP parking area on left. Possible Lazuli Bunting, Black-throated Gray Warbler, Chipping and Grasshopper Sparrows. Can be cold, wet and foggy. **LO**

Sunday June 9, 8:00 AM

Russian Ridge OSP

Half day. Leader: Frank Vanslager (408) 257-3647. See directions under June 2 listing.

Wednesday June 12, 8:30 AM

Russian Ridge OSP

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

Saturday June 15, 8:30 AM

Rancho del Oso/Big Basin State Pk.

Half day plus. 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 MP 36.30, 2 miles south of Año Nuevo State Reserve, 7 miles north of Davenport. Fairly strenuous but level hike (approx. 5 miles) along the Skyline-to-the-Sea Trail looking for Swainson's Thrush, Winter Wren, Wilson's Warbler, and woodpeckers. Carry lunch and liquids (in backpack if possible), dress in layers.

Sunday June 16, 8:00 AM

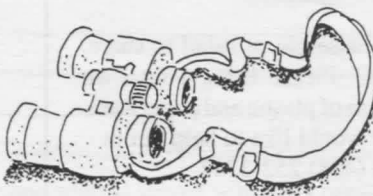
Charleston Slough

Half day. Leader: Ann Verdi (408) 266-5108. Meet at Terminal Way at end of San Antonio Rd. north off Hwy 101 in Mt. View. As always, birding will be designed for the beginning birder but all are encouraged to attend.

Saturday June 22, 8:00 AM

Stevens Creek County Park

Half day. Leader: Kirsten Holmquist (408) 747-0988. From I-280 in Cupertino take Foothill Expwy exit south 2.1 miles (becomes Stevens Canyon Rd); turn left into first park entrance and meet in first parking lot (Chestnut Picnic Area). One of the best riparian birding spots in the South Bay for local breeding birds. Possible \$4 entrance fee. **LO**



Sunday June 23, 8:00 AM

Uvas Creek Park Preserve

Half day. Leader: Bob Reiling (408) 253-7527. From Hwy 101 in Gilroy go west on Tenth Street (same exit as Hwy 152 east) about a mile where it turns into Uvas Parkway. Turn left at Miller Ave, a four-way stop, drive over Uvas Creek and turn left into Christmas Hill Park. Park in first aisle to right. A fairly easy but long walk. **LO**

Saturday June 29, 8:00 AM

Arastradero OSP

Half day. Leader: TBD (call Bob Reiling (408) 253-7527). Expect 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, meet in parking lot about 1/2 mile on right.

Sunday June 30 OPEN

Saturday July 13, 8:00 AM

Charleston Slough

Half day. Leader: Nick Yatsko (408) 247-5499. See June 16 for directions.

Saturday August 10, 8:30 AM

Año Nuevo State Reserve

Half day. Leader: Bob Reiling (408) 253-7527. Plan on a 3 to 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 Black Swift. Entrance along Hwy 1 about 30 miles south of Half Moon Bay, 20 miles north of Santa Cruz. \$5 per car parking fee; meet at far (south) end of parking lot.

Saturday August 24, 8:30 AM

Charleston Slough

Half day. Leader: Phyllis Browning (650) 494-6360. Meet at Terminal Way at the end of San Antonio Rd. north off of Hwy 101 in Mt. View and catch some early returning fall migrants. Trip will be geared for beginning birders but all skill levels are welcomed and are encouraged to attend.

Calendar

Tuesday June 4, 4:30 PM
Education Committee meeting
McClellan Ranch Park.

Tuesday June 4, 7:30 PM
Board of Directors meeting
McClellan Ranch Park. All members welcome to attend.

Wednesday June 5, 7:30 PM
Bay Area Bird Photographers presents Doug Cheeseman with a program on East African birds and a few predatory mammals. Doug has led 38 trips to Africa for Cheesemans' Ecology Safaris. On each trip of 25 to 30 days he shoots about 200 rolls of film! Tonight's program features lapse-dissolve slide projection from two carousels, with Doug's entertaining and knowledgeable descriptions of behavioral characteristics of East Africa's spectacular birds and mammals.

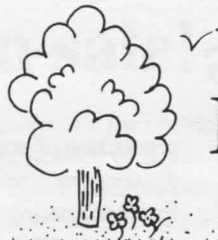
Tuesday June 11, 9:30 AM
Eve Case Bird Discussion Group will meet at the home of Pat and Jean Dubois, 17150 Buena Vista Ave, Los Gatos (408) 395-4264. This will be a picnic — bring a sandwich. We will set up the bird discussion schedule for the next session. Sit under the trees and enjoy the birds.

Wednesday June 19, 6:00 PM
Annual Potluck Dinner
McClellan Ranch Park
See Page 1 for details.

Thursday June 27
John James Audubon stamp release from U.S. Postal Service

Wednesday July 24, 7:30 PM
Environmental Action Committee meeting, McClellan Ranch park.

Note: General meetings in Campbell will resume later this year or early next year when Campbell Community Center renovations are completed.



Kids' Corner



"Dear Mr. Towner,
Going to Charleston Slough was my best field trip ever. The wetlands was interesting because I saw great and beautiful birds. I liked the Great Egret and the red-wing black bird. I learned that not all birds make their home out of sticks they make their home out of wet mud. They poke their beaks in a mud hole and scoop up the mud. The mud's in their mouth and they fly to the place where they're supposed to be and place the mud there. It was really fun seeing the birds."

Sincerely,
Melinda
4th Grader, Latimer School

"Dear Peg,
Thank you for showing me all of those birds. The Cinnamon Teal actually looked like it was covered in cinnamon! You sure knew what the birds' names were! I really hope I get to go there again! Thanks."

Sincerely,
Joshua
4th Grader, Latimer School

Looking for something to do in the hot summer sun? If the letters above "beak your interest," think about spending some time with SCVAS and Young Audubon! For those kids and families who are interested in exploring the outdoors and discovering more about the plants and animals around them, take a look at the summer schedule of exciting Young Audubon field trips and workshops listed below. Please note the minimum age suggestion for each event. All children must be accompanied by a parent or adult. For questions or to register for any of the Young Audubon events, please contact Jennifer at (408) 252-3740.

◆ **Kids are For the Birds!** — Enjoy a bird and nature walk with trained SCVAS volunteer field trip leaders at a local park. The walk will focus on both water and

terrestrial birds, as well as a sampling of the plant life. Leaders will also review proper binocular use.

Date: Saturday, June 29, 10 AM-12 noon
Location: Almaden Lake Park, San Jose
Maximum attendees: 30
Minimum age: 9 or entering 4th grade
Registration begins: June 1
Non-refundable fee: \$5

◆ **Creek Exploration** — Come explore Stevens Creek and discover what flows in a living stream. See what waterbugs and other critters live in the riparian habitat. In addition to learning how to identify various larvae using magnifiers and microscopes, we'll also learn the value of protecting our creeks.

Date: Saturday, July 20, 10 AM-12 noon
Location: McClellan Ranch Park, Cupertino
Maximum attendees: 20
Minimum age: 8 or entering 3rd grade
Registration begins: June 1
Non-refundable fee: \$5

◆ **Wonders of Wetlands** (two-part series) — Spend the morning engaged in fun, hands-on activities that introduce you to the plants and animals of the wetlands. You'll also learn the different types of wetlands that exist and how people use wetlands. Then, go explore the wetlands with trained SCVAS field trip leaders. **NOTE** — This workshop is only intended for those who can and will attend both the Hands-on Session and the Field Trip.

Date: Saturday, August 17; Hands-on Session: 10 AM-12; Field Trip: 1-3 PM
Location: Hands-on Session and brown bag lunch — McClellan Ranch Park; Field Trip — Charleston Slough
Maximum attendees: 25
Minimum age: 9 or entering 4th grade
Registration begins: June 1
Non-refundable fee: \$10

Volunteer Ventures

by Jennifer Peritz

SCVAS Programs Coordinator

"Some people want it to happen, some wish it to happen, others make it happen." — Source unknown

SCVAS volunteers truly fall into the category of those who make things happen! In the past six months, volunteers have led approximately 65 adult field trips, 8 school field trips, given 18 school presentations, donated approximately 340 hours in the Nature Shop and office, attended over 12 committee meetings, spent countless hours compiling *Birding at the Bottom of the Bay*, monitored 34 active bluebird trails, and much, much more. Volunteers in each of these activities help to further SCVAS' mission and spread the appreciation of birds and the environment to others. When it comes to protecting and providing habitat or to helping people enjoy and understand the environment, our volunteers are "making it happen!"

The SCVAS Board, staff, and I want to say a sincere THANK YOU to every single one of our wonderful volunteers who help "make it happen." In fact, we'd love to do so in person at our annual Chapter Potluck Dinner, which will be held this year on Wednesday, June 19 (see notice on front page). This is a great opportunity for members, staff, and the Board to mingle and share information about our various programs. If you've thought about volunteering or if you have any questions, let's chat at the potluck and see if we can find a program that's right for you.

As many of our volunteers know, I have the delightful duty at the potluck of announcing those volunteers that the staff has chosen to receive a "Special Mention" for their services to SCVAS over the past year. You can imagine what a difficult task it is to single out just a few volunteers each year! This year we would like to thank and acknowledge: **Bernie Wood** for the

production of volunteer training videos; **Bob Reiling** for coordinating the weekend field trip program; **Dave "Tex" Houston** for coordinating the Bluebird Program and giving school presentations; **Elaine Gould** for leading children's field trips and participating on the Education Committee; **Kris McNamara** for database support and leading children's field trips; **Lisa Karpinski** for researching issues related to Burrowing Owls and participating on the Environmental Action Committee; **Norman Watenpaugh** for building nestboxes and mounted bird cases, helping with our Earth Day celebration, and participating on the Environmental Action Committee; and **Pete LaTourrette** for his continued management of our website. Thank you for sharing your time, skills, and knowledge with the rest of the chapter!

Now don't forget . . . even though summer is coming and folks are leaving on vacations, the SCVAS Office and Nature Shop will still be open, and we still have opportunities for volunteers, so stop by, call, or send an e-mail.

For more information on these or other volunteer programs, please contact Jennifer at (408) 252-3740 or <programs@scvas.org>.

Board Nominations

The Nominating Committee has proposed the following slate of Officers and Directors, to be voted on at the General Meeting and potluck dinner, June 19:

President — David Drake

1st Vice-president — Charles Preuss

2nd Vice-president — Freddy Howell

Treasurer — (VACANT)

Secretary — Ann Verdi

Directors:

'02-'05 — Grant Hoyt, Leda Beth Gray, (VACANT)

'01-'04 — Mary Murphy, Dave Cook, Greg Meissner

'00-'03 — Debbie Thompson, (VACANT), (VACANT)

Members should note the alarming number of Board vacancies, and contact any Officer or Director with suggestions for filling these vacancies.

SCVAS Nature Shop Open All Summer!

Pick up your copy of BABOB, other bird field guides, T-shirts, gifts, bird seed and everything for your summertime birding enjoyment at our Nature Shop at McClellan Ranch Park in Cupertino.

Santa Clara Valley
Audubon Society
Nature Shop

OPEN

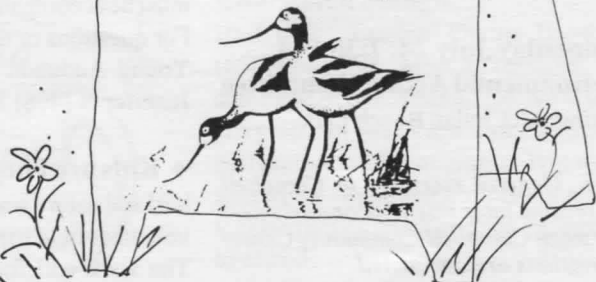
Monday - Friday

10 - 5

Saturday

10-2

408-252-3747



BABOB now on sale! from Page 1

significantly more publicly accessible open spaces now than there were twelve years ago. Much of the new open space is due to land purchases made by the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District and the Santa Clara County Open Space Authority, which have preserved land that might otherwise have sprouted houses instead of grass.

In other words, more places to enjoy birding!

According to John Mariani, author and artist who contributed to several sections of the new guide, there is also much more awareness of the importance of riparian areas. Streams such as Alamitos Creek, which drains into Almaden Lake, have been transformed from drainage ditches to important restored habitats.

For the printing of this edition of BABOB, SCVAS has partnered with the Santa Clara Valley Water District. Not only are many of our best birding sites managed by the Water District, but, as Craig Breon wrote in the March *Avocet*, the District has "added to its basic mission a role of stewardship of natural resources and, where feasible, enhancement and restoration." We are very

grateful for the District's assistance in the publication of BABOB.

As SCVAS' conservation and environmental education activities increasingly reach all areas of the County, so are the birders. Both Mariani and contributing author Ann Verdi note that more birders are visiting previously unexplored South County sites. Among other notable southern locations, Ann cites Sierra Azul Open Space Preserve, which has 15,000 acres and has recently been partially opened to public access, as a fascinating area, with a trail near the headwaters of Guadalupe Creek. Santa Teresa County Park is also worth a visit because of its serpentine habitat, where Rock Wrens, Rufous-crowned Sparrows, and other noteworthy species can be found.

We are deeply grateful to the many authors, editors, mapmakers, and artists who contributed their time and talents to make *Birding at the Bottom of the Bay* an accessible, informative, and enjoyable read. Hundreds of hours of volunteer time were logged in putting together this third edition.

So join the flock — pick up a copy at our Nature Shop, order one online, or use the order form below!

Pescadero Field Trip May 12

Ten birders participated in a three-quarter-day SCVAS field trip on May 12 to coastal areas near Pescadero, San Mateo County. We began early, looking for seabirds at Pigeon Point, moved on for a walk along the riparian habitat on Gazos Creek Rd., and finally checked out Pescadero lagoon and marsh.

At Pigeon Point we encountered moderate northwest winds, moderate swells, and only moderate visibility. The passage of migrant seabirds was quite slow but there were a few hundred Pacific Loons (mainly in breeding plumage), and everyone, even those without their own scopes, eventually got good scope views of these striking birds. Also cooperative near-shore were Brown Pelicans, all three species of cormorant, Black Oystercatchers, and Pigeon Guillemots (showing off their black and white plumage and shockingly red feet). Marbled Murrelets were seen by some, since the swells made them hard to refind in the water; Common Murres were more cooperative.

Only a few Sooty Shearwaters were pulled out of the distant haze. But the bird of the trip was surely the Manx Shearwater (first spotted by Donna Heim) which was heading north by itself only 1/4 of the way to the horizon. This species is a rarity off the west coast, but there have been several previous sightings from Pigeon Point this year. I was particularly excited because it was the first I've seen from shore. Unfortunately, it had to be followed with a scope for decent views, and only three or four of the group were able to reap the reward.

We moved on to the mouth of Gazos Creek, where we found an American Avocet at the shoreline. This species is most unusual on the coast, yet there were reports of 5 or 6 others the same weekend in the Pescadero area. Starting up Gazos Creek Road we unexpectedly flushed a Barn Owl. Our walk up the road required either using or learning birding-by-ear skills. We had nice looks at some of the regulars, including the abundant Wilson's Warblers, Black-Headed Grosbeaks, incessantly calling or singing Olive-Sided Flycatchers, Band-tailed Pigeons, and much more. However, calling Pacific-slope Flycatchers and singing Brown Creeper, Orange-Crowned Warbler and - most disappointingly - MacGillivray's Warblers (two heard) eluded our view. After a number of tantalizing glimpses of Swainson's Thrushes, we finally found one just hanging out on the edge of the road, not even flushing when a car passed by. (The driver had very nicely stopped before reaching the bird when he saw we

continued on Page 7

Birding at the Bottom of the Bay – Order Form

BABOB	\$ 14.50 each
Number of Copies	
Total	\$
Tax 8.25% (\$1.20 ea)	\$
Shipping/Handling (\$1.75 ea)	\$
Total Enclosed	\$

Check Enclosed

MasterCard Visa

Card Number _____

Expiration Date _____ Signature _____

Name _____

Street Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone or Email _____

(in case we have a question about your order)

Mail or fax to SCVAS, 22221 McClellan Road, Cupertino CA 95014

Fax 408-252-2850; Credit Card orders may also be phoned in to 408-252-3747

Field Notes

by Bill Bousman

Pelicans through Gulls

Numbers of "oversummering" **American White Pelicans** are variable from year-to-year so 50 at San Felipe Lake in San Benito County on 14 Apr (MJM) and 50 to 150 birds on the Mountain View salt ponds 16-25 Apr (WGB) were of interest. A ghost from the past, a **Cattle Egret** was seen with its beloved horses on the Arzino Ranch in Alviso on 10 Apr (MMR). Numbers increased to three by 18 Apr (WGB) and were last seen on 20 Apr (MJM). **Wood Ducks** have been found widely in their normal haunts. A female with 10 precocial young near Almaden Reservoir on 21 Apr (AV) was in an area where they nest regularly. **Blue-winged Teal** lingered in the Palo Alto Flood Control Basin (FCB) into April with two males and a female seen as late as 7 Apr (MJM). A female **Common Merganser** was seen at Almaden Lake with 10 very young ducklings on 27 Apr (JMa et al.). She must have nested in one of large sycamores along Alamitos Creek.

Surprisingly, compared to recent years, few **Osprey** were found in April. The only report was of a bird at Calero Reservoir on 27 Apr (JMa et al.). An adult **Broad-winged Hawk** was seen moving north above Skyline Ridge OSP on 15 Apr (RSTh). This is the sixth county record and the second in spring. Unlike Broad-wings, **Swainson's Hawk** is more likely in the spring than the fall. However, this spring has been exceptional with a bird at Casa de Fruta on 1 Apr (DBL), one over the Pajaro River below Hwy 101 on 4 Apr (DLSu), and one over Skyline Ridge OSP on 15 Apr (RSTh). Single **Lesser Yellowlegs**, rare in spring, were seen in the pond at Spreckles and State in Alviso on 12-13 Apr (RWR, FV, MJM) and at the Sunnyvale Baylands on 14 Apr (RS). A female **Ruff** was found at the ponds at State and Spreckles in Alviso

12-23 Apr (RWR, FV, MJM). It is possible that this is the same female that has been seen off and on in the Alviso area since last fall, however, this is the first observation since February. An adult or sub-adult **Glaucous Gull** was seen on Salt Pond A18 in Alviso on 12 Apr (RWR, FV) and was a good find.

Roadrunners through Flycatchers

A **Greater Roadrunner** was seen on Quimby Road on 13 Apr (JY, AL). Two

Most unusual for spring were a Broad-winged Hawk over the Santa Cruz Mountain ridges and a Black-throated Blue Warbler in residential Campbell

Long-eared Owls at Ed Levin CP on 2 Apr (RWR, FV, RK, PK) were a special treat. Three early **Vaux's Swifts** were over the Pajaro River below Hwy 101 on 4 Apr (DLSu). Few birds were seen until late in the month when a high count of 20 was obtained at Almaden-Quicksilver CP on 27 Apr (JMa et al.). A female **Black-chinned Hummingbird** was banded near Felter and Sierra Roads on 18 Apr (RCo). Although migrant Rufous and Calliope Hummingbirds are typical along the front of the Diablo Range, Black-chinneds are rarely found away from the valley floor. Three males along Coyote Creek below Hwy 237 on 20 Apr (MJM) were the first returning summer residents found this season. A male **Calliope Hummingbird** was banded near Felter and Sierra Roads on 5 Apr (RCo) and another male was seen in the Almaden Valley on 9 Apr (JiD). Two birds a season are about typical of this rare spring migrant. The migration period for **Rufous Humming-**

bird appeared to peak in early April. Six were banded (the first of the season) near Felter and Sierra Roads on 5 Apr (RCo) and three were seen in Hall's Valley on 6 Apr (MMR). Single males at Ed Levin CP on 21 Apr (AW) and 24 Apr (MMR, MJM) rounded out the month. Single **Lewis's Woodpeckers** were seen in San Antonio Valley on 15 Apr (WGB) and 28 Apr (SEM); the latter bird was carrying food. A **Pileated Woodpecker** was heard at dawn in the Monte Bello OSP on 24

Apr (MMR, MJM). It seems likely that this species is still breeding somewhere in the upper Stevens Creek drainage basin. April's migrant **Hammond's Flycatchers** were all near Smith Creek. Two were seen on 6 Apr and three were near there on 11 Apr (both MMR). Two were found there again on 12 Apr (JiD, WGB), and a single bird was there on 13 Apr (MJM). A **Hammond's/Dusky** was along Gilroy Hot Springs Road on 14 Apr (MJM). A **Dusky Flycatcher** was

observed at Smith Creek on 29 Apr (JiD). A **Cassin's Kingbird** was seen along San Felipe Road on 14 Apr (MJM) for the first observation this season. They have nested here occasionally over the last seven years.

Swallows through Goldfinches

A female **Purple Martin** over Grant Lake on 7 Apr (JiD) was an early migrant. This swallow is not known to breed in the Diablo Range. A **Bank Swallow** was seen along the Pajaro River below Hwy 101 on 4 Apr (DLSu). This rare swallow once nested along the river banks and in the railroad cuts here, but the last nest records date to the 1930s. This is the earliest record for Bank Swallow in recent years. Nesting of **American Dipper** was observed on Stevens Creek above Mt. Eden Road on 22-24 Apr (MMR, MJM, WGB) and near Twin Creeks on 27 Apr (JMa et al.). Four to five lingering **Golden-crowned King-**

Field Notes *cont'd*

lets were seen on Smith Creek on 6 Apr (MMR). A **Townsend's Solitaire** along Summit Ridge where it intersects Loma Prieta Road was a good find on 16 Apr (DLSu). Good numbers of **Phainopepla** were found this spring with multiple birds at Smith Creek 6-20 Apr (v.ob.). Single males were also seen in San Antonio Valley on 15 Apr (WGB) and at Colorado Creek where it crosses Mines Road on 28 Apr (AW). This was one of the best springs in recent memory for **Nashville Warbler**, in part because of regular coverage in the vicinity of Smith Creek. Birds were seen there from 11 Apr (7, MMR) to 29 Apr (9, JiD). One to three Nashvilles were found near Grant Lake on 23-27 Apr (MMR, MJM) and, on the west side of the valley, singles were found in Stevens Creek CP 24-28 Apr (MMR, MJM, JiD) and at New Almaden on 27 Apr (JMa et al.). An adult male **Black-throated Blue Warbler** seen in Campbell on 5 Apr (JT) stayed only briefly. This warbler, exceptionally rare in the spring, likely wintered somewhere in central California. This is only the third record for Santa Clara County. Smith Creek was also the center of the **Hermit Warbler** migration. The first migrant was found on 12 Apr (WGB, PK, RK) with other passage birds found through the end of the month. The high count was of four birds on 28 Apr (SEM). A male seen at Stanford on 28 Apr (DBL) was the only bird found on the west side of the valley. A **Northern Waterthrush** was found on 2 Apr (*fide* BirdBox) in wetlands within a light industrial area off Charleston Road in Mountain View. This bird was found repeatedly through 11 Apr (v.ob.) and was singing on a number of occasions. It is possible that this warbler wintered in this area and is the

same bird that was seen nearby on Stevens Creek in September and November. **MacGillivray's Warbler** is probably the rarest of our western migrant warblers. A very early MacGillivray's was seen near Smith Creek on 7 Apr (JiD) and more typical passage birds were found there on 28-29 Apr (SEM, JiD). Four to five **Grasshopper Sparrows** seen at Ed Levin CP on 2 Apr (RWR, FV, RK, PK) were the first of the season. Birds were also found along the Pajaro River below Hwy 101 on 4 Apr (DLSu), in Hall's Valley on 6 Apr (MMR), at the Sierra Road summit 24 Apr (MMR, MJM), and near Calero Reservoir dam on 27 Apr (JMa et al.). The winter season for **White-throated Sparrows** was rounded out by lingering birds at various South Bay feeders: San Jose on 9 Apr (JAC), Sunnyvale on 20 Apr (RS), Los Altos on 21 Apr (LB), and Los Gatos on 22 Apr (JD). Lingering **Pine Siskins** included at least a hundred at Smith Creek on 16 Apr (RWR, FV et al.). **Lawrence's Goldfinches** were plentiful in their favored Diablo Range locations with birds in Ed Levin CP, along Sierra Road, in Hall's Valley, at Smith Creek, and along Mines Road. A few birds were found along the valley floor in the south county where they occasionally nest including some at Uvas Creek Preserve in Gilroy about 14 Apr (SK) and four along San Felipe Road near Pacheco Creek on 14 Apr (MJM). The only observation from the Santa Cruz Mountain side of the valley was of a single bird at Monte Bello OSP on 24 Apr (MMR, MJM).

Observers: Lou Beaudet (LB), Bill Bousman (WGB), Jack Cole (JAC), Rita Colwell (RCo), Jim Danzenbaker (JiD), Jean Dubois (JD), Roland Kenner (RK), Pat Kenny (PK), Sue Kruse (SK), Amy Lauterbach (AL), David Lewis (DBL), Mike Mammoser (MJM), John Mariani (JMa), Steve Miller (SEM), Bob Reiling (RWR), Mike Rogers (MMR), Rosalie Strait (RS), David Suddjian (DLSu), Ron Thorn (RSTh), Jerry Towner (JT), Frank Vanslager (FV), Ann Verdi (AV), Alan Walther (AW), 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

Bird Quiz

The Quizmaster has enlisted the aid of County record-keeper and *Avocet* Field Notes editor Bill Bousman for this two-part challenger:

1) Can you name six species of birds that historically nested in Santa Clara County but have not been recorded breeding here since 1960?

2) Can you name 13 species that have bred in the County for the first time since 1990?

Here's a hint: The answers to both questions may be extracted from the following list, but be careful — there are 10 "ringers" in the list that don't belong in either category:

American Redstart, Black Skimmer, Blue Grosbeak, Blue-winged Teal, Canvasback, Cassin's Kingbird, Clark's Grebe, Costa's Hummingbird, Double-crested Cormorant, Fulvous Whistling Duck, Great-tailed Grackle, Hermit Warbler, Indigo Bunting, Lesser Nighthawk, MacGillivray's Warbler, Mountain Quail, Northern Parula, Peregrine Falcon, Pileated Woodpecker, Redhead, Ring-necked Duck, Swainson's Hawk, Short-eared Owl, Western Grebe, White-faced Ibis, Willow Flycatcher, Varied Thrush, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Yellow-headed Blackbird.

—Answers on Page 11

Pescadero trip *from Pg. 5*

were watching it!) Two Yellow Warblers were the only transients. Last but not least, a Warbling Vireo was heard singing in the same area I had seen a pair two weeks earlier.

At Pescadero Lagoon we saw about 30 Caspian Terns; they apparently come here to feed from their breeding sites on the Bay. Shorebirds were fairly scarce, but 6 Semipalmated Plovers were neat to see, and walking up the creek we found three or so Spotted Sandpipers in their bright breeding plumage. Most impressive was a total of about 20 adult Common Mergansers, about half males, plus two broods of 6 or 7 young; this is certainly more than I've previously seen at this location.

The trip species count was about 83 (of course, no one saw all of them) on a most pleasant day. Thanks to all who attended.

—Al Eisner

Los Chivirines Saltarocas Encuentran 128 Especies en El Cinco de Mayo

by Leda Beth Gray

In honor of Cinco de Mayo, which was the day we selected for our Birdathon, we've provided species names in Spanish as well as English for our readers. We included the Spanish name for "The Rock Wrens" — "Los Chivirines Saltarocas" (which means something about wrens that jump around on rocks). All of our translating was done on an excellent web page belonging to the Instituto Biología de la Universidad Nacional de Autonomía de México, which had an English-Spanish translator for all the species which occur in Mexico, at <http://www.ibiologia.unam.mx/cnav/nc.html>.

This year our team consisted of SCVAS Board President David Drake, Past President David McIntyre, Sue Hunt, myself, and a new Chivirin Saltaroca, Rick Johnson. Rick was kind enough to drive all of us with our birding paraphernalia all over the County on May 5 in addition to spotting and identifying birds. He also did expert maneuvers in dropping us off and picking us up again along roads with no pullouts.

We had a great day, finding a total of 128 species. This was 7 species down from last year, probably because we went a week later this year. Many winter residents and migrants, such as *reyezuelo de-rojo* (A) and *zorzal cola rufa* (B) appeared to have already left. However, we did see some great new species on our birdathon day. (See key at the end for translations).

Highlights included *tapacamino tevii* (C), which we heard while playing *tecolote* (D) tapes on Wright's Station Rd. off Summit Rd. east of Hwy 17. Also, we were pleased to have good looks at a singing *gorriun chapulin* (E) and *vencejos pechos blancos* (F) along Mt. Hamilton Road and several gorgeous *jilgueros grises* (G) at Smith Creek and along Sierra Road. Singing *gorriunes arlequines* (H) along Sierra Road were another big treat. We had a singing male *colorin lazuli* (I) at our own McClellan

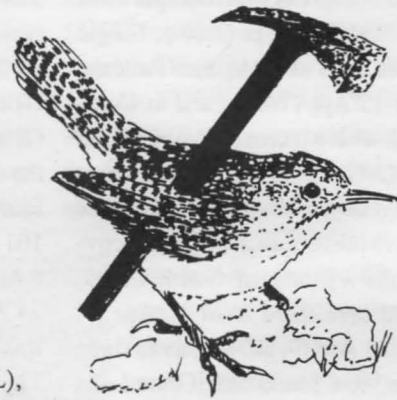
Ranch, dazzling in its electric blue plumage.

One bird that it seemed like we were seeing everywhere was the *bolsero calandria* (J). The chattering and singing of this bird was apparent at most of our stops and we began remarking on it. We saw two *tecolotes llaneros* (K) in Alviso, where we expected to see them, however they were both doing a hovering maneuver similar to a *cernicalo americano* (L), alternately perching on the ground as we watched. None of us had seen that behavior before.

I had a lot of fun translating all the bird names into Spanish. It was interesting to see that the Mexican bird names had the names of people in them less often than our bird names do. For example, while Cassin's Vireo translates to *vireo cassini*, Steller's Jay translates to *chara crestada* (crested jay) and Wilson's Warbler translates to *chipe corona negra* (black-crowned warbler). A couple other Mexican names that I liked were *tordo ojo amarillo* (yellow-eyed blackbird) for Brewer's Blackbird, and *tordo sargento* (sargent blackbird) for Red-winged Blackbird.

Some of the bird names that were based on the bird's features translated straight across, like *chipe corona anaranjada* (Orange-crowned Warbler) and others emphasized different features of a particular bird, such as *aguillilla pecho-rojo* (Red-chested Hawk) for Red-shouldered Hawk.

Los Chivirines Saltarocas want to thank our generous donors: Alice Davis, Harriet Gerson, Ernie Goitein and Claire Feder, Leda G. Gray, Chris Gutmacher, Main Guy, Grant Hoyt, Myrtle Johnson, Mary Lene, Cynthia McLaughlin, Jane Nielson and Howard Wilshire, Charles Preuss, Byron Richards, Stephanie Ross, Nancy Teater, Debbie Thompson, and



Ruth Troetschler. In addition, we are very grateful to our new corporate sponsor, REI of Saratoga, which donated a pair of very nice compact binoculars to SCVAS' Wetlands and Woodlands field trip programs for schoolkids. Thanks, too, to Carol Garsten of The Nature Gallery. I also want to thank Los Chivirines Saltarocas, all of whom donated to and participated in our fine Cinco de Mayo birdathon. All in all, it looks like we've raised over \$1600 for SCVAS education programs. Muchas gracias!

Key

- A Ruby-crowned Kinglet
- B Hermit Thrush—literally 'red-tailed thrush')
- C Common Poorwill
- D Owl
- E Grasshopper Sparrow
- F White-throated Swift—'white-chested swift'
- G Lawrence's Goldfinch—'gray gold finch'
- H Lark Sparrow—'harlequin sparrow'
- I Lazuli Bunting—brilliant lazuli color
- J Bullock's Oriole—'bolsero' (purse or bag maker) for the hanging nests they build
- K Burrowing Owl—'plains owl'
- L American Kestrel

BABOB Features New Sites, Maps, & Artwork

John Mariani contributed thorough and informative write-ups (one of which is partially excerpted here) and several handsome illustrations to the 3rd edition of BABOB.

ALMADEN LAKE PARK AND LOS ALAMITOS CREEK TRAIL

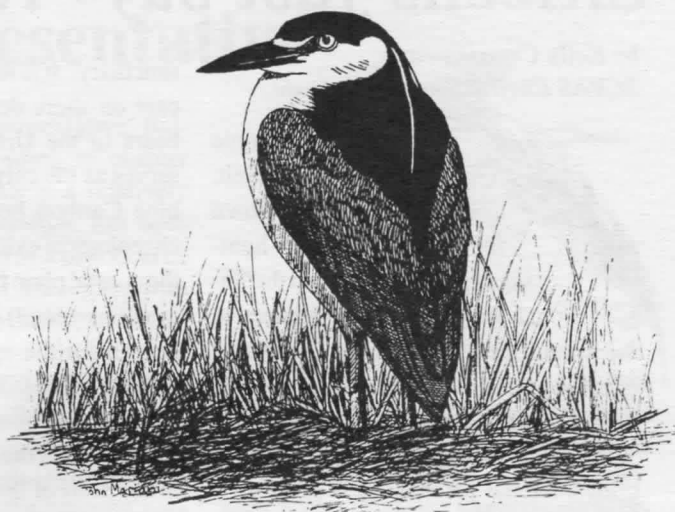
Years ago Almaden Lake (not to be confused with Almaden Reservoir) was the site of a rock quarry. Excavation of the quarry produced craters, and their expansion led to the creation of a lake. Today that lake is a magnet for bird life, and what was once a scar on the landscape has become a pleasant park, complete with picnic grounds, manicured lawns, and even a public swimming beach.

HOW TO BIRD THE AREA:

One of the most interesting spots is where Los Alamitos creek empties into Almaden lake. Common Mergansers like to loaf on the rocks below the footbridge, and there is often a Green Heron or Common Moorhen lurking in the vicinity. Here, and upstream along the creek, watch for introduced Nutmeg Mannikins (aka Spice Finch or Spotted Munia). This goldfinch-sized bird can be identified by its black bill and brown upperparts. Adults also show black scalloping on their breasts.

Searching trees within the park may reveal Red-shouldered Hawk at any season, Red-breasted Sapsucker in winter and Bullock's Oriole in spring and summer. The area between the footbridge and park office is good for birds of oak woodland. Look for resident Acorn Woodpeckers. Check the budding oaks for warblers in spring.

The lake itself is host to wintering grebes, geese, and ducks. Occasionally there is a Common Loon; rarer visitors have included Pacific Loon, Red-necked Grebe and Ross's Goose. Winter storms can produce unusual sightings of salt-water species such as Surf Scoter, Red-breasted Merganser and Western Gull. Even when there are no oddities around, Canada

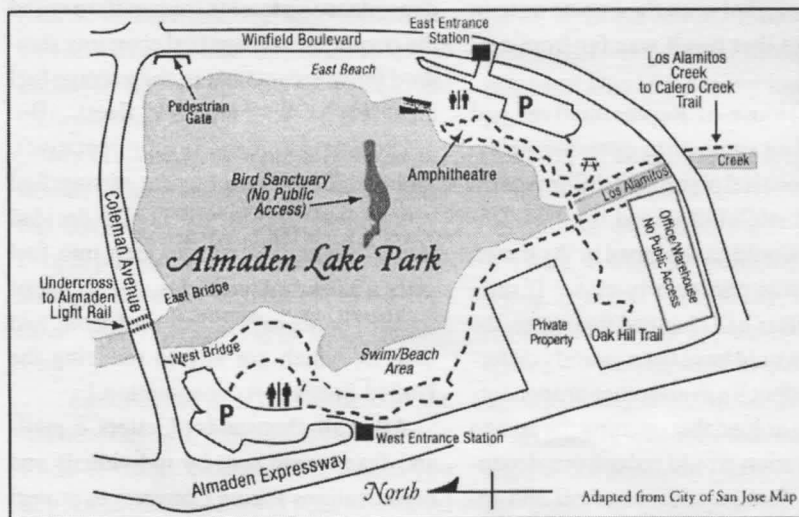


Black-crowned Night-Heron
illustration by John Mariani

Geese and Common Mergansers are almost always present (both breed locally). The goose population has increased dramatically in recent years. Flocks move around, but frequently return to graze the lawns of the park. Broods of yellow goslings follow the adults in spring and summer . . .

. . . The park is a starting point for Los Alamitos Creek Trail. Although hemmed in by roads and suburbs, the trail provides access to some fine riparian habitat. Bird life is varied and plentiful, especially in spring. The area along the creek is also home to many other creatures — deer, muskrat, squirrel and even coyote have found refuge in this urban wildlife corridor. The trail is an easy walk over level terrain, and for most of its length it closely parallels the creek. Wherever there is a view of the water, Great Blue Heron, Great and Snowy Egrets, Green Heron and Black-crowned Night-Heron, Mallard (watch for broods of cute ducklings in spring and summer), and Common Merganser are all possible.

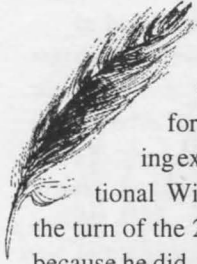
Listen for the Red-shouldered Hawk's insistent shrieking while following the creek upstream. A flash of blue and a rattling call announces the sudden appearance of a Belted Kingfisher. You probably won't get very far without noticing a Black Phoebe or two flycatching from streamside perches. The trail passes under a bridge, beyond which the creek and trail soon diverge, separated by an overflow channel (normally dry). Killdeer like the gravel beds, but otherwise there is little of interest along this stretch. Where the creek rejoins the trail, look for Western Kingbird and orioles in spring and summer. Chances of seeing Hooded Oriole improve by scanning the palms across the creek; Bullock's Oriole is usually easy to find among the oaks and sycamores . . .



Citizens Just Say "No" to Refuge Drilling

by Kelly Crowley

SCVAS Environmental Advocate



Some find it ironic that Teddy Roosevelt, our President best known for his African safari hunting expeditions, created the National Wildlife Refuge system at the turn of the 20th Century. However, because he did, nearly a hundred million acres are protected under the National Wildlife Refuge System, which provides critical habitat for thousands of species. Locally, we have the Don Edwards Refuge, 25,000 acres of wetland habitat that runs from Alviso to Fremont. Though Don Edwards seems large it is dwarfed by the wildlife sanctuaries in Alaska that are part of the Refuge System.

Alaska, with its majestic landscapes and vast wilderness areas, is home to 16 National Wildlife Refuges. That's 77 million acres of land, and nearly 83% of the land under the Refuge System. President Dwight Eisenhower in 1960 established the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, which is the largest of Alaska's refuges and widely considered to be the world's finest sanctuary for wildlife.

Animal life abounds in Arctic

The diversity of species that depend on the habitats within the Arctic Wildlife Refuge is stunning: all three species of North American bears (black, grizzly and polar); millions of migratory birds, including the Arctic Tern, Tundra Swan, Golden Eagle, Red-throated Loon, and numerous waterfowl; the magnificent Porcupine Caribou herd; three dozen species of fish; wolves, arctic foxes, musk oxen and more. Such diversity is a result of the wide spectrum of habitats included in the Refuge, from Arctic tundra, boreal forests, and mountains, to barrier islands, coastal lagoons, and the coastal plain.

The coastal plain of the Arctic Refuge is typically described as the heart of the

sanctuary. It is not only the most significant on-shore denning habitat for polar bears in the United States, but it also serves as the calving area for the Porcupine Caribou herd. (According to archaeological evidence, the herd has used the coastal plain for calving for more than 2 million years!) The coastal plain is also known for the spectacular display provided by 300,000 Snow Geese arriving for the summer season.

However, the same coastal plain that is the heart of the Refuge also sits along Alaska's northern slope, an area riddled with oil rigs and development associated with oil exploration. Fully 95% of the northern slope is open to oil drilling, with the Arctic Refuge's coastal plain being the only area closed to such activity.

Administration backs oil interests

Until President Bush and the current Congress, no other President or Congress has been so vocal about their desire to see the pristine landscape of the Arctic Refuge opened to oil exploration. National Audubon and countless others lobbied hard and furiously to protect Alaska's northern shore. After a long, pitched battle in Congress, Refuge proponents finally prevailed with the Senate vote in April. But that result was far from certain.

The House of Representatives had voted in late summer to open the Arctic Refuge's coastal plain to oil drilling. And had the Senate's bill passed, the President certainly would have signed it. As it was, the vote was particularly close: If only four Senators had changed their vote, the outcome would have been entirely different. President Bush and other proponents of drilling argued that opening the area to oil exploration would reduce our dependence on foreign sources of oil and increase national security; that drilling would be done in a responsible manner and would not impact wildlife; that drill-

ing would impact only a few thousand acres of the 19 million acre Refuge; that a similar facility at Prudhoe Bay had little to no impact on the Central Arctic caribou that had used the area for calving.

Grassroots action

Proponents of the Arctic Refuge countered with a strong and steady grassroots campaign to help lawmakers see through the oil industry rhetoric. Refuge proponents cited Department of Interior statistics estimating that oil development would lead to a 20-50 percent decline in both the caribou and musk oxen populations, a 50 percent decline in wolverine populations, and likely abandonment of the polar bear dens. They pointed to the Central Arctic caribou declines and the 500 oil spills that occur yearly at Prudhoe Bay. They harped on the fact that even the most optimistic projections for oil production in the Arctic Wildlife Refuge would yield less than half a percent of the world's oil reserves. Considering that the United States consumes 26% of the world's oil, this would do little to reduce our dependence on foreign sources.

[As a side note, we could make significant headway toward reducing our dependence on foreign sources if we raised the corporate average fuel economy standard for new cars (that is, the average fuel economy of a company's fleet). But automakers, oil industry representatives, and President Bush oppose raising fuel economies. The President also decided to cut all funding for research into fuel cells and hybrid vehicles, the latter of which Toyota says is now profitable, and both of which are key to reducing the United States' oil consumption.]

All in all, thousands of letters, e-mails and faxes were sent by individuals and organizations asking Congress to protect the fragile wilderness at Alaska's northeastern shore. National Audubon was

cont'd next page

Important NAS Election for Western Region Representative



After successfully serving two 3-year terms as the Representative of the Western Region on the Board of Directors of National Audubon Society (NAS), Charles Bragg has decided to step down. Chuck is from Santa Monica Bay Audubon Society and has done an excellent job of representing the western region through all of the recent re-evaluation of the relationship between National Audubon and its chapters.

Three outstanding nominees have been selected to vie for Chuck's position on the NAS Board, and Audubon chapters in California, Oregon, Washington and Nevada will cast their ballots by June 30, 2002. Since the winner will be responsible for representing the concerns and viewpoints of the numerous chapters in the western region, it is important to select

a strong, committed representative. Ballots are allotted according to chapter membership. SCVAS is a relatively large chapter and, therefore, has been assigned the maximum of 5 ballots to be cast by our Board of Directors, with assistance and advice from our members.

The candidates are Kenneth Johnston, President of Klamath Basin Audubon, Klamath Falls OR; Jess Morton, President of Palos Verdes/South Bay Audubon, San Pedro CA; and Charles Kahle, President of Seattle Audubon, Seattle WA. They are all fine nominees and each would bring different strengths to the NAS Board. Ken Johnston is a wildlife biologist and teacher with strong conservation interests; Jess Morton

started the highly acclaimed Audubon YES! (Youth Environmental Service) program in southern California and has been a chapter advocate for many years; and Charles Kahle has a very strong background in the high-tech business community and has been instrumental in making Seattle Audubon one of the strongest chapters in the West.

For more information about the nominees, please visit the National Audubon Society web site at <http://www.audubon.org/nas/board/regional/elections/western-election.html> or call SCVAS President Dave Drake at (831) 336-1127.

We want your input on which of these candidates SCVAS should support. The SCVAS Board will be deciding after our annual potluck dinner on June 19th. We can split the 5 ballots among the candidates or cast all 5 for one of them. Our choices will be based on our knowledge of the issues, the candidates, and on the advice of our members. Please e-mail or call the SCVAS office (scvas@scvas.org, (408) 252-3747) or Dave Drake to express your views.

Advocate *cont'd*

one of the key leaders of this campaign, and our chapter wrote numerous letters on the issue. Bobbie Handen, Chair of SCVAS' Education Committee and members of the Board of Directors, collected over 50 letters from local school children, and sent them to Senator Boxer to use to convince her colleagues to protect the Refuge.

My favorite hand-written letter from a middle school student said this: "Dear Ms. Barbara Boxer, I heard that a bunch of people plan to drill for oil in the Arctic. I strongly believe that shouldn't be an option. Why? I'll give you three reasons why:

"First reason is, if they drilled in the Arctic, they will kill the arctic animals while drilling. I mean, how would you like it if someone came in your house and started drilling in your house? They might break or damage something important, like your bed.

"My second reason is, when they ruin the animals' habitat, then animals could die. Then more animals could disappear. Don't you want to learn more about Arctic animals before they are gone? Well, I do and so do many others.

"My last reason is, probably there's no oil up in the Arctic. If there's no oil, you might have wasted money on supplies and also killed many innocent animals.

"So I'm begging you, forget the oil, think of the animals."

Simple. Straightforward. Evocative. It's hard to miss the point the child was trying to make. Thankfully, it was also hard to miss, and apparently harder to ignore — the tremendous public outcry against drilling in the Arctic. Thank you to those readers who took the time to send a letter to our Senators. I have no doubt that the persistent message from the voting public influenced the outcome of this issue. Indeed, you made a difference.

Quiz Answers:

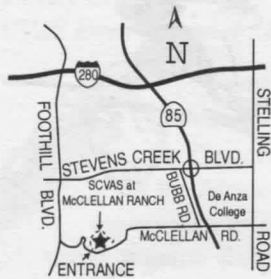
1) — Fulvous Whistling Duck, Lesser Nighthawk, Swainson's Hawk, Willow Flycatcher, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Yellow-headed Blackbird

2) — Black Skimmer, Blue Grosbeak, Canvasback, Cassin's Kingbird, Clark's Grebe, Double-crested Cormorant, Great-tailed Grackle, Indigo Bunting, Peregrine Falcon, Pileated Woodpecker, Ring-necked Duck, Western Grebe, White-faced Ibis

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

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

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



OFFICERS

President
 David Drake 831/336-1127

Past President
 David McIntyre 650/561-9356

1st VP
 Charles Preuss 650/320-9930

2nd VP
 Freddy Howell 408/358-9453

Treasurer
 Barbara Dalderis 408/399-6965

Secretary
 Ann Verdi 408/266-5108

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Bobbie Handen '99-'02 408/356-4263
 Grant Hoyt '99-'02 650/969-7892
 Leda Beth Gray '99-'02 831/336-1127
 Debbie Thompson '00-'03 408/227-4604
 Mary Murphy '01-'04 650/621-7534
 Dave Cook '01-'04 408/275-1492
 Greg Meissner '01-'04 408/928-9560

STAFF

Executive Director 408/252-3748
 Craig Breon craig@scvas.org

Office Manager 408/252-3747
 Susan Bell scvas@scvas.org

Programs Coordinator 408/252-3740
 Jennifer Peritz programs@scvas.org

Environmental Advocate 408/252-3740
 Kelly Crowley advocate@scvas.org

Office Fax 408/252-2850

E-mail scvas@scvas.org

Website www.scvas.org

CHAIRPERSONS

Avocet
 Editor: Grant Hoyt 650/969-7892
 Graphics and Print Preparation
 Bonnie Bedford-White 408/261-8210

Bay Area Audubon Council

Delegate
 Leda Beth Gray 831/336-1127

Christmas Bird Count
 Ann Verdi 408/266-5108

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

Library
 Marti Oetzel 408/252-3747

Membership
 Debbie Thompson 408/227-4604

Photo Club
 Pete LaTourrette 650/961-2741

Programs
 Doug & Gail Cheeseman 408/741-5330

Web page
 Pete LaTourrette 650/961-2741

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.

2002 Volume 49, Number 6

Membership in the National Audubon Society (NAS) and Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society (SCVAS).

Members receive both *Audubon* magazine and the SCVAS newsletter, *The Avocet*.

New member \$20 Renewal \$35

Subscription to *The Avocet* only. Subscribers do not enjoy the full benefits of membership.

Subscription \$15

Additional donation. Your gift of any amount is tax-deductible and appreciated!

Membership or Subscription \$ _____ + Donation \$ _____ = Total Enclosed \$ _____

Name _____

Address _____

City State & Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

9MCH CC14

Check here if you don't want your name and address shared with other organizations. **Make all checks payable to SCVAS.**

The Avocet 12