



Our Wetlands Discovery Program turns 30 this year!

FULL STORY BELOW

Upcoming Events

Watershed Action Day - August 24

Join SCVAS, along with Keep Coyote Creek Beautiful and South Bay Clean Creeks Coalition, in this day of action and learning along San Jose's Guadalupe River. Bring the whole family and take part in bird walks along the river, learn about local insects and plants in a BioBlitz, and help keep the community clean with a creek cleanup.

[Learn More Here](#)

Wildlife & Harvest Day - October 19

SCVAS is proud to invite you to our annual Wildlife & Harvest Day at Blackberry Farm. Take part in activities like live animal exhibits, owl pellet dissections, arts & crafts, and nest box building, and visit the City of Cupertino's pumpkin patch and see the costumed animal parade. We hope to see you there!

[Learn More Here](#)

Field Trips

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Santa Clara Valley
Audubon Society

ESTABLISHED 1926

Articles

Field Notes

Check in on June and July's sightings throughout the county.

[Read More Here](#)

What to Look for

With the turn of the seasons comes new birding adventures. Matthew Dodder has a number of suggestions for a birder looking to up their seasonal game.

[Read More Here](#)

Charleston Slough

Sunday, Sept 1, 9-11:30am

Visit this tidal estuary and nearby salt pond, marsh, and small lake for avocets, stilts, and other goodies. 2 miles, flat trails. Call ahead for loaner binoculars.

Meet: Terminal Blvd at end of San Antonio Rd, Mountain View

Allen Royer, (408) 288-7768

Family friendly, kids ages 10+

Beginner friendly

Wheelchair accessible

[RSVP HERE](#)

Sunnyvale Water Pollution Control Plant

Wednesday, Sept 4, 12-1pm

Explore weedy-edged, tule-lined brackish canals and a salt pond for egrets, herons, grebes, ducks, and terns. Call ahead for loaner binoculars. 1 mile, flat trail.

Meet: Bay Trail parking on Carl Rd

Allen Royer, (408) 288-7768

Family friendly, kids ages 10+

Beginner friendly

[RSVP HERE](#)

Beginners and Families at Almaden Lake

Saturday, Sept 7, 9-11am

Explore the lake and Los Alamos creek, which flows into the lake, looking for and learning about common birds. We will move slowly and spend time using our field guides. Binoculars available. 2 miles, paved bike path.

Meet: Winfield Blvd parking

Eve Meier, (908) 433-7558, and Robin Chen

Family friendly, kids ages 10+

Wheelchair accessible

Beginner friendly

[RSVP HERE](#)

Pearson-Arastradero Preserve

Sunday, Sept 8, 8am-12pm

This Palo Alto city park offers a variety of habitats including grassland, weedy fields, oak woodland, semi-riparian mixed woods, and a small lake. We'll spend the morning by walking along the Arastradero Creek Trail while we are on the lookout for Cooper's and Red-shouldered Hawks, California Thrashers, and other oak woodland birds. We'll also scan the small lake for Green Herons and more. 2-3 miles, moderately strenuous.

Meet: near restrooms

Rich Page, (408) 377-1092

[RSVP HERE](#)

Vasona Lake County Park

Wednesday, Sept 11, 8:15-11:30am

Join us for a leisurely bird walk around the riparian woodlands, small lake, eucalyptus groves, and large manicured lawns of this highly-developed urban park in Los Gatos. We'll keep a special lookout for migrating warblers and fall arrivals. 2 miles, paved paths.

Meet: main entrance, first parking lot on left after entry kiosk

Eve Meier, (408) 569-9391

Beginner friendly

Conservation Corner

Advocacy never stops! Check out what our Environmental Advocate, Shani Kleinhaus has been up to in your neighborhood.

[Read More Here](#)

Creek Restoration

Not all conservation is doom and gloom. Check out this local success story along Permanente Creek.

[Read More Here](#)

Birding with Vets

SCVAS is proud to partner with our local VA hospitals to reach out and share the joys of birding and nature with disabled veterans.

[Read More Here](#)

Classes

Getting Started Birding in Santa Clara County

Class Session: Thursday,

September 19; 7-9PM

Field Session: Saturday,

September 21; 8-11AM

Are you curious about identifying and observing birds in the Bay Area? Dig into your local environment with this introductory class and associated field trip. In our evening class we'll be covering birding basics - families of common birds, their habitats, how to tell them apart, and how to use binoculars. You'll learn where to find birds in different seasons and tides, and then practice what we learned in a weekend field trip.

[RSVP HERE](#)

Ulistac Natural Area

Sunday, Sept 15, 7:30-10:30am

Let's look for migrating warblers, vireos, flycatchers and other songbirds! This urban open space with oak and riparian woodlands and seasonal wetland contains the last 40 acres of natural, undeveloped land along the Guadalupe River in the city of Santa Clara. Park volunteers are continuing to remove invasive species and add California native plants making this park a "must-do" during fall migration. 2 miles, flat dirt trails and paved ramps up to the levee.

Meet: south park entrance

Steve Tracey, (408) 966-3860

Beginner friendly

[RSVP HERE](#)

Bugs, Snails, and Salamanders

Thursday, Sept 19, 10am-12pm

Visit McClellan Ranch Preserve and take a walk in different habitats looking at bugs, snails, salamanders, and other small critters! 1 mile, dirt trail

Meet: SCVAS Nature Shop

Merav Vonshak, (408) 252-3740

Family friendly, kids ages 4+

[RSVP HERE](#)

Picchetti Ranch Open Space Preserve

Friday, Sept 20, 8:30-11:30am

Join us for a pleasant walk down the Zinfandel Trail to the ephemeral pond (likely dry this time of year) and surrounding forest and hillsides to see and hear birds and enjoy nature. Expect woodpeckers, flycatchers, warblers, towhees and other forest and chaparral birds. We'll try for California Thrasher, Wrentit, Pacific-slope Flycatcher, Hutton's Vireo, Spotted Towhee, Orange-crowned Warbler, Yellow Warbler, Townsend's Warbler, Black-throated Gray Warbler and others. 2 miles, dirt trails, some hills.

Meet: parking lot

Barry and Ginger Langdon-Lassagne, (408) 594-5913.

Family friendly, kids ages 10+

Beginner friendly

[RSVP HERE](#)

Migration Sensation "Drop-In" at Charleston Slough

Saturday, Sept 21, 8:30-10:30am

Observe, enjoy and learn about the hundreds of bird species that visit our wetlands every year. If you haven't spent time by the bay, you are in for a real treat. SCVAS will have docents stationed on the Charleston Slough observation deck overlooking the tidal estuary, identifying birds and discussing their behaviors and adaptations.

Meet: enter the park at the corner of San Antonio Rd and Terminal Blvd and walk about 1/8 mile to the observation deck

Barbara Millin, (650) 229-4933, and Raminder Bajwa

Family Friendly

Beginner Friendly

Wheelchair Accessible

[RSVP HERE](#)

[REGISTER HERE](#)

Support

Continuing Support

Learn how you can memorialize your support for SCVAS and local conservation with bequests.

[Learn More Here](#)

Little Uvas Creek

Joint event with Santa Clara Valley Open Space Authority

Sunday, Sept 22, 8am-12pm

Explore this limited-access protected area for migrants and waterfowl. Property includes four small ponds and oak woodland. 1 mile, some easy slopes.

Meet: gate at property entrance

Rick Herder, (408) 930-1029, and Dani Christensen

[RSVP HERE](#)

Parkway Lakes & Coyote Creek Parkway

Friday, Sept 27, 8-11am

Starting at Parkway Lakes, we will walk south along the Coyote Creek riparian corridor looking for songbirds, water birds and waterfowl, and raptors. We will aim to reach about a mile out, just south of Coyote Ranch road, where the creek widens again. Approximately 2 miles round trip on flat, paved trail, with a few easy slopes.

Meet: meet at gravel lot off Monterey Rd just north of Metcalf Rd

Dani Christensen, (408) 781-5530

Family friendly, kids ages 14+

Beginner friendly

Wheelchair accessible

[RSVP HERE](#)

Fall Migration on the Coast at Moss Landing & Vicinity

Saturday, Sept 28, 8am-12pm

Shorebirds, waterfowl, and other migrants. Weather conditions can be highly variable so dress in layers and bring water. 2 miles, mostly level ground, some beach sand.

Meet: Moss Landing North Harbor Boat Launch ramp

Norm Kikuchi, (831) 251-0666

Family-friendly, kids ages 10+

[RSVP HERE](#)

Alviso Marina County Park

Sunday, Sept 29, 8am-12pm

We'll be targeting mainly shorebirds, terns, and ducks. Possibilities include Elegant Tern, Common Tern, Bonaparte's Gull, Wilson's/Red-necked Phalarope, Lesser Yellowlegs, Sanderling, Black Rail, and Brown Pelican. 3-4 miles on flat dirt trails.

Meet: first parking area

Chris Johnson, (831) 601-8260, and Barry Langdon-Lassagne

[RSVP HERE](#)

Sunnyvale Water Pollution Control Plant

Wednesday, Oct 2, 12-1pm

Explore weedy-edged, tule-lined brackish canals and a salt pond for egrets, herons, grebes, ducks, and terns. Call ahead for loaner binoculars. 1 mile, flat trail.

Meet: Bay Trail parking on Carl Rd

Allen Royer, (408) 288-7768

Family friendly, kids ages 10+

Beginner friendly

[RSVP HERE](#)

Fall Migration on the Coast at Natural Bridges State Beach

Saturday, Oct 5, 8am-12pm

This Santa Cruz park includes a rocky beach, open ocean, shoreline cliffs, and tidepools great for viewing shorebirds, loons, grebes, and alcids. Within the park, we will search the freshwater wetlands, coastal scrubs, and eucalyptus grove for fall migrants. 2 miles, mostly level ground, some beach sand.

Meet: back entrance of park, intersection of Delaware and Natural Bridges Dr

Norm Kikuchi, (831) 251-0666

Family friendly, kids ages 10+

[RSVP HERE](#)

Calero Creek Trail**Saturday, Oct 5, 8am-11:30am**

This flat trail runs alongside the base of the Santa Teresa foothills passing through grassland, chaparral, riparian habitats, and an old orchard. We'll look for Rufous-crowned Sparrows, Wrentits, fall sparrows, woodpeckers, raptors, and potential Red-breasted Sapsucker. 4 miles out and back, dirt trails.

Meet: parking lot on San Vicente Ave, San Jose

Hugh McDevitt, (408) 375-0943

Beginner friendly

[RSVP HERE](#)

Charleston Slough**Sunday, Oct 6, 9-11:30am**

Visit this tidal estuary and nearby salt pond, marsh, and small lake for avocets, stilts, and other goodies. 2 miles, flat trails. Call ahead for loaner binoculars.

Meet: Terminal Blvd at end of San Antonio Rd, Mountain View

Allen Royer, (408) 288-7768

Family friendly, kids ages 10+

Beginner friendly

Wheelchair accessible

[RSVP HERE](#)

Calero County Park**Wednesday, Oct 9, 8:30-11:00am**

Once part of the Rancho San Vicente Mexican land grant, this park is located in the south end of Almaden Valley. We will hike the Lisa Killough Trail as it climbs through rock-strewn grassy hillsides with scattered oaks while we look for Lark Sparrows, Rock Wrens, and Golden Eagles. Grazing cattle can be expected. 3 miles, gentle climb. **(Optional extension to Calero Reservoir)** After our bird walk which will end about 11am, you will have the option of caravanning 2 miles down McKean Rd to the Calero Reservoir Launch Ramp where we will scan the lake for wintering ducks, grebes, and wading birds.

Meet: Rancho San Vicente entrance

Eve Meier, (408) 569-9391, and Ginger Langdon-Lassagne

Beginner Friendly

[RSVP HERE](#)

Migration Sensation "Drop-In" at Charleston Slough**Saturday, Oct 12, 9:30-11:30am**

Observe, enjoy and learn about the hundreds of bird species that visit our wetlands every year. If you haven't spent time by the bay, you are in for a real treat. SCVAS will have docents stationed on the Charleston Slough observation deck overlooking the tidal

estuary, identifying birds and discussing their behaviors and adaptations.

Meet: enter the park at the corner of San Antonio and Terminal and walk about 1/8 mile to the observation deck

Barbara Millin, (650) 229-4933 and Robin Chen

Family Friendly

Beginner Friendly

Wheelchair Accessible

[RSVP HERE](#)

Jasper Ridge Biological Preserve

Saturday, Oct 12, 8am-12pm

We'll check out the historic and now-controversial Searsville Dam and then search varied habitats for woodpeckers, raptors, and songbirds. 2 miles, some climbing and descents. Be sure to wear closed-toed shoes.

Meet: preserve entrance at locked gate

Board Members Diane & Peter Hart, (650) 766-4252

Family Friendly, kids ages 14+

[RSVP HERE](#)

Photowalk: Stanford Campus

Sunday, Oct 13, 8am-12pm

We'll explore the arboretum and nearby neighborhoods for a chance to photograph local birds.

Meet: Stanford Arboretum by the intersection of Campus Dr & Palm Dr

Tom Grey & Bill Pelletier, (408) 644-5583

[RSVP HERE](#)

Picchetti Ranch Open Space Preserve

Thursday, Oct 17, 8:30-11:30am

Join us for a pleasant walk down the Zinfandel Trail to the ephemeral pond and surrounding forest and hillsides to see and hear birds and enjoy the fall nature. Expect woodpeckers, flycatchers, warblers, towhees and other forest and chaparral birds. We'll try for California Thrasher, Wrentit, Pacific-slope Flycatcher, Spotted Towhee, Orange-crowned Warbler, Yellow Warbler, Townsend's Warbler, Hutton's Vireo and others. 2 miles, dirt trails, some hills.

Meet: parking lot

Barry and Ginger Langdon-Lassagne, (408) 594-5913

Family friendly, kids ages 10+

Beginner friendly

[RSVP HERE](#)

Little Uvas Creek

Friday, Oct 18, 8am-11am

Explore this limited access Open Space Preserve for migrants and waterfowl. Property includes four small ponds and pine-oak woodland. Easy 1.5 mile loop with a few easy slopes, can be rocky in spots.

Meet: gate at property entrance

Dani Christensen, (408) 781-5530

Family friendly, kids ages 10+

Beginner friendly

[RSVP HERE](#)

Windy Hill Open Space Preserve**Saturday, Oct 19, 8am-12pm**

Explore this mostly wooded preserve located in Portola Valley. It's home to woodpeckers, Purple Finches, Townsend's Warblers, and Brown Creepers. We'll also scan Sausal Pond for Green Herons and Wood Ducks. 2-3 miles, moderately strenuous.

Meet: Portola Rd parking lot near restrooms

Kirsten Holmquist, (408) 747-0988

[RSVP HERE](#)

Stevens Creek County Park**Sunday, Oct 20, 8:15am-12pm**

This park is located in Cupertino in the foothills of the Santa Cruz Mountains. It includes a riparian corridor along Stevens Creek and mixed hardwood and oak woodlands, open grasslands, and chaparral. The wide variety of habitats in this park make it a top birding destination for migrants and local breeding birds. 3 miles easy walking, dirt paths and pavement, a few short steep stretches.

Meet: Chestnut Picnic Area parking lot

Jim Johnson, (408) 996-3506

[RSVP HERE](#)

Ulistac Natural Area**Saturday, Oct 26, 8-11am**

Join us for a leisurely bird walk through Ulistac. This urban open space with oak and riparian woodlands and seasonal wetland contains the last 40 acres of natural, undeveloped land along the Guadalupe River in the city of Santa Clara. Park volunteers are continuing to remove invasive species and add California native plants making this park a great year-round birding destination. 2 miles, flat dirt trails and paved ramps up to the levee.

Meet: south park entrance

Dave and Floy Zittin, (408) 515-7104

[RSVP HERE](#)

Don Edwards National Wildlife Refuge Environmental Education Center**Sunday, Oct 27, 8am-12pm**

We'll be targeting mainly shorebirds, gulls, and waterfowl. Possibilities include Blue-winged Teal, Eurasian Wigeon, Canvasback, Redhead, Horned Grebe, Sora, Virginia Rail, Ruff, Mew Gull, and Iceland Gull. 3-4 miles on flat dirt trails.

Meet: parking lot outside the gates, labeled as 'Don Edwards Outside Parking' on Google Maps

Chris Johnson, (831) 601-8260, and Diane Hart

[RSVP HERE](#)

Gilroy Water Treatment Facility**Wednesday, Oct 30, 8am-12pm**

Explore levees along settling ponds and Llagas Creek for migrants and winter arrivals. Mainly birding by car with short, level walks along levees. Scopes helpful.

Meet: administration building at 1500 Southside Dr, Gilroy

Rick Herder, (408) 930-1029

[RSVP HERE](#)

Alum Rock Park

Sunday, Nov 3, 8am-12pm

Located within the Alum Rock Canyon in the foothills of the Diablo Range, this park is California's oldest municipal park. Habitats include chaparral, riparian, mixed forests, grasslands, and rocky terrain. We will look for Great Horned Owl, Hermit Thrush, Rufous-crowned Sparrow, California Thrasher, Acorn Woodpeckers, raptors, and more. 3 miles, dirt trails, some hills

Meet: far end of Rustic Lands Parking lot

Bill Pelletier, (408) 644-5583, and Kitty O'Neil

[RSVP HERE](#)

Sunnyvale Water Pollution Control Plant**Wednesday, Nov 6, 12-1pm**

Explore weedy-edged, tule-lined brackish canals and a salt pond for egrets, herons, grebes, ducks, and terns. Call ahead for loaner binoculars. 1 mile, flat trail.

Meet: Bay Trail parking on Carl Rd

Allen Royer, (408) 288-7768

Family friendly, kids ages 10+

Beginner friendly

[RSVP HERE](#)

Migration Sensation "Drop-In" at Charleston Slough**Saturday, November 9, 9:30-11:30am**

Observe, enjoy and learn about the hundreds of bird species that visit our wetlands every year. If you haven't spent time by the bay, you are in for a real treat. SCVAS will have docents stationed on the Charleston Slough observation deck overlooking the tidal estuary, identifying birds and discussing their behaviors and adaptations.

Meet: enter the park at the corner of San Antonio and Terminal and walk about 1/8 mile to the observation deck

Barbara Millin, (650) 229-4933, and Laura Coatney

Family Friendly

Beginner Friendly

Wheelchair Accessible

[RSVP HERE](#)

Backyard Birds at McClellan Ranch**Saturday, Nov 9, 9-10:30am**

Learn your backyard birds and more! We will start by observing the bird activity at the SCVAS bird feeders before taking a short stroll along the paved flat Stevens Creek Trail.

Meet: SCVAS Nature Shop

Jay Anderson, (650) 793-2273

Family Friendly, kids ages 10+

Beginner Friendly

Wheelchair Accessible

[RSVP HERE](#)

Oka Ponds in Los Gatos Creek County Park**Sunday, Nov 10, 8am-12pm**

The highlights of this Los Gatos park are the large percolation ponds that provide year-round waterfowl habitat. You'll spend the morning walking around the ponds looking and listening for songbirds, wading birds, and wintering ducks. Flat 3 mile walk, gravel and paved trails.

Meet: park entrance at the end of Oka Ln in Los Gatos

Jim Johnson, (408) 996-3506

[RSVP HERE](#)

Los Capitancillos

Wednesday, Nov 13, 8-11am

In between the Cambrian and Almaden Valley areas of San Jose, the Los Capitancillos percolation ponds and Guadalupe Creek make a great birding location. We'll scan the ponds for wintering ducks and explore the riparian habitat of the adjacent creek for songbirds. 2 miles, flat gravel road.

Meet: trail entrance next to PG&E substation on Singletree Way in San Jose

Eve Meier, (408) 569-9391

Beginner friendly

[RSVP HERE](#)

Sanborn County Park

Sun, Nov 16, 8:15-11:30am

Explore redwoods, oak-madrone forest, and riparian habitat for woodpeckers, creepers, and thrushes. 3 miles, somewhat strenuous.

Meet: first large parking lot on your right after entry kiosk

Dave Zittin, (408) 515-7104.

[RSVP HERE](#)

Joseph D. Grant County Park

Sunday, Nov 17, 8:15am-12pm

This park is located in the eastern foothills at the base of Mt. Hamilton. We will start the morning birding Grant Lake to check for raptors and wintering waterfowl such as Green-winged Teals and Ring-necked Ducks. Next, we will continue on to the historic ranch house gardens and surrounding oak-woodland community looking for Red-breasted Sapsuckers, Ruby-crowned Kinglets, Purple Finches and more. 2-3 miles, mostly flat.

Meet: Grant Lake parking lot, do not go to the main entrance

Rich Page, (408) 377-1092

[RSVP HERE](#)

Almaden Quicksilver County Park

Monday, Nov 18, 8am-1pm

Climb the Senador Mine Trail looking for Rufous-, White-, and Golden-crowned Sparrows. Keep your eyes in the skies for looks at Golden Eagles. Descend the Guadalupe Trail and walk along the Guadalupe Creek looking for brown creepers, hermit thrushes, and red-breasted sapsuckers. Return via Mine Hill trail. Moderate 5-mile loop with approx. 700' elevation gain.

Meet: park entrance at the intersection of McAbee Rd and Whispering Pines Dr

Dani Christensen, (408) 781-5530

Family friendly, kids ages 14+

Beginner friendly

[RSVP HERE](#)

Pearson-Arastradero Preserve

Saturday, Nov 23, 8am-12pm

This Palo Alto city park offers a variety of habitats including grassland, weedy fields, oak woodland, semi-riparian mixed woods, and a small lake. We'll spend the morning by walking

along the Arastradero Creek Trail while we are on the lookout for Cooper's and Red-shouldered Hawks, California Thrashers, and other oak woodland birds. We'll also scan the small lake for Green Herons and more. 2-3 miles, moderately strenuous.

Meet: near restrooms

Kirsten Holmquist, (408) 747-0988

[RSVP HERE](#)

Charleston Slough

Saturday, Nov 30, 9-11:30am

Visit this tidal estuary and nearby salt pond, marsh, and small lake for avocets, stilts, and other goodies. 2 miles, flat trails. Call ahead for loaner binoculars.

Meet: Terminal Blvd at end of San Antonio Rd, Mountain View

Allen Royer, (408) 288-7768

Family friendly, kids ages 10+

Beginner friendly

Wheelchair accessible

[RSVP HERE](#)

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