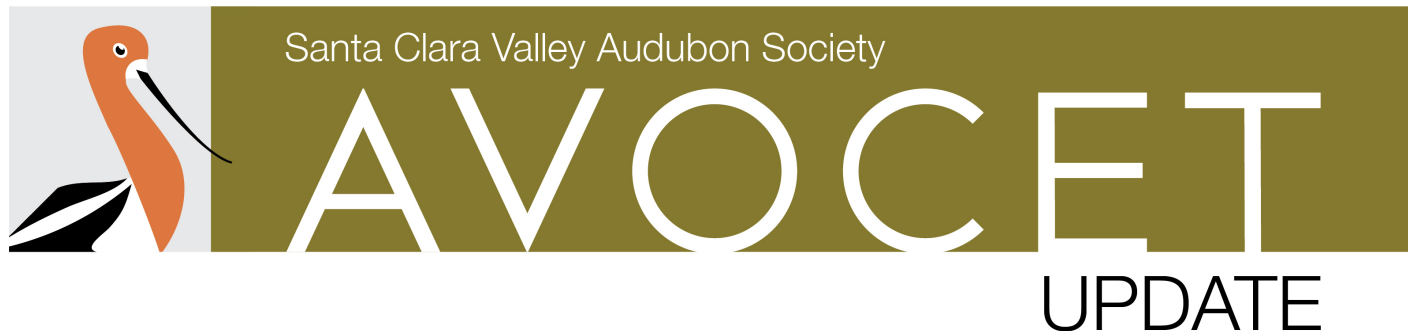


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Townsend's Warbler: Dave Zittin

September 2023

At SCVAS, we are always looking for ways to be better environmental stewards. One way we are doing this is to transition the AVOCET Quarterly to an all-electronic publication. In doing this, we reduce our carbon footprint and paper use enormously.

As an additional benefit, the new electronic publication releases the AVOCET from the constraints of a 16-page printed format and allows us to explore new enhanced concepts for our publication like video, interactive stories and more. While it will take time to fully identify the possibilities open with the new format, I trust it will prove worthwhile. The Fall issue is currently at press and will be arrive in your mailbox soon. The first all-electronic AVOCET will be released in January and you will be notified when it is available for download. We hope you will enjoy it.

The monthly emailed AVOCET Updates will continue as usual, and in this issue we have announce an online class on Warblers of Fall, a September Bird Celebration, field trips and our annual Environmental Action campaign. Enjoy the last few days of summer and start looking for fall arrivals.

Matthew Dodder
Executive Director



Fall Avocet now online

The fall issue of the AVOCET is now available online and includes several pages not

found in the forthcoming printed version. Check out it out [here](#).



Art Auction 2023

This year's spectacular art auction opens September 12 at midnight and will last for only two weeks. It is being held in conjunction with 2023 Environmental Action Campaign and the items have been donated to SCVAS by notable artists John Muir Laws and Jack Cole. All proceeds will support SCVAS's advocacy operations. So please bid generously!

Preview the items [here](#).



Warblers

Parts 1, 2, 3

Monday, September 4, 11 and 18

7:00 PM (via zoom)

The fall migration of Warblers is an exciting event for birders. It can also be daunting because many of these tiny tree-top insectivores lack the distinctive breeding plumage that makes them so memorable. How do we sort through the many similar features and identify the individuals we find? Why are there so many species on our checklist which (according to the range maps) shouldn't be here at all? In this three-part presentation, instructor Matthew Dodder will guide you through the basic (and not-so-basic) challenges of our "confusing Fall Warblers". We will discuss places to go to find Warblers, what marks and behaviors to watch for, and how to enjoy some of the most confusing and enigmatic migrants of the fall season. This class was first offered in 2021 and has been updated.

[Register Here](#)



September Bird Celebration!

Call for photos *and* artwork

Celebrate fall by contributing to the September Bird Gallery! September is a wonderful month to bird in the Bay Area. After a quiet end to the summer, shorebirds, warblers, and crowned sparrows arrive in numbers. Rare birds make brief appearances.

Capture and create images during this dynamic period and share them with others in

our community. Read more about the month-long event and how to participate [here](#).



SCVAS Trip to Stanford University led by Diane McCoy and Sarah Chan. August 2023

Field Trips

The next set of in-person field trips drop on August 28. Visit [field trips](#) for more information and to sign-up.

Trips filled-up? Check a day or two before your trip of interest goes out. Sometimes we have cancellations.



Yellow Warbler: Chris Johnson

Self-Guided Field Trips

We've come up with some great ideas for places you can bird on your own or with

your household. Our self-guided trips direct you to where to bird and provide advice on which birds to look for in which habitats.

Browse our [complete collection of guides](#) by location, park name, or season.



California Quail: Carol Ann Krug Graves

Backyard Birding

Calling all backyard birders! What birds have you seen in your yard or neighborhood this summer?

Send your stories, photos, videos, and sound clips to backyardbirds@scvas.org and

we'll publish them in All Around Town, our backyard bird report. Our next edition will be dedicated to your observations from July, August, and the first part of September.

The deadline for submittals is Monday, September 18.

And don't miss [the most recent issue](#) of All Around Town, our spring retrospective!



Steven's Creek: Matthew Dodder

Environmental Action Campaign

You give us strength

The recent State of the Birds Report documents more than half of our nation's bird species are in decline. This is shocking news. The trend is reflected in nearly all major habitats except one—wetlands. It is easy to feel helpless when reading such stories... But the facts show that more than 40 years of investment in the protection of crucial wetland habitat has made a difference in Waterfowl populations as well as other birds that utilize that habitat. Investment and advocacy can and do make a difference!

Our Environmental Action Committee (EAC), led by long-time Environmental Advocate, Shani Kleinhaus, and Chair, Annie Yang, has a track record of getting positive results. From the decades-long effort to protect Coyote Valley, to working with city planners to preserve green spaces that include bird friendly habitat, or inspiring corporate campuses to make use of bird-safe design, our voice for the environment is heard loud and clear. Because of our work, local municipalities are even adopting dark sky ordinances which protect migrating birds. These local issues have national and even global impact because the Bay Area is an Important Bird Area (IBA) providing signature habitats for more than 400 bird species.

Support the SCVAS Environmental Action Committee and help our birds. We need your financial support to keep this difficult work going and make our voice heard as stress on the environment intensifies. Your contribution helps us respond quickly and efficiently to pressing local issues involving potential habitat loss. It provides us with the resources we need to research relevant laws, consult with legal council, and file effective documents with city councils and their offices. Your financial support has real impact and ensures our local habitats and the birds that depend on it will have have a place in our county. I urge you to pledge your support now.

[Read](#) more about what the EAC is working on.

Make an online [donation](#) today.

Thank you!

Matthew Dodder

Executive Director, SCVAS

Shani Kleinhaus, Ph.D.
Environmental Advocate, SCVAS



North Coyote Valley: Matthew Dodder

Conservation Corner

Dark Sky: Sign a petition (3 minutes)

Aidan Chen, a Saratoga high school student, is asking all of us to sign his [petition in support of AB38](#), the State's Dark Sky Bill. This bill requires the California government to reduce light pollution in state owned buildings. SCVAS initiated this bill last year, and we are currently one of the sponsors of the bill. Last year, the bill passed the

California Assembly and Senate, but was then vetoed by Governor Newsome. We need everyone to sign it and let the governor know that birds, and people, rely on dark nights!

Protect Coyote Valley: Participate in a virtual meeting (1-2 hours)

On Monday, August 28 at 6:00 p.m., planners from the City of San Jose will conduct a [community meeting](#) to gather feedback on potential future development all along Monterey Road in Coyote Valley. Please attend by [Zoom](#) to ask San Jose not to roll back the protection of Coyote Valley!

Monterey Road landowners are asking for many types of inappropriate development to be allowed, from restaurants, beer gardens and event centers to massive suburban sprawl. Development like this could be devastating for wildlife. It's critical for city staff to hear from community members, not just the landowners, about the future of Coyote Valley.

Coyote Creek runs along the back of the Monterey Road parcels, and is a critical wildlife habitat area and movement corridor. The creek is the spine of animal movement in the valley, and is critical for wildlife movement. The bobcats, deer, raptors and other wildlife that depend on Coyote Creek's riparian forest would be significantly harmed by development that exacerbates traffic, and increases nighttime lighting and other impacts from development.

The Monterey Road landowners claim that they deserve to have a special zoning district just for them because Monterey Road is a high-traffic area. But that traffic also makes Monterey Road a roadkill hotspot. More animals are struck and killed on this road than anywhere else in Coyote Valley, including Highway 101. Increased development here would mean more traffic and more animal deaths.

Please tell the planners not to block wildlife movement in coyote valley and along Coyote Creek by new physical barriers or by land uses that create light and pollution, or increase traffic

Become a Bay Advocate

Our friends at the Sierra Club Bay Alive Campaign are offering a free 8-week Bay

Advocate Training Program (Thursday evenings 7:00 - 8:30 pm, starting on September 21, 2023) for people who want.

Do you want to protect the San Francisco Bay shoreline but don't know how to begin? Wish you knew more about the challenges that sea level rise presents to the Bay and the resilience of our communities? Wonder how to promote coordinated regional solutions? The Bay Advocate Training Program will offer insights, camaraderie and support. [Learn more about this unique course.](#)

Santa Clara County Parks: Respond to a short survey (5 minutes)

The Santa Clara County Park Department's Everybody Belongs at Parks Initiative is asking the public to respond to a short survey.

Santa Clara County has 28 wonderful Parks open to all. What are the barriers that prevent residents of all races, incomes, abilities and areas from enjoying the parks? How can the park be improved to accommodate everyone?

Please take [this survey](#) and share it with your families and friends. In your response, consider asking for: dark sky, no insecticides, more habitat for birds and wildlife, access by shuttles and public transportation, information in multiple languages, and reducing conflicts between user groups?

For more information, visit the [project website](#).



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