

# THE AVOCET

The Newsletter of the Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society

May - June 2007

## PLEASE JOIN US FOR THE 2007 BURROWING OWLS CENSUS!

by Ruth Troetschler

As those of you who have read the last two issues of the Avocet know that protecting the Burrowing Owl locally has proven to be a difficult task. It is no surprise then, that the Burrowing Owl is a **California Species of Special Concern**. In order to help protect our favorite owl via changes in the law, we need more data—change always requires data.

Again this year, the Institute for Bird Populations (IBP) is continuing its state-wide, volunteer-based survey to assess Burrowing Owl distribution and abundance throughout the entire breeding range of the species in California—including the Great Basin and desert areas. In order to do this they need the help of dedicated volunteers and volunteer coordinators from Audubon Society chapters and other birding groups, to census BUOWs throughout the state, to provide regional and statewide population estimates. The information collected should be an important resource for Burrowing Owl conservation efforts in California. They hope to answer:

a) **Where specifically are the state's Burrowing Owls today?** Up-to-date information on the locations of breeding pairs is critical to carefully target future conservation efforts toward the places where they will do the most good.

b) **What is the status of Burrowing Owl populations in the Great Basin and desert regions of the state?** What fraction

of the current statewide population resides in these areas?

c) **How has the statewide population changed since 1993 when the last IBP census was completed?** How has the statewide distribution of the species changed, and what have been the trajectories of the various sub-populations in the state's constituent regions?

### How The Survey Works

IPM has divided the BUOWs California range into 11 geographic regions, and then subdivided each region into 5-km by 5-km census blocks. IPM selects a *random sample* of census blocks within each region, and then augment the sample with blocks that contain known Burrowing Owls breeding sites. It provides local volunteer coordinators with maps, data forms, instructions, and other survey materials. The coordinators assign census blocks to local volunteers, who will conduct the surveys.

Each volunteer should identify all patches of suitable habitat within the block, and then thoroughly search those patches for Burrowing Owls between dawn and 10 am or between 4 p.m. and dusk, when the owls are most active. Some blocks need to be visited multiple times to achieve this goal. Surveyors will scan the area for owls, and plot the locations of any detections on their maps.

*continued on Page 10*

**General Membership Meeting**  
**“Tear Up Your Field Guide And Paste It  
Back Together:  
What DNA sequences are teaching us  
about the true relationships of birds”**

**with John Harshman**  
Campbell Community Center  
Bascom & Winchester Rds.  
Wednesday, May 16  
Doors open 7:30; program 8:00

Join John Harshman for some amazing revelations, such as that the closest relatives of grebes are...flamingos?! Learn how in recent years the new field of molecular phylogenetics -- the analysis of DNA sequences -- has revolutionized our knowledge of bird relationships. What is DNA? How do we

*continued on page 7*

**Annual Potluck  
Dinner at  
McClellan Ranch  
Park  
see Page 5**

◆ *Yuba Pass Weekend Field Trip*  
— Page 3

◆ *Brant(s) seen in P.A.*  
— *Field Notes*, Page 6

◆ *Anzo-Borrego Hawk Watching*  
— Page 8

◆ *Board Elections*  
— Page 9

◆ *Altamont Pass Settlement*  
— Page 10

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# May - June '07 Field Trips

(all of our Field Trips are also available online at [www.scvas.org](http://www.scvas.org))

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

**LO = Lunch optional**

**RC = Heavy rain cancels**

**NF = No facilities available**

## **Saturday May 5, 8:30 AM**

### **Mines Rd. and vicinity**

Full day. Leader: Bob Reiling (408) 253-7527. We'll start this trip in Del Puerto Canyon, working our way west to San Antonio Valley. From I-580 go east over Altamont Pass, to I-5, south on I-5, west at the Patterson exit (Diablo Grande Pkwy) and then right on Del Puerto Canyon Rd. Meet at the first pull-out. Highlights include possible Costa's Hummingbird, Phainopepla, Lewis's Woodpecker and Lawrence's Goldfinch. Bring a full tank of gas, lunch and liquids.

## **Sunday May 6, 8:30 AM**

### **Charleston Slough**

Half day. Leader: Roxie Handler (408) 730-1745. Meet at Terminal Way at the end of San Antonio Rd. north off Hwy 101 in Mountain View. A trip designed for beginning birders but all are encouraged to attend. A good trip to checkout your spotting scope.

## **Wednesday, May 9, 8:30 A.M.**

### **Stevens Creek Park**

Half day. Leader, Jim Johnson (408) 996-3506. 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 Chestnut Picnic Area parking lot. Entrance fee required. Riparian habitat; migrants and breeding birds.

## **Saturday May 12, 8:30 AM**

### **South-coastal San Mateo County**

#### **(Gazos Creek and Pescadero Marsh)**

Half day plus. Leader: Al Eisner (650) 926-2018 days and voice mail, (650) 364-3686 evenings. Gazos Creek usually has a good variety of breeding (and singing) songbirds (possible MacGillivray's Warbler), while Pescadero Marsh and vicinity should add some migrant shorebirds and resident marsh birds. Meet at the Gazos Creek Coastal Access parking

lot, on the west side of Highway 1 midway between Half Moon Bay and Santa Cruz (about 25 miles from each). LO.

## **Sunday May 13, 8:00 AM**

### **Grant Ranch Co. Park**

Half day. Leader: Rich Page (408) 377-1092. From I-680 take Alum Rock Ave. northeast, turn right on Hamilton Rd. and go approximately 9 miles to the park. Meet at Hall's Valley Lake parking lot, which is the first parking lot on the left side of the road (do not enter the Main Park Entrance on the right). Fresh water ducks, oak woodland birds and possible Golden Eagle. A Park entrance fee will be required for the last half of the trip. A moderate 2-mile walk, LO.

## **Saturday May 19, 8:00 AM**

### **Almaden Quicksilver County Park**

Half day. Leader: Ann Verdi (408) 266-5108. We will follow a short loop of one-and-a-half miles taking Mine Hill, Guadalupe and Senador Mines Trails. We will be on the trails while the birds are most active and before the hikers and joggers get going. Summer birds will be our targets (W. Wood-Pewee, Ash-throated Flycatcher, W. Tanager, etc.) as well as newly fledged birds (Oak Titmouse, CB Chickadee, Juncos, woodpeckers, etc.). Take Almaden south past Blossom Hill Rd and Coleman Rd; turn right at the next exit (McAbee Rd.) and follow it until it dead-ends at the entrance to the park. Pierce dairy farm will be on your right and parking is along the street. Meet at the trailhead entrance, RC.

## **Sunday May 20, 8:00 AM**

### **Skyline Ridge Open Space Preserve**

Half day. Leader: Bob Reiling (408) 253-7527. Meet at the northeast corner of Skyline Blvd. (Hwy. 35) and Page Mill Rd (the corner nearest San Francisco and the bay). (Note: Do not park in the Russian Ridge Parking Lot!) This is a moderately strenuous walk with some elevation change. Highlights: possible Black-throated Gray Warbler, Western Tanager. Bring extra layers of clothing as temperatures can vary wildly even at this time of year. LO

## **Saturday May 26, 8:00 AM**

### **Monte Bello Open Space Preserve**

Half day. Leader: Kirsten Holmquist (408) 747-0988. From I-280 in Palo Alto take Page Mill Rd west, toward Skyline Blvd. (Hwy. 35), for approx. 7 miles and meet at the Monte Bello OSP parking area on the left. Possible Lazuli Bunting, Black-throated Gray Warbler, Chipping and Grasshopper Sparrows. Be prepared, it can be cold, wet and foggy. LO.

## **Sunday May 27, 7:30 AM**

### **Smith Creek/Twin Gates**

#### **Birding by Ear**

Half day. Leader: TBD (Questions, call Bob Reiling (408) 253-7527). From I-680 take Alum Rock Ave northeast, turn right on Mt Hamilton RD. go past main entrance to Grant Ranch County Park (approx. 9 miles). Continue uphill another two miles to Twin Gates parking lot on the left. Probable birds include Horned Lark, Grasshopper Sparrow, woodland and riparian breeding birds. This is a moderately strenuous hike over rolling hills.

## **Saturday June 2**

### **Palo Alto Summer Bird Count**

(see page 4 for more details)

## **Sunday June 3, 8:00 AM**

### **Russian Ridge Open Space Preserve**

Half day. Leader: Frank Vanslager (650) 961-1505. Meet at the Vista Point Pullout located a little over a mile northwest of Page Mill Rd, on the Bay side of Skyline Blvd. (Hwy. 35). Bring extra layers of clothing in case it's foggy and cold. Possible Grasshopper Sparrow and Lazuli Bunting. NF.

## **Saturday June 9, 8:00 AM**

### **Charleston Slough**

Half day. Leader: Nick Yatsko (408) 247-5499. For directions see write-up for May 6th.

## **Sunday June 10, 8:30 AM**

### **Mt Madonna County Park**

Half day. Leader: TBD (Questions, call Bob Reiling (408) 253-7527). From Hwy 101 in Gilroy take Hwy 152 West (Hecker Pass Hwy). After approximately

## Field Trips *continued*

6.4 miles turn right into the Sprig Lake parking lot. This half-day birding walk, climbing on the way out and descending on the return trip, begins in mixed oak woodlands but in short order passes through grasslands, chaparral and, finally, coastal forest where Redwood and Douglas Fir dominate the landscape. Birding is as varied as the terrain, and offers insights into how habitat shapes bird populations. LO, be sure to bring liquids.

### Saturday & Sunday, June 16 - 17 Yuba Pass/Sierra Valley

Leader: Clay Kempf (831) 761-8260. Meet at 7:00 AM Saturday at Yuba Pass parking lot on south side of Hwy 49. From South Bay take Hwy 80 to Truckee; go north on Hwy 89, then west on Hwy 49 to Yuba pass. Saturday will be spent exploring the Yuba pass area for Red-breasted and Williamson's Sapsucker, White-headed and Black-backed Woodpecker, American Dipper, Townsend's Solitaire, Calliope Hummingbird, Evening Grosbeak, Yellow-rumped, Hermit, Nashville & MacGillivray's Warblers, Lincoln's Sparrow and more. On Sunday the group will bird east of the pass in drier habitat where Mountain Bluebird, Green-tailed Towhee, Sage Thrasher, Vesper and Brewers Sparrow, and other Great Basin specialties occur. Last stop is the fresh water Marsh of Sierra Valley, where Sandhill Crane, Yellow-headed Blackbird, White-faced Ibis, various ducks, and some years, Black Tern, breed. Hotels are available in Sierra City and Downieville, camping at a number of sites throughout the region and near Yuba Pass. Trip limited to the first 20 people to call Clay and reserve a space.

### Saturday June 23, 8:00 AM Alum Rock Park

Half day. Leader: Kirsten Holmquist (408) 747-0988. From Hwy 101 or I-680 take McKee Rd. northeast toward the hills then left on Toyon Ave, right on Penitencia Creek Rd and continue on into the park. Meet in the "Rustic Lands" parking area, on the right just before reaching the "T" intersection and underpass. Expect a moderately strenuous 3-4 mile walk looking for resident breeding birds.

### Sunday June 24, 8:00 AM Rancho del Oso (coastal Big Basin State Park)

Half day plus. Leader: Rich Page (408) 377-1092. Take Highway 17 to Santa Cruz, and then go north on Highway 1. Meet at the beach parking area alongside Highway 1 just north of the Waddell Creek Bridge (at MP 36.30; which is 2 miles south of Ano Nuevo State Reserve and seven miles north of Davenport). This is a long but fairly level hike (app. 5 miles) along the Skyline-to-the-Sea Trail looking for Swainson's Thrush, Winter Wren, Wilson's Warbler, and woodpeckers. Be prepared to carry lunch and liquids (in a backpack if possible) and dress in layers.

### Saturday, July 7, 8:00 AM Charleston Slough

Half day. Leader: Nick Yatsko (408) 247-5499. Meet at Terminal Way at the end of San Antonio Rd. north off Hwy 101 in Mountain View. All are encouraged to attend but birding will be geared toward the beginning birder.

### Saturday, August 4, 8:30 AM Año Nuevo State Reserve

Half day. Leader: Bob Reiling (408) 253-7527. Plan on a 3-4 mile walk (half of it in sand), fog, bright sun and wind. Bring a scope, lunch, liquids, and dress in layers. Possible birds include Bank Swallow, Marbled Murrelet and early returning shorebirds (Black Swift if we are very lucky). The entrance is along Highway 1 about 30 miles south of Half Moon Bay or 20 miles north of Santa Cruz. There is a \$5 per car parking fee; meet at the far (south) end of the parking lot, LO.

### Saturday, August 26, 9:00 AM Charleston Slough

Half day. Leader: Allen Royer (408) 288-7768. For directions see write-up for July 7th.



## Events Calendar

### Wed. 5/2, 7:30 - 9 PM

**Bay Area Bird Photographers** presents "Brazil's Pantanal — Land of the Largest" with Jeffrey Rich. Lucie Evans Baylands Interpretive Center, E. Embarcadero Rd. Palo Alto. See SCVAS website for directions, or call Pete LaTourette at (650) 961-2741 for more information.

### Tues. 5/8, 9:30 AM

**Eve Case Bird Discussion Group** meets at the home of Pat and Jean Dubois, 17150 Buena Vista Ave., Los Gatos (408) 395-4264. Topic: White-throated Swift

### Wed. 5/16, 7:30 PM

**General Meeting**, Campbell Community Center (*see Page 1*)

### Wed. 5/30 & 6/6, 7-9 PM

**Adult Education Class: Silent Hunters**

Instructor: Karen Hoyt  
(*See page 5*)

### Wed. 5/23, 7:30 PM

EAC @ McClellan Ranch Park

### Tues. 6/5, 6 PM

**Birdathon Awards Dinner**  
McClellan Ranch Park.

Find out who won the big prizes! Enjoy free food and drinks from Frankie Johnnie & Luigi, Whole Foods Market – Cupertino, and Thomas Fogarty Winery. Also win an extra prize with raffles, quizzes, and contests at the dinner. Please RSVP by calling our office at (408) 252-3747 by Friday, June 1st.

### Tues. 6/12, 10 AM

**Eve Case Bird Discussion Group.**

Special picnic lunch - bring a sandwich. On the agenda - planning the discussion schedule for 2007-2008 (10-11AM). Lunch at 11AM.

### Wed. 6/20, 6 PM

**Annual Pot Luck**  
McClellan Ranch Park  
(*see page 5*)

### Sat. 6/23, 8 AM-12 PM

**Burrowing Owl Workshop**  
(*See page 5*)

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# Volunteer Ventures

## SCVAS introduces the Volunteer Memorial Fund

By Toby Goldberg  
SCVAS Programs Coordinator

As many of you are aware, we here at SCVAS are still mourning the loss of several of our long-time, dedicated volunteers, such as Norman Watenpaugh and Sandy Cortright. While we know that we can never truly replace them, we would like to continue to honor their memories and support the programs about which they were so passionate. To this end, SCVAS now has a Volunteer Memorial Fund, designed as a way to commemorate the lives of SCVAS volunteers that may have passed on, but who can never be forgotten. Donations can be made in individual volunteers' names, and will be used to help support special education and/or conservation programs throughout the year. For more information, or to make a donation in a volunteer's name, contact the SCVAS office at (408) 252-3747, or go to our website, [www.scvas.org](http://www.scvas.org), and click on "Get Involved."

And, what better way to honor a volunteer than to volunteer yourself! Here are some of the up-coming opportunities:

**Palo Alto Bird Counts Coordinators** - The Palo Alto Breeding Bird Count in June and the Christmas Bird Count in December are in need of two people to assist with the logistics of the counts. The position description would be Region Coordinator, and it is intended to be an ongoing responsibility. **NO BIRDING EXPERIENCE IS REQUIRED.** The task involves the distribution, collection and verification of completeness of various forms. Some familiarity of the regions involved is necessary, but is easy to acquire. **RECRUITING OF COUNTERS IS NOT REQUIRED** (although it is not discouraged), but assigning participants to areas within the region would be necessary. The areas would be the same for both counts. The continued success of the Palo Alto Bird Counts depends on filling these positions. For additional information, contact Jack Cole at 408-996-0434 or [snoyowl@yahoo.com](mailto:snoyowl@yahoo.com).

**Educational Presenters** - We need more volunteers ready to fill requests for educational presentations in classrooms k-12 throughout Santa Clara County during the months of May and June, as well as for the following school year. You can use slideshows, stuffed birds, and real nests to teach youth about local birds and their habitat. These presentations are engaging and come fully scripted. No experience is necessary, though teaching and birding experience are helpful. Time commitment is flexible, and scheduling is based on classroom and volunteer availability.

**Database Assistants** - We will soon be looking for computer-savvy and techno-loving folks to help us update and transfer our existing Membership Database to a new Database in the coming months. In particular, we need people that are familiar with FileMaker or other Mac-based software. Time commitment is flexible and depends on volunteer availability.

*The Avocet* 4

Many other volunteer opportunities are available on the SCVAS website, under the "Get Involved" link. Check them out online, or contact me at [programs@scvas.org](mailto:programs@scvas.org) or (408) 252-3740.

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## Feeding the Birds through the Spring And Summer

By Freddy Howell  
Bird Sanctuary Program Committee Member

During the winter, many people who feed the birds are especially careful to put out seed because of the cold and damp. They may also augment their seed feeders with suet because its high fat content will keep the birds warm and help them survive.

When the warm days of spring and summer appear, there can be a tendency to take down the suet and reduce or eliminate the seed because "the birds can find their own food". This is not necessarily so. When do the grasses and flowers produce seed that the birds can eat? Late summer into fall. When do birds have their babies? Early spring into summer.

Keeping the feeders filled with good quality seed and no-melt suets help our resident birds, as well as the birds that migrate through or are here for nesting during the spring and summer. One of the most spectacular neo-tropical migrants, the Black-headed Grosbeak, uses our oak woodlands as its prime nesting grounds. Grosbeaks also adore black-oil sunflower seed, and will devour the cleaner "no-mess" hulled sunflower. These are some of the most vibrantly colored and beautiful sounding birds that come to visit our seed feeders.

When migrating birds see other bird activity in your yard, they are more likely to check it out if only for a drink of water. In spring, most birds begin to nest. During nesting, birds need extra energy as the males define and defend territories and the females build the nests and produce eggs. Later you may get to see parents bringing their fledglings to the feeders, and you can watch young, awkward birds as they beg for food and learn how to feed themselves. With your continued support, birds will bring interest, joy, sound and color into your yard all through the year.



Bonnie  
Bedford-White



SCVAS welcomes **Ian Herrick** as the Spring Education and Outreach Intern! Ian comes to us with great experience from the BIOSITE program at the Children's Discovery Museum of San Jose, and we are excited to have him working with us. Welcome aboard, Ian!

## Adult Education Classes

The following classes are sponsored by the SCVAS Education Committee. To register, please call the office at (408) 252-3747. All cancellations require 72-hour prior notification for refunds. More information can be found on our website, [www.scvas.org](http://www.scvas.org).

### Silent Hunters: An Introduction to Local Owls with Karen Hoyt

Come join us for two nights of exploring the mystery of the silent hunters of the night. Focus will be on identification and natural history of our 8 common species with a power point introduction and a *feathered guest* each class. Learn about what makes an owl so different from the hawks and falcons.

**Dates:** Tuesdays, 5/30 and 6/6, 7-9 PM

**Location:** Conference Room, McClellan Ranch, Cupertino

**Fee:** \$25 members, \$30 non-members

Minimum: 15 students, Maximum: 24 students

### Burrowing Owl Advocacy Workshop and Field Trip

We need Burrowing Owl advocates in Mt. View, Sunnyvale, Alviso, Palo Alto! Join us for a one-hour session on the state of Burrowing Owls in the south bay, their needs, and what you can do about it. Session followed by a field trip to local burrowing owl colonies.

**Date:** Saturday, 6/23, 8 AM-12 PM

**Location:** Workshop - Conference Room, McClellan Ranch, Cupertino; Field trip locations TBD

**Fee:** \$10

Maximum: 20 participants.

### Butterflies of the Bay Area, with Moe Magoksi

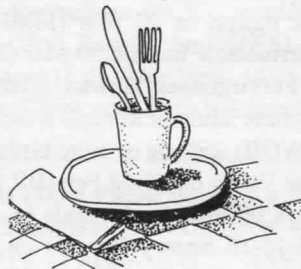
We are planning a June class to learn about (and learn how to identify) the local Butterfly species, which should be in abundance in May and June. Moe is an active member of the North American Butterfly Association, and has taught Butterfly identification classes throughout the Bay Area. For details and information, contact the SCVAS office, or check out the website, at [www.scvas.org](http://www.scvas.org), where details will be posted as they are finalized.

## Annual Meeting and Potluck

### Wednesday, June 20, 6 PM

#### McClellan Ranch Park

It's that time of year again! Join your fellow SCVAS members for the annual potluck dinner and volunteer recognition awards. Meet the Audubon staff, Board members and officers, and do some birding while you dine. Bring a main dish, casserole, salad or hors d'oeuvres to share - SCVAS provides beverages and desserts. Bringing your own plates and cups helps reduce use of wasteful plastic and paperware.



## 2007 Spring Birdathon Sponsors

We are pleased to promote our generous sponsors who help make our Spring Birdathon so successful in raising money for our youth environmental education and conservation programs. You can win a wonderful prize like these if you join our next Spring Birdathon in 2008. Watch for announcements on how easy it is to participate in future Avocet issues. Additional information about the prizes and sponsors available on our website, [www.scvas.org](http://www.scvas.org).

### Golden Eagle Sponsors

(donated more than \$600 in prizes)

#### Bob and Deb Hirt, SCVAS members

One week's time-share lodging in Mexico or Spain

#### Southwest Airlines

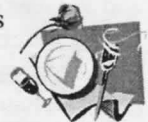
<http://www.southwest.com/>

Two airline tickets

#### Whole Foods Market, Cupertino

<http://www.wholefoods.com/>

Dessert and beverages for the Awards Dinner, and gift certificates



### Great Egret Sponsors

(donated between \$250 and \$599 in prizes)

#### Cheeseman's Ecology Safaris

<http://www.cheesemans.com/>

Four Monterey Bay pelagic boat trips



#### Orion Telescope

<http://www.telescope.com/>

Arcadia 20-60x78 zoom spotting scope and tripod

#### Hawaii Forest and Trail

<http://www.hawaii-forest.com/>

Birding tour on the Big Island, Hawaii

continued on page 11

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# Field Notes

by Bill Bousman

## Waterfowl through Egrets

Three to seven **Greater White-fronted Geese** were seen in the Coyote Valley and nearby at Calero Reservoir 5 Feb-18 Mar (RKe, v.ob.). A single bird was on the percolation pond below Hwy 85 and Blossom Hill Road 14-18 Feb (MJM, v.ob.) and possibly the same bird was a Almaden Lake 27 Feb (JPa). Four to five birds continued in the Palo Alto area, at least through 12 Mar (JM, RF). One to two **Snow Geese** were seen in the Palo Alto area 2-16 Feb (v.ob.) and appear to be the same birds seen there regularly this winter. A single bird at Shoreline Park on 8 Mar (FV) may have been one of these birds. Two snows at the South County Regional WasteWater Authority (SCRWA) treatment ponds in Gilroy on 6 Feb (RWR, FV) are likely birds found there earlier in the winter. Two adult **Ross's Geese** were seen at New Chicago Marsh on 17 Feb (MJM), they had not been seen in this marsh since 13 Jan. One bird was at the SCWRA treatment ponds in Gilroy on 28 Feb (RWR, FV). A Ross's at Byxbee Park on 12 Mar (JM, RF) was new for the season and was seen again on 30 Mar (DC). Following the observation of a **Brant** in the Palo Alto area from November to January, one was found inland on a percolation pond near Hwy 85 and Blossom Hill Road 14-22 Feb (PD, v.ob.), and a second bird was near Salt Pond A4 in Sunnyvale on 29 Mar (BM). Or were these all the same bird? The number of **Eurasian Wigeon** wintering on Salt Pond A2W tapered from 5 males on 2 Feb (PKe, RKe) to one there on 16 Feb (MMR). On closed salt ponds in Alviso, 5-6 Eurasians were seen on 3 Feb and 31 Mar (MMR, MJM, RGJ). A single male was at the SCRWA ponds in Gilroy on 6 Feb (RWR, FV). **Blue-winged Teal** have shown up in a variety of areas. Two males and a female were at the SCWRA ponds in Gilroy on 6 Feb (RWR, FV) and a female nearby on 18 Mar (SCR) may have been part of this group. A pair was seen at the New Chicago Marsh on 1 Mar (AP) and a lone male was in Salt Pond A1 on 8 Mar (FV). Two **Redhead** on Salt Pond A2W on 2

Feb (PKe, RKe) were overshadowed by 15 seen there on 16 Feb (MMR). Only two were found in closed salt ponds in Alviso on 3 Feb (MMR, MJM), but at least 33 on two of these ponds on 31 Mar (MMR, MJM, RGJ) were unusual for late March. A pair of **Barrow's Goldeneyes** remained Shoreline Lake in February and were last seen on 3 Mar (TGr). Single **American Bitterns** during the period were at the Ogier Avenue ponds on 6 Feb (RWR, FV) and along Guadalupe Slough on 31 Mar (MMR, MJM, RGJ). A **Cattle Egret** was found occasionally at the Palo Alto Duck Pond during the period (m.ob.), mostly in morning and evening, but was not seen foraging during the day.

## *One or more Brant enlivened the period and the second Black-and-White Warbler this winter was found in late February*

### Eagles through Goatsuckers

A subadult **Bald Eagle** was found southwest of Gilroy on 8 Feb (SCR). The last sighting of Bald Eagles wintering at Calero Reservoir was on 3 Mar (AV, PB et al.). Surprisingly, two adults were seen at a nest on a transmission tower on the west side of Calaveras Reservoir on 17 Mar (RWR) and they have been recorded there regularly since (m.ob.). A pair has apparently nested along the west shore in the last few years, but not in an area that is visible from public roads, but this year's nest could not be more obvious. Always rare, migrant **Swainson's Hawks** are more likely in April, but two birds were found in March at Ed Levin CP: a dark morph on 23 Mar (MMR) and an intermediate bird on 30 Mar (PLaT). Late **Ferruginous Hawks** included a light-phase adult on Metcalf Road on 26 Feb (WGB) and one or more birds in the Coyote Valley on 27-28 Feb (BP, DWe). Surveys of closed salt ponds in Alviso found 15-16 **Snowy Plovers** on 3 Feb and 31 Mar (MMR, MJM, RGJ). One to two **Lesser Yellowlegs** were found in New Chicago Marsh 28 Feb-5 Mar (JRy,

v.ob.) and a single bird was in closed salt ponds in Alviso on 31 Mar (MMR, MJM, RGJ). More than 29 **Sanderling** were recorded on closed salt ponds in Alviso on 3 Feb (MMR, MJM). Single birds continued on Salt Pond A16 on 3-5 Feb (MMR, MJM). The wintering **Ruff** was seen again in New Chicago Marsh on 4 Feb (RWR) and 2 Mar (FV). The amazing winter for **Glaucous Gulls** on Salt Pond A16 continued into February, but tailed off in March with the last birds seen there on 5 Mar (RWR, FV). Mammoser documented at least 7 birds in this area through the winter. Two first-winter birds in Morgan Hill on 10 Feb (SCR) were presumably attracted by the nearby Kirby Canyon landfill. Single 1st-winter birds seen at the Coyote Creek Field Station (CCFS) waterbird pond on 20 Feb-13 Mar (RWR, FV, SCR, RCi) may have been part of the A16 crowd. The **Short-eared Owls** at Byxbee Park and the Palo Alto Flood Control Basin continued into early March, the last observation was on 4 Mar (AME). Another bird was seen along Guadalupe Slough on 31 Mar (MMR, MJM, RGJ), the second time this winter that birds have been found in the Alviso area. One to two **Common Poorwills** were heard at Monte Bello OSP on 17 Feb (KP, DBr) and are likely resident.

### Hummingbirds through

#### Solitaires

Migrant **Rufous Hummingbirds** were seen at Ed Levin CP on 10-20 Mar (MJM, RWR, FV, DWe), at Fremont Older OSP on 28 Mar (RKe, PKe), and in Henry Coe SP on 31 Mar (JRy). About 8 **Lewis's Woodpeckers** were seen in the San Antonio Valley on 17 Mar (JK, TGe). The 1st-winter male **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** found in November at Ed Levin CP has remained there at least through 30 Mar (JRy). (The 1st-winter male that was found at the Santa Clara Valley Water District ponds in the winter of 2001-02 was last seen on 30 Mar also.) An **Ash-throated Flycatcher** was banded at CCFS on 21 Feb (RCh). It is likely that this bird has wintered in central California as our normal first arrival date is about 10 Apr. One to two **Red-breasted Nuthatches** continued to be found in a Los Altos yard, with the last observation on 16 Mar (GHt, KHt). One calling near Page

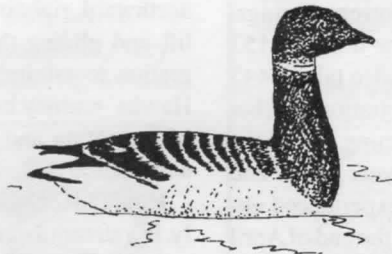
## Field Notes *cont'd*

Mill and Alpine roads 5-19 Mar (GHa) is believed to be resident. A **Canyon Wren** was singing near Willson Camp in Henry Coe SP on 17 Feb (JY, AL). One to two **American Dippers** were seen during the period along Stevens Creek above Mt. Eden Road (m.ob.). Another was along Alamitos Creek at Twin Creeks (AV). A **Golden-crowned Kinglet** was seen on Wrights Station Road on 11 Feb (MMR) where they are known to breed. No lowland birds were reported. A **Townsend's Solitaire** was found at Almaden Reservoir on 10 Feb (PB et al.) and was seen there irregularly through 27 Feb (RKe, PKe, v.ob.).

### Phainopeplas through Goldfinches

It has been a good period for **Phainopeplas**, particularly in the Valley. A male was seen southwest of Gilroy on 13 Feb (SCR) and possibly the same male was at the Uvas Creek Preserve in Gilroy on 9 Mar (SK). A male was in Joseph Grant CP on 12 Mar (RKe) and another was at Ed Levin on 16 Mar (RKe, PKe). After the early winter excitement of an immature male **Black-and-White Warbler** on the east side of the Valley, a female was seen on the west side at the Arastradero Preserve on 18 Feb (KHo, RP et al.). **Northern Waterthrushes** were seen again at the Charleston Road marsh on 11 Feb (MDo) and along Stevens Creek below La Avenida on 16 Feb (MMR). Single **Western Tangers**, apparently wintering, were observed along the Stevens Creek Trail near Yuba Drive on 9 Mar (RKe, PKe) and at Stanford on 28 Mar (KPr), both locations where birds were found earlier in the winter. A **Chipping Sparrow** at Ed Levin CP on 19 and 22 Mar (MJM, KO, DMA) may have been an early migrant or wintering bird as they do not nest at this elevation. A **Swamp Sparrow** found along Alviso Slough in late January was seen again on 3 Feb (MMR, MJM). As during the last period, 11 **White-throated Sparrows** were found in February and March, only one at a feeder. We have few winter records of **Yellow-headed Blackbirds**, so an adult male at the Palo Alto Duck Pond on 17 Feb (FV) was a

surprise. A male **Great-tailed Grackle** was seen at the Coyote Creek GC on 14 Mar (MJM). The **Lawrence's Goldfinch** roost at Monte Bello OSP peaked with 47 birds on 5 Mar and tailed off through the month (GHa). Elsewhere in the Santa Cruz Mountains, 3 were at Arastradero Preserve on 19 Mar (KS et al.) and 2 were at Almaden-Quicksilver CP on 30 Mar (MJM). Two birds over Morgan Hill on 18 Mar (SCR) were at the edge of the Diablo



Brant  
by Bonnie  
Bedford-White

Range. More expected were six in San Antonio Valley on 17 Mar (JK, TG) and two at Ed Levin CP on 23 Mar (MMR).

Observers: Bill Bousman (WGB), Patty Brown (PB), Debbi Brusco (DBr), Dotty Calabrese (DC), Roy Churchwell (RCh), Richard Cimino (RCi), Matthew Dodder (MDo), Peggy Don (PD), Al Eisner (AME), Robbie Fischer (RF), Txell Genesca (TGe), Tom Grey (TGr), Garth Harwood (GHa), Kirsten Holmquist (KHo), Grant Hoyt (GHt), Karen Hoyt (KHt), Richard Jeffers (RGJ), Jon Katz (JK), Roland Kenner (RKe), Pat Kenny (PKe), Sue Kruse (SK), Peter LaTourrette (PLaT), Amy Lauterbach (AL), Mike Mammoser (MJM), Bill Maney (BM), Dean Manley (DMA), Joe Morlan (JM), Kris Olson (KO), Richard Page (RP), Kay Partelow (KPr), Janna Pauser (JPa), Andy Pedler (AP), Bob Power (BP), Bob Reiling (RWR), Mike Rogers (MMR), Steve Rottenborn (SCR), Jennifer Ry-cenga (JRy), Kendrick Smith (KS), Frank Vanslager (FV), Ann Verdi (AV), Dave Weber (DWe), and James Yurchenco (JY).

**RARITIES:** Please drop me a note: Bill Bousman, 321 Arlington Way, Menlo Park, CA 94025, or: barlowi@earthlink.net

## Gen. Meeting

from Page 1

determine sequences, and how are sequences used to find relationships? John will also explain some of the oddest and most interesting discoveries. And there will be many pictures of birds too.

Many of the groups and relationships that have been standard in field guides for years have been found to be wrong, and the true relationships are often bizarre and surprising. One case that has made its way into a few fieldguides already is the Blue Grosbeak, which is not a grosbeak at all but a bunting; in fact Indigo Buntings are more closely related to Blue Grosbeaks than to Lazuli Buntings. Similarly, Northern Oriole was re-split because Bullock's Oriole turned out to be more closely related to some tropical orioles than to its geographic neighbor, the Baltimore Oriole. Much more of this sort of thing, but much stranger, will work its way into future guides. All this new knowledge comes from comparing the DNAs of different species, and how we go about doing that is itself a fascinating story.

John Harshman received his PhD. in evolutionary biology from the University of Chicago in 1996, and has worked in the molecular phylogenetics of birds for the past 15 years. He is currently involved in the Early Bird Project, a collaborative effort among five American universities and museums, and funded by the National Science Foundation, to discover the relationships among all the orders and families of birds using DNA sequences.

Did you know that SCVAS has a LENDING LIBRARY? With field guides from around the world, to "How-to's" for gardening, it should be your first stop for any question!

Come to the McClellan Ranch office to check it out!



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# California Desert Hawk Watch

by Sue and Jim Liskovec

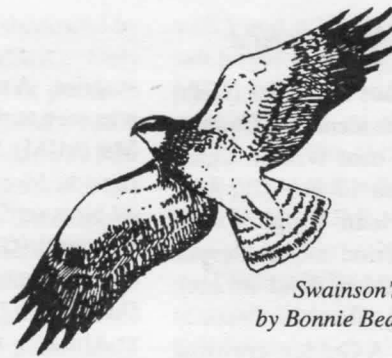
"This clicker is useless; I can't make it go fast enough," called one of the counters. "Don't try to count every one; count by 10s," responded Paul, group leader for the day.

It was about 9 in the morning, March 20, 2007, and a dozen or so dedicated counters were frantically clicking as they tallied hundreds of Swainson's Hawks lifting up from their night roosts in the middle of Anza-Borrego Desert State Park.

Four years ago, in March 2003, Hal Cohen, a retired biologist, decided to count "just a few migrating Turkey Vultures", the only raptor species known to the local folks of Borrego Springs.

At the end of that first month of counting, he'd tallied 153 Turkey Vultures. But more significantly, he'd also tallied 443 Swainson's Hawks. As an experienced hawk migration watcher from Illinois, Hal sensed he was onto something. Over the following years he enlisted help from local year-round and snowbird residents who now form a cadre of experienced observers. Every day from mid-February through the end of April they tally migrating Swainson's Hawks and Turkey Vultures on their evening fly-in and morning fly-out from Borrego Valley.

When the fly-out was over that March 20<sup>th</sup> morning, 1365 Swainson's Hawks and 48 Turkey Vultures had lifted off from



Swainson's Hawk  
by Bonnie Bedford-White

their night roosts, and kettled in the warm morning thermals, gaining altitude. Then, from the tops of the kettles, they glided northward, right over our heads. This was a pattern of thermal lift and gliding that they would repeat throughout their migration to minimize expenditure of energy. The Swainson's Hawks' journey began from wintering grounds in the pampas of Argentina and will end at their nesting areas in western and central US, Canada, and even as far north as Alaska.

Hundreds of hawks had passed over us, silently and effortlessly, in a stream a quarter of a mile wide. This sky-filling spectacle was awesome. We had been unbelievably fortunate to witness the largest Swainson's Hawk fly-out recorded in Borrego Valley.

Check out [www.hawkcount.org](http://www.hawkcount.org) for more information on the Borrego Valley Hawk Count.

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## Stay Tuned for Young Audubon Summer Adventures!

**SCVAS' Education Committee is planning some exciting programs for Young Audubon members...**

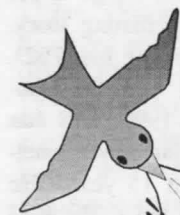
Past activities have included Bird Banding with the San Francisco Bay Bird Observatory, Birding Day Camp at McClellan Ranch Park, Field Trips to Charleston Slough, and Birding Workshops, including presentations from Sky Hunters Environmental Education and their live birds of prey!

**...so, who knows what this summer will bring!**

Have ideas for great summer activities?  
The Young Audubon Program would love to hear from you!

For the latest information about up-coming activities, check out our website at [www.scvas.org](http://www.scvas.org). Information and details will be posted as soon as they become available. You can also contact the SCVAS Programs Coordinator at (408) 252-3740 or [programs@scvas.org](mailto:programs@scvas.org).

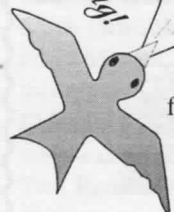
Want the news fast and easy? Sign up for the Young Audubon E-mail list!  
Messages sent out about once a month.



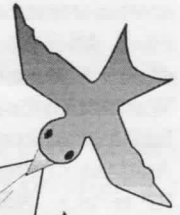
Wetlands Exploration!

Kayak Trips!

Tidepooling!



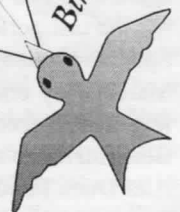
The Avocet 8



Bird Watching!

Hiking!

Bird Banding!





## Memorialize your Commitment to Conservation and Environmental Education

By Debbie Thompson

We are very proud of the accomplishments SCVAS has made over its long 80-year history. We are also confident that our future serving the Bay Area looks long and bright. Our chapter is very lucky to have a solid endowment to help sustain our important programs. We have many dedicated members who donate yearly to support our daily activities. Our Board of Directors takes fiscal responsibility very seriously and our small staff continuously looks for ways to spend our precious money effectively.

Regardless of age or income, you can feel secure with a financial and estate plan that allows your heirs to fulfill your wishes. One of the most significant ways to memorialize your commitment to conservation and environmental education in our community long into the future is to include a bequest to SCVAS in your estate plan. A bequest is simply a provision in your will or trust that directs a portion of your estate to a named beneficiary. There are many types of bequests so one is sure to fit your situation. You can name SCVAS as the first, second, or final beneficiary for part or all of the proceeds from IRAs, financial institution accounts, real estate, insurance policies, wills, trusts or any other estate-planning documents.

Join others who have made SCVAS part of their estate plan. We have recently received a most generous bequest from the estate of Albert Martel. Also, my husband and I are proud to show our belief in SCVAS by including it as a beneficiary on one of our financial accounts. Others have named several beneficiaries in their trust, with a percentage benefiting SCVAS.

It is easy to include SCVAS as a beneficiary in your estate plan. Language can be as simple as, "I bequeath an amount equal to 50 percent of the net value of my estate as finally determined for federal tax purposes to Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society, a charitable organization located in Santa Clara County, California." Your estate planner will know what language to use for your particular circumstance. Also, the donations section of our Web site, [www.scvas.org](http://www.scvas.org), contains more details on how to make a bequest and other ways to donate. If we can answer any questions or help in any way, please contact our Executive Director, Bob Power, at (408) 252-3748. Please let us know if you decide to include SCVAS in your estate plan. We look forward to working with you to memorialize your commitment to conservation and environmental education long into the future of the Bay Area.



## Elections for SCVAS Board of Directors and Officers

at our Annual Meeting and Potluck  
on June 20, 2007

The Nominating Committee of the SCVAS Board of Directors is pleased to nominate the following candidates for elected positions on the Board for the term indicated. New directors and officers will take office on July 1, 2007. SCVAS members in good standing may participate in the voice vote at this Annual Meeting. The majority of available votes will determine the winner.

Position and Term	Candidate
President, '07-'08	Bob Hirt
Vice President, '07-'08	Dave Cook
Secretary, '07-'08	Joan Leighton
Treasurer, '07-'08	Seeking Candidates
Director, '06-'09	David McIntyre

## National River Clean-up Day sponsored by the Santa Clara County Parks and Recreation Dept.

Come on out to help clean our local  
waterways in Santa Clara County!  
This is a National event that anyone can  
be a "Part of the Solution to Creek  
Pollution!"

**May 19, 2007**  
**9:00 am - 12:00 pm**

Visit [www.cleanacreek.org](http://www.cleanacreek.org) for a list of  
participating sites\* all throughout  
Santa Clara County.

\*Each site has a contact person to register  
for that location.



©Steven D'Amato

All volunteers under 18 need to have a waiver to participate, and those under 16 need the waiver as well as an adult present the entire time.

## Burrowing Owls Census

continued from page 1



For each detection location, observers will also provide a count of all owls seen (identified to age and sex, if possible), an estimate of the number of breeding pairs, and standardized habitat information. Prior to the field season, surveyors will be provided with detailed instructions, as well as the opportunity to attend a training session with IBP personnel, and a local field trip with Ruth Troetschler, your local coordinator.

At the end of the season researchers at IBP will consolidate and analyze the data for the entire 2 year census, and disseminate results as widely as possible. SCVAS will do the same for our local data. By incorporating survey results to state policymakers, IBP and all the volunteers who make this survey possible can contribute greatly to the development of an informed, up-to-date statewide conservation plan that we hope will safeguard breeding populations of Burrowing Owls throughout California.

### How You Can Participate

We need you! The statewide Burrowing Owl survey provides a rare opportunity for individuals or organizations to make an important contribution to science and conservation. Whether you are a professional biologist, a seasoned birder, or simply a Burrowing Owl admirer, we urgently need your participation in one or more of the following ways: The 2007 Burrowing Owl survey season is quickly approaching! The survey window in Central and Northern California (north of and including Kern County) it begins May 15 and goes through July 15. With over 550 blocks to survey across the state—32 in Santa Clara, San Mateo, and San Benito counties—there is plenty of work to be done. If you can work farther afield, Merced, Mono, Monterey, Stanislaus, Kern, Kings, Tulare counties need more help. \*\*\*

To volunteer to census one or more 5-km by 5-km blocks locally contact Ruth Troetschler, 650-948-4142. [rebugging@batnet.com](mailto:rebugging@batnet.com). immediately so we can train and assign before the season begins. A workshop will be held at McClellan Ranch on Saturday, June 6/23, from 8AM-12PM (see page 5).

\*\*\*If you are interested farther afield, contact Bob Wilkerson or Rodney Siegel at [owl@birdpop.org](mailto:owl@birdpop.org) or 415-663-2051. Web site <http://www.birdpop.org/burrowing.htm>.

*Looking for great gifts for that favorite birder in your life? The SCVAS Nature Shop has what you need!*



## Local Audubon Chapters Win Greater Protection for Birds from Altamont Wind Turbines

*There has been a lot of buzz lately about the state of the Altamont Pass Wind Turbines agreement. We wanted to make sure SCVAS members had the most up-to-date, accurate information, so have included the following media release (submitted by the Golden Gate Audubon Society on 1/10/2007):*

On January 11, 2006, the Alameda County Board of Supervisors met and approved a settlement agreement that will require industry to take immediate action to reduce bird mortality at Altamont Pass by 50 percent. The settlement will resolve more than a year of negotiations between lead plaintiff Golden Gate Audubon Society and the wind industry at the Altamont Pass Wind Resource Area (APWRA). It also constitutes the toughest requirements ever imposed on the wind industry to reduce illegal bird kill at the 20-year-old wind resource area.

“Golden Gate Audubon recognizes the severe impacts that global warming and the burning of fossil fuels have on birds and their habitat, and we are committed to supporting renewable energy, including wind power,” said Samantha Murray, Conservation Director for Golden Gate Audubon Society. “However, it’s of paramount importance that we develop wind in a way that is compatible with wildlife.”

Golden Gate Audubon, along with four other local Audubon chapters (including Santa Clara Valley Audubon), originally filed suit under the California Environmental Quality Act on October 31, 2005 against the County of Alameda for approving 13-year conditional use permits at Altamont Pass without conducting environmental review. The permitted turbines in question kill up to 4,700 birds annually, including as many as 116 fully protected Golden Eagles, and have been doing so for more than two decades.

The APWRA was built in the 1980s, making it one of the oldest wind farms in the United States. But because it was built before the wind turbines’ deadly impacts on birds were well known, the APWRA was poorly sited: It sits in the middle of an important migratory flight corridor and immediately adjacent to the densest known Golden Eagle nesting territory in the world. As a result, the more than 5,000 turbines at APRWA kill as many as 1,300 raptors each year—more raptors than any other wind facility in North America.

The settlement being considered by the County and approved by both local Audubon chapters and industry will force the wind industry to commit to a 50% reduction in raptor mortality by November 2009—including a requirement for the industry to remove the deadliest turbines for the birds and continue seasonal shutdowns of the APWRA during the winter months. If the wind companies fail to achieve the 50% mortality reduction within three years, an adaptive management plan will kick in, forcing the companies to take further action to ensure that they reduce bird kill by half of current levels.

continued

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## 2007 Birdathon Sponsors

*continued from page 5*

### Nikon Sport Optics

<http://www.nikonusa.com/>  
Monarch 8x36 binoculars



### Palo Alto Photo

<http://paloaltophoto.com/>  
Certificates for fine wall art photographic prints from Allen Edwards

### Wild Bird Center, Los Gatos

<http://www.wildbirdcenter.com/stores/los/>  
Pentax 8x42 binoculars, elastic strap, and book

### REI, Saratoga

<http://www.rei.com/>  
Gifts

### Rich Stallcup

Local birding excursion

### Thomas Fogarty Winery

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Case of 2003 Riverstone Vineyards Lodi Merlot

### Western Bluebird Sponsors

(donated up to \$249 in prizes)

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Valley

Testarosa Vineyards

Theatre Works

Tin Lizzie Ornaments

Trail Sloggers



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## Altamont Pass Agreement, *continued from previous page*

The agreement also commits the wind industry to participating in a comprehensive, long-term conservation planning process to minimize and mitigate ongoing bird kills at the APWRA. The plan, which includes Golden Gate Audubon and Audubon California, will require the endorsement of both the state Department of Fish and Game and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

"This settlement agreement is a huge improvement over the permits Alameda County issued last year and will secure much stronger protections for raptors," said Elizabeth Murdock, Golden Gate Audubon's Executive Director. "For the first time in two decades, the wind industry will be required to reduce the illegal bird kill at Altamont Pass significantly in a very short time frame."

One of the biggest challenges in resolving the egregious bird kills at Altamont is scientific uncertainty about how to best mitigate bird mortality at wind farms. Expert scientists are still studying which actions will best reduce bird kill, a critical process that will take

time.

"Unfortunately, there is no silver bullet to solve the bird kill crisis at Altamont," added Murdock. "The strength of this agreement is that it commits the wind companies to implement some of the most critical mitigation measures for birds while allowing flexibility to require new measures as the best science emerges."

"Discovering how wind turbines can run without killing birds is of global significance, as wind energy production expands exponentially in the coming years," said Murray. "We need to learn how to produce wind energy while minimizing impacts to wildlife."

"Golden Gate Audubon's willingness to work with industry at Altamont has facilitated a process by which agencies, conservationists, and industry can come together to find long-term solutions that get us closer to the State of California's goal of reaching 20 percent renewable energy," said Murray. "As one of the oldest and most experienced conservation organizations in the Bay Area, Golden Gate Audubon is perfectly situated to help negotiate the balance

between wind energy and wildlife."

Bill Yeates, attorney for California Audubon and lead negotiator in this settlement agreement, added, "As a former President of Monterey Peninsula Audubon Society I want you to know that I understand and appreciate an Audubon Chapter's perspective and I care deeply about the well-being of the birds that are being killed at APWRA. I want to correct what is going on at Altamont and I do sincerely believe our settlement agreement is a step in the right direction, but there is more work ahead."

Most of that work involves the long-term, comprehensive planning process that will result in a natural communities conservation plan (NCCP) for APWRA. This plan will provide a sweeping long-term conservation. While an Audubon chapter would typically be involved in the development of an NCCP, in this case, California Audubon and Golden Gate Audubon are parties to the agreement and have to agree to the plan for it to be approved. This is a far more strategic role for us to play than is typical in the development of this type of conservation plan.

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## We thank these members for their generous contributions, February through March 2007:

### Volunteer Memorial Fund:

Association of Strategic Alliance Professionals, Lance and Rebecca Bonham, Doug and Gail Cheeseman, David and Barbara Cook, Mr. and Mrs. Goris, Mr. and Mrs. Higshi, Mr. and Mrs. Hart, The Hendigs, David McIntyre and Antoinette Konski, Gordon and Betty Lepper, Mr. and Mrs. Lindeleaf, The McGuires, The Mort Family, Steve Patt and Debi Jamison, The Rogers, George and Georgia Sakai, Mr. and Mrs. Schumann, South Valley Fleurs Garden Club, Mr. and Mrs. Tognetti, Mr. and Mrs. Trampas, Gene and Ruth Troetschler, Mrs. Norman Watenpaugh, The Wheeler Family, Wild Bird Center of Los Gatos, Mr. and Mrs. Yamagishi, The Yates Family,

### Organizational Support:

For the generous support of our Mitigation Monitoring Project: Ambassador and Mrs. Bill Lane Jr., and Mr. Jon Silver, David Smernoff and Cindy Russell.

### Partner:

Brenda Torres-Barreto.

### Contributor:

Larry and Leslie Bain, James and Kathryn Johnson.

### Supporter:

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## 2007 Volume 54, Number 3

Chapter Membership in the Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society (SCVAS) receives the SCVAS newsletter, *The Avocet*

\$20: One Year SCVAS Membership  \$35: Two Year SCVAS Membership

Additional Gift:  \$ 50  \$ 100  \$ 250  Other \_\_\_\_\_

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Check here if you would like a free copy of *Birding at the Bottom of the Bay*, our gift to new members!

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