



# THE AVOCET

The Newsletter of the Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society

July - August 2007

## Audubon Comments submitted to spice up Salt

### Pond project:

By Bob Power

Executive Director

At the beginning of May of this year, Santa Clara Valley Audubon coordinated a collective regional voice regarding the South Bay Salt Pond Restoration Project EIS/EIR. Comments were submitted on behalf of six of the local chapters from around the Bay (Golden Gate, Madrone, Napa-Solano, Ohlone, Santa Clara Valley, and Sequoia Audubon Society Chapters) as well as Audubon California.

The South Bay Salt Pond Restoration Project, the largest tidal wetland restoration project on the west coast of the United States, involves the restoration of 15,100 acres of Cargill's former salt ponds in South San Francisco Bay. Acquisition of the South Bay salt ponds provides an opportunity for landscape-level wetlands restoration, improving the physical, chemical, and biological health of the San Francisco Bay. The loss of approximately 85 to 90 percent of the tidal marsh in the San Francisco Bay has led to dramatic losses of fish and wildlife in tidal marsh habitat, decreased water quality and increased turbidity in the Bay.

The local chapters operating within the communities adjacent to the three pond complexes, Ohlone, Santa Clara Valley and Sequoia Audubon Society Chapters have been actively involved in the planning process since its inception. All of our Chapters have a keen interest in the conservation and restoration of our Bay. Audubon California and its Chapters represent 50,000 members statewide with 15,000 members just around San Francisco Bay.

As a joint federal (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service) and state (California Department of Fish and Game) project, the restoration plans are subject to both federal and state environmental review; hence the need for both an EIS (federal review) and an EIR (state review). Jana Sokale, environmental consultant, worked closely with the chapters to aid in sifting through 100's of pages of plans, comments, maps, charts, and exhibits to identify issues important to our membership, and to carefully craft comments.

Focusing on issues most closely related to native birds, migratory birds, and endangered species provided

the framework for what would be 8 pages of comment on the EIS/EIR. Following are some highlights from the comments that were submitted:

--We believe it is important to continue to maintain managed pond habitats to support species diversity while the South Bay Salt Pond Restoration Project progresses and other restoration opportunities are identified around the Bay that could serve to support saline pond-dependent species.

--**Meeting the Restoration Objectives** - Over time, the conversion of the salt ponds to tidal marsh habitat will favor some species over others. As result, the Project restoration targets, which attempt to improve habitat for all species, will result in trade-offs and resulting conditions may not be equally desirable for all species. Thus, it is critical that the Project Sponsors continuously evaluate other South Bay lands for their potential to assist in meeting species recovery targets and restoration objectives that are not being fully achieved by the South Bay Salt Pond Restoration Project.

--**Creating a Mosaic of Habitats** - None of the Alternatives include goals for upland transition habitats. Transition habitat provides refuge for roosting birds during high tides and must be included in the restoration project to supply this twice-daily habitat requirement. Audubon believes more explicit goals for transition

*continued on Page 10*

- 
- Swainson's Hawk "Hunt" — Page 3
  - Volunteer Special Recognition — Page 3
  - Lesser Nighthawks and Bobolinks — Field Notes, Page 6
  - Young Audubon Summer Adventures — Page 11

## Spring Birdathon Results

*see Page 5*

# July-August '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, 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.

## Wednesday, July 11, 12 noon City of Sunnyvale Landfill

**One hour.** Leaders: Freddy Howell and Elaine Gould. Contact organizer Silviana Ruiz (408) 730-7545 to attend. RC Donald M. Somers Water Pollution Control Plant, junction of Borregas and Caribbean. Meet at Trailhead at north end. Birding geared toward beginners. Bring binoculars; loaners also available.

## Wednesday, August 1, 12 noon City of Sunnyvale Landfill

**One hour.** Leaders: Freddy Howell and Elaine Gould. Contact organizer Silviana Ruiz (408) 730-7545 to attend. RC Donald M. Somers Water Pollution Control Plant, junction of Borregas and Caribbean. Meet at Trailhead at north end. Birding geared toward beginners. Bring binoculars; loaners also available.

## Saturday, August 4, 8:30 AM

### Ano 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

Fri. 7/27; 9AM-2PM

"Canoes in Sloughs" at Palo Alto Baylands

(see page 11 for details)

Tues. 8/7; Approx. 10AM-12PM  
Elkhorn Slough Safari in Monterey Bay

(see page 11 for details)

Sat. 8/18; 8:30-10:30AM

Bird Banding with SFBBO

Coyote Creek Banding Station

(see page 11 for details)

Thurs. 8/23; 7-8:30PM & Sat 8/25;  
7AM-5:30PM)

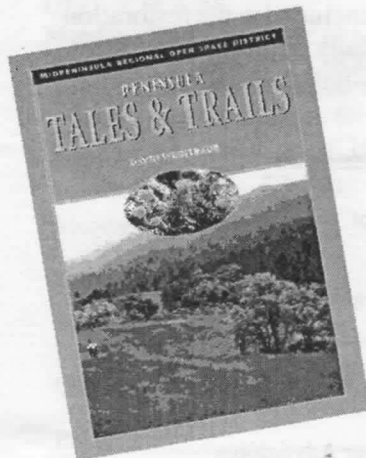
Adult Education Class and Field Trip:

Swainson's Hawks with Bob Power

(see page 3 for details)

## Xilinx Employees / Adobe Employees We need you!!

Our chapter currently has grant proposals in front of the community relations program managers at Xilinx and Adobe. They love to know that their employees are involved in our organization. Please call Bob, at (408)252-3748, to talk about how you can support these grant applications and the work we're doing! (We're always looking for great companies who can support our work. Employed by one of Silicon Valley's great companies? Please call me!)



Midpeninsula Regional

Open Space District

Presents:

PENINSULA

TALES & TRAILS

By David Weintraub

The comprehensive guide to the magnificent unspoiled public open spaces in the San Francisco Midpeninsula area, and a great companion for exploring Midpeninsula trails!

Although the birding information in the book is secondary to the overall content, this book provides a wealth of information on where visitors, including birders, can go to enjoy their activity in open space. The book is perfect for birders who like a "sense of place" and want to know more about the preserves they visit. This is an ideal book for trip leaders stuck with no birds and nothing to talk about. The book includes information on the natural and cultural resources and history of the preserves managed by MROSD, as well as covering lesser-known institutional history and anecdotal material. This is a wonderful companion to Birding at the Bottom of the Bay.

{Audubon staff have been made aware of a small number of autographed but "slightly damaged" copies of Peninsula Tales and Trails, available at Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District (MROSD) Headquarters for \$10.80.}

# Adult Education Classes

The following classes are sponsored by the SCVAS Education Committee. To register please call the office at (408) 252-3740. All cancellations require 72-hour prior notification for refunds.

## Swainson's Hawks with Bob Power

Swainson's Hawks congregate in the lower Sacramento Valley in late summer as they prepare to leave for Argentina for the winter. They rest up and gorge themselves in preparation for the trip, taking advantage of the rich riparian and agricultural resources of Yolo County. We see Swainson's Hawks (knock on wood) in a wide variety of morphs/plumages, along with White-tailed Kites, Northern Harriers, Red-tailed Hawks, and American Kestrels. This is a wonderful opportunity to see a wide variety of Swainson's Hawks and get to know them on an intimate basis. Perhaps the most graceful, often the most beautiful, clearly the long-distance migration sweepstakes winner (Alberta to Argentina); you owe yourself a good visit with these magnificent raptors. If not now, when? The evening workshop will cover the natural history and identification of Swainson's hawks, as well as an overview of other species we might expect to see in a typical August field trip to Yolo County.

**Dates:** Class: Thursday 8/23, 7-8:30PM; Field Trip: Saturday 8/25, 7AM (south bay departure) to approx. 5:30PM (south bay).

**Location:** Class: Conference Room at McClellan Ranch, Cupertino; Field: Agricultural lands south of Davis.

**Fee:** \$50 members; \$60 non-members.

**Class size limited to 15.**

**Please Note:** You must be willing to carpool and share fuel expenses with a minimum of 3 other people to attend this field trip. We will have a maximum of 4, 4-person vehicles on this field trip.

## Thank You's for Birdathon

Thanks to all of our Birdathon Teams and their many, many supporters for our most successful birdathon ever!

Very Special thanks to the anonymous donor who established a \$5,000 challenge grant for the DeDucktions team. And a sincere note of thanks to Doug and Gail Cheeseman who were not only Golden Eagle prize sponsors but who also sponsored the first ten teams who signed up for the Birdathon!

### Almaden Eagles

Kirsten Holmquist, Caralisa Hughes, Rich Page, Jana Pauser, Mike Rogers, Ann Verdi, Mark and Gina Verdi.

### Bob-O-Links

Tom Allen, Valerie Baldwin, Scott and Barb Barnum, Bob Blumberg, Diane Brandt, John Brewer, Skippy and Bob Butler, Sally Cedarblade, Jeni Chase, Doug and Gail Cheeseman, Michele Choate, Rebecca Ennals, Mary Eslinger, Terry and Sandy Fohs, Jay Gilliam, Paul Gorud, Ron and Paula Greig, Carolyn Hacker, Joan Hadden, Janet Hansen, Roger and Linda Haskin, Hawley, Peterson and Synder, Steve Hetland, Howard Higley, Jan Howland, Gay Johnson, Vince and Fran Jones, Janice Kang, Ashok Khosla, Peg Kosek, Mary Lorey, Sandra Mailliard, Antoinette Mailliard, Jed Mitchell, Stacey O'Leary, Fred and

Diana Power, Ruth Power, Cathy Priest, Margot Rawlins, Laurie Robbins, The Rosenbergs, Elizabeth Schwartzenberger, Pat Smith, Jared Smith-Mickelson, Curtis and Tate Snyder, Robin Snyder, George and Patricia St. Germain, Sarah Tasker, Louise Terry, Kent Treiber, Mary Ann Trombadore, Pete and Virginia Van Kuran, Kim Van Kuran, Drew Vranicar, Bill Walker and Mary Wisnewski, William H. Walker, Ruth Weimann, Cindy White, Adam Wisnewski, Joanne Wisnewski.

### Cupertino Creek Cruisers

Gail Bowers, Irene Brown, Doug and Gail Cheeseman, David Drake and Leda Beth Gray, The Edens, The Farrars, Jean Frank, Janet Hoffmann, Debi Jamison, Cynthia McLaughlin, John and Clysta, McLemore, Marge Ottenberg, Steve Patt, Trudy Schoneman, Nancy Teater, Gene and Ruth Troetschler, Cheryl Turner.

### De-Duck-tions

Doug and Gail Cheeseman, Shelia Annis, Cheryl Baisey, Leonie Batkin, Geoff Baum Juliette Bryson, Boyce Burge, Margaret Burke, James Candlin, Brian Christman,, Karen DeMello, Marrian Dieckmann, Carol Dienger, Matthew and Kelly Dodder, Alan & Alisa Dodson, Doneff, Mary Fasching, Winfield and Barbara Foster, Lindy Fung, Eric Goodill, Katherine Greene, Kazuo and Aiko Hayashi, Freddie Howell, Kay Ingalls, Ashok

## Thanks to our 2007 Spring Birdathon Sponsors!

### Golden Eagle Sponsors

(more than \$600 in prizes)

Bob and Deb Hirt, SCVAS members  
Southwest Airlines  
Whole Foods Market, Cupertino

### Great Egret Sponsors

(\$250 to \$599 in prizes)

Cheeseman's Ecology Safaris  
Hawaii Forest and Trail  
Orion Telescope, Cupertino  
Palo Alto Photo, Allen Edwards  
Photocapture by Jameson  
Rich Stallcup  
Thomas Fogarty Winery  
Wild Bird Center, Los Gatos

### Western Bluebird Sponsors

(under \$250 in prizes)

City Lights Theater Company of San Jose; David McIntyre, SCVAS Member; Ducky Ducks, Jack Cole; Flint Center for the Performing Arts; Frankie Johnnie & Luigi Too; Harkey House Bed and Breakfast Inn; Joe Escobar Jewelers; Kim Koringa Designs; Laurel Rezeau; MAKE Magazine; Mercey Hot Springs; Monterey Bay Kayaks; Monterey Seabirds; Nikon Sport Optics; Peet's Coffee, Camden Avenue; REI, Mountain View; Ridge Vineyards; Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society; See's Candy; Starbucks Coffee, Almaden; Symphony Silicon Valley; Testarosa Vineyards; Theatre Works; Trader Joe's, Mountain

Khosla, Judy Klein, Philippe Lacroute, Kathleen Lee, Nancy LeGrande, Joan Leighton, Wendy Lu, Joe Mao, Kay Matthews, Patricia McGann, Bill McHenry, Steve McHenry, Cynthia McLaughlin, Andrew Melnick, Sonny Mencher, Metzner, Minh Nguyen, Elisabeth Nielsen, Marjorie Ottenberg, Alfred and Margaret Parra, Brian Rockermann, Patricia Rouzer, Martha Schult, Dawn Sekimura, Ashutosh Sinha, Carl and Grace Smith, Kendric and Marion Smith, The Steiners, Carolyn Straub, Radu Talkad, Rich Thaik, Ruchi Wadhawan,

### Jack Sparrows

Barry and Ginger Langdon-Lassagne, Bob and Ellen Hole, Larry Lassagne, Gary Meyer, David Durrence, Tom and Melanie O'Brien, Roger Pease, Pratik Solanki.

cont'd on page 8



---

# Volunteer Ventures

By *Toby Goldberg*  
SCVAS Programs Coordinator

Continuing a SCVAS tradition, our staff recognized a small number of our chapter's dedicated volunteers at our June Annual Potluck. Choosing only a handful of volunteers to honor for their exemplary service to our organization and community was, of course, a most difficult task – ALL of our volunteers do so much and give so much support all year long! However, we were thrilled to be able to honor, and acknowledge the many efforts of, the following individuals:

**Ginny Kaminski** – for her tireless dedication to the educational and outreach programs, and her willingness to do anything and everything to help out

**Teresa Ruzzo** – for the laughter and creative spirit she brings to the Nature Shop and McClellan Ranch events

**Dana Stern** – for her go-to attitude and her passionate dedication to the Bird Sanctuary Program, making the Santa Clara County a healthier place for birds

**Steve Thompson** – for his fun-loving nature, and quiet-yet-indispensable support during all SCVAS events

**Laura Morgan** – for her cheerful creativity and attention to detail in helping keep the Teacher Resource Center and the SCVAS website organized and accurate

**Al Eisner** – for his invaluable assistance during the bird counts each year and for his generous donation of his time leading adult field trips

**Rich Paige** – for the many years he has led adult field trips with equanimity and a friendly, knowledgeable style.

A warm thanks to these volunteers, as well as the numerous others not listed here, who have enabled our chapter to carry out another successful year of conservation, education, and birding.

If you feel inspired to contribute to SCVAS, please check out a few of the options below and contact the Programs Coordinator at (408) 252-3740 or [programs@scvas.org](mailto:programs@scvas.org). We'd love to help you find the right match for your time, talents, and interests!

You may also view the most current volunteer positions online at [www.scvas.org](http://www.scvas.org).

**Field Trip Leaders and Coordinators** – Calling all birders! We need more leaders to organize and lead field trips to various South Bay – and beyond! – locations on

both weekdays and weekends. Take a look at the Field Trip listings on Page 2 to see just a few of the 90-some trips we're proud to offer for free to SCVAS members and the general public. Trips are scheduled year round, with fewer trips during the summer due to travel. You can pick the location(s) that interest you the most and work with our Field Trip Coordinators in publicizing and planning for your trip(s). We also still need a Coordinator to schedule trips on the fourth Wednesday of the month (not Dec, June-August). This coordinator will recruit field trip leaders for eight events per year and help leaders submit brief notices for The Avocet's Field Trips section. This job is usually not very time-consuming, and no experience or specific skills are required. Training and background will be provided. Both of these opportunities are a great way to meet more birders and get involved in the SCVAS community!

**Educational Presenters** – With the school year approaching, we need more volunteers ready to fill requests for educational presentations in classrooms k-12 throughout Santa Clara County. You can use slide-shows, 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.

**Wetlands Discovery Program Docents** – This program shares the wonder and importance of wetland habitats with 3rd-6th graders throughout Santa Clara County. Volunteers guide students in exploring wetland wildlife and habitat both in the classroom and out in the field. This program is rewarding for our volunteers and for the hundreds of South Bay children who participate (see page ## for comments by students that have participated). No experience is necessary, as we will provide training for both field and class sessions. All a potential docent needs is a love of nature and a desire to share it with children.

**Marketing and Media Assistants** – SCVAS has been working on the production of a local Breeding Bird Atlas, an amazing source of information on our local birds. But we need people with experience in marketing, advertising, or media networking to help us get the word out and promote this resource. Time commitment will vary, but we will work with your schedule and availability. This is a great opportunity to keep those marketing skills current!

# 2007 Spring Birdathon Results are in!

These results were compiled on May 22, 2007.

A special thanks to all our participants for helping us break all of our previous Spring Birdathon fundraising records! Please join us in 2008 to help us break our records once again! Watch for announcements in the *Avocet* and at [www.scvas.org](http://www.scvas.org).

Visit [www.scvas.org](http://www.scvas.org) to view the list of sponsors, results, prizes, and team Spring Birdathon reports.

## Birdathon Fundraising

### Totals:

2007	\$42,008
2006	\$26,625
2005	\$24,000
2004	\$22,429

## 2007 Top Honors and Recognition

### Individual Fundraising (over \$200)

Matthew Dodder	\$10,400
Bob Hirt	5,433
Dotty Calabrese	4,177
Lori Cuesta	2,710
Laurie West-Roberts	2,462
Steve Patt	1,600
Mary Wisnewski	1,555
Bobbie Handen	1,541
Cathy Priest	1,375
Debbie Thompson	1,255
Barry Langdon-Lasagne	1,095
Jim Liskovec	1,079
Eric Goodill	1,046
Margot Rawlins	717
Bob Power	681
Ruth Troetschler	637
Ann Verdi	541
Sylvia Alderman	399
Mike Rogers	363
Freddy Howell	300
Camile Moitozo	280
Carolyn Straub	225
Elaine Gould	215
Bob Nansen	200

### Team Fundraising, 4-Hour Category

Wacky Chickadees	\$1,395
Shrikes	\$125

### Individual Fundraising, Youth

Megan O'Brien	322
---------------	-----

### Youth Team

Species	78
Team Fundraising	\$322

### Team Most Species, 4-Hour

#### Category

Wacky Chickadees	73
Shrikes	43

### Best Birds

Varied Titchers
Calliope Hummingbird
Almaden Eagles
Solitary Sandpiper



### Team Fundraising, 24-Hour Category

DeDucktions	\$11,771
Wild Women Birders	\$6,917
Rock Wrens	\$5,868
Bobolinks	\$4,328
Snipe Hunters	\$2,829
Cupertino Cruisers	\$2,437
Wrong Terns	\$2,156
Jack Sparrows	\$1,095
St. Anthony Ranchers	\$1,079
Palyformes	\$1034
Varied Titchers	\$763
Almaden Eagles	\$648
Jennifer's Team	\$300

### Team Most Species, 24-Hour Category

Varied Titchers	163
DeDucktions	152
Bobolinks	143
Rock Wrens	143
Wild Women Birders	136
Snipe Hunters	128
Jennifer's team	128
Jack Sparrows	126
Palyformes	114
Almaden Eagles	107
St. Anthony Ranchers	99
Wrong Terns	89
Cupertino Cruisers	57

### Special thanks to our team leaders

Almaden Eagles	Ann Verdi
Bobolinks	Bob Power
Cupertino Cruisers	Debi Jamison
DeDucktions	Matthew Dodder
Jack Sparrows	Barry Langdon-Lasagne
Jennifer's Team	Jennifer Rycenga
Palyformes	Bob Power
Rock Wrens	Bob Hirt
Shrikes	Dave Cook
Snipe Hunters	Laurie West-Roberts
St. Anthony Ranchers	Jim Liskovec
Varied Titchers	Mike Rogers
Wacky Chickadees	Debbie Thompson
Wild Women Birders	Lori Cuesta
Wrong Terns	Bobbie Handen

*SCVAS would like to thank, and wish a fond farewell, to our Spring Education and Outreach Intern, Ian Herrick. It has been a pleasure working with you, and we wish you all the best in your future endeavors!*

---

---

# Field Notes

by Bill Bousman

## Waterfowl through Ibis

Four lingering **Greater White-fronted Geese** were found at the Coyote Creek GC on 7 and 13 Apr (MJM, MMR). An adult **Ross's Goose** in Palo Alto was seen regularly until 4 May (MMR, m.ob.). The saga of wintering **Brant** continued with one (or the same) bird found (again) on Shoreline Lake on 22 Apr (JBr) and it remained there through 6 May (m.ob.). A pair of **Blue-winged Teal** was in New Chicago Marsh on 14 Apr (JRy et al.). Three pairs were found at the Lockheed-Martin ponds on 19 Apr (MJM) and one or two birds remained through at least 17 May (v.ob.). A single male was in the Palo Alto estuary on 26 Apr (MMR). Lingering **Redheads** included a male and two females on closed salt ponds in Alviso on 28 Apr (MMR, MJM, RGJ), a pair on Salt Pond A16 in Alviso on 6 May (AJ et al.), and two males in the Sunnyvale Water Pollution Control Plant (WPCP) ponds on 8 Feb (MJM). Ever more scarce in recent years, a **Mountain Quail** was heard south of Maymen's Flat on 12 May (DLSu). Spring sometimes brings a few northbound **Common Loons**, slightly off route. One was found at Stevens Creek Reservoir on 14 Apr (PLD, BP et al.) and the other at Shoreline Lake 22-24 May (FV, v.ob.). **Brown Pelicans** do not normally show up in the South Bay until June, so one over Salt Pond A16 in Alviso on 6 May (AJ et al.) was unusual. An **American Bittern** at the Emily Renzel Wetlands in Palo Alto on 21 Apr (MJM, MMR et al.) was the only report for the period. The **Cattle Egret** seen at the Palo Alto Duck Pond in March was found there and at various spots around the Palo Alto Muni GC through 17 Apr (v.ob.). Two alternate birds showed up at the Arzino Ranch on 1 May (DWe) and were found there through the month (v.ob.). A third bird there was first recorded on 19 May (P&DK, PLD). A single **White-faced Ibis** found near the southern Hwy 101 and 85 intersection on 13 Apr (SCR) was our earliest record. Then, there was a significant invasion in the first week in May with 12-25 birds at

the New Chicago Marsh on 6 May (AJ et al., AMcD), a peak count of 58 birds on Salt Pond A18 on 8 May (MMR, MJM), and 32 over Morgan Hill on the same day (SCR). Birds, possibly a part of these large flocks, were found on 8 May in various spots, but were then gone. A single bird at the Mountain View Forebay on 15 May (FV) was the only remnant.

## Eagles through Skimmers

A hatched chick at the **Bald Eagle** nest at Calaveras Reservoir was first seen 21 Apr (PLD) and two were seen on 23 Apr (DMA). Both chicks seemed well at the end of the period. Surprisingly, another adult was found at Coyote Reservoir on 17 Apr (AW)

*An out of range Lesser Nighthawk was not expected, but a singing male Bobolink was a complete surprise.*

was observed to attack and kill a female Common Merganser. Migrating **Swainson's Hawks** continued at Ed Levin CP with one seen 22 Apr (PLD, R&JLi) and 26 Apr (RKe, PKe). Surveys of closed salt ponds in Alviso found 8 **Snowy Plovers** on 28 Apr (MMR, MJM, RGJ) and 13 on 28 May (MMR, MJM). On the former date, two birds were incubating. Also, one bird was seen north of the Alviso Marin CP on 7 May (FV) and four were in the northwest corner of the New Chicago Marsh on 28 May (MMR, MJM). Two **Solitary Sandpipers** were encountered on their migration north. One was seen at Chesbro Reservoir on 22 Apr (AV et al.) and the second was along Stevens Creek at Crittenden Lane (MMR). A **Wandering Tattler** was seen on riprap at the outer edge of Salt Pond A2W 7-14 May (KH). A **Lesser Yellowlegs** was found on closed salt ponds in Alviso 27-28 Apr (MMR, MJM, RGJ). Five **Wilson's Phalaropes** were in New Chicago Marsh on 6 May (AJ et al.) and two were seen there on 15 May (AME). Later, five more were seen at the Coyote

Creek Field Station (CCFS) waterbird pond (FV). **Wilson's** are often missed in spring, but **Red-necked Phalaropes** are found regularly. This spring they were found from 28 Apr to 28 May (v.ob.) with a peak count of 130 at the Sunnyvale WPCP on 12 May (JT). A 1st-winter **Glaucous Gull** lingered on Salt Pond A16 until 16 May (AV, BC, MMR, v.ob.). One to three alternate **Black Terns** were seen on Salt Pond A16 on 7-8 May (KH, RWR, FV). A count of 50+ **Black Skimmers** in Salt Pond A1 on 4 Apr (LP) is a record count for this invading species. By May few skimmers were found in any of their typical haunts.

## Doves through Swallows

**Eurasian Collared-Doves** were seen regularly in the south county. Many are from local releases, but not all. Two certain invaders included one in Campbell on 8 Apr (SBT) and another at Shoreline Lake on 26 Apr (FV). A **Greater Roadrunner** was seen off Metcalf Road on 29 May (MJM) where the road climbs out of the valley. A **Lesser Nighthawk** was moving north along the Santa Clara/Santa Cruz County border on 14 May (DLSu). **Black Swifts** were also found along the crest of the Santa Cruz Mountains on 14 May. Two were over Monte Bello OSP in the early morning (GHa), five were near at the county border at Long Ridge OSP later in the day (DLSu), and four were seen over Sierra Azul OSP in the evening (BC). The first **Vaux's Swifts** of the season were one over Guadalupe Oak Grove Park on 11 Apr (JPa, AV) and 8 along Coyote Creek south of Metcalf Road (MJM); the latter was the high count of the spring migration. The first **Black-chinned Hummingbirds** were found along the Guadalupe River below Curtner on 22 Apr (MMR) and were seen through at least 6 May (v.ob.). Another was along Coyote Creek below Hwy 237 on 2 May (MMR). They are known to nest at both locations. A male **Costa's Hummingbird** visited a feeder in Gilroy 20 Apr-3 May (fide WGB). One to two male and a female **Calliope Hummingbird** visited purple flowers next to the dog park at Ed Levin CP on 21-23 Apr (RGJ, MMR et al., v.ob.) and were enjoyed by many.



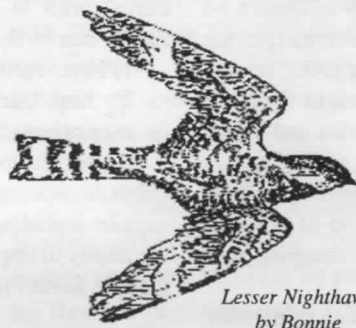
## Field Notes *cont'd*

Levin CP on 21-23 Apr (RGJ, MMR et al., v.ob.) and were enjoyed by many. The **Rufous Hummingbird** migration tapered off by the end of April with birds at Ed Levin CP and at least one male at a Morgan Hill feeder (SCR). **Lewis's Woodpeckers** were found in San Antonio Valley during the period (v.ob.) with adults seen carrying food to a nest hole south of the junction on 13 May (BP et al.). **Pileated Woodpeckers** continue to expand at the edge of their range with birds heard at Hidden Villa on 9 Apr (GHa) and three birds at Mt. Madonna CP on 13 May (DLSu). Very rare in the spring, a **Willow Flycatcher** was found singing in Halls Valley on 20 May (TGr). **Hammond's Flycatchers** were seen moving through Smith Creek 10-21 Apr; two birds found on both 14 and 16 Apr (MJM, MMR, DWe, AV, MDo). Much less expected was a well-described **Dusky Flycatcher** there on 14 Apr (MMR). A female or immature **Purple Martin** was seen at Ed Levin CP on 5 Apr (R&JLi) and an adult male was over the Almaden Reservoir on 18 Apr (AV). None have been found along Summit Ridge where they previously nested. A **Bank Swallow** at the South County Regional WasteWater Authority (SCRWA) ponds in Gilroy on 27 Apr (SCR) was a rare spring migrant.

### Wrens through Goldfinches

A **Canyon Wren** was found singing at an outcrop in the upper Grizzly Gulch drainage in Henry Coe SP on 2 Apr (RKe) and was heard or seen through 9 May (v.ob.). **American Dippers** were found along Stevens Creek in April (v.ob.), where they have historically nested. One or more **Golden-crowned Kinglets** were singing along Skyline Boulevard near Castle Rock SP on 3 Apr (MMR), where they sometimes nest. But a male singing in Rancho San Antonio OSP on 13 Apr (JLi) was unexpected. **Nashville Warblers** moved through in April with the largest numbers in the Diablo Range. Four birds at Smith Creek on 12 Apr (MJM) were the earliest and seven there on 15 Apr (MJM) was a high count. Birds continued to be found through 27 Apr (v.ob.). Two were singing in a Morgan Hill yard at the Diablo edge on 16 Apr (SCR). Santa Cruz Mountain birds included one along Monte Bello Road on 15 Apr (MMR), another at Hidden Villa the same day (GHa et al.), two at Guadalupe Oak Grove Park on

22 Apr (AV et al.) and one at the Monte Bello OSP on 27 Apr (MMR, MJM, RGJ). The first migrant **Hermit Warblers** were two at Smith Creek on 14 Apr (MMR) and others were there and at Coe through 1 May (v.ob.). In the Santa Cruz Mountains, two birds were first found in Sierra Azul OSP on 1 May (JPa et al.) and again on 17 May (RKe, PKe). Birds in other locations included one at Monte Bello OSP on 7 May (GHa) and three near Castle Rock SP on 19 May (MMR); the latter are likely breeding birds. In the lowlands, two in the Ulistac Natural Area



*Lesser Nighthawk*  
by Bonnie  
Bedford-White

on 10 May (PKe, RKe) were the only ones found. A **Northern Waterthrush** along Stevens Creek below Hwy 101 on 1 May (MMR) was quite late. This bird may be part of a migratory movement rather than one of the wintering birds (not seen since February). We have two previous banding records along Coyote Creek for the first week of May. It was another poor spring for **MacGillivray's Warblers**, single birds were seen at Smith Creek on 10 and 14 Apr (MJM, MMR). Three singing **Yellow-breasted Chats** were singing along Llagas Creek above Bloomfield Road on 27 Apr (SCR) and at least one remained through 22 May (v.ob.). Other singing migrants were along Coyote Creek below Hwy 237 on 2 May (RCh) and at Guadalupe Oak Grove Park on 4 May (JPa, AV, JBH, SC). A bird in Halls Valley on 13 May (RPa, RKe et al.) was also likely a migrant, although they have nested there.

It has been an unusual sparrow year in the Santa Cruz Mountains. **Chipping Sparrows** found at Monte Bello OSP on 13 Apr (GHa) and 27 Apr (MMR, MJM, RGJ), and east of Hwy 35 at Skyline Ridge OSP on 28 May (RWR, FV) were all in places where this sparrow has nested in past years. One to two singing **Black-chinned Sparrows** were found in the Sierra Azul OSP on 17 May (RKe, PKe) and at least three birds have

been seen through the end of the month (m.ob.). This sparrow, absent from the county in some years, was then found on Loma Prieta on 19 May (KO) and at least five birds have been found singing in this general area during the rest of May. Additional birds include one heard in Skyline Ridge OSP on 26 May (DBr) and one in the chaparral fields at Monte Bello OSP the same day (KHo et al.). Like the Black-chinned, **Sage Sparrows** are not found in the Santa Cruz Mountains each year, so one seen in the Sierra Azul OSP on 19-20 May (PLD, AV, RPa) was unexpected, but then up to nine birds have been found in various spots at Loma Prieta 21-27 May (RWR, FV, DWe, WGB, v.ob.). Late **White-throated Sparrows** included one in a Los Altos yard on 12 Apr (BMi) and another in Almaden-Quicksilver CP on 25 Apr (JPa). The only certain **Blue Grosbeak** this spring was one found along Frazier Lake Road on 12 May (MMR). An actively singing but poorly seen male **Bobolink** was a short-time visitor to Monte Bello OSP on 29 May (GHa). This is our first spring record. **Yellow-headed Blackbirds** were spring migrants in Alviso with the three to four birds on 12 May (AM), a peak count of 3 immature males and 11 females on 18 May (MMR, AR), and the last bird seen on 28 May (DWe). One was also found in the Sunnyvale WPCP on 15 May (BMa). One to three **Great-tailed Grackles** were seen during this period at the Coyote Creek GC where they have nested in past years (v.ob.). Additional birds include one near the Palo Alto Muni GC on 14 Apr (HH, BP et al.), two males at the Alviso EEC on 8 May (MMR, MJM), and a singing male at the Sunnyvale WPCP on 12 and 16 May (JT, MMR). **Lawrence's Goldfinches** have turned up in exceptional numbers this spring. They have been found widely in the Diablo Range; 30 were counted on a day hike in Henry Coe SP on 28 Apr (JY, AL). In the Santa Cruz Mountains and foothills, they have also been found widely, from Monte Bello OSP to Sierra Azul OSP, a high count of 14 was obtained at the Ranch Canada del Oro OSP on 21 May (JPa). Fewer birds have been found on the valley floor, as expected, including birds seen off Bailey Avenue, along San Felipe Road north of Pacheco Creek, in San Martin, and along Fisher and Llagas creeks (RH, SCR, MMR).

*continued on page 9*

---

---

## CNRP Brief Report: Using "Google Earth" To Map Nest Box Locations

(Excerpts taken from article by Dick Blaine, California Bluebirds Recovery Program Director)

Many of us have looked for an easy and inexpensive way to map nest box locations. This can be done manually (and approximately), but better methods are available. The advent of inexpensive GPS units can locate the boxes within 20' which is sufficient in most cases, and software is available to map the locations.

For example, in recent years "Google Earth" has become available. It is free, downloadable, relatively fast, easy to navigate, and provides extensive coverage of the US and many other parts of the world. This program differs from Street Atlas, Google Maps, and Microsoft's "Streets and Trips" in that it displays 3D color satellite images as well as street type displays to a fairly high degree of resolution. Since images are displayed, the details of the "trail" - trees, walking paths, fences, etc. - are easily discernable. Also the program has the ability to overlay geographic features such as city boundaries and roads, points of interest such as coffee shops, and much more.

In addition to the basic navigation (location, tilting, and zoom) and 3D display ability, the free version of "Google Earth" has several features directly applicable to mapping nest boxes:

1. Placemarks - A Placemark displays as an icon (pin, point, circle, diamond, etc) of various size, shape and color which can be located on the image: a) by dragging the icon with the cursor, and/or b) by specifying GPS coordinates in any of several formats (degrees, minutes & seconds or degrees as decimals).

2. Overlays - If you are so fortunate (as I am) to have a detailed map of the "trail", "Google Earth" allows it to be overlaid on top of the satellite image and adjusted to fit to the same size. If not, you still have a nice map showing the locations of the nest boxes.

The user site and help in "Google Earth" provides more detailed user information.

I have not detailed the process but am willing to provide assistance by email ([dick@theblaines.net](mailto:dick@theblaines.net)) to anyone who would like to follow this procedure. Please become familiar with the basic navigation features and the use of Placemarks in "Google Earth" prior to contacting me. The free version of "Google Earth" can be downloaded from:

- 1) <http://earth.google.com>, the official Google site, or
- 2) <http://earth.download.googlepages.com/google-earth>, a user oriented site which also contains download, install and usage information.

Other versions are: Google Earth Plus (\$20) provides GPS device support including downloading way points, faster performance, the ability to import spreadsheets, and higher resolution printing. Google Earth Pro (\$400) includes many professional features.

{For the full article, with instructions, examples, and more information about using Google Earth, go to the CNRP website at <http://www.scvas.org/index.php?page=text&id=brp>, or contact the SCVAS office for a copy}

---

---

### Birdathon Thanks Continued

#### **Jennifer's Team**

Michelle Brodie and Jennifer Rycenga.

#### **Nadine Redding Backyard Birding**

Nadine Redding

#### **Palyformes**

Sylvia Alderman, Barbara August, Hanna Berman, Patty Boyle, Benay Dara-Abrams, Doug and Gail Cheeseman, Susan Dorsky, Gay DuVal, Margaret Kosek, Joanne Lazar, Mary Lorey, Cathy Mathieu, Virginia Pollard, Ruth Power, Judith Rabbie, Pat Rogondino, Ruth Satterthwaite, Andrea Schloss Edie Schneider, Peggy Shapera, The Swans, Joan Teo, Janet Trauner.

#### **Rock Wrens**

Kevin Avery, Bill Barrett, Chris Basanese, Cynthia Berg, MaryAnn Boeger, Helen Bower, Gary Campanella, Doug and Gail Cheeseman, Richard and Helen Chernicoff, Fred Chilton, Erik Cords, Pam Drew, Karin Englbauer, Patricia and Grover Everett, Sue Ferdig, Terry and Tom Fitzgerald, Pat and Peter Fletcher, Deb Fricke, Bill Getchius, Fred and Mary Greaves, Adrienne Harber, Holly Harris, Bob and Deb Hirt, Missi Hirt, Grant Hoyt, Sue Hunt, Andrew Katcher, Michael and Carolyn Kulakofsky, Dave Kutilek, Neil Laird, Cathy Larkin, Myron Lee, Alan Levenson, Lance Lissner, Calvin and Lucy Lou, JJ Martin, David McIntyre, Anita and Bill Medeiros, Donna Meyer, Betty Mohlenbrock, Camille Moitozo, Gerry

Mugnolo, Chris Nam, Claire Nippres, Leila Oertel, Lynn and Bob Perlman, George Peyton, Phil Plant, Lisa Podhajsky, Don Price, Lee and Ira Rogers, Ray Rossi, Erika Rottenberg, Leila Saeed, Ed and Denise Silicani, Susan and Mark Simpson, Christopher Spooner, Carl Thomsen, Joe and Judy Thurmon, Charles Van Orden, Liz Vereas, Steve and Arletta Wade, Rosalie Walker, Mary Weisheit, Marlene Weiss, Susan and Dick Westin, Peter and Delores White, Christine Wolfe, George and Janice Wood.

#### **Snipe Hunters**

Bonnie Bedford-White, James and Judy Bingman, Bill Brill, Bill Bruce, Shari Castillo, Doug and Gail Cheeseman, Nadine Clark, Mary Coleman, Mary Anne Cook, Bert Cotellev, Jimmie Dawson, Mike Deistro, Jan Ehrhardt, Jeff Fong, Dick Gaskell, Gidel & Kocal, Fran Harvey, Kathy Hendig, Kathy Hilton, Patti Hughes, Linda Sue Johnson, Ron Kale, Jonathon Kermit, Jane Krejci, Chuck Lindahl, Jeremy Marczak, Chris and Jerry Morgan, Carole Nast, Pete Nevi, Christy Niemyer, Pam Peak, Chris Picone, Bob Power, Steve Rehder Const, Rick Roberts and Laurie West Roberts, Ron Kehl Engineering, Russell Walker Const, Thesa Scagloitti, Bill and Karen Scarvie, Joyce Shallenberger, Mary Stineman, JoAnne Swing, Marna Taylor, Jim Tomich, Towne Financial, Ann Weismann, Carleen West, Skip Wortiska, Alan Woertink Electric, Rebecca Yates.

#### **St. Anthony Ranchers**

Larry and Joy Gallagher, Karen Hoyt, Linda Sue Johnson, John and Yvonne Jue, Judy Klein, Jim and Sue Lickovec, Joan Loney, John and Linda Mattis, Pamela Price, Kay Schroer, George and Mary Murphy Shuttinger, Rick and Kathy Smith, Elf Stauber, Hal and Karen Svendsen, Jim and Kristi Wiley

#### **The Shrikes**

Doug and Gail Cheeseman, Dave Cook, Vicki Brooks.

#### **The Wrong Terns**

Cindy Barnes, Susan Bell, Wenda Carlyle, Doug and Gail Cheeseman, Linda Cline, Mary Ellen DeVine, Carol Eliason, Marian Endo, Fred Fisher, Mark Friedman, Betty Frost, Nelia Garner, Mary Goldberg, Stan and Elaine Gould, Carl and Bobbie Handen, Cynthia Handen, Doug Handen, Kathleen Haydel, Leora Hirose, Kroop, Joe Lattuada, Pat Laveroni, Becky Lim, Joyce Mansfield, Sharon Mathog, Robin Maybury, John McClemore, Golda Miller, Elaine Murph, Paula Negendank, Betty Parsons, Mary Lou Patterson Lorie Pelc, Pam Price, Bob and Ruth Price, Max Rieseck, Jeanne Roberts Ralph Schardt, Ray & Carolyn Silva, Tibby Simon, Pam and Chris Tanimoto, Carol Toppel, Connie West, Kim Yuan-Farrell, Nick and Jennifer Zoffel.

#### **Varied Twitchers**

Doug and Gail Cheeseman, Richard Jeffers, Mike



## Audubon-at-Home: SCVAS' Bird Sanctuary Program Summer Update - Invite the Four B's to Your Backyard

By Freddy Howell

**Birds, Bees, Bats, Butterflies** that is. The Audubon-at-Home Bird Sanctuary Program (BSP) is in full swing with 5 yards already certified for the 2006-2007 season. 19 yards were certified in previous years. Now's your chance to make your yard an "island of nature" by reducing or eliminating pesticides, planting native species, and providing a consistent water source.

The BSP packet is available from Toby at the SCVAS office and is chock full of information about what to plant, how to attract different types of birds and how to make your yard a sanctuary. Your yard doesn't have to be big. Carolyn Straub and her husband, Steve, have a very small yard but have managed to incorporate many of the criteria to become a certified sanctuary. They are also planning on incorporating several other suggestions to attract even more. Carolyn also invited two members of the BSP committee to make a presentation to their home owners association about planting native and what types of feeders would attract the birds in the area. Christine Keller's sanctuary in Campbell is home to birds, butterflies and bees. She has 4 hives so she is very careful about organic growing habits and planting flowering vines, trees and shrubs that will attract birds as well as bees. The bees help in pollination. They do a great job because the honey is delicious.

One of the most enjoyable parts of being a bird sanctuary is being a landlord to a new generation of birds. A box in my yard had been up for several years with no takers. This year we had an Oak Titmouse family of lodgers. What fun it was to see the parents fly in with food. We checked on the progress one

time and got hissed at so we decided to watch from afar. Meal worms have been a huge hit because even seed eaters like to give them to their babies. Now if the acorn woodpecker would stop hogging them all.

Bats are a little harder to attract and it can sometimes take years for them to discover the roost box, but now is the time to put one up. General guidelines are 10 to 20 feet up and 4 to 6 hours of sun (preferably morning).

### Healthy Yard Pledge:

Create and maintain a healthy environment for you, your family and local wildlife by pledging to: Reduce pesticide use – Conserve water – Protect water quality – Remove invasive exotic plants – Plant native species – Support wildlife on your property.

This fall, the BSP committee and Master Gardeners, will be presenting a class on organic gardening techniques and ideas for a healthy yard. Look for the dates in the fall Avocet.

---

### *Birdathon Thanks Continued*

Mammoser, Bob Nansen, Mike Rogers, Jim Thomas, Ann Verdi.

### Wacky-Capped Chickadees

John Afanasiev, Doug and Gail Cheeseman, David Drake and Leda Beth Gray, Jean Dubois, Doug Eldredge, Denise Eldredge, Jon Erb, Ferguson, Lesley Franz, Harold Fukuma, The Gallardos, Harriet Gerson, Rory Ishida, Sandy Johan, Jim and Kathy Johnson, Mary Kamprath, Kieraldo-Sanchez, David Knox, Richard Kuehn, Drew Lucas, Tam Patane, Phoenix, Marilyn Steward, Gary Takushi, Steve and Debbie Thompson, Charles and Jean Thompson, Dave Winn, Jan Yamauchi.

### Wild Women Birders

Debbie Anderson, Carol Archuletta, Carl R. Baeuerlen, Mark and Mary Bakalish, The Berubes, Mark Bettencourt, Martha Breed, Charlotte Briber, Julie Brown, Gail Buschini, Ron Calabrese and Christine Cozzens, Carol Christensen, Jim and Alice Cochran, Rhonda Colcord, Carol Cook and Susan Grieger, Heather Cowper, James Cranney and Derrick

## Field Notes *cont'd*

Observers: Bill Bousman (WGB), Debbi Brusco (DBr), Julie Bryson (JBr), Bert Campos (BC), Shao Cheng (SC), Roy Churchwell (RCh), Matthew Dodder (MDo), Peggy Don (PLD), Al Eisner (AME), Tom Grey (TGr), Garth Harwood (GHa), Kathleen Henderson (KH), Rick Herder (RH), Howard Higley (HH), Kirsten Holmquist (KHo), John B. Hutz (JBH), Alvaro Jaramillo (AJ), Richard Jeffers (RGJ), Penny & Dave Kiehl (P&DK), Roland Kenner (RKe), Pat Kenny (PKe), Amy Lauterbach (AL), Jim Liscovec (JLi), Randy & Janet Little (R&JLi), Mike Mammoser (MJM), Bill Maney (BMa), Dean Manley (DMa), Andrew Martin (AM), Amy McDonald (AMcD), Brooke Miller (BMi), Kris Olson (KO), Richard Page (RP), Larry Parmeter (LP), Janna Pauser (JPa), Bob Power (BP), Bob Reiling (RWR), Alma Rogers (AR), Mike Rogers (MMR), Steve Rottenborn (SCR), Jennifer Rycenga (JRY), David Suddjian (DLSu), Scott Terrill (SBT), Jim Thomas (JT), Frank Vanslager (FV), Ann Verdi (AV), Dave Weber (DWe), Allan Wofchuk (AW), and James Yurchenco (JY).

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

Yih, Connie Crawford, Martha Cuesta, Rick and Linda Cuesta, George Deabill, Mary DeMasters and Bruce Heflinger, Jill Dodsworth, Dianne Dryer, Anne Dunham, Anita Dyer, Robin and Ray Fidler, Anna Franklin, Jenise Fuess, Lisa Garrard, Maureen Gaspar, Joan Gielow, Marilyn Gildea, Roberta Gonzales-Gregg, Dianne Guilani, Silke Gurlich, David Hatt, Vivian Hatt, Mike and Alene Hayashi, James Hulseman, Joy Imai and Frank Ford, Independence Auto Body-Jim Tidwell, Sandra Iwamoto, Dina Jacobson, Ellen Jones, Pat Jordan, Eric and Nicole Jorgensen, Aimee Karol-Wachovia Securities, Joseph and Maria Karpinski, Gay Katilius, Helen Katsuftrakis, Ed and Kay Kinney, Kathy Knabke, Nancy Koch, Kim and Marten Korringa, Marilyn Kupcho, Bob Lamarche, Ken Mazzochi, Larry Landers and John Hendrix, Keith Landers, Gary Lawson and Tom Ammon, Judy Leonard, Vincent Leone, Eileen Denué, Marcos and Marissa, Colleen Lethridge, Rachel and Donald Levy, Sharon Locke, Chris Lunt, Sue Lyssand, Wally and Joan MacDonald,

*continued on page 11*

*The Avocet 9*

## Salt Ponds

*continued from page 1*

Audubon believes more explicit goals for transition habitat should be established within the Project. If little transition habitat can be achieved on these 15,100 acres, then the Project should provide comment on the significance of lands adjacent to the three salt pond complexes. Upland habitat lands remain in Newark, Fremont, San Jose and Redwood City.

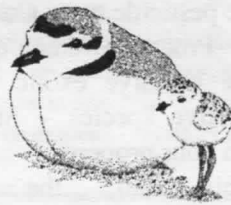
--Potential recreation-oriented impacts to sensitive species and their habitats. A 2.25-mile segment of the Bay Trail is proposed to extend along the levee behind Moffett Field from the Sunnyvale Treatment Ponds to the Stevens Creek Nature Area. The adjacent Sunnyvale Treatment Ponds are a known breeding location for the Western pond turtle (*Clemmys marmorata*), a California species of special concern. Few breeding populations of Western pond turtles remain in the vicinity of the Project and therefore a high priority should be given to protecting this declining species.

--Potential habitat conversion impacts to western snowy plover. It appears that the Project has the potential to impact the declining South Bay snowy plover population. The Project relies heavily upon active management of the snowy plover habitat, which will require financial input to support these activities for an undetermined length of time. Audubon feels that the Applied Studies focusing on the snowy plover should be expanded to evaluate other criteria associated with plover success and that all data needs to be integrated into the species recovery plan so that the lands within the Project can continue to provide some snowy plover habitat and that other lands around the South Bay can be identified for species recovery.

--Potential reduction in the numbers of non-breeding salt-pond associated birds (phalaropes, eared grebes and Bonaparte's gulls) as a result of habitat loss. There has been a decline in these species within the three salt pond complexes since the implementation of the Initial Stewardship Plan (ISP), which aimed to reduce salinity in most of the

ponds to <40 ppt. There has also been a decline in the South Bay populations over the last 20 years. Additional consideration should be given to other locations throughout the South Bay that might be best suited to maintaining these Pacific Flyway species. It is possible that some ponds within the three pond complexes might be best suited to long-term management for these high-saline pond dependent species or that other sites around the South Bay could fulfill this habitat niche. We request more description on where habitat for these birds might be best located given the potential for other future restoration efforts.

--Provision of new public access and recreation facilities, including the opening of new areas for recreational purposes and completion of the Bay



*Western Snowy Plover*  
by Mike Mammoser

Trail spine. The Project proposes the creation of new trails, viewing platforms, interpretive stations, waterfowl hunting access, non-motorized small boat launch sites and associated staging and parking areas. Some of the new spine and spur trails of the Bay Trail are indicated on the maps in orange with a note stating "Denotes trails that were identified during the alternatives development process as being of particular concern to the permitting agencies for potential to disrupt habitat." The EIS/EIR should clarify the general nature of these concerns and indicate what restoration target(s) would need to be achieved to assuage the concerns of the permitting agencies so that these public access facilities could be constructed.

--**Citizen Science and Volunteerism**  
- Audubon has a history of engaging, educating and empowering its members to be environmental advocates for the conservation and restoration of natural

ecosystems. The implementation of the Project is strongly supported by the local Audubon Chapters and by Audubon California. We encourage the Project Sponsors to continue to outreach to the community through the stakeholder forums and public workshops. More importantly, we urge you to expand upon this effort to include citizen science and volunteerism in as many aspects of Phase 1 as practical. We believe the long-term success of the Project will be directly related to the connection the public has to all facets of the restoration effort. As the Phase 1 planning moves forward we encourage you to seek more ways to involve the community. This might include volunteering to build public access improvements, monitoring the restoration efforts, providing tours of accessible areas, etc.

--The local Audubon Chapters offer to assist you in this public outreach and are available to discuss ideas for involving the community. We believe our local Chapters are a source of volunteers. We can recruit volunteers and provide a forum for training volunteers. We are supportive of this far-reaching effort to restore critical habitat and look forward to providing community support. habitat and look forward to providing community support.

--All involved in the South Bay Salt Pond Restoration Project are to be commended for the development of the Project from the management team, scientific team, national science panel, consultant team and many stakeholders who gave of their time and knowledge. Audubon eagerly anticipates the restoration project moving cautiously forward, continuously evaluating the restoration targets, and monitoring the management triggers of the Adaptive Management Plan. In the future, it would be truly glorious to look out over this landscape and view a healthier and more vibrant ecosystem supporting greater abundance and wider range of biodiversity.

*Birdathon Thanks Continued*

Alexis Magnite, Laura and George Manthey, Gene Mason, Maria Matteis, Pam and Jim McArthur, Patty McGann, Ed and Betsy McGuigan, Viole McMahon and Sue Bishop, Doug McPherson, Jerri Meyer, Joan Miller and Joe Murphy, Eleanor Sue and Wendy Mines, Linda Mixon, Micki Morales, Sheri and Jerry Morrison, Maureen Muckle, Anthony Muto, Let's Go Birding-Lisa Myers, Jeff Nisewanger and Edwin Go, Marion Norberg, Margaret Norris, Erin Parks, PIP Printing-Jennifer Allen, Renee Ramsey, Ann Rando, Jo-Ann Reker, Laurel Rezeau, Judy Rickard, Ed Rousar, Arlene Rusche, San Francisco Women's Center, Wendy and John Scarangelo, Gisella and Andreas Scheidegger, Margo Schmidt, Hoff, Shane Tejvir and Kavita Singh, Joyce Sogg, Nancy Steege, James and Shirley Stevens, Sue Stewart, Judy Stone, Jeanine Strobel, Linda Swanson, Alan and Georgette Tanenbaum, Margo Tenold, Jayne Thomas and Michael Wiest, Jean Thompson, Jennifer Thompson, Melita Wade Thorpe-MWT Associates, Inc., Chuck and Kathy, Thurston, Dave Tull, Jonathan Varnado, Michael and Johanna Wald, Darlene Wilson, Dick and Pat Wolff, Helen Wolter, Mary and Steve Wu, Donna Fay Yokote, Patricia Dell Young.

**Youth Birdathon**

John and Freddy Howell-The Wild Bird Center, Barry and Ginger Langdon-Lassagne, Melanie O'Brien, Nancy O'Brien, Shifley-Finley, The Lorigans, The McVays, The O'Briens, The Smith Family, The Stutzs.

**South County Earth Day Festival 2007**



Right: Nestbox Monitor and SCVAS Board member Dave Cook brings a little "Ooh!" into the day



A big "Thank You!" to the City of Gilroy Community Services for co-sponsoring Earth Day 2007 and for their generous support of the event with raffle prizes, volunteers, tables, chairs and canopies!



Left: Participants learn about Recycling and Conservation at the City of Gilroy's station

We'd also like to thank all of the following for their generosity in supporting Earth Day 2007:

- The Gilroy Lion's Club
- Grass Farm Garden Accents
- Papa Murphy's Pizza
- Wild Birds Unlimited
- South Valley Disposal and Recycling
- SCVAS' Nature Shop

Above: SCVAS Volunteer and Board Member, Debbie Thompson, talks to event participants about feathers, feet, beaks and wings

Right: Thanks to the generosity of the Gilroy Lion's Club, kids (of all ages...) enjoy learning how to build birdhouses.



*Don't Forget - the SCVAS Nature Shop can help supply you for your summer vacations to that birding hotspot or for keeping your hungry birds happy!*

**Young Audubon Summer Adventures Are Here!**

**"Canoes in Sloughs"**

Wetlands Exploration with Save the Bay

**Friday, July 27<sup>TH</sup>\***

**9AM-2PM**

Palo Alto Baylands  
For ages 10\*\* and up!  
Cost: \$25/person



New this Summer!

Scholarships may be available for families in need

**Elkhorn Slough Safari**

Nature Boat Tours in Elkhorn Slough

**Wednesday, August 8<sup>TH</sup>\***

**11:15AM-1:30PM**

Moss Landing/Monterey Bay  
For ages 3\*\* and up!  
Cost: \$28/person

Back by popular demand:

**Bird Banding**



with San Francisco Bay Bird Observatory

**Saturday, AUGUST 18<sup>TH</sup>\***

**8:30-10:30AM**

McCarthy Ranch in Milpitas  
For all Bird Lovers, ages 5\*\* and up!  
Cost: \$25/family

\*\*All children must be accompanied by a parent or guardian

\*Space is limited for all activities, so sign up early! Priority will be given to groups with Children.

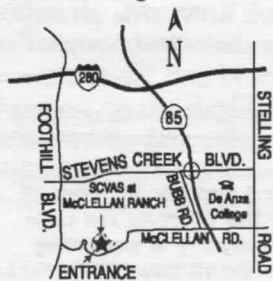
To sign-up or for more information, call (408) 252-3740, send an e-mail to programs@scvas.org, or check out our website at www.scvas.org



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

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

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



#### OFFICERS

##### President

Bob Hirt

##### Vice President

Dave Cook

##### Treasurer

Jennifer Thompson

##### Secretary

Joan Leighton

#### DIRECTORS

David McIntyre '04 -'07

Dotty Calabrese '05 -'08

Matthew Dodder '05 -'08

Debbie Thompson '06 -'09

#### STAFF

**Executive Director** 408/252-3748

Bob Power bob@scvas.org

**Office Manager** 408/252-3747

Susan Bell scvas@scvas.org

**Programs Coordinator** 408/252-3740

Toby Goldberg programs@scvas.org

**Office Fax** 408/252-2850

**E-mail** scvas@scvas.org

**Website** www.scvas.org

#### OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Friday 10 AM - 5 PM

Saturday 10 AM - 2 PM

#### CHAIRPERSONS

##### Avocet

Editor: Toby Goldberg, Sabrina Johnson

Graphics and Print Preparation:

Bonnie Bedford-White

##### Birdathon

Dotty Calabrese

##### Christmas Bird Count

Kirsten Holmquist

##### Education

Bobbie Handen

##### Environmental Action

vacant

##### Field Trips: Weekend

Bob Reiling

##### Weekday

Phyllis Swanson

vacant

##### Finance

Don Price

##### Fundraising

Debbie Thompson

##### Library

Joy Robinson

Joan Leighton

##### Membership

Vacant

##### Nature Shop

Freddy Howell

##### Photo Club

Pete LaTourrette

##### Programs

Doug & Gail Cheeseman

##### Webmaster

**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**

**GIFTS:** 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 bi-monthly by the Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society, 22221 McClellan Road, Cupertino, CA 95014. 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.

**2007 Volume 55, Number 4**

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 \_\_\_\_\_

Membership \$ \_\_\_\_\_ + Donation \$ \_\_\_\_\_ = Total Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City State & Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

**7XCH C14**

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.**