

# THE AVOCET

The Newsletter of the Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society

November - December 2007

## The Atlas is Coming! The Atlas is Coming!

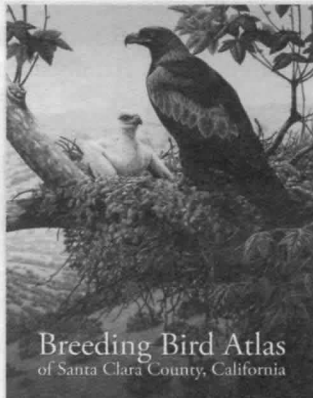
By Bob Power, SCVAS Executive Director

The Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society is the very proud publisher of the Breeding Bird Atlas of Santa Clara County, California. I could be seen as biased regarding this book, but honestly, this is a neutral statement: This will be your favorite bird book, with a wealth of natural history and data on our local breeding birds. The Atlas is best described by these words from the introduction:

“The Breeding Bird Atlas of Santa Clara County, California, which reports the results of fieldwork in Santa Clara County from 1987 to 1993, was undertaken to determine the current status of all species of birds known to be breeding in the county. These data have been augmented with additional field observations reported from 1994 to 2005. A breeding bird atlas seeks to determine the birds that breed within a geographic area. For this purpose, the area is divided by a grid, and each block formed by that grid is monitored for breeding activity over a nominal time span. Upon completion of the atlas, the data obtained provides a richness of detail as to breeding birds that can be obtained in few other ways. But the ultimate value of the atlas is realized when the entire effort is repeated, once each 25 years, making it possible to assess the changes in breeding bird populations with each new human generation.

First and foremost, the atlas is a testimony to the dedication and skill of the atlasers who conducted the fieldwork for

this atlas from 1987 to 1993 (listed along with other contributors in Appendix 1 of the Atlas). The skilled and careful work of all of these observers is reflected in the breadth and accuracy of this atlas. Following the atlas period, Michael M. Rogers established and maintained the post-atlas database, based on the contributions of many individuals (also listed in Appendix I). The post-atlas data significantly augmented the atlas data, particularly for birds breeding in the Santa Clara Valley.” – Bill Bousman



Breeding Bird Atlas of Santa Clara County, California

The Atlas is superbly written and beautifully illustrated. But this is no mere addition to the local field ornithologist’s library. With chapters devoted to geography, geology, vegetation communities, and landscape changes, the Atlas provides a sweeping wealth of background information about our local environment. These opening chapters create the foundation for a fuller understanding of the 177 species accounts that follow. The information provided by the Atlas will be an invaluable resource, providing a baseline for land management, habitat restoration, and bird conservation efforts for the foreseeable future. One of my guilty pleasures is the privilege of having a draft copy of the Atlas at my desk for the past 6 months.

I’m further privileged to be working with Bill Bousman and Matthew Dodder to get this wonderful book in your hands. Now, a friendly word of advice: you’re going to want two copies, because the first one will certainly end up as a gift to a friend. – Bob Power

**Christmas Bird Count Coming - sign up now!**

see Page 8

### General Membership Meeting Breeding Bird Atlas of Santa Clara County, California

A Lecture / Slideshow / Booksigning Presentation  
by Bill Bousman

Palo Alto Arts Center, Newell and Embarcadero Rds, Palo Alto  
Friday, Dec. 7<sup>th</sup>  
Doors open 7:30 PM; Program 8:00 PM

Please join us for the much-anticipated release of this wonderful assemblage of the natural history of our local birds. Bill Bousman will give a slide-show lecture discussing the origins of the Atlas, and will be happy to autograph your Atlas after the presentation. Books will be on hand for purchase for \$40.

- Mitigation Monitoring Successes — Page 4
- Special Events Not to Miss! — Page 5
- Brown Booby Visits Alviso — Field Notes, Page 6
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# Nov. - Dec. '07 Field Trips

(Full details for 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 Nov. 3, 8:00 AM

### Grant Ranch County 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 Grant Lake (aka 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**.

## ✓ Sunday Nov. 4, 8:00 AM

### Western San Francisco

Half day. Leader: Alan Hopkins (415) 664-0983. Note: Change in daylight saving time, fall back or be an hour early for this trip. From I-280 take 19th Ave. to Golden Gate Park. When you enter the park on 19th Ave. be in the left lane and take Crossover Dr. to 25th Ave. to Geary Blvd. then left on Geary. Meet in the parking lot at Merrie Way above Sutro Baths and the Cliff House. **LO, RC**.

## ✓ Wednesday Nov. 7, 12:00 PM

### 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. **RC**.

## ✓ Saturday Nov. 10, 8:30 AM

### Uvas Creek Park Preserve

Half day. Leader: Bob Reiling (408) 253-7527. From Hwy 101 in Gilroy go west on Tenth Street about a mile where it turns right and becomes Uvas Parkway. Turn left at Miller Ave, drive over Uvas Creek and turn left into Christmas Hill Park and park in the first isle to the right. Trip is a fairly easy but long walk. **LO, RC**.

## ✓ Sunday Nov. 11, 9:00 AM

### Charleston Slough

Half day. Leader: Dick Stovel (650) 856-6105. Meet at Terminal Way at the end of San Antonio Rd. north off Hwy 101 in Mountain View. This is a trip that is geared toward the beginning birder but all are encouraged to attend. Bring a scope if you have one, friends and non-members are always welcome.

## ✓ Wednesday, Nov. 14, 9:00 AM

### Grant Ranch

Half day. Leader: Gail Cheeseman (408) 741-5330. From I-680 take Alum Rock Ave. northeast, turn right on Mt. Hamilton Rd. and go approx. 9 miles to park. Meet at Hall's Valley Lake parking lot on left, after main park entrance. Fresh water ducks, oak woodland birds, possible Golden Eagle. Moderate 2 mile walk. **LO, RC**.

## ✓ Saturday Nov. 17, 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, left on Toyon Ave., right on Penitencia Creek Rd. and continue on into the park. Continue under bridge and meet at far end of upper parking lot. Expect a moderately strenuous 3-4 mile walk and be prepared for some mud! An entrance fee may be required. **LO, RC**.

## ✓ Sunday Nov. 18, 8:00 AM

### Oka Ponds

Half day: Leader: TBD, questions call (408) 253-7527. From Hwy 17 in Los Gatos take Lark Ave. exit west. Turn right on Oka Rd., left on Mozart Ave. and an immediate right on Oka Lane. Meet at gate. **RC**.

## ✓ Fri - Sat Nov. 23 - 24, 9:00 AM

### Sac'to Valley Wildlife Refuges, Gray Lodge, Sutter Buttes

Full day and a half. Leaders: Mike Mammoser & Frank Vanslager, for information contact Mike (408) 578-2429. Meet at Sacramento NWR headquarters on I-5 approx. 20 miles north of Williams. Take Road 68 exit east (towards Princeton) from I-5, then immediately

north on frontage road to Refuge. Bring spotting scope, full tank of gas. Allow for a 3-hour drive from South Bay. Highlights include ducks, geese, swans, cranes, and raptors. Trip is highly recommended for beginning birders (no children under 12 please).

## ✓ Sunday Nov. 25, 9:30 AM

### Butterfly watching, Ardenwood Park

Half day. Leader: Moe Magoski (408) 410-7567. From Interstate Hwy 880 in Fremont take Hwy 84 west (toward the Dumbarton Bridge) then the Ardenwood Blvd. exit to the right; follow signs to parking lot. Monarch Butterflies are our primary objective; other sites visited and species looked for as time and conditions permit. Bring your Butterfly guides; close focusing binoculars and your enthusiasm. Children welcome. **LO, RC**.

## ✓ Saturday Dec. 1, 8:00 AM

### Charleston Slough

Half day. Leader: Kathy Parker (408) 358-2832. Meet at Terminal Way at the end of San Antonio Rd. north off Hwy 101 in Mountain View. As always, all are invited to attend but birding will be geared toward the beginning birder. Bring a friend and a spotting scope if you have one.

## ✓ Sunday Dec. 2, 8:00 AM

### Sunnyvale Water Treatment Facility

Half day. Leader: TBD, questions call (408) 253-7527. From Hwy 101 take Hwy. 237 east, exit North on Caribbean Dr., turn right on Borregas Ave. then left to the parking area. A great place to study ducks and scopes are highly recommended. Trip is a fairly easy but long walk, **RC**.

## ✓ Wednesday, Dec. 5, 8:30 AM

### Palo Alto Baylands

Half day. Leader: Eleanor Bassler (650) 856-6326. From 101 in Palo Alto take the Embarcadero Rd. exit east. Follow the signs to the airport and turn left at the 'T' intersection. Drive past the Duck Pond and meet at the Interpretive Center parking lot. Ducks and shorebirds galore! Spotting scopes helpful. **LO, RC**.

## ✓ Wednesday Dec. 5, 12:00 PM

### City of Sunnyvale Landfill

See details under Nov. 7 listing.

## Field Trips *continued*

**Saturday Jan. 5, 8:30 AM**

### Ogier Ponds

Half day. Leader: Rich Page (408) 377-1092. From Hwy 101 in Morgan Hill take Cochrane Rd. west to Monterey Hwy, turn right, go north 2.6 miles, turn right towards the Model Airplane Park (street is unnamed). Follow the road for 1/4 mile and park in the gravel lot at the first bend in road (meet at the gate if the entrance is locked), **RC**.

**Sunday Jan. 6, 7:30 AM**

### County Chase

Half day. Leader: Bob Reiling (408) 253-7527. Get a head start on your 2008 County Year List with some vagrant chasing. Bring a full tank of gas, lunch, and field guides as we attempt to track down some of the unusual birds seen on the Christmas Bird Counts in Santa Clara County. Meet near the entrance to the Alviso Marina parking lot. From Hwy 237 in San Jose take Gold St. north to the end, bear left on Elizabeth St. and then right on Hope St. to the Marina parking lot. Be prepared to car pool as parking may be limited at some sites, **RC**.

**Plan Ahead Trip:**

**Saturday Jan. 13, 8:00 AM**

### Panoche Valley

Full day. Leader: Clay Kempf (831) 761-8260. Meet at Paicines Store on Hwy 25 approx. 11 miles south of Hollister. This is one of our better "out of the county" field trips traversing oak woodland and open grassland via back roads into a unique habitat. **More details available online at [www.scvas.org](http://www.scvas.org).**

## Events Calendar:

**Tues. 11/13, 9:30AM**

*Eve Case Bird Discussion Group - meets at the home of Pat and Jean Dubois, 17150 Buena Vista Ave., Los Gatos (408) 395-4264 (Note: This meeting marks the groups 40th year!)*  
Topic: Willow Ptarmigan (Grouse)

**Sun. 11/4, 8-9:30PM**

*Special Presentation: "Life On Thin Ice" by Jenny Ross*  
Palo Alto Arts Center (see page 5)

**Tues, 11/6**

Don't forget to vote!

**Wed. 11/7, 2:30-6:30PM**

*Fundraiser Mailing Party*

McClellan Ranch Park

(see *Volunteer Ventures*, page 8)

**Wed. 11/7, 7:30-9:00PM**

*The Bay Area Bird Photographers Meeting*

Lucy Evans Baylands Interpretive Center - East Embarcadero Rd., Palo Alto

**Thurs. 11/8, 7:30-9:00PM**

*Book Signing - "Birder's Conservation Handbook: 100 North American Birds at Risk" by Jeffrey V. Wells*

Quinlan Community Center, Cupertino (see page 5)

**11/15-11/18**

*Central Valley Birding Symposium Stockton (See [www.cvbs.org](http://www.cvbs.org) to register and for more details)*

**Sat. 12/1, 10:00AM-2:00PM**

*Holiday Open House*

McClellan Ranch Park (see page 3)

**Fri. 12/7, 7:30-9:00PM**

*Lecture & Book Signing - Breeding Bird Atlas of Santa Clara County by Bill Bousman*

Palo Alto Arts Center (see page 1)

**Tues. 12/11, 9:30AM**

*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-winged Dove

**Christmas Bird Counts**

(see page 9 for details):

**Sun. 12/16**

*San Jose CBC*

**Mon. 12/17**

*Palo Alto CBC*

**Sat. 12/29**

*Calero-Morgan Hill CBC*

**Sun. 12/30**

*Mt. Hamilton CBC*

**CBC**

**CBC**

## Adult Education Classes

The following classes are sponsored by the SCVAS Education Committee. Information is also online at [www.scvas.org](http://www.scvas.org). To register please call the office at (408) 252-3740. All cancellations require 72-hour prior notification for refunds.

### Sandhill Cranes (and geese, and ducks, and raptors, and....) with Bob Power

Merced National Wildlife Refuge, located in California's northern San Joaquin Valley, is critically important to wintering waterfowl, and hosts up to 15,000 lesser Sandhill Cranes, the largest population in the Central Valley. Peak populations occur during November. A mixture of up to 100,000 geese (Ross, snow, white-fronted, and cackling Canada geese) use refuge marsh and croplands during November to March. Crane bugling is magic and should be experienced at least annually. We're trying to ensure you get out to the Central Valley this year.

Our classroom session will concentrate on the natural history and fieldmarks associated with lesser Sandhill Cranes, wintering goose species, and a sampling of other bird species we would hope to see during our field trip. The Field trip will be an all-day adventure to Merced NWR, car-pooling from McClellan Ranch in Cupertino at 7 a.m. and returning at 6 p.m.

**Two sessions offered:**

1. Thursday morning, November 15th, 9:30—11:00am; Field trip: Friday, November 16th, 7am-6pm

2. Thursday night, November 15th, 7:00—8:30pm; Field trip: Sunday, November 18th, 7am-6pm

**Location:** Workshop: Conference Room, McClellan Ranch, Cupertino; Field trip: Merced NWR

Fee: \$60/\$70

Sandhill Crane  
by Bonnie Bedford-White



# Mitigation Project Producing Outstanding Results: San Jose Dedicates \$800,000 for Riparian Restoration

By Craig Breon

This story starts nearly a decade ago. In 1999, a San Jose planner casually mentioned that riparian restoration included as part of the Evergreen Specific Plan had not been completed.

Skip forward to 2003. The Santa Clara Valley Water District awarded SCVAS a \$20,000 grant to explore the topic of mitigation monitoring locally. Essentially, we intended to look at the question of whether cities and developers fulfill the promises they make to protect the environment when a development is approved. Most of the funds were used to hire an excellent intern, Kim Yuan-Farrell, who under my guidance chased down the documents that could illuminate our inquiry.

One of the first projects Kim and I went after was Evergreen. The Specific Plan covered a sizable area in East San Jose and had been approved in the mid 90's. It took some digging—primarily because the documentation wasn't readily available—but we found the problem. My San Jose

planner had been right. Bridges built as part of the Specific Plan had impacted 4.2 acres of riparian habitat along Quimby, Fowler, and Evergreen creeks. The standard mitigation ratio for the loss of riparian habitat is 3:1, so San Jose should have restored 12.6 acres of habitat. That is a truly large number. For comparison's sake, 12.6 acres is more riparian habitat than exists near the SCVAS offices at McClellan Ranch Park.

You may be excused for thinking that finding the problem would lead to its solution. While San Jose has a legal responsibility to fulfill its mitigation promises, having a responsibility and performing on that responsibility are two very different things. This was the administration of Mayor Ron Gonzales, and he was no friend of the conservationists. Kim and I uncovered and brought to the City's attention not only Evergreen but a number of other mitigation problems, yet we achieved little on-the-ground success.

Skip ahead again to last fall. The SCVAS Board had approved my proposal to continue working on mitigation

monitoring as a consultant. With the support of some very generous, conservation-minded donors, I raised the money for the project. The chapter leadership provided support with priorities and strategies, and we launched in November of '06. Evergreen was one of the first projects I picked up again. The political climate had changed for the better, with Mayor Chuck Reed replacing Gonzales. Reed's environmental platform included a mention of SCVAS' work on mitigation monitoring, and Reed called for the City to perform better on its past promises. The winds had changed, yet there was considerable work to be done.

With Evergreen documents in hand, I marched back to the San Jose Planning Department. I first encountered denial. The mitigation had been done, and San Jose had aerial photos and documents to prove it. It turns out that what they had

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## Burrowing Owl Update

By Ruth Troetschler

In this—the second year of a 2-year statewide census of breeding Burrowing Owls, 39 members and friends of SCVAS censused 27 5-km by 5-km blocks in San Mateo, Santa Clara, and northern San Benito counties. (During 2006, similar teams found 56 BUOW pairs, all on public lands - parks, airports, golf courses etc. We did not count those same areas this year.)

This year different blocks were included—all were areas where owls were reported in the 1990s, plus some “random blocks”. Despite diligent and dedicated searches, we found no owls in the semi-rural lands of southern Santa Clara County except for 2 pairs on Tulare Hill—nesting in badger burrows. Six pairs were reported by Mark Paxton in a cattle ranch on the Santa Clara/San Benito County border, an unknown number of owls were found in the adjacent block to the south, but none in the agricultural valleys east of Hollister. In addition, in an extraordinary exploratory effort, Donna Sadowy followed up on a ranger's tip to locate an owl in the grasslands of Grant Park! This makes a BUOW breeding total for the 3 counties of perhaps 70 breeding pairs. These results point up the rapid fall of Burrowing Owl populations locally, despite the fact that we explored a greater area than previously: **1991-1992 - 280 pairs; 1997 - 124 pairs; 2006-2007 - 70 pairs.**

Of interest too, we are beginning to generate information about



owls which winter in one section of the region, but move elsewhere to breed.

Bob Wilkerson of Institute for Bird Populations (IBP) which is coordinating the statewide BUOW census will compare the 2006-2007 Burrowing Owl breeding population data to the population during their census in 1991-1993. Obviously the data has not been summarized yet, but he indicated at a recent Burrowing Owl Consortium Meeting that counters have located two new owl hot spots in Fresno and Madera Counties—specifically about 200 pairs in the Palo Verde Valley, and 80-100 pairs in the

Antelope Valley. As before, they believe that about 70% of the Burrowing Owls in the state are located in the Imperial Valley. If IBP can raise the funds, they contemplate beginning a long-term monitoring program. We, at SCVAS are formulating our own plans to protect our local remaining owls by encouraging our public agencies to manage their lands to support BUOWs.

Ongoing research has demonstrated that Burrowing Owls will reproduce successfully on a few acres of grasslands when grass near their burrows are closely mowed or grazed through the spring/early summer breeding season. Elsewhere, somewhat higher grasses will better nourish their prey - insects, small rodents, etc. Since their burrows are dug by ground squirrels, these rodents are essential unless the owls are provided with artificial burrows. They do better if cats and dogs are kept away. To join the Burrowing Owl Advocates to care for owls, contact Bob Power or Ruth Troetschler.

**Special Presentation:**  
**“Life On Thin Ice”**  
**Polar Bear Biology, Ecology, Behavior & Conservation**

**by Jenny E. Ross**  
**Palo Alto Arts Center, Newell and Embarcadero Rds.**  
**Sunday, November 4th**  
**Doors open 7:30; program 8:00**

Glaciers recede on five continents. Massive blocks separate from the permanent ice of the Antarctic. The area of year-around sea ice in the Arctic shrinks at an ever-increasing rate. Climate change is now accepted as reality, and there is call for change.

The polar regions, and the plants and animals that live there, are seeing the effects most directly. One animal has come to symbolize this most serious global and environmental problem -- the polar bear.

Jenny E. Ross will present her lecture/slideshow about polar bears, *Life on Thin Ice*, on behalf of Loma Prieta Chapter of the Sierra Club and Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society.

PRESENTED BY  
LOMA PRIETA CHAPTER  
of the  
SIERRA CLUB



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PRESENTED BY  
SANTA CLARA VALLEY  
AUDUBON SOCIETY

A wildlife photographer and naturalist, Jenny is renowned for her photographs of all eight bear species. She has spent months in the Arctic capturing extraordinary images of polar bears and working with scientists who are studying them. During her presentation, Jenny will share more than 150 extraordinary photographs revealing her encounters with the great white bears, and she will discuss many issues relating to polar bear biology, ecology, behavior and conservation.

Don't miss this opportunity to learn all about polar bears, and view spectacular photographs revealing the mysterious lives of these magnificent, fascinating, and threatened animals.

**General Membership Meeting**  
**Lecture / Slideshow / Book Signing:**  
**the “Birder’s Conservation Handbook”**

**by Jeffrey V. Wells**

**Thursday November 8th, 2007**

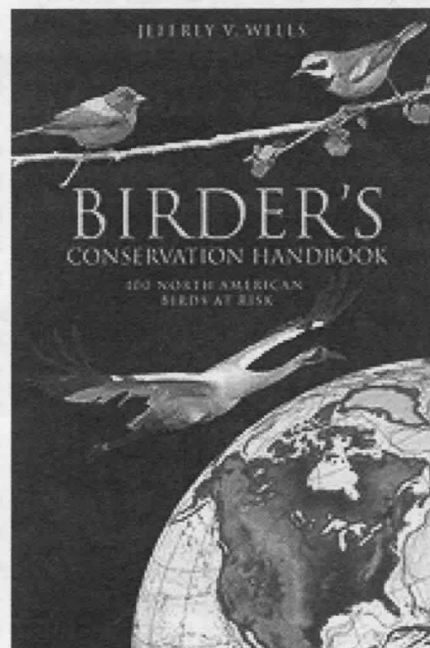
**Quinlan Community Ctr, 10185 N. Stelling Road, Cupertino**

**Doors open 7:30; program 8:00**

Until now there has been no single, comprehensive resource on the status of North America’s most threatened birds and what people can do to help protect them. *Birder’s Conservation Handbook* is the only book of its kind, written specifically to help birders and researchers understand the threats while providing actions to protect birds and their habitats.

Jeff Wells, author of this 2007 Princeton University Press release, “*Birder’s Conservation Handbook: 100 North American Birds At Risk*”, will talk about his views on the state of birds and bird conservation in North America. In a wide-ranging presentation covering everything from Global Warming to lingerie, Kleenex, donut holes, and the Argentinean economy, Dr. Wells will describe the best-kept secrets of bird conservation and tell about some amazing conservation opportunities that still exist including protection of the Boreal Forest

-- North America’s Great Bird Nursery.



# Field Notes

by Bill Bousman

## Waterfowl through Ibis

An injured female **Redhead** continued on Salt Pond AB1 during the period (v.ob.). A second injured female was seen on Salt Pond A10 in Alviso on 15 Sep (MMR). Two males there on 29 Sep (MMR, RGJ) may have summered locally. A female or immature male **Red-breasted Merganser** was found on Salt Pond A10 on 15 Sep (RKe, PKe fide MMR) and was seen there at least through 21 Sep (MMR, WGB). Wintering birds typically arrive in these ponds at the end of October or beginning of November and there are only two prior September records. Overlooked in the booby excitement, two basic **Common Loons** were also seen on Salt Pond A11 in Alviso on 14 Sep (RGJ, MJM). Although a few nonbreeding birds summer off the coast, these are the first September records for the South Bay. At least one bird was seen through 24 Sep (v.ob.). A subadult **Brown Booby** was found on the Salt Pond A10 and A11 dike in Alviso on 13 Sep (BSt, JSh fide SMM). This tropical sulid is a rare vagrant to the California coast but is almost never found inland. It has remained on the Alviso salt ponds through the end of September, actively fishing in the various ponds, and has been enjoyed by many. Amazingly we have one previous record, an adult or subadult flying over the Mountain View Forebay on 29 Aug 1992. Most years, high counts of **Brown Pelicans** rarely exceed a hundred. On 25 Aug over 127 were counted on the Alviso salt ponds (MMR, MJM, RGJ). Then, on 15 Sep, at least 304 were tallied there (MMR), breaking the old record of 300 birds counted in July 1986. On 29 Sep, an amazing total of 584 bird was counted in the ponds with 454 birds on Salt Pond A14 alone (MMR, RGJ). The fishing there must be good. Rounding out the amazing peleciformes fall, while looking for the booby on the A10/A11 dike, two adult **Pelagic Cormorants** were found on 14 Sep (BP et al.) and one or both birds were seen there through the end of the month (m.ob.). This is only the 9th record for the county. Normally

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such a rare bird would be worth the hike out the Alviso Slough Trail, but for most observers these were just ho-hum birds compared to the booby. How quickly we become jaded. The first **American Bittern** of the fall was found near the Santa Clara Valley Water District (SCVWD) ponds on 24 Sep (JPa) and was seen again on 27 Sep (AV). The last observation of a **Cattle Egret** at the Arzino Ranch was one there on 15 Aug (LSu, KL). Another bird was seen on the closed Alviso salt ponds on 25 Aug (MMR, MJM, RGJ). A smattering of September **White-faced Ibis** were found including one at Ed Levin CP on 10 Sep (BW), two at the Lockheed Martin ponds 13-25 Sep (FV, m.ob.), and one in Alviso Slough on 25 Sep (EL, HHa).

*A Brown Booby in  
Alviso was the most  
exciting bird to show up  
in recent years*

## Vultures through Jaegers

A subadult **California Condor** barely edged into Santa Clara County at San Felipe Road and Hwy 152 on 6 Aug (CSw). This is the first county record of a released bird. A juvenile **Bald Eagle** over Salt Pond A16 in Alviso on 8 Aug (RC) is likely one of the fledged birds from this year's nest at Calaveras Reservoir. There are no previous August records. A **Swainson's Hawk** at Joseph Grant CP on 8 Sep (JT) fits the typical pattern of a rare fall migrant. The first **Ferruginous Hawk** of the winter season was an immature along Anderson Reservoir on 30 Sep (SCR). Surveys of closed salt ponds in Alviso reported 28 **Snowy Plovers** on 25 Aug (MMR, MJM, RGJ) including three young, but none were found in the late September survey. Birds continued in New Chicago Marsh and north of Alviso Marina CP through early September (m.ob.) with a peak count of six on 11 Aug (FV). A single snowy was north of Moffett Field on 8 Sep (MMR). **Lesser Yellowlegs** were found at New Chicago Marsh throughout the period with a peak count of nine on 26 Aug (WGB).

Lessers were also seen at the Coyote Creek Field Station (CCFS) pond 13 Aug-22 Sep with a peak count of 13 juv on 27 Aug (MJM). Other locations with lessers included two on a closed salt pond on 18 Aug (MJM, SCR) and seven birds at Grant Lake on 9 Sep (JT). Two **Black Turnstones** showed up along the edge of Salt Pond A13 in Alviso on 19 Sep (KO) but were not found there the next day. Thirty one **Red Knots** were found at the Stevens Creek mouth on 4 Aug (MMR, SCR, MJM) and were seen there at the right tide through 4 Sep (m.ob.). The peak count was 38 on 18 Aug (SCR). The first juvenile **Semipalmated Sandpipers** of the season were two seen at New Chicago Marsh on 4 Aug (MJM, SCR) and one or more birds were seen occasionally through 14 Sep (m.ob.). The peak count was of three juveniles on 9 Aug (MJM). A juvenile was also seen on the CCFS waterbird pond on 7 Aug (MJM). Two **Baird's Sandpipers** were found on Crittenden Marsh on 18 Aug (MJM, SCR). One to two birds were found at New Chicago Marsh on 25 Aug-15 Sep (RWR, FV, m.ob.). Three Baird's were found on a closed salt pond in Alviso on 25 Aug (MMR, MJM, RGJ). The passage of **Pectoral Sandpipers** seems reduced this fall. The first bird was found on an algae mat in Salt Pond A16 in Alviso on 4 Aug (SSa, DGi). One to three birds were seen at New Chicago Marsh 17 Aug-30 Sep with a high count of three on 27 Aug (DWe). Another bird was seen over lower Coyote Creek on 23 Sep (SCR). A juvenile **Stilt Sandpiper** was photographed at New Chicago Marsh on 29 Aug (JMy). On 31 Aug, six birds were seen there (RWR, FV) and at least nine were counted by 9 Sep (DWe). The numbers tapered down after that and one juvenile remained there through at least 23 Sep (m.ob.). The number of Stilt Sandpipers seen this fall is the largest we have had in the South Bay. The first **Ruff** since last winter showed up at New Chicago Marsh on 2 Sep (BH), a juvenile male. Two juvenile females were found there on 12 Sep (MJM) and were seen over the next few days. The first juvenile male or one like it was seen again on 23 Sep (BH) and remained through the month. Two Ruffs were seen on 25 Sep (PLaT,

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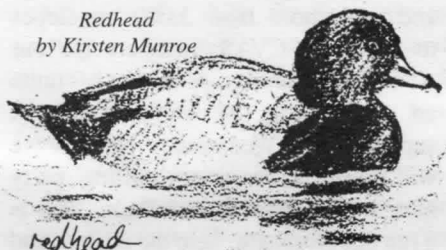
## Field Notes *cont'd*

EL, HHa) and 29 Sep (RW). One on the latter date was reported as an adult male. The juvenile **Franklin's Gull** found at the Sunnyvale WPCP ponds in July remained at least through 14 Aug (m.ob.). An immature found in Alviso on 25 Aug (MMR, MJM, RGJ) flew over to Sunnyvale and may have been a different bird. Five juvenile **Sabine's Gulls** were seen over Salt Pond A16 on 29 Sep (MMR, RGJ), but were not found after. **Least Terns** remained in the vicinity of Salt Pond A2E through 8 Aug with a high count for the season of 137 birds on 4 Aug (MMR, SCR, MJM). Later in the month, 42 birds were tallied on Salt Pond A9 in Alviso on 25 Aug (MMR, MJM, RGJ). A **Black Tern** was found on Salt Pond A16 on 4 Aug (MDo, KDo) and remained there through 15 Aug (m.ob.). Two birds were there on 11 and 12 Aug (v.ob.). Another **Black Tern** was recorded on Alviso salt ponds on 25 Aug (MMR, MJM, RGJ). A **Common Tern** was found on the Alviso salt ponds on 14 Sep (MJM, RGJ) and over the rest of the period additional observations of this bird or others were obtained including two juveniles on Salt Pond A15 on 20 Sep (MMR) and two juveniles on A14 and A15 on 29 Sep (MMR, RGJ). **Black Skimmer** pairs nested on two islands in Salt Pond A16 this season. On the second island two downy young were seen on 5 Aug (AME) and one young was seen on 5 Sep (RWR, FV) and presumably had fledged. On the first island, the pair was incubating three eggs and two downy young were seen on 17 Aug (RWR, FV). Two young were seen there on 26 Sep (WGB et al.) by which time the young should have fledged. A juvenile **Parasitic Jaeger** was found on Salt Pond A10 and A11 on 19 Sep (MJM, AME), this bird was seen through at least 21 Sep (v.ob.). A juvenile seen on pond A9 on 26 Sep (RLi) and pond A14 on 29 Sep (MMR) were likely the same bird.

### Roadrunners through Goldfinches

A **Greater Roadrunner** was seen along Silver Creek Valley Road on 7 Aug (LTu). The **Vaux's Swift** migration was active in this period. The high count in August was of 80 birds over Alviso on 25 Aug (SCR) and September's high was 200 birds moving south along the front

of the Diablo Range at the Sierra Road summit on 27 Sep (RCh). There was a well-marked passage of hummingbirds near Anderson Reservoir, based on a study of birds at multiple feeders in Morgan Hill (SCR). **Black-chinned Hummingbirds** were seen from 8 Aug to 19 Sep with 1-3 birds present on any day, but video shots showing more birds occurred over the period. Only one was an adult male. (In addition, a HY black-chin at the Alviso EEC on 15 Sep (TGr) was photographed.) A single female **Costa's Hummingbird** first came



to the feeders on 30 Aug and was last seen on 23 Sep. The **Allen's/Rufous hummingbird** species pair were seen from at least 7 Aug to 23 Sep, all HY birds or females. Careful analysis of video tape taken 22 Aug showed that roughly 23 individuals were Rufous and two were Allen's. The total number of *Selasphorus* hummingbirds for the period was considerably greater. The **Willow Flycatcher** passage started 24 Aug with singles at two locations on Guadalupe River (SCR, AV, JPa). At least 34 birds were tallied by the end of the period with a high count of five along Stevens Creek below Hwy 101 on 24 Sep (WGB). Three **Purple Martins** were seen on their fall migration, all female-type birds. One was at the San Jose-Santa Clara WPCP drying ponds on 13 Aug (MJM), the next was at Almaden Reservoir on 15 Aug (AV), and the last was at Salt Pond A15 on 21 Sep (BC). The only **Bank Swallow** in this period was a HY bird at the Mountain View Forebay on 22 Aug (MMR). Two **Nashville Warblers** were seen, one along Alamitos Creek above Almaden Lake on 18 Sep (AV) and one at Sunnyvale Baylands Park on 21 Sep (PKe, RKe, MJM). A HY **Chestnut-sided Warbler** was found in Guadalupe Oak Grove Park on 20 Sep (JPa), an 8th county record. Another eastern vagrant, a HY **Magnolia Warbler**, was seen along Stevens Creek below La Avenida

on 27 Sep (MMR) for a 7th county record. Three **Black-throated Gray Warblers** were found at Monte Bello OSP on 31 Aug to 12 Sep (GHa) and may have been dispersing local birds. Single birds at Guadalupe Oak Grove Park on 20 Sep (JPa) and Sunnyvale Baylands Park on 24 Sep (RWR, FV) were clearly migrants. A **Palm Warbler** was found at Sunnyvale Baylands Park on 21 Sep (RGJ) and was enjoyed by many through 27 Sep. Another bird was near New and Bannister avenues in Gilroy on 22 Sep (SCR). A HY **Blackpoll Warbler** was seen at Sunnyvale Baylands Park on 20 Sep (WGB) and remained through the next day (m.ob.). A second bird was along the Alamitos Creek Trail above Almaden Lake on 23 Sep (JPa). A third bird, also a HY, was at the Ulistac Natural Area on 30 Sep (SCR). While searching for the Magnolia Warbler along Stevens Creek, a HY male **Black-and-White Warbler** was seen on 27 Sep (DMA, PBr), it remained at least through 30 Sep (v.ob.). Adding to the vagrant list, a HY male **American Redstart** was seen along Guadalupe River below Montague on 23 Sep (SCR). The last of our vagrants (at least taxonomically) was a **Northern Waterthrush** found along Stevens Creek below Hwy 101 on 8 Sep (MMR). On 9 Sep, a Northern Waterthrush was found at the Charleston Road marsh (MDo et al.). In past years this waterthrush has wintered at both locations and we have been puzzled as to whether more than one bird has been involved. On 30 Sep, the waterthrush was seen along Stevens Creek (DWe) and then was observed to fly away from the creek and towards the marsh. This fall seems to have been good for the **MacGillivray's Warbler** migration as observers tallied at least 10 birds from 27 Aug (JPa) to 30 Sep (SCR). Birds have been found along the Bay in good areas for vagrants and also along some urban streams. A **Green-tailed Towhee** came to a Los Altos feeder on 24 Sep and remained through 28 Sep (RCo). A **Clay-colored Sparrow** was found on the edge of Salt Pond A8N on 25 Aug (MMR, MJM, RGJ) and is the earliest record we have. Similarly rare, a **Vesper Sparrow** was found along the Alviso Slough Trail on 23 Sep (RCh, BH). A

*continued on page 9*

# Volunteer Ventures

By Toby Goldberg  
SCVAS Programs Coordinator

Susan and I, and several other SCVAS members, have just returned from the California Audubon Assembly, and we're filled with new ideas for improving our programs and reaching out to the community. In addition to workshops on the theme of the conference (Global Warming; see "Thoughts from Asilomar" on our website for more on that topic), I was struck by how often the seminar leaders discussed the energy and passion that the members of each chapter brought to their organization, and I was once again reminded of how grateful I am for all of the wonderful volunteers, supporters and members that make our chapter such a dynamic and effective one!

Like all non-profit organizations, this Audubon Chapter can only accomplish its goals (you know - that of making the world a better place!) with the creativity, drive and support of its members. The Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society is very fortunate (at least I think so!) to be one of the few California chapters able to support a full-time staff. However, even with a full-time staff, it is still the membership that drives all of our programs - the staff is here to do what you, our members, want us to do! And, of course, being only 3 people, we can only do what our members want when we have strong volunteer support. And we certainly do have that!

So, as you head into the busy holiday season, take a minute to reflect on the strength of our chapter, and that we

couldn't do it without each of you! Thus, we send you SCVAS Holiday Greetings - full of thanks for all of you who do so much to keep our chapter thriving!

Of course, for anyone feeling those holiday warm-and-fuzzies and looking for opportunities to further strengthen the chapter, just keep reading - there are always more ways to help!

**Fundraiser Mailing Party** - Who says volunteering can't be a blast! Every autumn we hand-address, stuff, stamp, and seal more than 3,000 envelopes to send to SCVAS members for our Annual Fundraiser. This is quite an undertaking, so we need YOUR support! On Wednesday, Nov. 7, we will host an envelope stuffing party here at McClellan Ranch Park. This is a fun opportunity to help the chapter and meet other members. This fast-paced yet relaxed event lasts approximately 3 hours during the afternoon and will include snacks and raffle prizes. Call (408) 252-3740 to sign up!

**Birdathon Committee** - The Birdathon committee is looking for a few new members to help keep the momentum growing for one of the most important fundraisers we have! The main bulk of the work will be in the late winter/early spring as we seek sponsors and donors to help make sure the Birdathon is a fun activity for all. While this might sound like a lot of work, it is also incredibly rewarding, a lot of fun, and SO important for the continuing work that SCVAS does in the community!

## New in the SCVAS Nature Shop:

The holidays are almost here, and we have some fun gifts and ideas for those "next generation" birders of yours! For example, we carry the newly published books "Alphabet Birds" and "Let's Go Birding, You and Me" - fun ways to introduce the joy of birds to children. We also have toys, stuffed animals, calendars, activity books - and the list goes on! Come check us out!



## Young Audubon Winter Adventures are Coming!

Keep your eyes peeled and your calendars open for our annual Winter Adventures for families and children!

Exact dates are being worked out, but we'll be going Whale Watching in January and visiting the Elephant Seals in February...

Stay Tuned!

## The 2008 Spring Birdathon Is Coming! YOU Are Invited to Participate!

The Spring Birdathon Committee wants YOU to join in the fun of the SCVAS 2008 Spring Birdathon. EVERYONE, from beginner to expert, is eligible. Start thinking now about taking part in this exciting event. Spend a day in April birding with friends or join a guided team and bird with a pro. Raise lots of money for SCVAS environmental education and conservation or just pay the entry fee. Compete for fabulous prizes or just bird for the fun of it. Then, come to the Awards Dinner in June and participate in raffles, bird quizzes, contests, and the chance to win more great prizes. The Spring Birdathon will be your best birding experience this year! Can't participate? Join in the fun by sponsoring an individual or a team. Look for all the details in the next issue of "The Avocet."



# 2007 CBC's: Sign up and join the fun!

Birders of all ages, levels, abilities and interests are invited to join in the Santa Clara County Christmas Bird Counts. There are four chances to help with this long-standing (and fun!) activity that helps monitor bird populations throughout the United States.

If you are interested in participating, contact the Compiler of the region where you'd like to help. There is a \$5 charge to cover the cost of the national CBC result publication.

## SAN JOSE

**Sunday, December 16th**

Birders of all experience levels are welcome and needed. Bird identification skills are great but other skills are important too, such as: 1) spotter, able to point and say "Bird!" and 2) tally-man, able to make small marks on increasingly grubby bits of paper. We have such a diversity of habitats that there is something for everyone's pleasure. If you prefer shoreline, oak woodlands, lake-side, or riparian, we can accommodate you. So, come have fun and contribute to an important, on-going biological census.

The countdown dinner will review all birds seen for the day. The Leininger Center in Kelley Park is the host location. If you are interested in participating in the count, please contact Kirsten Holmquist before December 7 at 408.747.0988 or via email at [kirrosee@earthlink.net](mailto:kirrosee@earthlink.net).

## PALO ALTO

**Monday, December 17th**

This count, centered in Palo Alto, extends from the bay to the west side of Skyline Drive, so there is a variety of habitat and a diversity of bird species.

No particular skills are necessary to participate. You can count with a friend or join a small team of more experienced birders, and you can contribute a few hours or a full day.

The count circle is divided into 8 regions, and each region has a coordinator who will supply all the necessary paper work and instructions. A pizza dinner in the evening will allow us to tally our findings and celebrate any uncommon sightings.

If you have participated in the past and wish to continue with the same region coordinator, please contact them from the list below. If you are new to the count, you may contact me and I will find a spot where your talents will be best utilized. - Jack Cole

## Palo Alto Regional Coordinators:

- Region 1 - Jack Cole,  
[snoyowl@yahoo.com](mailto:snoyowl@yahoo.com), 408-996-0434  
Region 2 - Mike Rogers,  
[m.m.rogers@comcast.net](mailto:m.m.rogers@comcast.net)  
Region 3 - Bob Power,  
[repower@sbcglobal.net](mailto:repower@sbcglobal.net)  
Region 4 - Ruth Troetschler,  
[rebugging@batnet.com](mailto:rebugging@batnet.com)  
Region 5 - Trevor Hebert,  
[thebert@stanford.edu](mailto:thebert@stanford.edu)  
Region 6 - Nancy Teater,  
[nrt@hamilton.com](mailto:nrt@hamilton.com)  
Region 7 - Open  
(until someone - please! - steps forward. Contact Jack Cole, above.)  
Region 8 - Garth Harwood,  
[gharwood@hiddenvilla.org](mailto:gharwood@hiddenvilla.org)

## CALERO-MORGAN HILL

**Saturday, December 29th**

This inland count covers the southern part of Santa Clara County from the Santa Cruz Mountains to the west to the Diablo foothills in the east, and the valleys, reservoirs, riparian corridors, and county/city parks in between. A sampling of areas that we cover include the following: Quicksilver CP, Santa Teresa CP, Almaden Lake and the Water District, inland reservoirs, Coyote Creek riparian (including Ogier ponds), and Coyote Valley. If interested in joining the count or if you have any questions, please contact me: Ann Verdi (Compiler), [wodu10@aol.com](mailto:wodu10@aol.com), 408-266-5108

## MT. HAMILTON

**Sunday, December 30th**

Mark your calendars! This spectacular count circle includes Mt. Hamilton and the San Antonio Valley. Interested count leaders should contact me as soon as possible with your availability: Bob Hirt (Compiler), 408-821-2732 (cell).

*You Are Invited!*  
*SCVAS' Holiday Open House*

*Saturday, December 1st*  
*10:00 AM until 2:00 PM*

*A great opportunity to finish (or begin!)  
your holiday shopping!*

*Enjoy Holiday refreshments and a special one day discount!  
Browse through our books, jewelry, ornaments, and other bird related gift items.  
Enjoy a special display of paintings and photography by local artists, and visit with  
our feathered friends from Sky Hunters Environmental Education.*

*Visit with our staff and learn about current Santa Clara Valley Audubon conservation  
projects and discuss important birding areas.*

*All proceeds go to our education and conservation programs*

*For more details, please contact Susan at (408) 252-3747 at the SCVAS Office and  
Nature Shop • 22221 McClellan Road • Cupertino, CA*

# Field Notes

*continued from page 7*

**Sage Sparrow** found along Guadalupe River near Montague on 28 Sep (WGB) appeared to be the coastal race belli. These birds are generally resident, but there are some local movements. I don't have any previous records of this species away from its breeding areas. A **White-throated Sparrow** was seen along Stevens Creek below Hwy 101 on 28 Sep (JAC). A pair of **Blue Grosbeaks** was seen again along the Pajaro River below Hwy 101 on 15 Aug (RWR, FV) and the female was seen feeding a fledgling. This is the third observation of dependent fledglings this summer, each at one-month intervals. This suggests the possibility of more than one breeding pair there this year. A HY Blue Grosbeak

was also found during migration along the Guadalupe River near Montague on 28 Sep (SCR). A **Pine Siskin** was observed over Morgan Hill on 8 Sep (SCR). Two to three **Lawrence's Goldfinches** have been found at Monte Bello OSP 3 Aug-8 Sep (GHa, MMR), but no roosting concentrations yet. One was seen over Morgan Hill on 5 Aug (SCR), but there have been no reports from the Diablo Range.

Observers: Bill Bousman (WGB), Phil Brown (PBr), Brent Campos (BC), Roy Churchwell (RCh), Rich Cimino (RC), Jack Cole (JAC), Rita Colwell (RCo), Kelly Dodder (KDo), Matthew Dodder (MDo), Al Eisner (AME), Daniel Gilman (DGi), Tom Grey (TGr), Hugh Harvey (HHa), Garth Harwood (GHa), Bob Hirt (BH), Richard Jeffers (RGJ),

Roland Kenner (RKe), Pat Kenny (PKe), Eugenia Larson (EL), Peter LaTourrette (PLaT), Randy Little (RLi), Kristine Long (KL), Mike Mammoser (MJM), Dean Manley (DMa), Stacy Moskal (SMM), Jean Myers (JMy), Kris Olson (KO), Janna Pauser (JPa), Bob Power (BP), Bob Reiling (RWR), Mike Rogers (MMR), Steve Rottenborn (SCR), Sal Salerno (SSa), Joel Shin (JSh), Brittany Stieg (BSt), Linda Sullivan (LSu), Craig Swolgaard (CSw), Jim Thomas (JT), Leslie Tucci (LTu), Frank Vanslager (FV), Ann Verdi (AV), Bill Walker (BW), Dave Weber (DWe), and Ron Wolf (RW).

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

## Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society

### Statement of Income & Balance Sheets - Year Ending May 31, 2007

<b>Statement of Income</b>	5/31/06	5/31/07	<b>Asset, Liabilities, and Surplus</b>		
TOTAL REVENUE (includes net Nature Shop sales, Investment Income, Memberships and Program Revenues):	\$ 75,897	\$ 40,971	TOTAL ASSETS (includes Cash, Deposits, Prepaid Expenses, Accounts Receivable, Fixed Assets, Inventory, and Investments, At market value):	\$624,920	\$726,866
SUPPORT (includes Gifts and Memorials, Birdathon, contributions to Restricted Funds, Earthshare of California distributions, misc. Program Support):	<u>\$166,539</u>	<u>\$218,309</u>	LIABILITIES (includes Accounts Payable, Salaries and Payroll Taxes Payable, Sales Taxes Payable, and Deferred Income):	\$ 632	\$ 3,798
<b>TOTAL REVENUE AND SUPPORT</b>	\$242,436	\$359,280	SURPLUS (includes Funds Designated to meet Long-term Needs, Restricted Funds, and Undesignated Surplus):	\$629,955	\$624,288
<b>EXPENSES:</b>			<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND SURPLUS:</b>	\$624,920	\$726,866
Total Program Expenses	\$160,812	\$174,682			
Total Fundraising Expenses	\$ 25,262	\$ 28,035	STATEMENT OF SURPLUS:	\$624,288	\$723,069
Total General & Administrative Expenses	<u>\$ 62,029</u>	<u>\$ 57,782</u>	Surplus, Beginning of Year	\$(5,667)	\$ 98,781
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	\$248,103	\$260,499	Surplus, End of Year	\$624,288	\$723,069
<b>EXCESS OF OPERATING REVENUE OVER EXPENSES</b>	\$ (5,667)	\$ 98,781			

### Financial Report

As a service to our membership, the SCVAS Board of Directors presents this summary of our organization's financial position as of the conclusion of the fiscal year. Our balance sheet continues to reflect a strong financial position. Our surplus acts as a form of endowment in that most of it is designated by the Board of Directors to meet Long-Term needs, and the earnings generated from the investment of the surplus are used to pay for current operating expenses. If you have any questions or wish a copy of the financial report, please contact the SCVAS office.

# Santa Clara County Cavity Nesters Recovery Program Results 1997 to 2007

Chicks Fledged from boxes monitored by Volunteers in Santa Clara County  
Preliminary Report as of September 25, 2007

I think we're all aware that the weather over the past couple of years has been unusual, chaotic, extreme, or just plain weird – however you want to call it, it's something we all notice and talk about. Unfortunately, shifts in "typical" weather patterns do affect our breeding songbirds in numerous ways – from heat waves or cold snaps that cause nest failure, to drought that reduces insect populations. Adding to the weather woes are the complications associated with increased urban development – larger predator presence, reduced feeding areas, etc. However, while these problems might seem too large for individuals to take on, our nest box monitors have demonstrated time and time again that their efforts – whether those efforts entail installing and monitoring 1-2 backyard nest boxes, or monitoring several hundred boxes in open-space trails – are important to our songbird populations. As always, and despite occasional bits of bad news, the overall message is one of hope, of perseverance, and that one person can and does make a difference. As the man who was seen throwing sea stars back into the ocean one-by-one after a storm said to his doubters, it makes a difference to that one.

Just a couple of quick notes about the data itself: The 2007 data is incomplete - more information should be coming in through the middle of November. If you'd like to see the final results, those will be available on our website, [www.scvas.org](http://www.scvas.org), under the "Conservation" section. We'd also like to sincerely thank the over 120 nest box volunteers who monitor a total of 1108 nest boxes throughout the County - they're amazing!! And, despite lower-than-normal numbers for some species (but again, we haven't tallied all the data yet...), some are doing quite well (Western Bluebirds and Violet-Green Swallows, for example). Both facts support the need to keep this program going strong!

SPECIES	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006 (thru 11/12)	2007 (thru 9/11)
WEBL	90	274	189	204	271	432	369	398	502	468	491
VGSW	52	175	198	89	107	295	183	219	236	233	250
OATI	5	122	167	173	133	249	192	180	343	275	104
CBCH	5	13	50	96	106	127	114	104	218	246	183
BCCH											10
BEWR	0	27	23	33	38	29	19	52	69	63	44
HOWR	11	18	3	13	44	61	44	61	104	31	65
WBNU	10	5	4	20	6	29	25	31	64	31	22
TRES	31	46	55	54	73	166	128	192	254	299	211
HOFI	0	0	0	4	10	0	0	0	2	0	0
AMKE	0	0	0	0	1	2	3	0	0	0	0
WESO	0	0	4	4	0	0	0	3	0	0	0
BNOW	0	0	0	4	4	11	16	2	12	16	4
WODU	0	0	0	0	0	6	20	7	0	0	0
ACWP								0	0	0	0
HOSP										4	69
TOTALS	229	697	747	754	877	1535	1208	1354	1930	1803	1453
TRAILS	17	20	21	23	23	42	36	34	42/60*	44/64*	45/81*
BOXES	230	295	338	395	420	492	484	522	550/780*	645/890*	673/1108*
SPECIES	8	9	10	12	12	12	12	13	11	14	12

# backyards counted as one trail  
\* reporting/total in county

**Species key:**

WEBL – Western Bluebird; VGSW – Violet-green Swallow; OATI – Oak Titmouse; CBCH – Chestnut-backed Chickadee; BCCH – Black-capped Chickadee; BEWR – Bewick's Wren; HOWR – House Wren; WBNU – White-breasted Nuthatch; TRES – Tree Swallow; HOFI – House Finch; AMKE – American Kestrel; WESO – Western Screech Owl; BNOW – Barn Owl; WODU – Wood Duck; ACWP – Acorn Woodpecker; HOSP – House Sparrow.

### Sponsors of the Breeding Bird Atlas:

This list represents sponsors as of October 5th, 2007. Sponsorship as it appears in the Breeding Bird Atlas may take on a different form depending on the sponsor's instructions.

Joan and Paul Armer, Joyce Bartlett, Bonnie Bedford-White, Charles and Susan Bell, Patricia Boyle, Susie Brain, J. Bryson, Betty Burrige, Dotty Calabrese and Donna Clarke, Caryl Carr and David Presotto, Bill and Diane Carver, Cheeseman's Ecology Safaris, Rita Colwell, Anne Creevy, Ann Davidson and Marcia Ruotolo, Karen Demello, Matthew and Kelly Dodder, David Drake and Leda Beth Gray, Harry L. Elliott Jr., Eric Goodill, K. Greene, Jan Hintermeister, Robert Hirt, Kirsten Holmquist, James Hulseman, Jim and Kathy Johnson, Jane Jordan, Derry and Charlene Kabcenell, Gay Katilius and Minda Thomas, Joanne Lazar, Ronald LeCount, Phil and Joan Leighton, Ashok Khosla, Bob and Hanno Lewis, Jim and Sue Liskovec, Mary Lorey, Chris MacIntosh, Madrone Audubon Society, Ronald and Barbara McDow, Patty McGann, David McIntyre and Antoinette Konski, John and Clysta McLemore, Shannon McMahan, Jim and Donna Meyer, George and

Lilo Miller, Larisa Miller, Jean Myers, Lisa Myers, Napa-Solano Audubon Society, Gary and Elisabeth Nielsen, Katy Obringer, Ohlone Audubon Society, Richard Page, Rebecca and Everett Palmer, Kay Partelow, Leon and Janna Pauser, Cathy and Don Priest, Margot Rawlins, Judy Rickard, Joy Robinson, Patricia Rouzer, San Francisco Bay Bird Observatory, Ralph W. Schardt, Sequoia Audubon Society, Ashutosh Sinha, Kendric and Marion Smith, Tate and Curtis Snyder, Robert Stephens and Julie Packard, Nancy Teater, Margo Tenold, The Norton Family, Susan Thomas, Steve and Deborah Thompson, Ruth and Gene Troetschler, Ann Verdi, Connie West.

**We thank these members for their generous contributions, July 2007 through September 2007:**

**Avocet Circle:**

David Speer and Tiffany Choy

**Supporter:**

Keith Anderson, Robnett Hill, Rosalie Lefkowitz, George and Lilo Miller.

**Associate:**

Andrey Butcher, Ken and Patsy McKay, Curtis Mitchell, Chuq Von Rospach.

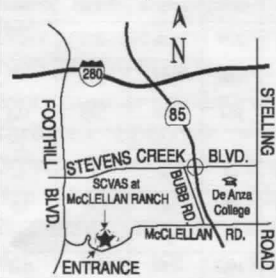
**Individual:**

Cheryl Adams, Jane Ardley, Sabine Axt, Bill and Marilyn Bauriedel, Ann Bender, Prabal Bhattacharya, Patricia Burns, Chris Carneghi, John Caulfield, Lichin Cheng and Chung Ho, Mike Christopherson, Dr. Gilbert Chu, Diane Claerbout, Colleen Cunningham, Curtis Engelhard, David Gannon, Michael and Katie Geminder, Frances Grabau, Rose Green, Allan Hack, Walter Hay, Walter Hay, Gail Hicks, James and Margaret Hohenshelt, Michael Irwin, Joan Kaehler, Margaret Limberatos, Shannon McMahan, Curtis Mitchell, Nancy Mori, Whitney Mortimer, Mary Louise Moses, Heidi Munzinger, Dave and Libby Nelson, Roberta Preu, Mary-Lyle Rempel, Virginia Rhodas, Murray and Bernice Siegel, Anne Spence, Phil Terzian, Susan Thomas, Shripad and Shubha Tuljapurkar, Pooja Venkatesh, Ted and Jane Wassam, Mary Weisheit, Barbara Weller, Nancy Yeend.



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E-mail: [scvas@scvas.org](mailto:scvas@scvas.org)  
[www.scvas.org](http://www.scvas.org)



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## Mitigation Monitoring

*continued from page 4*

were plans for a couple creek trails in the area. Some riparian plantings had been completed as part of the trail projects, but nowhere near 12.6 acres, and they were never seen as mitigation projects. Field visits confirmed our claims, and the main planner I was working with in San Jose acknowledged that the work had not been done (at least not fully done).

Then the hard part came—money. The City should have required Evergreen developers to pay for the restoration as their projects were approved. With that opportunity lost, and the City in tight budgetary times, there appeared to be little hope for the Evergreen restoration.

I believe the theater term is *Deus ex Machina*—when the hand of God seems to reach down and correct things. I first got an email saying that there may be some funds remaining in an assessment district account for the Evergreen area. Then I got this email:

“Craig, I understand from the DPW staff who administers the assessment district that collected the funds, the amount

reserved is approximately \$800K. Akoni”

Victory! Evidently the assessment district funds were to be refunded to the developers, but the Planning Department got to them first. \$800,000 to be used for riparian restoration in the Evergreen area. With that one achievement, our mitigation monitoring project had justified itself many times over.

Considerable credit here goes to San Jose planner Akoni Danielsen, with whom I have been working closely. Of the effort, Akoni says, “City staff are excited to have another opportunity to enhance the riparian habitat values along these important creeks in Evergreen and fulfill the mitigation promises made more than a decade ago.” The City also acknowledges that without SCVAS’ work, this problem would likely never have been corrected.

*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.

## Special Event: Santa Clara County Creeks and Watershed Conference

Saturday, Nov. 17th, 2007  
8:30 AM – 3:30 PM  
Pioneer High School,  
1290 Blossom Hill Rd.  
San Jose

*Registration required for lunch!*  
*Register at [www.scccreeks.org](http://www.scccreeks.org),  
[mlariz@nccfff.org](mailto:mlariz@nccfff.org), or 408-356-8258.*

## The Santa Clara Valley Birding Community Says Goodbye

Frank Ford Farran passed away on  
September 11, 2007.  
An ardent birder known for his Bird-  
ing-by-Ear skills, and an SCVAS field  
trip leader, Frank will be missed.

**Avocet Editors:** Sabrina Johnson  
& Toby Goldberg

**Avocet Graphics:** Bonnie Bedford-White

**2007 Volume 57, Number 6**

**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.**