

THE AVOCET

The Newsletter of the Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society

January - February 2008

The 2008 SCVAS Spring Birdathon Wants YOU!

Everyone, from beginner to expert birder, can participate in the 2008 SCVAS Spring Birdathon, a major fundraising event for SCVAS Conservation Efforts and Youth Environmental Education, raising over \$44,000 in 2007. Your participation could help raise even more in 2008.

- Anyone can win fabulous prizes, from optics, and birding trips, to entertainment tickets, exotic resort getaways, excellent wines, and much more, by raising money and being a top fundraiser! Top fundraisers get their choice of prizes.
- Anyone can join in by self-donating at least \$30.
- Anyone can sponsor a team. Check www.scvas.org after February 1, 2008, to pick a Birdathon team to sponsor. Call the office to make a tax-deductible donation to that team. Receive a report about that team's Birdathon Day.

Here are the basics of how to join in the Birdathon fun, raise money, and compete for a prize:

1. Check www.scvas.org for the Birdathon rules; information, and prize list after February 1, 2008. Check back often, as the prize list will be updated regularly as new prizes become available.
2. Talk to your birding friends about forming a Self-Guided Team together for the 2008 SCVAS Spring Birdathon, pick a day to bird between from March 29 to April 27, inclusive. Register your team by calling Susan Bell at the SCVAS Office, 408-252-3747. Or, call to join a Guided Team led by one of our many expert birders such as:

Leader Name	Team Name	Type	Date
Bob Power	(To Be Named)	4-Hour	(3/30)
Laurie West-Roberts	The Snipe Hunters	24-Hour	(4/5)
Debbie Thompson	The Whacky-Capped Chickadees	4-Hr	(4/13)

Mike Rogers	The Varied Twitchers	24-Hour	(4/19)
Bob Hirt	The Rock Wrens	24-Hour	(4/20)
Matthew Dodder	The De-duck-tions	24-Hour	(4/26)
Bob Power	The Bob-O-Links	24-Hour	(4/27)
Bob Hirt	Hipper Dippers	4-Hour	(4/27)

(Check www.scvas.org after February 1, 2008 for complete and up-to-date list of leaders and teams.)

3. Plan your birding day with your Self-Guided teammates. Create a 4-Hour or 24-hour Birdathon that fits your team. You can design a relaxed and restful Birdathon or one that is creative and energetic. For example:
 - A. Spend four hours on a Saturday snacking in lounge chairs on your patio counting species at your feeders (4-Hour Birdathon Category). OR
 - B. Race around Santa Clara County from before dawn until after dark, birding in as many habitats and locations as is humanly possible in a 24-hour period (24-hour Birdathon Category).
4. Raise money - at least \$30 per team member. It's so much easier than you think. Most people you know will be delighted to support your efforts for a good environmental education program with a small or large tax-deductible donation. Call, e-mail, or write all your friends, family, coworkers, neighbors, acquaintances, to ask for pledges or donations. Sound too hard? It's not! In recent years, our top fundraisers each raised from \$350 to over \$10,000! You can, too. We'll teach you how. Read the fundraising tips in your Birdathon packet and/or The Birdathon Fundraising Article in the next Avocet. You'll find out how easy it can be.
5. Bird with your team on your Birdathon Day and have fun!

**Ventana
Wildlife Society
presents...
see Page 5**

continued on page 11

General Membership Meeting "Woodpeckers, Inside and Out"

with Steve Shunk
Palo Alto Arts Center,
Newell and Embarcadero Rds, Palo Alto
Wednesday, Jan. 16th
Doors open 7:30 PM; Program 8:00 PM

Imagine, for a moment, slamming your face into a brick wall at 16 miles per hour. This self-destructive (and foolish) act would require about 1,200 g of force, almost certainly resulting in your death. Yet, a Pileated Woodpecker exerts the same force up to 20 times per second, and as many as 12,000 times per day, pounding its head into trees!

continued on back page

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- *Wildlife Education Day a Success!* — Page 10

Jan. - Feb. '08 Field Trips

(Full details for all of our Field Trips are also available online at www.scvas.org)

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

LO = Lunch optional

RC = Heavy rain cancels

NF = No facilities available

Wednesday January 2, 12 noon

City of Sunnyvale Landfill

One hour. Leaders: Freddy Howell and Elaine Gould. Contact organizer Silvana 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 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**.

Wednesday Jan. 9, 8:30 AM

Los Gatos Creek Park/Oka Ponds

Half day. Leader: Jim Johnson (408) 996-3506 From Hwy 17 exit San Tomas Expwy; go south on Winchester (toward Los Gatos); left on E. Hacienda; left on Dell; right into Park. Meet at end of parking lot. **LO, RC**.



Saturday Jan. 12, 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. Targeted species include Phainopepla, Mountain Bluebird, Prairie Falcon, Ferruginous Hawk and Golden Eagle; other possibilities include Mountain Plover, Bald Eagle, Vesper Sparrow, Greater Roadrunner and Chukar. Bring lunch and a full tank of gas, carpooling is strongly recommended due to limited parking on the narrow roads. FRS radios set to channel 11; sub code 22 will be very useful on this trip.

Sunday Jan 13, 8:00 AM

Shoreline Lake and Environs

Half day. Leader: Pat Kenny (408) 725-0468. From Hwy 101 take Shoreline Blvd and proceed north to its end (past the golf course). Meet in the parking lot near the boathouse. This trip is intended to include beginning birders but, as always, all are welcome. Expected species include ducks, gulls, some shorebirds, and a few riparian birds. A moderately long, but level, loop trip, **RC**.

Sunday Jan 13, 9:45 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 take the Ardenwood Blvd exit to the right and follow signs to parking lot. Monarch Butterflies are our primary objective with 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 Jan. 19, 8:00 AM

Ogier Ponds

Half day. Leader: Kirsten Holmquist (408) 747-0988. From Hwy 101 in Morgan Hill take Cochrane Rd. west to Monterey Why, turn right, go north 2.6 miles, turn right towards the Model Airplane Park where the power tow-

ers cross the Hwy. (Note: this is an unnamed road). Meet at the gated entrance to the ponds. **RC**.

Sunday Jan 20, 8:00 AM

Almaden Lake Park and Alamos Creek

Half day. Leader: TBD (questions - call Bob Reiling (408) 253-7527). Meet in the west parking lot of Almaden Lake Park. From Highway 85 take Almaden Expressway south. The park is on the east (left) side of Almaden Expressway. Continue just past Coleman Road (and the park) and return northbound on Almaden Expressway to the park entrance on the right. Expect about 3 miles of easy walking. We will bird the lake and the trail upstream looking for waterfowl, raptors, and a wide variety of riparian birds. **LO, RC**.

Saturday Jan. 26, 8:00 AM

Arastradero OSP

Half day. Leader: TBD (questions - call Bob Reiling 408-253-7527). From I-280 take Page Mill Rd west; turn right on Arastradero Rd and meet in the parking lot about 1/2 mile on the right. Moderate walking with some elevation change. **RC**.

Sunday Jan. 27, 9:00 AM

San Francisco's Southern Parks

Half Day. Leader: Alan Hopkins (415) 664-0983. Meet at Candlestick Point State Recreation Area, this is a good place to see shorebirds, bay ducks, loons and raptors. We will then visit San Francisco's second largest park - McLaren Park, for land birds and a few dabbling ducks. Other lesser-known but birdy parks may be visited, time permitting. From Hwy 101 exit just past Brisbane Lagoon at the Candlestick/3Com Park off-ramp. Continue east along Harney Way and turn right onto James-town/Hunters Point Expressway. As you drive along the Expressway watch for the entrance to Candlestick State Recreation Area on the right and enter (no fee). We will meet at the end of the paved road that runs through the park. **RC**.

Saturday & Sunday Feb 2 & 3

San Luis Obispo County

Two days. Leader: Jim Royer (e-mail address below; call Bob Reiling 408-253-7527 if no e-mail available). This field trip entails two full days of bird-

Field Trips *continued*

ing by car caravan (bring a lunch, liquids, warm clothes, and a full tank of gas each day). We will meet on Sat. at the very end of Coleman Drive - next to the mouth of the bay and Morro Rock (in Morro Bay) at 7:30 AM. We will bird around Morro Bay and along coast (stops will be determined by the location of wintering birds). Contact Jim Royer at jcadroyer@aol.com for questions and to reserve a spot. Participants should show up 10-15 minutes prior to morning meeting times or risk being left behind. Later meeting places will not be arranged. Cold temperatures on the Plain, possible sprinkles (heavy rain will cancel), mud, possible poison oak, and moderate walking. Enthusiastic beginners welcome, but expect a quick birding pace. Bring a scope if you have one. Camping: Morro Bay and Montana de Oro State Parks. Morro Shores Inn (805-772-0222) is a new motel which is nice and conveniently located.

Wednesday Feb. 6, 12 noon **City of Sunnyvale Landfill**

One hour. Leaders: Freddy Howell and Elaine Gould. Contact organizer Silvana 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 Feb. 9, 8:30 AM **Foster City and Coyote Point, San Mateo County Bayside**

Half day. Leader: Al Eisner (days and voicemail: (650) 926-2018; evenings: (650) 364-3686). From Hwy 101 take E. Hillsdale Ave. toward the bay, turn right on Shell Blvd. (just after passing the lagoon), and park in the Leo Ryan Park lot on your right, just beyond the community center. We will start our birding here, then car caravan to at least one other Foster City location and to Coyote Point. At Coyote Point (possible admission charge) we will meet at the parking lot adjacent to the yacht club. This trip should be good for shorebirds (including "rockbirds") and waterfowl, but we'll also look for landbirds. A scope will be very useful. **LO, RC**.

Sunday Feb. 10, 9:00 AM **Pescadero Marsh and Vicinity**

Half day. Leader: Sue James (650) 348-0315. Meet at first parking lot south of the bridge over Pescadero Creek on Hwy 1. Shorebirds, gulls, grebes, and ducks possible. Don't forget that spotting scope. **LO, RC**.

Wednesday Feb. 13, 8:30 AM

Lake Cunningham, San Jose

Half day. Leader: Janna Pauser (408) 997-1727. From Hwy 101 in San Jose, exit Tully Rd. Go east on Tully to the entrance to Lake Cunningham Park, 3 mile past Capitol Expwy. Turn left into park and left again at the entrance booth. Park in the Marina parking lot. **LO**.

Saturday Feb. 16, 9:00 AM

Coyote Reservoir

Half Day. Leader: Bob Reiling (408) 253-7527. From Hwy 101 in Gilroy take Leavesley Rd east for 1.5 miles, turn left on New Ave then right on Roop Rd. Go left at the "T" intersection, then after 1.3 miles left again on Coyote Reservoir Rd and on to the Lakeview Picnic area. **LO, RC**.

Sunday Feb. 17, 8:00 AM

Alum Rock Park

Half day. Leader: Jim Johnson (408) 996-3506. From Hwy 101 or I-680 take McKee Rd northeast toward the hills then left on Toyon Ave, right on Penitencia Creek Rd and continue on into the park. Pass under the bridge and meet at the far end of the upper parking lot. This is a moderately strenuous 3-4 mile walk. Resident breeding birds (possible Rufous-Crowned Sparrow, and Canyon Wren if we are lucky) early migrants, and lingering winter birds. Be prepared for some mud! **LO, RC**.

Saturday Feb. 23, 8:30 AM

Merced & San Luis Wildlife Refuges

Full day. Leader: Rich Page (408) 377-1092. Meet at the parking area near the first Observation Platform in Merced National Wildlife Refuge. From Hwy 101 in Gilroy take Hwy 152 east thru Los Banos, (no services past Los Banos, so check your gas gauge), approx. 20 miles then north 7 miles on Rte. 59 to Sandy Mush Rd, turn left approx. 8 miles to Merced Wildlife Refuge, on the left. Allow 2.5 hrs driving time from San Jose, more if it's foggy. Raptors, ducks, geese, Great Horned Owls, Sandhill Cranes and White-faced Ibis possible. This will primarily be a driving bird

trip; FRS radios set to channel 11 sub code 22 will prove valuable to all on this trip. After the Merced Wildlife Refuge we will caravan to the San Luis Wildlife Refuge for lunch and more birding. Dress in layers, bring lunch, liquids, and a full tank of gas. **RC**.

Sunday Feb. 24, 8:30 AM

Coyote Hills Regional Park

Half day. Leader: Frank Vanslager (650) 961-1505. Take Hwy 84, Dumbarton Bridge, east towards Newark. Exit right on Thornton, then left over freeway, as Thornton becomes Paseo Padre. Turn left at Patterson Ranch/Commerce Rd into park. Meet at far end of Quarry Parking lot ¼ mile past park entrance. An entrance fee should be expected. **LO, RC**.

Saturday Mar 1, 7:30 AM

Santa Cruz Coastal Hot Spots

Half Day (optional plus). Leader: Todd Newberry, Santa Cruz Bird Club (831) 426-8741. Meet 7:30 AM Santa Cruz lighthouse W. Cliff Drive. From Hwy 17 take Hwy 1 "north" (toward Half Moon Bay), turn left on Bay St (just after MacDonald's), go to its end, turn right onto W. Cliff Drive, follow bluff-top to lighthouse. A chance to visit local birding hotspots and to chase recently reported goodies. Dress in layers; Todd's trips go rain or shine. For those running late, at 8 AM we will be on West Cliff Drive, checking inter-tidal shelves as we approach the Natural Bridges overlook west end of West Cliff Dr.

Sunday Mar. 2, 9:00 AM

Stanford Campus

Half day. Leader: Dick Stovel (650) 856-6105. From Hwy 101 in Palo Alto take University Ave. exit west through downtown and into Stanford campus (University Ave. becomes Palm Dr). Meet at the end of Palm Dr at entrance to Main Quad. Local breeding birds and early returning migrants should be active. This field trip is highly recommended for beginning birders. **RC**.

A Plan Ahead Trip:

Saturday & Sunday Mar. 15 & 16

Honey Lake, Eagle Lake & vicinity
Leader: Bob Hirt (408) 821-2732. A weekend trip to a remote corner of northeast California. Trip limited to 20 participants. Call to sign up or for more information. **The Avocet 3**

Volunteer Ventures

by Toby Goldberg

Programs Coordinator

Welcome to 2008! We here in the SCVAS office hope that everyone had safe, happy and healthy holidays, and that everyone is eagerly looking forward to the new year!

'Tis the season for goals, plans, and resolutions, and we definitely have been making ours – the list is longer than a 5-year-old's Christmas List to Santa! Of course, we are as committed to our chapter's goals as ever, and that means talking to and encouraging participation from our members. After all, our chapter exists because Santa Clara Valley members are enthusiastic, passionate, dedicated, and serious about their commitment to our local birds and their environment.

If you would like to be involved in shaping this chapter or helping us carry out all of the many programs and projects we have planned, I'd love to hear from you! With activities ranging from one-time event support to weekly field trips, we have volunteer opportunities to suit every interest, schedule, energy level and background. Give me a call to find out more!

Here are just a few of our up-coming volunteer needs (more are available online at www.scvas.org):

Cavity Nest Box Monitor – You can help save cavity-nesting birds of Santa Clara Valley from population decline - now more than ever, your help is crucial to this effort! Increasing habitat loss and degradation has left native cavity nesters, such as Western Bluebirds, Chestnut-backed Chickadees, and Barn Owls, without natural cavities in which to raise their young. Fortunately, our team of dedicated nest box volunteers are bringing these populations back. In 1997, the Santa Clara County California Bluebird Recovery Program fledged 229 birds of 8 different species. In 2005, we fledged 1,821 birds of 11 species! As a nest box monitor, you can help families of these and other cavity-nesters make their homes and raise their young. You may install nest boxes yourself or monitor pre-installed boxes. Monitoring involves consistent, weekly visits to boxes to record their use and can be very personally rewarding (see, for example, last issue's CNRP report). A minimum one-year commitment is strongly encouraged. No

experience is necessary, as we will provide training materials and guidance. See the Events Calendar (page 5) for details on information and training sessions. For more information call (408) 252-3740.

Field Trip Coordinator – SCVAS is proud to offer wonderful birding trips to interesting locations free of charge to our members and the public. These outings are fun, social, casual affairs scheduled by our fabulous Field Trip Coordinators and led by volunteer leaders. We currently 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. Some familiarity with local birding sites is helpful, but training, background and contacts information will be provided.

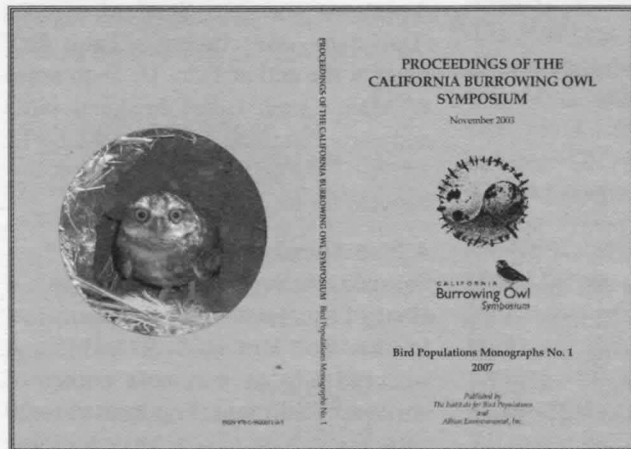
Carpool Coordinator – Help SCVAS members be pro-active about global warming! As we all know, the cost of gasoline (both literally and figuratively) is at an all time high. So, we'd like to make it easy for SCVAS members and friends to reduce their consumption of gasoline as they participate in field trips, meetings, events, etc. The position of carpool coordinate is a new one, so will take a bit of time initially to set-up, but shouldn't require much time once the contacts and lists have been established. Familiarity or comfort with computers, on-line calendars, web groups, etc., helpful but not required.

Contact Toby at (408) 252-3740 or programs@scvas.org to volunteer for one of these positions or explore the many other possibilities.

TIME TO FOCUS ON FEEDERS!

The 21st season of Project FeederWatch is underway, but you can sign up at any time. Your counts will help scientists monitor changes in feeder-bird populations over the winter from year to year. New participants receive a kit with a handbook, a bird-identification poster, a calendar, and an instruction booklet. Join the flock! For more information about Project FeederWatch or to sign up in the U.S., please visit www.birds.cornell.edu/pfw/ or call (800) 843-2473. There is a \$15 fee to defray the cost of the materials (\$12 for Lab members).

New and of Note:



PROCEEDINGS OF THE CALIFORNIA BURROWING OWL SYMPOSIUM, NOVEMBER 2003. Barclay, J.H., K.W. Hunting, J.L. Lincer, J. Linthicum, and T.A. Roberts, editors.

Published as Bird Populations Monographs No. 1 by The Institute for Bird Populations and Albion Environmental, Inc. Contains 20 papers about burrowing owl regional status, research, management, policy, and reference information (a bibliography on the burrowing owl in California) from the two-day California Burrowing Owl Symposium in Sacramento, CA in November 2003.

Price: \$20 U.S. (includes tax and shipping).

Visit www.albionenvironmental.com to view the table of contents and to order. Also can be ordered by calling (831) 469-9128 or email info@albionenvironmental.com. ISBN: 978-0-9800011-0-5.

Events Calendar:

Tue. Jan. 8, 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: Raven

Mon. Jan 21, 10:30AM & 1PM

Young Audubon Whale Watching at Monterey Bay
(see page 8 for details)

Tue. Feb 12, 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: Bird Songs

Feb 15-18

11th Annual Great Backyard Bird Count - Count for Fun, Count for the Future! Help top the record-breaking 2007 count, when participants submitted more than 80,000 checklists! Consider becoming a GBBC ambassador to help spread the word about this great event. For more information, visit www.birdcount.org and click on the "Get Involved" button.

Mon. Feb 18, exact times TBD

Young Audubon Elephant Seal tours at Año Nuevo
(see page 8 for details)

Sat. Feb 23, 10AM-12PM

Cavity Nesters Recovery Program (CNRP) Information Session

Come learn about the declining cavity nesting bird populations in our area, and how you can help to reverse that trend. This will be a chance to learn more about nest boxes, the CNRP and what it takes to be a nest box monitor, as well as to ask questions of some of our experienced monitors. Please RSVP by calling (408) 252-3740 or sending an email to programs@scvas.org.

Sun. Mar 2, 9PM-12PM & 1-4PM

Nest Box Training (session 1 and 2)
(see information below)

Sun. Mar 9, 9PM-12PM & 1-4PM

Nest Box Training (session 3 and 4)

Come join the fun as we clean out and repair nest boxes at Arastradero Preserve. New monitors need only attend one of the four sessions offered. We'll meet at the parking lot at the preserve at 9am and 1pm. As we're hiking between nest boxes we'll learn about this exciting program that is helping increase populations of Western Bluebirds and many other species of cavity nesting creatures.



Heavy rain or storm will postpone session till next sunny Sunday. To RSVP, call or email David "Tex" Houston at 650-303-2777 or tex009@sbcglobal.net.

Looking Ahead:

Visit The Backcountry Of Henry W. Coe State Park: It's that time again! For one spectacular weekend this spring, Henry W. Coe State Park will again open the gate at Bells Station on Highway 152 east of Gilroy. The Coe Backcountry Weekend, held in the little-traveled east side of the 87,000 acre park is scheduled for **April 25-27, 2008**. Entrance is by application only, since we limit the number of cars each day. Only one application per address is permitted. Applications are selected by drawing from applications dated from **February 1 through February 29, 2008**. Go to www.coepark.org for information about fees, reservations, applications, and all additional details.

SCVAS' New Year's Wishlist:

Our poor beleaguered copy machine is on its very last legs (even the repair guys won't touch it any more!). If anyone has a spare that they no longer need, you'd make our entire year!

General Membership Meeting

"Birds Great and Small: Avian Monitoring in Monterey County"

by Jessica Griffiths, Wildlife Biologist with the Ventana Wildlife Society.

Campbell Community Center, Campbell Ave & Winchester Blvd., Orchard City Hall Room
(Winchester side)

Wednesday, Feb. 20th

Doors open 7:30; program 8:00

Jessica Griffiths will discuss VWS's 15 years of research on birds ranging from the smallest songbirds to the mighty California condor. She will discuss research techniques, share results, and highlight rare birds. The evening will be full of fascinating facts, beautiful bird photos, and some interesting stories! Jessica has worked for VWS for the last five years. Originally from Chicago, she has nine years of experience as a field ornithologist. She has a degree in biology from Wellesley College and she has worked for both government and private organizations studying birds in seven states from coast to coast, including New Hampshire, North Dakota, and Mississippi.

The Ventana Wildlife Society was founded in 1977, and for 30 years has been a leader in conservation, research, and environmental education on the central coast of California. The Conservation Ecology program monitors songbirds throughout Monterey County and operates the Big Sur Ornithology Lab (BSOL), located in Andrew Molera State Park. BSOL is a long-term, year-round mist-netting and banding station that is open to the public. With over 97,000 birds of 190 species in our database, BSOL plays an important role in bird conservation by acting as an early warning system, identifying population declines before they become critical or irreversible. Results from this research are used to guide habitat restoration and conservation efforts in order to prevent wildlife from becoming threatened or endangered.

Field Notes

by Bill Bousman

Waterfowl through Ibis

The first Greater White-fronted Goose of the fall was one over Morgan Hill on 9 Oct (SCR). Small numbers were found locally through the end of November, but a flock of 64 birds over Morgan Hill on 28 Nov (SCR) was an unusually high number. Snow Geese arrive later, the first bird was an immature at the San Jose-Santa Clara WPCP drying ponds on 30 Oct (RWR, FV). Three juveniles were at the South County WasteWater Regional Authority (SCWRA) treatment ponds in Gilroy on 9 Nov (RWR, FV). An adult was found at Cottonwood Lake in Hellyer CP on 16 Nov (PBr) and was there through the end of the month (v.ob.). The first Cackling Geese of the season were two in Morgan Hill on 14 Oct (SCR). A tally of 69 over Bloomfield Road south of Gilroy on 22 Oct (MJM et al.) was a high count for the period. A male Eurasian Wigeon on Pond 16 in Alviso on 14 Oct (RGJ) was the first of the season. One to three birds were on the Sunnyvale Water Pollution Control Plant (WPCP) ponds 20 Oct-13 Nov (MDo, RWR, DWe, v.ob.) and two males were on Pond A9 in Alviso on 3-12 Nov 9 (MMR, MJM, AR, WGB). Blue-winged Teal sightings included 2 males and a female at the SCWRA ponds on 16-23 Oct (MJM et al., JMy), a male along Adobe Creek in the Palo Alto FCB on 26 Oct (MMR) and 2 males and a female there on 23 Nov (PMB), and 2 males and 4 females on the Lockheed Martin ponds on 28 Oct (RWR et al.). The first numbers of fall Redheads were 44 males counted on the Sunnyvale WPCP ponds on 14 Oct (RGJ). Much larger numbers, at least 142, were found on the Alviso ponds on 3 Nov (MMR, MJM, AR). A female White-winged Scoter was found in the mass of Surf Scoters on Shoreline Lake on 27 Oct (KSc), two were there the next day (MMR, RWR), and at least one remained through 16 Nov (v.ob.). This is our first record since 2003. On 6 Nov, a female Black Scoter was found there as well (FV, JCS), our first since 1998. This rare scoter was seen at Shoreline Lake through 10 Nov (m.ob.). Scoter searchers found the first female Barrow's Goldeneye of the season on 8 Nov (MJM). She remained through November and the first male

was seen on 25 Nov (WGB). A juvenile Red-throated Loon was found at Calero Reservoir 14 Nov (MJM) and was seen at least through 20 Nov (m.ob.). Common Loons showed up in late October, as is typical, and it appears that our unusual September birds on the Alviso ponds did not linger. A Common Loon was found on the Ogier Avenue ponds on 24 Oct (AV) and apparently lingered to at least 4 Nov (BP et al.). Another was Calero Reservoir on 28 Oct (AMcD) and again on 15 Nov (FV, RWR, AV). Three immatures were on Pond A11 in Alviso on 3 Nov (MMR, MJM, AR) and at least one was found

*The Alviso Brown Booby
continued to be seen in
the period. Two passerine
rarities were Red-throated
Pipit and Hooded Warbler.*

through 12 Nov (v. ob.). The Brown Booby found in the vicinity of Pond A11 in Alviso in September remained there apparently through 20 Nov (JH fide BirdBox), although it was often missed. Wintering American Bitterns included the one found in September along the Guadalupe River and seen at least through 13 Nov (JPa). In addition, single birds were seen at Grant Lake on 6 Oct (JT) and 3 Nov (RKe, RPa et al.), at the Mountain View Forebay 20 Oct to 18 Nov (fide MDo, v.ob.), and at Triangle Marsh on 12 Nov (WGB). White-faced Ibis lingered at the Lockheed Martin ponds into October. The last time two birds were seen was 13 Oct (RWR et al.) and the remaining bird was seen through 20 Oct (MDo et al.).

Hawks through Skimmers

A Ferruginous Hawk over Sierra Road on 25 Oct (RWR, FV) may have been passing through. In the Coyote Valley, an adult seen 1-23 Nov (MJM, m.ob.) is likely a bird that has wintered there in the past. But a dark morph in the valley 31 Oct-4 Nov (MJM, BP et al.) has not been seen again. A Ferruginous Hawk was also seen over Joseph Grant CP on 3 Nov (RKe, RPa et al.). A Prairie Falcon was reported from the Coyote Valley on 15 Nov (RWR, FV) and 22 Nov (TGr), perhaps the same bird. Another was over Alum Rock Park on 17 Nov (KHo). A surprise in New Chicago Marsh on 7

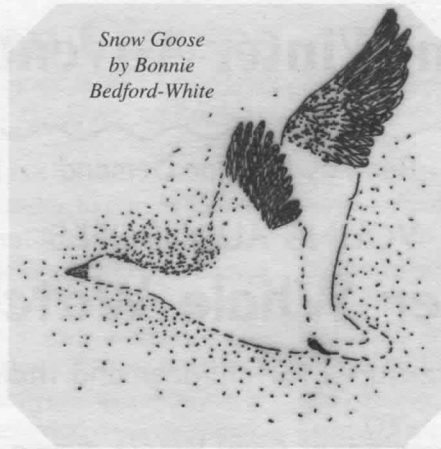
Oct was a flock of 10 Sandhill Cranes that touched down briefly just after dawn (EBr). A Snowy Plover in New Chicago Marsh on 4 Oct (RWR, FV) was the only one found in this period. None were on the closed ponds in Alviso where they had nested this summer. As expected, the numbers of Lesser Yellowlegs tapered off in October, with two to five birds seen in New Chicago Marsh from 6-14 Oct (MDo, WGB). One bird was found on Pond 16 in Alviso on 3 Nov (MMR, MJM, AR) and another was in the Mountain View Forebay and the Palo Alto FCB on 8 Nov (MMR, PS). Two birds were again found in New Chicago Marsh on 26 Nov (RWR, FV). Eleven Red Knots were seen in the Palo Alto estuary on 14 Nov (WGB) and are wintering birds. Pectoral Sandpipers continued to be found in New Chicago Marsh through 10 Oct (m.ob.) with a high count of 4 on 7 Oct (PLaT). Two birds were seen at the SCWRA ponds in Gilroy on 15 Oct (RWR, FV). A juvenile Heermann's Gull was found on Pond A16 in Alviso on 10 Oct (MJM) and was seen there again on 13 Oct (v.ob.). A juvenile Sabine's Gull was found on Pond A13 in Alviso on 3 Nov (MMR, MJM, AR) and was seen there more or less regularly through 12 Nov (m.ob.). Caspian Terns have normally left by early October, so an adult on Pond AB2 (closed) on 3 Nov (MMR, MJM) and possibly the same bird seen on the Alviso ponds 12-23 Nov (WGB, v.ob.) was unusual. The only record we have between November and February is a sighting on the 1985 San Jose CBC. Fall Elegant Terns included three on Pond A2E on 7 Oct (PJM), two over the Palo Alto Baylands on 17 Oct (MJM et al.), one on Pond A1 in Mountain View on 25 Oct (MMR), and two on the Alviso ponds 3-4 Nov (MMR, MJM, AR, AV). One of the birds noted on 3 Nov (MMR) was a begging juvenile following an adult. Visualize, if you will, this still dependent juvenile, begging all the way north from Bolsa Chica in Orange County. Two fledgling Black Skimmers remained on an island in Pond 16 with their parents through 11 Oct (v.ob.). The transition to wintering flocks was noted when 43-47 birds were seen over the northwest island in Pond A1 in Mountain View on 8 Nov (MMR, PS). At least 35 were seen there on 19 Nov (FV with Questar).

Owls through Goldfinches

A Long-eared Owl was found sleeping
continued on next page

Field Notes *cont'd*

at Casa de Fruta on Hwy 152 on 1 Oct (DLSu). Single roosting Long-eareds were at Ed Levin CP on 19 Nov (DWe) and 26 Nov (RWR, FV). A Short-eared Owl was in the marsh at the edge of Pond A19 in Alviso on 4 Nov (PLD). One was seen at the Palo Alto Baylands at dawn on 22 Nov (KSc). Late Vaux's Swifts included single birds at Lake Cunningham on 8 Oct (JPa), over Bald Mountain on 11 Oct (JPa), and Almaden Reservoir on 12 Oct (AV). Reports of 1-10 Lewis's Woodpeckers came from the San Antonio Valley in the period with the high count on 10 Oct (PH fide AME). A local wintering bird was found at Palo Alto's Arastradero Preserve on 15 Nov (GE) and was seen through the end of the month (v.ob.). A description of a sapsucker off Del Puerto Road east of San Antonio Valley on 3 Nov (FJ), was likely a Red-naped, but some details were lacking. The Willow Flycatcher migration extended into early October, as usual, with seven birds tallied, the last on Coyote Creek below Hwy 237 on 13 Oct (RGJ). Few Western Kingbirds are seen after September, so one at the Sunnyvale WPCP on 13 Oct (RWR et al.) was of interest. Typical of an off year, there have only been three sightings of Red-breasted Nuthatches away from breeding areas: one at Lake Cunningham on 8 Oct (JPa), two there on 2 Nov (PLaT), and one in Edenvale Park on 12 Nov (JPa). An American Dipper on Stevens Creek above Mt. Eden Road on 15 Oct (RKe) was the first report since July. A Townsend's Solitaire found along Del Puerto Road on 6 Oct (ALE, VB) is the first fall bird we have had since 2001. A Red-throated Pipit with a large flock of American Pipits near Bloomfield Road south of Gilroy was heard and seen on 21 Oct (SCR). This is our third county record, all from late September or October. A good find for fall and our latest ever, was an immature Tennessee Warbler at the Sunnyvale Baylands on 11 Oct (PKe). It was seen at least through 14 Oct (m.ob.). Late Nashville Warblers were seen at Almaden Lake on 2 Oct and at the Santa Clara Valley Water District (SCVWD) ponds on 16 Oct (both JPa). One near a Morgan Hill yard on 19 Nov (SCR) was either very late or attempting to winter. The Yellow Warbler passage was finished by 14 Oct (m.ob.), but one at the Alviso EEC on 6 Nov (MJM) is



probably trying to winter. An immature Black-and-White Warbler was seen at Lake Cunningham on 1 Nov (JPa, PBN, PSw). It was photographed there the next day (TGr). This is the second record this fall. The Northern Waterthrush found along Stevens Creek in September was seen again on 4 Oct (MMR), 7 Oct (PJM), 10 Oct (DMA), and 24 Oct (MMR). It is likely wintering, as in past years. On 4 Oct, birds were seen separately 0.5 mi. apart and it is unclear if there is only a single bird. A male Hooded Warbler was banded and photographed at the Coyote Creek Field Station (CCFS) on 27 Oct (JBU, GBa) for our eighth county record. A Western Tanager in Cambell on 27 Oct (LMy) may have been a late migrant, but one in Mountain View 24-25 Nov (MDo, KDo) is likely trying to overwinter. A flock of Chipping Sparrows has occupied Jeffrey Fontana Park in San Jose at least from 6 Nov to the end of the month (JPa, v.ob.). Mostly observers have found about 13 birds, but at least 20 were seen on 8 Nov (JPa). This is an unusual occurrence, I have one previous record for November and the largest winter concentration in the past was seven birds on 16 Dec 1991 at the Palo Alto Hills GC. A bright Clay-colored Sparrow was found in the fennel at the Palo Alto Baylands on 6 Oct (PJM) and then a dull bird was seen there on 8 Oct (WGB). Another Clay-colored Sparrow was found with the Jeffrey Fontana Park Chipping Sparrows on 29 Nov (ADeM fide BirdBox) and was seen the next day as well (JPa, AV). A lingering Grasshopper Sparrow was seen in Santa Teresa CP on 16 Nov (MJM et al.). A Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow was found on high tide at the Palo Alto Baylands on 25 Nov (KSc et al.) and was seen my many through 28 Nov (m.ob.), but this skulker was missed by many

more. At least eight White-throated Sparrows have been found in local areas and three others have come to feeders (v.ob.). A Lapland Longspur was found on the levee next to Pond A9 in Alviso on 7 Oct (WGB) and another bird was seen with American Pipits at the Sunnyvale WPCP on 19 Oct (MS). The only Great-tailed Grackles reported in this period were two males and two females at the Ogier Avenue ponds on 14 Nov (MJM). No Red Crossbills have graced the county this year, but a male at Alpine Pond just across the county line on 17 Nov (KPa) was getting close. Three to 19 Pine Siskins at Monte Bello OSP 2-20 Nov (GHa) are of interest, considering their widespread decline in the west. Three were also seen near Almaden Reservoir on 13 Nov (AV). One to four Lawrence's Goldfinches have been found at Monte Bello during the period (GHa). Two at Almaden Lake on 9 Oct (JPa) were in an area where less expected.

Observers: Gina Barton (GBa), Vern Bothwell (VB), Bill Bousman (WGB), Pat Brennan (PBN), Eleanor Briccetti (EBr), Phyllis Browning (PMB), Patty Bruno (PBr), Joelle Buffa (JBU), Al DeMartini (ADeM), Kelly Dodder (KDo), Matthew Dodder (MDo), Peggy Don (PLD), Art Edwards (ALE), Gayle Edwards (GE), Al Eisner (AME), Tom Grey (TGr), John Hansen (JH), Garth Harwood (GHa), Kirsten Holmquist (KHo), Paul Hudson (PH), Richard Jeffers (RGJ), Fritz Johnson (FJ), Roland Kenner (RKe), Pat Kenny (PKe), Peter LaTourrette (PLaT), Mike Mammoser (MJM), Dean Manley (DMA), Amy McDonald (AMcD), Peter Metropulos (PJM), Jean Myers (JMy), Lisa Myers (LMy), Rich Page (RPa), Kay Partelow (KPa), Janna Pauser (JPa), Bob Power (BP), Bob Reiling (RWR), Alma Rogers (AR), Mike Rogers (MMR), Steve Rottenborn (SCR), Ken Schneider (KSc), Marty Sidor (MS), Paul Serridge (PS), John Sterling (JCS), David Suddjian (DLSu), Phyllis Swanson (PSw), Jim Thomas (JT), Frank Vanslager (FV), Ann Verdi (AV), and Dave Weber (DWe).

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

Young Audubon Winter Adventures are Here!

Dolphins!



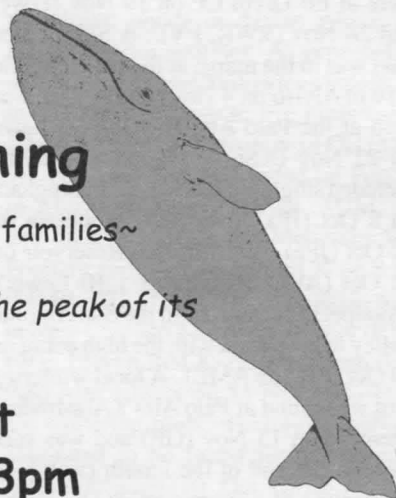
Back by Popular Demand:

YOUNG AUDUBON'S

Winter Whale Watching

~boating adventures for children and their families~

Observe the magnificent Grey Whale during the peak of its southern migration!



And, of course,
Sea Birds!

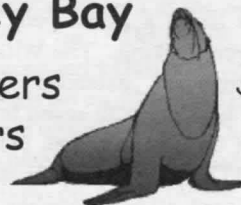


Monday, January 21st
10:30am-12:30pm & 1-3pm

Fisherman's Wharf, Monterey Bay

\$20/person for SCVAS members
\$25/person for non-members

Otters!



Sea Lions!

Scholarships available for families in need.

Space is limited so make your reservations early! Call (408) 252-3740 to reserve your space today! Families with children get first priority.

Año Nuevo State Reserve is the site of the largest mainland breeding colony of the northern elephant seal in the world. During the breeding season, daily access to the reserve is available via a limited number of guided walks only.

SCVAS has made reservations!

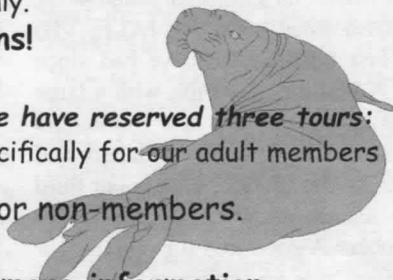
Date: Monday, February 18th* (President's Day) - *We have reserved three tours:* Two are specifically for our Young Audubon families; One is specifically for our adult members

Cost/person: \$5 for SCVAS members; \$7 for non-members.

Call (408) 252-3740 for specific times and more information, and to make reservations. Space is limited, so call early!

(NOTE: There is a separate \$6/car parking fee collected at Park entrance. Carpooling is strongly encouraged, but must be arranged by participants. SCVAS can not coordinate rides.)

*Tour date is subject to change, as reservations are still (as of the publication date for this issue) in the process of being made. Call to get information.



Adult Education Classes

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

Winter Ducks & Geese with Lisa Myers

This is a great class for everyone wanting to start to identify the different bird species for themselves! To do this we'll spend our time concentrating on the Anatidae family, or better known as the ducks, geese and swans. This is a most majestic group of birds that we find here in the bay area in great numbers at this time of year. Each species has very distinct field marks that we will cover. We'll review the 30 or so different species found in the western states, plus review their behavior, desired habitats, anatomy and migration patterns.

Date: Class: Mondays 1/7 and 1/14, 7:00 - 9:00PM; Field Trip: Saturday, 1/19, 9:00AM - 2:00PM.

Location: Class: McClellan Ranch Park, Cupertino. Field Trip: Local salt and freshwater habitats.

Fee: \$45 for members; \$50 for non-members.

Minimum: 8 students, **Maximum:** 24 students

Winter Raptors of Robinson Road with Bob Power

The mixed agricultural and short-grass landscape of rural Solano County is an ideal wintering area for raptors of all shapes and sizes. We'll discuss the migration patterns, identification, and natural history of Ferruginous and Rough-legged Hawks, Merlin, and Prairie Falcon in the classroom portion of this workshop. The field trip will put us in position to observe as many as 7 species of raptor including the four target species and observe their behavior in the wild. Along with these four superlative raptors, we hope to find Mountain Plover, Burrowing Owl, Horned Lark, Long-billed Curlew and other birds of the easy and not-so-easy to find variety.

Dates: Workshop: Thursday, 1/24, 7 - 8:30PM; Field trip: Sunday 1/27, 8:30AM - 4:00PM (that includes transit time to and from Solano County).

Location: Workshop: Conference Room, McClellan Ranch, Cupertino; Field trip: Eastern Solano County.

Fee: \$60 members; \$70 non-members

Class size is limited to 15.

{Note: Carpooling is required for this class. We will have a maximum of four vehicles. Please do not sign up for class if you're not prepared to carpool. Carpooling expenses will be shared by the participants.}

Backyard Restoration: Native Plant Gardening for Birds and Butterflies with Paul Heiple and Kevin Bryant of the California Native Plant Society

Silicon Valley and surroundings, formerly known as The Valley of Heart's Delight in its recent agriculture past, historically contained incredibly rich and diverse habitats that supported a myriad of animal species. Some of these species have disappeared due to habitat loss, while others have been able to survive in the remaining open spaces that exist in and around the valley. In this workshop, we will explore native

plant species and basic design techniques that can be used to create habitat that will help attract more species of birds and butterflies to your South Bay backyard.

Date: Workshop: Saturday, 2/9, 9:30-11:30AM; Field Trip: 2/9, 12-2PM.

Location: Workshop: Conference Room, McClellan Ranch, Cupertino; Field Trip: Local Natural Areas (Fremont Older OSP, Stevens Canyon CP, or McClellan Ranch).

Fees: \$15 members, \$20 non-members

Class size limited to 15.

Something to Crow About! with Steve Rutledge

This class will explore and celebrate the diversity of the Crow Family, and will inaugurate a new approach to teaching about birds at SCVAS. The instructor, Steve Rutledge, will use his background in environmental biology and world travel to bring the science of birds to life. The class will feature many beautiful photographs of birds from more than a dozen excellent bird photographers. These photographers, both from the Bay Area and from around the world, have generously allowed Steve to use their works in this not-for-profit class (proceeds benefit SCVAS' education programs as well as bird conservation programs). The class will feature fascinating information on the ecology, conservation, behavior, and taxonomy of crows and jays (future classes will feature additional families of birds).

Date: Thursdays, 3/13 and 3/20, 7:00-9:00PM

Location: Conference Room McClellan Ranch.

Fee: \$15 members, \$20 non-members

Please Explain this Bill to Me! with Steve Rutledge

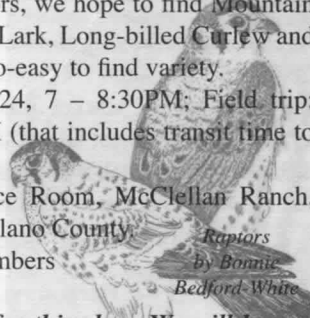
Here is another class featuring beautiful bird photographs from the wide range of photographers mentioned above. The class will explore the amazing variety of bird bills, with information ranging from feeding ecology to adaptive radiation. We will discover how birds as different as curlews and creepers (or puffins and pelicans, or shovelers and sapsuckers) use their extraordinary bills. Again, the class fees will be applied to SCVAS' education programs as well as bird conservation programs.

Date: Mondays, 3/24 and 3/31, 7:00-9:00PM

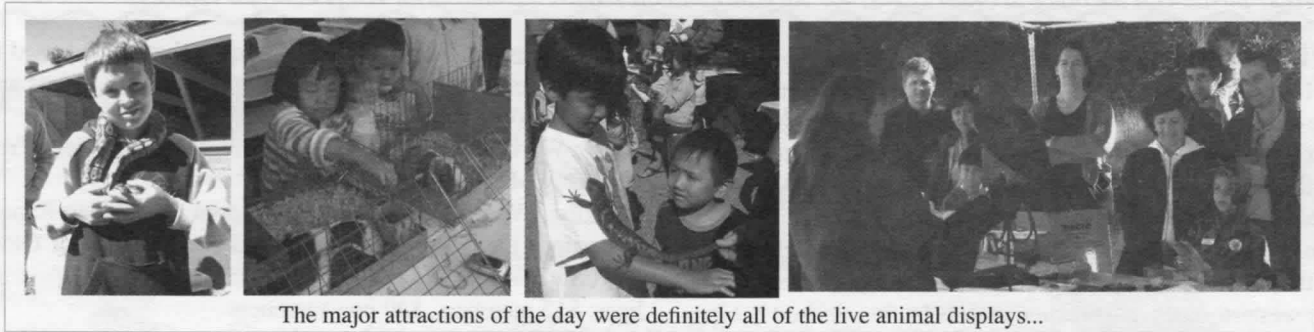
Location: Conference Room McClellan Ranch.

Fee: \$15 members, \$20 non-members

.....
• **Notes for the March classes:** Students for both of the two •
• classes above will receive detailed slide transcripts featuring •
• web links to all the participating photographers as well as •
• detailed information on the birds. Interested participants •
• in both these classes will be able to sign up for a free local •
• field trip with the instructor and experience his 'field seminar' •
• approach to teaching about birds. •
.....



16th Annual Wildlife Education Day: Another Smashing Success!



The major attractions of the day were definitely all of the live animal displays...

Thank you SCVAS Education Committee!

Wildlife Education Day is definitely a labor of love for SCVAS' Education Committee! Beginning in June, the committee starts inviting organizations to attend, planning logistics, and basically devoting all of their free time to this event. After 16 years, their enthusiasm and energy for this event is still going strong - we couldn't do it without you!

Bobbie Handen (Chair); Elaine Gould; Freddy Howell; Allen Royer; Ginny Kaminski; Jim Liskovec; & Karen Hoyt



... all of the hands-on activities, like Birdhouse Building

We extend a special "Thank You" to our event sponsors, donors and supporters:



FedEx Kinko's on Homestead for their generous discount.
Office and Print Center

✧ **Reneé Rodriguez** of Santa Clara County's Social Services Agency for coordinating the use of portable tents & canopies.

All of the following for their kind donations:

- ✧ Wild Bird Center of Los Gatos
- ✧ Summer Winds Nursery
- ✧ Naturals from the Earth
- ✧ Lunardi's Market of Blossom Hill
- ✧ Gilroy Gardens
- ✧ Mel Toellner of Gold Crest Distributing
- ✧ Children's Discovery Museum of San Jose
- ✧ Noah's Bagels
- ✧ House of Bagels
- ✧ Bay Nature Magazine
- ✧ Commerce Great Lakes
- ✧ Carl & Bobbie Handen
- ✧ Friends of Rengstorff House

And the Dept. of Parks & Recreation from the City of Cupertino



...and the awarding of the Poster Contest Prizes

Just *some* of the 100+ wonderful volunteers that helped out during Wildlife Education Day!



Sponsors of the Breeding Bird Atlas:

Emily Allen, Mary Ann Allan, Leonie Batkin, Laurie Bechtler, Ed and Mary Jane Ehmke, Winfield and Barbara Foster, Thomas Grey, Bobbie Handen, Penny Howell, Dave Johnston, Bryan and Jaime Jones, Rosalie Lefkowitz, Kay Matthews, Andrew Melnick, Steve Patt and Debi Jamison, Ken Petersen, Bob Power, Robert Roadcap, Ken Schneider, Tracy Spletzer, David Suddjian, Lynn Teneffoss, James Thomas, Vivek Tiwari, Bill Walker and Mary Wisnewski, Betty Wyatt, James Yurchenco and Amy Lauterbach.

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

We are deeply grateful for an anonymous donation of \$25,000 in support of our education and advocacy Programs and Projects.

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Robert and Deborah Hirt, J. Holley Taylor, Joy Robinson.

Partner:

Linda Brownrigg, Robert Cook, Dr. Robert Hicks, Franklin and Susan Orr, Steve Patt and Debi Jamison*, Steve and Debbie Thompson.

Contributor:

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In kind Contribution: Ashok Khosla, Bob Power.

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In kind contribution: Kirsten Holmquist.

Associate:

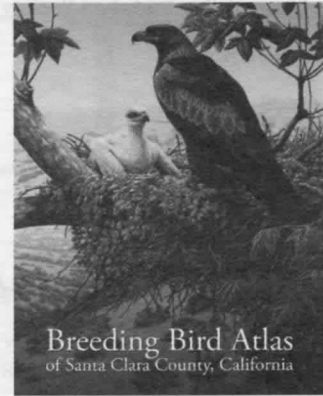
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* Steve Patt and Debi Jamison organized a Fall Fun Run, from which all proceeds, including their matching contribution, were donated to SCVAS.



The Breeding Bird Atlas of Santa Clara County has arrived! This would be a beautiful addition to every bird lover's collection.



Discounts available for SCVAS members and volunteers.

Help reduce your carbon emissions and fight global warming - convert from Incandescent to Compact Fluorescent Lightbulbs (CFL's)! The SCVAS Nature Shop has free samples to give away to help in this effort - stop by during business hours and pick yours up today!

Birdathon cont'd from page 1

6. Collect your pledges and be sure to turn in the money you've raised, pledge sheets, and results form to the SCVAS office by May 19, to be eligible for prizes.
7. Attend the free Birdathon Awards Dinner on Tuesday, June 10, and find out if you've won a prize. Participate in bird contests and games and maybe win another prize. Honors also go to the "best bird" found and the "most species" seen. Share Birdathon stories with other participants over a relaxed, informal dinner. Feel great that you have helped fund SCVAS conservation efforts and youth environmental education, and had such a good time birding.

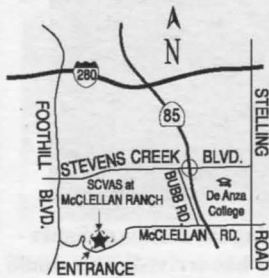
The SCVAS Birdathon Committee hopes this is the year YOU will decide to join in the fun! Can't participate? Please consider sponsoring a team or an individual participant with a donation. Call Susan Bell at the SCVAS Office, 408-252-3747.



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

Phone: 408-252-3747
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General Membership Meeting

continued from page 1

Why don't woodpeckers get headaches, and how do they climb trees so well? The woodpecker anatomy is perfectly suited for its climbing and excavating lifestyle. Some woodpecker species also possess adaptations for aerial acrobatics, for drilling sap wells, or for extracting ants from their underground burrows. And, woodpecker adaptation goes well beyond the tongue, toes, and brain casing. Why do they excavate cavities? What is the purpose of drumming, and why do they sometimes store so much food? Woodpecker natural history and behavior also show amazing specialization, making them one of the most fascinating of all the world's bird families.

Join Oregon naturalist and former SCVAS board member Steve Shunk as he presents the biographical story of the amazing woodpecker, bringing adaptation and specialization to the layperson's level, and emphasizing California's 15 nesting woodpecker species.

Steve started birding nearly two decades ago in San Jose's Alum Rock Park, and he began teaching birding classes in the South Bay Area in 1992. During this time, Steve also got his first taste of field work during waterbird surveys for the San Francisco Bay Bird Observatory. He now leads birding tours across western North America through his company, Paradise Birding, and he coordinates bird surveys for various agencies and organizations from his home base in Central Oregon. Steve co-founded the East Cascades Bird Conservancy and served as its first President. He also co-founded the Oregon Birding Trails project and coordinated its flagship project, the Oregon Cascades Birding Trail. For the last 10 years, Steve has studied woodpeckers on the east slope of Oregon's Cascade Mountains, and he is nearing completion of the Peterson Reference Guide to Woodpeckers of North America.

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.

Avocet Editors: Sabrina Johnson & Toby Goldberg
Avocet Graphics: Bonnie Bedford-White
2008 Volume 58, Number 1

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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