



THE AVOCET

The Newsletter of the Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society

March - April 2008

What do Bird Lovers and Fish Lovers Have In Common?

By Richard McMurtry, Santa Clara County Creeks Coalition

Answer: A desire to restore the streamside vegetation that once lined our creeks, thereby providing the habitat conditions needed to sustain much-loved birds and fish once again!

Decades of development – both agricultural and urban – have resulted in the elimination of creekside vegetation and the elimination of the willow thickets of fresh water wetlands on many of our creeks. Along creek banks, this vegetation loss in some instances has destabilized the banks, producing erosion and downstream sedimentation and even property loss. Also, the vegetative loss has meant the loss of nesting, foraging and rearing habitat for birds.

But it is possible to reverse these trends.

Throughout the state and locally, groups are restoring habitats along streams.

Support for stream restoration in Santa Clara County is very high. Voter surveys made by a professional polling firm in 2007 indicate that 83% of local voters believe that restoring the health of creek and Bay ecosystems should be a high to very high priority for the Santa Clara Valley Water District. This is even higher than the 75% who think flood protection should be a high priority. Yet the budget of the Water District still considers Water Supply and Flood Control as its Core Mission; stream restoration is seen as an activity done while implementing the Core Mission. Though the District has implemented many valuable stream-related projects in recent years, its budgetary priorities have not caught up with the level of voter support for streams.

In February of this year, the Santa Clara County Creeks Coalition (of which SCVAS is a member) began a multi-year effort of taking the message of Stream Restoration to neighborhood and civic groups. A vision will be presented of how stream restoration would benefit the local ecology and provide community amenities (such as riparian trails) at the same time. The audiences will be asked to express their views in writing to the Water District about how important streams are to them. Our hope is that by showing the extent of community support for streams, that the Water District will make Stream Restoration a third pillar of its Core Mission and begin to align its budget priorities accordingly. With such a concerted long-term effort, the streamside vegetative habitats so essential for many of our local birds can be restored.

For more information on this effort, contact the Creeks Coalition at info@scrcreeks.org.

**Spring
Birdathon
Fundraising &
Teams
see Pages 9 & 10**

General Membership Meeting

**“The Important Bird Areas and YOU”
presented by Mike Perlmutter, San Francisco Bay Area
Conservation Coordinator for Audubon California**

**Campbell Community Center,
Campbell Ave & Winchester Blvd., Orchard City Hall**

(A detailed map and directions available on our website at
www.scvas.org, under “Calendar”)

Wednesday, Mar. 19th

Doors open 7:30; program 8:00

Mike Perlmutter, Audubon California’s San Francisco Bay Area Conservation Coordinator, will speak in depth about the Important Bird Areas program and highlight Santa Clara County’s designated Important Bird Areas: Upper Pajaro River, East Diablo Range, and South San Francisco Bay. Mike will discuss how Santa Clara Valley Audubon members can get involved with this program. He will welcome input about conservation concerns and visions for the region, so please bring your ideas!

In the next issue of the Avocet, a series of articles will begin that discusses in more depth the connection between stream restoration and the restoration of bird populations.

- ◆ *Earth Day Festival in Gilroy* – Page 4
- ◆ *Wildlife of Argentina and Brazil* – Page 5
- ◆ *Red-throated and Pacific Loons* – Field Notes, Page 6
- ◆ *SCVAS Events Calendar* – Page 8
- ◆ *SFBBO Executive Director’s Farewell* – Page 11
- ◆ *Complete 2007 CBC Results & Summaries* – Page 12

Mar. - Apr. '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



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.**

Wednesday Mar. 5, 12:00 PM

City of Sunnyvale Landfill

One hour. Leaders: Freddy Howell and Elaine Gould or Bobbie Handen. Contact organizer Silviana Ruiz (408) 730-7545 to attend. 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 Mar. 8, 8:00 AM

Windy Hill OSP

Half day. Leader: Kirsten Holmquist (408) 747-0988. Meet in the parking lot at Sausal Pond edge of the preserve. From I-280 in Portola Valley take Alpine Rd south (toward hills) about 2.9 miles to the first stop sign, turn right on Portola

Rd. and go 0.8 miles to the parking lot on the left side of the road just past The Sequoias. **RC.**

Sunday Mar. 9, 8:00 AM

Uvas Creek Park Preserve.

Half day. Leader: Bob Reiling (408) 253-7527. From Hwy 101 in Gilroy go West on Tenth Street for about a mile where it bears right and becomes Uvas Parkway. Turn left at the first stop sign (Miller Ave.), drive over Uvas Creek and turn left into Christmas Hill Park and park in the first isle on the right. This is a fairly easy but long walk. Spring forward or be an hour late for this trip! **LO, RC.**

Wednesday Mar. 12, 8:30 AM

Alum Rock Park

Half day. Leader: Phyllis Swanson, (408) 274-2349. From Hwy 101 or I-680 take McKee Rd. northeast toward hills; left on Toyon Ave, right on Penitencia Creek Rd. into park. Turn left at AT@ intersection, meet at far end of last parking lot by locked gate. May be muddy. **LO, RC.**

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 to see Sage Grouse on their booming grounds. Other expected species include eagles, hawks, geese, ducks, cranes, woodpeckers and other mountain specialties such as Townsend's Solitaire, Cassin's Finch, Mountain Bluebird, and Pinyon Jay. Trip limited to 20 participants, please call leader for further details and to reserve a space.

Saturday Mar. 22, 8:30 AM

Sunnyvale Baylands Park

Half Day. Leader: Ann Verdi (408) 266-5108. From Lawrence Expwy go north across Hwy 237, turn right at first stoplight into park. Continue right on perimeter road to end of parking area. Highlights: Burrowing Owl, ducks, egrets, gulls, shorebirds and early returning migrants. Possible fee. **RC.**

Sunday Mar. 23, 8:00 AM

Ogier Ponds

Half day. Leader: Frank Vanslager (650) 961-1505. From Hwy 101 in Morgan Hill take Cochrane Rd. west to Monterey Hwy,

turn right, go north 2.6 miles, turn right on unnamed road toward the Model Airplane Park where power towers cross the Hwy. Follow the road for one half mile and park where it bends to the right. **RC.**

Saturday Mar. 29, 8:30 AM

Gilroy Hot Springs Rd

Half day. Leader: Bob Reiling (408) 253-7527. Trip limited to 16 participants, call Bob to reserve a space. We will use a maximum of six cars so be prepared to carpool. Meet at intersection of Gilroy Hot Springs Rd. and Canada Rd. From Hwy 101 take Leavesley Rd. east through the shopping center, turn left on New Ave. and then right on Roop Rd. Once in the foothills bear left at the fork in the road [Roop Rd.] and continue about four miles to Canada Rd. Highlights: migrating and breeding birds of south Santa Clara County. **RC.**

Sunday Mar. 30, 8:00 AM

Oka Ponds

Half day: Leader: Jim Johnson (408) 996-3506. 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 at the end of the lane. **RC.**

Wednesday Apr. 2, 12:00 PM

City of Sunnyvale Landfill

One hour. Leaders: Freddy Howell and Elaine Gould or Bobbie Handen. Contact organizer Silviana Ruiz (408) 730-7545 to attend. 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 Apr. 5, 8:30 AM

Alum Rock Park

Half day. Leader: Al Eisner (650) 364-3686 evenings, (650) 926-2018 days and voice-mail. From Hwy 101 or I-680 take McKee Rd. northeast toward the hills then left on Toyon Ave. then right on Penitencia Creek Rd and continue on into the park. Meet in the "Rustic Lands" parking area, on the right just before reaching the "T" intersection and underpass. Expect a moderately strenuous 3-4 mile walk, looking for resident breeding birds (possible Rufous-Crowned Sparrow, and American Dipper if we are lucky), early migrants, and lingering winter birds. Also be prepared for some mud! Possible entrance fee. **LO, RC.**

Field Trips *continued*

Wednesday Apr. 6, 7:00 AM

Birding by Ear Birdathon Team – all are welcome to join! Please see the Birdathon article for more details.

Sunday Apr. 9, 8:30 AM Charleston Slough

Half day. Leader: Allen Royer (408) 288-7768. From Hwy.101 in Mt. View take San Antonio Rd. north to Terminal Way parking area. Meet at the entrance nearest San Antonio Road. This trip recommended for beginning birders but all are encouraged to attend. Bring your spotting scope and a friend.

Saturday Apr. 12, 8:00 AM Ed Levin County Park (South)

Half day. Leader: Frank Vanslager (650) 961-1505. Take Hwy. 237 east, crossing I-880 and I-680 (becomes Calaveras Rd.) to the parking area at the intersection on the left side of the road past the Spring Valley Golf Course and past the park entrance on the right side of the road. Hoped for birds include migrants and local breeding birds. *LO, RC.*

Sunday Apr. 13, 8:00 AM Ogier Ponds

Half day. Leader: Rich Page (408) 377-1092. For directions see write-up for Mar 23.

Saturday Apr. 19, 8:30 AM Ed Levin County Park (North)

Half day. Leader: Bob Reiling (408) 253-7527. Take Hwy. 237 east, crossing I-880 and I-680 (becomes Calaveras Rd.), turn left on Downing Rd. to the park entrance. Meet in parking lot on the far, northeast side of Sandy Wool Lake. We will look for migrants and local breeding birds in Milpitas' prime birding hotspot. Be aware that the trail is steep in places. Entrance fee. *LO, RC.*

Sunday Apr. 20, 8:00 AM Jasper Ridge Biological Preserve, Stanford University

Half day. Leaders: Marion & Kendrick Smith. Trip limited to sixteen people; call Marion at (650) 493-7210 to reserve a space. There is a fee of \$5 per person. Meet in the parking lot on the right side of Sand Hill Rd as you head toward the Preserve (near the freeway). At the parking lot people are expected to form their own *The Avocet 3*

carpools as carpooling is now required to minimize the number of cars on the Preserve. Caravan from the parking area between 7:50 AM and 8:00 AM only, the gate will then be open. (DONOT LEAVE EARLIER AS PARKING OUTSIDE THE GATE IS NOT ALLOWED AS IT POSES AN UNACCEPTABLE TRAFFIC HAZARD!) From I-280 the main gate is on the left about 2 miles west (away from the freeway) on Sand Hill Rd. Trip involves 2-3 miles of moderately strenuous walking. Trip goes rain or shine.

Saturday Apr. 26, 8:00 AM Almaden Lake Park and Alamos Creek

Half day. Leader: Kirsten Holmquist (408) 747-0988. 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.*

Sunday Apr. 27, 8:00 AM Arastradero OSP

Half day. Leader: Rich Page (408) 377-1092. From I-280 take Page Mill Rd west; turn right on Arastradero Rd and meet in the parking lot about a half-mile on the right. Trip involves moderately strenuous hiking. *RC.*

Saturday May 3, 8:30 AM Mines Rd., Del Puerto Canyon & vicinity

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

Sunday May 4, 8:30 AM Stevens Creek County Park

Half day. Leader: Allen Royer (408)

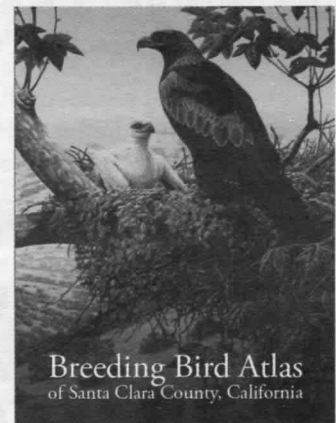
288-7768. From I-280 in Cupertino take Foothill Expwy exit south 2.1 miles (it becomes Stevens Canyon Rd) turn left into first park entrance and meet in first, Chestnut Picnic Area, parking lot. A top riparian birding spot in the South Bay for migrants and local breeding birds. Entrance fee required, *LO.*

A Plan Ahead Trip:

Wednesday May 14, 8:00 AM

Anderson Reservoir/Upper Coyote Creek

Half day, Leader: Jean Myers, (408) 846-4655. Exit HW101 South at Cochrane Road in Morgan Hill. Head east on Cochrane Rd. Cochrane Rd. veers right at Coyote Creek. Follow road past picnic area on the left. Continue under oak trees. When Cochrane Rd. takes a sharp right, turn left into Anderson Lake County Park and left again into parking lot. Park near end of parking lot. Meet at base of reservoir. Bring water and wear good hiking shoes. Park fees may be necessary. Be prepared with change. Group may visit Anderson Dam area as well as lower areas of Coyote Creek, depending on scouting trip by leader. Up to 4 miles on flat or downhill terrain. *LO.*



Got Atlas?



Get yours today at the
SCVAS Nature Shop!

Volunteer Ventures

By Toby Goldberg
SCVAS Programs Coordinator

First of all, I would like to extend a very warm welcome to all of the volunteers who have joined our ranks since September 2007! We have gained new Wetlands Discovery Program docents, Educational Presenters, Database Assistants, Nature Shop Assistants, Event Volunteers, and many more. And of course, we have over 120 long-time, dedicated volunteers who have helped out at event after event over many years – thank you for all your time and passion!

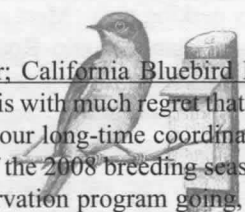
The **2008 National Volunteer Week** takes place **April 27th through May 3rd** – a wonderful opportunity for us to formally express our gratitude in lots of fun ways! Veteran volunteers: please stop in the office to say “hi” and let us show our appreciation. Potential new volunteers: now is a great time to explore our many opportunities and see what might be a good fit for you. Any current or new volunteers who stop in the office during National Volunteer Week are likely to get a little token of our appreciation. And on Tuesday, April 29 at 8:00AM, please join us for a Volunteer Appreciation Breakfast and Birdwalk! We’ll take advantage of the spring days, and the expertise of our Executive Director, to do some birding, some socializing, and some sharing of what we all love about volunteers. We will start the day off at Steven’s Creek County Park with a leisurely bird walk through riparian areas, looking for migrants and breeding birds. Meet at McClellan Ranch at 7:50AM to carpool over (or at the park at 8AM – but be prepared for a \$5 parking fee). We’ll then convene at one of the picnic areas for a delicious open-air breakfast. Space is limited, so please RSVP no later than April 22nd to (408) 252-3740 or programs@scvas.org. We look forward to seeing you in April!

For anyone looking to further swell our numbers, keep reading for a few opportunities (more available on our website):

Publicity, Marketing and Media Assistants – SCVAS always has a number of events, activities, classes, etc. that we want to share with the community, but we need help getting the word out! We are looking for volunteers willing to work with us on a variety of media-related tasks throughout the year, including posting information on online calendars, talking to potential buyers of our new Breeding Bird Atlas, and others. There are different levels of involvement and different tasks that can fit anyone’s schedule and interest - time commitment will vary, but we will work with your schedule and availability. This is a great opportunity to help get SCVAS’ name out into the community!

Santa Clara County Coordinator: California Bluebird Recovery Program (a.k.a. CNRP) – It is with much regret that we are going to be saying goodbye to our long-time coordinator, David (Tex) Houston, at the end of the 2008 breeding season. In order to keep this crucial conservation program going, we will need someone (or several someones) to step forward and take over. This would be a great opportunity for anyone who loves spending time outdoors, and who is looking to get more directly involved in conservation. Time commitment will be heaviest in the Spring and Summer, and can be a shared position. Previous experience with nest boxes preferred but not required – full training will be provided. The only thing that will be required is reliable transportation.

Database and Computer Assistants – We are still looking for computer-savvy and techno-loving folks to help us update and transfer our existing Membership Database to a new Database, as well as for other computer entry needs. We especially need people that are familiar with FileMaker or other Mac-based database software, or who are comfortable enough with Mac programs to learn quickly, but anyone comfortable with computers are welcome. Time commitment is flexible and depends on volunteer availability.



 **It's that time of year again!**
South County Earth Day Festival
Saturday, April 19th
10AM - 2PM

Nature Organizations from all over the Bay Area!  *Compost & Woodchip Giveaway!*

Come celebrate Earth Day with us in Gilroy!
Bring your children, grandchildren, friends and neighbors!

Or, come out to help us put on this fun-filled event for our neighbors in the south bay!

Bird Walks!  *Food!* *Live Animals!* 

Free activities for all ages!
Christmas Hill Park in Gilroy
Call (408) 252-3740 or visit www.scvas.org for details

Sponsored by SCVAS and the City of Gilroy

“Audubon at Home: Bird Sanctuary Program” enters 2nd year!

Thanks to all of you that have supported this important program, we continue to provide important urban habitat to local wildlife! Of course, there’s always room for more participants; contact the SCVAS office for more information. Have ideas for classes, articles, or how to improve this program? We’d love to hear from you!



Adult Education Classes

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

Something to Crow About! with Steve Rutledge

Dates: Thursdays, 3/13 and 3/20, 7:00-9:00PM. **Location:** Conference Room McClellan Ranch. **Fee:** \$15 members, \$20 non-members. **Class limited to 15 students.**

Please Explain this Bill to Me! with Steve Rutledge

Dates: Mondays, 3/24 and 3/31, 7:00-9:00PM. **Location:** Conference Room McClellan Ranch. **Fee:** \$15 members, \$20 non-members. **Class limited to 15 students.**

{Please note: As of Feb 15th, both of Steve's classes are full. Further sign-ups will be placed on our wait-list; if there is sufficient interest, the instructor may choose to increase class sizes or add sections. Proceeds from both classes above benefit SCVAS' education programs as well as bird conservation programs.}

5 Reasons Why You Should Take Steve's Classes

1. More than 3 dozen bird photographers have agreed to share their beautiful images. Photos range from local birds to birds from around the world. Links will be provided to all photographers on the web so you can further explore their works.
2. As you take more of these classes, you will acquire a good foundation in avian ecology, taxonomy, morphology, and behavior. References listed for the presentations will help you explore more on your own.
3. You will receive many tips that will help you become a better birder, such as how to recognize different age classes, different subspecies, and what features are important in various groups of birds.
4. The classes are fun! You will see lots of humorous photos and hear many personal anecdotes.
5. You will have the option of attending a free field trip with the instructor!

Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society Field Seminars:

Beginning Birding – What's At My Feeder? with Bob Power

Entire class is conducted outside in front of our feeders. Please bring a portable lawn chair/camp chair/folding chair. Class will focus on local backyard birds. We'll discuss bill shape and facial patterns as we work on important fieldmarks used to identify local birds. Bring Sibley's Guide to Birds of Western North America and binoculars if you have them; we'll provide binoculars if you don't.

Date: Thursday, 3/27, 8:00-10:00AM. **Location:** McClellan Ranch, Cupertino. **Fee:** \$10 members; \$15 non-members. **Class size is limited to 15.**

The Birds of Pinnacles National Monument with Bob Power

Pinnacles National Monument is a spectacular site for bird study. This all day field trip will focus on birds found on the eastern side of this extraordinary park: Wrens, swifts, swallows, sparrows, woodpeckers, gnatcatchers, and hopefully one fantastic raptor, the California Condor. Participants will meet at the east side visitor center off of Hwy. 25. This field trip involves a strenuous 6-mile hike. *****Participants must be in good physical condition, able to carry a minimum of (2) 1-quart bottles of water, and not subject to vertigo.***** Carpooling is highly encouraged for this class, with carpooling expenses to be shared by the participants.

Date: Sunday, 4/13, 8:00AM. **Fee:** \$40 members; \$50 non-members. **Class size is limited to 11.**

General Membership Meeting

“Contrasts of Northern Argentina and Brazil's Wildlife”

featuring Rob Pavey and Doug Cheeseman

Quinlan Community Center in Cupertino - 10185 Stelling Road.

Wednesday, Apr. 16th

Doors open 7:30; program 8:00

Argentina in the Andes and Brazil in the Amazon Basin, plus Iguazu National Park and the Pantanal in-between the Andes and Amazon will give you plenty of diversity to soak up in this super program! Rob Pavey and Doug Cheeseman, both wildlife photographers, will present the superb wildlife (mammals, birds, reptiles and insects) found in many of the amazing neo-tropical habitats of Northern Argentina and Brazil. Rob and Doug will share the lecture and lapse dissolve show, rich with animal behavior, such as the specialized families of birds that thrive in the Andes and Amazon, as well as views and scenes of their pristine habitats. From Argentina you'll experience the wildlife from Reserva Costanera right on the edge of Buenos Aires, Reserva Huaico in yungas cloudforest near Salta, up the Humahuaca Canyon to the high altitudes loved by flamingos and vicuñas at Lake Pozuelos, then to the forest surrounding Iguazu Falls with the grand finales in Brazil's Amazon Basin out of Manaus in the Mamiraua Reserve and the huge wetlands of the Pantanal along the unpaved Pantaneira to the Cuiaba River. Rob and Doug are long time birders, who have traveled extensively both domestically and abroad in pursuit of viewing and photographing birds, mammals and other wildlife. This evening they will team up with the results of the trip they did together last year. The wonderful wildlife of these areas are a testament to both the success of past preservation efforts and the ongoing need for conservation. **For directions and a map to the meeting location, go to www.scvas.org and click on “Calendar.”**

Field Notes

by Bill Bousman

Waterfowl through Ibis

Greater White-fronted Geese were found in a few locations in 1's and 2's throughout the period. Unexpected was a substantial movement of Greater White-fronts on 13 Jan, including at least 174 over Alviso in six flocks around noon (MMR, MJM, RGJ). The largest concentration of **Snow Geese** in December was five birds, including a blue-phase adult, at the South County Regional WasteWater Authority (SCRWA) treatment plant in Gilroy on 11 Dec (WGB). But large numbers of Snows were also seen in flight on 13 Jan with 163 birds over Alviso in two flocks (MMR, MJM, RGJ) and at least 304 in two flocks over Coyote Ridge later in the day (RPh). A single **Ross's Goose** was found at the SCRWA ponds in Gilroy on 11 Dec (WGB) and four were there on 16 Jan (RWR, FV). Thirty-five birds within two flocks were seen over Alviso on 13 Jan during the major movement that day and three more were in the ponds there (MMR, MJM, RGJ). One with a bad leg was found in Coyote Valley on 15 Jan (RPh et al., BP) and remained there through the period. Eight male **Eurasian Wigeon** on Pond A9 in Alviso on 2 Dec (MMR, RGJ) were the high count for the period. At least one was on the Alviso ponds on 16 Dec (SCR, MMR). Birds were seen irregularly on the Sunnyvale Water Pollution Control Plant (WPCP) ponds 2 Dec to 1 Jan (PKe, FV, v.ob.). Four birds were found on closed ponds on 17 Dec (MJM). One to three males were on Pond A2W in Mountain View 7-20 Jan (MJM, RWR, FV, RKe, PKe, v.ob.), and a single male was on Pond A16 in Alviso on 13 Jan (MMR, MJM, RGJ). One to two males were at the SCRWA ponds in Gilroy 16-25 Jan (RWR, FV, SCR). One to six **Blue-winged Teal** were in SCRWA ponds in Gilroy during the period (v.ob.). One to six birds were in a storage pond at Moffett Field 17 Dec to 15 Jan (MMR, WGB). The Sunnyvale and Lockheed Martin ponds occasionally had one or two birds 19 Dec to 6 Jan (RWR, FV, MJM). One male was found on Adobe Creek on 19 Jan (RGJ). A male **'Eurasian' Green-winged Teal** was found on the Sunnyvale WPCP on 2 Dec (PKe, FV et al.). A second male was in the vicinity of the Palo Alto Flood Control Basin (FCB) on 17

Dec (JMe, WGB) and 23 Jan (PKe, RKe, RWR, FV). Some high counts for ducks include 402 **Redheads** on the Alviso ponds on 2 Dec (MMR, RGJ) and 128 **Ring-necked Ducks** on Lake Ranch Reservoir on 13 Jan (WGB). A male **Common X Barrow's Goldeneye** was found on the Santa Clara Valley Water District (SCVWD) ponds on 6 Dec (AV) and remained there into January (v.ob.). A female **Barrow's Goldeneye** continued at Shoreline Lake through the period. Another female was found on Pond A11 in Alviso on 2 Dec (MMR, RGJ) and one was seen at the SCRWA ponds in Gilroy on 13 Dec and 16 Jan (RWR, FV). A pair of **Hooded Mergansers** south of Pacheco Pass on 15 Jan (JB) and five found in Henry Coe SP on 20 Jan (JY, AL), a first record, mark the continued expan-

*It's been a good winter
for our less expected
loons, the Red-throated
and the Pacific.*

sion of this wintering merganser in the Diablo Range. Some high counts include 252 **Common Mergansers** on Coyote Reservoir on 5 Jan (MJM) and 121 **Red-breasted Mergansers** on the Alviso ponds on 16 Dec (MMR, SCR). After a hint in November, **Red-throated Loons** showed up bigtime in December. This started with one on Pond A3W on 2 Dec (KHo, PKe, FV et al.) and continued with a juvenile in Pond A1 on 9-17 Dec (FV, WGB), and a juvenile on Almaden Lake 10 and 11 Dec (WGB, ADeM). Two juveniles were found on Shoreline Lake on 11 Dec (RKe, PKe) and one to four birds have remained there through the period. One was on Pond A2E on 17 Dec (MJM), four were found on the Los Capitancillos percolation ponds on 19 Dec (JPa), and a juvenile was on Calero Reservoir 21 Dec to 1 Jan (AV, JMa). Cottonwood Lake was visited briefly by a juvenile 27-27 Dec (AV, AME, v.ob.), one was on Anderson Reservoir on 8 Jan (MJM), a single was on a percolation pond by the Guadalupe River and Hwy 85 on 13 Jan (JPa), and one was in Ed Levin CP at least from 14 to 20 Jan (MMR, MJM, v.ob.). Our last good Red-throated Loon winter was 1999-2000. Less expected, a juvenile **Pacific Loon** was found at the Los Capitan-

cillos percolation ponds on 29 Dec (KK) and remained locally until 12 Jan (m.ob.). Most of the time this bird was found on the SCVWD ponds, but photographs suggest that at least two birds were present in the area. Another Pacific was at Anderson Reservoir on 6 Jan (SCR). Normally our most common loon, only two of the appropriately named **Common Loons** were found, one in a quarry pond in Los Altos Hills on 14 Dec (CJC) and one on Anderson Reservoir on 6 Jan (SCR). A few **Brown Pelicans** lingered into the new year with three on Pond A1 on 7 Jan (MJM, RWR, FV, RKe, PKe). A **Pelagic Cormorant** on Shoreline Lake on 22 Jan (AH, PBr, PSw) was a one-day wonder. The San Jose CBC on 16 Dec had a pretty good count of **American Bitterns** for recent years including two along San Tomas Aquino Creek near the Sunnyvale Baylands (SEM), two more near Great America (DSt, GHt), and one near Pond A19 (*vide* KHo). The Mountain View Forebay bird was seen again 17-18 Jan (SZ, WGB). Another was flying over Alviso Slough on 20 Jan (RWR, DMA).

Hawks through Skimmers

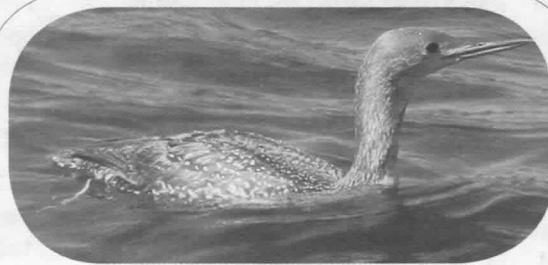
An adult **Bald Eagle**, reported from the west side of Calaveras Reservoir 17 Dec (DWe) is probably one of the pair that nested there last year. One or two adults were seen there and in the Calaveras Valley through the end of the period (m.ob.). An adult seen at Calero Reservoir on 19 Dec (AV) has remained through the end of the period and is likely the bird that has wintered here for the last few years. An adult over Fair Oaks Park in Sunnyvale on 21 Dec (BMa) was an urban surprise. Three adults were found wintering in Isabel Valley on 30 Dec (MJM, KHo) on the Mt. Hamilton CBC. Rounding out our wintering adults, two were seen at Coyote Reservoir on 5 Jan (MJM). With the increase in locally breeding eagles, we are encountering more immatures. A 1st-winter bird was noted in the Coyote Valley on 6 Jan (m.ob.) and along McKean Road on 16 Jan (LSu, KLo). A 2nd-winter bird was seen at the SCVWD ponds on 2 Jan (AV, JPa) and in the Coyote Valley on 26 Jan (SCR). Other birds have been described only as immature. It appears that at least two are moving about this winter. A **'Harlan's' Red-tailed Hawk** was found in the Coyote Valley on 5 Jan (RPh) and has remained at least through 23 Jan (v.ob.). **Ferruginous Hawks** wintering in the well-birded Coyote Valley have been seen through the period (m.ob.) with at least

Field Notes *cont'd*

two adults and an immature, generally near Laguna Avenue. One was found in the Calaveras Valley on 16 Jan (RbC, TOI fide KHo) and both an adult and an immature were seen more or less regularly there over the period. Other records include an adult in the San Felipe Valley on 29 Dec (MMR), two adults and two immatures in Isabel Valley on 30 Dec (MJM, KHo), and an adult over Arastradero Preserve on 1 Jan (GHa). Much less common than Ferruginous, a **Rough-legged Hawk** was found in the Calaveras Valley on 16 Dec (RbC, TOI fide KHo). The bird has been seen irregularly through 15 Jan (WGB, DMa). We normally encounter this species in one winter out of three. **Prairie Falcons** away from the Diablo Range included one along Coyote Creek below Hwy 237 on 10 Dec (RWR, FV) and one seen in the Coyote Valley 27 Dec to the end of the period (RPh, m.ob.). Winter **Lesser Yellowlegs** are always a surprise. Nine birds were found in the San Jose-Santa Clara WPCP drying ponds on 16 Dec (WGB, JT) and is the highest December total I have. A single bird was at Coyote Lake CP on 1 Jan (LA). **Sanderling** were found on the outer Alviso ponds: 14 were on A14 on 2 Dec (MMR, RGJ), 12 were on ponds A9 and A14 on 16 Dec (MMR, SCR), and 8 were on Pond A14 on 13 Jan (MMR, MJM, RGJ). A 1st-winter **Heermann's Gull** was seen on Almaden Lake 8 Dec (FV, RWR, PKe, RKe) and remained through the next day (JMe, LSu). An adult Lesser Black-backed Gull was found on Pond A11 in Alviso on 16 Dec (SCR, MMR) and was seen there again on 13 Jan (MMR, MJM, RGJ). This is the first record in four winters. An early 1st-winter Glaucous Gull was on the Pond A10/A11 dike on 2 Dec (MMR, RGJ) and is perhaps the same bird seen on Pond A11 on 16 Dec (SCR, MMR). One to three 1st-winter birds have been seen in the Alviso area 9 Jan to the end of the period (v.ob.). In addition, a 2nd-winter and an adult were off Dixon Landing Road on 18 Jan (SCR). First-winter birds have been seen in Morgan Hill 23-26 Jan (SCR), three were near Target on 25 Jan. The high count of Black Skimmers was of 36 on the northeast island in Pond A1 on 17 Dec (WGB); five of these were hatching-year birds.

Roadrunners through Goldfinches

A Greater Roadrunner was seen along Silver Creek Road in Evergreen on 20 Dec (LO'N). Another was off Marsh Road on 20 Jan (CVR, LVR) and Metcalf Road the same day (MJM). A roosting Long-eared Owl was at Ed Levin CP on 18 Jan (AME). A Short-eared Owl was in the vicinity of Byxbee Park, Palo Alto on 7 to 17 Dec (BP, MJM). Another was seen in the Calaveras Valley on 27 Dec (DWe). Two were found in the Coyote



Red-throated Loon
by Tom Grey

Valley on 9 Jan (RPh, CH) and were seen there again on 16 Jan (LSu, KLo) and 23 Jan (RPh). A Lewis's Woodpecker wintering in Arastradero Preserve continued during the period (m.ob.). One reported from south of Pacheco Pass on 26 Dec (JB) was likely a dispersing bird. On the Mt. Hamilton CBC, 16 birds were in the San Antonio Valley (m.ob.) and 24 were seen in Isabel Valley (MJM, KHo). A male Yellow-bellied Sapsucker was seen in the Arastradero Preserve on 8 Dec (NT). A Pileated Woodpecker found east of the Kelly-Thompson Ranch in Santa Clara County on 1 Jan (DLSu) is near the southern extremity of their range in the Santa Cruz Mountains. A Plumbeous Vireo was found over the county line in Alameda County on the San Jose CBC on 16 Dec (KHo), one of the few winter records in the South Bay. Single Barn Swallows included an adult at Shoreline Park on 17 Dec (WGB), one at the Ogier Avenue ponds on 29 Dec (KHo, RPa fide AV), and another at Lake Cunningham on 3 Jan (MJM). A House Wren along the Guadalupe River Trail north of Blossom Hill Road on 23 Dec (JPa) was the only one found this winter. Single American Dippers were on Stevens Creek above Mt. Eden Road on 9 Jan (MJM) and on Alamitos Creek on 16 Jan (AV), both from known breeding locations. Five Golden-crowned Kinglets in Canada del Oro OSP on 29 Dec (CHu fide AV) appear to be away from breeding areas, but two to three east of Hecker Pass on

1 Jan (DaS, WGB) are likely residents. Just over the county line in Stanislaus County, two Townsend's Solitaires were seen along Del Puerto Road on 30 Dec (BP). Two different male Phainopepla were found in San Antonio Valley near the junction on 30 Dec (HH, BP et al.). A male and a female were in separate locations farther south in the valley (WGB, RPa, SMe). A single bird was seen in Isabel Valley that day (MJM, KHo). On the eastern edge of the Diablo Range, two males were found in the Calaveras Valley off Marsh Road on 29 Jan (RKe, PKe). A Black-throated Gray Warbler was seen along Caribbean Drive on the San Jose CBC on 16 Dec (SEM fide KHo). Just over the San Mateo line, a wintering ad male Hermit Warbler was southeast of Horseshoe Lake on 17 Dec. An immature female was found in Monte Bello OSP on 1 Jan (both GHa). The continuing Northern Waterthrush was seen in the Charleston Road marsh at least through 15 Jan (m.ob.). The only Western Tanager of the winter season was one in urban Los Gatos on 21 Jan (SBT). The unusual flock of Chipping Sparrows wintering in Jeffrey Fontana Park in San Jose this winter continued to be seen (m.ob.). At least 12 birds have been found on some occasions. A continuing Clay-colored Sparrow was seen at the same location on 3 Dec (JPa), but not afterwards. A Vesper Sparrow was found at the end of Marsh Road on 25 Dec (DWe). Unusual in winter, single Grasshopper Sparrows were seen at Ed Levin CP on 16 Dec (DJ, SP), along Coyote Ridge on 29 Dec (RH, CE fide AV), and in the Arastradero Preserve on 21 Jan (MMR, MJM, RGJ). The continuing Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow at the Palo Alto Baylands was found again on the high tides of 21-25 Dec (v.ob.) and on 21 Jan (MMR, MJM, RGJ et al.). As many as 15 White-throated Sparrows were reported during the period and none were at feeders. Birds that were found over more or less extended periods included one at Ed Levin CP through 17 Jan (DWe, v.ob.), one to two at or near Jeffrey Fontana Park 3 Dec to 10 Jan (JPa, v.ob.), and one or two at Hidden Villa 5-14 Dec (GHa). Most have been in lowland areas, but one was on Loma Chiquita Road below Loma Prieta on 29 Dec (BB et al. fide AV) and another in Halls Valley at Joseph Grant Ranch on 19

continued on Page 9

Events Calendar

Sun. 3/2; 9AM-12PM & 1-4PM
Nest Box Training (session 1 and 2)

Sun. 3/9; 9AM-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.

Wed. 3/5; 7:30-9PM
Bay Area Bird Photographers presents "An Ecuador Experience" with Mike Danzenbaker.
 Interpretive Center, E. Embarcadero Rd., Palo Alto.

For anyone that missed the chance to hear and meet with Bill Bousman, author of the newly published "Breeding Bird Atlas of Santa Clara County," here are some additional opportunities around the Bay Area:

Thur. 3/13; 7PM
Sequoia Audubon Society General Meeting
 San Mateo Garden Center, 605 Parkside Way, San Mateo CA

Wed. 3/19; 7:30PM
Oakland Bird Club Guest Speaker Series
 Rockridge Branch Library, 5366 College Ave., Oakland, CA

Tue. 4/8; Time TBA
Monterey Peninsula Audubon Society Monthly Meeting
 See www.montereyaudubon.org for details

Thur. 4/24; Time TBA
Santa Cruz Bird Club General Meeting
 See santacruzbirdclub.org for details

Tue. 3/11; 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: Pied-billed Grebe

Sat. 3/22; 9AM-2PM
Birding by Canoe at the Palo Alto Baylands with Save the Bay, and led by SCVAS birders.
 Go to www.saveSFbay.org/bayevents or call 510-452-9261 for more details.

Wed. 4/2; 7:30-9PM
Bay Area Bird Photographers. Topic TBA - see SCVAS website for details.

Sun. 4/6; 8-11AM
Bird Walk at Hidden Villa.
 Join SCVAS and Hidden Villa to explore the bird life of the oak woodlands. This is a great time of year for bird song! Contact Marc Sidel at (650) 949-9704, or communityprograms@hiddenvilla.org for more details.

Tue. 4/8; 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: Spotted Owl

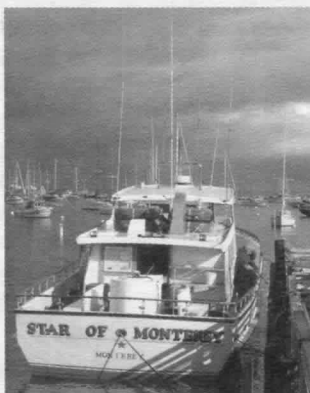
Sat. 4/19; 10AM-2PM
Earth Day Celebration in Gilroy
 See page 4 for details

Sun. 4/20; 10AM-4PM
Going Native Garden Tour
 A free, self-guided tour of over 40 habitat-friendly gardens landscaped with California native plants; Locations throughout the Santa Clara Valley and Peninsula; Many private home gardens, some public native gardens; Visit as many as you like - for ideas, for photos, for inspiration. Free admission but registration is required. Go to www.GoingNativeGardenTour.org.



Tues. 4/29, 8AM
Volunteer Appreciation Breakfast & Birdwalk
 See page 4 for details

Neither rain, nor wind, nor cold (nor even sea-sickness!) could dampen the fun we had on our annual Winter Whale Watching adventure in Monterey!



Extra kudos to all those parents that braved the waves so their children could experience the whales!

Birdathon Fundraising Made Easy

Why Fundraise for the Birdathon?

The Birdathon is the major fundraising event for SCVAS, raising a substantial portion of our Environmental Education and Conservation budget (over \$44,000 in 2007!). The more we raise, the more we can fund and expand these successful, worthwhile programs, serving more children, especially those from low-income areas of Santa Clara County.

Why You?

To raise more money during the Birdathon, we need to increase the number of participants - so WE NEED YOU! You can participate without fundraising by just paying the \$50 fee. However, by fundraising, you can help us increase the 2008 Birdathon income (and the Birdathon is great fun!).

Never thought about fundraising for the Birdathon? Think fundraising isn't for you? Think again! With these simple steps, you'll find Birdathon fundraising is easy and enjoyable.

A. Make a list of all the people you know – family, friends, co-workers, classmates, neighbors, doctor, barber, mechanic, people at your health club, place of worship, or workers at/owners of businesses you frequent, and birding friends, too (don't forget all those folks who have asked you for donations in the past!). Most people enjoy giving money to a good cause like SCVAS' Conservation and Education programs; it makes them feel good, and it's tax deductible!

B. Decide whether you are more comfortable asking people for a donation by e-mail, snail mail, phone, or in person.

C. Write your letter, e-mail, or notes for a conversation and begin contacting the people on your list.

1. Explain the noble cause to which the money goes. Refer them to www.scvas.org for more information.

2. Note that they can pledge by the bird or make a flat donation.

3. Stress that their donation is fully tax deductible.

4. Mention that any donation \$20 or over gives them a one-year free membership in SCVAS if they are not already members.

5. Add that they may also be helping you win a donated prize.

6. Promise to send them a report of your Birdathon day.

D. Additional ideas

1. Write your letter from a different perspective, perhaps your dog's or cat's view of you participating in the Birdathon.

2. Is a birthday approaching? Host your own party and ask for pledges instead of gifts! Pass around your pledge sheet at the party.

3. Offer private birdwalks, or offer to ID the birds in their yard to anyone donating over \$100.

4. Offer "thank you" birdwalks for anyone who donates.

5. Offer other perks for donations at a particular level – from chocolate bars to taking them to lunch.

6. Make pledging fun - *be creative!*

a. Pledge 25¢ per species, PLUS \$1 for every owl species.

b. Pledge \$100 for every species seen *mating*

c. Pledge \$5 for every hour spent birding.

d. Pledge 50¢ per species, PLUS \$10 for every "rare" bird seen.

7. For more tips, go to www.scvas.org, and click on "Birding"

Remember, you are NOT asking for money for yourself! It's for the youth education and conservation programs at SCVAS — a great cause! You'll be amazed by how much money you will raise, and you may even win a prize!

Field Notes *cont'd from Page 7*

Jan (JT). Hatch year or after hatch year male Black-headed Grosbeaks came to feeders during the period with one in Palo Alto on 19 Dec (KPa) and another (?) in Mountain View 4-8 Jan (MMu). Such birds can be confused with Rose-breasted Grosbeaks. Along the coast the conventional wisdom is that the Rose-breasted is more likely. But based on local records (assuming the birds were correctly identified) the Black-headed is more expected. Great-tailed Grackles have returned to the Coyote Creek GC with two males and two females there on 8 Dec (MJM) and four males and three females by the end of the period (v.ob.). Occasional birds have been seen elsewhere in the Coyote Valley. A male Hooded Oriole has returned to a Menlo Park feeder for its third winter, about 1 km from the Santa Clara County border (PBo).

Observers: Linda Adams (LA), Bonnie Bedzin (BB), Joseph Belli (JB), Bill Bousman (WGB), Penelope Bowen (PBo), Pat Brennan (PBn), Rob Colwell (RbC), Charles Coston (CJC), Al DeMartini (ADeM), Craig Edgerton (CE), Al Eisner (AME), Garth Harwood (GHa), Chris Hatten (CH), Rick Herder (RH), Howard Higley (HH), Alice Hoch (AH), Kirsten Holmquist (KH), Grant Hoyt (GHt), Cait Hutnik (CHu), Debi Jamison (DJ), Richard Jeffers (RGJ), Roland Kenner (RKe), Pat Kenny (PKe), Kathy Kleinsteiber (KK), Amy Lauterbach (AL), Kristine Long (KLo), Mike Mammoser (MJM), Bill Maney (BMa), Dean Manley (DMa), John Mariani (JMa), Steve Messenger (SME), John Meyer (JMe), Steve Miller (SEM), Mary Murphy (MMu), Tom Olson (TOI), Leo O'Neill (LO'N), Rich Page (RPa), Kay Partelow (KPa), Steve Patt (SP), Janna Pauser (JPa), Ryan Phillips (RPh), Bob Power (BP), Bob Reiling (RWR), Mike Rogers (MMR), Steve Rottenborn (SCR), Dick Stovel (DSt), Dave Styer (DaS), David Suddjian (DLSu), Linda Sullivan (LSu), Phyllis Swanson (PSw), Nancy Teater (NT), Scott Terrill (SBT), Jim Thomas (JT), Frank Vanslager (FV), Ann Verdi (AV), Chuq Von Rospach (CVR), Laurie Von Rospach (LVR), Dave Weber (DWe), James Yurchenco (JY), Steve Zamek (SZ).

RARITIES: Please drop me a note:

Bill Bousman, 321 Arlington Way,
Menlo Park, CA 94025,
or: barlowi@earthlink.net

"Go Guided" - Join one of our Prearranged Spring Birdathon Teams

We are looking for folks of all birding abilities to join one of our prearranged 4-hour or 24-hour (maximum time) Guided Spring Birdathon teams. All you have to do is raise the minimum requirement of \$50 (but we hope you will raise more!), grab your binoculars and go birding! You are eligible to compete for all prizes. Beginners can out-compete experts for prizes in our Birdathon by raising more money than the experts do. Space on guided teams is limited, so call the SCVAS office at (408)252-3747 early to register. These teams are for adults over 17. The registration deadline is one week before the trip date. Each leader will contact you with complete details.

Snipe Hunters with Laurie

West-Roberts on Saturday, April 5

Laurie will guide the team through a variety of habitats throughout Santa Clara County to uncover a wide variety of species. After an early start, they will share a potluck lunch to refuel, and then continue birding until dusk. If you want a gratifying day of birding with a friendly bunch of folks, this is the team for you. Expect to see more than 100 species.

The Saint Anthony Ranchers with Jim Liskovec on Wednesday, April 9

Do you want to learn more bird songs? Spring is the best time to learn and practice this special skill. Join Jim Liskovec, long-time SCVAS field trip leader and "by ear" birder for an early start on a day of birding by ear. Emphasis will be on bird song and we'll hear many throughout the day. Be prepared for some strenuous uphill walking. After lunch we'll continue listening and birding until mid-afternoon. Expect about 60 species.



24-hour Birdathon Teams

Varied Twitchers with Mike Rogers on Saturday, April 19

This is a high intensity for intermediate and advanced birders. It's a great opportunity to join one of the Bay Area's premier birders, Mike Rogers, for a big-day of birding that everyone only dreams about. Start with owl-ing in the early morning and then bird all day until sunset. This team holds the record for winning the most 24-hour "Most Species" awards. Finding 163 bird species last year provided these team members with well-deserved bragging rights!

Rock Wrens with Bob Hirt on Sunday, April 20

Join long-time birder and SCVAS President, Bob Hirt, for an active day in the field. They'll get an early start for owls in the western foothills, zigzag their way down to the Bay for ducks and shorebirds, and then climb up the eastern slope, ending after dusk. The habitat diversity will help maximize the count and the money raised per bird species. Expect to see about 120 species.

De-duck-tions with Matthew Dodder on Saturday, April 26

Matthew is a very popular leader of bird excursions and teacher of birding classes at Palo Alto Adult School. His team will lead you to some of his favorite birding spots to locate great birds. All levels of birders are encouraged to join this team and experience the thrill of a professionally led team that "gets the birds". Expect to see an impressive 150 species, including some owls, on a fast paced dawn-to-dusk tour of the county.

Bob-O-Links with Bob Power on Sunday, April 27

Not only is Bob the Executive Director of SCVAS, but he is also an experienced trip leader and birding instructor known to crack a few jokes to keep everyone on their toes. Bob's patient and easy-going style will please birders of all levels. This is a perfect team if you have never done a Birdathon before, but want to experience a fast-paced big-day. Bob expects to see over 130 species while birding pre-dawn to dusk.

4-hour Birdathon Teams

Swifts with Bob Power on Sunday, March 30

Join our Executive Director for a four-hour-and-not-a-minute-more Baylands blitz, from Buffleheads to Burrowing Owls. They'll start in Alviso and end in Palo Alto, seeing the best of the habitats adjacent to the bay. Expect a fast pace, to see 80+ species while birding from 8 AM to noon, and then relax while we tally up the score. This team is for birders of all levels, particularly those who know some awful bird jokes.

Chickadees with Debbie Thompson on Sunday, April 13

Fun birding is the order of the day with longtime SCVAS Board Member, Debbie Thompson. Debbie will visit a slice of the bay area - from the wetlands to the woodlands - to uncover as many species as possible, birding in the morning until lunchtime. This team holds the record for winning the most 4-hour "Most Species" awards. Expect to see over 60 species.

Hipper-Dippers with Bob Hirt on Sunday, April 27

Join long-time expert birder Bob Hirt on his four-hour team. The objective is to find as many species as possible during a short period of time in a few great locations. This team is for birders of all levels (yes, experts too) that can't fit in a long birdathon, but still want to join the competition. Bird in the morning until lunchtime and expect to see over 70 species.

****Organization and Company teams: Compete for the CHEESEMAN CUP!****

****NEW for 2008**** Represent your company or organization and compete for the prestigious CHEESEMAN CUP! All you have to do is raise the minimum requirement of \$50/team member (but we hope you will raise more!), grab your binoculars and go birding! Winners will be the team with the greatest number of species in each category (0-4 hr and 4-24 hr), and the winning teams will be awarded a plaque proclaiming their first-place finish, the year, the number of species seen, team name, and team participants. The plaque can be displayed in your office, lobby, or meeting room and gives you bragging rights as the best in the valley for this year.

So - grab your spouse, next door neighbor, office-mate, CEO, son, daughter, or cousin Ginny. Pick a date, pick a time category, give us a call, and get out and compete! You are eligible to compete for all prizes, and beginners can out-compete experts for prizes in our Birdathon by simply raising more money than the experts do...

We fully expect to see an IBM team, an Apple team, a Sandisk team, an HT Harvey team, etc.

{NOTE: A minimum of two entrants must register their team name and the company/organization they are representing.}

What I Miss Is Birdsong

by Peter Steinhart

(reprinted by permission from *Stanford Magazine*)

I miss birdsong. When I was a child, it attended everything, like background music in an elevator, only, you know, nice. I grew up in the Santa Clara Valley before it was Silicon Valley and when it was still mostly plum orchards and wheat fields. The morning air was choral with quail calls, sparrow song, finch zurps, the metallic chink of towhees, the liquid burble of meadowlarks in the hills, the wick-up hype of woodpeckers in the oaks, the sad ballads of hermit thrushes in creekside willows. I can hear them all in memory, braiding through the soft golden light of a summer day. But it's mostly only in memory.

Memory partly because after six decades of living in a concussive world, I can't hear well enough to deal competently with human speech. When I see a housefinch singing from a springtime perch, I can feel the sound waves on my skin, but I can't actually hear the song. I have to fill in the blanks from memory.

Even if I had perfect hearing, human sounds now drown out the natural sounds. The rush of tires on pavement, the eternal background drone of millions of thrumming pistons, the automotive anthem of our lives, the neighbor's stereo, his gardener's leafblower, the compressor some guy down the street uses to power his screwdriver, the throbbing bass of a kid in his Toyota, like some enormous bat trying to echolocate a moth the size of New Jersey. As a kid I probably put more than my share of this yap into the world: loud music, nattering Chevys, firecrackers tossed into the night. Like most tub-thumping Americans, I like to draw attention to myself. For which, I apologize.

The saddest reason for this changing soundscape is that the original choristers are vanishing. I mean the birds. By all scientific measure, something like one third of America's 836

bird species are in "statistically significant decline". Four out of five grassland species (here that would be meadowlarks and kestrels) are declining. Long distance migrants, those furtive little warblers, the dazzling summer tanagers, some of the big flocking shorebirds like dowitchers and curlews, are increasingly missing their annual appointments. It's not just birds. It's pretty much a creation-wide recall. 120 amphibian species went extinct in the last 25 years, and in some places all the amphibians have disappeared. In some western rivers, 90 percent of the native fish are on the endangered species list.

About the only taxa turning a profit out there are species that have adapted well to human culture. Rats, cockroaches, termites, starlings, marijuana, and sugar beets are riding a sellers' market. Coyotes can laugh at anything and they're doing fine. Raccoons live in people's attics and commute through the storm drains. Corn grows out of sidewalk cracks in downtown Los Angeles. Plants that put most of their energy into seed production, rely on wind for pollination and dispersal and can withstand the higher temperatures and chronic drought of cities have a lifetime pass.

But it's a narrowing creation, Quail disappeared from the Stanford campus in the 1980s. The location of the last surviving Presidio manzanita plant is a guarded secret. I once visited the very last Dusky Seaside sparrow, a drab brown forlorn creature in a chicken-wire aviary in Florida's Disneyworld, no medal on its sagging chest to close the history of its race. We'll have fewer species and more individuals among those that toe the company line.

The sadness in this, to me, is that all these different voices are different intelligences - if you'll concede that any considered response to the world is an intelligence. They represent a vast and tested wisdom and living with them - and from time to time giving ear - made us what we are as a species today. As we shrink the creation, we witlessly discard that wisdom. We shorten the conversation. We lose the experience of otherness. We reduce our own capacity for thinking and inspiration.



A Message from the Executive Director of the San Francisco Bay Bird Observatory



Sometime this spring, I will step down as Executive Director of the Bird Observatory. Personal and family obligations call. This is good timing; we have a small but strong Board who will work hard to find the next Executive Director. Our mutual goal is that the Bird Observatory just keeps on growing throughout the transition. I am confident this will go smoothly, and that the Observatory will be stronger as a result. I have greatly enjoyed my 16 years here and thank you all for the tremendous support you have provided.

I became involved with the Bird Observatory in 1992 because of a strong desire to find out why birds disappear, and then to do something about it. Working here permitted me to fuse that passion with my science training, as well as with my love for organizing things. There have been many wonderful experiences: the thrill of winning grants, the deep pride in seeing our biologists be recognized for important contributions, the intellectual challenge and fulfillment of projects like the Bayland Goals, the exultation felt upon the preservation of Bair Island and the salt ponds as restored homes for our native birds. I have especially been pleased by the recent increase in interaction between SCVAS and the Bird Observatory, and hope it will develop into a full-fledged partnership.

But the best part of this job has been the warm pleasure I've felt in the company of members, staff, volunteers and partners, in the field but also indoors, over plans, proposals, budgets, dreams and the like. I can only say thank you, that I hope to have continued involvement with the Bird Observatory and I look forward, with you, to its brilliant future.

With warm regards,

Janet T. Hanson, Executive Director

2007 SANTA CLARA COUNTY CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS

Species	SJ 12/16/2007	PA 12/17/07	MtH 12/30/07	Cal-MH 12/29/07
Greater White-fronted Goose	-	2	-	1
Snow Goose	-	-	-	1
Cackling Goose	2	2	-	2
Canada Goose	1020	802	23	771
Wood Duck	1	2	22	73
Gadwall	864	1258	7	102
Eurasian Wigeon	1	8	-	-
American Wigeon	299	6891	23	8
Mallard	1264	1457	41	986
Blue-winged Teal	4	1	-	-
Cinnamon Teal	85	79	-	10
Northern Shoveler	6336	15594	5	19
Northern Pintail	841	497	-	1
Green-winged Teal (American)	977	1148	-	46
(Eurasian)	-	1	-	-
Canvasback	1475	1734	2	21
Redhead	323	104	-	-
Ring-necked Duck	74	67	29	60
Greater Scaup	892	273	-	2
Lesser Scaup	772	171	1	42
<i>aythya</i> , sp	802	4280	-	10
Surf Scoter	129	859	-	1
Bufflehead	413	353	70	157
Common Goldeneye	239	123	-	92
Common x Barrow's Goldeneye	-	-	-	1
Barrow's Goldeneye	1	CW	-	-
goldeneye, sp	2	-	-	-
Hooded Merganser	31	29	3	24
Common Merganser	28	50	2	151
Red-breasted Merganser	122	-	-	1
Ruddy Duck	8167	13778	95	134
duck, sp	369	6000	7	5
Ring-necked Pheasant	5	9	-	1
Wild Turkey	169	23	1	336
California Quail	66	168	299	278
Red-throated Loon	-	3	-	2
Common Loon	1	1	-	-
Pied-billed Grebe	244	212	28	80
Horned Grebe	1	8	-	1
Eared Grebe	877	211	-	53
Western Grebe	178	39	-	22
Clark's Grebe	50	22	-	3
<i>Aechmophorus</i> , sp	50	72	-	-
American White Pelican	55	26	-	30
Brown Pelican	2	52	-	-
Double-crested Cormorant	768	390	2	444
American Bittern	6	-	-	1
Great Blue Heron	65	26	6	27
Great Egret	115	46	2	34
Snowy Egret	115	60	-	17
Green Heron	6	4	-	6
Black-crowned Night-Heron	366	73	-	3
Turkey Vulture	173	30	1	113
Osprey	-	-	2	4
White-tailed Kite	29	26	-	21
Bald Eagle	2	-	3	CW
Northern Harrier	40	32	2	15
Sharp-shinned Hawk	12	7	3	7
Cooper's Hawk	16	17	3	16
<i>Accipiter</i> , sp	2	-	1	-
Red-shouldered Hawk	34	48	7	56

Species	SJ 12/16/2007	PA 12/17/07	MtH 12/30/07	Cal-MH 12/29/07
Red-tailed Hawk	193	113	34	104
Ferruginous Hawk	1	-	5	3
Rough-Legged Hawk	1	-	-	-
<i>buteo</i> , sp	-	1	-	-
Golden Eagle	12	1	13	11
American Kestrel	62	33	5	65
Merlin	18	7	2	4
Peregrine Falcon	15	6	-	2
Prairie Falcon	2	-	3	CW
falcon, sp.	2	-	-	1
Clapper Rail	-	7	-	-
Virginia Rail	53	2	-	1
Sora	51	5	1	2
Common Moorhen	32	4	-	3
American Coot	6631	12809	906	1311
Black-bellied Plover	295	582	-	-
Snowy Plover	5	-	-	-
Semipalmated Plover	8	946	-	-
Killdeer	245	63	24	156
Black-necked Stilt	602	180	-	2
American Avocet	2053	1898	-	4
Greater Yellowlegs	54	24	4	6
Lesser Yellowlegs	9	-	-	-
Willet	204	1667	-	-
Spotted Sandpiper	5	3	-	8
Whimbrel	1	6	-	-
Long-billed Curlew	171	187	-	-
Marbled Godwit	101	1483	-	-
Ruddy Turnstone	-	2	-	-
Sanderling	8	-	-	-
Western Sandpiper	4256	3889	-	-
Least Sandpiper	666	1036	-	50
peep, sp	677	7694	-	-
sandpiper, sp	1	-	-	-
Dunlin	658	2080	-	-
Short-billed Dowitcher	4	3	-	-
Long-billed Dowitcher	1	227	-	CW
dowitcher, sp	675	2046	-	-
Wilson's Snipe	9	16	3	29
Bonaparte's Gull	750	114	-	CW
Mew Gull	1362	17	-	15
Ring-billed Gull	2157	425	-	283
California Gull	8995	785	-	3734
Herring Gull	9935	30	-	1723
Thayer's Gull	121	18	-	35
Lesser Black-backed Gull	1	-	-	-
Western Gull	248	888	-	-
Glaucous-winged Gull	378	23	-	3
Western x Glaucous-winged Gull	20	1	-	1
Glaucous Gull	1	-	-	-
Glaucous x Glaucous-winged Gull	1	-	-	-
Glaucous x Herring Gull	1	-	-	-
gull, sp	12056	1356	-	2637
Forster's Tern	127	107	-	-
Black Skimmer	-	36	-	-
Rock Pigeon	2363	1216	-	1216
Band-tailed Pigeon	89	107	50	39
Mourning Dove	526	356	18	669
Barn Owl	3	3	-	2
Western Screech-Owl	4	2	2	7
Great Horned Owl	6	5	2	5

Species	SJ 12/16/2007	PA 12/17/07	MtH 12/30/07	Cal-MH 12/29/07	Species	SJ 12/16/2007	PA 12/17/07	MtH 12/30/07	Cal-MH 12/29/07
Northern Pygmy-Owl	1	1	1	-	Yellow-rumped Warbler (form ?)	753	647	-	325
Burrowing Owl	12	2	-	-	(Audubon's)	320	505	1	234
Short-eared Owl	-	1	-	-	(Myrtle)	8	19	-	20
Long-eared Owl	-	-	-	-	Black-throated Gray Warbler	1	-	-	-
Northern Saw-whet Owl	-	-	-	-	Townsend's Warbler	11	107	-	22
White-throated Swift	24	14	-	12	Hermit Warbler	-	1	-	-
Anna's Hummingbird	392	342	4	364	Northern Waterthrush	-	1	-	-
Belted Kingfisher	14	9	3	16	Common Yellowthroat	93	33	-	5
Lewis' Woodpecker	-	1	44	-	Spotted Towhee	34	143	52	132
Acorn Woodpecker	102	219	187	223	California Towhee	234	343	91	244
Red-breasted Sapsucker	17	8	10	13	Rufous-crowned Sparrow	5	-	2	15
Nuttall's Woodpecker	75	121	25	133	Chipping Sparrow	-	-	-	12
Downy Woodpecker	16	13	4	14	Lark Sparrow	3	-	25	11
Hairy Woodpecker	4	48	11	14	Sage Sparrow	-	-	5	-
Northern (Red-Shafted) Flicker	161	143	61	144	Savannah Sparrow	361	49	6	55
(Yellow-Shafted) Flicker	-	-	-	-	Grasshopper Sparrow	1	-	-	1
(intergrade)	1	1	-	-	Fox Sparrow	51	59	26	40
Pileated Woodpecker	-	3	-	-	Fox Sparrow (Slate-colored)	-	-	1	-
Black Phoebe	304	263	21	207	Fox Sparrow (form?)	-	-	1	-
Say's Phoebe	42	9	5	37	Song Sparrow	339	108	5	61
Loggerhead Shrike	19	6	-	4	Lincoln's Sparrow	131	19	-	14
Plumbeous Vireo	1	-	-	-	Swamp Sparrow	-	-	-	-
Hutton's Vireo	2	41	1	10	White-throated Sparrow	1	3	-	3
Steller's Jay	108	405	23	152	White-crowned Sparrow	1893	983	233	1494
Western Scrub-Jay	273	592	281	535	Golden-crowned Sparrow	956	1092	327	1334
Yellow-billed Magpie	230	-	76	98	sparrow, sp	52	114	9	59
American Crow	897	623	77	657	Dark-eyed (Oregon) Junco	499	949	552	972
Common Raven	165	141	80	50	Dark-eyed (Slate-colored) Junco	1	-	-	4
Horned Lark	15	-	-	97	Black-headed Grosbeak	-	CW	-	-
Tree Swallow	1	-	-	-	Red-winged Blackbird	1180	877	220	1754
Violet-green Swallow	7	-	-	-	Tricolored Blackbird	17	-	90	198
Barn Swallow	-	1	-	1	Western Meadowlark	651	242	71	330
swallow, sp	8	-	-	-	Brewer's Blackbird	1694	198	176	1101
Chestnut-backed Chickadee	131	754	1	307	Great-tailed Grackle	-	-	-	1
Oak Titmouse	71	281	97	235	Brown-headed Cowbird	22	6	1	1
Bushtit	669	1075	15	791	blackbird, sp	370	125	204	638
Red-breasted Nuthatch	2	8	-	4	Purple Finch	2	32	12	41
White-breasted Nuthatch	25	36	47	140	House Finch	915	765	31	1058
Pygmy Nuthatch	-	22	-	-	Lesser Goldfinch	285	408	39	559
Brown Creeper	2	71	-	9	Lawrence's Goldfinch	-	-	7	-
Rock Wren	6	-	-	4	American Goldfinch	353	342	2	307
Bewick's Wren	49	151	11	78	goldfinch sp.	-	6	-	-
Troglodytes, sp	1	-	-	-	House Sparrow	201	100	7	22
Marsh Wren	65	20	-	1	Nutmeg Mannikin	-	-	-	32
Winter Wren	-	2	-	4	Grand total	106,462	119,250	5,736	35,388
American Dipper	-	-	-	-	Species total	172	162	96	146
Golden-crowned Kinglet	-	3	-	5	Key: sp = species undetermined				
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	253	494	22	229	CW = Count Week				
Western Bluebird	124	109	188	139	SJ = San Jose: compiled by Kirsten Holmquist				
Townsend's Solitaire	-	-	2	-	PA = Palo Alto: compiled by Al Eisner				
Hermit Thrush	93	139	9	93	MtH = Mount Hamilton: compiled by Bob Hirt				
American Robin	823	2205	38	1459	Cal-MH = Calero-Morgan Hill: compiled by Ann Verdi				
Varied Thrush	1	38	-	2	<i>Data entry and chart format by Bonnie Bedford-White.</i>				
Wrentit	21	91	54	58					
Northern Mockingbird	82	37	-	49					
Sage Thrasher	-	-	-	-					
California Thrasher	2	38	36	25					
European Starling	3021	1293	336	2008					
American Pipit	170	138	-	240					
Cedar Waxwing	-611	1283	-	248					
Phainopepla	-	-	8	-					
Orange-crowned Warbler	7	2	-	-					

2007 Christmas Bird Count Summaries

Palo Alto CBC

by Al Eisner, compiler

The weather forecast for the December 17 Palo Alto CBC was ominous. In the event, overnight rain put a damper on owling, but the rain stopped before dawn. The remainder of the day was overcast but calm, with some local early fog and some partial AM clearing. A record number of 119 participants found a total of 162 species, slightly below average.

Waterbirds were present in good numbers. We had a record high of American Wigeon, and the highest counts in quite a few years of some other species. On the other hand, two of our regulars were missing: Red-breasted Merganser and Barrow's Goldeneye (the female wintering at Shoreline took the day off); while the single Blue-winged Teal was well below numbers in recent years. Eight Eurasian Wigeon was a good total, all of them in the southernmost sector (Mike Mammoser's). A stakeout Eurasian Green-winged Teal was seen by John Meyer at Charleston Slough. Additional misses among expected species were Red Knot, Sand-erling, Northern Saw-whet Owl, Pine Siskin and Tricolored Blackbird. The last of these has been missing four years in a row, after a steep decline.

Among our steadily increasing species, the 36 Black Skimmers at salt pond A1 (Bill Bousman) beat last year's high of 34, and American Crow took a big step upward, but Canada Goose totals took a step back. The new high of Nuttall's Woodpecker, like that of some other species using similar habitat (Oak Titmouse, Ruby-crowned Kinglet), was commensurate with increased count effort. Nearly half of

the impressive new high for Brown Creeper came from upper Wunderlich Park (Jennifer Rycenga), which also had our only Golden-crowned Kinglets and six of eight Red-breasted Nuthatches. However, the doubling of our previous high of Hairy Woodpeckers from 24 to 48 was a more widespread phenomenon. Three Pileated Woodpeckers almost matched our previous maximum of four.

The rarest bird on the count was our second-ever Barn Swallow, found by Bill Bousman at Shoreline -- perhaps a trend, since our first was just last year. Two Greater White-fronted Geese (Mike Mammoser) and two Cackling Geese (one by Laurie Graham and Jeff Fairclough at Bayfront park, one by Bill Bousman at Shoreline) fell short of last year's goose bonanza. One Common Loon (Bob Power's group at Bear Gulch Reservoir) and an impressive three Red-throated Loons (two at Shoreline/A1, Bill B., one at pond A2E, Mike M.) were seen. A Short-eared Owl was found by John Meyer at the Flood Control Basin at dusk. My party got great looks at the stakeout Lewis's Woodpecker in Arastradero Preserve. For the second year in a row, Garth Harwood found a Hermit Warbler (only the sixth time on this CBC) at Skyline Ridge OSP, while the recently-annual Northern Waterthrush was seen by Richard Jeffers at the Charleston Road Marsh. Finally, Kay Partelow's Black-headed Grosbeak would have vied with the Barn Swallow for rarest species (one previous year), but was seen for count-week only.

Heartfelt thanks are due to Jack Cole for organizing a successful CBC and to the region coordinators who worked with him. Let's get out and do it even better next year!

San Jose CBC

by Kirsten Holmquist, Coordinator and Compiler

The San Jose Christmas Bird Count this year went forward under overcast skies. Thankfully, the truly nasty weather held off until we were done. The final species count was 172. We broke 170 for only the third time in the history of the San Jose count. Over 100 volunteers rolled themselves out of bed to spend the day counting birds. Thanks to all. Once again this year, we got a totally unexpected gift from a small urban parkway. A Plumbeous Vireo (Kirsten Holmquist) put in a striking appearance in the waterway wending through the South Fremont technology parks. This species is a first ever for the San Jose CBC. A relative bruiser by comparison, a Lesser Black-backed Gull (Mike Rogers, Steve Rottenborn) was another gem found out on Pond A-11. Also hanging out at Pond A-11 was a Glaucous Gull. Only two different swallow species made an appearance this year (Tree Swallow, Violet-Green Swallow). A Black-throated Gray Warbler (Steve Miller) decided the eucalyptus lining Caribbean Drive in Sunnyvale was the perfect place to be. And, apparently, the Ed Levin area was the place if you are a sparrow. A White-Throated Sparrow (Bob Power) was

seen at the Elm Picnic area while a Grasshopper Sparrow (Debi Jamison, Steve Patt) liked the grassy hillsides along the Calaveras Ridge Trail. Cackling Geese showed up in two different urban locations: 1) Independence High School (Ann Verdi, Rich Page), and 2) Central Park in Santa Clara (Melanie O'Brien, Michele Drake). A few special raptors are worth a note as well. The team of Rob Colwell and Tom Olson were lucky enough to pick up a Ferruginous and a Rough-legged Hawk. Both were seen in the vicinity of Calaveras Reservoir.

Habitat changes were the story of this year's count. Some of them positive. Salt ponds breached to tidal action became much more challenging to count as the number of species and individuals soared. Some of them not. A drying creek in Alum Rock didn't have enough flow to attract American Dippers this year. This area is the only one in recent years to host this species. Worse yet, the creek showed signs of filling in due to the continuing low flow conditions. American Dipper may be a species that disappears from our count circle.



Christmas Bird Count Summaries *cont'd*

Calero-Morgan Hill CBC

by Ann Verdi, Coordinator and Compiler

The Calero-Morgan Hill CBC took place on Saturday, Dec 29, 2007 under overcast skies with light rain in the afternoon. With a total of 146 species we did much better than expected despite drought conditions and low water levels throughout this inland count circle. Here are some highlights of the count - four geese species including Greater White-fronted Goose, Snow Goose, Cackling Goose, as well as our familiar Canada Geese - nineteen duck species including Surf Scoter and Red-breasted Merganser both seen at Calero Reservoir and both unusual at this inland location, plus a male Barrow's X Common Goldeneye hybrid wintering at the Santa Clara Valley Water District - two Red-Throated Loons (one each at Cottonwood Lake and Calero Reservoir) - also twelve raptor species, five grebe species, seven shorebird species, and six gull species. Most land birds were seen in numbers consistent with previous CBC's, but notable was a high count of 198 Tricolored Blackbirds, with most seen in Coyote Valley. We also had the highest number of Wild Turkeys yet recorded on this count (336). Other land birds of note included a Barn Swallow at Ogier Ponds, twelve Chipping Sparrows at Jeffrey Fontana Park in suburban Almaden, one Grasshopper Sparrow on Coyote Ridge, three White-throated Sparrows reported from various locales, and a Great-tailed Grackle seen in Coyote Valley. As always, credit for the success of this count goes to the dedicated and diligent counters out in the field. The next count will be on Saturday, Dec 27, 2008. Hope to see you then.

Mt. Hamilton CBC

by Bob Hirt, Coordinator and Compiler

The thirtieth CAMH count took place on Sunday, December 30, 2007, and it was especially nice to have the Founder and 25 year compiler, Don Schmoltdt and his wife Sally Walters return to participate once again. There were a total of 23 participants in seven areas, and 5,286 individual birds representing 96 species. Land birds were way down. Very dry conditions. Many stock ponds were dried up. Poor berry crop and no flowering trees or plants. Total numbers of birds down over 30% from prior year. Although species numbers were equivalent the composition changed (eight were missed and eight were new from last year.) Only one warbler was found, no Loggerhead Shrikes, Varied Thrushes pulled a no show as did many seed eaters. Surprisingly, two Townsend's Solitaires were found to brighten up the thrush group which otherwise suffered from the poor food supply. (Bob Power's photo attached). The countdown dinner was again hosted by Lotus and Keith Baker at the highest home in the Bay Area. Gorgeous views, great birds and company and terrific food for all make this a fantastic event.



Member Nominations to the Board Due March 20

The SCVAS Board welcomes nominations by petition from our members. Such nominees will appear on the ballot for our next Board election on June 18, 2008 and, if elected, will serve for three-year terms beginning July 1, 2008.

Each petition should be signed by at least 1% of SCVAS members in good standing and be accompanied by the candidate's written agreement to serve. All signatures must have been gathered within eleven months of the election. Please deliver petitions to our office by March 20, 2008.

The Board is responsible for setting the mission, tone and direction of the Chapter while at the same time maintaining a social and fun atmosphere. Board meetings are held monthly, September through June, with a day-long retreat in the Summer. Each Board member is also expected to serve on a SCVAS committee or to devote time to an activity supportive of the Chapter. We currently have a well-rounded Board with members bringing a wide range of experiences and interests. Help shape your Chapter by applying to serve on the Board of Directors. Questions should be directed to our office or to any current Board member.

We thank these members for their generous contributions, December 2007 through January 2008

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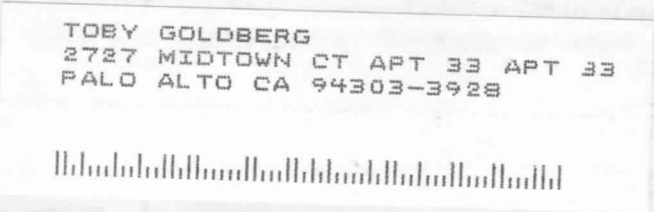
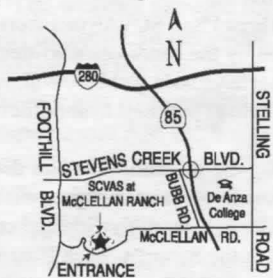
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