

# THE AVOCET

The Newsletter of the Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society

November - December 2008

## A Tradition of Creeks Advocacy

by Bob Power, SCVAS Executive Director

The Santa Clara County Creeks Coalition (SCCCC), was originally formed by Committee for Green Foothills advocate Linda Elkind in 1990. The coalition focused its early work on the development and adoption of a riparian corridor policy to protect creeks and riparian areas with buffer zones. In 1997 the city of San Jose produced an initial riparian corridor study which became part of the City's General Plan. Having accomplished its main goal, the Coalition disbanded in 1997.

In the following years, the Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society (SCVAS) took up the responsibility for creek advocacy. Craig Breon led the effort to convene creeks group meetings every year or two and create the Creekside News to publicize Santa Clara County creeks and streams issues and accomplishments. In 2005, leaders of SCVAS, the Committee for Green Foothills, Federation of Fly Fishers, and the Guadalupe/Coyote Resource Conservation District decided to bring back the SCCC to work on current regional creek, stream, and watershed issues. In 2007, the SCCC decided to expand on the responsibilities for creek advocacy already borne by SCVAS by both hosting a Creek and Watershed Conference and publishing the Creekside News.

For the 2nd year in a row, the SCCC will host the

county's only creeks and watershed conference on November 15th (See details below). The fate of our bird populations is inextricably connected to the fate and health of our watersheds, creeks and streams. This conference, bringing together individuals and organizations devoted to the health of our local streams, provides an extraordinary overview of the work that's being done to clean up, preserve, and restore these vital resources. This year, along with poster displays from participating organizations, Robin Grossinger will be the featured speaker on the Historical Ecology of Southern Santa Clara County. Through visual graphics and an engaging presentation style, Robin brings to life everything Bill Bousman has been writing regarding the history of our creeks and streams. If you can get to the conference and hear Robin's talk, it will be time well spent.

Our chapter is proud to be a member of the SCCC and engaged in the long-term advocacy work of protecting our creeks and streams. While this work is not as intuitively connected to our mission as preserving habitat for Burrowing Owls or introducing children to our wetlands, it is just as vital.

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

see Page 11

### General Membership Meeting "A Diary of a Nesting Season" with Philip L. Greene

Palo Alto Arts Center  
Newell & Embarcadero Rds  
Wednesday, November 19  
Doors open 7:30; program 8:00

Philip Green, heron ambassador and photographer, specializes in herons and egrets from around the world. You can tour his beautiful gallery in Marin. He has exhibited in galleries and museums in the USA, the UK, Canada, Finland and China. His lecture for SCVAS on herons and egrets will be an unusually informative presentation, illustrated with photographs of the typical heron species to be found in the USA. A tangential discussion of the different feeding techniques of the various members of the family will be fascinating. Mating and nesting behaviors are especially highlighted. For beautiful professional photography and lots of interesting heron and egret info, we highly recommend this program.



copyright Philip L. Greene

The Santa Clara County Creeks Coalition announces the second annual Creeks and Watershed Conference to be hosted at Pioneer High School's (PHS) Performing Arts Center (PAC), 1290 Blossom Hill Rd., San Jose, 95118. **November 15, 2008, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.**

**Pre-Registration is requested at [www.sccreeks.org/cwc2008.htm](http://www.sccreeks.org/cwc2008.htm)**

- *Opportunities to Participate in Environmental Advocacy* — Page 4
- *Book Signing Event with John Muir Laws* — Page 5
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# Nov. - Dec. '08 Field Trips

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

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

LO = Lunch optional; RC = Heavy rain cancels; NF = No facilities available

## ✓ Saturday Nov. 1, 8:30 AM

### Grant Ranch County Park

Half day. Leader: Alan Thomas (408) 265-9286. From I-680 take Alum Rock Ave. northeast, turn right on Mt. Hamilton Rd. and go approximately 9 miles to the park. Meet at Grant Lake (aka Hall's Valley Lake) parking lot, which is the first parking lot on the left side of the road (do not enter the Main Park Entrance on the right). Fresh water ducks, oak woodland birds and possible Golden Eagle. A Park entrance fee will be required for the last half of the trip. A moderate 2-mile walk. **LO, RC**

## ✓ Sunday Nov. 2, 8:30 AM

### Sunnyvale Water Treatment Facility

Half day. Leader: TBD, questions call Bob Reiling @ (408) 253-7527. From Hwy 101 take Hwy. 237 east, exit North on Caribbean Dr., turn right on Borregas Ave. then left to the parking area. This is a great place to study ducks. Trip is fairly easy but a long walk is possible. Scopes are highly recommended. Note: Daylight Savings Time, fall back or be an hour early for this trip. **RC**

## ✓ Wednesday Nov. 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 Nov. 8, 8:00 AM

### Alum Rock Park

Half day. Leader: Rich Page (408) 377-1092. 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. Drive under the bridge and meet at the far end of the parking lot. Expect a moderately strenuous 3-4 mile walk, looking for resident birds (possible Rufous-Crowned Sparrow,

and American Dipper if we are lucky), migrants and early wintering birds. Possible entrance fee. **LO, RC**

## ✓ Sunday Nov. 9, 9:00 AM

### Charleston Slough

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

## ✓ Wednesday, Nov. 12, 8:30

### Lake Cunningham Park

Half Day. Leaders: Janna Pauser, (408) 997-1727 & Phyllis Swanson (408) 274-2349. From Hwy 101 in San Jose, exit Tully Rd. Go east on Tully to park entrance, .1 mile past Capitol Expwy. Turn left into park and left again at entrance kiosk. Park in Marina parking lot. **LO, RC**

## ✓ Saturday Nov. 15, 8:00 AM

### Uvas Creek Park Preserve

Half day. Leader: Bob Reiling (408) 253-7527. From Hwy 101 in Gilroy go West on Tenth St. about a mile where it turns right and becomes Uvas Pkwy. Turn left at Miller Ave, drive over Uvas Creek and turn left into Christmas Hill Park and park in the first isle to the right. Trip is a fairly easy but long walk. Note: Low water conditions in the creek may require an alternate birding destination in the Gilroy area. **LO, RC**

## ✓ Sunday Nov. 16, 8:00 AM

### Western San Francisco

Half day. Leader: Alan Hopkins (415) 664-0983. From I-280 take 19th Ave. to Golden Gate Park. When you enter the park on 19th Ave. be in the left lane and take Crossover Dr. to 25th Ave. to Geary Blvd. then left on Geary. At 39th Ave., Geary becomes Point Lobos Ave. continue west on Point Lobos past the light at 48th Ave. and turn right into the new Marrie Way parking lot. **LO, RC**

## ✓ Saturday Nov. 22, 8:00 AM

### Alum Rock Park

Half day. Leader: Kirsten Holmquist (408) 747-0988. For directions see Nov 8th write-up. An entrance fee may be required. **LO, RC**

## ✓ Sunday Nov. 23, 9:30 A.M.

### 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**

## ✓ Sunday Nov. 23, 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. **RC**

## ✓ Friday-Saturday Nov. 28-29, 9:00 AM

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

Full day and a half. Leader: Mike Mamoser. (408) 578-2429. Meet at Sacramento NWR headquarters on I-5 approx. 20 miles north of Williams. (It's recommended that people meet and carpool from McDonald's 2nd parking lot in Williams as carpooling and use of FRS radios, set to Ch 11, will allow for best viewing possibilities on this trip). Take Road 68 exit east (towards Princeton) from I-5, then immediately north on frontage road to Refuge. Bring spotting scope, full tank of gas. Allow for a three-hour drive from South Bay. Highlights include ducks, geese, swans, cranes, and raptors. Trip is highly recommended for beginning birders. (No children under 12 please.)

## Field Trips *continued*

### Wednesday Dec. 3, 12:00 PM City of Sunnyvale Landfill

One hour. Leaders: Freddy Howell, Elaine Gould and/or Bobbie Handen. Contact organizer Silviana Ruiz (408) 730-7545 to attend. See Nov. 5th write-up for directions.

### Wednesday, Dec. 3, 8:00 Palo Alto Baylands

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

### Saturday Dec. 6, 8:00 AM Charleston Slough

Half day. Leader: Kathy Parker (408) 358-2832. For directions see the Nov 9th write-up.

### Sunday Dec. 7, 8:00 AM Sunnyvale Water Treatment Facility

Half day. Leader: TBD, questions call (408) 253-7527. From Hwy 101 take Hwy 237 east, exit North on Caribbean Dr., turn right on Borregas Ave. then left to the parking area. A great place

to study ducks and scopes are highly recommended. Trip is a fairly easy but long walk. *RC*

### Saturday Dec. 13, 9:30 A.M. Butterfly watching, Ardenwood Park

Half day. Leader: Moe Magoski (408) 410-7567. For information and directions see write-up for Nov 23rd. *LO, RC*

### Saturday Jan. 3, 7:30 A.M. County Chase

Half day. Leader: Bob Reiling (408) 253-7527. Get a head start on your 2009 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*

### Sunday Jan. 4, 8:00 A.M. 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*

### Saturday Jan. 10, 8:00 A.M. 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. Note: Do not expect to use the restrooms at the Paicines Store, their use is limited to paying customers.

### Wednesday, Jan. 14, 8:30 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. Possible fee. *LO, RC*

## Events Calendar:

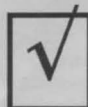
### Tues. 11/11, 9:30AM Eve Case Bird Discussion Group

- meets at the home of Pat and Jean Dubois, 17150 Buena Vista Ave., Los Gatos (408) 395-4264  
Topic: Green Heron

### Wed. 11/12, 2:30-7PM Fundraiser Mailing Party

McClellan Ranch Park  
Contact us at 408-252-3740 for more information or to help out

Tues. 11/4  
ELECTION DAY  
Don't Forget to VOTE!



Wed. 11/5, 7:30-9PM  
The Bay Area Bird Photographers Meeting: Michael Pollack presents

trips to the Artic, Iceland and more.  
Lucy Evans Baylands Interpretive Center - East Embarcadero Rd., Palo Alto

### Tues. 12/09, 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: Elegant Trogon

Sat. 11/8, 11:30AM-2:30PM \*!!  
Book Signing with John Muir Laws  
McClellan Ranch Park  
See page 5 or check out our website, [www.scvas.org](http://www.scvas.org) for more details.

Sat. 12/6, 10-2 PM ✓  
Holiday Open House  
McClellan Ranch Park  
See Page 9

## Christmas Bird Counts

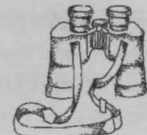
- see page 11 or go to our website, [www.scv.as.org](http://www.scv.as.org), for details:

Sun. 12/14  
San Jose Christmas Bird Count (CBC)

Mon. 12/15  
Palo Alto CBC

Sat. 12/27  
Calero-Morgan Hill CBC

Sun. 12/28  
Mt. Hamilton CBC



# Volunteer Ventures

by Toby Goldberg

Programs Coordinator

We are positively exploding with educational programs, community outreach programs, advocacy efforts, collaborations, etc. In short, all of the things that our members want us to do! Of course, we couldn't do any of this without the strength, support, passion, time, and dedication of our volunteers!

So, as you head into the busy holiday season, take a minute to reflect on the strength of our chapter, and that we couldn't do it without each of you! Thus, we send you SCVAS Holiday Greetings - full of thanks for all of you who do so much to keep our chapter thriving!

*Looking for more ways to help? Keep reading - or go to our website ([www.scvas.org](http://www.scvas.org)) and click on "Get Involved."*

**Committee Members** - In order to keep the our chapter as involved in the community as we are, we try to stay as organized as possible! One way we do that is by making sure we keep our interests supported by active committees. But our committees are only as strong as the members that participate in them, and we need more! We are particularly looking for members to help out on our Finance Committee, Membership Committee, Fundraising Committee (see Birdathon information, below), Environmental Action Committee, and...

**Armchair Activist Outreach** - Officials and legislators tell us that personal letters are the most effective way to let them know the opinions of the people they serve. They know that people who take the time to write represent many others who do not have the time or choose not to speak up. Electronic messages also deliver an impact, especially when they are personalized. The Armchair Activist coordinator sends an email message to a list of concerned citizens six times a year with a sample letter concerning a local issue. With the sample letter as a guide, citizens may spend as little as a half-hour sending their letters. Members of the Environmental Action Committee help you to compose the letters (contact: Candice Basham, [candice\\_b@earthlink.net](mailto:candice_b@earthlink.net)).

**Environmental Watchdog** - Have you heard of a proposal for a project or other change in your community that you believe will adversely affect the local environment and wildlife? Do you wonder what you can do about it? SCVAS has a long track record of helping grassroots, community-based groups to identify the officials and agencies that are responsible for decision-making, to monitor their activities, and to speak out effectively. You can prod officials and planners to make environmental impacts an important priority.

Here are some projects that SCVAS members are following:

- South Bay Salt Pond Restoration
- Stevens Creek Corridor and McClellan Ranch Park restoration
- Hanson Quarry Expansion in Cupertino
- Palo Alto Baylands changes

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## Heads Up! The 2009 Spring Birdathon Is Coming! YOU Are Invited to Participate!

The Birdathon Committee wants YOU to join the birding adventure of the SCVAS 2009 Birdathon. EVERYONE, from beginner to expert, is eligible. Start thinking now about taking part in this exciting event. Spend a day or a half-day in April birding with friends or join a guided team and bird with a pro. Raise money for SCVAS environmental education and conservation and compete for fabulous prizes or just pay the entry fee and bird for the fun of it. Then, come to the Awards Dinner in June and participate in raffles, bird quizzes, contests, and the chance to win more great prizes. The Spring Birdathon will be your best birding experience of 2009! Can't participate? Join in the fun by sponsoring an individual or a team. Look for all the details in the next issue of "The Avocet."

## Save Paper - Get "The Avocet" Online or via Email!

Did you know that almost 10% of your membership dues (if you are a local chapter member) or more goes to the printing and mailing of the bi-monthly newsletter?

Did you know that you can also download each issue from our website OR have us send it to you through email? Our website is new and improved and even easier to get to - simply go to [www.scvas.org](http://www.scvas.org), and click on "Avocet Newsletter Archive" on the left-hand side.



All you have to do is let us know that you want to go paperless and give us a valid email address, and you'll be helping our chapter save money, save paper, and save gas - not to mention being able to get each issue up to 2 weeks early!

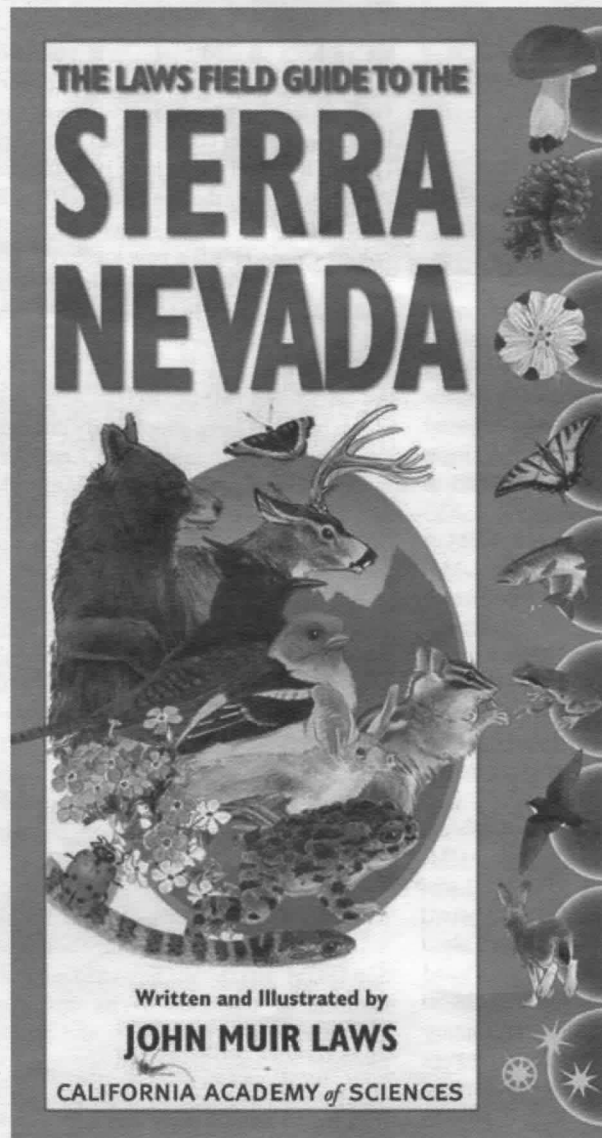
So - if you're interested in getting the Avocet online, simply call or email the SCVAS office - 408-252-3747 or [scvas@scvas.org](mailto:scvas@scvas.org) - and tell us to "Go Paperless!"

Special Workshop: Field Sketching of Birds with John Muir Laws (see info to the right)

**Followed by book sales and signing of "The Laws Field Guide to the Sierra Nevada, and Sierra Birds."**

**Saturday, November 8th, 12-1PM;  
McClellan Ranch Park**

Naturalist, environmental educator and artist John (Jack) Muir Laws spent six summers backpacking the Sierra-researching and illustrating The Laws Field Guide to the Sierra Nevada. Produced in collaboration with the California Academy of Sciences, this pocket-sized field guide contains 2,710 original watercolor paintings of more than 1,700 species in the Sierra.



## Adult Education Classes

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

### Field Sketching of Birds with John Muir Laws

How can field sketching help us become more observant birders? Jack Laws will lead us on a bird walk while demonstrating how scientific illustration and quick field sketches can help develop the eye's ability to see nature. Jack will also give us tips for quickly catching the shape and color of birds in the wild. The goal is not to create a pretty picture, but to help make us more observant while documenting our birding experiences. No previous drawing experience is necessary. Bring a sketchbook and your favorite drawing materials for working outside. NOTE: Advance registration required! Class to be followed by a special book-signing event (see info at left).

Date: Saturday, 11/8; 9-11:30AM.

Location: Conference Room, McClellan Ranch, Cupertino.

Workshop Fee: \$50 members; \$60 non-members

Class size limited to 15.

### Ducks with Bob Power

In class we'll cover some of the trickier challenges to duck identification, from females to hybrids to eclipse-plumage. We'll complement the evening classroom session the following day by sharpening our field skills at excellent bayside duck locations.

Dates: Class: Thursday, 11/6; 7-8:30PM; Field Trip: Friday, 11/7; 9AM-4PM

Location: Workshop: Conference Room, McClellan Ranch, Cupertino; Field trip: Coyote Point, Radio Road, Knob Hill pond, San Mateo County, and Sunnyvale Baylands ponds, Santa Clara County.

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

Class size limited to 15. Carpooling is strongly encouraged.

### What's a CBC? with Bob Power

Ever think about participating in a Christmas Bird Count but were afraid to ask? Is this the year where you could participate but don't know exactly what it is? This workshop will tell you everything you want to know about Christmas Bird Counts from 1900 to today and from bird identification to data collection to data research. This class is designed as an orientation for anyone who wants to participate in one of the areas Christmas Bird Counts and wants to know more about what's involved and what's required. This is a fantastic way to contribute to citizen science and we need more volunteers. Come join us!

Dates: Class (two sessions to choose from):

Session 1 – Thursday 11/20; 9:30-11AM.

Session 2 – Thursday 11/20; 7-8:30PM

Location: Conference Room, McClellan Ranch, Cupertino.

Fee: No Charge.

Class size (for each session) limited to 25.

# Field Notes

by Bill Bousman

## Waterfowl through Falcons

Slightly early, a juvenile **Greater White-fronted Goose** joined the Canadas in Shoreline Park on 30 Sep (AME). An eclipse male **Blue-winged Teal** at the South County Regional Waste Water Authority (SCRWA) treatment ponds in Gilroy on 26 Sep (MJM) was the only report for the period. Seven **Redhead** on Pond A10 in Alviso on 28 Sep (MMR, MJM, RGJ) were slightly early. We have few summer records for **Common Goldeneye** so a female on Pond A17 in Alviso on 15 Aug (MMR), a worn male in Crittenden Marsh on 20-23 Aug (WGB, JT), and another female at the Ogier Avenue ponds on 27 Aug (RPh) were surprising. A female **Red-breasted Merganser** continued to be seen on a closed refuge pond in Alviso, with sightings on 30 Aug and 11 Sep (MMR, MJM, RGJ). High counts of **Brown Pelicans** in ponds near Alviso included 149 on 30 Aug (MMR, MJM, RGJ) and 252 on 9 Sep (WGB). As happened last fall, an adult **Pelagic Cormorant** was in the Alviso ponds, found on 13 Sep (JT) and remaining through the end of the month (v.ob.). A single **Cattle Egret** was seen at the Mountain View Forebay on 1 Sep (CD) and is likely the same one that has been found near the Palo Alto Duck Pond 20 Sep (KPa, KDeM, MJM, et al.) and seen there through the end of the month. Two **White-faced Ibis** at the Mountain View Forebay on 16 Sep (FV) did not remain. An adult **Bald Eagle** was seen at the Ogier Avenue ponds on 20 Sep (RWR et al.) and possibly the same bird was found the same day over Anderson Reservoir (SCR). An immature **Swainson's Hawk** was seen over Morgan Hill on 6 Sep (SCR). A **Prairie Falcon** near the Coyote Ranch south of Metcalf Road on 18 Sep (RPh) was in an area where they occasionally winter.

## Shorebirds

**Snowy Plovers** were last seen in New Chicago Marsh on 20 Aug (JT). Twenty-eight birds were counted on closed refuge ponds (where they nested) on 30 Aug, but these left after water levels were increased (MMR, MJM, RGJ). Nine to 20 birds were in Pond A12 on 11-13 Sep (MJM, RGJ, JT), but these also left as the water level there was increased. Eleven birds remained in the dry impoundment north of the Alviso Marina CP on 28 Sep (MMR, MJM, RGJ). A **Solitary Sandpiper** was found on Los Gatos Creek where it enters Vasona Reservoir on 31 Aug (JMu) and remained at least until 8 Sep (m.ob.), delighting many. New Chicago Marsh was the center of Lesser Yellowlegs

sightings during the period with counts as great as five during August (v.ob.). Birds were also found at the Coyote Creek Field Station (CCFS) waterbird pond, the Alviso Marina CP, and the Palo Alto Baylands during the period. A flock of 29 **Whimbrel** over the Sunnyvale Water Pollution Control Ponds (WPCP) on 12 Sep (MMR) was an unusual high count for this uncommon curlew, but didn't begin to compare with 690 **Long-billed Curlews** at a high-tide roost on Pond A15 in Alviso on 28 Sep (MMR, MJM, RGJ). Six **Ruddy Turnstones** found along a levee in the Alviso ponds on 30 Aug (MMR, MJM, RGJ) was a good count for this rare South Bay shorebird. Also rare in our South Bay ponds, 3 **Sanderlings** were found in closed refuge ponds in Alviso on 11 Sep (MJM, RGJ), one was at the edge of Pond A13 the same day (KO), two juveniles were found in New Chicago Marsh on 28 Sep (MJM,

*Excepting an Orchard Oriole, it was a poor passerine migration. But a variety of rare gulls, terns, and jaegers made up for this.*

MMR, RGJ). A juvenile **Semipalmated Sandpiper** was seen near the boardwalk in New Chicago Marsh on 11 Aug (MJM) and another bird was found along the entrance road on 12 Aug (MMR) and was enjoyed by many through 17 Aug (m.ob.). A single juvenile **Baird's Sandpiper** was found in New Chicago Marsh on 15 Aug (RWR, FV) and was there the next day as well (MJM et al.). Two seen there on 5 Sep (RGJ, DMA) and 8 Sep (DWe) may have been different birds. Four Baird's were in Crittenden Marsh 20 Aug (WGB) and at least some of these birds were seen through 25 Aug (FV, RWR). Two juveniles were also seen on closed refuge ponds on 30 Aug (MMR, MJM, RGJ), and two juveniles were on the CCFS waterbird pond on 9 Sep (WGB). One to two juveniles were seen at the southeast corner of Pond A12 on 11-21 Sep (MJM, RGJ, JAC, v.ob.) before the water level was raised. This period, we have found only two juvenile **Pectoral Sandpipers**, one at Calero Reservoir on 1-3 Sep (AV, RWR, FV) and the other in the Palo Alto Baylands on 28-30 Sep (RW, v.ob.) At the turn of the century we occasionally had flocks of 50 to 60 Pecs in the fall! A **Buff-breasted Sandpiper**, the first since 2005, was found along Pond A13 on 9 Sep (WGB), and remained for only an additional day (v.ob.) as is typical of this

species in the South Bay. The adult female **Ruff** found in Pond A16 in July remained through 19 Aug (m.ob.). By the time of the last observations it had molted largely into basic plumage. Always a surprise, a basic **Red Phalarope** turned up in Pond A13 along with a lingering flock of Red-necked Phalarope on 28 Sep (MMR, MJM, RGJ). It was found the next day but not after.

## Gulls, Terns, Jaegers, and Murres

It has been a remarkable season for gulls and their allies that are more often found along the coast than in the South Bay. These birds have ranged from the Sunnyvale WPCP oxidation ponds to the Alviso ponds. The afternoon roost of birds at the oxidation ponds and the raft of birds developing later in the day in Sunnyvale's Pond A4 have been particularly productive. But as these birds have been wide ranging, determining actual numbers has been difficult or impossible. A juvenile **Franklin's Gull** was found at the Sunnyvale WPCP oxidation ponds on 7 Sep (MMR), but was a one-day wonder; we've been spoiled by lingering birds over the last 3 years. The band on a **California Gull** at the Redwood Shores sewer ponds during September could be read with a scope (TGo). It turned out to have been banded in Alviso in 1983 by the San Francisco Bay Bird Observatory in the early days of the breeding colony there. This is a new longevity record for California Gulls. A juvenile **Sabine's Gull** was spotted independently on Pond A4 and the Sunnyvale WPCP on 12 Sep (GHa, ChW). Five juveniles were on Pond A4 on 15 Sep (MMR, RGJ). After that, a single bird was there almost daily through 21 Sep (m.ob.). The numbers of **Least Terns** staging at Pond A2E peaked on 5 Aug (AME) and the last one there was on 11 Aug (WGB). Thirty-two birds were found along the west levee of Pond A3W on 8 Aug (FV). The period has been remarkable for the presence of **Black Terns**, although the total number involved is unclear. A basic adult found in July at Pond A16 in Alviso remained at least to 3 Aug (MDo et al.). Another (or the same basic bird) was at the Sunnyvale WPCP oxidation ponds on 9 Aug (MJM) and one has been at that general location through 19 Sep (m.ob.). In addition, a single juvenile was there on 30 Aug (MJM, RGJ) and nearby on Pond A4 on 22 Sep (MMR). At least two birds were seen on Pond A4 on 17 Sep (MJM) and on closed refuge ponds on 11 Sep (MJM, RGJ). We have had substantial numbers of **Common Terns** this season, although often at a distance, and again the numbers are unclear. A juvenile was found at the Sunnyvale WPCP ponds on 8 Sep (PLD) and this or a similar bird was seen there or nearby through 14 Sep (v.ob.). One

*Continued on next page*

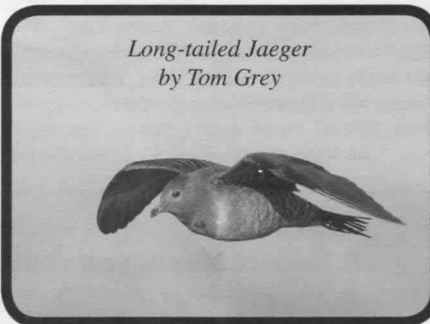
## Field Notes *cont'd*

to six birds, mostly adults, were seen there and in Pond A4 in the afternoon raft through 22 Sep. The largest number, 4 to 6 birds, was recorded in the latter location on 17 Sep (MJM, RGJ). At least two Commons were on closed refuge ponds on 11 and 28 Sep (MJM, RGJ, MMR) and on Pond A13 on 19 Sep (MDo). At least one **Arctic Tern** was also found during this period with observations in Pond A9 on 10 Sep (SCR, NTh, MMR), and in Pond A4 on 11 Sep (JL) and 12 Sep (RGJ). Detailed descriptions were provided for all of these reports. **Elegant Terns** were found in closed refuge ponds, with 29 on 11 Sep and at least 15 on 28 Sep (MJM, RGJ, MMR). At least 2 birds were on Pond A9 on 11 Sep (MJM, RGJ). Over the period 11-22 Sep, up to 7 birds were seen in the vicinity of the Sunnyvale WPCP oxidation ponds and Pond A4, including a dependent juvenile 16-19 Sep (m.ob.). A juvenile **Parasitic Jaeger** was found on Pond A4 on 7 Sep (MMR) and remained there at least through 17 Sep (m.ob.). This bird stayed mostly near the center of the pond. A juvenile **Long-tailed Jaeger** was found on Pond A13 on 9 Sep (WGB), but was not correctly identified until 10 Sep (MMR). This bird moved around a lot, sometimes quite close to levees and many photographs were obtained. A second record for the county, the bird remained at least through 23 Sep (m.ob.). Multiple **Common Murres** were found during the period, some dead. Murres sometimes fail to survive when lost in the South Bay. Two were off the Palo Alto Baylands on 9 Aug (DLSu), one was in Artesian Slough on 11 Aug (NTe et al.), another was in Guadalupe Slough on 4 Sep (CR fide MJM), one was on Pond A4 on 8 Sep (WGB, DWe, RKe, PKe), and the last report was of one in the Palo Alto estuary on 30 Sep (AME). None were seen for more than one day.

### Swifts through Siskins

August and September are the peak period for the fall passage of **Vaux's Swifts**. High counts included 40 over the Oka percolation ponds on 13 Sep (JPa et al.) and 38 over Sunnyvale WPCP on 8 Sep (MMR). A **Lewis's Woodpecker** along Sierra Road on 5 Aug (JAC et al.) and two in Joseph Grant CP on 16 Sep (WGB) were likely migrants. A **Pileated Woodpecker** was seen near Sobrato HS in Morgan Hill on 5 Aug (fide RPh), we occasionally find dispersing birds away from established breeding areas. The first **Willow Flycatcher** of the fall was along the Guadalupe River above Montague Expressway on 25 Aug (WGB). Three to seven birds were found weekly

in riparian areas over the remainder of the period (m.ob.). The only **Bank Swallow** found this fall was one in a mixed swallow flock over New Chicago Marsh on 10 Aug (SCR). A **Red-breasted Nuthatch** has continued in a Los Altos yard through 18 Aug (G&KHt). One heard in Mountain View on 27 Sep (DLSu) the only other bird away from known nesting areas. This should be an irruptive winter, but based on early fall results it will be a weak irruption. Two **American Dippers** were seen along Los Gatos Creek at the Aldercroft Heights Bridge above Lexington Reservoir on 4 Aug (SCR). An adult male **Nashville Warbler** found at the Sunnyvale Baylands Park on 30 Sep (RKe, PKe) was the only observation for the period. A **Palm Warbler** was seen at the same location and day (RKe, PKe). An

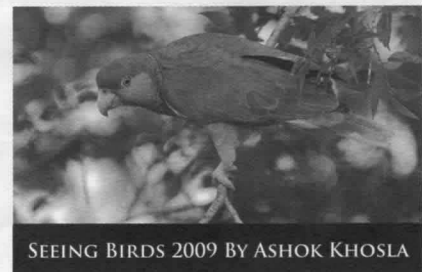


*Long-tailed Jaeger*  
by Tom Grey

adult male **Black-and-White Warbler** was found along Coyote Creek below Barber Lane in Milpitas on 14 Aug (WGB) and another Black-and-White was along the Alamos Creek Trail on 27-28 Sep (JPa, LR). A **Northern Waterthrush** was seen along Stevens Creek above Crittenden Lane on 1 Sep (MMR) and was observed again on 18 Sep (WGB) and 30 Sep (AME). One or more of these rare warblers have wintered there and at Charleston Road marsh for the last 8 years or so. Passing **MacGillivray Warblers** included single birds on Stevens Creek above Crittenden Lane on 1 and 17 Sep (MMR), a bird banded at CCFS on 6 Sep (SH), and one near Almaden Lake Park on 15 Sep (AV). A fall **Brewer's Sparrow** was found at the Santa Clara Valley Water District ponds on 7 Sep (AV) and remained until 9 Sep (v.ob.). A **Vesper Sparrow** beside Pond A4 on 8 Sep (JRy) was a good find. A family of **Blue Grosbeaks** was seen along the Pajaro River below Hwy 101 on 7 Aug (RWR, FV) and likely nested there again this year. A male **Orchard Oriole** was seen at the Sunnyvale Baylands Park on 27 Aug (RKe, PKe), a first record for the county. Two to four **Pine Siskins** were seen at Monte Bello OSP 2-12 Sep (GHa).

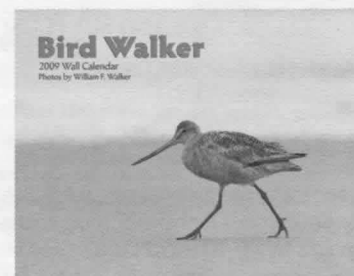
Observers: Bill Bousman (WGB), Jack Cole (JAC), Carol Dienger (CD), Karen DeMello (KDeM), Matthew Dodder (MDo), Peggy Don (PLD), Al Eisner (AME), Tom Goodier (TGO), Garth Harwood (GHa), Grant & Karen Hoyt (G&KHt), Sherry Hudson (SH), Richard Jeffers (RGJ), Roland Kenner (RKe), Pat Kenny (PKe), John Luther (JL), Dean Manley (DMa), Mike Mammoser (MJM), Julio Mulero (JMu), Kay Partelow (KPa), Janna Pauser (JPa), Kris Olson (KO), Ryan Phillips (RPh), Bob Reiling (RWR), Caitlin Robinson (CR), Mike Rogers (MMR), Steve Rottenborn (SCR), Linda Ruthruff (LR), Jennifer Rycenga (JRy), David Suddjian (DLSu), Nancy Teater (NTe), Jim Thomas (JT), Nellie Thorngate (NTh), Frank Vanslager (FV), Ann Verdi (AV), Dave Weber (DWe), Ron Wolf (RW), and Chris Wolfe (ChW).

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



*Beautiful 2009 Calendars  
by local birders and SCVAS  
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## Donor Recognition and Thank You's

We wish to thank the generosity of the following contributors for their financial support, August 2008 through September 2008.

Very special thanks to all of the participants in the Stevens Creek 50K run, raising nearly \$2000 for environmental advocacy!

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Bill and Cindy Wigglesworth.

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Judith Appleby, Peter and Patricia Biocini, Linda Brownrigg, David Burnham, Mary Florsheim, William and Jacqueline Gomez, Linda Green, Jane Hiatt, Jane Jordan, Ginnie Mickelson, Shaina Mika, Nadine Redding, Gail Richardson, Joseph and Elizabeth Rizzi, Joseph and Mary Sinnott, Alan and Karen Thomas, Bill and Sandy Thurmon, Elaine Varga.

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### Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society Statement of Income & Balance Sheets, year ending May 31, 2008

<b>Statement of Income</b>	<b>5/31/07</b>	<b>5/31/08</b>
TOTAL REVENUE (includes net Nature Shop sales, Investment Income, Memberships and Program Revenues):	\$ 140,971	\$ 33,376
SUPPORT (includes Gifts and Memorials, Birdathon, contributions to Restricted Funds, Earthshare of California distributions, misc. Program Support):	<u>\$ 218,309</u>	<u>\$ 637,671</u>
<b>TOTAL REVENUE AND SUPPORT</b>	<b>\$ 359,280</b>	<b>\$ 671,047</b>
<b>EXPENSES:</b>		
Total Program Expenses	\$ 174,682	\$ 196,995
Total Fundraising Expenses	\$ 27,070	\$ 31,062
Total General & Administrative Expenses	<u>\$ 58,746</u>	<u>\$ 36,275</u>
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$ 260,499</b>	<b>\$ 264,332</b>
EXCESS OF OPERATING (EXPENSES) OVER REVENUE	\$ 98,781	\$ 406,715
<b>Asset, Liabilities, and Surplus</b>		
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b> (includes Cash, Deposits, Prepaid Expenses, Accounts Receivable, Fixed Assets, Inventory, and Investments, At market value):	\$ 726,866	\$ 1,132,381
<b>LIABILITIES</b> (includes Accounts Payable, Salaries and Payroll Taxes Payable, Sales Taxes Payable, and Deferred Income):	\$ 3,798	\$ 2,597
<b>SURPLUS</b> (includes Funds Designated to meet Long-term Needs, Restricted Funds, and Undesignated Surplus):	\$ 624,288	\$ 723,069
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND SURPLUS:</b>	<b>\$ 726,866</b>	<b>\$ 1,132,381</b>
<b>STATEMENT OF SURPLUS:</b>	\$ 723,069	\$ 1,129,784
Surplus, Beginning of Year	\$ 98,781	\$ 406,715
Surplus, End of Year	\$ 723,069	\$ 1,129,784

### **Financial Report**

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



# Breeding Bird Atlas of Santa Clara County, California

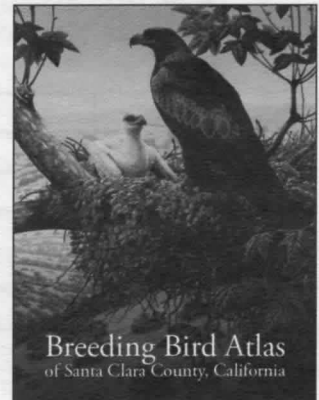
by William G. Bousman, Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society, 2007, 547 pages, \$40.00.

reviewed by Matthew Bettelheim.

Reprinted by permission of Bay Nature Magazine.

Part natural/regional history guide, part atlas, part everything-but-the-kitchen-sink, Bousman's Atlas is a compendious guide to all things feathered in Santa Clara County. The size of a college textbook, this isn't something you'll be tucking in your back pocket.

Instead, take time to pore over it at home, going through the breeding season windows, local place names, historical and introduced species lists, maps of annual rainfall, drainage basins, geology, vegetation communities, breeding status, phenology, and--whew!--population trends. And don't be intimidated; each of the 177 species accounts--authored by one of several contributors--is treated in a conversational yet informative way, consisting of well-researched text covering the bird's natural history and scientific discovery, a handsome black-and-white illustration, and easy-to-read maps and figures. There's even a bonus history chapter that tackles everything from early Bay Area ornithologists to the era of oology (the study of eggs) to the birth of the Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society.



Available at [www.scvas.org](http://www.scvas.org) or in the SCVAS Nature Shop.

Bay Nature contributing editor Matthew Bettelheim is a freelance writer and a wildlife biologist with URS Corporation.



## Don't Miss SCVAS' Holiday Open House!

Saturday, December 6th; 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM

Enjoy a special display of paintings and photography by local artists, and so much more!

Finish (or begin!) your holiday shopping!

Enjoy Holiday refreshments and a special one day discount!

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

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All proceeds go to our education and conservation programs

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

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**Santa Clara County  
Cavity Nesters Recovery Program  
Nest Box Results 2003 through 2008<sup>‡</sup>**

*Chicks fledged from boxes monitored by Volunteers in Santa Clara County  
Data compiled through September 24, 2008\*\**

Species	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
AMKE	3	0	0	0	0	0
ATFC		0	0	154	83	91
BCCH				8	10	0
BEWR	19	52	69	63	44	33
BNOW	16	2	12	16	4	10
CBCH	114	104	218	256	217	156
DOWO						0
HOFI	0	0	2	0	0	0
HOSP				4	69	18
HOWR	44	61	104	37	72	106
MOBL						0
NUWO						1
OATI	192	180	343	281	104	230
RBNU						0
TRES	128	192	254	307	215	156
VGSW	183	219	236	266	250	222
WBNU	25	31	64	31	22	36
WEBL	369	398	502	509	491	440
WESO	0	3	0	0	0	0
WODU	20	7	0	0	0	0
TOTALS	1208	1354	1938	1942	1582	1499
TRAILS#	36	34	42/60	44/64	53/81	42/87
BOXS*	484	522	550/780	662/890		
SPECIES	12	13	11	15	15	12

# trails reporting/trails in county (backyards counted as one trail)

\* boxes in reporting trails/total in county

\*\* Additional data for remaining trails/boxes still being compiled at the time of this publication

‡Data from 1997 available upon request

**Cooperation and Other Lessons from the Birds (and Those Who Love Them)**

*By Toby Goldberg*

*SCVAS Programs Coordinator*

As we listen to – and maybe get frustrated from – the political and financial wrangling that is so prominent on the news these days, perhaps we ought to take a page instead out of the book of the Cavity Nesters Recovery Program.

We can start by recognizing the hard work and effort of all of our monitors – representing hundreds of hours of effort each year – whose sole purpose is to help cavity nesting birds “make it” in our increasingly paved and developed world.

Then, we can look at the sacrifice and time that our coordinators have made to produce a strong, viable, program – training monitors, overseeing eagle scout building projects, installing nest boxes, creating databases, collating hundreds of pieces of data, producing beautiful publications, and so much more – simply because they care about our native birds.

Finally, we can look at the inter-specific interactions of the birds themselves – the theme of the year seemed to be helping behavior by Violet-green Swallows (VGSW) towards Western Bluebirds (WEBL). In several instances, monitors observed adult VGSW’s carrying insects to feed WEBL nestlings. In other instances, VGSW’s helped to chase off potential threats to the WEBL nest. And, in one instance, a VGSW pair took over an abandoned House Wren nest and proceeded to raise a brood of House Wren chicks.

Obviously this behavior can be explained in evolutionary terms. But the experience of watching these interactions, as well as the selflessness of our CNRP participants, reminds us that not everything is about selfishness and greed; sometimes its simply about doing the right thing and finding joy in what the world has to offer.

**Outside Events of Note**

**Nov 8th, 2008 – Apr 3rd, 2009**

**Project FeederWatch** – Participants count the numbers and kinds of birds at their feeders each week and send the information to the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. For more details go to [www.feederwatch.org](http://www.feederwatch.org) or call the Lab toll-free at (800) 843-2473.

**Nov 13th, 2008**

**Volunteers Sought for San Francisco Bay Shorebird Count!** Where: Along all south bay tidal wetland habitats

and high tide roosts. Contact: Mike Perlmutter, Bay Area Conservation Coordinator, Audubon California, [mperlmutter@audubon.org](mailto:mperlmutter@audubon.org), 510-601-1866 x231

**Nov. 20-23, 2008**

**The 12th Annual Central Valley Birding Symposium**  
Stockton Grand Hotel, Stockton CA

Exciting talks, workshops, programs, field trips, and much more – including evening talks by Hans Peeters and John Muir Laws. For more info, check the website at [www.cvbs.org](http://www.cvbs.org), or contact Frances Oliver at [hummer52@sbc-global.net](mailto:hummer52@sbc-global.net) or (209) 369-2010.

# The Christmas Bird Counts are Almost Here!

Join us for another year of fun, adventure, and excitement as we help add to the body of bird research and knowledge throughout the country! Contact the compiler of the region you are interested in (see below). Participants are asked to provide \$5 to help cover the charge of the national CBC publication.

Want to know what's involved in a Christmas Bird Count (or CBC)? Read the descriptions below OR attend one of our informational sessions on Thursday, Nov 20th (see page ## for more information).

## SAN JOSE CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

Yes, it is almost that time of year again ... when supposedly mature adults scramble around madly counting birds for fun and glory.

The San Jose Christmas Bird Count will be held this year on Sunday, December 14th. Birders of all experience levels are welcome and needed. Bird identification skills are great but other skills are important too, such as: 1) spotter, able to point and say "Bird!" and 2) tally-man, able to make small marks on increasingly grubby bits of paper. We have such a diversity of habitats that there is something for everyone's pleasure. If you prefer shoreline, oak woodlands, lake-side, or riparian, we can accommodate you. So, come have fun and contribute to an important, on-going biological census.

The countdown dinner will review all birds seen for the day. The Leininger Center in Kelley Park is the host location. There is a \$5 charge to cover the cost of the national CBC result publication. If you are interested in participating in the count, please contact Kirsten Holmquist before December 5

at 408.747.0988 or via email at [kirsten.holmquist@comcast.net](mailto:kirsten.holmquist@comcast.net).

\*\*\*\*\*

## PALO ALTO CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

The PACBC will be held on Monday, December 15 this year. This count, centered in Palo Alto and stretching from the bay to Skyline Drive, is a great way to bird with old and new friends while collecting data for the National Audubon Society. We are always looking for new birders of all levels of experience, and as always welcome back dedicated counters from prior years.

If you are returning and wish to count in the same area, please contact your region coordinator. If you aren't sure who that is, let me know. Anyone new to this count can contact me and I will place you in an area where you can be most helpful. Please consider joining us for a few hours or a full day, and if possible join us in the evening as we tally our results.

Jack Cole  
408-996-0434  
[Snoyowl@Yahoo.com](mailto:Snoyowl@Yahoo.com)

## CALERO-MORGAN HILL BIRD COUNT

The Calero-Morgan Hill Christmas Bird Count will take place this year on Saturday, Dec 27. Of our four local counts, this inland count is the only one that takes place in the southern part of Santa Clara County. The circle includes the Diablo Range foothills in the east to portions of the Santa Cruz Mountains in the west with valleys, parks, riparian corridors, and reservoirs in between the two ranges. Some specific areas of interest include a riparian stretch of Coyote Creek (including Ogier Ponds), Almaden Lake Park, Santa Clara Valley Water District Headquarters, Santa Teresa County Park, Quicksilver County Park, Mt Umunhum, Edenvale Garden Park, Guadalupe Oak Grove Park, Coyote Valley, and inland reservoirs including Almaden, Calero, Chesbro, and a portion of Anderson Reservoir.



While the purpose of the CBC is to census all our wintering and resident birds, some special birds found on previous counts have included Red-throated Loon, Snow Goose, Greater Roadrunner, Rufous Hummingbird, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, American Redstart, and Black-headed Grosbeak. If you're interested in this South County adventure, I can be contacted by email [wodu10@aol.com](mailto:wodu10@aol.com) or by phone 408-266-5108.

Hope you can join us!  
Ann Verdi, Compiler/Organizer

\*\*\*\*\*




## MT. HAMILTON BIRD COUNT

Mark your calendars for December 28th! We hope to have a great count again through the Mt. Hamilton and San Antonio Valley area. Count leaders are especially needed. Contact Bob Hirt - 408-821-2732 (cell) - as soon as possible to participate.

 **Winter 2009** 

**Young Audubon Adventures**

Keep your eyes open for our annual Young Audubon Winter Adventures for Bay Area families and children! The dates and times are still "to be confirmed", but we will once again be offering the following activities:

 <b>Winter Whale Watching</b> in Monterey Bay MLK Weekend Monday, January 19th	 <b>Elephant Seal Walks</b> at Año Nuevo State Park President's Day Weekend Monday, February 16th	
---	---	--

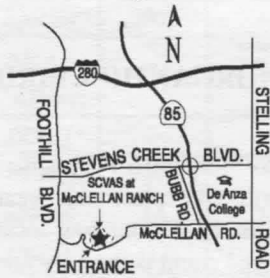
Don't miss either of these fun and exciting activities designed for children and families - all children 5-years-old and up are welcome! Space will be limited for each activity, so be sure to sign-up early!

As they become available, more details will be available on our website, [www.scvas.org](http://www.scvas.org), and in the Jan/Feb issue of the Avocet.

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

Phone: 408-252-3747  
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**Programs Coordinator** 408/252-3740  
 Toby Goldberg programs@scvas.org

**Office Fax** 408/252-2850  
**E-mail** scvas@scvas.org  
**Website** www.scvas.org

**OFFICE HOURS**

**Monday - Friday 10 AM - 5 PM**  
**Saturday 10 AM - 2 PM**

**GENERAL MEETINGS** are held on the third Wednesday of each month except July, August and December and are open to the public.

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS** meetings are open to all members. Call the office at (408) 252-3747 for times and directions.

**RARE BIRD ALERT: (415) 681-7422**

SCVAS is the chapter of the National Audubon Society for Santa Clara County.

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 Boyce Burge '08-'11

**The SCVAS Board Welcomes Two New Directors!**

The members of the SCVAS Board of Directors and the SCVAS staff would like to extend a hearty welcome to our newest Board members, Boyce Burge and Stephanie Ellis. They come to us with a lot of great experience, knowledge and enthusiasm, and we are looking forward to a long and wonderful Audubon future with them!

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

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

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

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

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