

THE AVOCET

The Newsletter of the Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society

November - December 2008

Dear Friends of Audubon

You are invited...

What: To become a Supporting Member of the Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society (SCVAS).

When: Today, tomorrow... it's never too late!

Why: Supporting members ensure continuation and growth of the grassroots projects that have made SCVAS influential in the Bay Area community. Dues from Supporting Members directly underwrite costs associated with SCVAS' local wildlife education, conservation, and birding programs. In the past year, this has allowed us to:

- Provide the opportunity for almost 1500 students of all ages to participate in classroom activities and field trips.
- Gain the commitment of an \$800,000 investment in restoring Quimby and Fowler Creeks in San Jose.
- Lead efforts to preserve the Burrowing Owl (California Species of Special Concern) and its habitat in the South Bay, and to join other advocates to mount regional and statewide conservation campaigns for this species.

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

The funding we receive from National Audubon Society does not cover the cost of sending you "The Avocet," SCVAS' bi-monthly newsletter. And it does not sustain our critical conservation and education work in the Bay Area. We need your support at the local level! For members of National Audubon who are not supporting at the local level, we will be sending you an abbreviated version of each Avocet issue. The full issue can always be downloaded from our web-site. Or better yet, let us know that you want to go paperless and give us a valid e-mail address, and we will e-mail it to you.*

Please use the attached donation form (see page 4 of this letter) to support our chapter's programs.

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.



You will, of course, continue to receive all the benefits provided by our chapter (free field trips and Avocet subscription, discounts at our nature shop and on class fees, and use of SCVAS' extensive lending library).

If, for some reason your local support donation has crossed this Avocet in the mail, our apologies! We'll catch up with you next issue!

Very best regards,

Bob Power
Executive Director

*For the Go Paperless option, please call us at 408-252-3748 or email scvas@scvas.org.

Nov. - Dec. '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 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 Mammoser (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 4 or check out our website, www.scvas.org for more details.

Sat. 12/6, 10-2 PM

Holiday Open House
McClellan Ranch Park

See Page 4

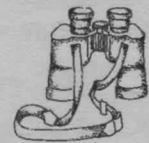
Christmas Bird Counts – go to our website, www.scv.as.org, for details:

Sun. 12/14

San Jose Christmas Bird Count (CBC)

Mon. 12/15

Palo Alto CBC



Sat. 12/27

Calero-Morgan Hill CBC

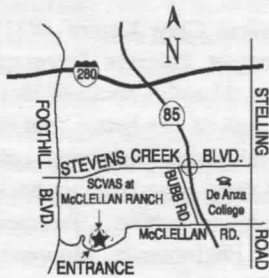
Sun. 12/28

Mt. Hamilton CBC

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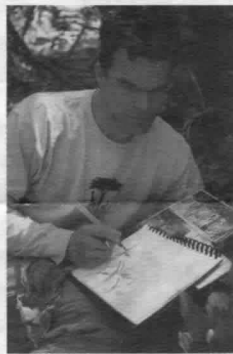


Adult Education Class

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.

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.

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.

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!

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

2008 Volume 59, Number 6

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

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

Additional Gift: \$ 50 \$ 100 \$ 250 Other _____

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

Name _____

Address _____

City State & Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

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Check here if you would like a free copy of *Birding at the Bottom of the Bay*, our gift to new members!

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