



# THE AVOCET

The Newsletter of the Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society

January - February 2009

## Get Ready for Your Birding Adventures:

## The 2009 SCVAS Spring Birdathon Wants YOU!

Everyone, from beginner to expert birder, can participate in the 2009 SCVAS Spring Birdathon, a major fundraising event for SCVAS Conservation efforts and youth environmental education, raising over \$58,600 in 2008. Your participation could help raise even more in 2009.

- Anyone can win fabulous prizes, from optics, and birding trips, to entertainment tickets, exotic resort getaways, excellent wines, and much more, by raising money and being a top fundraiser! Top fundraisers get their choice of prizes.
- Anyone can join in by raising or self-donating a minimum of \$50.
- Anyone can sponsor a team. Check [www.scvas.org](http://www.scvas.org) after February 1, 2009, to pick a Birdathon team to sponsor. Call the office to make a tax-deductible donation to that team. All sponsors receive a report about their team's birdathon adventure and all sponsors are invited to the June Birdathon Dinner Celebration.

**“Go Guided”  
Birdathon  
Teams  
-Page 9**

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

1. Check [www.scvas.org/birdathon](http://www.scvas.org/birdathon) for the Birdathon rules, information, and prize list (check often, we continuously add prizes). You can also register and sponsor an individual or team online.
2. Talk to your birding friends about forming a Self-Guided Team together for the 2009 SCVAS Spring Birdathon, pick a day to bird from March 28 to April 26, inclusive.
3. Register yourself and your team or join one of our Guided Teams led by one of our many expert birders (see list on page 9) by calling the SCVAS Office, (408)252-3747 or online.
4. Plan your birding day with your Self-Guided teammates. Create a 4-Hour or 24-hour Birdathon that fits your team. You can design a relaxed and restful Birdathon or one that is creative and energetic. For example:
  - A. Spend four hours on a Saturday snacking in lounge chairs on your patio counting species at your feeders; join a “Big Sit” guided team; or a team that birds several spots in four hours. (4-Hour Birdathon Category) **OR**
  - B. Race around Santa Clara County from before dawn until after dark, birding in as many habitats and locations as is humanly possible in a 24-hour period; form a team that birds for more than four hours, or join an all day guided team (24-hour Birdathon Category).

5. Raise money - at least \$50 per team member. It's so much easier than you think. Most people you know will be delighted to support your efforts for a good environmental education program with a small or large tax-deductible donation. Call, e-mail, or write all your friends,

*Birdathon continued on page 8*

### General Membership Meetings

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



Wednesday, January 21st

**“The Majestic  
Harpy Eagle”  
with Ryan Phillips**

Ryan Phillips, Raptor Biologist, will present an exciting program on Harpy Eagles, with wonderful photos of other raptors from Belize.  
*(cont. on page 4)*



Wednesday, February 18th

**“Penguins and  
Albatross ~ The  
world through the  
Eyes of a Seabird”  
with Ted Cheeseman**

Join naturalist and expedition leader, Ted Cheeseman, for a lecture exploring what it is to be a seabird in the vast unforgiving expanse of the open ocean. *(cont. on page 8)*

- ◇ *CNRP Information & Training Sessions* — Page 5
- ◇ *Red-Throated Pipit a special treat* — *Field Notes, Page 6*
- ◇ *Special Trip to the Falkland Islands with Cheeseman's Ecological Safaris* — Page 8
- ◇ *Young Audubon Winter Adventures* — Page 10
- ◇ *Wildlife Education Day another Grand Success!* — Page 11

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# Jan. - Feb. '09 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 Jan. 3, 7:30 AM

### 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 AM

### Ogier Ponds

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

## Wednesday Jan. 7, 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 Jan. 10, 8:00 AM

### Panoche Valley

Full day. Leader: Clay Kempf (831) 761-8260. Meet at Paicines Store on Hwy 25 approx. 11 miles south of Hollister. This is one of our better "out of the county" field trips traversing oak woodland and open grassland via back roads into a unique habitat. Targeted species include Phainopepla, Mountain Bluebird, Prairie Falcon, Ferruginous Hawk and Golden Eagle; other possibilities include Mountain Plover, Bald Eagle, Vesper Sparrow, Greater

Roadrunner and Chukar. Bring lunch and a full tank of gas, carpooling is strongly recommended due to limited parking on the narrow roads. Note: Do not expect to use the restrooms at the Paicines Store, their use is limited to paying customers.

## Sunday Jan. 11, 8:15 AM

### Arastradero OSP

Half day. Leader: Jim Johnson (408) 996-3506. From I-280 take Page Mill Rd west; turn right on Arastradero Rd and meet in the parking lot about 1/4 mile on the right. Moderate walking. **RC**

## Sunday Jan. 11, 9:45 AM

### Butterfly watching, Ardenwood Park

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

## Wednesday Jan. 14, 8:30 AM

### Los Gatos Creek Park/Oka Ponds

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

## Saturday Jan. 17, 8:00 AM

### Alum Rock Park

Half day. Leader: Kirsten Holmquist (408) 747-0988. From Hwy 101 or I-680 take McKee Rd northeast toward the hills then left on Toyon Ave, right on Penitencia Creek Rd and continue on into the park. Pass under the bridge and meet at the far end of the upper parking lot. This is a moderately strenuous 3-4 mile walk. Resident breeding birds (possible Rufous-Crowned Sparrow, and Canyon Wren if we are lucky) early migrants, and lingering winter birds. Be prepared for some mud! **LO, RC**

## Sunday Jan. 18, 8:00 AM

### Coyote Point and Foster City, San Mateo County Bayside

Half day. Leader: Al Eisner (days and voicemail: (650) 926-2018; evenings: (650) 364-3686). Meet at the parking lot adjacent to the yacht club at Coyote Point. From 101 northbound, exit at Dore Avenue. Note: This exit may not be well marked, but is only a little past a pedestrian overpass. Immediately turn left along the frontage road, and follow this as it bears right around a golf course. Enter the park (not the golf course) through the kiosks (possible admission charge) continue along golf course fence to end of road. We will later car-caravan to locations in Foster City. This trip should be good for Shorebirds (including "rockbirds") and waterfowl but we'll also look for landbirds. Scopes will be very useful. **LO, RC**

## Saturday Jan. 24, 8:00 AM

### Almaden Lake Park and Alamos Creek

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

## Sunday Jan. 25, 9:00 AM

### San Francisco's Southern Parks

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

## **Field Trips** *continued*

### **Saturday & Sunday Jan. 31 & Feb. 1 San Luis Obispo County**

Two days. Leader: Jim Royer (e-mail address below, call Bob Reiling (408) 253-7527 if you are unable to contact Jim by computer). This field trip entails two full days of birding by car caravan (bring a lunch, liquids, warm clothes, and a full tank of gas each day). We will meet on Sat. just west of the intersection of Highway 41 and Highway 1 in Morro Bay, in front of the Motel 6, at 7:30 AM. We will bird around Morro Bay and along coast (stops will be determined by the location of wintering birds). Contact Jim Royer at jcadroyer@aol.com for questions and to reserve a spot. Participants should show up 10-15 minutes prior to morning meeting times or risk being left behind. Later meeting places will not be arranged. Plan for cold temperatures, possible sprinkles (heavy rain will cancel), mud, possible poison oak, and moderate walking. Enthusiastic beginners welcome, but expect a quick birding pace. Bring a scope if you have one. For details on the expected birds and suggestions on where to stay, go to our website at [www.scvas.org](http://www.scvas.org).

### **Wednesday Feb. 4, 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. See details from Jan. 7th.

### **Saturday Feb. 7, 9:00 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.

### **Sunday Feb. 8, 9:00 AM Pescadero Marsh and Vicinity**

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

### **Wednesday Feb. 11, 2:30 PM Calero Reservoir and Coyote Valley**

Half day. Leader: Don Starks (408) 266-2969. NOTE: This is an AFTERNOON field trip to catch raptors at their best! South on Almaden Expwy until it ends; right on Harry; left on McKean; apx. 3 miles to Calero Reservoir boat ramp parking lot on right side of road. Possible fee. Carpooling from Calero. **RC**

### **Saturday Feb. 14, 8:30 AM Coyote Hills Regional Park**

Half day. Leader: Frank Vanslager (650) 961-1505. Take Hwy 84, Dumbarton Bridge, east towards Newark. Exit right on Thornton, then left over freeway, as Thornton becomes Paseo Padre. Turn left at Patterson Ranch/Commerce Rd into park. Meet at far end of Quarry Parking lot 1/4 mile past park entrance. An entrance fee should be expected. **LO, RC**

### **Sunday Feb. 15, 8:00 AM Alum Rock Park**

Half day. Leader: Jim Johnson (408) 996-3506. For directions and information see the write-up for Jan 17. **LO, RC**

### **Saturday Feb. 21, 8:30 AM Merced & San Luis Wildlife Refuges**

Full day. Leader: Rich Page (408) 377-1092. Meet at the parking area near the first Observation Platform in Merced National Wildlife Refuge. From Hwy 101 in Gilroy take Hwy 152 east thru Los Banos, (no services past Los Baños, so check your gas gauge), approx. 20 miles then north 7 miles on Rte. 59 to Sandy Mush Rd, turn left approx. 8 miles to Merced Wildlife Refuge, on the left. Allow 2.5 hrs driving time from San Jose, more if it's foggy. Raptors, ducks, geese, Great Horned Owls, Sandhill Cranes and White-faced Ibis possible. This will primarily be a driving bird trip so FRS radios set to channel 11 will prove to be valuable.. After the Merced Wildlife Refuge we will caravan to the San Luis Wildlife Refuge for lunch and more birding. Dress in layers, bring lunch, liquids, and a full tank of gas. **RC**

### **Sunday Feb. 22, 8:30 AM Coyote Reservoir**

Half Day. Leader: Bob Reiling (408) 253-7527. From Hwy 101 in Gilroy take Leavesley Rd east for 1.5 miles, turn left on New Ave then right on Roop Rd. Go left at the "T" intersection, then after 1.3 miles

left again on Coyote Reservoir Rd and on to the Lakeview Picnic area. **LO, RC**

### **Saturday Feb 28, 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 hot-spots 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 at the west end of West Cliff Dr.

### **Sunday Mar. 1, 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**

### **Saturday Mar. 7, 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**

### **Saturday & Sunday Mar. 21 & 22, 2009 Honey Lake, Eagle Lake & vicinity**

Leader: Bob Hirt (408) 821-2732. A weekend trip to a remote corner of north-east 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.

# Volunteer Ventures

by Toby Goldberg  
Programs Coordinator

Wow – 2009! What a strange looking number! BUT – we know it will be a busy one and for all the right reasons, because, despite all of the uncertainty in the financial markets, SCVAS' programs are still going strong! How do we keep everything running so well? We have an amazing group of volunteers that give so much of their time to our programs, and allow us to keep our costs low and our programs alive and growing!

Of course, we have many more opportunities for getting involved in this chapter – everything from one-time event support to weekly field trips, we have volunteer opportunities to suit every interest, schedule, energy level and background. Give me a call to find out more!

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

**Cavity Nest Box Monitor** – You can help save cavity-nesting birds of Santa Clara Valley from population decline – now more than ever, your help is crucial to this effort! Increasing habitat loss and degradation has left native cavity nesters, such as Western Bluebirds, Chestnut-backed Chickadees, and Barn Owls, without natural cavities in which to raise their young. Fortunately, our team of dedicated nest box volunteers are bringing these populations back. In 1997, the Santa Clara County California Bluebird Recovery Program fledged 229 birds of 8 different species. In 2007, we fledged 1,582 birds of 10 native species! As a nest box monitor, you can help families of these and other cavity-nesters make their homes and raise their young. You may install nest boxes yourself or monitor pre-installed boxes. Monitoring involves consistent, weekly visits to

boxes to record their use and can be very personally rewarding. A minimum one-year commitment is strongly encouraged. No experience is necessary, as we will provide training materials and guidance. See the Events Calendar on the following page for details on information and training sessions. For more information call (408) 252-3740.

**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, updating our SCVAS website, etc. In particular, we'd like to expand our publicity and outreach for our Monthly General Meetings. 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!

**Wetlands Discovery Program Docent** – This program shares the wonder and importance of wetland habitats with 3rd-6th graders throughout Santa Clara County. Volunteers guide students in exploring wetland wildlife and habitat both in the classroom and out in the field. This program is rewarding for both volunteers and the hundreds of South Bay children who participate – 235 students this past fall alone, and we expect three times that in the spring! We have a fabulous cadre of experienced docents, but definitely need more! No experience is necessary, as we will provide training for both field and class sessions. All a potential docent needs is a love of nature and a desire to share it with children.

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

## Audubon-at-Home:

### SCVAS' Bird Sanctuary Program

Supporting SCVAS' Bird Sanctuary Program is a wonderful way to show your friends and neighbors what one person can do to make a difference.

Certificates and beautiful garden plaques are available for participants in this program; they make great gifts for your favorite home gardener, too!

Contact the SCVAS office at 408-252-3740 or [programs@scvas.org](mailto:programs@scvas.org) for more information about this program and how to enroll.



## January Gen. Mtg (cont. from page 1)

With Belize having one of the lowest human densities in the world and 41% of the land protected, it is truly a wild-life hot spot. It holds the highest density of Jaguars in the world and viable populations of highly endangered raptors. Ryan will share stories of his field research (including being chased by Guatemalan banditos), many beautiful photos, and his passion for wildlife and helping them survive in this ever-changing world. You can view his Harpy Eagle research at [www.peregrinefund.org](http://www.peregrinefund.org) and some of his photos can be viewed at our SCVAS website: [www.scvas.org](http://www.scvas.org).



Start your New Year off right - get all of your 2009 calendars, birding supplies, and so much more at the SCVAS Nature Shop!

# 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).

## Winter Raptors of Robinson Road with Bob Power

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

**Dates:** Wednesday 2/4, 7-8:30PM; Field trip: Saturday 2/7, 8:30AM-5:00PM (that includes transit time to and from Solano County).

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

**Class size is limited to 15. Carpooling is required for this class; we will have a maximum of four vehicles. Please do not sign up for class if you're not prepared to carpool.** Carpooling expenses will be shared by the participants.

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



Ferruginous Hawk by Tom Grey

## Events Calendar:

**Tues.'s 1/6 - 2/10; 7-9PM (with 4 Sat. AM field trips)**

**Birding Basics Class with Anne Creevy**

*Palo Alto Adult School*

Call (650) 329-3752 or go to [www.paadultschool.org](http://www.paadultschool.org) for more information

**Tues. 1/13, 9:30AM**

**Eve Case Bird Discussion Group** - meets at the home of Pat and Jean Dubois, 17150 Buena Vista Ave., Los Gatos (408) 395-4264

Topic: Feathers

**Mon. 1/19; 10:30AM-12:30PM**

**Young Audubon Whale Watching at Monterey Bay** (see page 10 for details)

Call 408-252-3740 to make reservations, or for the most current information about this activity. Information is also available on our website [www.scvas.org](http://www.scvas.org).

**Tue. 2/10; 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: Eskimo Curlew

**Mon. 2/16; Morning (exact times TBD)**

**Young Audubon Elephant Seals tours at Año Nuevo** (see page 10 for details)

NOTE: The date is subject to change - as of this issue's publication date, reservations are still being confirmed. Call 408-252-3740 or go online at [www.scvas.org](http://www.scvas.org) for the most current information about this activity.

## Cavity Nesters Recovery Program (CNRP):

**New Monitor Orientation & Nest Box Training Sessions**

(see also information on back page)

**Sat. 2/14; 10AM-12PM**

**CNRP Orientation and Information Meeting**

This meeting - for new and potential nest box monitors, or just-interested folks - will give you some insight as to what's going on with our local cavity nesting bird populations, and how you can help stop their decline. Please RSVP by calling (408) 252-3740 or sending an email to [programs@scvas.org](mailto:programs@scvas.org).



**Sat. 2/28; 9AM-12PM & 1-4PM**

**Nest Box Training Sessions 1 & 2\***

**Ed Levin Park, San Jose**

Come join the fun as we clean out and repair nest boxes at Ed Levin Park in San Jose. We'll meet at the parking lot at the main entrance 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 weekend. To RSVP, email Mike Azevedo at [geochelone@aol.com](mailto:geochelone@aol.com) or call the SCVAS office at (408) 252-3740.

**Sat. 3/7; 1-4PM**

**Nest Box Training Session 3\***

**Arastradero Open Space Preserve, Palo Alto**

This is a great chance for anyone in the more northern end of the county to learn how to care for and monitor nest boxes. We'll meet at the main parking lot on Arastradero Rd at 9AM. Heavy rain or storm will postpone session till next sunny weekend. To RSVP, call or email David "Tex" Houston at 650-303-2777 or [tex009@sbcglobal](mailto:tex009@sbcglobal).

(\*New monitors need attend only one of the training sessions)



# Field Notes

by Bill Bousman

## Waterfowl through Cormorants

Four Snow Geese were seen over the Alviso ponds on 30 Nov (MMR, MJM) and possibly four more landed later in these ponds. Two Ross's Geese were at Calero Reservoir on 16 Nov (AV) and 11 were seen on Pond A11 in Alviso on 30 Nov (MMR, MJM). Twenty Tundra Swans were seen over the South County Regional WasteWater Authority (SCRWA) treatment ponds in Gilroy on 20 Oct (MJM), heading east towards the Central Valley. A male Eurasian Wigeon was found in the Sunnyvale Water Pollution Control Plant (WPCP) oxidation ponds 21-28 Oct (RWR, FV, DWe) and was the first of the season (late this year). One to two males were in Pond A14, Alviso 25 Oct-30 Nov (MJM, RGJ, WGB, MMR). A large concentration of Eurasians accompanied a build-up of an American Wigeon flock in Pond A1 in Mountain View and nearby areas. An immature male was first found there on 27 Oct (JT). At least six different birds were there on 9 Nov (DWe), 11 Nov (MMR) and 13 Nov (MMR), but more may have been present. Numbers declined by the end of the month. Four were seen on Pond A18 in Alviso on 13 Nov (SCR), and five were on Pond A16 in Alviso on 30 Nov (MMR, MJM). The Gilroy treatment ponds were the major center of Blue-winged Teal with 4-13 birds present in the entrance ponds 16 Oct-21 Nov (v.ob.). A male was first seen in Adobe Creek in the Palo Alto Flood Control Basin (FCB) on 11 Oct (MMR) and one to four birds were in the area through the end of November (m.ob.). A pair of Blue-winged Teal were also seen near the Sunnyvale WPCP oxidation ponds on 29 Nov (JT) and a male was in Artesian Slough on 30 Nov (MMR, MJM). Ninety-five Redhead on the Alviso ponds on 30 Nov (MMR, MJM) was the largest concentration during the period. Inland birds included single males at the Ogier Avenue ponds on 27 Oct (MJM) and in the Oka percolation ponds on 23 Nov (JJ et al.). The first male Barrow's Goldeneye showed up at Shoreline Lake on 16 Nov (ST), with two additional females there by 19 Nov (WGB). A single female Barrow's was on Pond A11 on 30 Nov (MMR, MJM). We found Common Loons in a variety of locations, but none

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stayed particularly long. One was at Calero Reservoir on 30 Oct (AV). Another was on Shoreline Lake 31 Oct-6 Nov (WGB, AME, FV). A different bird was nearby on Pond A1 on 6 Nov (FV) and seen again on 11 Nov (MMR). One was seen at the Oka percolation ponds on 23 Nov (JJ et al.) and again in nearby ponds on 30 Nov (RWR, FV, MMR, MJM). The number of Brown Pelicans tapered off as expected, the high count was of 43 birds on the Alviso ponds on 30 Nov (MMR, MJM). A Pelagic Cormorant was in flight off the Stevens Creek mouth on 19 Oct (MJM). One seen again on dikes near Pond A11 on 25 Oct (MJM, RGJ) and 30 Nov (MMR, MJM) may have been a different bird.

*Remarkable rarities were a Red-throated Pipit and a Worm-eating Warbler*

## Bitterns through Sandpipers

The first wintering American Bittern was found along the Guadalupe River near the Santa Clara Valley Water District (SCVWD) ponds on 4 Oct (Hd'H, JPa et al.) and has been seen at least through 17 Nov (JPa, AV). Another was found in the Mountain View Forebay on 7 Nov (DMA) and continues there (v.ob.), sometimes. One was seen at Grant Lake on 19 Nov (OH) and another was at the Ogier Avenue ponds on 25 Nov (RPh). The Cattle Egret at the Palo Alto Baylands continued through 8 Nov (m.ob.). A second bird was there 17-21 Oct (WGB, CVR, TGr). An adult Bald Eagle returned to Calero Reservoir on 1 Nov (AV). Single adults were seen in Halls Valley on 7 Nov (OH) and 20 Nov (RH et al.). Two adults were at the north end of Anderson Reservoir on 21 Nov (MO'B, DRo). An adult 'Harlan's' Red-tailed Hawk returned to the Coyote Valley on 4 Nov (RPh), apparently for its second winter. An adult Ferruginous Hawk with a broken leg was seen in the Coyote Valley on 13 Oct and a second adult was found on 14 Oct (both RPh). These birds have been seen repeatedly through November (v.ob.). At least two adults and an immature have been seen in the vicinity of Marsh Road 9-25 Nov (KO, m.ob.). Additional birds included an adult in Halls Valley on 12 and 16 Nov (OH, MMR), an

immature along Quimby Road on 16 Nov (MMR), and a bird in San Antonio Valley on 28 Nov (WGB). An apparent wintering Prairie Falcon was seen in the Coyote Valley 13 Oct-4 Nov (RPh, WGB). Single birds were seen at the Gilroy treatment ponds on 20 Oct (MJM, AME) and 14 Nov (RWR, FV), at the end of Marsh Road on 9 Nov (KO), and in San Antonio Valley on 28 Nov (WGB). With better coverage of the South Bay, we now know that Snowy Plovers disperse from their breeding areas in winter. The one exception during the period was a single bird on Pond A13 in Alviso on 24 Nov (WGB). Early winter Lesser Yellowlegs included one at the Palo Alto Baylands 2 Oct-1 Nov (WGB, TGr), two on closed salt ponds in Alviso on 25 Oct (MJM, RGJ), five in New Chicago Marsh on 13 Nov (MJM), and two to six at the Alviso Marina CP 24-30 Nov (WGB, MMR, MJM). Red Knots congregated at the Stevens Creek mouth on falling tides with up to 56 birds seen 19-21 Oct (MJM, RWR, FV, WGB). Birds were also found on the Alviso ponds 25 Oct-24 Nov (MJM, RGJ, WGB) with a high count of 20 on 24 Nov. Closed and open ponds in Alviso had 49-73 Sanderlings on 24-30 Nov (WGB, MMR, MJM). The late September juvenile Pectoral Sandpiper at the Palo Alto Baylands was joined by a second bird on 1 Oct (MDo, DMA, PLD). At least one bird remained through 6 Oct (v.ob.). Additional birds include one in New Chicago Marsh on 3 Oct (JAC), another in the Mountain View Forebay on 4 Oct (J&MMe), and one at the Gilroy treatment ponds on 17 Oct (SCR) and 21 Nov (WGB).

## Gulls through Phainopepla

A Franklin's Gull seen at Pond A1 in Mountain View on 4 Oct (CJC, CHu) was the second one this fall. Less expected were two Heermann's Gulls this fall, both in Pond A1 in Mountain View. A 1st-winter bird was there on 3 Oct (MSi) and an adult found there on 10 Nov (MK, PBr). The gull prize of the period was an adult Lesser Black-backed Gull loafing in Mayfield Slough near the Palo Alto dump on 14 Nov (MMR), not to be found again. The passage of Sabine's Gulls was completed with two juveniles over the Palo Alto Baylands on 2 Oct (JMD). Following good numbers of Elegant Terns earlier in the season, a few lingered with one found on Pond A16 on 19 Oct (MMR) and three there on 13 Nov (MJM), plus eight

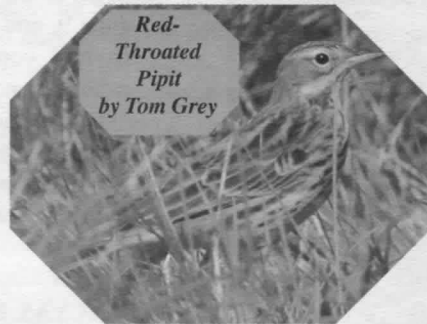
## Field Notes *cont'd*

seen on Pond A13 on 25 Oct (MJM, RGJ). The only Greater Roadrunner seen this period was one along Canada Road on 2 Oct (LA). Two to three Lewis's Woodpeckers were found in oak savannah near Pacheco Pass 11 Oct-15 Nov (JBe, JMy), presumably migrating or winter birds. None were reported from San Antonio Valley. It was a good fall for our rare sapsuckers with a juvenile male Yellow-bellied Sapsucker found at Christmas Hill Park in Gilroy on 15 Nov (PKe, RWR, et al.) and a Red-naped Sapsucker at the Arastradero Preserve in Palo Alto on 11 Nov (GM, AK, RC). A Pileated Woodpecker found in Stevens Creek CP on 24 Oct (JD) is away from known breeding areas, but may represent an expansion in their range to lower altitudes. Migrant Hammond's Flycatchers are rare in spring and only casual in fall. Two found this fall was surprising. One was in a Morgan Hill yard on 11 Oct (SCR) and the other was at Christmas Hill Park in Gilroy on 21 Nov (WGB). It looks to be an irruptive winter for Red-breasted Nuthatches, although not like the massive one we saw in fall 2004. One to three birds have been found at various valley floor locations 27 Sep-13 Nov 9 (m.ob.) with a high count of 3 along Stevens Creek below Hwy 101 on 30 Oct (MMR). A Canyon Wren was heard singing near Willson Camp in Henry Coe SP on 2 Nov (JY). Three American Dippers were found along Los Gatos Creek above the Main Street Bridge in Los Gatos on 5 Oct (LMY). The only Golden-crowned Kinglet found this fall was a single bird the Sunnyvale Baylands Park on 15 Oct (FV et al.), it does not look like an irruptive winter for this bird. A Blue-gray Gnatcatcher was found in Shoreline Park on 11 Nov (DSt) and has remained through the end of the month (DSt, WGB). A Townsend's Solitaire was found beside Almaden Reservoir on 10 Nov (AV) and remained at least to 14 Nov (v.ob.). A Red-throated Pipit was found at the SCRWA (Gilroy) treatment ponds on 17 Oct (SCR) and remained at least through 20 Oct (MJM). This is the fourth county record. A male Phainopepla was found at Smith Creek on 14 Nov (OH), the first since spring.

### Warblers through Siskins

A Tennessee Warbler was seen along the Guadalupe River Trail north of Blossom Hill on 17 Oct (AV), the third fall in a

row that we have found this rare warbler. Migrating Nashville Warblers included one along Matadero Creek below Hwy 101 on 7 Oct (DSt), another at the Sunnyvale Baylands Park on 15 Oct (FV, RWR, MMR), one along the Guadalupe River Trail north of Coleman on 17 Oct (AV), and one across the river at the SCVWD ponds on 28 Oct (AV). The Palm Warbler found at the Sunnyvale Baylands Park on 30 Sep remained at least through 2 Oct (v.ob.). One was found at San Jose State University on 10 Oct (JRy) and another beside the Sunnyvale WPCP oxida-



tion ponds on 13 Nov (RCo, KL). The sole Blackpoll Warbler this fall was one seen at the Sunnyvale Baylands Park on 15 Oct (MJM et al.). A HY Worm-eating Warbler was captured and banded at the Coyote Creek Field Station (CCFS) on 16 Nov (GB), only the second county record. The previous record was also at CCFS, in the summer of 1992. This fall's bird was seen the next day (MMR, MJM, RGJ), but not afterwards. A single Northern Waterthrush was seen again along Stevens Creek above Crittenden Lane on 22 Oct (WGB) and appeared to fly towards the Charleston Road marsh. Two waterthrushes were seen together in that marsh on 23 Nov (MDo, EG). The last of the fall passage MacGillivray Warblers was a female/immature found near the Guadalupe River and SCVWD ponds on 5 Oct (AV). The finish of the Western Tanager fall migration was about mid-October. Singles found along the Alamos Creek Trail on 15 Nov and at Vasona CP on 21 Nov (both JPa) may be wintering birds. The last count of post-breeding Chipping Sparrows in Monte Bello OSP were of five on 5 Oct (GHa). Last year's wintering flock at Jeffrey Fontana Park in San Jose apparently has been re-established with 3-6 birds seen 28 Sep-19 Nov (JPa). Other fall chippies include one along Stevens Creek between Hwy 101 and Crittenden Lane on 15 Oct (MMR) and one or more at Pacheco SP on 15 Nov (JMy). A Clay-colored Sparrow

was found at the Palo Alto Baylands on 10 Oct (KRb) and was seen there through 16 Oct (v.ob.). A Grasshopper Sparrow was found on closed refuge ponds near Alviso on 30 Nov (MMR, MJM) and may be a late migrant or a bird trying to winter. A Swamp Sparrow was found along the waste water channel at the Palo Alto Baylands on 29 Oct (PJM) and was seen irregularly through the period (v.ob.). Two birds were seen there 25-26 Nov (WGB, RWR, FV). Six White-throated Sparrows were found this fall, the first along Stevens Creek above Crittenden Lane on 15 Oct (WGB). The first since July, a male and female Great-tailed Grackle were seen at the Coyote Creek GC on 19 Nov (MJM). An excellent find this period was a female-type Cassin's Finch near Smith Creek on 14 Nov (OH). This is the first since 1997. There have been substantial movements of Pine Siskins this fall. Most notable was a the passage of at least 653 birds at Monte Bello OSP on 3 Nov (GHa) in the first hour or so after dawn.

Observers: Linda Adams (LA), Gina Barton (GB), Joseph Belli (JBe), Bill Bousman (WGB), Patty Brown (PBr), Jack Cole (JAC), Rita Colwell (RCo), Charles Coston (CJC), Rob Cullison (RC), Mike Danzenbaker (JMD), Joy Desai (JD), Hubert d'Hondt (Hd'H), Matthew Dodder (MDo), Peggy Don (PLD), Al Eisner (AME), Eric Goodill (EG), Tom Grey (TGr), Robert Harrington (RH), Garth Harwood (GHa), Owen Holt (OH), Carol Hutchison (CHu), Richard Jeffers (RGJ), Jim Johnson (JJ), Anne Kelley (AK), Mary Kelly (MK), Pat Kenny (PKe), Kay Loughman (KL), Mike Mammoser (MJM), Dean Manley (DMa), Ginny Marshall (GM), John & Maria Meyer (J&MMe), Peter Metropulos (PJM), Jean Myers (JMy), Lisa Myers (LMY), Matthew O'Brien (MO'B), Kris Olson (KO), Janna Pauser (JPa), Ryan Phillips (RPh), Bob Reiling (RWR), Kathy Robertson (KRb), Mike Rogers (MMR), Dave Rocha (DRo), Steve Rottenborn (SCR), Jennifer Rycenga (JRy), Marty Sidor (MSi), Dick Stovel (DSt), Jim Thomas (JT), Steve Tracey (ST), Frank Vanslager (FV), Ann Verdi (AV), Chuq Von Rospach (CVR), Dave Weber (DWe), and James Yurchenco (JY).

**RARITIES:** Please drop me a note:

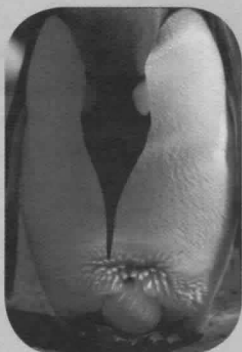
Bill Bousman, 321 Arlington Way,  
Menlo Park, CA 94025,  
or: barlowi@earthlink.net

## February Gen. Mtg (cont. from page 1)

How is it that albatross can fly 14,000 miles on a single feeding trip to bring home just one meal for a chick? How can penguins survive, thrive, raise chicks in the world's harshest environments, but yet do not populate the mild tropics? We are only now learning how truly magnificent these animals are - just as many species face sharp population declines at the hands of industrial fishing and climate change.

Using images from his travels with Cheesemans' Ecology Safaris around the world, Ted will tell stories of the new views we are able to have into the lives of seabirds through GPS-telemetry. He will also take you undersea with penguins and on the wing of an albatross, an entertaining and educational journey among the world's greatest mariners with beautiful photographs and the most recent bird science.

Through his expeditions with Cheesemans' Ecology Safaris, Ted frequently travels across the Southern Ocean and to its sub-Antarctic islands, the heart of prime penguin and albatross habitat.



King Penguin with Egg  
by Ted Cheeseman

## Birdathon cont'd from page 1

family, coworkers, neighbors, acquaintances, to ask for pledges or donations. Sound too hard? It's not! In recent years, our top fundraisers each raised from \$350 to over \$10,000! You can, too. We'll teach you how. Read the fundraising tips online and The Birdathon Fundraising Article in the upcoming March/April Avocet. You'll find out how easy it can be.

6. Bird with your team on your Birdathon Day and have fun!
7. Collect your pledges and be sure to turn in the money you've raised, pledge sheets, and results form to the SCVAS office by May 18, to be eligible for prizes.
8. Attend the free Birdathon Awards Dinner on Tuesday, June 9, and find out if you've won a prize. Participate in bird contests and games and maybe win another prize. Honors also go to the "best bird" found and the "most species" seen. Share Birdathon stories with other participants over a relaxed, informal dinner. Feel great that you helped fund SCVAS conservation efforts and youth environmental education, and had such a good time birding.

The SCVAS Birdathon Committee hopes this is the year YOU will decide to join in the fun!

Can't participate? Please consider sponsoring a team or an individual participant with a donation. Call the SCVAS Office, (408)252-3747 or sponsor online at [www.scvas.org/birdathon](http://www.scvas.org/birdathon).

## Join Cheesemans' Ecology Safaris for a special Antarctic Adventure that you'll never forget!!



Where: The Antarctic Peninsula, South Georgia, and Falkland Islands

When: December 28, 2009 to January 25, 2010

What: A non-smoking expedition for wildlife enthusiasts looking to spend maximum time in the field.

Join Cheesemans' Ecological Safaris on a voyage of discovery to an awe-inspiring world devoted to nature, wildlife, science and peace. From the stunning vistas of Tierra del Fuego to the busy penguin rookeries of the Falklands, from the dramatic landscapes of South Georgia to the ice-covered terrain of the Antarctic, this safari will have you completely captivated. Board the comfortable and safe 87-meter ice ship, the MV Polar Star, for an expedition offering 25 days on the ship, and an unparalleled seventeen landing days in the Southern Ocean (including 7 days along the Antarctic Peninsula). During days at sea, staff naturalists on the ship's bridge and stern share sightings of whales and seabirds, including many of the world's species of albatross and nesting Snow Petrels. Maximum time on shore will be available for photography, wildlife experiences and exploring the landscapes of the great Southern Oceans. This trip is sure to leave you breathless for years to come!

Expedition Leaders: Doug, Gail and Ted Cheeseman as Expedition Leaders. **NOTE:** This will be Doug and Gail's last trip to the Falklands, so this is an excellent chance to take advantage of their 16 (or more!) years of Antarctic experience.

Size: 92 participants, not including our expedition staff - everyone can go ashore at the same time, without requiring time-limited shifts.

Continuing decades of support for SCVAS conservation programs, a portion of the proceeds from this trip will be donated to the SCVAS chapter.



For costs, more information or to reserve your space, go to [www.cheesemans.com](http://www.cheesemans.com), email [info@cheesemans.com](mailto:info@cheesemans.com), or call (800) 527-5330 (toll-free) or (408) 741-5330 (local).



## *"Go Guided" – Join one of our Prearranged Spring Birdathon Teams*

We are looking all levels of birders to join one of our prearranged Guided Birdathon teams. All you have to do is register online, 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 valuable prizes. Beginners can out-compete experts for prizes by raising more money. Space on guided teams is limited, so register online soon at [www.scvas.org/birdathon](http://www.scvas.org/birdathon) or call the SCVAS office at (408)252-3747. 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.

### *24-hour Birdathon Teams*

Nothing gets the excitement rolling better than a traditional big-day Birdathon. You will find all families of birds in many different habitats with a bit of competition thrown in. We hand-picked these skilled team leaders so you will experience a proper big-day.

#### **Persistent Picidaes with Lisa Myers on Sat, March 28**

Lisa enjoys introducing people to the world of birding – leading field trips and teaching adult birding classes, many for SCVAS. The Picidaes will start at 7:30 AM and count until dusk in select spots around Santa Clara County, expecting to find about 100 species. This is the perfect team for you regardless of your birding level.

#### **Saint Anthony Ranchers with Jim Liskovec on Wed, April 8**

Do you want to learn more bird songs? Join Jim, long-time SCVAS field trip leader and "by-ear" birder, on this team with an aural twist. Start early and continue listening after lunch until mid-afternoon. Some strenuous uphill walking may be involved. Expect about 60 species.

#### **DeDUCKtions with Matthew Dodder on Sat, April 18**

Matthew is a very popular birdathon team leader and birding instructor at Palo Alto Adult School. 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 140 species, including owls, on a fast paced dawn-to-dusk tour of the county.



#### **Varied Twitchers with Mike Rogers on Sat, April 18**

This is a high intensity day with one of the Bay Area's premier birders, Mike Rogers. Start your big day with owling in the early morning and then continue until sunset. This team still holds the record for winning the most 24-hour Most Species awards since we started keeping records in 2003. Finding 165 bird species last year provided these team members with well-deserved bragging rights! Join this year and become part of the legend.

#### **Rock Wrens with Bob Hirt on Sun, April 19**

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. They hope to maximize the count and thus the money raised per bird species. Expect to see about 120 species.

#### **Bob-O-Links with Bob Power on Sun, April 19**

Join Bob, the Executive Director of SCVAS, whose leadership style will complement all birding levels. This is a perfect team if you haven't done a Birdathon, but want to experience a fast-paced "Big Day." Bob expects to see over 130 species while birding 4 AM to dusk.

### *4-hour Birdathon Teams*

Experience the thrill of a "Big Day," without the 3 AM wake-up call and the excess caffeine. These teams are for beginner to expert birders who want to see fantastic birds and still do chores in the afternoon. Some of these teams will do a "Big Sit", counting birds in one location, eliminating the long day but keeping the challenge and competition.

#### **Cheeky Chickadees with Debbie Thompson on Sun, March 29**

Fun birding is the order of the day with longtime SCVAS Board Member, Debbie Thompson. They will visit a slice of the bay area – from the wetlands to the woodlands – to uncover as many species as possible, 8 AM to noon. Expect to see about 70 species.

#### **Swifts with Bob Power on Fri, April 10**

Bob will lead this four-hour-and-not-a-minute-more Baylands blitz, finding Buffleheads to Burrowing Owls. You'll start in Alviso and end in Palo Alto, swiftly visiting the best habitats around the bay. Count 8 AM to noon to identify about 80 species.

#### **Hi-Speed Rails with Bob Power on Sat, April 11**

Join Bob on his county blitz, finding Osprey to Orioles. Start at Stevens Creek Reservoir and end at Mountain View Shoreline, while seeing a hefty mix of habitats and bird species. Expect a fast-pace to find 80 species, birding 8 AM - noon, and then relax while the score is tallied.

#### **Sitting Ducks with Lori Cuesta & Cathy Priest on Sat, April 11**

Lori and Cathy will hold a "big-sit" at the Charleston Slough platform in Mountain View. Scopes will be used to see how many birds, especially shorebirds, can be identified from this prolific spot. Come witness the intriguing behavior of these shorebirds during the changing tides from 10 AM to 2 PM. Expect to see 30 or more species.

#### **Big Birders with Anne Creevy on Sat, April 18**

Anne's "Big Sit" will be at McClellan Ranch Park in Cupertino from 8 AM to noon. Anne wrote the children's book, "Let's Go Birding, You and Me" and teaches adult birding classes ("Birding Basics") quarterly at the Palo Alto Adult School. She will delight you with information about the birds that you find. Expect to see 30 or more species.

#### **Rushing Thrushes with Bob Power on Sat, April 25**

Bob's east-side blitz will start east of Milpitas and end in Alviso, exploring the unique habitats of the Diablo Foothills and the bay. Join the fast-pace chase to find about 80 species from 8 AM to noon in some renowned birding spots.

#### **Yellow-rumped Squatters with Lori Cuesta on Sun, April 26**

Join this "Big Sit" team with Lori at one of her favorite birding spots, the lower picnic area at Stevens Creek County Park. Lots of birds can be found in this woody area and many will be identified by their song. Spend a relaxing morning, counting from 8 AM to noon, and let the birds come to you. Expect to identify about 30 species.



Elephant Seal Breeding Season is here! Don't miss out on this amazing opportunity to see pups and breeding adults up close!

**SCVAS sponsored  
tours of Año Nuevo  
State Reserve  
return for 2009!**

**Date:** Monday, February 16th\*  
(President's Day)  
*We are reserving four tours.*

**Cost/person:** \$7 for SCVAS  
members; \$9 for non-members.

Call (408) 252-3740 for specific  
times, more information, and  
to make reservations.

**Space is limited, so call early!**

*NOTE: There is a separate \$7/car  
vehicle fee collected at Park entrance.  
Carpooling is strongly encouraged as  
parking is limited, but  
must be arranged by  
participants.  
SCVAS can not  
coordinate rides.*



\*Tour date is subject to change - as of this  
issue's publication date, reservations are still  
being confirmed. Call to get updates and  
information.

**We wish to thank the generosity of  
the following contributors for their  
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through November 2008.**

**Organizational Support:**

The SanDisk Corporation Fund for their grant to  
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# Winter Whale Watching



~boating adventures for children and their families~

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



**Monday, January 19th  
10:30am-12:30pm\***



©Daniel Kirby

**Fisherman's Wharf, Monterey Bay**

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

Other sea life you'll be likely to spot includes otters,  
sea lions, dolphins, and, of course, sea birds!

**Scholarships available for families in need.**

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

*\*A second trip may become available if the first one fills*



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Jennifer Umstadd, Frank Vanslager, Alan Walther,  
Kris Wiley, Rose Mary Wright.

A special thank you to Jean Struthers for her dona-  
tion of plants to the Native Garden at McClellan  
Ranch Park.

# Wildlife Education Day 2008

by Toby Goldberg

SCVAS Programs Coordinator

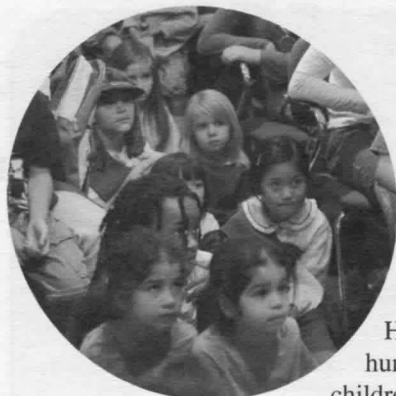
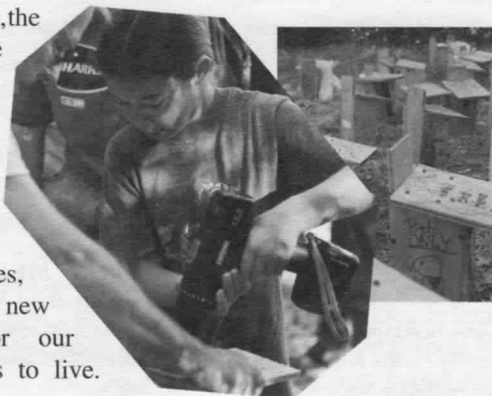
What a glorious day! The weather was beautiful, the volunteers were numerous and cheerful, the organizations were friendly and engaging, and the participants were eager and excited! Despite some craziness with parking, the event was [another] smashing success - mostly because of the hard work and amazing help provided by hundreds of SCVAS, community, and high school volunteers. As always - we couldn't have done it without them!

## Here are just a few highlights from the event:

60 or more participants braved the cold and got up extra early (on a Saturday, no less!) to join us for our annual "Early Bird Shorebird Walk" at Charleston Slough. Luckily, the birds cooperated and all were treated to a viewing of some great species.



Once again, the birdhouse building station was a HUGE success - producing lots of smiles, as well as new places for our local birds to live.

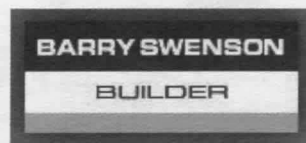


The Wildlife Center of Silicon Valley's resident Red-Shouldered Hawk was a hit with hundreds of enthralled children (and parents!)

And making pine cone bird feeders is always a fun (albeit messy) activity.



## Many (MANY!) Thanks to Our Event Sponsors and Donors:



## And Donations from:

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Reneé Rodriguez of Santa Clara County's Social Services Agency for providing us with portable tents & canopies

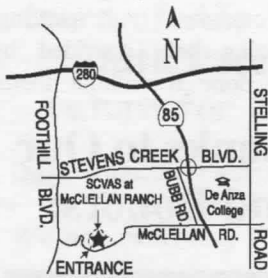
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- ↳ MVHS Interact Club
- ↳ MVHS Teens for the Environment
- ↳ Homestead HS Octagon Club
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- ↳ And of course, all of our SCVAS volunteers!

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## Outside Event of Note

Sat. 2/7; 10AM-12PM

**Putting Up a Successful Backyard Birdhouse – Workshop and Demo**

Guadalupe River Park and Gardens Visitor's Center,  
438 Coleman Avenue, San Jose.

Get the clues to attracting birds to nest boxes in your neighborhood. Mike Azevedo, County Coordinator for Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society's Cavity Nester Recovery Program shows you the local birds that use nest boxes, how to tell which birds live on your block and where those birds like their nest boxes to be placed. Also discussed is the Audubon Society's program to put up and monitor nest boxes at parks, cemeteries and other open space (see page 5).

To RSVP, call the Guadalupe River Park & Gardens at 408-298-7657. Go to [www.grpg.org](http://www.grpg.org) for more information. **Advance registration is required.**

Fee: \$10 for members of SCVAS or GPRG;  
\$15 for non-members

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### OFFICE HOURS

Mon - Fri 10 AM - 5 PM  
Saturday 10 AM - 2 PM

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

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

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

**2009 Volume 56, Number 1**

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

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

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*Please note: As a generally policy, SCVAS does not share personal information with other organizations.*