

THE AVOCET

The Newsletter of the Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society

March - April 2009

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.

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.*

**The 2009 Spring
Birdathon is here
- and we need
YOU!**

General Membership Meetings

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

Wednesday, March 18th

**"Acorn Woodpeckers'
Life and Times"**
with Ruth Troetschler

We all know there's something special and endearing about these charismatic characters, so come to our March General Meeting to find out more about them!



Wednesday, April 15th

**"From the Black
Oystercatcher to Black
Gold:
Challenges and
Opportunities in
Alaska"**
with Taldi Walter

Don't miss this opportunity to learn more about conservation efforts in one of our nation's most beautiful and complex states.

Additional information available online at www.scvas.org

P.S. ↓ smaller font

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

P.P.S.

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.

Mar. - Apr. '09 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

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**

Wednesday Mar. 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. Donald M. Somers Water Pollution Control Plant, junction of Borregas and Caribbean. Meet at trailhead at north end. Birding geared toward beginners. Bring binoculars; loaners also available. **RC**

Saturday Mar. 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**

Sunday Mar. 8, 8:00 AM

Ed Levin County Park, South

Half day. Leader: John Arnold (650) 948-4250. Please note change to Daylight Savings Time - spring forward or be an hour late for the trip. Take Hwy 237 east, crossing I-880 and I-680 (becomes Calaveras Rd.) to park entrance about 2 miles after I-680. Meet at parking lot on the right side of Calaveras Rd. We will look for migrants and local breeding birds in Milpitas' prime birding hotspot. Entrance fee. **LO, RC**

Wednesday Mar. 11, 8:30 AM

Grant Ranch

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 park. Meet at Hall's Valley Lake parking lot on left, after main park entrance. Fresh water ducks, oak woodland birds, possible Golden Eagle. Moderate 2 mile walk. Possible fee. **LO, RC**

Saturday Mar. 14, 8:30 AM

Christmas Hill Park

Half day. Leader: Bob Reiling (408) 253-7527. From Hwy 101 in Gilroy go west on Tenth Street about a mile where it turns right and becomes Uvas Parkway. 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 Mar. 15, 8:00 AM

Almaden Lake Park and Alamos Creek

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

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

Leader: Bob Hirt (408) 821-2732. A weekend trip to a remote corner of northeast California to see Sage Grouse on their booming grounds. Other expected species include eagles, hawks, geese, ducks, cranes, woodpeckers and other mountain specialties such as Townsend's Solitaire, Cassin's Finch, Mountain Bluebird, and Pinyon Jay. Trip limited to 20 participants, please call leader for further details and to reserve a space.

Saturday Mar. 28, 8:30 AM

Alum Rock Park

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

Sunday Mar. 29, 8:00 AM

Oka Ponds

Half day. Leader: Jim Johnson (408) 996-3506. From Hwy 17 in Los Gatos take Lark Ave. exit west. Turn right on Oka Rd., left on Mozart Ave. and an immediate right on Oka Lane. Meet at gate at the end of the lane. **RC**

Wednesday Apr. 1, 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 Mar. 4th.

Saturday Apr. 4, 8:00 AM

Stevens Creek County Park

Half day. Leader: Pat Kenny (408) 725-0468. From I-280 in Cupertino take Foothill Expwy exit south 2.1 miles (it becomes Stevens Canyon Rd.) turn left into first park entrance and meet in first, Chestnut Picnic Area parking lot. A top riparian birding spot in the South Bay for migrants and local breeding birds. Entrance fee required. **LO, RC**

Sunday Apr. 5, 7:30 AM

Gilroy Hot Springs Rd

Half day. Leader: Bob Reiling (408) 253-7527. Parking space is limited in some places on this trip so we will meet at 7:30 AM behind McDonalds (near Kenneth Cole) on the right side of Leavesley Rd. in Gilroy (corner of Arroyo Circle) and carpool from there. FRS radios tuned to channel 11 will be especially useful during a driving portion of this trip. Highlights: migrating and breeding birds of south Santa Clara County. **RC**

Field Trips *continued*

Wednesday, April 8, 8:30

Stevens Creek County Park

Half day. Leader: Roxie Handler. (408) 730-1745. From Hwy 280 take Foothill Blvd. south about 2 miles. Turn left into park and left again into the Chestnut parking area. Possible entry fee. Riparian habitat; looking for mating behavior. **LO, RC**

Saturday Apr. 11, 9:00 AM

Hidden Villa

Half day. Leader: Garth Harwood (650) 879-1602. Bird the farm, gardens and wild land edges of this unique facility with Hidden Villa's Environmental Education Director. From I-280 in Los Altos take El Monte Rd. past Foothill College, turn left at Moody Rd. then after approx. 1.7 miles left into Hidden Villa. Meet at the first parking lot beside the entrance. \$5 per car parking fee. **LO, RC**

Sunday Apr. 12, 8:00 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.

Saturday Apr. 18, 8:00 AM

Ed Levin County Park (North)

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

Sunday Apr. 19, 8:00 AM

Grant Ranch County Park

Half day. Leader: Rich Page (408) 377-1092. 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 (a.k.a 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 a possible Golden Eagle. A Park entrance fee will be required for the last half of the trip. Trip involves a moderately strenuous 2-mile walk. **LO, RC**

Saturday Apr. 25, 8:00 AM

Arastradero OSP

Half day. Leader: Kirsten Holmquist (408) 747-0988. From I-280 take Page Mill Rd. west (toward the Santa Cruz mountains), turn right on Arastradero Rd. and meet in the parking lot about a half-mile on the right. Trip involves moderately strenuous hiking. **RC**

Sunday Apr. 26, 8:00 A.M.

Jasper Ridge Biological Preserve, Stanford University

Half day. Leaders: Marion & Kendrick Smith. Trip limited to sixteen people; call Marion at (650) 493-7210 to reserve a space. There is a fee of \$5 per person. Meet in the parking lot on the right side of Sand Hill Rd. as you head toward the Preserve (near the freeway). At the parking lot people are expected to form their own car pool as carpooling is now required to minimize the number of cars on the Preserve. Caravan from the parking area between 7:50 AM and 8:00 AM only; the gate will then be open. (DO NOT LEAVE EARLIER AS PARKING OUTSIDE THE GATE IS NOT ALLOWED - IT POSES AN UNACCEPTABLE TRAFFIC HAZARD!) Main gate is approximately 2 miles west of 280 on the left side of Sand Hill Rd. Trip involves 2-3 miles of moderately strenuous walking and goes rain or shine.

Saturday May 2, 8:30 AM

Mines Rd., Del Puerto Canyon & vicinity

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

Sunday May 3, 8:00 AM

Stevens Creek County Park

Half day. Leader: Jim Johnson (408) 996-3506. For directions see the write-up for April 4th.

Events Calendar:

Wed. 3/4; 7:30-9PM

Bay Area Bird Photographers. Topic TBA - see SCVAS website for details.

Tues. 3/10, 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: Golden Pheasant

Sat. 3/28, 1:30PM

Peregrine Falcon Presentation and "Falcon Watch" Orientation
MLK Library, San Jose

The Predatory Bird Research Group is recruiting observers for the Peregrine Falcon "Fledge Watch" - a ten-day period in June, to help notify researchers of "grounded" fledglings at the San Jose City Hall. For more information, contact Glenn Stewart at gstewart@ucsc.edu.

Wed. 4/1; 7:30-9PM

Bay Area Bird Photographers. Topic TBA - see SCVAS website for details.

Tue. 4/14; 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: Ruddy Duck

Sun. 4/19; 10AM-4PM

Going Native Garden Tour

Sponsored by the California Native Plant Society. Go to www.GoingNativeGardenTour.org for more information and to register.

Wed. 4/22

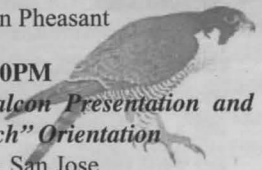
EARTH DAY!

Go out and celebrate the beautiful planet we live on! There are lots of events happening around the area to do just that - go to www.scvas.org for more information.

Tues. 4/28, 8AM

Volunteer Appreciation Breakfast & Birdwalk

Stevens Creek County Park
RSVP to 408-252-3740



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 join in** by donating at least \$50.
- **Anyone can sponsor a team.** Check 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. Receive a report about that team's Birdathon Day.
- **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.

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

1. Check www.scvas.org for the Birdathon rules, information, and prize list after February 1, 2009. Check back, as the prize list will be updated often.

2. **Talk to your birding friends** about forming a **Self-Guided Team** for the 2009 SCVAS Spring Birdathon, and pick a day to bird from March 28 to April 26, inclusive.

3. **Register** yourself and your team or join a **Guided Team** led by one of our many expert birders (see below) by registering online at www.scvas.org. (Check www.scvas.org after February 1, 2009 for complete list of leaders and teams.)

3. **Plan your birding day** with your Self-Guided teammates. Create a 4-Hour or 24-hour Birdathon that fits your team. You can design a relaxed and restful Birdathon or one that is creative and energetic. For example:

A. Spend four hours on a Saturday snacking in lounge chairs on your patio counting species at your feeders; 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**)

4. **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, family, coworkers, neighbors, acquaintances, to ask for pledges or donations. Sound too hard? It's not! In recent years, our top fundraisers each raised from \$350 to over \$10,000! You

can, too. We'll teach you how. **Read the fundraising tips** in your Birdathon packet and/or **The Birdathon Fundraising Article** on the next page. You'll find out how easy it can be.

4. **Bird with your team** on your Birdathon Day and have fun!

5. **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.

6. **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 have helped fund SCVAS conservation efforts and youth environmental education, and had such a good time birding.

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

Can't participate? Please consider sponsoring a team or an individual participant with a donation. Call Susan Bell at the SCVAS Office, 408-252-3747 or sponsor online at www.scvas.org.



The Education Committee's Birdathon Team, "The Wrong Terns," helps to raise money for SCVAS' programs each year while having an awful lot of fun, too! This is just one of the many teams you could choose to support or sponsor.



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.

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, email info@cheesemans.com, or call (800) 527-5330 (toll-free) or (408) 741-5330 (local).

Board of Directors Elections:

The Nominating Committee of the SCVAS Board of Directors is calling for member petitions for directors to the Board of Directors pursuant to Sections 6.02 of the Bylaws. Petitions must be delivered to the SCVAS office by **March 15, 2009**.

Voice vote elections will be held during our Annual Meeting and potluck on June 17, 2009 at our office in McClellan Ranch Park, Cupertino.

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

We are looking to 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 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 Picidae 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 Picidae 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 Titchers 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 chang-

ing 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.



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Permit No. 5869



Adult Education Classes

2009 Volume 56, Number 2

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.

Beginning Birding by Ear with Ron Arps

Learn to bird "by ear" to expand your skills in bird identification. Class discussions will focus on methods used to remember and identify bird sounds, such as descriptive terms, and sketches of sonograms (or sound patterns). These techniques will then be applied to bird recordings while learning the sounds of some local songbirds. On weekends, the class will head outside to practice live identification of the bird sounds recently learned. Also, bird sound resources (books and CDs) and sound recording (equipment and software) will be introduced along

the way. This class is a great class for beginners and anyone with limited mobility, as our field studies will be chances to practice our skills in listening and quiet observations.

Dates: *Classes:* Thursdays, 3/5 & 3/12; 7-9pm. *Field Studies:* Saturdays, 3/7 & 3/14; 8-11am.

Location: McClellan Ranch Park, Cupertino.

Fee: \$35 members, \$40 non-members.

Minimum: 6 students, **Maximum:** 14 students

Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society Field Seminars with Bob Power

Beginning Birding – "What's At My Feeder?"

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

3 different Thursday Morning Sessions Available:

Session 1: April 2; **Session 2:** April 9; **Session 3:** April 16

Time: 8:00-10:00AM. **Location:** McClellan Ranch, Cupertino.

Fee per session: \$10 members; \$15 non-members

(3-class discount: \$25 members; \$35 non-members).

Class size is limited to 15 for each session.



Breeding Birds of Santa Clara County

This four-class / four-field trip series will introduce you to the Breeding Bird Atlas of Santa Clara County and the data collection methods used to compile the atlas. This series of workshops requires some familiarity with the identification of local birds.

***Important Note:** This is NOT an entry-level birding class.*

Dates: *Classes:* Thursdays, 4/30, 5/7, 5/14, & 5/28; 9:30-11:30am.

Field Trips: 5/2, 5/9, 5/16, & 5/30; 7am-12pm.

Location: *Classes:* McClellan Ranch, Cupertino.

Field Trips: Locations TBD

Fee: \$115 members / \$140 non-members

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 _____

7XCH C14

*Come by the office to pick up your free copy of **Birding at the Bottom of the Bay**, our gift to new members!*

Make all checks payable to SCVAS.

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