

THE AVOCET

The Newsletter of the Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society

September-October 2009

Dear Friends of Audubon,

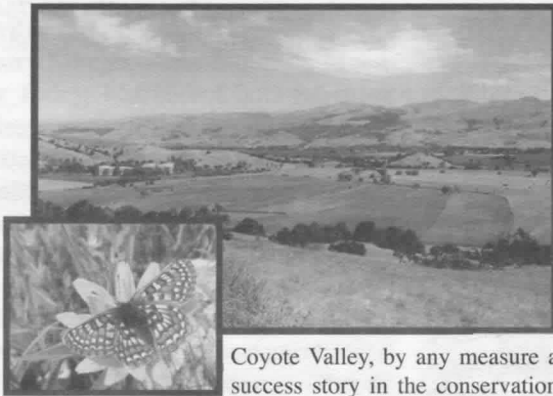
Thank you for supporting the National Audubon Society. Here at Santa Clara Valley Audubon, we need your help too. Here's what we do locally:

Our Annual Fall Festival

- Wildlife Education Day

- is almost here!

(October 24th)



Coyote Valley, by any measure a success story in the conservation world, preserved for future generations. Photos © Cait Hutnik (Coyote Valley) and Stu Weiss (Bay Checkerspot Butterfly) for Green Foothills.



Jim Liskovec, a Wetlands Discovery Program volunteer, teaches local school children about habitat, conservation, and of course, the birds!



Protected Burrowing Owls at Shoreline Park in Mountain View.
© Tom Grey

Please support your local chapter of the Audubon Society, working on important projects, right here at home.

Sincerely,

Bob Power,
Executive Director

P.S. Please use the attached donation form 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 in this Avocet in the mail, our apologies! We'll catch up with you next issue!

General Membership Meetings

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

Wednesday, September 16th

"Action in Africa" with Doug Cheeseman



Doug will have an energetic and exciting program discussing social and survival behavior in African birds and mammals, using Doug's personal images from their annual trips to East Africa, and sometimes Botswana and Zambia.

Wednesday, October 21st

iBird with Mitchell Waite

Sept. - Oct. '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

Wednesday Sept. 2, 12:00 PM

City of Sunnyvale Landfill

One hour. Leaders: Freddy Howell. 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 Sept. 5, 8:00 AM

Arastradero Preserve

Half day. Leader: Rich Page (408) 377-1092. From I-280 take Page Mill Rd. west approx. 1/2 mile to Arastradero Rd. Turn right and meet at the parking lot located 1/2-mile on the right. Woodland and grassland species as well as a good assortment of raptors are possible. Trip involves two plus miles of moderately strenuous walking. **RC.**

Sunday Sept. 6, 9:00 AM

Charleston Slough

Half day. Leader: Vicki Silvas-Young (408) 293-7124. From Hwy.101 in Mt. View take San Antonio Rd. north to Terminal Way parking area. Meet at the entrance nearest San Antonio Rd. This trip recommended for beginning birders but all are encouraged to attend. Bring your spotting scope and a friend.

Wednesday Sept. 9, 8:30 AM

Lake Almaden & Los Alamitos Trail

Half day. Leader: Alan Thomas (408) 265-9286. Meet in EAST parking lot of Lake Almaden Park. From Hwy 85, take Almaden Expwy south. Turn left on Coleman, right on Winfield Bl., parking lot is about a block south on right. Easy walking. Waterfowl, raptors, riparian birds, migrants. **LO.**

Saturday Sept. 12, 8:00 AM

Alum Rock Park

Half day. Leader: Jim Johnson (408) 996-3506. From Hwy 101 or I-680 take McKee Rd. northeast toward the hills then left on Toyon Ave. and right on Penitencia Creek Rd. Continue on into the park. Drive under the bridge and meet at the far end of the parking lot. Possible entrance fee, trip is a moderately strenuous 3-4 mile walk. **LO, RC.**

Sunday Sept. 13, 9:00 AM

Point Reyes

Full day. Leader: Peter LaTourette (650) 961-2741. Our annual trip to the west coast's most active vagrant trap where birds and the weather are always exciting and unpredictable! From Hwy 1 in Marin Co. take Sir Francis Drake Blvd. west approx. 14 miles and turn left to Drakes Beach. Meet in the parking area. Bring lunch, liquids, a full tank of gas, and be ready for fog, wind, sun and lots of difficult to ID birds. Be prepared to carpool from Drakes Beach.

Saturday Sept. 19, 8:00 AM

Ogier Ponds

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

Sunday Sept. 20, 9:00 AM

Hawk Hill/Marin Headlands

Full day. Leader: Nick Yatsko (408) 247-5499. Going north on Hwy 101, after crossing the Golden Gate Bridge exit just past the Vista Point, cross under Hwy 101 and turn right just before entrance back onto Hwy 101 south. Drive up hill to the highest point and park. Meet at the parking area or at the Hawkwatch area on top of the hill. Highlights: Migrating raptors including the possibility of seeing a rare Broad-winged Hawk. Weather conditions can be highly variable, dress in layers, bring lunch and liquids. **NOTE:** This will be our only field trip to the Hawk Hill/Marin Headlands this fall. Heavy fog in the headlands will likely cancel the trip.

Saturday Sept. 26, 8:00 AM

Ulistac Natural Area and Guadalupe River

Half Day. Leader: Pat Kenny (408) 725-0468. From Montague Expwy drive 0.4 mi north on N 1st St. to River Oaks Pl. Turn left onto River Oaks Pl. and drive to the end of the road and park along the street. **RC, NF.**

Sunday Sept. 27, 8:30 AM

Coyote Hills Regional Park

Half day. Leader: Frank Vanslager (650) 961-1505. Take Hwy 84 (Dumbarton Bridge) east to Newark. Exit right at Thornton, then go left on overpass, as Thornton becomes Paseo Padre turn left at Patterson Ranch/Commerce Rd. into park. Meet at far end of Quarry parking lot located on the left, 1/4 mile past park entrance. **NF, LO, RC.**

Wednesday Oct. 7, 12:00 PM

City of Sunnyvale Landfill

One hour. Leaders: Freddy Howell. Contact organizer Silviana Ruiz (408) 730-7545 to attend. See write-up from Sept. 2nd.

Saturday Oct. 3, 8:00 AM

Moss Landing & vicinity

Half day. Leader: Todd Newberry, Santa Cruz Bird Club (831) 426-8741. Meet in the parking lot north of the Elkhorn Slough Bridge just off Hwy 1 in Moss Landing at the Sea Harvest Restaurant. Weather conditions can be highly variable so dress in layers, bring lunch and liquids. Highlights: Shorebirds, waterfowl and early migrants.

Sunday Oct. 4, 8:00 AM

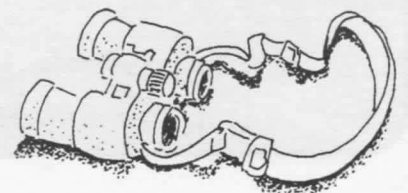
Windy Hills OSP

Half day. Leader: Kirsten Holmquist (408) 747-0988. Meet in the parking lot at the 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 entrance to The Sequoias. **RC.**

Saturday Oct. 10, 8:00 AM

Carmel River

Half day plus. Leader: Kathy Parker (408) 358-2832. Take Hwy 1 south to Carmel, turn left at Rio Rd., and then immediately turn right into the Crossroads Shopping Center. Meet near the back, southwest corner of the shopping center near Safeway and the river. Bring lunch and liquids or buy food at the meeting place. Temperatures vary, so bring extra layers of clothing. Rubber boots optional as there may be puddles in the riverbed.



Field Trips *continued*

Sunday Oct. 11, 8:00 AM

Ogier Ponds

Half day. Leader: Rich Page (408) 377-1092. For directions see the write-up for Sept 19th.

Wednesday Oct. 14, 8:30 AM

Charleston Slough

Half day. Leader: Eleanor Bassler (650) 856-6326. Meet at Terminal Way, end of San Antonio Rd. north off Hwy 101 in Mtn. View. Spotting scopes helpful. Returning shorebirds and ducks.

Saturday Oct. 17, 8:00 AM

Elkhorn Slough, Moss Landing, Moon Glow Dairy, and other favorite local birding spots

Half day plus. Leader: Rick Fournier - Awarbler@aol.com. Meet in the parking lot north of the Elkhorn Slough Bridge just off Hwy 1 in Moss Landing at the Sea Harvest Restaurant. With fall at hand, we will bird the above environs looking for returning ducks, shorebirds, wintering land birds and reported vagrants. Plan on birding through lunch (stopping at Phil's Snack Shack) finishing up early afternoon. Bring food and liquids. Dress in layers.

Sunday Oct. 18, 9:00 AM

Charleston Slough

Half day. Leader: Vicki Silvas-Young (408) 293-7124. See write-up for Sept 6th.

Saturday Oct. 24, 7:30 AM

Local Hot Spots

Half day. Leader: Bob Reiling (408) 253-7527. We'll meet at the Alviso Marina.

From Hwy 237 in San Jose take Gold St. north to the end of the street, bear left on Elizabeth St. and then right on Hope St. to the Marina parking lot. A chance to visit some of the local hot spots you hear about and, we hope, to see some "good" birds.

Saturday Oct. 24, 8:00-10:00 AM

"Early Bird" Shorebird Walk at Charleston Slough

RSVP required at 408-252-3740. As part of Wildlife Education Day (see page 8), we'll share the wonder of the wetlands with local families. Great for children and beginners.

Sunday Oct. 25, 8:15 AM

Arastradero Preserve

Half day. Leader: Jim Johnson. (408) 996-3506. See write-up for Sept 5th.

Saturday Oct. 31, 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 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. This will be a moderate 2-mile walk, **LO, RC**.

Sunday Nov. 1, 8:30 AM

Sunnyvale Water Treatment Facility

Half day. Leader: Frank Vanslager (650) 961-1505. 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**.

I heard that the SCVAS Nature Shop is having a 30% off sale on books...

and all proceeds from the Nature Shop go to benefit SCVAS programs.

SCVAS NATURE SHOP
OPEN
MON - FRI 10 - 5
SATURDAY 10 - 2
VISA • MASTERCARD
ACCEPTED
408-252-3747

Also: Owl Boxes, beautifully crafted by Matthew Ohara for his Eagle Scout project, and with the cooperation of the Wild Bird Center in Los Gatos, are once again available for sale through SCVAS. Call the office - 408-252-3747 - for more information.

SCVAS Events Calendar:

Tues. 9/8, 9:30AM

Eve Case Bird Discussion Group

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

Topic: Summer Birding Experiences and Interesting Bird Facts

Thurs. 9/10, 7-9PM

Cavity Nesters Recovery Program (CNRP) End-of-Season Meeting McClellan Ranch Park

All monitors are invited to attend. We'll all introduce ourselves, talk about the season, get a chance to ask questions,

look at the data that has been submitted and bring closure to the 2009 nest box season. Please remember to submit your data online before the 10th! Go to <http://www.eichlerrealtor.com/birds/>



Tues. 10/13, 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: Yellow-Billed Magpie

Sat. 10/24, 10AM-2PM

Wildlife Education Day McClellan Ranch Park

Go to www.scvas.org for details

Thurs. 10/29, 7-8:30PM

Environmental Advocate "Meet-n-Greet"

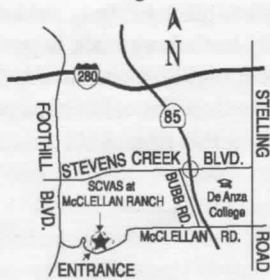
McClellan Ranch Park

Come join the SCVAS staff and Board as we welcome and get to know our new Environmental Advocate, Shani Kleinhaus. Light refreshments will be served.

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Adult Education Classes

2009 Volume 56, Number 5

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 all of our upcoming classes is also available on our website at www.scvas.org.

Habitat Gardening with Jeffrey Caldwell (California Native Plant Society, Santa Clara Valley Chapter)

Every landscape is habitat – learn how to enhance your existing garden or make a new one with more carrying capacity for creatures you care about! Jeffrey Caldwell, a biologist and horticulturist with extensive experience creating landscapes that attract and support native birds and other wildlife, will be offering this class at McClellan Ranch Park in Cupertino. Jeff will discuss results of the latest research on creating habitat for pollinators and native songbirds, with consideration for making life more pleasant for people as well. Supportive handouts will be provided and there will be opportunities for addressing your specific questions and interests.

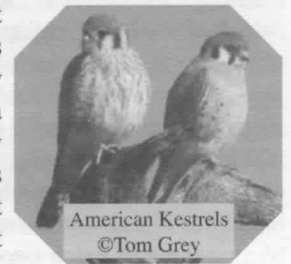
Dates: Thursdays, 9/17 & 9/24; 6:30-9PM; **Location:** McClellan Ranch Park, Cupertino; **Fee:** \$30 members of SCVAS or CNPS; \$35 non-members; **Min:** 8 students; **Max:** 22 students

The Amazing World of Raptors with Lisa Myers (Let's Go Birding! www.letsjobirding.com)

This three week class will focus on the meat eating, flesh ripping group of birds which impress so many people, the "raptors". This class will focus on the diurnal raptors which include hawks, falcons and eagles. We'll concentrate on the 20 species that can

be found in the west and talk about their food preferences, hunting styles and their behaviors. We'll review key field marks so you can determine a falcon from a buteo or vulture or how they all differ from an accipiter! Class includes a field trip so we can go out and find all the raptors that frequent our area. Class is set for beginners to intermediate.

Dates: Class: Mondays, 10/5, 10/12, & 10/19; 7-9PM; Field Trip: Saturday, 10/10; 9AM-1PM; **Location:** Meet at McClellan Ranch Park, Cupertino; **Fee:** \$40 members; \$45 non-members; **Min:** 8 students; **Max:** 20 students



ALSO: Shorebirds: Basic Plumage, It can't be that hard with Bob Power

Dates: Class: Thursday, 10/1; 9:30-11AM; Field Trip: Friday, 10/2; 11AM-3PM; **Location:** Conference Room, McClellan Ranch, Cupertino & Redwood Shores' Radio Rd. ponds; **Fee:** \$40 members; \$50 non-members. **Class size limited to 15.** Carpooling is strongly encouraged.

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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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.