



THE AVOCET

The Newsletter of the Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society

January-February 2010

The Solar Conundrum

The continuing quest for the renewable energy silver bullet.
by Bob Power

Picture your favorite remote birding destination: Carrizo Plain? Kern River? Big Morongo Canyon? Mono Basin? Panoche Valley? Two out of five of those locations are targeted for world-scale solar installations. With billions of dollars at stake, are the other three far behind? Are solar arrays the next wave of landscape features that will dominate the California foothills for decades to come? No longer relegated to the southeastern Mojave desert, the solar future is knocking at Santa Clara County's door.

Last November, Governor Schwarzenegger signed Executive Order S-14-08 to streamline California's renewable energy project approval process and increase the state's commitment to renewable energy to the most aggressive in the nation at 33 percent renewable power by 2020.

There's no doubt that this is where we need to go as a state, nation, and world, but how do we get there? The low-hanging fruit is to take existing technology, streamline the approval process in rural counties and install



(continued on page 10)

The 2010 SCVAS Spring Birdathon Wants YOU!

Everyone, from beginner to expert birder, can participate in the 2010 SCVAS Spring Birdathon, a **major fundraising event** for SCVAS Conservation efforts and youth environmental education, raising over \$53,000 in 2009. **Your participation** could help raise even more in 2010.

- **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 at least \$50.
- **Anyone can sponsor a team**. Check www.scvas.org after February 1, 2010, to pick a Birdathon team to sponsor. Call the office to make a tax-deductible donation to that team or donate online at www.scvas.org. Receive a report about your team's Birdathon results.

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, 2010. Check back, as the prize list will be updated often.

2. **Talk to your birding friends** about forming a **Self-Guided Team** for the 2010 SCVAS Spring Birdathon, pick a day to bird from March 27 to April 25, inclusive.

3. **Register** yourself and your team or join a **Guided Team** led by one of our many expert birders by calling Susan Bell at the SCVAS Office, 408-252-3747 or online at www.scvas.org.

***Go to page 9 - or check www.scvas.org after February 1, 2010 - for complete list of leaders and teams.**

(continued on page 8)

General Membership Meetings

Palo Alto Arts Center

Newell & Embarcadero Rds

Doors open 7:30; program 8:00



Wednesday, January 20th

"Gardening for Hummingbirds"

with Arvind Kumar & Freddy Howell

Who isn't charmed by these iridescent visitors to the garden? Find out which hummingbirds are likely to be seen in the Bay Area, and how to attract them to the garden with the right mix of native plants augmented with the right type of feeders. Handouts will be available.



Wednesday, February 17th

"From Birds to Bats"

with Dave Johnston & Tom Stewart

Join bat biologist and long time SCVAS member, Dave Johnston, and his field assistant Tom Stewart for a lecture exploring the fascinating world of Mexican Bats and Least Storm-Petrels. Tom will also share some of the joys - and frustrations - of field work.

Above: Mexican Fishing Bat
Photo © Dave Johnston

- ◆ *The Beak & Feather Boutique Returns!* — Page 4
- ◆ *New Monitors Wanted for the Cavity Nesters Recovery Program* — Page 4
- ◆ *Rare Vagrants - Lark Bunting & Baltimore Oriole - Mark the Fall* — Field Notes, Page 6
- ◆ *Winter Adventures with Young Audubon!* — Page 8

Jan - Feb '10 Field Trips

(Full details for all of our Field Trips are also available online at www.scvas.org)

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

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

Saturday Jan. 2, 7:30 AM

County Chase

Half day. Leader: Bob Reiling (408) 253-7527. Get a head start on your 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. 3, 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. 6, 12:00 PM

City of Sunnyvale Landfill

One hour. Leaders: Freddy Howell and Allen Royer. 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. 9, 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 (buy something if you must).

Sunday Jan. 10, 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 mile on the right. Moderate walking. **RC**

Wednesday Jan. 13, 9:00 AM

Environmental Ed. Center, Alviso

Half day. Leader: TBA. From Hwy 237, exit N. 1st. St. Turn right toward Alviso; right on Grand Blvd. Take Grand to the end and park at the Ed. Center. Scopes helpful; wintering ducks, shorebirds.

Saturday Jan. 16, 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**

Sunday Jan. 17, 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 Ave. **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 (Harlequin Duck is possible) but we'll also look for landbirds. Scopes will be very useful. **LO, RC**

Saturday Jan. 23, 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. 24, 8:00 AM

Almaden Lake Park and Alamos Creek

Half day. Leader: Steve Tracey (408) 966-3860. 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 Expwy. Continue just past Coleman Rd. (and the park) and return northbound on Almaden Expwy 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 Jan. 30, 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**

Field Trips *continued*

Sunday Jan. 31, 8:00 AM

Shoreline Lake and Environs

Half day. Leader: Frank Vanslager (650) 961-1505. From Hwy 101 take Shoreline Blvd. and proceed north to its end (past the golf course). Meet in the parking lot near the boathouse. Expected species include ducks, gulls, some shorebirds, and a few riparian birds. A moderately long, but level, loop trip. **RC**

Wednesday Feb. 3, 12:00 PM

City of Sunnyvale Landfill

One hour. Leaders: Freddy Howell and Allen Royer. Contact organizer Silviana Ruiz (408) 730-7545 to attend. See details from Jan. 6th.

Saturday Feb. 6, 9:00 AM

Charleston Slough

Half day. Leader: Roxie Handler (408) 730-1745. 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.

Sunday Feb. 7, 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. 10, 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 Marina parking lot on right side of road. We will carpool from there. Possible fee. **RC**

Saturday Feb. 13, 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 Banos, 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. 14, 8:00 AM

Alum Rock Park

Half day. Leader: Jim Johnson (408) 996-3506. For directions and information see the write-up for Jan. 23rd. **LO, RC**

Friday-Sunday Feb. 19-21

Morro Bay/Carrizo Plains

Leader: Rick Fournier, e-mail: Rimbirding@aol.com or (831) 633-1092. Great birding, lodging and restaurants sum up this fabulous weekend. We will bird throughout San Luis Obispo County starting on the coast finishing up in the powerful yet peaceful landscape of Carrizo Plain. For you early birders, the weekend will kick-off birding Friday morning at 7:30AM meeting on the backside (facing out the harbor) of Morro Rock. We will then depart heading south to bird Ocean Campground, Oso Flaco Lake Natural Area with our final stop, the Santa Maria River Mouth. For those arriving Saturday, we will again meet at 7:30AM on the backside of Morro Rock spending the day birding the hot spots in and around Morro Bay. Sunday will be dedicated to Carrizo Plain, heading home in the afternoon. Bring food for lunches and be prepared for cool and possibly wet weather. **Trip is limited to 15 participants, please e-mail or call to confirm participation.** Rain will not cancel the Morro Bay portion of the trip; however, heavy rains on Sunday may cancel the Carrizo Plains portion of the trip.

Saturday Feb. 27, 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 at the lighthouse on W. Cliff Dr. 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 Dr.,

follow bluff-top to lighthouse. A chance to visit local birding hotspots 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 Dr., checking inter-tidal shelves as we approach the Natural Bridges overlook at the west end of West Cliff Dr.

Sunday Feb. 28, 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 mile past park entrance. An entrance fee should be expected. **LO, RC**

Saturday Mar. 6, 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. 7, 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**

Friday-Sunday Mar 19-21, 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.

Volunteer Ventures

by Toby Goldberg

Programs Coordinator

Like most of you, we here in the office are making our 2010 New Year's Resolutions, so I thought I'd share a few: Resolution #1 - Make sure all of the SCVAS volunteers - from committee members, to field trip leaders, to bird count participants - know just how much we appreciate them! Resolution #2 - Recruit more volunteers!

2009 was a fabulous year with a LOT of successful outreach, conservation and education activities, but our efforts are ultimately only as effective as the people we can get to help. Rather than just asking more from all of our already outstanding volunteers, we'd love to see some new faces in the mix! Whether you have a few hours every once in a while, or are looking to fill some free time on a weekly basis, we have activities, events, and opportunities right up your alley!

Forexample, if you love being outside and/or working with kids, the Wetlands Discovery Program might be the perfect opportunity for you. Or, if you enjoy being involved in research and/or conservation, becoming a Nest Box monitor (see information on the next page) might be right up your alley. If computers are more your thing, maybe you'd like to help in the office. Whatever your skills, interests, or schedule, we have something that will be a perfect fit!

For a complete list, go to www.scvas.org, and click on "Get Involved" on the left-hand side. Then give me a call at 408-252-3740 or send me an email at programs@scvas.org. We'd love your help in keeping this chapter amazingly active and involved!



**Coming Soon - A NEW
Young Audubon Event:**

SCVAS' Spring Scavenger Hunt

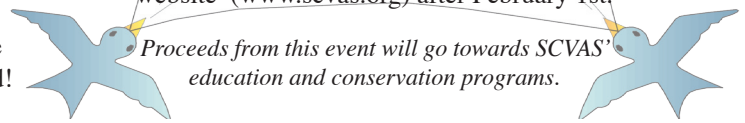
Think a child-friendly version of the "Amazing Race" mixed with "Bingo" and a little "Where's Waldo?"

To be held on a weekend morning (date still TBD), participants will test their birding ID skills, and their observational prowess, during a 4-hour dash through the Baylands, or perhaps a tromp through the forests.

This will be a great activity for anyone with a little bit of the competitive spirit, or for anyone who just loves being outdoors. Prizes will be awarded for the most complete list, the rarest bird found, the craziest bird behavior observed, and more!

Designed for children and families, this will be a fun way to share a love of birds with the next generation! Details on how to participate, age requirements, locations, and more, will be available on the SCVAS website (www.scvas.org) after February 1st.

Proceeds from this event will go towards SCVAS' education and conservation programs.



The best way to clean out your nest and get ready for the spring is to donate to SCVAS' Beak and Feather Boutique.

And the best part is that proceeds go towards SCVAS' education and conservation programs!



Contact the SCVAS office at 408-252-3747 with any questions.

The SCVAS Office is now accepting donations for our 3rd "Ornithological Second-hand Sale"

The Beak and Feather Boutique!

This is a great opportunity to both clean out your unused birding supplies and pick up some great second-hand deals! Check out the list below to see what items can be donated. All donations are tax-deductible, and will be accepted through March 26th.

Mark your calendars now for the sale:
Saturday, April 3rd; 10AM-2PM
McClellan Ranch Park, Cupertino

Accepted items* for donation:

- Binoculars • Books • Scopes • Clothing - vests, etc. • Birdhouses • Bird Feeders • Paintings • Photography • Bird Jewelry • DVD's • CD's

*All items must be clean and in good condition. Unsold items will be donated to a local Hope Charity.

Adult Education Classes - Winter 2010

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.

Dr. Strange Gull (or "How I Learned to Stop Worrying and Love the Challenge") with Matthew Dodder (SCVAS Board Member, PA Adult School Instructor)

Join Matthew for an introduction to Gull identification featuring tips and tricks to overcome anxiety about confusingly similar Larids. Presentation will include identification tips for our common wintering Gulls, their age groups and field marks. If you're avoiding Gulls, this session is for you.

Dates: Class: Thursday, 1/21; 7-9PM. Field: TBD based on weather, etc. **Location:** Class: McClellan Ranch Park, Cupertino. Field: TBD. **Fee:** \$25 members; \$35 non-members. **Class size limited to 15**

Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society Field Seminars: Good Old-fashioned Duck Hunt with Bob Power (SCVAS Executive Director, PA Adult School Instructor)

We'll start in Oakland and work our way back to Mountain View. Our goal will be to study 20 Duck species, with hoped for comparisons of Barrow's and Common Goldeneye, Eurasian and American Wigeon, Greater and Lesser Scaup, and sightings of the elusive Tufted Duck, and White-winged Scoter.



Date: Saturday 1/23; 8AM-4PM. **Location:** TBD based on bird sightings and carpool logistics. **Fee:** \$30 members; \$40 non-members. **Class size limited to 16** **Note: Participants must be willing to carpool.**

Beginning Birding with Lisa Myers (Owner and coordinator of letsgobirding.com)

This beginning birding class is designed for people who have always wanted to learn about birdwatching and the birds coming to their own yards. No experience necessary! We'll review Field guides, optics, birding ethics, habitats, and even a little taxonomy. We have roughly 250 different species of birds right here in Santa Clara County, but we will focus on the birds that we find in our backyards and neighborhoods. This class includes two weekend morning bird walks so we can put our new knowledge into action. **All birding levels are welcome.**

Dates: Classes: Mondays 2/1, 2/8, & 2/15; 7-8:30PM. Field: Sunday, 2/7 & Saturday 2/13; 9AM-12PM. **Location:** McClellan Ranch Park, Cupertino (and others TBD). **Fee:** \$45 members; \$55 non-members. **Min:** 8 students. **Max:** 25 students.

SCVAS Events Calendar:

Tues. 1/12, 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: Nests

Mon. 1/18; 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.

Sat. 2/6; 10AM-12PM

Cavity Nesters Recover Program (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.

Tue. 2/9; 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: Red-throated Loon

Mon. 2/15; Morning (exact times TBD)

Young Audubon Elephant Seal 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 for the most current information about this activity.

Sat. 2/20; 9AM-12PM & 1-4PM

CNRP 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. Heavy rain or storm will postpone session to the next sunny weekend. To RSVP, email Mike Azevedo at geochelone@aol.com or call the SCVAS office at (408) 252-3740.

Sat. 3/13; 1-4PM

CNRP 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 to the next sunny weekend. To RSVP, call or email David "Tex" Houston at 650-303-2777 or tex009@sbcglobal.net.

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



Field Notes

(October-November 2009)

by Bill Bousman

Waterfowl through Hawks

The first **Greater White-fronted Geese** of the season were a flock of 52 birds northwest of Hwy 237 and Coyote Creek on 3 Oct (WGB). We often see large flocks early in the fall and by 7 Oct at least 112 birds were counted flying over Hwy 237 at Zanker (SCR). After the initial influx we saw more typical numbers of up to a dozen or so birds or less at various locations. An immature **Snow Goose** was at the Sunnyvale Baylands Park on 10 Nov (RKe, PKe) and another bird was east of Coyote Creek and north of Hwy 237 on 21 Nov (JT). A **Ross's Goose** was at Grant Lake on 25 Nov (WGB, IB). The first **Eurasian Wigeon** of the season was on Adobe Creek on 9 Oct (JLa). Numbers built rapidly in nearby Pond A1 in Mountain View with a peak count of seven males there on 15 Nov (MDo). Other observations included two males in Pond A14 in Alviso on 25 Oct (MMR, RGJ) and one at the South County Regional WasteWater Authority (SCRWA) treatment ponds in Gilroy on 4 Nov (SCR). A male **Blue-winged Teal** on Adobe Creek in the Palo Alto Flood Control Basin (FCB) on 10 Oct (JH et al., AH) may have been the same as the one seen there in September. Numbers increased quickly in October and November (m.ob.), six males and a female were reported on 16 Nov (WGB). The first Blue-wing at the SCRWA ponds in Gilroy was a male on 11 Oct and numbers also increased there (v.ob.) with a peak count of 19 birds on 9 Nov (both RWR, FV). Other birds found included one on Artesian Slough on 31 Oct (AMcD), a pair beside the Palo Alto Baylands wastewater outfall on 2 Nov (WGB), and a male near the Lockheed Martin ponds on 19 Nov (RWR, FV). A single male **Redhead** was seen on the Sunnyvale Water Pollution Control Plant (WPCP) oxidation ponds on 5 Oct (WGB). Large numbers were found on the Alviso ponds in late October with a high count of 197 on 25 Oct (MMR, RGJ). Inland, a single male was on the Ogier Avenue ponds on 4 and 13 Nov (RPh, MJM). An adult male **Long-tailed Duck** was found beside Adobe Creek in the Palo Alto FCB on 16 Nov (WGB) and was seen through

the next day (v.ob.) A pair of **Barrow's Goldeneyes** were found on Shoreline Lake on 16 Nov (WGB) and the male and at least two females were present by the end of the month (WGB, v.ob.). A female Barrow's was seen at Lake Cunningham on 29 Nov (JPa). As in recent years, a **Pelagic Cormorant** was seen on an Alviso pond levee on 25 Oct (MMR, RGJ). At least three wintering **American Bitterns** were found in November. The first was at Grant Lake on 3 Nov (OH), the second in the entrance channel at the Mountain View Forebay on 8 Nov (DSt et al.), and

*Rare vagrants
headlined the
period: a Lark
Bunting and a
Baltimore Oriole.*

the third in the Oka percolation ponds on 22 Nov (RP, JJ et al.). All have remained through the end of the month (m.ob.). A **Cattle Egret** remained in the Palo Alto Baylands into October. Two were seen on 18 Oct (MMR) and three were there on 2 Nov (RWR, FV). None have been found after the first week in November (v.ob.) A late **White-faced Ibis** was southeast of Bloomfield Road on 18 Oct (SCR) after the heavy rainfall of our early season storm. More surprisingly one was seen in the Palo Alto Baylands on 4 Nov (JMy) and four were along Adobe Creek on 6 Nov (DSt et al.). Up to four were found throughout November, all immatures (m.ob.). We have at least three prior November records, but none for the winter. One to two **Bald Eagles** have been near their nest site by Calaveras Reservoir from 7 Nov on (RPh et al., BP, SG, DWe). A juvenile was found at Uvas and Croy roads on 10 Nov (MJM). An adult was seen at Coyote Reservoir on 22 Nov (MMR). The first **Ferruginous Hawks** of the season were two juveniles in the Coyote Valley on 3 Oct (RPh). One or two juveniles remained there at least into late October, and one adult has stayed through November (m.ob.). Other Ferruginous include one at the Sunnyvale Baylands Park on 8 Oct (RGJ) and one just over the county line at Sand Hill and Santa Cruz in Menlo Park on 2 Nov (MS). Two adult

Golden Eagles in Alviso on 10 Oct (BHi) were the first reports of birds wintering on flatlands beside the Bay. A single **Prairie Falcon** was seen at Ed Levin CP on 6 Oct (DWe). A bird found in the Coyote Valley on 8 Oct (JPa, PSw) may well be the same bird seen multiple times in the valley at least through 15 Nov (m.ob.). Other birds included one found along Sierra Road on 18 Oct (RWR, FV), one over an east Morgan Hill yard on 24 Oct (SCR), and one over Nordstrom Elementary in Morgan Hill on 22 Nov (SCR).

Shorebirds through Skimmers

Dispersing **Snowy Plovers** east of the Alviso Marina CP peaked at 44 birds on 3 Oct (JT), the last birds there were seen on 4 Oct (BP et al.). A few **Lesser Yellowlegs** lingered in the period with high counts including three at the Coyote Creek Field Station (CCFS) waterbird pond on 3 Oct (WGB) and three more on a closed pond in Alviso on 25 Oct (MMR, RGJ). Seven **Sanderling** were on Pond A12 in Alviso on 25 Oct (MMR, RGJ) and the numbers tapered off through 7 Nov when only one was left (JT). Another bird was found on a closed refuge pond on 25 Oct (MMR, RGJ). Two to four juvenile **Pectoral Sandpipers** were seen on the CCFS waterbird pond 3-5 Oct (WGB, BP et al., RWR, FV). Two juveniles were on a SCRWA pond in Gilroy on 15 Oct (WGB) and five birds were counted along Bloomfield Road on 18 Oct (SCR). At least two of **Common Terns** found on Pond A9 in September remained there through 1 Oct (RWR, FV). Lingered **Elegant Terns** included two on Pond A9 on 1 Oct (RWR, FV), 12 on closed refuge ponds on 25 Oct (MMR, RGJ) and three more the same day on the Alviso ponds (MMR, RGJ), and two on Pond A2W in Mountain View on 6 Nov (RKe, PKe).

Swifts through Phainopepla

A few migrant **Vaux's Swifts** linger into October. The high count of birds in the first week was 10 over Alviso Marina CP on 4 Oct (JT). The last bird was one seen over Coyote Valley on 11 Oct (JPa, ACr). Ten **Lewis's Woodpeckers** were seen in the San Antonio Valley on 21 Oct (WGB) and four were tallied there on 25 Nov (WGB, IB). The oak crop there appears substantial this year. Only one passage **Willow Flycatcher** was found after the end of September, a bird at the Sunnyvale Baylands Park on 6 Oct (WGB). Two **Canyon Wrens** were seen

Field Notes *cont'd*

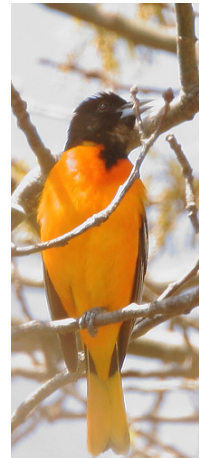
in Larios Canyon east of Coyote Reservoir on 22 Nov (MMR), an area where they have nested in the past. Wandering from somewhere, a **Golden-crowned Kinglet** was seen at the Sunnyvale Baylands Park 4-6 Oct (RKe, PKe, WGB) and again on 29 Oct (RKe, PKe). Another bird was found in Alum Rock Park on 1 Nov (J&RM). I don't think it will be much of a winter for this irruptive species. A female **Phainopepla** was seen along Mines Road at Colorado Creek on 21 Oct (WGB).

Warblers through Goldfinches

The passage of **Orange-crowned Warblers** appeared to end in early October and we entered winter mode. Some wintering birds included different birds along San Francisquito Creek on 17 and 24 Nov (WGB) and one at Lake Cunningham on 29 Nov (WGB, JPa). Late **Nashville Warblers** included a hatch-year bird at Sunnyvale Baylands Park on 6 Oct (WGB) and one at Byxbee Park on 24 Oct (PKe, RWR et al.). **Yellow Warblers** at Geng Road on 9 Nov (MDo) and the Alviso EEC 11-14 Nov (HS, DWe) were either very late migrants or are attempting to winter. A **Hermit Warbler** seen along Llagas Creek at Bloomfield Road on 11 Oct (FV) was either a migrant or a wintering bird. A very late hatch-year **Blackpoll Warbler** was at Byxbee Park on 19 Oct (JLu) and was found again the next day (BP). Our latest record for this bird was one at Stanford on 3 Nov 64. A hatch-year **American Redstart** at the Sunnyvale Baylands 4-5 Oct (RKe, PKe, RWR, FV) was considered "indistinguishable" from the one seen there

12 days earlier. A **Northern Waterthrush** was seen at Charleston Road marsh on 11 Oct (MS), and has been recorded irregularly since (MDo). This is the eighth winter that one or more waterthrushes have been found in the vicinity of the marsh. The last migrant **Wilson's Warblers** were found in the first week in October, one seen at the Oka percolation ponds on 22 Nov (JJ, FV, v.ob.) is probably attempting to winter. A male **Western Tanager** seen in downtown Los Altos 17-23 Nov (GHa, RCo, WGB) is probably trying to winter. Three **Chipping Sparrows** were again seen at Jeffrey Fontana Park in San Jose on 8 Nov (JPa). An apparent hatch-year male **Lark Bunting** was found at Byxbee Park on 18 Oct (BJ), a fifth county record. The bird was seen by many and remained at least until 8 Nov (JCS). A migrant **Grasshopper Sparrow** was a surprise in a Milpitas yard on 7 Oct (RLi). A **Nelson's Sparrow** (formerly Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow) was seen in the Palo Alto Baylands on 1 Nov (KS). A good find, it was seen again on high tides on 2-3 Nov and 30 Nov (v.ob.). One was also there two winters ago. The first **White-throated Sparrows** of the season were at feeders: one in San Jose on 13 Oct (ER) and one in Santa Clara on 31 Oct (CL, CW). Other birds were found near Calero Reservoir on 5 Nov (AV) and near Alamos and Hicks roads 8-17 Nov (AMcD, AV). Two male and six female **Great-tailed Grackles** returned to the Coyote Creek GC on 10 Oct (JT) and one female was there on 13 Nov (MJM). An adult male **Bullock's Oriole** along Laguna Avenue in the Coyote Valley on 17 Nov (ACr et al.) was unusual, we have no prior October records. The real oriole excitement, however, was an

adult male **Baltimore Oriole** seen briefly at the Sunnyvale Baylands on 8 Oct (RWR, RKe). This is the fourth county record. Only one **Pine Siskin** was seen this period, a bird at Christmas Hill Park on 23 Nov (RWR, FV). The only **Lawrence's Goldfinches** found were four near Mines Road on 21 Oct (WGB).



Baltimore Oriole
by Tom Grey

Observers: Bill Bousman (WGB), Iver Brown (IB), Rita Colwell (RCo), Anne Creevy (ACr), Matthew Dodder (MDo), Sandy Grant (SG), Garth Harwood (GHa), Jan Hintermeister (JH), Bob Hirt (BHi), Alice Hoch (AH), Owen Holt (OH), Richard Jeffers (RGJ), Jim Johnson (JJ), Bob Juhl (BJ), Roland Kenner (RKe), Pat Kenny (PKe), Janet Lafler (JLa), Cindy Lee (CL), Randy Little (RLi), John Luther (JLu), Mike Mammoser (MJM), Amy McDonald (AMcD), Julio & Renee Mulero (J&RM), Jean Myers (JMy), Richard Page (RP), Janna Pauser (JPa), Ryan Phillips (RPh), Bob Power (BP), Bob Reiling (RWR), Mike Rogers (MMR), Edward Rooks (ER), Steve Rottenborn (SCR), Ken Schneider (KS), Michael Scott (MS), Marty Sidor (MS), Harjeet Singh (HS), John Sterling (JCS), Dick Stovel (DSt), Phyllis Swanson (PSw), Jim Thomas (JT), Frank Vanslager (FV), Ann Verdi (AV), Dave Weber (DWe), Curt Wohlgenuth (CW).

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

Outside Events of Note

Sat. 1/30 & Sat. 2/13; 9:30-11:30AM Family & Beginning Birders Explorations of Don Edwards NWR.

Wintertime is a birding wonderland on the Don Edwards NWR! Join us at the Refuge's Environmental Education Center in Alviso as we practice our birding skills. Let's see what we can discover together. Families and beginners welcome. Program is outdoors; dress for the weather. Call Jennifer Heroux, Park Ranger/Interpretive Specialist, for more information or directions. 408-262-5513 x106.

Sat. 2/6; 38th Annual Burrowing Owl Symposium Livermore, CA

Join approximately 60 biologists and environmental organizations from around the state to discuss the current status and future conservation plans of the burrowing owl. Go to www.ohloneaudubon.org for more details.

Future Planning:

April 23-25, 2010
Point Reyes Birding Festival

Point Reyes and the West Marin area are home to one of the most diverse bird populations in North America. Join top bird experts like David Wimpfheimer, Keith Hansen, and Jules Evens as they lead participants on trips to discover the best birding sites in the region. Displays and exhibits will expand your bird knowledge, and you can stay at one of the dozens of charming bed and breakfast or other lodging establishments. Go to www.eacmarin.org to learn more about this exciting event.

Birdathon cont'd from page 1

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, 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 \$11,000! You can, too. We'll teach you how. **Read the fundraising tips** in your Birdathon packet and/or **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 19, 5:00 p.m.**, to be eligible for prizes.

8. **Attend the free Birdathon Awards Dinner on Tuesday, June 8,** and receive your prize(s). Participate in bird contests and games, and enter to win other prizes. 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.

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



Date: Monday, February 15th* (President's Day) - **We are reserving three 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.

YOUNG AUDUBON'S 8th ANNUAL

Winter Whale Watching

~boating adventures for children and their families~

Monday, January 18th

10:30am-12:30pm*

Fisherman's Wharf, Monterey Bay

\$20/person for SCVAS members

\$25/person for non-members

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*



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



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



“Go Guided” – Join one of our Prearranged Spring Birdathon Teams

We are looking for all levels of birders to join one of our prearranged Big-sit, 4-hour, or 24-hour (maximum count time) Guided Birdathon teams. All you have to do is 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 all prizes. Beginners can out-compete experts for prizes by raising more money. Space on guided teams is limited, so register now at www.scvas.org/birdathon now. 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 for an unforgettable big-day.

Persistent Picidae with Lisa Myers on Saturday, April 3

Lisa enjoys introducing people to the world of birding through her own business, Let's Go Birding, and leading field trips for area organizations. Lisa also teaches adult birding classes, many for SCVAS. The Picidae will start at 8 AM and bird to 5 PM in select spots around Santa Clara County. This is the perfect team for you regardless of your birding level. 100+ species.

Bob-O-Links with Bob Power on Saturday, April 17

Join our very own Executive Director, whose leadership style will complement all birding levels. This is a perfect team if you haven't done a Birdathon before, but want to experience a fast-paced big-day, early AM to dusk. 130+ species.

Rock Wrens with Bob Hirt on Sunday, April 18

Join long-time birder and SCVAS Board Member, Bob Hirt, for an active day in the field. They'll start early for owls in the western foothills, zigzag down to the Bay for shorebirds, and then climb up the eastern slope, ending after dusk. 130+ species.

DeDUCKtions with Matthew Dodder on Saturday, April 24

Matthew is a 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.” Join this fast paced dawn-to-dusk tour of the county. 140+ species.

Varied Twitchers with Mike Rogers on Saturday, April 24

This is a high intensity day with one of the Bay Area's premier birders, Mike Rogers. Start your big-day early with owling and continue until sunset. This team still holds the record for winning all the 24-hour Most Species awards since 2003. Finding 165 species last year provided this team with well-deserved bragging rights! Join this year and become part of the legend. 160+ species.



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.

Swifts with Bob Power on Sunday, April 4

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

Hi-Speed Rails with Bob Power on Friday, April 9

Join Bob on his county blitz, finding Osprey to Orioles. Start at Stevens Creek Reservoir and end at Mountain View Shoreline to visit a hefty mix of habitats. Expect a fast-pace while birding 8 AM to noon. 80+ species.

Rushing Thrushes with Bob Power on Sunday, April 11

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 8 AM to noon. 80+ species.

Chickadees with Debbie Thompson on Sunday, April 18

Fun but productive birding is the main objective 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. 70+ species.



Big-sit Birdathon Teams with Lori Cuesta

The Big-sit Birdathon is perfect for those who don't want to spend a lot of time chasing around town. Big-sit Teams count birds from one location, eliminating the long day but keeping the challenge and competition.

Sitting Ducks on Sunday, March 28

Lori's team will count bird species seen only from the Charleston Slough platform in Mountain View, using scopes to search the wetlands and the scrub. Come witness the intriguing behavior of these birds during the changing tides from 8 AM to noon. 30+ species.

Yellow-rumped Squatters on Sunday, April 11

Join Lori's team at our headquarters in McClellan Ranch Park in Cupertino from 8 AM to noon to see how many species you can identify from a single spot. 30+ species.

The Solar Conundrum *(continued from page 1)*

massive solar infrastructure adjacent to the major transmission lines that crisscross the state. This is exactly Solargen Energy, Inc.'s strategy in Panoche Valley; a place where time has stood still for the past century that only the most adventurous birders and bay area backroaders have seen. Panoche Valley is an Audubon designated Globally Important Bird Area (IBA).

The rush to solar energy as the renewable energy silver bullet, leaves it to the environmental advocacy community to ask the hard questions and seemingly stand in the way of what's good for the county, the state, the nation, the world. Here are the questions:

Shouldn't the urban landscape possibilities be exhausted first?

Where is the legislation that would allow rapid development of decentralized (read that as "roof-top") energy production? Who will take on the existing utility infrastructure and champion local energy production when it's so much easier to rely on these massive developments? While a massive plan to exploit solar energy from the Sahara desert to meet Europe's needs takes place, some believe Europe could generate all the domestic energy it needs through rooftop photovoltaic solar panels.

The largest solar development in the world is in Spain and spans 400 acres. The development at Panoche Valley is proposed at 4,000 acres. Where is the independent scientific review of the potential environmental impacts of an installation 10 times the size of any comparable project? Solar power is renewable but what about the materials needed to build this huge park of solar farms

(steel, glass, concrete...)? Should we not calculate the whole life-cycle of this project? What is the energy return on energy invested (EROEI) of

such a huge project? What are the environmental manufacturing and recycling issues related to this proposal?

We've seen in the Altamont Pass where the unplanned-for development of renewable energy has taken an extraordinary toll on birds, particularly raptors. We can't afford any learn-as-we-go massive solar installations. Proposed large-scale development of any kind in an IBA should receive close scrutiny. But in the larger context of the next 50 years, Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society is involved in the Panoche Valley because solar energy is the wave of the future and we need to get this right the first time before solar proposals come to Coyote Valley, and San Felipe Lake, and San Antonio Valley, and Foothills Park.

Never been to Panoche Valley? Clay Kempf leads a great trip there on Jan. 9th. See page 2 for details.



2009 Friends of SCVAS

Gifts received between October 1st 2009 and November 30th, 2009.

Avocet Circle:

Doug and Gail Cheeseman, Robert and Deb Hirt, Ashok Khosla and Susan Bodenlos, David McIntyre and Antoinette Konski.

Partner:

Keith Anderson, Patricia Brennan, Thomas Grey, Dr. Robert Hicks, Ambassador Bill Lane, Jr.

Contributor:

John and Georgiana Flaherty, John and Nancy Hewitt, James Hunter, Enrique and Judy Klein, Phil and Joan Leighton, George and Lilo Miller, Robin Watenpugh, John Wills.

Supporter:

Jason Chan and Ana Candela, Adu Bagley, Bryce Beck, Joseph Belli, Phyllis Browning, Marti Wright and Catherine Trejo, Gordon and Carolyn Davidson, Albert and Sheila Faris, Mary Florsheim, Sandra Gant, Gary and Nicola Gordon, Jerry and Ginny Kaminski, Elizabeth Karren, Joanne Lazar, Betty Magowan, Jean McNamara, Lisa Miller, Robert and Kathryn Schauer, Ken Schneider, Michael and Leslie Schroeder, Barbara Shufro, Melanie Sloane, Mary Smith, Blakeney Stafford, Ulf Stauber, Ann Verdi, Charles von Damm.

Associate:

Corwin Barfield, Galli Basson, Patty Beardsley, Bonnie Bedford-White, Gretchen Bell, Richard and Marjorie Brody, Constance Bowencamp, Winslow Briggs, Steve McHenry and Carolyn Straub, Donald and Carolyn Clendenning, Colleen Cunningham, Pauline Ferrito, Michael and Lynne Fitzjarrell, Michael Hart, Aiko Hayashi, Anita Hermann, Wally Hesseltine, Charles and Linda Hignite, David Hinson, James and Margaret Hohenshelt, Denise Lee Janjigian, Richard Jeffers, Jonathan and Joella Kermit, Mondy and Shelley Lariz, Jerry and Katie Mugnolo, Tom and Glenda Murray, E. Bartley and N. Weeden, Roland Kenner and Patricia Kenny, Don and Dee Price, Siddharthan Ramachandramuthi, Virginia Rhodas, Harlan Sethe, Robert Sexton, Richard and Marjorie Smallwood, Kendric and Marion Smith, David and Julie Stevens, Ted Tawshunsky, Annette Teng, Tom and Linda Vlastic, Geraldine Weir, David Weissman, Susan Wijeyesekera, Betty Wyatt, Lani Yshimura.

Individual:

Robyn Aber, Sheryl Ahlblad, Steve Ammann, Raquel Armijo, Kathryn Axtell, Gary Bailey, Roberta Baker, Sally Barlow-Perez, Melanie Barnett, Raja Bhadury, Linda Black, Robert Blumberg, Juliette Bryson, Joanna Cohen, Suzanne Conens, Cecilia Craig, Laura Dan-

gerfield, Maryann Danielson, David Depew, Jan and Craige Edgerton, Judy Enos, Kimberly Farrell, Christel Fliss, Leslie Fowler, Russel and Marilyn Fowler, Jessica Friedman, Linda Gagliani, Bob Garcia, Marie Gordon, Donald and Theresa Grieve, Diane Guerin, Nina Han, Vivian Hatt, Beverly Hesse, Susan Hillyard, David and Sharon Hoyt, Chris Jackson, Marilyn Jennings, John and Jane Kesselring, Greg Kimberly, Lena Kolesnikova, Margaret Lawson, Stuart Leeb, David Lewis, Stephen Lowes, Scott Thomas and Lucy Tomkin, May Manabe, Shannon McMahon, Robert Miller, Arnold Moore, Thomas Moutoux, Eleanor Nemzura, Thomas Nishikawa, Debby Olson, Anne Prescott, Kirstan Price, Bob Rhynard, Geary Ridings, James Robenolt, Alex Ross, Marguerite Ryan, Donna Sadowy, Carlos Salinas, Michael Sanchez, Diana Sandke, Thomas and Virginia Saxon, Lynda Schafhauser, Ellen Shay, Ken and Sarah Sherfy, Clifford Smith, Martin and Lauralee Sorensen, George Sousa, Anne Spence, Timothy and Jane Starbird, Dr. Hans-Jürgen Stork, Earl Stutes, Laura Thompson, Wim Van Schooten, Alan Walther, John Wilkinson, Richard Williams, Bernard and Nancy Wood, Rose Mary Wright.

Organizational Support:

IBM, Johnson & Johnson, Patagonia, PG&E.

18th Annual Wildlife Education Day - 2009: Bigger and Better Than Ever!

by Toby Goldberg

SCVAS Programs Coordinator

I don't tend to be a superstitious person, but I feel like I need to knock on wood, throw salt over my shoulder, cross my fingers and avoid stepping on sidewalk cracks for the next 10 months to make sure that everything goes as smoothly and easily as Wildlife Education Day 2009! Everything was just about as perfect as we

could have asked for: beautiful weather, a lot (over 600!) of excited event participants, efficient and friendly volunteers, amazing organizations, and engaging and fascinating presentations. Thank you so much to the many volunteers and organizations that participated - and helped to make it a wonderful event!



Poster Contest Winners congratulate each other



Left: Our scaly friends are always a big hit with young and old alike!



Right: Multi-legged critters are well worth a closer look



Nest Box Building was definitely a team effort

This event was made possible by the generous support of the following businesses and organizations:

18th Annual Wildlife Education Day 2009 Event Sponsors:



Pacific Gas and Electric Company™



Event Supporters:



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

Event Volunteers:

High School Volunteers:

- ♦ Homestead HS Free the Children Community Service Club
- ♦ Independence HS Interact Club
- ♦ Lynbrook HS Red Cross Club
- ♦ Saratoga HS National Honor Society
- ♦ Silver Creek HS Animal Allies Club
- ♦ Erica Burr
- ♦ Jennifer Wang
- ♦ Jessica Butron
- ♦ Kristen Wang
- ♦ Nathan Devlin
- ♦ Alice Yin
- ♦ Kelsi Krandel

SCVAS volunteers:

- Lois Allen
- Dick Blaine
- Craig Breon
- Gail Cheeseman
- Liana Estillore
- Stan & Elaine Gould
- Tom Grey
- Howard Higley
- Bob & Jon Hirt

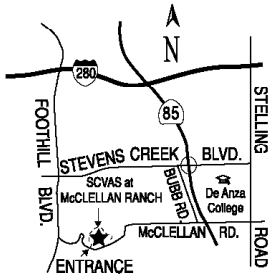
- Debi Jamison
- Linda Johnson
- Jerry & Ginny Kaminski
- Ashok Khosla
- Pete La Tourrette
- Michelle Lee
- Jim Liskovec
- Ken & Patsy McKay
- Cassie Ohms
- Debby Olson

- Pam Price
- Allen Royer
- Donna Sadowy
- Vicki Silvas-Young
- Brandon Thompson
- Steve & Debbie Thompson
- Chuck Wade
- Tim Wong
- Alan Weissberger
- And many more!

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

Phone: 408-252-3747
 Fax: 408-252-2850
 E-mail: scvas@scvas.org
 www.scvas.org

Non-Profit Organization
 U.S. Postage Paid
 San Jose, CA
 Permit No. 5869



Fall Appeal: We count on your support!

Friendly reminder that if you slipped our fall fundraising letter into your desk drawer, please don't forget us. We need your support to provide the local programs, environmental education, and local conservation efforts that you've come to expect. We have 4,000 local members. 500 respond to our letter. We need to hear from more of you.

Please send in that envelope today. Every donation counts!

OFFICERS

President

Debbie Thompson

Treasurer

Peter LaTourrette

Vice President

Bob Hirt

Secretary

Joan Leighton

DIRECTORS

David McIntyre	'09-'12
Dotty Calabrese	'08-'11
Matthew Dodder	'08-'11
Ashok Khosla	'09-'12
Stephanie Ellis	'07-'10
Boyce Burge	'07-'10
Tom Grey	'09-'12
Tom Merigan	'09-'12

STAFF

Executive Director

Bob Power 408/252-3748
 bob@scvas.org

Office Manager

Susan Bell 408/252-3747
 scvas@scvas.org

Programs Coordinator

Toby Goldberg 408/252-3740
 programs@scvas.org

Environmental Advocate

Shani Kleinhaus 650/868-2114
 shani@scvas.org

Office Fax

408/252-2850

Office E-mail

scvas@scvas.org

Website

www.scvas.org

OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Friday 10 AM - 5 PM

Saturday 10 AM - 2 PM

Correction from last issue:

The Database Administrator/Programmer for the CNRP database is Cynthia Berg. Her countless hours of work on this project are much appreciated!

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

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

RARE BIRD ALERT: (415) 681-7422

GIFTS: SCVAS welcomes gifts, including those made in honor of or in memory of friends or relatives. Such gifts will be used at SCVAS' discretion for its programs and activities unless specified otherwise by the donor. Tax-deductible donations may be made in the form of a check made out to SCVAS and sent to our Cupertino address.

SCVAS is a private, non-profit corporation affiliated with the National Audubon Society

Avocet Editor: Toby Goldberg

2010 Volume 57, Number 1

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 an organizational policy, SCVAS does not share member information with other organizations.