



THE AVOCET

The Newsletter of the Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society

January-February 2011

SCVAS Files Suit Over Solar Project

by Bob Power, SCVAS Executive Director

Hollister, CA – Following the approval of the conditional use permit for the Panoche Valley Solar Project, Save Panoche Valley and Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society joined in filing a petition in Superior Court challenging the certification of the Panoche Valley project’s Environmental Impact Report and other project approvals. A project of Solargen Energy, Inc., the entire proposed project footprint is roughly 5,000 acres of grazing land in eastern San Benito County.

The Panoche Valley is designated Core Habitat for the blunt-nosed leopard lizard, San Joaquin kit fox, and giant kangaroo rat, all federally and state endangered species. Additionally, the valley is designated an Important Bird Area of Global Significance due to rare bird species, including the Mountain Plover, a candidate for the federal endangered species list.

The petition itemizes numerous inadequacies in the environmental analysis that is provided to inform decision makers. “The environmental analysis has been reviewed by the California Department of Fish and Game and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service. Both of these agencies have found the analysis, as well as the mitigations that are proposed to compensate for harmful impacts on endangered species, to be grossly inadequate. In other words, the project might have irreversible impacts on the survival of several species, and it has the potential to significantly contribute

to the risk of extinction of these species” said Shani Kleinhaus, Santa Clara Valley Audubon’s Environmental Advocate.

The petition goes on to list inadequacies in the analysis of impacts on air quality, prime farmland, soil erosion, cultural resources, hazardous materials and emissions, hydrology and water quality, wildfires, and noise. “At its most basic level, the environmental document is supposed to inform the public and decision-making body of the full extent of impacts the project will have on the environment and on public safety and health. This document was so quickly put together it never addressed these basic issues or did so only in a cursory manner,” said Kleinhaus. “In no way does this environmental impact report provide the public and public officials with the information necessary to make an informed decision as to the losses, the costs and the risks associated with this project.”

The draft environmental impact report looked at four different project alternatives, and even with the smallest sized alternative, government agencies found irreversible, unmitigable impacts on wildlife and habitat. “One of many issues with this analysis was the narrow range of alternatives that were studied,” said Kleinhaus. “We expected distributed solar as an alternative, and other locations in San Benito Co. None of these were analyzed. In addition, there is a feasible alternative that is less environmentally damaging, which involves developing the solar project on the Westlands property in Fresno County.”

(continued on page 11)

◆New Monitors Wanted for the Cavity Nesters Recovery Program — Page 4

◆Rare Migrants - Broad-winged Hawks, Swainson’s Hawks, & Evening Grosbeaks — Field Notes, Page 6

◆Winter Adventures with Young Audubon! — Page 11

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Get Ready for the Spring Birdathon!
see Page 8
*See the list of Guided Teams on page 9 - or go to www.scvas.org/birdathon

NEW LOCATION in 2011



General Membership Meetings
Cubberley Community Center, Rm H1
Palo Alto - Middlefield & Montrose Rds



Wednesday, January 19th

Panama Wild!
with Bob and Sue Cossins

Panama is 48 miles across at its narrowest and 118 miles across at its widest with miles of coastline and great forests in the lowlands and highlands. Its biodiversity equals Costa Rica’s and many similar superb species, such as Resplendent Quetzels, are a huge attraction. Join Bob and Sue, who visited Panama in March 2010, as they share images from their remarkable journey.

Above Left: Brown-throated Three-toed Sloth
Above Right: Palm Tanager
© Bob & Sue Cossins

Wednesday, February 16th

**“Birding Outside The Box
– Field Marks We Haven’t
Met Yet”**

with Alvaro Jaramillo,
Senior Biologist at SFBBO

This exceptional presentation by Alvaro Jaramillo gets at the issues of how we bird, how we identify things, and what field marks we use. Keeping things light and entertaining, Alvaro combines a mixture of bird identification, psychology, and lessons on how we learn to identify birds.

Jan - Feb '11 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. 1, 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. Meet outside the entrance to the Alviso Marina Parking Lot. Be prepared to car pool as parking may be limited at some sites. **RC**

Sunday Jan. 2 - Mt Hamilton CBC

Wednesday Jan. 5, 12:00 PM

City of Sunnyvale Landfill

One hour. Leaders: Freddy Howell, Allen Royer and/or Elaine Gould. 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. 8, 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 (we encourage supporting local businesses). Note: FRS radios (Walkie-Talkies) set to channel 11 may prove useful on this trip.

Sunday Jan. 9, 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 ½ mile on the right. Moderate walking. **RC**

Wednesday Jan. 12, 9:00 AM

Grant Ranch County Park

Half day. Leader: Alan Thomas (408) 265-9286. From I-680 take Alum Rock Ave. northeast, turn right on Mt. Hamilton Rd. and go approximately 9 miles to 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 Jan. 15, 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 Expwy. As you drive along the Expwy 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. 16, 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 Hwy 85 take Almaden Expwy south. The park is on the east (left) side of Almaden Expwy. Continue just past Coleman Road (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. 22, 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. 23, 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**

Saturday Jan. 29, 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 on the right. **LO, RC**

Sunday Jan. 30, 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 (on 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. 2, 12:00 PM

City of Sunnyvale Landfill

One hour. Leaders: Freddy Howell, Allen Royer and/or Elaine Gould. Contact organizer Silviana Ruiz (408) 730-7545 to attend. See details from Jan. 5th.

Field Trips *continued*

Saturday Feb. 5, 8:00 AM

Alum Rock Park

Half day. Leader: Jim Johnson (408) 996-3506. For directions and information see the write-up for Jan 22. **LO, RC**

Sunday Feb. 6, 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. 9, 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. 12, 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 (Walkie-Talkies) set to channel 11 will prove to be of value. 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. 13, 8:00 AM

Coyote Point and Foster City, San Mateo County Bay Side

Half day plus. 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 Peninsula

Avenue. Turn right immediately at the "T", then left at the next "T" (traffic lights are at both), which is Peninsula Avenue, and into the park. Enter 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**

Friday-Sunday Feb. 18-20

Morro Bay/Carrizo Plains

Leader: Rick Fournier – Trip limited to 15 participants. E-mail: rimbirding@aol.com to confirm your participation. Great birding, lodging and restaurants sum up this fabulous weekend. We will bird throughout San Luis Obispo County starting on the coast and finishing up with the powerful yet peaceful landscape of Carrizo Plain. For you early birders, the week-end will kick-off Friday morning at 7:30 am meeting on the backside (facing out the harbor) of Morro Rock. We will then depart heading south stopping along the way to bird Oceano Campground, Oso Flaco Lake Natural Area with our final stop at the Santa Maria River Mouth. For those arriving Saturday, we will again meet at 7:30 am 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. Rain will not cancel the Morro Bay portion of the trip. However, heavy rains on Sunday may cancel Carrizo Plain. Be advised that this will be a joint Monterey/Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society field trip so get your reservations in early.

Saturday Feb. 26, 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 Santa Cruz lighthouse on W. Cliff Dr. From Hwy 17 take Hwy 1 "north" (toward Half Moon Bay), turn left on Bay St. (just after McDonald'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 trip goes 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. 27, 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 ¼ mile past park entrance. An entrance fee should be expected. **LO, RC**

Saturday Mar. 5, 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. 6, 9:00 AM

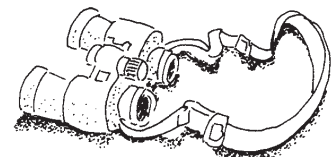
Stanford Campus

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. 18-20

Honey Lake, Eagle Lake & vicinity

Leader: Bob Hirt (408) 821-2732. A week-end 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

As I look back on the holidays and forward to the new year, I am reminded of what a truly amazing group of people donate their time and talents to SCVAS. Although 2011 looks to be as equally busy and hectic as 2010, thanks to such a tremendous pool of talent, I know it will also be equally wonderful!

Of course, we always welcome new volunteers to our ranks to help us keep our programs strong and to grow into new areas. As you start thinking about your plans for the coming year, don't forget how vital our volunteers are to SCVAS' mission, and how you just might be the perfect fit for our organizational needs in 2011.

With opportunities to work with children, help coordinate events, restore songbird populations - and so much more! - there's something for everyone.

Below are just a few of our upcoming volunteer needs with more available online at www.scvas.org or by calling me.

Cavity Nest Box Monitor – You can help save cavity nesting birds of Santa Clara Valley from population decline. Now more than ever your help is crucial to this effort. Increasing habitat loss and degradation has left native cavity nesters, such as Western Bluebirds, Chestnut-backed Chickadees and Barn Owls, without natural cavities in which to raise their young. Fortunately, our team of dedicated nest box volunteers is bringing these populations back. As a nest box monitor, you can help families of these and other cavity nesters make their homes and raise their young. You may install nest boxes yourself or monitor pre-installed boxes. Monitoring involves consistent, weekly visits to boxes during the breeding season to record their use and can be personally rewarding. A minimum one-year commitment is strongly encouraged. No experience is necessary, as we will provide training materials and guidance. See the Events Calendar on page 5 for details on information and training sessions. For more information call (408) 252-3740.

Wetlands Discovery Program Docent – This program shares the wonder and importance of wetland habitats with 3rd through 6th grade children throughout Santa Clara County during the spring and fall. Volunteers guide students in exploring wetland wildlife and habitat both in the classroom and out in the field. This program is rewarding for both volunteers and the hundreds of South Bay children who participate – over 600 students this past fall alone and – we expect at least twice that in the spring. We have a fabulous cadre of experienced docents but definitely need more. No experience is necessary as we will provide training for both field and class sessions. All a potential docent needs is a love of nature and a desire to share it with children. Some availability on weekday mornings will be important.

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

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Conservation Corner

by Shani Kleinhaus

Environmental Advocate (EA)

Here are some of the projects that our EA and Environmental Action Committee are working on:

Water Pollution Control Plant Master Plan (PMP)

In June, SCVAS led an alliance of environmental groups in submitting a position paper to the PMP planning team. We urged planners to focus their efforts on “Environment, Ecology and Water” and to allow developed land uses solely as needed for the water treatment purpose of the plant. We proposed that all other land uses should be based on the existing environment, view-sheds, ecology, connectivity, the historic Bay ecology and environment.

Planners of the PMP have now completed assessing the feedback they received from us and other stakeholders and have generated a new plan that, if approved, would guide land use on the plant's 2600-acre property north of hwy 237 (where the sheep currently graze) for the next 35 years. The plan proposes a Burrowing Owl Sanctuary, wetlands and marshes, and a restored Coyote Creek. It also calls for expansive light industrial and retail uses, new roads and bridges, and an Institute.

Public meetings will be held in January (see <http://www.rebuildtheplant.org/go/doc/1823/258442> for detail). Please let Shani know if you can attend a meeting, and I will send you our position letter (contact shani@scvas.org).

Stevens Creek Restoration

The City of Cupertino has been offered a Federal grant that, with potential other funding sources, would allow the City to enter Phase II of the Stevens Creek Corridor Park Project and to restore the creek from Blackberry Farm to Stevens Creek Blvd. The successful implementation of Phase I of the project resulted in the restoration of Stevens Creek in Blackberry Farm and in the return of several aquatic and riparian species to the habitat along the creek. A public meeting will be held in January, in which the Cupertino City Council will decide whether or not to pursue this project. SCVAS wishes to encourage the city to continue the creek restoration efforts. For more information, please contact me (shani@scvas.org).

Please contact Shani (shani@scvas.org) to:

- Join our Environmental Action Committee and get involved in our advocacy efforts. The committee meets on the fourth Wednesday of every month, 7:30PM at McClellan Ranch.
- Join our Armchair Activists list and be notified when you can help support our advocacy efforts in your community.
- Request our support when birds and biodiversity are threatened in your community.

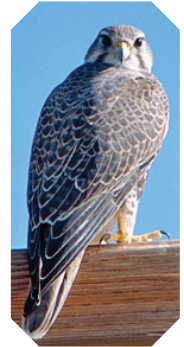
Audubon Field Seminars - Winter 2011

The following trips 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.

Winter Raptors of Robinson Road with Bob Power

The mixed agricultural and short-grass landscape of rural Solano County is an ideal wintering area for raptors of all shapes and sizes. We will discuss migration patterns, identification and the natural history of Ferruginous Hawks, Rough-legged Hawks and Prairie Falcons as our route puts us in position to observe as many as seven raptor species including the three target species. Additional species seen on previous trips that we will search for include Mountain Plover, Mountain Bluebird, Glaucous Gull, Burrowing Owl, Horned Lark and Long-billed Curlew.

Date: Sun, 1/9; 7AM - 5PM (includes transit time to and from Solano County). **Location:** Solano County
Fee: \$25 members; \$35 nonmembers. **Notes:** Class size is limited to 11 participants. Carpooling out of Suisun is required for this class. We will have a maximum of three vehicles on the route. **Please do not sign up for this class if you are not prepared to carpool.** Carpooling expenses are shared by the participants.



Prairie Falcon
© Peter LaTourrette

Lower Klamath / Tule Lake Eagles with Bob Power

A weekend trip to the California/Oregon border to see Bald Eagles in abundance. Other expected species include Rough-legged Hawk, Ferruginous Hawk, Golden Eagle, Prairie Falcon, Snow Geese.

Dates: Fri-Sun, 2/11-2/13. **Location:** Lower Klamath Lake. **Notes:** Trip limited to 12 participants. **Please call Bob Power at (408) 252-3748 or email bob@scvas.org for further details and to reserve a space for this field seminar.**

SCVAS Events Calendar:

Tues. 1/11, 9:30AM

Eve Case Bird Discussion Group - meets at the home of Pat Dubois, 17150 Buena Vista Ave., Los Gatos (408) 395-4264
Topic: Rufous-sided Towhee

Mon. 1/17; 10:30AM-12:30PM; 1-3PM

Young Audubon Whale Watching at Monterey Bay
(see page 11 for details, or go online to www.scvas.org)

Sat. 1/22; 1-4PM

Cavity Nesters Recovery Program (CNRP)
Saratoga Orientation and Training Session
Saratoga City Office

The City of Saratoga Parks and Recreation Dept. is excited to be establishing a new nest box trail in several of its local parks. If you, or anyone you know, is a Saratoga resident and would be interested in becoming more involved in this important program, please attend this information and training meeting. Please RSVP to (408) 252-3740 or programs@scvas.org.

Sat. 2/5; 10AM-12PM

Cavity Nesters Recovery Program (CNRP)
General Orientation and Information Meeting
McClellan Ranch Park, Cupertino

This meeting – for new and potential nest box monitors outside of Saratoga - 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 to (408) 252-3740 or programs@scvas.org.

Tue. 2/8; 9:30AM

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

Mon. 2/21; Morning (exact times TBD)

Young Audubon Elephant Seal tours at Año Nuevo
(see page 11 for details, or go online to www.scvas.org).

Sat. 2/19; 9AM-12PM

CNRP Nest Box Training Session #1*
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 will meet in the main parking lot on Calaveras Rd. Heavy rain or storm will postpone session to the next sunny weekend. For more information or to RSVP, email Mike Azevedo at geochelone@aol.com or call the SCVAS office at (408) 252-3740.



Sat. 3/5; 9AM-12PM

CNRP Nest Box Training Session #2*
Arastradero Open Space Preserve in 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 will 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 2010)

by Bill Bousman

Geese through Ibis

There were scattered reports of **Greater White-fronted Geese** at various locations. A few high counts included 85 over the Coyote Valley on 1 Nov (SCR), 36 over Alviso the next day (MJM), and 19 over Anderson Reservoir on 2 Nov as well (SCR). An immature **Snow Goose** was found at the South County Regional Waste-Water Authority (SCRWA) ponds in Gilroy on 15 Nov (MJM). An immature **Ross's Goose** was seen at Lake Cunningham on 30 Nov (MJM). The first **Eurasian Wigeon** of the season was found on Adobe Creek in the Palo Alto FCB on 5 Nov (DSt). A single wigeon nearby in Pond A1 9-30 Nov (DWe, MDo) may have been the same one. The SCRWA treatment ponds in Gilroy were the best place to find **Blue-winged Teal** with five birds there on 5 Oct (WGB) and eight on 15 Nov (MJM). A single male was in the Mountain View Forebay on 19 Nov (MDi *fide* RCP). **Redhead** numbers in the Alviso ponds started to build in late October and the high count was of more than 345 birds on the open and closed ponds 2-3 Nov (MMR, MJM, RGJ). The first **Barrow's Goldeneye** of the season turned up on 14 Nov (MDo) on Pond A1 in Mountain View. Soon, a male was on Shoreline Lake (RCP) and a female had joined him by 23 Nov (AME). A hybrid **Common X Barrow's Goldeneye** was seen on the Los Capitancillos percolation ponds on 27 Nov (AV) for its fourth winter there. A juvenile **Common Loon** was seen off Calaveras Point in Alameda County waters from closed refuge ponds on the Santa Clara side on 2 Nov (MMR, MJM). Possibly the same bird was in the center of the South Bay near the meeting point of Santa Clara, Alameda, and San Mateo counties on 6 Nov (RSc). Good numbers of **Brown Pelicans** continued during the period with high counts of 36 on the Alviso ponds on 27 Oct (WGB) and 19 Nov (MMR, MJM). A wintering **American Bittern** returned to the Mountain View Forebay on 23 Oct (JE, PBr) and has been seen more or less regularly since (v.ob.). Another apparent returning bird was found along the Guadalupe River near the Santa Clara Valley Water District (SCVWD) ponds on 25 Oct (AV) and has been seen there in November as well (JPa, AV). Single birds north of Pond A9 on 27 Oct (WGB) and in the main Triangle Marsh on 3 Nov (MMR, RGJ, MJM) are possibly different birds. A single bird was also found at the Ogier Avenue ponds on 5 Nov (RPh et al.). **White-faced Ibis** are sometimes found in the fall, but rarely in November, so a bird seen first in Crittenden Marsh on 29 Oct (PJM) and in the Mountain View Forebay 2-18 Nov (PBret al., DSt, AR *fide* RCP) was unusual.

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Last year we had birds that wintered, but we'll have to wait to see if that happens again.

Eagles through Shorebirds

Bald Eagles were well reported and may all be resident. One was over the Parkway Lakes on 1 Oct (JB), one to two birds were near the nest site on the west side of Calaveras Reservoir on 3 Oct (DWe) and 24 Nov (BHa et al.), one to two birds were in San Antonio Valley 10 Oct (RCP et al.), 12 Nov (BD), and 26 Nov (AME). A sub-adult was in the Coyote Valley on 17 Oct (CVR) and an adult was on the Ogier Avenue ponds on 6 Nov (RPh et al.). Single adults were seen in Joseph Grant CP on 10 Nov (OH), Coyote Reservoir on 16 Nov (ER), and along Coyote Creek below Cochrane Road on 22 Nov (DP). A light-morph adult **Broad-winged Hawk** over downtown Palo Alto on 10 Oct (DLSu) is the

Rare migrants included Broad-winged and Swainson's Hawks, and our first Evening Grosbeaks in many years.

third one this year—amazing! Almost as unusual was a light-morph adult **Swainson's Hawk** in the Coyote Valley on 8 Nov (SCR). We have only one previous October record and none for November. More and more of these Swainson's Hawks appear to be wintering in North America. The first **Ferruginous Hawk** of the season was a juvenile in the Coyote Valley on 9 Oct (JPa, EB). Two to three birds were found in the valley through the end of the period and perhaps five other birds were elsewhere in the county (v.ob.). A male **Merlin** of the prairie race *richardsonii* was photographed at the Oka percolation ponds on 22 Nov (RF). A possible *richardsonii* was also photographed along the Alviso Slough Trail on 19 Nov (MMR, MJM), but showed some characters of our typical *columbarius*. Of 11 reports of **Prairie Falcons**, seven were from the Diablo Range. The four other reports were from the valley floor, including singles in the Coyote Valley on 26 Oct (JPa, CT) and 28 Nov (JPa, AV), one near Burnett Avenue and Monterey Road in Morgan Hill on 28 Oct (DP), and one at the Alviso EEC on 2 Nov (KW). A **Black Rail** was heard just east of the Palo Alto Baylands Nature Center on a middling tide on 26 Nov (LT). There was some commotion in the pickleweed and the bird gave both its winter and breeding season vocalizations. This is only the second observation in 30 years of a bird not flushed out by the tides. Observations in San Francisco Bay in recent years suggest that once

our local **Snowy Plovers** have finished nesting they disperse and winter elsewhere in the South Bay. Last year 44 birds were counted on 4 Oct in the large salt panne east of the Alviso Marina CP and the count was about the highest we've had in the county. After that, none were seen until late March of this year. This fall, 81 birds were counted at the same spot on 23 Oct (RWR, FV, v.ob.). The numbers dropped quickly after that day, but 20 to 30 birds have remained into November, mostly foraging nearby on the islands in Pond A12 (v.ob.). Substantial numbers of **Lesser Yellowlegs** were seen on closed refuge ponds with 14 on 2 Nov and 10 there on 19 Nov (both MMR, MJM). Otherwise, single birds were seen on Pond A12 in Alviso on 7 Oct (WGB) and 19 Nov (MMR, MJM), two to three birds were in Crittenden Marsh 26-27 Oct (FV, MMR, v.ob.), and one was near the Mountain View Forebay 12-17 Nov (PJ, ViT, CVR). Five **Red Knots** were picked out of the roosting shorebirds on Pond A9 along the Alviso Slough Trail on 3 Nov (MMR, RGJ, MJM). **Sanderling** numbers picked up at the end of October with one to 19 birds in ponds along the Alviso Slough Trail 27 Oct to 19 Nov (m.ob.), the high count was on Pond A12 on 19 Nov (MMR, MJM). Seven to nine birds were also found on closed refuge ponds on 2 and 19 Nov (MMR, MJM). The poor passage of **Pectoral Sandpipers** petered out with only a single bird on the Mountain View Forebay on 7 Oct (MJM, JH). We usually find a few birds into November. A single **Stilt Sandpiper** was seen in Crittenden Marsh on 26 Oct (FV), our only one this year. A single **Red-necked Phalarope** was found on Pond A15 in Alviso on 3 Nov (MMR, RGJ, MJM), a late record.

Terns through Warblers

Elegant Terns continued into November. Three birds were still on Pond A4 in Sunnyvale on 2 Oct (AME). One to 15 birds were in the ponds along the Alviso Slough Trail 7 Oct to 19 Nov (WGB, MMR, RGJ, MJM). The high count was of 15 birds on 3 Nov (MMR, RGJ, MJM). An adult and a begging juvenile on 19 Nov (MMR, MJM) match a prior late date from 1992. Twenty-eight birds were seen on closed refuge ponds on 2 Nov (MMR, MJM). The only report of **Greater Roadrunner** was one west of Twin Gates in Joseph Grant CP on 3 Nov (K&LB). A single **Vaux's Swift** over the Sunnyvale Baylands Park on 3 Oct (MDo et al.) was the last of the passage birds. But another bird seen over the Monterey Highway near Bernal on 5 Nov (RPh) was one of our occasional winter birds, there are only three prior records for November. A female or immature *Selasphorus* hummingbird at a Morgan Hill feeder on 9 Oct (SCR) was late. It has been a good fall in the San Antonio Valley for **Lewis's Woodpeckers** with seven to 25 seen on various trips. The high count was on 10 Oct (RCP et

Field Notes *cont'd*

al.). An adult male **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** was seen on Craig Drive in San Jose on 25 Oct (RWR) where one wintered last year, but has not been found since. The female that wintered just over the county line in San Mateo County last year was first seen on 14 Nov (WGB). A few **Pileated Woodpeckers** were found in normal locations (v.ob.), but one at Hidden Villa in Los Altos Hills at about 540 feet elevation on 19 Oct (RGJ et al., GHa) was at a lower elevation than typical. The last of the fall **Willow Flycatchers** was a single at the Sunnyvale Baylands Park on 3 Oct (MDo et al.). A **Northern Rough-winged Swallow** at the Sunnyvale WPCP on 1 Nov (WGB) was likely a local wintering bird rather than a late migrant. **Red-breasted Nuthatches** tend to irrupt locally in even years. This year is turning out to be an exceptional year, particularly on the valley floor with birds found in small numbers in many locations. The **Rock Wren** seen on closed refuge ponds in late September was found again on 2 Nov (MJM, MMR) and may winter. **Golden-crowned Kinglets**, at best, show a weak irruptive pattern. This fall, singles have been found at the Sunnyvale Baylands Park on 11 Oct (PKe, RKe, WGB), in a Morgan Hill yard on 31 Oct (SCR), along Mines Road on 9 Nov (ZB, RC), and at the Arastradero Preserve on 28 Nov (LG, JF). Three or so birds in Sanborn-Skyline CP on 30 Nov (JPa) may be from the local breeding population. A **Townsend's Solitaire** at Monte Bello OSP on 29 Oct (RGJ, MMR, MJM) and another along Mines Road beside Colorado Creek on 9 Nov (ZB, RC) were good finds. **Tennessee Warblers** were found in Sunnyvale Baylands Park on 1 Oct (RKe, PKe), 2 Oct (DWe), and 13 Oct (RWR, v.ob.) and may be just a single continuing bird. A number of **Nashville Warblers** were found in early October with one in a Morgan Hill yard on 3 Oct (SCR) and one at the Sunnyvale Baylands Park 4 to 11 Oct (PKe, RKe, v.ob.). At least three **Palm Warblers** were found during the period. The first was seen at the Sunnyvale Baylands on 17 Oct (STr) and remained there through 25 Oct (v.ob.). The second was found along Adobe Creek near the Mountain View Forebay pumphouse on 8 Nov (FV). The third was seen in Byxbee Park on 13 Nov (DPe). Another **Blackpoll Warbler** was found in the Sunnyvale Baylands Park this fall, this one on 9 Oct (PKe, RKe, v.ob.). Two **Northern Waterthrushes** were seen in the Charleston Road marsh on 17 Oct (MDo), the 10th winter that birds have wintered there. Additional observations were recorded on 18 Oct (AWi) and 9 Nov (GHa).

Sparrows through Evening Grosbeak

A juvenile **Chipping Sparrow** was seen in Guadalupe Oak Grove Park on 17 Oct (JPa).

Another bird was found in the Sunnyvale Baylands Park on 3 Nov (PKe, RKe). The first **Clay-colored Sparrow** of a good passage was at the Alviso Marina CP on 7 Oct (WGB). This was followed immediately by a second bird between Shoreline Lake and Pond A1 on 8 Oct (DLSu). A single bird was found in Byxbee Park on 26 Oct (PJM), in the same spot where the Lark Bunting was seen last fall. By 29 Oct two birds were at that spot (ViT, RF, v.ob.) and remained through at least 4 Nov (m.ob.). Nearby, another bird was seen in the Palo Alto Baylands past the Nature Center on 3 Nov (KPa). A **Vesper Sparrow** was seen along Laguna Avenue in the Coyote Valley on 11 Oct (PLaT) and again on 13 Oct (JPa, ACr). The first **White-throated Sparrow** of the season was found at McClellan Ranch on 1 Nov (RCP). The next day one was in an Almaden Valley yard and has remained there through the period (JPa). A bird was found at the Ulistac Natural Area on 6 Nov (JPa et al.) and one came to a Palo Alto yard on 26 Nov (PMB). A **Lapland Longspur** was found over the Palo Alto Baylands on 14 Oct (AJ); few longspurs linger in the county. A female **Yellow-headed Blackbird** was seen in a large flock of blackbirds along Laguna Avenue in the Coyote Valley on 26 Nov (KW, PLaT), our first November record. A single female **Great-tailed Grackle** was found at the Coyote Creek GC on 3 and 20 Nov (JTh), the first found in the county since early summer. A flock of five **Red Crossbills** briefly flew into Santa Clara County at Monte Bello OSP on 10 Nov (GHa), then turned back. It appears to be a good **Pine Siskin** fall with occasionally large numbers of birds. Some high counts in the Santa Cruz Mountains include over 80 birds near Sanborn-Skyline CP on 9 Nov (GHa) and 23 over the lower saddle at Loma Prieta on 31 Oct (MMR et al.). Four birds along Mines Road on 9 Nov (ZB, RC) was a high count for the Diablo Range. Birds have appeared at a number of feeders, notably 8-12 birds at a Mt. Hamilton feeder (K&LB). In the Diablo Range, two to 60 **Lawrence's Goldfinches** were seen along Mines road 5-9 Nov (v.ob.). The high count of 60 birds was on 6 Nov (DHe, JCh). The only reports from elsewhere in the county were a female at Calero Reservoir on 7 Oct (JPa) and four birds at Monte Bello OSP on 14 Oct (GHa). There has been a push south of **Evening Grosbeaks**, resulting in the first county records since 2003. The first was a bird in Monte Bello OSP at the Gate 5 pond on 11 Oct (GHa). After that small and irregular numbers were seen nearby through at least 11 Nov (m.ob.) with a high count of about 13 on 20 Oct (RGJ, DWe). In the lowlands, observations included four to five birds at Blackberry Farm on 1 Nov (PBr *vide* RCP) and eight birds at Arastradero Preserve on 28 Nov (LG, JF).



Evening Grosbeak
by Tom Grey

Observers: Zach Bear (ZB), Keith & Lotus Baker (K&LB), Ellen Bateman (EB), Joseph Belli (JB), Bill Bousman (WGB), Patty Brown (PBr), Phyllis Browning (PMB), Jim Chiro-polas (JCh), Rich Cimino (RC), Anne Creevy (ACr), Marianne Dieckmann (MDi), Matthew Dodder (MDo), Bob Dunn (BD), Al Eisner (AME), Judy Enos (JE), Jeff Fairclough (JF), Ron Fredrick (RF), Laurie Graham (LG), Beth Hamel (BH), Janet Hanson (JH), Garth Harwood (GHa), Derek Heins (DHe), Owen Holt (OH), Praveen J (PJ), Alvaro Jaramillo (AJ), Richard Jeffers (RGJ), Roland Kenner (RKe), Pat Kenny (PKe), Pete LaTourrette (PLaT), Mike Mammoser (MJM), Peter Metropulos (PJM), Kathy Parker (KPa), Janna Pauser (JPa), Don Pendleton (DPe), Ryan Phillips (RPh), Dennis Porter (DP), Bob Power (RCP), Bob Reiling (RWR), Mike Rogers (MMR), Edward Rooks (ER), Steve Rottenborn (SCR), Allen Royer (AR), Rick Schermerhorn (RSc), Dick Stovel (DSt), David Suddjian (DLSu), Conrad Tan (CT), Jim Thomas (JTh), Vivek Tiwari (ViT), Steve Tracey (STr), Leslie Tucci (LT), Frank Vanslager (FV), Ann Verdi (AV), Chuq Von Rospach (CVR), Dave Weber (DWe), Ken Wilson (KW), and Adam Winer (AWi).

RARITIES: Please drop me a note:

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



The 2011 SCVAS Spring Birdathon Wants YOU!

Everyone, from beginner to expert birder, can participate in the 2011 SCVAS Spring Birdathon, a **major fundraising event** for SCVAS Conservation efforts and youth environmental education, raising more than \$60,000 in 2010. **Your participation** could help raise even more in 2011.

- **Anyone can join a team** by donating or raising at least \$50.
- **Anyone can be a sponsor.** Check www.scvas.org after Feb. 1, 2011 to pick a Birdathon team or individual to sponsor. Call the office to make a tax deductible donation to a team or individual or donate online at www.scvas.org.
- **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. This is a fun event folks.

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 Birdathon rules, information, and prize list after Feb. 1, 2011. Check back, as the prize list will be updated often.
2. **Talk to your birding friends** about forming a **Self-Guided Team** for the 2011 SCVAS Spring Birdathon, pick a day to bird from March 26th to April 24th, inclusive.
3. **Register** yourself and your team or join a **Guided Team** led by one of our many experienced birders (see below) by calling Susan Bell at the SCVAS Office, (408) 252-3747 or online at www.scvas.org. (Check www.scvas.org after February 1, 2011 for a complete list of leaders and teams.)
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, competing against Bob Power to break that 100 species in 4 hours barrier. (**4-Hour Birdathon Category**)
- OR

B. Form a team that birds for more than four hours, join an all day guided team, or compete for the "most species" glory by racing around Santa Clara County from before dawn until after dark, birding in as many habitats and locations as humanly possible in a 24-hour period. (**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! **Follow the fundraising tips** in your Birdathon packet and 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 20th, 5:00 p.m.**, to be eligible for prizes.
8. **Attend the free Birdathon Awards Dinner on Wednesday, June 8**, and find out if you've won a prize. Participate in bird contests and games and maybe win another prize. 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 doing it.

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.



With the help of Santa Clara County Nest Box Coordinator, Mike Azevedo, and longtime Nest Box Monitor Lee Pauser, Jameson Axtell and Scout Troop #400 built and installed 9 Barn Owl boxes at Frazier Lake Airport in Hollister, where gophers have become an increasing problem. 4 additional boxes will be donated to SCVAS. These boxes, based on designs from Steve Simmons in Merced, will be a wonderful addition to the available nesting sites for our local Barn Owls.

Congratulations, Jameson, on successfully completing your Eagle Project, and thank you for your help in supporting our local cavity nesting species!

"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, grab your binoculars and go birding! Beginners can out-compete experts for great prizes by gathering more donations. Space on guided teams is limited. Register for and see descriptions of these teams at www.scvas.org/birdathon. 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 an extraordinary range of birds in many different habitats. You will wow your donors who pledged for every species you see. We hand-picked these skilled team leaders for an unforgettable Big Day.

All teams have not picked a date and there may be more guided teams to choose from. See the March-April Avocet and scvas.org/birdathon for the latest info on guided teams. We're hopeful that these traditional Leaders and their teams will treat you to great Birdathon adventures once again:

Bob-O-Links with Bob Power
DeDUCKtions with Matthew Dodder
Rock Wrens with Bob Hirt
Picadaes with Lisa Myers
Varied Twitchers with Mike Rogers

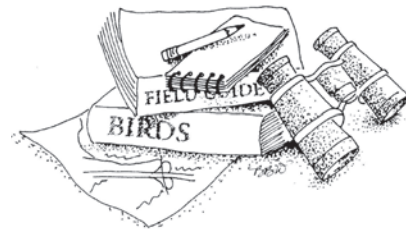
Who will challenge the great ones?
Want to lead a Big Day team? This is your year!
Contact bob@scvas.org

4-hour Birdathon Teams

There is nothing more exciting than trying to see 100 species in four hours. These 4-hour birdathons give you the taste of a big-day, let you participate in the birdathon fun, and still be home for supper.

Hi-Speed Rails with Bob Power - Sunday, April 3
Rushing Thrushes with Bob Power - Sunday, April 10
Chickadees with Debbie Thompson - April 17th.

There's room for a lot more 4-hour teams. Try it, you'll like it!



Join in the Big-sit Challenge – Saturday April 9th:

Multiple teams in multiple locations competing against each other and trying to break through the 60 species barrier. Calling all teams; join the fun and register now! It's a gourmet tailgate party with birds; how can you beat that?



----Teams to be announced----

BUT...committed Big-Sit challengers so far are:

Lori Cuesta -- Bob Hirt -- Bob Power -- Dave Cook

Take the dare and bring a chair; this is a sit-down smack-down!



Photographer's Birdathon!

New for 2011: Using the same time period, March 26th to April 24th, photographers can form their own teams, team up with a birder friend, or join a big day team to maximize their chances at photographing the most species. Photographers will compete with other birders for the fundraising prizes but will have their own recognition for best bird photograph, rarest bird, and most identifiable bird species. Photographers winning in each category will be memorialized on a plaque in the SCVAS office. Additionally, the winner of the best bird photograph (judged contest) and the rarest bird photograph, will have their photos featured on our web-site and framed and featured in our office for one year. At the end of the year, the photo will be given to the photographer or donated to the following year's birdathon prizes.

Dust off your lenses and clear your calendars. Photographers, time to join in the fun!

19th Annual Wildlife Education Day - 2010:



Above: Nest Box Building Volunteers assist participants in assembling their own nest boxes for local birds. There's nothing quite like being able to say "I made this!"

Below: Despite their reputation as slimy and "gross", the amphibians are always a big hit during the event.



Above: The worm bin from the SCC Master Composters is also a fun activity; after all, who can resist playing in the dirt?

Below: It's never too early to start learning about our local native plants - and how to create your own CA native garden!



Above: Fala, the Albino Crow, and her handler Trudi Barney (of the Wildlife Center of Silicon Valley) teach us just how smart crows can be.

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



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

And an extra special THANK YOU to all of the event volunteers and exhibitors!



Left: Our Event Mascots (Ben Bear as the Barn Owl and Charlotte Bear as the American Avocet) make sure that everyone starts off their day with a big smile.

2010 Friends of SCVAS

Gifts received between October 1st 2010 and November 30th, 2010

Avocet Circle:

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Patricia Brennan, Lindy Fung, Kristine Kelly, Stephen Robie, Susan Welch

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Sign up to receive your newsletter via email - get your issues faster, help save natural resources and reduce waste!



Contact the SCVAS office to start your paper-free membership today!

scvas@scvas.org

Lawsuit (continued from page 1)

“Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society supports sustainable energy programs that foster the development of renewable energy resources while focusing on energy conservation. We encourage the promotion of solar energy projects, policies and programs that focus on solar energy production in existing and planned communities, but do not impact landscapes that have agricultural or habitat value,” said Kleinhaus. “We support projects that do not endanger species, or the survival and health of the residents of rural communities.”

SCVAS has created a Panoche Valley legal fund where 100 percent of the donations made to this fund will be used first for court expenses and then attorney fees.

YOUNG AUDUBON'S 10th ANNUAL

Winter Whale Watching

~boating adventures for children and their families~

Monday, January 17th

10:30am-12:30pm

1-3pm

Fisherman's Wharf, Monterey Bay

\$25/person for SCVAS members

\$30/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.



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!



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 21st* (President's Day) - **We are reserving two 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 \$10/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.**

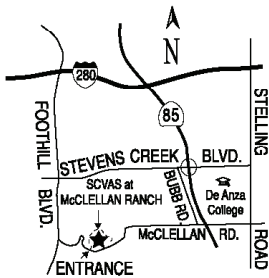
*Tour times are still being confirmed. Call to get updates and information.



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 22221 McClellan Road
 Cupertino, CA 95014

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

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Matthew Dodder: 5 Excellent Years of Board Service

Matthew joined our board late in 2005 and helped steer the organization through staff changes and major financial campaigns. Of many memorable contributions, Matthew's steady hand guided the publishing of the extraordinary Breeding Bird Atlas of Santa Clara County, California. As a birding instructor for over 10 years, many of Matthew's students have become SCVAS major supporters, and many SCVAS major supporters have become Matthew's students. We will miss him in the Boardroom, but know we will see his smiling face in the classroom and in the field some day soon.



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Website www.scvas.org

OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Friday 10 AM - 5 PM

Saturday 10 AM - 2 PM

GENERAL MEETINGS are held on the third Wednesday of each month except July, August and December and are open to the public. Details about up-coming meetings are available in the Calendar section of the SCVAS website - www.scvas.org.

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

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

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Please note: As an organizational policy, SCVAS does not share member information with other organizations.